The Paw Print

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Photographer: Ethan Salcedo

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And More!

New Care Center

By Ryleigh Chisholm
Editor-In-Chief

A new Care Center is coming to Burroughs, it will bring some important changes for the students. The new center will be moved from building six to the office. This location change will make it easier for administration to monitor the center and make sure it is being used properly. The goal for the new center is to create a safe and helpful space where students can get the support they need.

One of the biggest benefits of the new Care Center will be the different types of support it can provide. The center will be able to help students with tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 support. This includes helping students with emotional and behavioral problems and supporting students who may be going through a crisis. Having a place like the Care Center can help make students feel heard and seen as well as supported.



Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm

Mr. Ledesma will be involved as the head admin to run the new center, as well as the school looking into hiring a full time BUSD counselor. Having a full time counselor will be one of the main differences from the old Care Center which was previously run with FSA therapists, but the new center will have a full time employee working with the students. This will help with consistency because students would not have to deal with constant changes in therapists.

The hours for the Care Center will be around 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. There will also be new procedures for the students who will want to use the center. The school is looking into trying to involve some sort of technology, such as QR codes around school, which could be scanned during nutrition or lunch. During class, students will need to get a pass from their teacher before going to the Center. These procedures will help the school keep track of who is utilizing the center, while still allowing students to get the support they need.

The new Care Center will also start to try to work closely with Good Morning John Burroughs and the *Paw Print* to relay updates about the center so students and staff will have a regular knowledge of what is going on. The Center will also be open during Back to School Night, so parents and other members of the community will be able to see and learn about the space and how it will help the students of Burroughs.

Overall, the new Care Center is meant to be a helpful resource for students. Having a full time therapist could give students consistency instead of relying on FSA therapists, allowing the students to build stronger relationships with a counselor. The Center will provide emotional and behavioral support, help students during difficult situations and give them a safe place for when they need to talk to someone.

Field Renovation

By Micah Dvir
Cub Reporter

The bright green turf at Memorial Field is already changing the way athletes at John Burroughs High School use one of the school's most important athletic spaces. After years of use, the field received a major upgrade over the summer, giving Burroughs athletes a new surface for Football, Girls Flag Football, Soccer and other activities.

The new synthetic turf is part of a renovation project approved by the Burbank Unified School District in 2026. The district awarded Hellas-Tencate a contract for the Memorial Field Synthetic Turf Renovation for up to $1,154,995.60, funded through Measure ABC bond funds. The project was approved because the previous turf had become worn and raised safety concerns.

For Burroughs Football, the change came just in time for the 2026 season. The Bears played their first game on the new field against Montclair on Aug. 29. Although Burroughs lost 0-17, the game marked an important moment as the new field was officially used for competition.

For the Burroughs Football players, the new turf has already created excitement around the team. Junior wide receiver Emmet Bowlin said the team's first practice on the new field was a memorable one. "My team and I practiced on it for the first time, and everybody immediately got amped up about it," Bowlin said. The reaction reflects the excitement surrounding the new field as athletes begin using it for the 2026 season.



Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm

The new surface is not only for Football. Memorial Field is a shared athletic space used by Soccer, Girls Flag Football and youth sports throughout the year. Burroughs is also using the field for Girls Flag Football home games, with a ribbon ceremony scheduled before the home opener against Thousand Oaks to officially welcome the new turf.

Replacing the worn surface gives athletes a more consistent place to practice and compete. According to district documents, the turf has a 12-year product warranty, while the shock pad has a 25-year warranty. The turf system is also designed to be recyclable and free of PFAS.

The new turf continues the long history of improvements at Memorial Field. Before the stadium renovation that opened in 2012, Burroughs played on natural grass. That renovation introduced artificial turf, an all-weather track, new lighting, bleachers and a scoreboard. Burroughs Football played its first games on synthetic turf in 2012 after 62 years on natural grass.

Memorial Field is also important beyond Burroughs athletics. It was created as a joint-use facility between the city and Burbank Unified School District, allowing students and community members to use the space. Youth sports organizations, including soccer programs, also use the field.

Although teams still have to share the facility and work around busy schedules, the new turf gives Burroughs athletes a fresh and more reliable place to compete. It is an upgrade that benefits several sports and the community at large.

For now, the field is ready for a new generation of Bears. The turf is new. The field is familiar. But for Burroughs athletes, Memorial Field is starting another chapter.

New Coach: Ryan Espinoza

By Maya Romo
Cub Reporter

For Ryan Espinoza, soccer has always been more than just a sport, he is now the JBHS Girls Soccer Varsity Head Coach, Espinoza uses his love for the game to help his players grow both on and off the field. While winning is one of his goals, he also wants his players to leave the program with memories and lessons that stay with them long after their soccer careers are over. Ryan Espinoza grew up playing soccer, and his passion for the sport eventually led him to coaching. He attended Ontario High School before going to UCLA. As a high school player, he was an MVP and received All-League Honors. His experience playing the sport helped him understand how much soccer can teach a person, which is something he now tries to pass on to his players.

His path to becoming the Varsity Coach at Burroughs began with a simple question of whether the program needed help. Ryan Espinoza approached Varsity Head Coach Brady Riggs and asked if he could be another assistant. After joining the staff, he later assumed the JV Head Coach role when Robert Sanchez



took on the Varsity Head Coach. When Coach Sanchez stepped down, Ryan Espinoza applied for the Varsity position, which led him to where he is today. Coaching at Burroughs also connects to Ryan Espinoza's family. He has two JBHS alumni in his family, with one graduating in 2023 and the other in 2026. His daughter was also part of the Burroughs Soccer program from 2019 to 2023 and played under Brady Riggs. Ryan Espinoza now gets to see the program from a completely different perspective as a coach.

One thing that makes Ryan Espinoza stand out is his love for traveling. When he gets the chance, he likes to explore somewhere new, and he sometimes makes it part of his relationship with the team. He will travel somewhere and have his players guess where he is going or why. Outside of soccer, he also enjoys playing pickup games and adult softball.

Traveling is more than just a hobby for Ryan Espinoza. He believes that life is an adventure and that people should take the time to explore new places. That same mindset connects to the advice he gives his players. He wants them to understand that reaching the final goal is not always the most important part. "The destination is not always the most important, but rather the journey and memories one creates on their way to the destination is what matters most," Ryan Espinoza said.

That message is a big part of how he approaches coaching. Ryan Espinoza said one of the best parts of being a coach is having the opportunity to give players personal character tools they can carry beyond the game. He wants his players to become better people, not just better soccer players. One of his biggest inspirations came from his high school Spanish teacher. Ryan Espinoza remembers how his teacher encouraged students to enjoy the little moments in life while still working hard. That lesson has stayed with him and is something he can now pass on to his own players. As the new Varsity Head Coach, Ryan Espinoza has a clear goal for the program: win League. But he also wants to make a lasting positive impact on the players and the JBHS Girls Soccer program. His goal is to help create an environment where athletes can improve while also developing the character and confidence they can use later in life.

Even after becoming a coach, Ryan Espinoza still enjoys being around the game. Whether he is coaching, playing pickup soccer, or watching his players compete, soccer remains an important part of his life. At the same time, he hopes his players remember that there is more to their journey than what happens during a game. For Ryan Espinoza, the scoreboard is only one part of the experience. The friendships, memories, challenges, and lessons along the way are what make being part of a team meaningful. As he continues building the Burroughs Girls Soccer program, he hopes to help his players enjoy that journey while preparing them for whatever comes next.

New Coach: Nate Benton

By Melia Garcia
Cub Reporter

A new cheer coach steps up to help the team grow at John Burroughs High school. His name is Coach Nate Benton, his main goal for this session is for the cheerleaders to have fun and leave with a good experience with cheer.

He started his journey at Burroughs two years ago when he was helping out the past coaches while one was on maternity leave. He came back when the position opened up because he loved the sport and how the cheerleaders worked.

He picked cheer because he grew up doing it, it was something he loved and he wanted to be able to give other kids the same escape from everyday life that he had growing up. He wants cheer to be that escape for his athletes.

He was Captain of his cheer team in college.

His sister was a nationally known cheerleader when she was nine years old and he was nineteen. Being a cheerleader must run in the family because now he's a cheer coach.

At the moment he works at Burbank High School as the Dance teacher and the swim coach. He said in the interview that he has no free time. He is always doing something.

One thing people will say about him is that he does a lot of things or "wears a lot of hats" as he said. If there is something new that he wants to try he will do it.

People that inspired him to pursue cheer were many of his coaches throughout his life.

Some advice for kids is to always do things you love and to not let fear stop you from going after the things you want in life.

Not only does he have great advice for his students he also has a piece of advice for the entire school. "Don't let fear stop you from doing what you want to do especially in high school."

He lives in the Valley close to Burbank. He is the only one in his family that lives in California. He is very close to his sister who was a nationally known cheerleader when she was little.

For him the best thing about being a coach is getting to watch his athletes grow throughout their years on his team. The worst thing for him is that he isn't cheering with his athletes. He misses being on the field cheering.

His hope for the future is to give his athletes a place where they can just think about cheer and not have to worry about anything going on in school or at home or about drama. He wants to give his athletes a place they can leave all their worries at the door and just focus on practice.

His favorite sports team was Auburn because he grew up with that team. Now his favorite team is the Pittsburgh Steelers because he went down to Pennsylvania with his friends for fun and had a great time. On a whim they went to the game and he fell in love with the energy and how they played. Now to this day he and his family go back to Pennsylvania every year as a tradition.

He wants not only his athletes to do their best on and off the mat but also make sure others in the school do too. He wants his athletes to succeed in life and enjoy the time they were on this team.

He was in many different activities in college other than cheer as well. He was in a few fraternities and in many other extracurricular activities.

He has won some championships for all star cheer when he was younger and hasn't gotten any other awards since then. He is working to get more in the future.

A few other pieces of advice he wants to leave is, "No is somebody else's problem." As well as "Ask for the things that you want." He has so much more advice to give as well. The cheerleaders have learned so much from him this past month and are sure to learn more as time passes and the year goes on.

Welcome to John Burroughs High School Coach Nate and JBHS Cheer. We hope you have a great year and more to come.

New Coach: Oz Chicas

By Maya Romo
Cub Reporter

Coach Oz is more than just a soccer coach at John Burroughs High School. He has been involved in many sports, has experience coaching in various settings, speaks multiple languages, and works in technology.

Since returning to coaching in 2023, he has focused on helping his players become better soccer players while also teaching them important life lessons. Coach Oz got back into coaching after moving back home because his dad was diagnosed with dementia. Around the same time, his niece decided to play AYSO soccer and asked him to coach her team. Since he had played a lot of soccer, he decided to give coaching another try. He also talked to Coach Robert and already knew Coach Ryan from a previous girl coach vs. boy coaches game, which eventually helped him end up at Burroughs.

Before soccer, Coach Oz was a wrestling coach and was also involved in MMA and surfing. If he could choose another sport to coach, he said he would probably choose MMA. However, he decided it was not for him because he did not like seeing people get hurt.

One of Coach Oz's favorite parts about coaching is watching his players



improve both physically and mentally. He likes it when players start to understand the game and think about what they are doing instead of just reacting. He wants his players to understand the game and become more confident in their abilities.

Coach Oz has had a lot of success as a coach. He has won tournaments, an OC championship in nine-versus-nine soccer, and an AYSO Best Coach Award. He has also coached an undefeated team.

Even though winning is important, he believes there is more to being a good coach than just the score. His club players agree that he is a dedicated coach. One player said he is "one of the best coaches" she has had and that he has made her better as both a player and a person. His players also said he is respectful, knows their boundaries, and really wants to see them grow.

Coach Oz also teaches his players lessons that go beyond soccer. One of his players said he taught her never to give up, that it is okay to make mistakes, and to face problems head-on. He also helps his players stay calm when they are overwhelmed during games and teaches them to build confidence.

One of his players remembered a tournament where she was trying to score but kept missing. She became frustrated, so Coach Oz pulled her aside and talked to her. His talk helped motivate her, and in the next game she scored three goals.

Another thing his players like is that Coach Oz makes practices fun. They said he has fun drills and games instead of making every practice super serious. He still makes sure they work hard, but he also wants them to enjoy playing soccer.

Outside of soccer, Coach Oz has many interests. He went to Arizona State University and studied economics and sustainability. He works in software and is interested in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. In his free time, he plays guitar and bass and is part of a church band. He also exercises, plays soccer, and spends time with his girlfriend and family. Coach Oz also knows several languages. He speaks Spanish, English, Dutch, Chinese, and Portuguese. He is currently learning French and Korean.

He said that when he was younger, he did not really like school because he found it boring. He preferred learning by reading and teaching himself.

His favorite subject is Math because he sees it as a universal language. He said that math can even connect to soccer. For example, understanding geometry and angles can help players better understand the game. He was also interested in literature when he was growing up.

When asked what advice he would give to his players, Coach Oz kept it simple: "Whatever you do in life, just work for it. Work hard."

Looking ahead, Coach Oz wants to help the Burroughs JV Girls become ready to move up to Varsity. He also wants to continue working in cybersecurity and AI. One of his goals for next year is to attend a coaching course in Spain. With his experience in different sports, languages, technology, and coaching, Coach Oz brings a lot to Burroughs. For him, being a coach is not just about winning games. It is about helping his players improve, stay motivated, and become better both on and off the field.

New Teacher: Angela Lin

By Lilian Peña
Cub Reporter

There is a sense of warmth returning to the halls of Burroughs this school year, embodied perfectly by one of our newest faculty additions. While it marks her official first year as a full-time teacher here at JBHS, she is far from a stranger to the campus or to teaching, as she's previously served as a teacher assistant for Mr. Hedin here on campus and has been a teacher as well.

Ms. Lin captured the hearts of students and staff alike with her radiant energy and fashion.. Now, she steps into her very own classroom, ready to lead students through Algebra 1.

It was during those early days of assisting that Ms. Lin truly fell in love with Burroughs. This connection left a lasting impression, and created a desire to return in a greater capacity.

"That's why I wanted to come back and do a full year here. It's nice to have my own class at Burroughs



Photographer Tobi Hattin:

this time."

Stepping into her classroom, students are greeted by an environment that is academically rigorous and taught by a highly fashionable teacher. Her effortless grace sets a welcoming space where students feel both comfortable and inspired.

Ms. Lin attended the University of Southern California (USC) for her undergraduate studies, earning a Bachelor's degree. She then went on to complete her Master's degree at Pepperdine University, sharpening the teaching skills she now deploys daily.

