



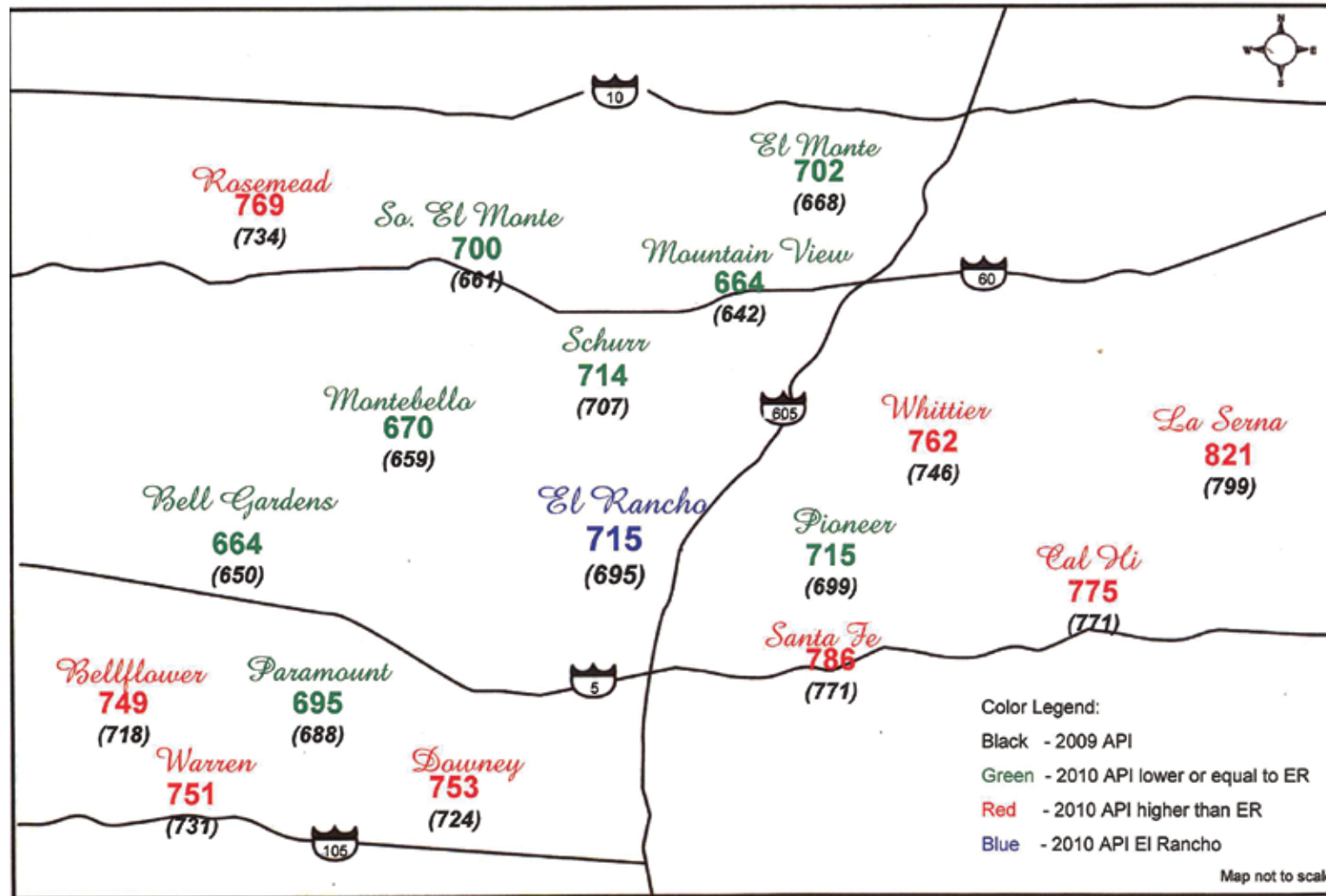
# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 59- Issue 1  
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## El Rancho's API Score Soars to 715

### API – Academic Performance Index 2010



dents keep pushing themselves while the teachers continue to be as creative in their attempts to push the students,” said history and sociology teacher, Ms. Oase.

Oase continued, “It boosts student morale because it’s a number you can be proud of.”

Students see the scores as a number to be proud of, and many foresee improvement.

“It’s awesome because it shows that our school is getting up there. It’s exciting knowing that our school is getting better and better, and I can leave knowing that my school will improve,” said senior, Alyssa Caltita.

Despite the significant score increase, goals for school-wide strengthening are still being made.

“Our goal is to continuously increase and to continuously improve, and I think we will. We’ll continue to see growth just with going to the new semester schedule,” said Ventura.

Moreover, the new incentives for improving grades due to CST scores will help maintain El Rancho’s high score.

“Once their students see that the CST scores can improve their grade, they’ll put more emphasis into [the standardized tests],” said Ventura.

The scores still show, however, that increments towards improvement must still be made.

Ventura said, “There’s always room for improvement, [and] that’s what [we] want to strive for; we want to strive to improve every single year. This year we looked at the school, and we developed goals to better the school. So, it’s a continuous progression.”

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School’s API score shot above expectations, increasing by 20 points from 695 to 715.

The API report, which ranges from 200-1,000, is based on standardized testing scores. Every school is required to meet a score of 800, and until that is

achieved, a school must meet annual growth targets of five percent, or a five point minimum.

Dr. Ventura, Assistant Principal of Curriculum, feels that the significant increase is due in large part to the various changes that were implemented last year.

“Whittier, for example, has been on the semester system for a very long time so they’ve been able to keep their students all year

long. We’ve just made that transition back to that system, so now our students will see their teachers all year long. [Whittier has] had tutorial for multiple years, and we’ve just started it,” said Ventura.

Before the score was released, the estimated score for El Rancho was 700.

“The state was basically telling us we had a goal to meet, and we met that—with an additional

fifteen. They want to see continuous growth; they don’t want to see us going backwards,” said Ventura.

Many are proud of the new score, for it is a valid measurement of positive classroom progression.

“[The scores] are a reflection of how hard the teachers have worked, and how the students are starting to rise to the occasion. I hope that we continue moving forward, and that the stu-

## Over Forty Colleges Represented at College Night

BY RAQUEL HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of El Rancho students and parents gathered in the gym to partake in this year’s college night on September 21.

After college bound students attended a financial aid workshop in the cafeteria with their parents, the crowd exited the cafeteria, made their way to the gym, and began walking from booth to booth.

All of the college representatives aligned in a circular formation, students were able to visit a variety of booths, which all shared a common goal: to inform potential college candidates of the institutions represented.

With over forty schools represented, college and career counselor, Mr. Ortiz, recognizes the importance of attending college night.

“College night helped students become aware that [there are] different colleges and university systems to look at that can compare to their major,” said Mr. Ortiz



Senior, Klarita Billington receives valuable information about college.

In addition to an increased awareness, many students thought the college night was extremely helpful.

“It was helpful because we got to see what programs a bunch of universities and col-

leges had. They were very open minded; they didn’t mind answering any questions,” said senior, Rosaura Montes.

Overall, college night was a success, for it allowed students to see that a multitude of possibili-

ties exist for their very near future.

Senior, Juan Olivares said, “College night opened my eyes to the options I have, while making me very excited about my future.”

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## NEWS

# A Head Start for the Early College Academy

BY BRANDON MENDOZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last year around 30 sophomores hit the books and tackled college courses after school in a program called Early College Academy, which is sponsored by Rio Hondo College. The courses in the program help the students develop skills that will be required to pass the program.

The Early College Academy consists of eight classes that are required to have been learned at the end of each class. After a year of the course, the students have completed three classes and are currently enrolled in their fourth.

The students see the program as an opportunity to get ahead in college. "I like the program because it has helped me grow into the person who I am and it has been a great experience; I feel lucky to have been given a great opportunity like this," said junior, Isabella Hernandez.

The students are shocked at how far they have all gone in the program and feel like it has only



begun this school year. "I like it cause we have all of our friends in here; we can get ahead and out of college faster and just have a good time!" said juniors Steven Gomez and Juan Jose Aguilar.

Certain students would say they had a particular class that they enjoyed. "My favorite class was 'The Art of Mexico' because I learned something I had no idea about. I also liked

the classes I had no prior knowledge of what was being taught," said junior Adrianna McEachren.

Not only did the students had something to say about the program, but their

previous instructor, Ms. Valle, added a few words herself.

"It's done in the right way, and it's beneficial for the students to get college credits, and it exposes them for college."

## Attendance Policy Creates a Stir



BY LYDIA RAYA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"According to California Educational Code... Any pupil who is absent without valid excuse three full days...or tardy or absent for more than 30-minute period... without a valid excuse on three occasions...is a truant." And now, students will be required to attend make-up courses for truancy.

While the new attendance policy may seem a bit strict, it is only necessary to make sure the students attend school.

"The truancy rate at El Rancho High School is around thirty percent," according to principal Sam Genis.

Those students are either absent or late to class without a valid excuse, which can lead to the assumption of ditching, does not present the school in a positive way.

El Rancho Unified School District has lost around two

million dollars due to truancies, which has led to laying off teachers, a limited amount of school and student resources, and cut backs on student programs and school activities.

The make-up courses students are required to take for truancy, as consequence, can also recover up to eight thousand of the two million dollars the district has lost.

Make-up courses aren't just regular classes, though. Mr. Elias reported students required to attend these make-up courses are provided with skills to assist in their school life, which include study skills, test preparation skills, and personal development; all of which are aspects of significance for high school life.

While some students may use the, "The administration just wants more money" retort to the implemented attendance policy, that money is used for the student resources necessary to prepare students for life outside of high school and out of the streets.

High school students, while still minors, are on the verge of adulthood, and will have to eventually realize the responsibilities and importance in attending work sites at this point of life to prepare for the businesses after high school and possibly college.