When Mr. Hedin informed her that Burroughs was publicly posting an open teaching position, she jumped at the chance, and went through the application and interview process to claim her rightful spot on the faculty.

As she takes the reins of her Algebra 1 classes, her core mission stretches far beyond standard formulas. Ms. Lin's primary goals for this school year focus heavily on equity, comprehension, and emotional support. She is deeply committed to helping every single one of her students learn, ensuring that no one feels left behind in a traditionally challenging subject. Above all, she wants to make sure each student feels encouraged, validating their efforts as they build mathematical confidence.

Outside of school, Ms.Lin is an avid practitioner of Pilates. She also enjoys reading and is an active consumer of cinema. She is a major movie enthusiast who loves exploring complex stories. In fact, her current favorite film is Christopher Nolan's sci-fi epic, *Interstellar*, which she recently watched and highly recommends.

Her dedication to the school community extends well past the academic curriculum. Demonstrating her commitment to student extracurricular life, Ms. Lin has stepped up as the faculty advisor for the Toy Story Club. Through this role, she helps cultivate a community oriented space.

With a masterful blend of stylish elegance, advanced academic training, and a deep-seated love for the Burroughs community, Ms. Lin is ready to make a massive impact this year. If you pass by her Algebra room, make sure to extend a warm welcome back!

New Teacher: Lisa Robertson

By Elizabeth Browngardt
Editor-In-Chief


Photographer: Haven Dunn

After spending last school year at Burbank High School, Lisa Robertson has returned to John Burroughs High School, and the Burroughs community is happy to welcome her back. She teaches Health and is also the new advisor for College and Career Peer Mentors, along with Teen Court, the Red Cross Club and the Burbank Sister City Club.

Mrs. Robertson's love for teaching began with her great-grandmother, who was a teacher for more than forty years. Her career has also taken her outside of education, where she worked in communications and healthcare. She worked with organizations including Rady Children's Hospital, Health Net, the City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute. Her experience in healthcare eventually led her to teaching Health.

Mrs. Robertson's connection to Burroughs goes beyond being a teacher. She lives in the neighborhood and previously worked at JBHS. Her family has also been a big part of the Burroughs community. Two of her sons have graduated from JBHS, and her youngest son is currently a Junior. Even while working at Burbank High School, Mrs. Robertson remained involved at Burroughs as the Teen Court advisor.

A Cal State Long Beach graduate, Mrs. Robertson earned her undergraduate degree there, where she also met her husband. She later earned her multiple-subject credential through Cal State Teach and her Health credential through Cal State Long Beach. She also earned her CTE credentials through the University of San Diego.

Outside of school, Mrs. Robertson loves to thrift and especially enjoys vintage clothing. She tries not to repeat an outfit during the school year and likes wearing things that nobody else has. Some of her favorite places to shop are Goodwill, It's A Wrap in Burbank and All Things and More in the Valley. She also enjoys quilting and graphic design and loves *Gilmore Girls* and all things Disney, which students can see throughout her classroom.

Mrs. Robertson finds the best part of teaching in the students themselves. She loves connecting with them and says they bring her a lot of joy. She enjoys being part of the Burroughs community and refers to her students as "all my kids."

Mrs. Robertson's advice to students is to recognize their talents and use them. She encourages students to take classes that allow them to use what they are good at because the confidence they gain can carry into other parts of their lives. "Utilize your talents," Mrs. Robertson said. "The confidence you get from utilizing your talents…that confidence will seep its way into the rest of your day."

Looking ahead, Mrs. Robertson is excited to continue teaching Health and working with College and Career Peer Mentors to help students plan for their futures. She hopes every student can find a path that works for them. "I want to make sure that all students have a path," she said. "Everyone has a roadmap for the future."

We're so happy to welcome Mrs. Robertson back to JBHS and are excited to have her back at Burroughs!

New Teacher: Lauren Godfrey

By Sophia Menjivar
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Sophia Menjivar

A new school year brings many new faces, and this year at John Burroughs High School we welcome Ms. Godfrey!

Ms. Godfrey is joining our English department here at Burroughs, teaching English 10 and English 11.

She is forty-four years old and has just moved to Burbank not too long ago. She says "I saw a job posting for here . . . I've been working remotely for CSUN's English teaching credential program for the last ten years . . . I missed actually working with real faces and real people."

Ms. Godfrey originally wanted to be a cosmetologist, then when she moved from San Diego to Orange County to be closer to her family, she realized she really liked connecting with people but not necessarily the work that had come with it. At the same time, UCI was willing to fully fund her as a student if she became a teacher, she says "And everyone had always said I'd make a really good English teacher, and I always resisted, then I started, and fell in love with the job so I guess everyone else was right."

She says "I love connecting with the kids . . . That's definitely my favorite thing" about teaching.

She chose English not just because everyone was telling her to but because to Ms. Godfrey stories matter. She states, "That's one of the things I remember the most from high school, the way the stories made me see outside myself and change my perspective... They made me a more empathetic person. I think that's one of the most important things you can learn in high school."

Ms. Godfrey's teacher inspiration is Tim Dewer, he's a friend and a mentor, he's also the head of the single subject teaching program at UC Santa Barbara.

To Ms. Godfrey the best thing about teaching is doing identity work with the students, She says seeing that change is the most rewarding thing, Ms. Godfrey states, "Helping them realize their own potential, and see things within themselves, or that maybe they didn´t believe in."

Ms. Godfrey´s favorite thing to do in her free time is to hang out with her son and husband.

To Ms. Godfrey, the worst thing about teaching is grading, she absolutely hates it, she calls it a necessary evil.

Something her students would be surprised with finding out about her is she used to do theater when she was really young, Ms. Godfrey says, "I used to do theater when I was a young kid and my singing voice was so bad . . . They had us all audition for the school musical and had us act . . . But they never had us sing . . . And then we went to our first practice, and they heard me sing . . . Well, the music teacher showed up at my fifth grade door, pulled me out of class and wanted to know if I could step down from the play . . . I'm so tone deaf it's awful."

Her favorite memory is with her son, just putting him to bed when he was little, but with music turned up a little bit and him just falling asleep.

Ms. Godfrey´s goal for this school year is to just get the curriculum under her belt again. She says "Yeah, it's been a while since I've taught K-12 . . . It's been ten years since I've taught *The Crucible* and ten years since I´ve taught *Old Man in the Sea*, so it´s more just about remembering those things."

Overall, this new year brings a lot of new students and also new teachers but John Burroughs is very happy and grateful to welcome Ms. Godfrey into our Bear Family.

Have a Great School Year!

New Teacher: Jacqueline Charre

By Tobi Hattin
Cub Photographer

With every end to a school year, teachers get switched around and at the beginning of the next school year, we find new teachers to guide another group of students for the year. Jacqueline Charre, a World History teacher and a newly minted AP European History teacher here at John Burroughs, answered many questions regarding her personal life, interests, career, and wisdom she would like to share with the students of Burroughs. She had many wonderful answers to share with the *Paw Print.*

Ms. Charre was born on October third, which she likes to reference with the classic quote from the 2000s movie *Mean Girls* when talking about her birthday.

She grew up in Pasadena and now lives in San Gabriel, explaining that she doesn't plan on leaving Southern California because of how much she enjoys the weather and the sunny summers that she can spend at the beach. Spending time with her family is one of her favorite things to do outside of being a teacher. Some of her other favorite hobbies are reading history books or works of fiction, going to farmers markets, visiting museums, and watching musicals or seeing live performances. She is a proud Latina with a big family and wishes to eventually run a marathon when she gets the opportunity.


Photographer: Tobi Hattin

Growing up, Ms. Charre participated in soccer and received a "Defensive Player of the Year" award during her Junior year of high school. High school wasn't all that easy for her due to her struggle with identity at the time, but she wishes to share that "It's never as serious as you think it is" and to "Be kind to yourself and be kind to others."

She believes that many high schoolers are a lot tougher on themselves than they should be and that some things are not the end of the world like students make it out to be. In her eyes, creating a safe space for students and seeing students come out of their shells throughout the school year is most important to her as a teacher.

She also enjoys creating team building activities for her students so that they can open up more with each other over time.

Her inspiration to become a teacher stemmed from several different sources. Citing many of her family as educators for elementary schools. She also had an amazing eighth grade history teacher that had her reading extra books regarding the Civil War, had a class structure she enjoyed, and had her class doing many projects throughout the year. "She made learning the subject itself so much fun," she said in regards to her teacher. In high school, she took APUSH and AP World History, having had many conversations with the History teachers at her school. She had asked a new teacher at the time "how he went about [teaching]," in which he replied with information about majoring in History and how to go from there into teaching.

Because of these people in her life, she started off in a community college, Pasadena City College, before entering California State University, Long Beach. She was a part of the first generation on her dad's side of the family to graduate from college, and second generation on her mom's side. She stated that she is a big advocate for going to a community college when starting one's college journey, explaining that it's a big money saver and that it is nothing to be ashamed of.

After graduating from college with a credential in History, while applying to schools all over Southern California, she found JBHS. She talked about enjoying the core values of the school and that when she joined, everyone, staff and students, were all very welcoming to her. It is her first year teaching AP European History and she's learning a lot from other Social Science teachers at Burroughs.

Being a teacher, there is a lot that students may not know about her, and a lot that she may not understand when it comes to new trends amongst the student body. Ms. Charre expressed that students are not likely to realize that she is Latina or that she used to work at a Starbucks. Meanwhile, she doesn't understand when students say the phrase "Quiet on the creek," having to get used to another trending phrase, much like "6-7" last year, which she now uses to make her students cringe this year. She also shares many similar music and food tastes with students. She likes to listen to pop, R&B, reggaeton, and indie genres, with some of her favorite artists being Harry Styles, Olivia Dean, Bad Bunny, Karol G, and Rauw Alejandro. Her favorite foods and places to hang out involve ramen, In N Out, and coffee shops.

What you can take away from this interview is that Ms. Charre is much like the students of JBHS. Her classroom will be a safe place throughout the year, whether it's academics or for a safe space to talk. She's there to teach and to support her students during the school year and to make learning fun and collaborative for more students to open up over time and form new bonds.

New Teacher: Tori Nevens

By Emilio Almanza
Cub Reporter

It didn't take long for our school to fill the open Social Science position. Tori Nevens, who came all the way from teaching in Washington, D.C., is a US History and Government teacher starting her first year here at John Burroughs high school bringing in a fresh perspective on the Social Science department. While researching and looking into the Los Angeles Unified school district she heard very good things about Burroughs, so she knew it was the right place and decided to apply for the job.

Ms. Nevens was born on January 28,1989. Even though she used to teach in Washington, D.C., she is actually a California native. Ms. Nevens educational journey spans several institutions. She attended Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach and ended the journey off at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Ms. Nevens has a very important goal to


Photographer: Tobi Hattin

here, which is to study to get her PhD in the future as well.

Ms. Nevens journey into teaching started when she was a student herself. Growing up her own teachers made a huge positive impact on her school life and she knew early on that she wanted to help the same as her teachers helped her in school. She wants to show students that "life is all about the choices you make."

Ms. Nevens wants to make sure she makes a difference for her students and wants to make sure that her students thrive in her class as well. She often reminds her students "if you make a mistake your life isn't over." Recognized as teacher of the month for SCL, she prioritizes creating a welcoming environment where all students feel comfortable asking questions, speaking up and succeeding.

Beyond the classroom Ms. Nevens also looks forward to being involved with extracurricular sports and clubs like when she was in high school. During her high school years Ms. Nevens was very involved with extracurricular activities, including many sports.

She played soccer and tennis for two years, she was also a four year softball player during high school. Through sports she learned that her academic accomplishments are also impressive.

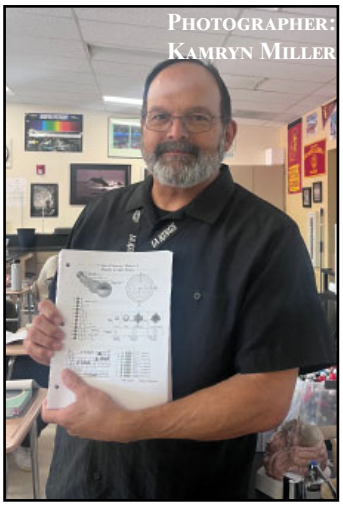
While Ms. Nevens was at Cal State Fullerton, she wrote an academic paper for one of her classes. The academic paper about immigration history was so good that only her paper and few more got selected to be published on the Welebathan journal. The Welebathan Journal is a journal of history that publishes only a few academic papers nationally and is a great honor.

Outside of her professional life she also has hobbies that she loves to do. In her free time she loves to go to the beach, spend time with her nephews and visit and explore local museums. She loves to sing as well, and even performed on The Ellen Degeneras show. She also loves coffee and likes trying new coffee places nearby.

As Ms. Nevens begins this new chapter at John Burroughs High School, she doesn't only bring knowledge and experience, but also has a huge passion for helping students succeed. She is ready to help students outside and inside the class. Make sure if you see Ms. Nevens around campus to give her a warm welcome!

New Teacher: Van Loo

By Ryan McTague
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Kamryn Miller

Longtime high school teacher and coach Brendhen Van Loo has officially returned to John Burroughs High School this school year, where he is teaching AP Biology and Honors Chemistry while being the Head Coach for the JV Boys Volleyball team.

Van Loo previously taught and coached at JBHS before moving over to Burbank High School, making his return to Burroughs this year.

His journey into education originally started back in college when he realized he wanted to help guide students into higher education. When asked why he decided to become a teacher he said "Mainly college, I was given the opportunity to be a mentor and help connect high school students to college, and I fell in love with teaching."

Having majored in Biological Sciences with a minor in Pharmacology, Van Loo built a strong background in science that prepared him to teach high level class. His passion for the subject shows in how he helps students break down complex material in both AP and honors classes.

Before coming to our district, Van Loo spent sixteen years teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He eventually transferred locally to work closer to home and be around his own kids, who all ended up graduating from JBHS and going on to graduate college.

Having his family go through the same school districts gives him a unique perspective on the Burroughs community. He understands what it is like from both a teacher's perspective and a parent's perspective, which helps him connect even better with families and students.

On top of his science classes, Van Loo has been coaching sports for years. He started coaching volleyball as a volunteer when his previous school in LAUSD needed an extra hand, he used it as an opportunity to build team spirit and help students learn the game, which helped him learn the importance of fostering chemistry and having fun with coaching and his players.