Students, unlike working adults, are given chances for unexcused attendance mishaps: detention, a talk with parents, and Saturday school are some of the many chances for students to turn their attendance habits around. Working adults, however, are oftentimes fired on the spot for their unexcused absences or tardiness.

"Break the rules, you have to pay," Mr. Elias says. "Eighty percent of success is showing up, and good attendance helps the entire community."

## Chef Luna Gives Back to the Community



COURTESY OF CHEF LUNA

BY JACQUELINE MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Cooking is an art. To work hard for a year and be truly thanked for it takes just one day and just one event, but for these El Rancho alumni it was three events.

Chef Luna did and experienced just that along with a group of El Rancho alumni. This past summer Luna was invited by one of his guest judges to help at a City of Hope benefit along with his former culinary arts students, but that wasn't the last event the alumni and Luna attended.

The next event Luna and his students were honored to attend was a Ronald McDonald house event, which supports terminally ill children and their families while giving them a comfortable place to live.

Luna as well as the students had the privilege to cook for these people. "These kids looked at us with a sense of amazement as if they were thinking 'wow, there are real chefs here,'" said Luna.

These children were so amazed that they were asking for pictures of the alumni because to them, they were famous chefs

The two events that they attended were amazing and made them feel extremely satisfied but it was the last event that they attended that was their big finale. Sergio Quevedo, Maleny Corrasco, Roman Escobar, Rudy Villa, and Luna had the privilege to work with Elizabeth Faulkner and help her win Top Chef Masters Invasion with a Pork Tenderloin and Cherry Sauce, which aired on Bravo. This was her recipe but the alumni cooked what everyone ate.

After Faulkner demonstrated how to make the dish, Luna and his staff prepared the dish, as she demonstrated once again for the guests.

"It was hard work, fun, exciting and cool to meet so many celebrities and it was an amazing experience. Thanks Chef," says Escobar.

They served close to one hundred and fifty people, and the people they served determined

who won. Some of the people they served and were able to meet were Caroline Hennesy (actor on General Hospital) Susan Fenniger (restaurant owner and has appeared on shows like Iron Chef) Steve-O (from the hit MTV show) and Paul McCullough (Chef).

For some of these alumni, the experience was greatly needed for their future, and for others it was a great and rewarding event.

"It was a great opportunity working with Luna and gaining experience for what I plan to pursue in the near future," says Corrasco.

"People all day long complain how bad their life is and experiences like this help bring awareness on how lucky we are to have what we have," says Luna.

The Ronald McDonald house was so pleased with his staff that they have been asked to come back every month. Graciously Luna accepted, for he knows the significant impact it has on the families. "I would like to go back at least three to four times this year."

# CAMPUS

## The Ranch Ropes in New Teachers

BY EMMA LEAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

New school year and new teachers! El Rancho has had a variety of teachers in the past years who have come and gone. Fortunately, this new school year has unveiled itself a new faculty. For example with



Mr. Holguin

Mr. Holguin, Mrs. Rodriguez, Mr. Lopez, and Mr. Medrano.



Mr. Medrano

First off, Mr. Holguin is a new Biology teacher at *El Rancho* and is located in classroom B-203.

With his major in Biology, it is safe to say that he enjoys science.

"Science is fun. But the main, fun part, is the process of discovery," says Mr. Holguin.

Mr. Medrano, a USC graduate has joined the *El Rancho* faculty. He is located in classroom X-7 where he teaches under the Resource Specialist Program (R.S.P). R.S.P provides teaching services to certain students who



Mrs. Rodriguez

need special education services for less than half of their school day.

"I enjoy teaching and the students are great. I feel very happy to be in this community because I can relate with the people," says Mr. Medrano.

Mrs. Rodriguez is currently teaching a course in the Special Education department in room R-2. There, she teaches students who have certain difficulties in learning.

"I love teaching! *El Rancho* has great students. Though it's a great challenge teaching my students, I get motivated as a teacher, when I see them improve in their academics," says Mrs. Rodriguez.

Also new to the Special Education department is Mr. Lopez. This is his first year at *El Rancho*.

"Yes, this is my first year teaching. I like it. The kids are amazing and I definitely believe that, as a teacher, there is a need for me to have patience and have a creative way of educating my students," says Mr. Lopez.



Mr. Lopez

If you see any of these fresh faces around campus feel free to say hello. They all agree that they would not mind an occasional "Hello" from a student or veteran faculty member.

## Rosie Fills Cecilia's Spot With a Smile

BY ROSAURA MONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At the end of the school year we bid farewell to Cecilia and in came a new registration clerk in June. Rosie Vazquez is now filling for Cecilia's spot. However this is not Rosie's first year here at the Ranch. Rosie started off at El Rancho fifteen years ago, working on intervention at attendance. Afterwards she worked at the purchasing department for the district; then she worked as a health clerk at Meller Elementary, and before returning to El Rancho Rosie was the attendance clerk at North Park Middle School.