His background as an informal player early on gave him a deep appreciation for the game, which he now uses to connect with his student athletes on the court. Whether he is running drills in practice or going over game strategies on the sidelines, his main goal is always to make sure the team keeps improving while having fun.

He focuses heavily on fostering strong chemistry and encouraging players to support each other through every win and loss. For Van Loo, sports are just as much about building character and leadership skills as they are about winning games on the court.

Over the course of his career, Van Loo has earned several awards for his work in education and coaching. He is certified by the Nation Board (NBPTS), and has been named Teacher of the Year and Coach of the Year for Athletic Decathlon.

Outside of the classroom, Van Loo stays pretty active around Burbank. He enjoys fishing, hiking, going to concerts, and playing the saxophone, even previously joining students and teachers to play in Burbank High's Christmas and spring concerts last year.

Being active in musical groups on campus allows him to connect with students in a totally different environment outside of the science lab and volleyball practices. He is also a big sports fan who loves watching the LA Kings and the LA Dodgers during his free time.

When it comes to teaching, Van Loo says the best part of the job is watching students grow. "Seeing students work hard in class, and how that makes a difference in them," Van Loo said, though he mentioned that managing the long hours needed to run everything can be tough.

Balancing high level science classes with coaching and extracurriculars takes a lot of time and effort, but Van Loo stays motivated by the daily interactions he has with his students. Seeing them grasp a tough concept in chemistry or make a great play on the court makes the long days completely worth it for him.

His teaching in philosophy focuses on making sure every student feels supported both inside and outside the classroom. By creating an environment where students feel comfortable asking questions and taking on new challenges, he helps them build confidence that carries over into their future academic careers.

For the current school year, Van Loo has set goals for both his classes and his teams. He aims to have a successful year with his AP Biology students, prepare his Honors Chemistry classes for future advanced courses, and lead the JV Boys Volleyball team to a strong season.

With his wide range of experience in both science and athletics, Coach Van Loo is bound to make a big impact on the Bears community this year, on campus both in the lab and on the volleyball court.

New Teacher: Mikela Broach

By Arthur Rodriguez
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm

Mikela Broach is a 26 year-old high school Math teacher who enjoys helping students learn to understand math and watch them improve.

She became interested in teaching because of her middle school Math teacher, Margarita, who encouraged her to keep trying when she struggled with math.

Mrs. Broach said she remembers the feeling of finally understanding something and having that "aha!" moment in her mind. That experience made her want to help other struggling students feel the same way when they are learning something difficult.

Mrs. Broach has a degree in Mathematics, a teaching credential, and training to work with English learners. She had been teaching for about three years before coming to Burbank because she wanted to challenge herself and experience a different school.

Outside of school, Mrs. Broach enjoys reading, cooking, playing chess, spending time with friends, and participating in activities at her church. She also helps with children at her church and enjoys being involved in her community.

One of her more interesting experiences happened while hiking in Ecuador with a friend. They got lost for about twelve hours, and at one point her friend almost slipped off a cliff, forcing them to find another way around.

Mrs. Broach describes herself as outgoing but also somewhat nerdy when she was in high school. She liked talking to different people but also spent a lot of time studying.

She considers being a good listener one of her talents. She also believes she is good at understanding and empathizing with other people.

Mrs. Broach recently got married to her husband, whom she has known since elementary school. They did not become interested in each other until about three years ago, and they eventually got married this summer.

One of Mrs. Broach's goals is to start a family with her husband. She also hopes to eventually live and teach in the Dominican Republic, where she taught several years ago.

Mrs. Broach enjoyed her time teaching in the Dominican Republic because she was able to form close relationships with the children. She liked creating a sense of community and making the students feel like they were part of a family.

When asked about the best and worst parts of teaching, Mrs. Broach said that grading and paperwork are the worst parts. The best part, she said, is being able to teach students something and see them grow.

Mrs. Broach's advice to students is to take care of what they have and take advantage of the opportunities they are given. She also encourages students to explore the world because experiencing different cultures can help them see life from different perspectives.

Mrs. Broach is excited to continue teaching at Burbank and try new opportunities at the school. She hopes to become more involved in the school community while continuing to help her students succeed in math as she did.

New Staff: Jenny Galvan

By Ethan Salcedo
Creative Director


Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm

For many students, the school's front office is a place they visit when they need help with their Aeries account, have a question or a need to be directed somewhere on campus. Behind many of those everyday interactions is Senior Secretary Mrs. Galvan, who helps students find resources they need while also building connections with the school community.

A typical day for Galvan involves working directly with students and helping manage much of the traffic that comes through the office. Students come to her with different questions and problems throughout the day, which means her job can change depending on who walks through the door.

"I deal with most of the traffic that's here with the students," Galvan said. "Assisting with resources that they need, assisting them to the right counselor or school psychologist, helping with Aeries portals, student emails, all that fun stuff."

While students may be familiar with seeing Galvan in the office, there are also parts of her job they may not know about. One responsibility that may surprise students is that she can help families with the Aeries Parent Portal.

Students and parents might assume that problems with logging in or passwords have to be handled by the school's technology staff. However, Galvan is also able to help with some of those issues.

"I think it would be the Parent Portal because I know some might assure it might be an IT thing," Galvan said. "But if it's something, like, you don't know your password, I can help you with that, or you're having trouble logging in. I could help with that."

Although helping students with school resources is a major part of her job, Galvan said one of her favorite parts of working with students is getting to know them personally. Working in the front office gives her the chance to interact with different students throughout the day and learn more about the way they communicate.

Galvan especially enjoys hearing the new slang and phrases students use. For her, those small conversations are another way to connect with the students she helps.

"I love to hear these new lingos that you guys have," Galvan said. She added that learning the new language and expressions students use is something she finds fun about working with them.

Galvan's connection to school goes further than her current position. Before working here, she was once a student walking the same campus. The school is her alma mater, and her own experiences as a student helped influence her decision to return and work in education.

"I went to this high school," Galvan said. "I played basketball here for four years, and I just had teachers that influenced me to want to become involved in education."

Returning to the school as a staff member has allowed Galvan to experience the campus from a different point of view. Instead of looking to teachers and staff for support, she now has the opportunity to become one of those people for current students.

Her role also gives her opportunities to be involved in student life outside of the front office. One of her most memorable experiences happened last school year when she was able to chaperone two major senior events.

"Last year, I was able to chaperone Prom and Grad Nite," Galvan said. "It was a fun experience, and I hope to continue to chaperone."

Experiences like Prom and Grad Nite allow Galvan to see a different side of the student community. Rather than only helping students with problems or questions during the school day, she gets the chance to be part of events that students may remember long after graduating.

For Galvan, however, the most meaningful part of being involved in the school community comes back to the relationships she forms with students. She remembers having teachers she could rely on when she attended the school and continuing to visit them even when she was no longer in their classes.

Now, she values being able to create that same type of connection with students herself.

"My favorite part, I think, is just having students coming back to me and having those genuine connections," she said. "I used to do that with my teachers, and I knew that I could rely on them, and I would go to them at any time."

Those relationships are especially meaningful to Galvan because they remind her of the support she once received as a student.

"Even if I didn't have them as my teacher, I would still go visit them," Galvan stated. "So I think having that happen to me is something that I carry dearly to my heart."

The front office may seem like just another part of the campus, but Galvan's role shows how much happens there throughout a normal school day. Whether she is helping someone access Aeries, directing a student toward a counselor or simply talking with students, much of her work is centered around being someone students can turn to.

As both an alumna and now the school's Senior Secretary, Galvan has experienced the school community from both sides. The teachers who once made an impact on her helped inspire her to work in education, and now she has the opportunity to create those same meaningful connections with a new generation of students.

New Staff: Brenda Nanez

By Kamryn Miller
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Haven Dunn

Burroughs Alumni, Brenda Nanez, is joining the staff as kitchen supervisor. On the daily, she manages food service operations and oversees the kitchen staff.

Brenda has a passion for working with kids. Her journey originated working at an elementary school. She loved it so much thats when she decided to further her experience working with children. When she got the opportunity to work at a high school, she knew she had to take it.

This year, her ultimate goal is to ensure that she makes meals that students will actually like. She hopes that students can enjoy their meals. Within the food service department, she is known as "little B" as there is already another Brenda working.

Brenda attended Burroughs in the early to mid 2000's, where her favorite class was Woodshop. "I would describe myself as a calm student." Her high school years were her favorite years as a student.

Eight years ago, she got to visit Burroughs as a barbecue cook, she considered that her favorite memory here. She also got to experience taking some classes at Valley College, which she described as a nice experience.

Brenda is thirty seven years young and she has one younger sibling. In her free time she loves to do things such as go shopping and listen to music!

She has her fair share of hidden talents. She used to play the accordion, and on top of that she's left-handed.

Brenda considers herself a big fan of the Los Angeles baseball team The Dodgers, which makes perfect sense as she enjoys baseball. As kitchen food supervisor she is bound to have a favorite food…Thai cuisine!

Let's welcome Brenda Nanez back into the John Burroughs family. Pay her a visit and stop by to greet her!

New Staff: Michael Jones

By Izzabella Mora
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm

Michael Jones has joined the campus staff as a Behavioral Instructional Assistant, bringing a strong history of dedication, a passion for student success, and an undeniable sense of style to the home of the Bears for a nostalgic homecoming (he worked here a decade ago) and an exciting new chapter of service.

In his role as a Behavioral Instructional Assistant, Mr. Jones holds an important responsibility that keeps him constantly on the move. Rather than staying anchored to a single desk or classroom, his daily routine involves supporting students from class to class. He provides direct academic assistance, while keeping a close eye on behavioral needs, ensuring every student he works with has the tools to focus and thrive.

When asked about what drives his work, he emphasized a simple yet powerful motivation: to help students become the absolute best versions of themselves. This dedication to youth development is what originally drew him to the education field, a career path that was sparked by a family recommendation. It was his mother-in-law who first suggested that working within the school district would provide the perfect environment for him to grow professionally and reach the next level in his career.

That advice proved invaluable. Mr. Jones initially gained experience working within specialized education programs before transitioning into behavioral support. His natural ability to connect with students and manage classroom dynamics quickly made him an indispensable asset to the school community.

Mr. Jones brings a highly decorated track record of professional recognition from within the district. In 2023, his dedicated work earned him the prestigious PTA Special Person Award. He followed that major achievement by being named the Classified Staff Member of the Year for the 2023-2024 academic school year.

At sixty years old, he is demonstrating that education is a lifelong journey. He efficiently balances employment at Burroughs with an academic workload. He is currently on course to finish at a state college by 2027, serving as an inspiring role model for the students he supports.

His return to Burroughs also highlights the shifting history of the school itself. He noted his excitement to be back on campus, expressing his pride in supporting the community today as a Bear.

Living nearby in Pasadena, he feels a profound sense of gratitude for the opportunity to work within the district, noting that one of his greatest joys is getting to watch the local youth grow up and succeed over the years.

Beyond his academic roles, Mr. Jones brings a vibrant personality and diverse personal interests that set him apart from typical school staff. For instance, he's best known for his unique trademark: a wardrobe filled with distinctly styled Sesame Street clothing.

When the final bell rings, he trades classroom management for an eclectic mix of hobbies. He is an avid fan of bowling, archery, and karaoke. When looking to unwind at his home, he prefers quiet pastimes, such as gardening or diving into a good audio book, with a particular fondness for non-fiction reading.

He also possesses a deep, lifelong appreciation for music, specifically the world of jazz. While he admits that modern pop culture and rapidly changing music trends can sometimes be baffling to keep up with, his loyalty remains firmly with jazz.

As the school year progresses, he hopes to leave a lasting impact on the Burroughs community that goes far beyond daily classroom behavior. He remains focused on his immediate short-term goal of completing his college degree, but his long-term vision centers on helping others realize their potential.

When asked what piece of advice he would offer to the students walking the hallways of Burroughs today, Mr. Jones offered a timeless message of resilience: "Never let go of your dreams." This simple concept serves as a daily practice for everyone. His story serves as a powerful reminder to the entire campus that anyone can pursue a new goal and become their best self at any time.

New Staff: Edith Rosales

By Ayumi Hayashi
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Jasmine Sahagun

For Edith Rosales, helping students is more than just a job. She grew up in Burbank attending local schools before eventually returning to her community to work with students. Her journey through school, college and different jobs has led her to a career focused on supporting students and helping them succeed.

Rosales is a 2017 John Burroughs High School graduate. She attended Pasadena City College before transferring to California State University, Long Beach majoring in Sociology. Although, when she thinks back to high school History was one of her favorite subjects.

Today, Rosales works with students who have Individualized Education Programs, or IEP. She works with approximately seven to ten students across different classes rather than being assigned specific students. Her role is to provide extra support whenever students need it.

"I just like working with students and helping them out," Rosales said. One part of her job involves helping students who need to leave class to take a test. She also checks in with students who are having trouble with an assignment and makes sure they are on the right track. Her job allows her to provide students with assistance while encouraging them to continue working independently.

Rosales' interest in working with students developed from her previous experience with younger children. Before her current position, she worked with Transitional Kindergarten students which are kids in between preschool and traditional kindergarten. Although she enjoyed her experience with young children, she wanted to do some of the same things with a different age group. High school students gave her the change she was looking for while allowing her to continue doing something she enjoys. Instead of leaving education behind, she found another way to make a difference in student's lives.

While helping students is an important part of her life, Rosales also has several interests outside of work. One of the things she is known for among her friends and family is crocheting. She makes clothes, shirts, bags, and plushies. Rosales also uses it as a way to make thoughtful gifts for people in her life based on their interests. One example is a Baby Yoda plushie she made for a friend who loves *Star Wars*. While her work focuses on helping students academically, crocheting allows her to express herself creatively and do something meaningful for the people she cares about.

Rosales also enjoys spending time with her friends and going to the movies. She has a movie membership and goes often. One movie she particularly enjoyed this year was *Project Hail Mary*. She also likes going to the beach, having dinner with friends and spending time with the people around her.

Rosales' focus on helping others carries into the advice she gives students. When asked what wisdom she would pass on to them her message is centered around perseverance. She encourages students not to give up when schoolwork becomes difficult. She believes that developing a strong work ethic can help students not only in high school but also in college or later in life. To her, success is not necessarily about never struggling.

From growing up as a student in Burbank to returning to her community as someone who supports students, Rosales' journey has come full circle. Her career allows her to combine her interest in education with something she has always enjoyed: helping others. Her story shows how a simple passion for working with people can grow into a meaningful career.

New Staff: Leticia Salcedo

By Elizabeth Browngardt
Editor-In-Chief


Photographer: Elizabeth Browngardt

After working at John Burroughs High School as a paraeducator last year, Leticia Salcedo is taking on a new BIA position at JBHS this year. With her experience working with students and different school districts, Ms. Salcedo is excited to continue being part of the Burroughs community in her new role.

Ms. Salcedo has always enjoyed working with students and watching them grow. She especially likes seeing students overcome challenges and become successful. After gaining experience in different school districts, she saw the opening for the BIA position at Burroughs and decided to apply.

Ms. Salcedo has a love for math, which is her favorite subject. Her experience working with students has given her the opportunity to see the different challenges students face and be there to support them along the way.

Outside of school, Ms. Salcedo enjoys spending time outdoors. Hiking, camping and going to the beach are some of her favorite things to do in her free time. She lives in Northridge and enjoys making time for her hobbies outside of school.

For Ms. Salcedo, one of the best parts of working at a school is getting to see students grow and overcome challenges. She enjoys coming to work each day and being able to work with students. Her advice to students is to enjoy every moment of high school because it goes by quickly.

"Enjoy high school. It goes by too fast," Ms. Salcedo said.

She encourages students to enjoy their friends, make memories and remember that every day is a brand new day.

Overall, Ms. Salcedo's goal is to have a successful year and do her best with every student. Outside of work, she is also thinking about going back to school. As she begins her first year in her new BIA position, Ms. Salcedo is looking forward to a new chapter at Burroughs and continuing to support students throughout the year.

New Staff: Veronica Perez

By Jasmine Sahagun
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Elizabeth Browngardt

Walking into a new school and starting a new position can be intimidating, but for Veronica Perez, joining the Burroughs community has allowed her to do something she genuinely enjoys, which is helping others. Veronica Perez is one of the newer staff members here at Burroughs and works with students in the Independent Living Skills program. As a Behavioral Instructional Assistant, or a BIA, she supports and assists students throughout their school day while building positive relationships with both students and her fellow staff members.

Veronica Perez is thirty-seven and a first-generation American whose family is originally from Guatemala. Her birthday is September 25th. Although she comes from a different background than many of the students she works with, her experiences and desire to help others have played an important role in shaping who she is today.

Before coming to Burroughs, she earned an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. While her degree isn't directly related to education, she explained how she has always enjoyed helping people in general, which is one of the reasons why she enjoys her current position. She applied for the job through the district and eventually landed her position at Burroughs, where she is now part of the Independent Living Skills program.

As a Behavioral Instructional Assistant, she works closely with students and helps support them in different ways.

One of her favorite aspects of her job is that every day is different. Unlike some jobs that follow the same routine each day, her routine can be unpredictable and constantly changing. She enjoys the variety because it keeps things interesting and prevents every day from feeling repetitive, but also admits that the lack of consistency can sometimes be challenging.

While she appreciates that each day brings something different, she also recognizes that an inconsistent schedule can make things more difficult at times. Despite this challenge, she continues to enjoy working with her students and being part of the Burroughs community.

One of Perez's biggest goals for this school year is to continue building and maintaining healthy and professional relationships with both her students and co-workers. She believes that positive relationships are important, especially when working in an environment where collaboration and communication are necessary.

Outside of school, she has several hobbies and interests that show another side of her personality. In her free time, she enjoys roller-skating and watching wrestling matches. She also enjoys art and dance, which are her favorite school subjects. These interests allow her to have fun and relax outside of her responsibilities at work.

Perez describes herself as someone people might recognize because of her distinctive laugh. She believes she has a unique laugh that makes her memorable to the people around her.

Looking toward the future, she has personal goals she hopes to accomplish as well. One thing she wants to do more of is exercise. Like many people, she recognizes the importance of making time for personal goals while balancing work and other responsibilities.

She also has important advice for students who are currently trying to navigate their high school experience. She believes students should enjoy their time and have fun, but she also emphasizes the importance of taking school seriously. High school can be an important time for students to discover their interests and begin thinking about what they want to do after graduation.

As a new member of the Burroughs staff, Veronica Perez brings her own experiences, interests, and passion for helping others into the classroom. From supporting students in the Independent Living Skills program to building relationships with her co-workers, she hopes to make a positive impact during the school year.

New Staff: Miguel Sanchez

By Ryleigh Chisholm
Editor-In-Chief

A New B.I.A is welcomed to Burroughs, Miguel Sanchez. Sanchez works with students who need extra help with their behavior and supports them as they learn better ways to handle different situations. As a Behavior Intervention Assistant, part of his job is helping students improve their behavior, social skills, and participation at school. This is an important job because every student is different and may need different types of support. Sanchez hopes to make a positive difference in the lives of the students he works with.

What sparked Mr. Sanchez's interest in being a B.I.A and working with students with special needs comes from his own family. His little brother has Down syndrome,


Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm

and because of that, Sanchez has always been comfortable being around and working with kids with special needs. Before becoming a B.I.A at Burroughs, Sanchez worked at Burbank High School, he came to Burroughs because the student he is currently assigned to also came from Burbank High.

One of his favorite parts of being a B.I.A is seeing his students grow. Every student has different challenges and goals, so seeing their progress over time can be rewarding. Whether it is learning a new behavior, handling a difficult situation better, or becoming more independent, Sanchez enjoys being able to see that growth firsthand.

While Mr. Sanchez is working at Burroughs, he is also working toward his own education. He is currently in the last year of his Bachelor's degree and plans to immediately continue into a Master's program after graduating. Sanchez also has big plans for the future. His goal within the field is to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, or BCBA. He hopes to eventually move up within the district and take on more responsibility. Becoming a BCBA would allow him to continue working with students while expanding his knowledge and skills in behavior support.

When he is not working, he enjoys playing pickup basketball. He also likes spending time with his friends and girlfriend and watching movies. Outside of his career, Sanchez hopes to have a family of his own and buy a house.

When asked what advice he would give to students, Sanchez shared a simple message "Stay true to yourself and keep working hard at whatever you love." His advice encourages students to not let other people's opinions stop them from pursuing what makes them happy.

Welcome Mr. Sanchez!

New Staff: Lissett Vargas

By Tabby King
Cub Reporter

Lissett Vargas always knew she wanted to work at a high school, and on Tuesday, August 13, 2026, that dream became reality when she started her first day as a new Behavior Intervention Assistant at John Burroughs High School.

Vargas, 27, was born on August 11, 1999, and brings a unique blend of experience and enthusiasm to her new role. She earned her Bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge, and is a graduate of Cleveland High School. Before joining John Burroughs, Vargas worked at Luther Burbank Middle School. That experience working with younger students was valuable, but she always felt drawn to a different setting.

"I've always had a calling to work at a high school because I want to follow my students," Vargas said. "When I graduated from college, I was looking for jobs and working with special needs students spoke to me."


Photographer: Elizabeth Browngardt

That led her to work at the high school her student was moving forward to, John Burroughs, where she now works with students who need an extra hand and an extra dose of encouragement.

Vargas said her inspiration at John Burroughs High School is Ms. Erica, a colleague she looks up to as a mentor and role model. "Having someone to learn from has made the transition smoother," she expressed.

The best part of her job, Vargas said "is seeing progress throughout time." "There's nothing better than watching a student grow and improving little by little," she said. "It reminds me why I chose this path."

The most difficult moments, she acknowledged, involve challenging situations with students or confusion in feelings. Like any teacher, she faces hard days but she said those moments are worth it when she sees the breakthroughs.

When she is not working, Vargas enjoys swimming, walking and spending time with her family. She lives in Mission Hills and values the time she gets to recharge outside of school.

Her advice to students is simple and heartfelt.

"Be yourself," Vargas said. "You don't have to pretend to be someone you're not. Just be who you are, and everything else will fall into place."

Vargas has clear goals for the school year ahead. One major goal for her students is to help a freshman get adjusted to high school. "Being a freshman is hard," she said. "Everything is new, and it can be overwhelming. I want to make sure he feels supported and knows someone is in his corner."

Her own goal is to get adjusted to the school herself and meet new staff and students. Starting at a new school is a challenge for the adults on campus too, and Vargas is taking it one day at a time.

When she was in high school, Vargas served as Captain of the drill team and focused on academics. She balanced leadership responsibilities with her studies, a skill that serves her well today.

Students might be surprised to learn that she likes to dance. Her favorite song is "Bby Wow" by Karol G, and she loves to dance to it. "I think they'd be surprised to see me dance," Vargas said with a laugh. "But I love it."

She knows her student at heart and she continues to grow with them as they move through high school. Vargas joins the John Burroughs staff ready to make a difference, one student at a time. With her dedication, her energy and her willingness to be herself, she is off to a strong start.

New Staff: Amy Lindley

By Daniella Jaramillo
Cub Reporter

This year at John Burroughs, we're glad to welcome Amy Lindley to the Burroughs staff as a behavior intervention aide. Her arrival brings a great new energy to the campus community. She helps students reach their goals by meeting one-on-one during class periods. Now in her sixth year within the education system, Ms. Lindley discovered her love for helping others while working as a senior caregiver. Working with seniors taught her a lot about being patient and caring. Born on November 6, 1994, the new instructional aide is also a student taking online classes for a Computer Science degree at Southern New Hampshire University alongside her job.

She views John Burroughs High School as the best school in the Valley, speaking highly of its culture and a wonderful student body. It is a place where she genuinely looks forward to arriving every single day.

Ms. Lindley notes that she actually wanted to dress exactly how teenagers dress today when she was in


Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm

high school. She took AP classes and spent over six years playing music in the school marching band from middle school all the way through high school. During those years, she loved watching anime and movies, and she never would have guessed she would end up pursuing a STEM degree later in life.

Her favorite books are *The Giver* and the *House of Night* series. She loves movies like *The Labyrinth* and the *Back to the Future* franchise. She has a brown belt in Shotokan karate. She is also a big fan of good food, listing sushi as her absolute favorite. Her second favorite is ramen, specifically from Kopan Ramen over in Glendale, which is her go-to spot.

Despite her new title, Ms. Lindley is so much more than her job. She has a lot of cool hobbies and goals that she focuses on when she isn't at work. She is creative by singing and playing the baritone ukulele.

Her helpfulness comes from her Christian faith, which taught her to always put other people first. When she was younger, she owned an ATV and would drive out in the middle of the desert for fun. She's known for her strawberry-blonde hair and bright and bubbly personality!

One of Ms. Lindley's absolute favorite childhood memories comes from the sense of freedom she had just going outside her home. Growing up in the High Desert gave her a deep appreciation for nature because she spent so much time surrounded by it.

As a kid, she loved to jump on her bike and ride out into the open spaces. Sometimes, she would take her ATV and drive down Forestry Road near her house. She would always bring a notebook, pull over, and sit on her ATV for hours sketching the mountains in front of her.

For Ms. Lindley, it was calming knowing that she didn't have to be anywhere else, nobody was waiting on her, and she could express herself while being with nature. She loved everything about the outdoors, especially just sitting quietly and listening to the wind blow through the trees. While she sketched, she would listen to the sounds of the desert, the distant sound of traffic and the occasional sound of two trains passing by.

Living out there allowed her to relax and listen to the sounds of nature, like flowing creeks, the crows cawing nearby, and the sight of hawks flying above while looking for their next meal. Because she had those amazing experiences growing up, she still thinks the desert is a beautiful place, and she always tells people that they need to go out to Joshua Tree at least once just to look up at the stars.

New Staff: Basilio Diaz

By Charlotte Green
Cub Reporter

This year at John Burroughs, we have a new day-lead custodian, Basilio Diaz. We have a lot to thank him for, considering he cleans inside and outside of our campus, during and after school hours, and supervises during lunch and passing periods. In a recent interview we got a sneak peak into how he made his way to working at Burroughs.

Diaz is fifty-four years old and was born on May 7th, 1972. Although this is his first year working at Burroughs, he has multiple years of experience in custodial work. Outside of school, Diaz loves and appreciates many things, he loves connecting and taking care of animals and nature and even trains his animals for competitions. After moving here from Mexico, he lives just outside of Burbank in Sunland.

We have many people to thank for our school environment being clean and tidy, and Diaz is one of them. Everyday he makes his way through


Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm

the school, He is here throughout the majority of the school day cleaning inside of our school, he even stays after school hours and cleans the outside of our school too, and to top it all off, helps supervise during lunch and passing periods to make sure everything goes smoothly. We truly have to thank him for all that he does behind the scenes.

Throughout his life, he's worked in multiple environments; He has experience in construction, the restaurant business, custodial work, and animal care. After working in the restaurant industry, he became a custodian in the Burbank's School District. He got transferred and promoted here from another school to become our day-lead custodian.

Outside of school, Diaz loves taking care of animals, connecting with nature, and spending quality time with his family; He owns lots of animals, some of them are horses, bulls, chickens, and many more. In fact, he does competitions with his horses and bulls. He even said that if he had to give one piece of advice to the students here at Burroughs, that it would be "you should always connect with animals."

Everyday, Diaz makes an effort to bring his best self to Burroughs. He believes that you can do anything you wish as long as you have a good attitude. He takes his inspiration from the people around him with more experience and wisdom so he can improve how he works.

His goal for not only this school year, but the long-term future, is to always try his best and focus more on the positives in life rather than the negatives. While he loves his job very much, he is also looking forward to and preparing for retirement.

Diaz was quite an athlete during his own high school career; although he does not currently participate in any extracurricular activities, when he was in high school he played volleyball and soccer. It seems that the athleticism runs in the Diaz family considering his daughter, Ms. Diaz, is a color guard coach here at Burroughs and at Burbank.

Basilio Diaz is one of many that work behind the scenes to keep Burroughs a clean and nice place. As we enter the new school year, make sure to say hi to Diaz. You can find him around school cleaning after nutrition and throughout the rest of the day and even after school helping tidy up the outside of the school too.

New Staff: Valerie Gomez

By Lily Bauer
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm

This school year, Burroughs welcomes Valerie Gomez on campus as a BIA (Behavior Intervention Assistant). Born on June 30, 2004 and only twenty-two, Valerie shows her perseverance and drive through her career as well as her own education, working very hard to earn her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. On campus, she works one on one with a student who she's been with for a year. Off campus, she works as a behavioral therapist and focuses on further progressing her schooling to eventually become a preschool teacher.

Valerie got her Associate's degree in June, graduating from LA Mission College before transferring to California State University, Northridge, where she works towards her goal of entering into education. Working at John Burroughs High School, where she smiles at the sight of senior backpacks, gives her the opportunity to learn more about the field she's been wanting to go into.