"When I saw the flyer in the office about El Rancho looking for a new registration clerk, I wanted to take this new opportunity and I went for it," said Rosie.

With the help of her great personality and her ability to work well with others, Rosie got the job. "As soon as I saw Rosie and at the moment we finished in-



terviewing her, I knew right away that she was perfect for the job. She was the one we were looking for," said Paulie Munoz in the Guidance Office. "I am still a little sad about Cecilia not being here. However, I am very happy to have a person such as Rosie to fill in her spot. Rosie is an awe-

some person who brings a positive atmosphere and happiness into the office; we could not ask for someone else other than her."

Since Rosie is already familiar to the job, she does not have problems on what she has to do. "Rosie knows everything and what she has to get done. What

I really like about her is that if she does not know anything she will investigate to that point until she finds what she was looking for. Rosie is not afraid of anything here at the office and is really great for the job," said Ingrid Funes in the Guidance office.

Rosie graduated from Schurr High in Montebello and Rio Hondo College. She is a very friendly person who is full of smiles, works well with everyone, and is a very happy person who also remembers students faces from the previous schools that she has worked for.

"I'm married and I have a son named Diego who is going to turn three next year. One habit of mine is that I love to dance! Whenever I go out and if I enjoy listening to the music, I'll get up and dance. One thing that I love to do also is to buy accessories to wear. I'm always wearing someone around my neck or on my wrist," said Rosie.

"I love working with stu-

dents and their parents, which is why I love my job. After from being very busy from registering students into the school, it is very calm around here and this place is such a friendly environment. I knew that I wanted to work at school because I love helping people," said Rosie

Once a person meets Rosie, they will automatically be greeted with a friendly smile and know that she has a great personality. Everyone in the office gives her great support and there are many students in campus who are also friends with her because of knowing her in their past. They know what kind of person Rosie is and she is the type of person that will be anyone's friend because she is really great with people.

On behalf of *El Rancho* lets wish her a great year. And if you do not remember her from working at North Park or Meller Elementary, she will remember your child face and greet you with that great warm hearted smile of hers.

# WORD ON THE STREET

How does it feel being a freshman in high school?



"It feels good because it's a bigger school and I get to meet new people."  
-Paul Perez 9th



"I feel older, cooler, and hotter!"  
-Angel Saldana 9th



"It feels better being a freshman because there's a lot more girls to get to know."  
-Daniel Hernandez 9th



"It feels different being a freshman in high school because you get to meet different people, from different schools."  
-Julian Serratos 9th



"It feels fun but scary, and I like the fact that I am making new friends."  
-Danuele Guzman 9th

## FEATURES

## Correa's Efforts Help Change Students Lives



BY KAREN CARRILLO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Contributing endless hours of their time, teachers, like Mr. Correa, inspire and motivate the students of El Rancho High School to pursue further educational development than high schools, to prepare for the rigorous work ahead, and to develop methods that will help the students succeed in their future.

El Rancho High School staff has many teachers with various backgrounds. Many of them dedicate long hours to

their students and some even go above and beyond to influence the lives of many other young people. To them, procrastination is not an option and finding time for their students is a must.

For Mr. Correa, staying busy on a daily basis has become a part of life. As an AP European History teacher, he is responsible for grading assignments from over ninety students. He is also the AVID coordinator and teacher; he helps students prepare for rigorous curriculum and helps them develop the necessary habits for college. "Mr.

Correa inspires you to pursue a better life...he's an inspiration," says Francisco Lara, junior.

Mr. Hartman, who teaches English Honors and works alongside Mr. Correa, reflects on his success by saying, "he has a really good success with the AP European History students [and] his work with AVID shows he really wants to prepare students."

After school, he coaches the boys' varsity soccer team. The boys on his soccer team expressed a lot of respect towards Mr. Correa. "He is like a father...I look up to him," says David Martinez, a

senior on the varsity soccer team. Mr. Correa is also the Link Crew advisor. Link Crew requires hours of time and dedication to our freshmen and planning events that will help them become involved.

Outside of school, he volunteers to coordinate the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project (CLYLP), a one-week conference that gives one hundred and twenty high school seniors and juniors throughout California the chance to meet with college advisors to help them stay on track with their A-G requirements, and to encourage students to pursue a leadership role in their communities. The commitment to CLYLP requires twenty to thirty hours a month and frequent trips to Sacramento for board meetings. CLYLP is "in the business of making leaders out of California high school students, out of which the majority happen to be Latino," says Mr. Correa.

Why choose such a hectic lifestyle? Mr. Correa's motivation to reach out to others comes from "people [who] were so willing to help me overcome a lot of barriers and struggles in life." His greatest accomplishment came from knowing that he had made a difference in another person's life. "I am amazed with how he works with regular kids, to AP, to soccer—it's hard to adapt to different types of kids," comments Ms. Chavez, who is also one of the Link Crew coordinators.