Everything she's been reaching towards has been because of one specific person in her life. Her aunt worked as a seventh grade Math and Science teacher while Valerie was in elementary school. In her occasional visits to her aunt's classroom, little Valerie would watch how she would be around kids. "She had lots of patience and she was very persistent in helping her students," Valerie said, "she definitely showed a lot of motivation." Valerie shows this same drive through working towards her end goal which is becoming a preschool teacher.

This changed slightly as she began to see herself working within the special education community rather than in a regular classroom. This also was impacted because she has three cousins with autism who she watched. They helped to make her have this realization so now as she continues working towards being a preschool teacher, she also works as a behavioral therapist. She began her career pathway at Dolores Huerta Middle School about three years ago through the agency she was working for at the time. This is where she began to have the perseverance and determination she has to this day. Even speaking with her a bit about her education, you can see the drive she has to do all she can to complete her goals.

"I feel like all of us that are in the same position, we kind of have similar traits in a way. Because you genuinely have to have a lot of patience, that's number one," Valerie notes. She mentioned Evelyn Cruz as someone else in her position working at our school who had impacted her day to day life at Burroughs through mutual encouragement. When asked about what sets her apart from others in her job, she replied "I would say the way that I approach them when they're going through their behaviors." Valerie had been told that's one of her strengths in her position.

Working at Burroughs with its large campus, Valerie's favorite thing is meeting new people everyday. She smiles at the sight of students wearing "senior backpacks" because of how memorable it is, being a tribute to their younger selves in a way. Valerie speaks very positively about her job and about the school, noting the lack of parking spots to be the only downside she could think of.

When she's not working with kids, Valerie can be seen walking her dog, going on hikes, and working out at the gym. Having two jobs as well as a college education to worry about, she doesn't have much time on her hands. She spends her weekends visiting her family, who she's very close with. She's the oldest of four, three brothers and a sister.

Valerie gave advice that may have a genuine weight of meaning to students attending Burroughs. Her thoughtful response seems to stand out and show how she pushes herself and encourages others to do the same. "I would say to never give up, always work hard for what you want because it's not gonna get handed to you," she said. With that, we are happy to introduce our staff and students to the kind and driven Valerie Gomez to our wonderful JBHS!

New Staff: Mayra Soto

By Sophie Demesa
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Elizabeth Browngardt

In a recent interview, Mayra Soto gave us a glimpse into her life, journey, and advice. As our new Evening Lead Custodian, Soto works behind the scenes to make sure we have a clean environment to come back to every morning. Although Mrs. Soto is new to Burroughs, her path here began years ago.

Five years ago, Soto had a friend that informed her of a position that needed to be filled at John Burroughs High School. She applied, and today, she is the person cleaning up the messes we leave behind, often with no one there to see it. For Soto, however, the job is more than just cleaning. She finds satisfaction in knowing that her work helps create a comfortable place for students to learn. "I don't have a kid, but I like that kids have an environment and good situation and they can study well," Soto says.

Much like many of us, Soto was nervous on her first day here. Everything was new and unfamiliar, and she wasn't sure what to expect. Her experience may be different from ours, but that feeling is something many students can relate to. We walked onto campus for the first time surrounded by unfamiliar faces, places, and routines. Over time, though, the campus became more familiar, and we started to find our places here.

Soto has experienced that same transition. Since starting at Burroughs, she has grown comfortable with her job and the community around her. She says that the staff has treated her with kindness and respect, helping her understand her responsibilities and supporting her whenever she needs it. "Now I'm very happy because all the people at this school were very nice to me," Soto says.

When Soto isn't on campus, you can find her spending time with the people and things she loves. One of her favorite activities is going out to dinner with her sisters and nieces. Some of her favorite places to eat include The Boiling Crab and Mi Casita.

During her free time, she loves to go on morning walks, especially when she gets to bring along her four year old Chihuahua, Bambi. When she isn't out with her family, Soto enjoys spending time with her husband, David Soto.

Her home in North Hollywood holds a special place in her heart because owning a house was once one of her biggest dreams. When asked what her dream was, she said "I don't have a dream, because my dream was to have a house, and I have that already."

When asked to share advice for students here at Burroughs, Soto shared words about the importance of education and having a career. She says that it's much better to grow up, go to school, and have a job. She also talked about how crucial it is to be on time to class, do your homework, have good attendance, and show respect to your teachers.

We are so excited to welcome Mrs. Soto as our new Evening Lead Custodian. Her positive attitude about our school community and all the people that contribute to it already makes our school a more welcoming and loving place. Her work towards ensuring our students have a healthy and clean atmosphere to learn in is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Mrs. Soto!

New Staff: Silvia Gutierrez

By Angie Duenas Hernandez
Cub Reporter



Silvia Gutierrez is a BIA here at JBHS.

She is fifty-nine years old and was born on August 13, 1967.

She started teaching in Mexico for nine years then moved to the United States. She took a break from work to raise her kids for fifteen years.

When her son turned nine she started to work by helping teach special education students. She previously had worked for other schools in the Burbank Unified School District.

The college that she went to is called Experimental Normal de Acaponeta in Acaponeta City Nayarit Mexico. She studied how to teach kindergarten and she chose to teach special education because she enjoyed seeing students reach their goals and she liked the subject.

She is also passionate about artwork, like making posters for the classrooms and making collages about the subject.

Although she is busy, during her free time she likes gardening and planting plants.

All three of her kids graduated from John Burroughs. Her daughter was class of 2012 and her sons were the classes of 2015 and 2020.

If she could pass any wisdom to her students she would tell them to always be themselves and to be confident in themselves.

Some goals that she has is to go to Mexico in December and to stay healthy and support her classroom and students.

Assistant Drum Major: Harrison Gourian

By Christopher Arbuckle
Cub Reporter

Harrison Gourian, who is the Assistant Drum Major in Marching Band, is a Junior who is sixteen years old and also in Jazz Ensemble.

He shared about why he chose to audition for the role last semester, mentioning that he enjoys band a lot and he wanted to be a leader and he thought the best way to do that was to be a leader in something that he was passionate about.

In the band he plays trombone.

As the Assistant Drum Major some of his responsibilities include; teaching fundamentals to newcomers, setting up the miniature field, and setting up the drum major stand and conducting when the Drum Major is not present.

When asked about events he looks forward to, which would have to be the Homecoming football gameday as it has a lot of fun traditions. Some of these include performing their field show in the pep rally, and partaking in a drum battle with the Burbank High School Marching Band.

He is also excited for divisional championships in November as he hopes to place better than last year.

Last year they placed 6th out of 14th in the 2A Championships. While this is great he believes that there is room for improvement in categories like visual effect and visual performance.

A common misconception about marching band is that people think it is simple even though that is not the case. He mentioned how it requires a lot of work, dedication and commitment. Along with that it requires being able to hold or carry an instrument while marching, stepping in time, spacing your steps out correctly, remembering your dots and being in sync with lots of people and most of the time you are doing this in 90 or more degree temperatures.

A challenge to the band that Harrison mentioned has been that the football field where they would normally work on their field show was being renovated during band camp and the first few weeks of school which he said has been a challenge for the band this year as they have to use a miniature field, a black top, or a small field that at a local middle school, for example they did one of their days of band camp at Luther so they could have a field to get drill down. He is optimistic about the situation now because the field had its renovations finished recently and he is looking forward to making strong progress on the show as they are going to have some upcoming Saturday rehearsals in September which means they will have a lot of time with the field to really dive deep into learning drill.

What he enjoys about football games is meeting the marching band for the away team and being able to connect with them and talk about music. He also enjoys playing "Runaway Baby," in the stands, performing their field show during halftime and going to Bob's Big Boy after the game.

Recently they concluded their start to the season, also known as "Band Camp," in which they do 8-10 hour rehearsals for five days to get ready for the season. During this camp, members review or learn fundamentals, learn or practice instruments, build friendships, practice block formations, work on marching mechanics and work on drill.

Harrison's favorite part from this was the games that are played, like human table, headmaster and the song association game.

Outside of band his favorite class is Film 1 with Mrs. Meschkat who (fun fact) actually went to high school with his mom. He likes film and enjoys learning about how films are produced and how he could potentially make it into a possible career in the future. He also mentioned that he is considering applying to be a part of Good Morning John Burroughs for his Senior year.

The size of the band has grown a fair bit, as last year they were in 2A. For reference every group is placed in a division based on size and they are still in 2A but with 50 members which is the maximum before they would have to register for 3A. Harrison is excited of course about moving up to 3A, but of course he knows that it will require lots of funding to be able to run a program successfully of that size.

Some of Harrison's hobbies outside of school include game design which entails music composition, programming, art and writing. He plays electric guitar, electric bass and piano as second instruments to his trombone outside of the classroom. His favorite video game is Undertale as it tells a story that resonates with him, it defines a lot about him and inspired him to start making video games as a hobby.

Some accomplishments that he has felt proud of include scoring a 76.1 at Division Championships last year, getting first place at the Edison High Field Tournament, getting first place at the Wilson Field Tournament, getting promoted to the Advanced Division in Jazz Ensemble competitions and getting the best score overall in the Anaheim Heritage Festival last semester with Jazz Ensemble.

In conclusion it was enjoyable being able to sit down with him to talk about Marching Band and himself. He feels optimistic about the season and believes that the sky is the limit in regards to what the band is able to achieve this season.

Clubs

Aiding the Elderly

Aiding the Elderly is a club dedicated to raising funds and providing support to seniors at the local senior centers around Burbank. The club meets once a month in room 2206. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to earn service hours while making a positive impact in our community. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Ms. Pavel or check out the club's Instagram page at @aidingtheelderlyclub.

Alzheimer's Awareness

Alzheimer's Awareness Club is an amazing student club led by Club Presidents Julia Barton, Vanessa Panduro, and Mia Smith-Kielland, and advised by Ms. De La Torre. They are dedicated to bringing awareness to Alzheimer's disease, but that's not all they are trying to achieve, the club also comes together to try and fundraise money to donate to the cause, while also learning about Alzheimer's itself and the research behind it. The club meets once a month in Ms. De La Torre's room, anyone interested in the club should come by for a meeting, and talk with Ms. De La Torre.

Animal Protection

The Animal Protection Society is a new club at John Burroughs High School sponsored by Ms. Oliver. The club meets every Friday at lunch in Room 2203, where students can learn about animal rights, create educational presentations, and find ways to make a difference through advocacy and outreach. These topics include animal testing, the importance of sanctuaries, farm animal treatment, and wild life protection. Members can also look forward to sanctuary field trips, policy change advocacy, and tabling in the quad. Students can join at any time by signing up or DMing the club's Instagram @animalprotections_jbhs.

Anime Club

In the Anime Club, you can connect with others who share your interest in anime and discover new shows to watch. The club meets every Thursday during lunch in Room 2312. During the first meeting, you will create an introduction index card, where you will introduce yourself to the group. This club is a great opportunity for anime enthusiasts or anyone looking to meet fellow fans. You can join the club at any time. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Mr. Spargur in Room 2312.

Armenian Club

The Armenian Club is hosted by Ms Balian every other Wednesday during lunch in room 1215. The club focuses on teaching the culture and history of Armenia. The purpose of the club is to spread awareness about the country. Ms. Balian, the host of the club, is a Math teacher and advisor. The club is going to go over events on our campus and holidays. The goal of the club is to spread information about Armenian culture. You can join this club by signing up and showing up at meetings and there is no deadline, you should join this club if you are interested in learning more about Armenian culture, people join this club for service hours and opportunities.

Art 2 Heart

Art 2 Heart is a club that advocates for more artistic accessibility in all subjects of classes. Art 2 Heart is co-presidented by Avery Gopez and Zelda Sapene Harbottle, Ms. Morrison hosts the club in room 6204. The first meeting is September 16, 2026, and the members of the club promote donating art supplies to art-focused places. They also take donations of supplies from other students and members of the club. The way to join is by signing up during Club Rush, or by joining their Remind.

Art Improvement

Art Improvement Club is the place to be if you're looking to upgrade your drawing skills. Founded by club president Miles Barnard, the Art Improvement Club is all about, well, art. In this club, the main focus is sketching and drawing, a creative outlet for many. Barnard created it because it was the club that he looked for as a freshman. That year, they didn't offer a club like this, so he created his own. His goal was to create a community for artists and to help them reach their full potential. In this club, you can expect weekly challenges and prompts to inspire your work and get your creative mind to work. In every meeting, new drawing concepts like anatomy and perspective will be introduced. If this seems like your scene, you can spend your lunch on Tuesdays in Mr. Van Loo's room, room 1142. Interested in joining? No stress! You're welcome to just show up and become part of the community. "I want it to be open to anyone, you don't have to be an artist to join, anyone can learn to draw," Barnard says.

Bible Study

The Bible Study club, operated by Carlos Villaneda, offers an inviting space for students looking to connect over faith at school. Under the guidance of Mr. Reyes, the group focuses on a mission to introduce Jesus to the school community. They hold their regular meetings every Wednesday in room 2209 to discuss faith and outreach activities. Joining the club is incredibly simple because there is no formal sign-up process required. Anyone interested in participating can just show up to the room during their meeting time to get involved.

Black Student Union

Black Student Union is run by President Kharma Gotson and Vice President Zoe Davis. This club's goal is to spread diversity on and off campus. They are planning after school activities to learn more about African American history and culture. They are also planning an assembly in February and they want to go to different schools around the area like Burbank High, Luther and Huerta Middle School, and Elementary schools to teach younger kids African American history. You can find this club with Mr. Moore in room 6201.

Book Club

The Book Club is a welcoming student group led by co-presidents Delia Guest and Gabriella Jimenez. The club meets under the supervision of Ms. Seymour on the last Wednesday of every month in room 1206. During these meetings, members explore different genres, share what they like about their chosen books, and just enjoy chatting about reading. Anyone is welcome to join simply by showing up to a meeting. Interested students can also reach out and message them directly on Instagram at @JBHS_BOOKCLUB to get involved.

Building Bridges

The Building Bridges club is sponsored by Mrs. Hollingshed. The meetings are held once a month on Thursday during lunch in room 2229. During the fall semester they plan on doing local outreach activities like making first aid kits for homeless shelters and bake sales to raise money for charity, and also hosting stuffed animal drive for foster centers. In the spring semester they are planning on hosting a book, clothing and food drive to donate it to underprivileged schools in the Philippines. Their goal is to build bridges between communities and to help underprivileged youth around the world. To get information about this club you can follow their Instagram page @buildingbridgesjbhs, you can join anytime by following the Instagram to keep up with club updates and reminders, there is no deadline to join by.