Every day, Mr. Correa, dedicates his time for the students in and outside of his class. His accomplishment: "knowing that I had a small part in people's lives to reach their goals."

## Dondiego Does Band Right



BY PATTY SOLIS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Every Friday night you see her playing her baritone in the field! Who is she? Joanna Don Diego, who has been in band since sixth grade. When she attended Burke Middle School she played the alto saxophone; she now plays the baritone.

Joanna has been in band for four years at El Rancho. She enjoys being in band because she feels like everyone grew together as a family and she likes going on field trips with the band.

The trips that band has gone to are Disneyland, San Diego, San Francisco and they're hoping to go to Hawaii this year.

"Hopefully I enjoy playing music, reading music and having fun with my friends. The best part of being in band is getting to meet new people," says Joanna.

Fellow band members agree Joanna's personality is as great as she is talented. One of her band members, Erlene Espinoza says "I love Joanna's personality. She's very nice, sweet, and diligent. Joanna is super friendly; everyone has a chance to be her friend."

## Students Put on a Fresh Face With Cosmetics Club

BY ROSAURA MONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Do you ever want to put on make-up but you don't know how to put on eye shadow, or don't know how to put the right amount of foundation on your face but you really want to learn how? And do you use make-up for expressing your creativity? Well, a club that lets you be who you really are when it comes to cosmetology exists!

"Cosmetics club is a club where girls are able to come here and express their love of make-up," says instructor Candice Garcia who graduated and attained her diploma in Cosmetology at Marinello Schools of Beauty.

Cosmetics Club meets every Monday-Thursday from 3:00-5:00 in K-105.

"The members in the club do not have to come to every meeting since each time we meet we do something new; they are capable of learning something that no one else has learned before," said Candice, "I don't care if students do not know how to put on make-up. Every meeting they will learn something new and with that they are able to do

something that they have not been able to do before. I am here to help out with whatever they need to work on. Here at the club, we also have returning members from last year, and they are also here to help out with the new members."

When students come to the cosmetics club with the curiosity on how to apply make-up, they leave with so much more. They have the confidence to go out into the world and express their creativity.

"Here in cosmetics club, I teach students how to put the proper colors and applications to their faces when it comes to the time when they put the make-up on their faces. I teach them different styles of make-up such as dramatic, natural, etc. Here I also teach them what to do and what not to do when it comes to on how to put on the applications on their face," said Candice.

"In this club I simply have no rules; this is a club where girls are able to do whatever they want when it comes to express themselves because these girls have no boundaries when it comes to their creativity," says Garcia.

The cosmetics club is not just about applying make-up, students also learn about the history of the make-up which makes



it an educational experience.

"Girls should join this club simply because it is a very educational club. Since girls and guys are talking about being different, why not start with your make-up? You just don't learn make-up, but it really helps with your self-esteem. I am going on two years for being president of this club and

I strongly recommend this club for everyone," said senior Ariel Huerrera, president of the club.

"This club is very family based; we are very happy that these girls here work together and get along with everyone very well. Even if girls do not know how to put on make-up they always leave with a new

face," said Yvette Heredia who helps out Candice in the club,

In each meeting Candice demonstrates a how-to-apply make-up demo on which type of make-up style a club member would want to try out that day. Girls are then able to apply make-up on other students, giving them the necessary skills and practice.

New members are already loving the cosmetics club because it shows them the right way on how to put on applications and which color combinations work best on each other. "What I really like about the cosmetics club is that I learn how to put on make-up and I am very independent on what I do. Its very great to be in this club because of that and also because all the girls get along very well," said new member Karen L. Carillo.

If you just want to learn what it takes to put on make-up, or you just want to do it for fun so you can look like someone new, head over to the cosmetics club to learn how to do so. Not only will you learn how to apply make-up, but you will become someone new in the world of cosmetology. So come on down to Cosmetics Club to have a fun time to be around those who love make-up as much as you do.

# FEATURES

## Ms. Kemp is Truly “Most Excellent!”

BY ABEL MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho is home to many great teachers, all of who are unique in their own way. Take a cruise through the K-building and you may encounter a gorgeous gem named Mrs. Martinez, or take a stroll through the Q-building and you might learn a thing or two from the witty Mr. Sorenson. But dare to explore the back of the school and you might just meet a delicate bundle of bliss by the name of Ms. Kemp.

Ms. Kemp has been working at El Rancho for four years, and was actually a graduate of the Class of 19???. She currently teaches Biology Concepts in room Y-6, and she is also the Pepster Advisor. “It is super fun,” says Kemp. “It keeps me full of blue pride. I love the school and I love the kids.”

However, when it comes to her Pepster duties, Ms. Kemp’s dainty charm alters into a more cerebral demeanor. Such a manner is needed in order to be a strong advisor, and she still finds a way to make things enjoyable for herself and the girls.

“I like working with the girls,” says Kemp. “I’ve been with some for four years. It’s really, really fun to watch them grow over the four years. I like that it allows me to be creative, and it’s something that the girls enjoy being in. We make everything fun, whether it is the bus



Ms. Kemp poses with pepsters, Erika Perez, Alexis Carmona, and Amanda Roblero.

rides, the games (win or lose), we make things fun. Oh, and we love puffy paint and glitter.”

“I think she is very smart and witty,” says senior Lauren Riesgo (Song Captain). “She’s funny; she has good judgment, and she is a fair, reasonable person. She’s awesome.” Junior Valerie Morales (Varsity Song) views Kemp as a “very strict and honest person.”

As Kemp stated before, some of the Pepsters have been under her guidance for all of her

four years here. Two of those young ladies include seniors Alexis Carmona (Varsity Yell) and Erica Perez (Varsity Yell).

“I have been with Ms. Kemp all my four years,” says Alexis Carmona. “I like her; she has our back and has a good sense of humor.”

“I think that Ms. Kemp is very well-organized,” says Erica Perez. “I have loved spending all my four years of High School with her.”

An unknown fact that

not too many know unless they have Kemp is that whenever she catches a student yawning in class, she instantly begins to sing. “When you’re in front of a group of people and you see a person yawning, it looks so funny!” laughs Kemp. “It makes me wanna sing and I think that it also makes the class more interesting.”

“I never yawn in class,” she says firmly. “If a student catches me yawning, then the whole class gets extra credit.”

## El Rodeo



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## Trendsetters of The Month



Anthony Galvez 12th

Beanie: S.O.B. \$20  
Shirt: Borders \$25  
Jeans: Active \$40  
Socks: Hanes \$7  
Shoes: Savors \$10



Sofia Cruz 11th

Shirt: Forever21 \$23  
Shorts: Forever21 \$12  
Sandals: Forever21 \$20  
Watch: Target \$15



Josh Chacon 11th

Shirt: Thrift \$20  
Hoodie: American Apparel \$40  
Jeans: Levis \$40  
Shoes: Anthropology \$38



Alexis Mercado 9th

Dress: Swap Meet \$3  
Boots: Macys \$40  
Bandu: Thrift \$5

El Rodeo is published once a month, except during vacations, by the journalism class of El Rancho High School, 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660.

## SPORTS

## Girls Volleyball Team Prepares for Season



Girls volleyball playing Cabrillo High School.

BY DANIELA AGUILAR  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' volleyball team has high expectations for this season: Win league and go past the third round of CIF.

"It's a promising year," says Coach Picon.

The girls have their mind set on winning championship. Not only are they focused on winning, but also working on communication amongst each other.

"I expect to learn together as a team," says Captain Alexandra Ramos. "We've learned to get along well."

The volleyball team started off their season pretty rocky.

"We need more dedication," says Jessica King. "From the beginning, we did kind of bad. As

we played more games, we have gotten better—we're probably going to be even greater after."

Ramos and other teammates agree on seeing progression in one another.

"It's been really slow [the progression], but by [league] season, we should be good," says Karol Pereira.

The team had their first home game on Monday against Cabrillo High.

Just as Picon predicted, the key players of the game were all of the senior girls.

"We could've done way better," says Ramos.

The team started off strong, but slacked off as the game progressed.

"We pulled through," says senior Kimberly Pedegron.

## Dons off to Strong Start

BY ABEL MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The 2010 El Rancho football season has well been under way. With their record holding at 3-1, the Dons are determined to battle for a spot in the playoffs.

"I'm pretty pleased with the way we've been playing," says Head Coach Rick Zepeda. "Defense has been playing real physical; offense has been getting us in the end-zone, and our special teams haven't let us down."

With League beginning on October 15, the Dons will have to

tighten up all loose ends if they have any hopes of making it into the playoffs. Last year, they made it to the first round but fell short at the hands of Schurr High School.

"Our ultimate goal is to get into the playoffs," says Zepeda. "I'm confident in every game that we play, including league. But those are just words; we're going to need to back up our confidence by playing hard," says Zepeda.

"Our biggest game will be against La Serna, that'll be the biggest game in League. But first we have to take care of business with Montebello and Fontana."

"I feel hella confident," says quarterback Troy Campos. "We're really talented and we all love football. This year is gonna be great as long as we all, including myself, stay healthy

and don't get concussions. Pinks, fingers, and thumbs."

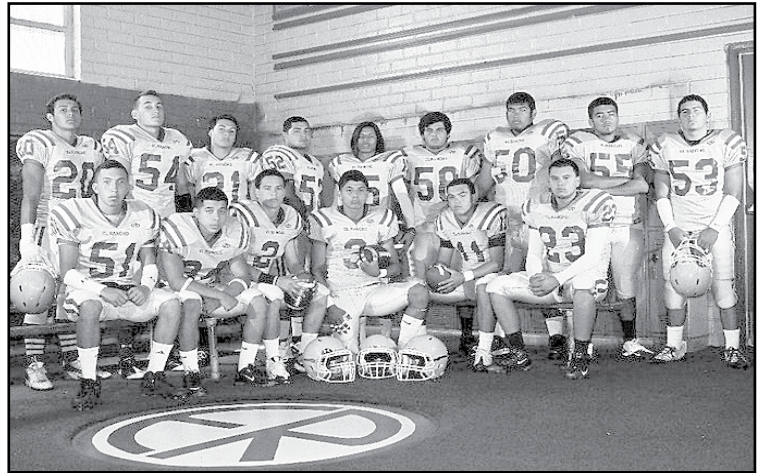
The beasts of the offensive line include center Jeromey Montoya and left guard Allan Cendejas.