Burbank Sister City

The Burbank Sister City Club is a new club at JBHS sponsored by Mrs. Robinson and led by president Camila Roldan. The club meets at lunch on the first Monday of every month in Room 1207. Members will learn about different cultures, the similarities between them, and what life is like in other parts of the world. The club will also have fun activities and focus on global exchange. Any JBHS student interested can join, and there are no requirements. The club usually has around 20–30 members, but there is no set limit. To join, students can just show up to a meeting and participate. Students are encouraged to join by early October. For more information, students can visit BurbankSisterCity.org or follow the club on Instagram at @burbanksistercity.

Care for Caregivers

Care for Caregivers Club, led by Leah Romanes, Saya Davidson, and Emma Fabella, meets in Ms. Nevens' room, 1206, the first Friday of every month.

Chef's Club

Looking for a way to learn more about cooking and try something new? The Cooking Club, led by Mrs. Macias and President Dimitry Undorf, meet at least twice a month on Wednesdays and bring students together through their shared interest in cooking. Members can learn different cooking techniques, participate in activities, and explore food outside of school through opportunities such as visiting farmers markets. The club is meant to be a welcoming community for anyone who enjoys cooking or wants to become more comfortable in the kitchen. Students interested in the club can simply stop by and talk to Ms. Macias.

Chess Club

The Chess Club has a new look here at Burroughs with new President Hunter Marino leading it. As with last year the club meets in Mr. Nolan's room on Fridays during lunch. To join come to meetings and president and Vice President Cole Nishumura will get you situated. They plan to do in-person tournaments and online tournaments this year. If chess is your thing, then join the chess club.

Clubs

City Crafters

City's Crafters is a new club, sponsored by Ms. Morrison. The club meets every other Tuesday in Ms. Morrison's classroom, 6204, where members will make crafts to help people around Burbank and give back to the community. The club's goal is to bring more positivity to the community and help improve literacy rates. Students can join at any time by using the class code k2troiq7.

Cooking For Kindness

A new club at JBHS is Cooking for Kindness. Run by Co-Presidents Danny Patino and Bazeel Noguera and VP Henry Bullock. They meet on Thursdays, twice a month in Mr. Spargur's room. If you're interested in cooking food for the unhoused check out cooking for kindness!

Confections for a Cause

Confections for a Cause, run by Alera Magdlen, is one of our many raise for awareness clubs at Burroughs. Their goal as a club is to help with hunger in the community and to teach the skills of baking to others. They meet every other Monday at lunch in Ms. Oliver's room, 2203, as well as after school to bake and sell goods to raise money and donate to profits that help with the hunger crisis in America. To join, show up to 2203 at lunch to be part of the fun or follow their Instagram, @jbhs.c4c.

Creative Writing

This year, students have the opportunity to join The Creative Writing Club, meeting every other Wednesday in room 2312. It's run by James King, with Mr. Spargur being the sponsor for the club filled with the freedom to write with endless possibilities. The club explores the world of literature through meeting people who like to write, getting your creative ideas onto a piece of paper, and getting the inspiration needed to write whatever your heart desires! People attending the club can be mentored if they'd like to gain even more skills in writing, or go purely for the pleasure of sitting down and writing. Club members also have an opportunity to share their work on open mic days in this club! Students can join at any point in the year by simply opening the door of room 2312 on every other Wednesday where they will be welcomed with open arms, and minds. You can also join by getting the code from James King to the Google Classroom. Anyone is welcome to join whenever they please, so stop by room 2312!

Crochet

Run by President Mia Lu, the club meets every Tuesday in Mr. Noland's class, room 1145. Their meetings consist of just hanging out, having fun, and crocheting together! If you've never crocheted before and want to learn, Crochet Club will aid in teaching and assisting beginners. They can be found on Instagram @jbhs_crotchetclub.

CSF

CSF is back in the swing of things here at Burroughs. They meet the second Tuesday of every month. This club has co-presidents who are Sadie Gallagher and Ayah Gharieb. To join, get an application form from Mr. Bixler's room and fill it out. At meetings they go over service opportunities and leadership opportunities. If service is your thing, consider CSF.

Eco

Eco Club, led by Lucy Chesley, meets in Ms. Russon's room, 1201, every other Wednesday at lunch.

Epicurean Society

Epicurean Society, led by Emerson Salines, meets in Mrs. Macias' room, 4111, the third Tuesday of the month.

F.C.A.

F.C.A., otherwise known as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, led by Hannah Dufour, meets in Mr. Reyes' room, 2209. Keep a look out for GMJB announcements on meeting times. All are welcome to join!

Fishing Club

The JBHS Fishing Club is back this year to make a splash! Led by Seniors Marcello Sandoval and Fletcher Snow, they hope that members get to enjoy fishing with their friends while also learning about the fish themselves. In the past they have visited Port Hueneme, Lake Balboa, and Long Beach, all on their monthly fishing trips. Their primary goal is to simply teach eager members about the basic steps of fishing while also getting to use their skills in action. Meetings are held in Mrs. Seymor's room (2109) every other Tuesday. Be sure to follow their Instagram @jbhs.fishing.club Go fish!

Fitness and Wellness

Fitness and Wellness Club meets in Mr. Takou's room, 1147, the first and last Wednesday of the month.

Future Career

The Future Career club's leaders are Emma Alves and Stacey Carrillo. It meets in Ms Oliver's room, 2203, (she is also the club advisor). They meet on the last Monday of every month. They invite a new person from a different line of work to talk about their job. The goal is to help students who are interested in these career paths learn more about different professions and what it takes to pursue them in the future. Students interested in joining can look out for announcements about the first meeting and attend to learn more about the club and how to participate. You can join by showing up to the meetings.

Futures In Healthcare

Futures in Healthcare, led by Kylah Wilson and Luna Hancock, meets in Mr. Bruggeman's room, 1211, Wednesdays at lunch.

Girls Who Lead

Girls Who Lead's club leaders are Geraldine Salinas, Eden Lazuli, Kayle De Sentaigo and Kassandra Gonzalez. They are located in Ms Oliver's 2203 at lunch on Tuesdays at the beginning or at the end of the month. They focus on closing the gap for girls and having a powerful community of girls. You can join by following Geraldine's Instagram and showing up to meetings.

Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity club, ran by Calibrooke Myers and Amanda Meserve, advised by Ms. Russon, meets every Wednesday to serve the community at different locations. Members have built homes through Habitat for Humanity, volunteered at a food bank, and taken part in service projects like park and beach cleanups, food drives, care packages, and doing small builds such as birdhouses. With 161 members and counting, the club offers plenty of service-hour opportunities, just show up to a meeting to join!

Hiking Club

The JBHS Hiking Club is led by co-presidents Ziv Rabinovich and Easton Siems. The club meets once a month in Mr. Hedin-Abreu's room to plan and discuss their monthly hike. The club brings together students who enjoy spending time outdoors while also helping improve and restore local trails. Previously, members have participated in projects such as the 2026 La Tuna Canyon restoration, where they helped take care of the local environment. Students interested in joining can do so by simply showing up to a meeting or hike, because there are no formal sign-ups. Members may even have the opportunity to receive a free club shirt!

Improv

The Improv club, which is sponsored by Mrs. Meberg, creates a community for students to have fun and play improv related games. Their main goal is to help students build confidence in themselves and grow as a person. The club meets every Friday in the Drama room, 6101. You can join by simply attending one of the meetings or speaking to the presidents: Rose Okin and Lucy Chesley. Students are free to attend at any time of the year.

Interact Club

In Interact Club, you fundraise for a bunch of different organizations and groups and help out people in need. Their president is Matthew Janczewski. They meet every Monday, in Ms. Seymour's room, 1209. You can join by signing up at Club Rush or just stopping by on Mondays!

Jeopardy

The Jeopardy club is a club that brings a bit more fun into a day, with Mr. Hougan. The president is Ziv Rabinovitch. This club meets every other Friday in room 2302. The main appeal of this club is competing in Jeopardy, or more commonly known as trivia, games in groups of four with friends against other teams, or even see teachers go against one another. There is no official sign up to join the club but to compete in any given match on any day you do have to fill out a form for your team to play.

JSA

JSA, or Junior State of America, is a student-led nonpartisan debate organization headed by President Leslie Femenias and Vice President Easton Siems. Each Thursday, JSA members meet to discuss current events and engage in healthy debate. Cabinet meetings are held every Tuesday. As a club, JSA implores students to strengthen their civil engagement, and to become involved in their student body. Plus, debate also serves as a tool to improve critical thinking. Multiple JSA alumni have found jobs in congress, as well. Currently, JSA plans to welcome their first guest speaker: Louie Khan, a communications director for United States representative Ami Bera. If interested, JSA meetings are held weekly in room

Clubs

2225. Students can reach out to cabinet members and find more information online via JSA's Instagram account, @ burroughs_jsa.

JSU

Do you want to learn more about Jewish traditions and holidays, while also learning about Jewish topics not widely known? Then Jewish Student Union might just be the club for you! Led by Seniors Ziv Rabinovitch and Amos Lasry, they hope to bring Jewish students on campus together, while "championing and deepening the understanding of their Jewish identity." The club meets 1-2 Wednesdays a month during lunch in Ms.Weiner's room (1216). You can support the club by joining the Google Classroom and showing up to the meetings. Students are welcome to join at any point during the year. Follow their Instagram @jbhsjsu

K-Club

Interested in K-pop? If so, K-Club offers itself as a safe-space for students immersed in both Korean pop and fandom culture. Club members can engage in arts-and-crafts, dance, music critique, trivia, and much more. Most importantly, K-Club is a perfect opportunity to bond over shared interests and make life-long connections. Members are encouraged to bring photocards to meetings. As such, meetings are held on the first Friday of every month in room 2307. If intrigued, more information can be found on K-Club's Instagram, @jbhs.k_club, and Tiktok, at @ jbhs.k_club.

Key Club

Key Club is an engaging student club led by Club President Adara Chi and advised by Mr. Fernando, dedicated to making a positive impact on campus through community service. Members regularly collaborate with hands on activities, such as arts and crafts projects for local causes, while earning service hours. The club meets every Tuesday in the small gym, and anyone interested in joining the club can simply come to a meeting, and try to bring a friend along.

Latinos Unidos

Latinos Unidos offers volunteer hours to help the community. They work on bracelets from Latin American countries to sell in order to raise funds to help get kids out of detention centers. Their goal is to provide a safe space for everyone. They meet once a month in its advisor, Ms. Almanzar's, room, with President Miranda Valenzuela

Magnolia Buds

A new and exciting club has joined Burroughs. Magnolia Bud's goal is to spread hope and awareness for those affected by cancer while raising funds for Tower Cancer Research Facility. According to co-Presidents Alexa Segal and Evelyn Ung, "Through fundraisers, exciting events, and our clubs community, we hope to support cancer patients and make a difference. Fundraisers will be fully planned by the Magnolia Buds community, so everyone can feel like their ideas are heard and are a part of something meaningful. They meet in Mr. Bruggemans room, twice a month. Students can join by following their Instagram, @magnoliabudsjbhs, and DM them.

Mixed Movement

One club you guys should look at is The Mixed Movement Club led by co-Presidents Chloe Hancock and Kaylee Mason who are both Sophomores. In this club you learn more about different cultures as well as try new foods from those cultures and learn about both sides of your cultures. Each club meeting is you trying a different food from a different culture. Their ultimate goal is to let more people at Burroughs appreciate their ethnicities. You can find this club in Mr. Hogans room 2303.

Mock Trial

Mock Trial Club gives students interested in law the opportunity to experience what it is like to be an attorney while participating in simulated court cases. Members practice building cases, presenting arguments, questioning witnesses, and developing their critical thinking and communication skills. The club is open to all students, and members can join throughout the year. Students interested in law or looking for a way to improve their public speaking and argumentation skills can get involved. The club meets every two weeks on Fridays after school. The teacher sponsor is Mrs. Almanzar. For more information about joining, follow @jbhs_mocktrial on Instagram.

Model UN

Are you looking to improve your public speaking and debate skills? Model United Nations, also known as Model UN, is a new club founded this year by club president Kassandra Gonzalez. This club gives us a look into the United Nations, with students representing different countries and debating real world topics from their country's perspectives. Members of the club also get the opportunity to attend 2-3 conferences throughout the school year, where they'll meet and debate with other students from other schools. Model UN meets at least twice a month in Mr. Riley's room on the second floor of Building 2. If this sounds like something up your alley, you can follow the club's Instagram page, @jbhs.modelun, for more information. This will also help you access the Google Classroom code and stay updated about meeting dates.

Music Appreciation Club

If you want to learn and explore more about music, take a look at Music Appreciation Club. It is run by two seniors, Ginger Short and Greta Romero, the two co-presidents, and the club is held in room 2312 with Mr. Spargur every Friday. In this club they listen to music of all sorts and explore new genre. They also do music related activities, including mosh pit practices, making playlists, etc; They also look into local, age-appropriate concerts to attend.

Outdoor Adventure Club

The Outdoor Adventure Club, sponsored by Ms. Nevens, gives students a chance to take a break from school and spend time outdoors with friends and new people. The club meets every other Tuesday during lunch in Ms. Nevens' room, room 1206, while most of its events take place on Fridays through Sundays at different outdoor locations. Students can participate in hikes, including trail and waterfall hikes, beach days, outdoor movies, seasonal activities like pumpkin patches, and much more. Some examples of past or planned locations include Dockweiler Beach for bonfires and Sturtevant Falls for waterfall hikes. The club's goal is to help students get their minds off school, spend less time on their phones, and reconnect with nature in a fun and social environment. Students can get more information through the club's Instagram, @jbhs.outdoors, or its Google Classroom using the code 7emybug5 with a personal email. Anyone can join simply by showing up to a meeting, and students can join at any time. The club is also planning to keep track of attendance, and students who consistently participate in around five events may receive a cord at graduation.

Peace For All

Peace for All, lead by Naomi Ben-yair and Tristan Kairouz, meets in Mrs. Arjoyan's room, 2306, twice a month during lunch.

PERIOD

PERIOD is led by co-presidents Sarah Ahmed and Elisha Hill, with positions such as publicist, treasurer and secretary, still available to fill. The club meets once a month on Wednesday during lunch in Mrs. Knoops room, with possible Saturday meetings for service events. The club is part of a global nonprofit organization and focuses on helping people who lack access to menstrual products. Members work to distribute menstrual products to people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles. Students can join by showing up to a meeting or service event and scanning the QR code provided at meetings.