"I feel that the team is very productive," says Montoya. "We're a bunch of scrappers, and we never give up and we always have each other's back."

"We're all brothers around here," adds middle linebacker Ray Herrera. "We never let each other down."

Not to be overlooked is El Rancho's freshmen and junior-varsity teams. "I'm very pleased with JV's progress," says Zepeda. "Freshmen are doing great; O-line and D-line have some very physical players."

With high hopes for the rest of the season, the Dons continue



Varsity players assemble in the team room. COURTESY OF TED AGUIRRE

to work hard to fulfill their goals. "We're trying to do the best we can," says Zepeda. "We appreciate everything the school does for us, and we promise to be a very exciting this year. Everyone's on

the same page, and every student should try to make it to the games." The next game is set against Fontana on Friday in the Don Memorial Stadium at 7pm. Come show your blue pride!



## New Coach Pumps up Girls Waterpolo for a Promising Season

BY AMANDA LARA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' water polo team had a drastic change this year due to the unfortunate layoff of Coach Pringle this past summer; However, the team obtained a well-experienced new coach, Coach Sharayah Hernandez.

The water polo girls have adapted to Hernandez's methods of coaching. "It's hard adjusting to a new coach especially when we've had the same coach since freshman year," says senior Melissa Rodriguez. "Besides having a different coach, we're ready to win league; we have a great team this year!" added senior Sam Perez.

The team has worked hard throughout the years and is planning on going far during

this upcoming season. "I'm really excited about coaching the team," says Coach Sharaya. "The girls are working really hard, and I know they want to go far."

The girls' varsity team is looking forward to this season and are determined to win league. "I feel like the season is going to be good and having a new coach and having positive attitude from the girls and everyone working together will get us far," says senior Jenifer Preciado.

Not only was Hernandez there to coach a group of girls, but also to mentor her younger sister. "I feel like there's more pressure on me because my sister is the coach, but I feel like it pushes me to do better and I have confidence in the season," says junior Angelica Hernandez

## Best of Both Worlds: Academics and Sports

BY KAREN CARRILLO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hard work and dedication prove that the amount of years for Valerie Barrera and Christina Garcia is the only factor that allows the two to be successful on the varsity tennis team.

Linda Galindo describes Christina as someone who "has great potential to making it to CIF." Christina Garcia, a sophomore, has nine years of tennis experience. "My parents encouraged me to play," says Christina. This experience has paid off, and has placed her on the varsity team. Aside from classes, which include AP Biology, AP European History, Honors Pre-Calculus, Honors English, and Art, she finds the time to squeeze in extra practice to prepare herself for the upcoming games.

"I felt like challenging myself and doing something new," says Valerie Barrera. For Valerie Barrera, the road to varsity tennis had nothing to do with years of experience; rather, it was her hard work and dedication to the team. Her coach, Ms. Lippstreu explains that Valerie is "willing to

play singles or doubles...she goes wherever she's needed." Finding the time for such a commitment has been a challenge for Valerie because of her involvement in AP classes, Link Crew, Social Justice Club and the M.E.Ch.A Club. Yet still finds time to tutor her younger brother and cousin. "For a little one, she's really fast...don't underestimate

her because she has power," says senior Abigail Bermudez, who is also in varsity tennis.

Both Christina and Valerie have proven that one can accomplish his or her goals with just hard work and dedication. With their season beginning, Valerie, Christina, and the entire tennis team will be on top of their game to make it to CIF.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Brandon Flowers Promotes Album *Flamingo*

BY NAOMI ORTEGA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Brandon Flowers sets out on the stage to greet a roaring group of fans on Tuesday, September 14th. *Jimmy Kimmel Live* hosted an outdoor mini concert in order to promote Brandon Flowers' debut solo album *Flamingo*.

Dressed in jeans, a vest, and a plain white tee, Flowers came on stage ready to perform for an eager audience. He first played his hit single "Crossfire," and was all smiles the entire time.

"It was awesome! We were really close and had a great view of the entire stage," said Leticia Martinez, senior. Because of limited time, only *Crossfire* and *Magdalena* aired on Kimmel's show. It was only necessary for Flowers to play until his airtime was over, but he went on to play six other songs off of *Flamingo* and a cover from his band, The Killers.

The lights were dimmed low and only Flowers and his lead guitar player were left on stage. He concluded night with a new version of the hit single, "When You Were Young," off of The Killers's sophomore album, *Sam's Town*. Although his version was much softer, the mellow feel it gave provided as a pleasant alternative.