Pickle-ball

The Pickle-ball Club is a club, where you learn the basics of pickle-ball, meet people who also like to play, and learn how to run your own games with your friends. The club President, Jaden Mendoza states, "the club is open to everyone and everyone is welcome to join the club." To join the club you can talk to any one of the officers or DM their account on Instagram. The pickle-ball club meets on Wednesdays in Mr. Nolan's room.

Poetry and Literature

Poetry and Literature club is a brand new club on campus in Ms. Almanzar's room every Wednesday. The club is run by president Avery Strickler as well as VPs Kiera Mazorick and Analie Perez. Their goal is to raise money and buy books for other schools in Burbank.

Red Cross

The Red Cross Club meets twice a month with its advisor, Ms. Robertson, in room 1207. Led by presidents Hannah Kim and Skyler Roman, members participate in helpful activities like making dental and first-aid kits. To join, give a club president your name and phone number!

Risk

The risk club is a club where you learn how to play the game Risk and play with other who also know about risk and like playing it. The club ran by Cash Graham and co president Odin Wirth meets every other Thursday at lunch in Ms. Reardon's room. Club president Cash Graham says that to join the club you can see any of the clubs presidents or send a DM on their Instagram account.

Clubs

Robotics Club

The Robotics Club, advised by Ms. Carlton and led by Mia Leu, is holding informational meetings on September 10th and 11th in room 1140 at JBHS. The team meets at Burbank High School's STEAM lab, with off-season meetings on Fridays from 5–8PM and Saturdays from 10AM–3PM, where members learn what makes up the team and how to enter the build space. The club promotes STEM through beach cleanups and hands-on work in robotics, including fabrication design, and building robots.

SAGA

Many clubs like to introduce safe spaces and inclusivity to our school. SAGA is one of them. SAGA stands for Sexuality and Gender Alliance, welcoming students of all identities into their club. SAGA is hosted by Mr. Mesquita and co-presidents Apollo Kumar and Sarah de Barros. To find out when and where to meet for the club, talk to Ms. Harris or join their google classroom using the code fhm4wff. Their club is there to create a community, create a safe space, help people socialize, while also offering academic angles using presentations and guest speakers to teach members about different experiences and identities. They also have arts and crafts and many other fun and educational activities. All that's necessary is to show up to the club meetings to join.

Shooting Smiles

The Shooting Smiles Club meets twice a month on Wednesdays with its advisor Ms. Nevens. Led by President Andrea Talite and Vice President Charlotte Osterloh. The club hosts events at nursing homes and hospitals to cheer others up. To join, simply sign up with one of the club presidents!

Student Mental Health Board

The Burbank Student Mental Health Board is returning to JBHS once again! Alessi Umali and Sasha Stopek are serving as Co-Presidents this year. The club's goal is to promote mental health advocacy while creating a safe and equal space for anyone in the Burbank Unified School District. Visit their Instagram @studentmentalhealthboard for more information.

Study Buddies

The JBHS Study Buddies, run by Abby Wasilauski and Alexa Avila, creates a welcoming space where students can work together and support one another academically. The club gives students the opportunity to study with their peers, ask questions, share helpful strategies, and strengthen their understanding of challenging subjects. Abby and Alexa aim to make studying feel less stressful by building a community where students feel comfortable asking for help and learning from each other. Study Buddies also encourages students to develop stronger study habits while connecting with classmates and creating a more supportive academic environment at JBHS.

Surf N' Snow Club

Room 1214 serves as the ultimate launchpad for anyone looking to catch waves or fresh powder. Sponsored by Mr. Hedin, the Surf N' Snow Club brings students together on Mondays every other week during lunch to map out carpools and coordinate upcoming surfing and snowboarding expeditions. It is a seamless blend of recreation and responsibility, where the mission is as much about logging community service hours as it is about having a great time. There are no rigid deadlines or restrictive sign-up windows to worry about—students can drop in and join at any point throughout the year simply by walking into Mr. Hedin's room during a club meeting's lunch hour.

Survivor

This year, Sofia Apice and Liv Ganzel offer a chance to participate in the popular TV Show, Survivor in the form of the club meeting every other Wednesday in room 1-149. Sponsored by Miss Kim, Survivor Club presents students with an opportunity to win a prize at the end of the semester if they win the most challenges out of all the competitors. Some of these fun and exciting challenges will be done in teams, while others will be one person for themselves, but all are for the end goal of seeing the secret prize at the end. Students can join whenever by simply showing up, through the club's Instagram: survivor.club.jbhs. Without the stress of eliminations, competitors will be there just for the purpose of having fun with a side of friendly competition. Come by to test your skills in teamwork, strength, intelligence, and anything else that can get you to that prize!

Teen Court

Teen Court, sponsored by Mrs. Robertson, gives students the opportunity to learn about the justice system by taking part in mock court cases and serving as a jury of their peers. The club meets about once a month after school on Wednesdays in Room 1207. Teen Court was created to give teens who commit non-serious, first-time offenses a chance to learn from their mistakes and make better choices. Members learn about the legal system, teamwork, communication, and decision-making while participating in court-related activities. Anyone interested in law, criminal justice, or simply learning something new can join. For more information, follow @teen.courtjbhs on Instagram or ask Mrs. Robertson how to join.

Toy Story

Toy Story Club is a club with a large idea of giving back, it is watched over by the teacher Ms. Angela Lin. The co-Presidents of the club are John Nemeses and Julienne Equal, the Vice President of the club being Simone Laperriere. The Club meets on the first Thursday of every month in room 2213. The club can be joined just by signing up normally, the main appeal being that in the club the primary goal of it is to collect clothes, books, and of course toys. The purpose of this is to donate them to children in need, as well as raise money for children's hospitals, the goal is to allow students the opportunity to make a difference and positive impact within the community.

True Crime Club

If you're looking for mystery and investigation, True Crime Club is the place for you. True Crime Club gives students the opportunity to analyze criminal case files, explore physiological backgrounds, study detective leads, breaking down how the courtroom works, looking at prosecution and defense strategies and a look at the sentencing outcome! The president is Shalini Pathak and the Vice is Zoey Pickens, they meet once a month on a Monday and you can join the club by contacting Shalini Pathak or by going to the meeting which will be announced in GMJB.

UNICEF

UNICEF, or the United Nations Children's Fund, is dedicated to providing aid for children in need. Through various charity events, UNICEF works to raise both money and awareness for children affected by war, poverty, and environmental crises. The club offers multiple service hour opportunities and a chord at graduation for long-term members. The aforementioned service opportunities include making cards for hospitalized children, collecting coins, and much more. This year, Amira Djellal leads UNICEF as President, working alongside Vice-President Sara Ahamed. If interested, UNICEF meetings are held monthly in room 1142. Participation makes a difference; or, support UNICEF via Instagram, at @jbhs_unicef.

Women's Rights Initiative

In the Women's Rights Initiative Club , you help improve women's rights here at Burroughs and advocate for them. Their presidents are Ruby Lovell and Kaylee Mason. They meet every Thursday in room 6203 with Ms. Nakashima. You can join by signing up at Club Rush or just stopping by!

Young Women in Law Society

The Young Women in Law Society is a new JBHS club sponsored by Ms. Oliver and led by presidents Geroldine Salinas and Kassandra Gonzalez. The club meets at lunch on Thursdays at the beginning and end of each month in Room 2203. The club was created to encourage more girls to get involved in law and policy. Members will learn about women who are lawyers and have opportunities to hear from council members and politicians. Anyone interested can join, and there are no requirements. To join, students can simply attend a meeting. The goal is to get more girls interested in becoming lawyers, but the club can also help students improve their public speaking skills, even if they don't want to go into law. For more information, students can follow the club on Instagram at @ywls._.

Football

By Emmet Bowlin
Cub Reporter


Photographer: Ethan Salcedo

The Friday night lights at Memorial Field signal a promising new chapter for the John Burroughs High School Football Program. Entering his second season at the helm, head coach and alumnus Jose Calzadilla leads a battle tested Varsity squad eager to translate hard earned lessons into the season. Calzadilla, a 1989 Burroughs graduate who played long before the school transitioned its mascot to the Bears, represents a deep connection to local tradition. Having coached on the sidelines since 1999 under five different head coaches, coaching everything from offensive line to Junior Varsity offense, Calzadilla stepped up to lead the program, driven by a desire to mentor student-athletes on and off the field. After navigating a challenging transition during his first campaign, Calzadilla and his staff featuring defensive coordinator Keith Recchia, Coach Ben Birch, Coach Palma, and the former head coach Keith Knoop as athletic director, enter year two with a clear blueprint: establish a power running attack with the physical battle up front and execute with discipline consistently.

It all begins on the offensive and defensive lines, led by senior Captain Teddy Severse. The 6 '3, 265 lb tackle brings a massive presence to the trenches, having worked his way from lower level play to an All-League selection for the Bears. Beside him on the opposite side of the ball stand senior Captain Ryder Bowne, a 5 '11 linebacker and receiver who anchors the defense. Bowne, a first team All League honoree, brings over seven years of tackle football experience to the Gridiron serving as the heartbeat of the defense. Voted as captains by their peers for their relentless work ethic in the off-season, both Severse and Bowne set clear goals for their final high school campaigns: Foster tight locker room chemistry, help younger Varsity starters adopt a high school speed, and bring home a victory in the iconic crosstown rivalry game against the Burbank High Bulldogs.

The Bears offense is built around a heavy dose of senior running back Sho Fujita, an explosive playmaker who earned First Team All League honors after a standout Junior year. Fujita's vision stems from a year-round track sprint work and private conditioning making him a threat to score every time he touches the ball. After a summer spent at Luther Burbank Middle school, due to the Burroughs field being redone, he said he "has high hopes and I'm glad we got the opportunity to push through the adversity." Fujita spoke on his excitement to play alongside an explosive and athletic offense, headlined by All League senior Cooper Beebe, Senior Quarterbacks Sean Ghaman and Brandon Chapparo, and receivers Tony Sanchez, Emmet Bowlin, and Nikolas Taylor. Sho voiced his excitement to have the opportunity to "lead the younger guys, like Emmet and Taylor, to have an effective and productive season."

While a tough non-league opener against South High saw a shootout riddled with mistakes turn into a 45 to 29 loss, the offense showed teeth behind Fujita's multi touchdown performance.

Then John Burroughs Bears fell to the Santa Monica Vikings, 38-0. The Bears struggled to get on the scoreboard and left the game with a tough loss.

Senior Ryder Bowne reflected on the team's difficult start to the season. "The season has been pretty tough, especially after losing both of our quarterbacks in the first week. Our defense has been one of the best we've had in a while, and we're working harder every day to give our team a better opportunity to succeed."

Burroughs earned its first win of the season Friday night with a 28-23 comeback over Arroyo. The Bears were down 23-14 in the fourth quarter before senior Sho Fujita broke away for a 68-yard touchdown run to bring Burroughs within two points. Fujita finished with 216 rushing yards on 23 carries. Senior Luke Ryan called Fujita the star player of the game, saying, "Sho for sure," and noted his strong performance with more than 200 rushing yards and multiple touchdowns.

Quarterback Brandon Chapparo then scored on a five-yard touchdown run to give the Bears the lead, marking his second touchdown of the game. Ryan said having Chapparo back was an important part of the team's success. "It was definitely good to have Brandon and our quarterback back because that was a key piece we were missing. We played a lot better with them, being able to lead the offense."

With their first win of the season, the Bears showed their ability to fight back after a difficult start. .

Looking ahead, Burroughs will have time to prepare for league play and hopes to build on the confidence gained from the Arroyo win. As Coach Calzadilla often tells the team, success won't come from overcomplicating the playbook—it will come down to heart, physical trench execution, and 26 seniors taking care of business on every single snap. With Senior leaders setting the tone and a coaching staff that knows the program inside and out, the Bears are ready to make noise under the Friday night lights.


Photographer: Ethan Salcedo

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Flag Football



Photographer: Tobi Hattin

By Christian Garay -Dang-Mendez
Sports Editor

With school coming back, fall sports are preparing for their season, and a new fall sport has recently been added: Girls' Flag Football. This sport is in its second season and its first season with League play. Coach Knoop, who is the Athletic Director of Burroughs, is also the Head Coach of this sport, leads the team alongside Coach Ghaman, Coach Taix, and Coach Mochrie. Knoop's main goal this year is to focus on his Athletic Director duties and training Mr. Real, who is going to take his place after this year as the new A.D. He also wants to train his Flag Football girls to win League and go to playoffs

There are three Team Captains, Jasmin Varela, Isabella Estrada, and Geneva Kiefier, who are all Seniors. "There is so much talent on this team with a lot of athletes, as well as multi-sport athletes," Coach Knoop says. Some of these athletes include Chloe Zavala, Kelsey Vivas, Krystal Villalta, who led the team in interceptions last year; Lily Indefenso and Sabrina Coto, who are two year starters.

The team Captains are excited for this year's season because of the high expectations they have.

One Captain, Jasmin Varela, linebacker and running back, as well as soccer and track athlete, first tried out last summer because she wanted a change. Last year Jasmin won MVP and got an academic award. Her goal for this year is to make CIF as a senior because "This team would be the first to do so."

Another Team Captain is Isabella Estrada who is also a three sport athlete playing wide receiver and safety as well as soccer and track. Isabella received a coach's award and an academic award as well. Isabella's goal is to win League and go on to CIF. She's stated saying "With hard work and dedication, we can work together to achieve victory."

The last and final Team Captain rounding up the squad is Geneva Kiefier, and she is also a senior who is also a three sport athlete playing Flag Football, Soccer, and Track. Last season she scored the most touchdowns. She decided to play flag football because she enjoys watching football, and when she heard there was a new sport coming to the school, she wanted to do more sports as well as wanting a community. She is excited for the season because even though the previous seniors left, she wants to make connections with the girls and have a good time as well as finding that flow state. Her goal for the year is to have a leadership role in this year and make it a community with more people. She's stated, "Building connections is the true win of the game." So far in the season, the Bears are currently 2-1 and with notable wins against Saugus and Hart.

The Girl's first League game was with Gabrilino, narrowly missing the win 18-19. Some notable performers were their QB Chole Zavala going 17/26 throwing 174 yards and 2 touchdowns, Kayla Duran having 55 yards and a touchdown on 4 carries, and Geneva Kiefer having 49 receiving yards with 2 touchdowns on 2 receptions, and on defense Lily Indefenzo had 3 sacks and 5 QB hurries and Geneva Kiefer had 2 interceptions

This season should be one for the books. Let's go Bears!.

Girls Golf

By Ava Camberos
Cub Reporter

For Coach Davis, coaching Girls Golf is about more than just improving swing techniques or lowering a score, as she enjoys watching her students flourish, develop, and learn to trust themselves while creating a healthy and supportive environment.

In the Girls Golf team, young women are exposed to healthy connections between coaches and their surrounding teammates. From practicing their putting at golf courses to working on their swings at the range, the Girls Golf team spends their season preparing for League games and upcoming competitions throughout September.

Outside of practicing their golf skills. "I like the amount of doors it opens for you and how even as a sport that's normally seen as pretty serious and made for old people, it can be fun for people my age as well" Mya Beltran explained.

The team is focused on making practices as enjoyable while still staying committed to improving. By spending time together both on and off the course, the girls have the opportunity to build stronger connections as teammates.

With the season approaching, the team is looking forward to putting their skills into action during their upcoming matches. Each game gives the players another chance to gain experience and improve as they compete.

As the team continues through the season, the players are advancing individually and as teammates.

Coach Davis enjoys working with the girls and watching their growth and development as the season goes on. She especially loves helping the girls build their confidence, learn to trust themselves, and inspire them.

Before coaching, Davis played golf herself and later decided to apply for the girls golf coaching position after hearing about the opening. She enjoys working with students who think differently and believes there is always something new to learn from them.

When Davis isn't at school or on the golf course, she enjoys reading and binge-watching television. She also takes pleasure in spending time in nature and appreciates having time to herself.

Davis has always had a strong interest in science and history, with Albert Einstein and Temple Grandin serving as inspirations. In the future she hopes to teach science and encourage her students to trust themselves and think outside the box.

The team also gets opportunities to take their training beyond the golf course. Activities such as walking help the players build stamina and prepare for the physical demands of playing a full round of golf.

With practices focused on improving their skills and building endurance, the team is getting ready to put their hard work to the test.

Boys Water Polo

By Haven Dunn
Feature Editor


Photographer: Haven Dunn

Fall is here, which means it's time for our JBHS Boys Water Polo team to make a splash and get their season underway!

Since summer, the Boys Water Polo team has been hard at work training under the guidance of Coach Jacob Cook and Coach Martin Ortega-Jennison.

The coaches both have their own experience when it comes to the game. Coach Cook played for Bishop Alemany High School and Coach Ortega-Jennison actually played for Burroughs back when he was in high school.

The team is led by Captains Lincoln Morrow and Daniel Menchaca. Both Captains have played in high school for all four years with Morrow playing two and a half years of club.

Junior Logan Vescio spoke about the boys leadership stating "the leadership of Lincoln and Daniel has really pushed us forward as people, and as a team."

When asked about the goals for the season Morrow stated "Well making CIF is definitely one of the goals." Menchaca expressed similar goals while adding "I also want us to have a positive record and bring the team chemistry up."

As the entire team put it, team chemistry is at an all time high! Menchaca expressed "During our game at the end you could really tell how good our chemistry was."

To gear up for the season the boys have been training two hours everyday since summer began.

The team has been working on endurance, conditioning and drills taking place both inside and outside of the water.

As Coach Martin put it "We can condition as much as we want, but it's important to get into the right headspace.

The team has shown substantial improvement since the beginning of summer but, it's not over yet! As Coach Martin put it "It's going to be a long season, but I think with what we're seeing so early on it's going to be a good season."

The current season officially kicked off with the first game taking place at Glendale High School on the 27th of August.

After a week of chaos following the horrid heat wave—leading to afternoon practices being cancelled—the team shifted approaches and began practicing early in the morning before the school day started.

The game against Glendale High School turned out to be a spectacular start to the season with both Captains referring to it as so.

The final score was 17-14 with the Bears taking the win in their first game within the new league.

Regarding the game Coach Martin stated "I think the win is a boat of confidence for the team."

The Bears took on St. Francis High School on the 2nd and they lost 14-3.

On September 8th the boys took on Notre Dame High School and lost 12-9.

On Tuesday September 15th the JBHS Boy's water polo team took on Burbank High in their annual rivalry game leaving them high and dry. They beat the Burbank Bulldogs 16-11. Securing a huge win for the Bears during their pre--League season.

Looking into the future of the season there's still a lot of work to be done but the boys seem more than willing to put in the hours! Wishing the JBHS Boys Water Polo team a good luck on the rest of their season!

Girls Tennis

By Zoey Pickens
Opinion Editor

JBHS Girls' Tennis falls into swing as the heat persists. This year, both Varsity and JV welcome a new coach: Joel Dacay, the Founder of Burbank's beloved Tennis Mechanix Academy.

Though new to Burroughs, Dacay is no stranger to tennis. He has played the sport since childhood, considering himself a "life-long fan of tennis." Andrew Agassi, his favorite player, inspired him to pursue his tennis aspirations. Dacay began training players on the Association of Tennis Professionals Tour; he doubled as a fitness trainer in college, too.

Returning to Burbank, Dacay then opened the Tennis Mechanix Academy at the Burbank Tennis Center in 2012.

"We've had the academy for fifteen years," he said. "So now, I'm also happy to bring the same knowledge to help inspire people to play tennis." Impassioned, Dacay continued: "I always talk about finding your identity, because the skills you learn in tennis are going to apply to your life skills." Frankly, he's not wrong. Tennis is about community, enthusiasm, and self-improvement.

To upkeep those same sentiments, Dacay encourages his players to "never give up, and be better than your last outing."

With his mastery of the sport, Dacay looks forward to the approaching season. In preparation for their first game on September 24, he has already extended practices.

He cannot wait to "learn everybody's skills, and help them progress." Furthermore, Dacay also hopes his players are curious and hungry for improvement. Most of all, he wants the teams to "have fun."


Photographer: Haven Dunn

Upcoming Dates

October 2nd	Hall of Fame Induction
October 2nd	Hip Hop Explosion
October 3rd	College and Career Fair
October 9th	End of 10 Week Grades
October 10th	Homecoming Dance!
October 12th	Pupil Free Day!
October 15th	Disaster Drill
October 16th-17th	Burroughs on Broadway
October 23rd-24th	Burroughs on Broadway
October 31st	Halloween!

Cross Country

By Gemma Olivo
Cub Reporter

As the new school year begins, the John Burroughs High School Cross Country team is preparing to take on another season of races. With the first meet on September 5th, coaches John Peebles and Zach Beimford are looking forward to seeing how the team develops throughout the season.

Peebles, a calculus teacher at JBHS, also has a long history with the school. After attending John Burroughs as a high school student and coming back as a teacher, he knew that he also wanted to coach the sport that he had competed in himself during his time at Burroughs.

Beimford also attended John Burroughs as a student, where he was coached by Peebles. After experiencing the sport as a student-athlete, Beimford "always loved running, and I kept up with running" and was "happy to have an opportunity to give back" as a coach himself.

As the season approaches, both coaches have goals that go beyond simply winning races. Peebles wants his runners to improve throughout the season and become more confident in their abilities. He hopes that the work athletes put into practice will eventually show when they compete.

"I just have people perform to the best of their ability," Peebles said. He wants them to "learn how to believe in themselves and really be able to put it on the line, to improve, get better at practice, so that it shows when it comes to race time."

For Beimford, one of the most important parts of cross country is the relationships athletes build with one another. Beimford revealed "some of my longest-lasting friends are from running." Since runners spend so much time training together, he believes it is "a good opportunity to really build those bonds in a way they don't really get just, like, in a classroom."

Beimford emphasized that "everyone has their own kind of mark at the start of the season" and improvement can look different for every runner. According to Beimford "it doesn't matter if you're faster than someone," Instead, athletes can measure success by comparing their own performances and seeing how much they have improved.

That idea also applies to the Varsity team. While making it to the next level of postseason competition would be an accomplishment, Beimford believes that athletes should recognize their progress even if they do not advance in the way they want.

"If you, as a varsity team, run faster than you did last year and you don't get to go onto the next level, you still did better than you did before," Beimford said.

For Peebles, another major goal for the season is helping runners learn to trust themselves when it matters most. Practices are meant to prepare athletes physically, but the coaches also want runners to develop the confidence needed to perform when race day arrives.

The JBHS Cross Country team had their first meet at the Great Cow Run in Norwalk on Saturday, September 5. The team had a strong overall showing across all divisions. The Varsity Girls and Sophomore Girls both placed 3rd in their team competitions, while the Varsity Boys finished 9th. The Sophomore Boys placed 7th, the Freshman Girls placed 6th, and the Freshman Boys finished 11th. Overall, the results show solid performance across the different grade levels and divisions.

Then the team continued practicing and preparing for the races ahead, such as the Rosemead Invitational and Raider invitational, which just passed

They are currently preparing for the Mt. Carmel invitational, Dos Pueblos Invitational, Bell Gardens Invitational, and Mt. Sac invitational during the month of October, and finally League finals and CIF prelims in November.

As the League meets soon approach, the team will get the chance to see how its summer preparation translates to race day. From there, the runners will continue building towards the end of the season and the postseason.

With a new season comes new goals, new opportunities and another chance for the team to grow together. Peebles and Biemford hope that by the time postseason arrives, the runners will be confident, prepared and ready to see what they can accomplish.

As the season continues, the team will have opportunities to discover its strengths and see where they can improve. With athletes on both the girls and boys sides showing potential, the coaches are focused on bringing everyone together and having the team ready for the postseason..





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Girls Volleyball

By Chloe Moran
Cub Reporter

A new John Burroughs school year means a new Girls Volleyball season! Girls Volleyball consists of three teams which are Frosh, Junior Varsity, and Varsity. The Burroughs Bears are starting off the League strong with 6 wins and 4 losses landing them in 3rd place, as close runners up to Crescenta Valley and Arcadia.

When asked, Coach Real states that these Varsity players will make a great season: Amelia Walsh, the Junior Outside Hitter on Varsity, Emma De Cunzo Steinglass Senior DS, Trinity Taylan Varsity Outside Hitter, Zoe Davis who is a 5 '11 Middle, and Lola Juarez Sophmore Setter!

With some returning players and some new players this year's Varsity is said to have a killer season! This years' Seniors playing on Varsity are #1 Zoe Davis playing middle blocker, #4 Amanda Meserve playing opposite hitter, #5 Victoria Acevedo a setter, #7 Captain Joanna Brain defensive specilist, #8 Paige Rowan opposite hitter, #10 Captain Trinity Taylan outside hitter, #15 Alina Abrahamian outside hitter, #16 Hailey Collins opposite hitter, and #27 Emma De Cunzo Steinglass, another defensive specialist.

Alongside Seniors on this year's Varsity team are quite a few very talented Juniors and one Sophomore. The Juniors on Varsity consist of defensive specialist Aaliyah Shinn playing as #6, #11 Madeline Bixler playing middle blocker, #13 Amelia Walsh who is an outside hitter, captain Alex Hammeke as opposite hitter with #29, Kylee Beveridge #22 playing defensive specialist, and last but not least Sophomore Lola Juarez playing with #18 as a setter.

With the talented Juniors on Varsity there are also talented Juniors on the Junior Varsity team. The team includes talented Junior players such as Liv Ganzel playing opposite hitter with #4 and #0, Team Captain Eliana Meza with #7 playing defensive specialist, and Adana Torrosian with #17 playing setter.

Among the sea of Juniors and Sophomores playing on JV are #13 Audrey Windsor an outside hitter, and #19 Ella Jones playing as middle blocker.

The primarily Sophomore team is built with #1 Jewel Easter who is a defensive specialist, #2 Rylee Alazaraqui an opposite hitter, #3 setter Ava Sahadi, Captain #5 Shylah Grandinetti who is an outside hitter, #6 Lola Tobin playing outside hitter, setter Alyssa Viviano as #8, Skylar Roman #11 middle blocker, Ava Easter playing middle blocker as #12 and #77, Enjoli Smith middle blocker as #14, and last but not least middle blocker Lucy Parker #15 middle blocker.

The final Bears girls volleyball team is the Frosh team consisting of all freshmen. Frosh consists of players Jaimie Alviar, Grace Figueroa, Valentina Hernandez, Arya Ilasin, Keira McNeil, captain Edee Nelson, Alexis Olmos, Raielle Owenson, Evey Provan, other Team Captain Dahlia Rodriguez, Scarlett Taylor, and Chloe Thomas.

Each team started off with summer league tryouts bright and early which then the teams were chosen for the summer league. After the Bears successful summer league fall tryouts were held which then determined the fall teams.


Photographer: Ryleigh Chisholm


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The Bear's tedious summer with many early morning practices, and late night games has now resulted in the best teams consisting of the best players. The Bear's summertime playing prepared them for the upcoming season which will prove to be difficult but nothing Bears can't handle.

Behind the teams is Coach Edwin Real. Coach Real has been coaching the girl's volleyball team for twenty-three years, but before coaching the team he taught which he has been doing for thirty-five years as a Physical Education teacher. When asked, Coach Real states that his favorite part about coaching and teaching is seeing the kids get better, "to see the kids progress and get better!"

The girls volleyball teams are looking forward to a great 2026-2027 season! Starting off strong with 6 wins, 4 losses and more to come.

Bears started the League with a tough loss to Vista Murrieta losing 3-1 then brought it back with a sweep of 3-0 against Cypress, and a difficult game against La Salle resulting in a win of 3-2! When asked Coach Real says the team the Bears are most worried about going into this season will be Crescenta Valley who are sitting at first place with a record of 9-0. "We'll be ready for them," said Coach Real.

Our Girls Volleyball team came out strong last week against Burbank and South Pasadena. Tuesday, September 8th, Burroughs played Burbank at Burbank's home gym, winning the 3 set match. Emma De Cunzo Steinglass stood out, being one of the star players helping the team stay strong. Joanna Brain, one of the team captains said, "We stuck to the basics to defeat Burbank and get ready for the League."

On Thursday September 10th, Burroughs faced South Pasadena for their first League match. The team won 3-1 and their main goal for the season is keeping focus and keeping each other motivated as playing as a team. Trinity Taylan led the game with 13 kills, Emma De Cunzo Steinglass and Joanna Brain each with 13 digs. After winning their first League match Team Captain Alex Hammeke says "We're excited we won our first league match and excited to play Arcadia next Tuesday, This season we are preaching a lot of teamwork."

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