"A lot of people are comparing it to a Killers album, but I think it's completely different," said Martinez. Flowers has definitely put a personal spin



in his album. His song "The Clock Was Tickin'" is about his mother, Jean Flowers, who died of brain cancer early February.

According to El Rancho alumni, Jair Haro, "His new CD is pretty sick." He continued to say Flowers has stepped

into a newwave type genre. Overall, the audience had a really positive response to his new music. They already knew

the lyrics and were able to sing along even though the album had been released that same day.

## CARTOON CORNER



## The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo Leaves Readers in Suspense

BY CHRISTY ORTIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Karl Stig-Erland Larsson's, a Swedish journalist and writer, best-known work was the *Millenium Trilogy* of crime novels. *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* trilogy was Larsson's last known work to the world.

It was found after his death unpublished, so in tribute to Larsson, Norstedts Forlag published the trilogy. The novel is about a journalist who is aided by a young female hacker in his search for a woman who has been missing—or dead—for forty years.

In a sense, the female hacker that the book is based after is only introduced here and shows more signs of her past in the next books.

The characters also have a depth to them that the reader sees immediately.

Robert Dessaix of the *Sydney Morning Herald* writes: "An epic tale of serial murderer and corporate trickery spanning several continents, the novel takes in complicated international financial fraud and



the buried evil past of a wealthy Swedish industrial family."

I loved how the novel seemed to transport the reader right into its world.

By slipping under your skin until the reader could almost feel the wind on his face, it made the reader wonder what would happen next, never wanting to put down the novel.

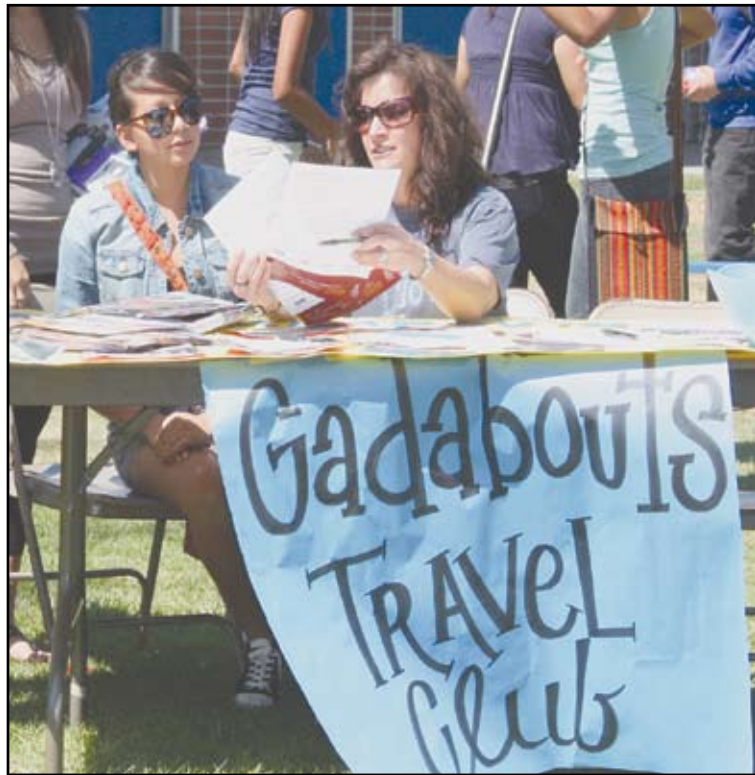
# CLUB FAIR

## Choices Galore! Club Fair Kicks off School Year

Last Friday around ten of El Rancho's clubs gathered in the quad for the club fair. Advisors and presidents had high hopes of recruiting new members for the upcoming school year. Despite all of the clubs' differences, they all shared one common goal: to inform students about the positive aspects of the club.

### Prep Clubs

The Prep Program is composed of an art shoppe and several clubs, including cosmetics, film, electronics, and weight lifting. Prep also provides students with morning and general tutoring and a technical assistance lab with Mr. Zeko in X-1.



### Gadabouts

Mrs. Zeko Gadabouts Advisor: "I encourage people to travel because they will be able to experience things that they will not be able to experience if they only stay in Pico Rivera; they're able to experience different peoples and cultures."



### DONS FOR CHRIST

Josh Magana Dons For Christ President: "We try to encourage people to change the world and know truth. We're just trying to encourage what they believe. I know a lot of people in this school believe in God and some sort of deity. We just want to show the truth, have everyone live for the truth, and live for what they believe in—not in what is contrary to their beliefs, but for the truth."



### MATH CLUB

Raul Rios Math Club President: "Math is fun. There are many things you can do with math. If you want to maximize something, you can. With math, you can figure out how to make the most profit, and be able to do things without trying to guess."



### SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

Juan Olivares Social Justice President: "I'm encouraging people to join social justice because many people in school don't know about what rights they have. Basically, we want to educate them about what they can and cannot do."

