



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

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## Dons experience parenthood with flour baby project



Jamie Baeza poses with her "child." Photo by Emily Lopez

BY EMILY LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

During the week of April 11th, Ms. McCaw's ROP students and Mr. Ross's Sports Medicine students carried a flour baby around campus as a class project.

"It's a project in an attempt to understand the reality & difficulty of teen pregnancy and reduce the teen pregnancy rate," says Jackie Beltran, junior.

"I have to carry my baby to all of my classes and I have assignments like logs and charts for every hour of the day, says Beltran. "I have to write down what's up with her, who is taking care of her, and where she is."

The students got to experience the good and bad things about taking care of children.

"My favorite part was the little gender reveal party we had in class, as well as carrying her around sharing new experiences with her," says junior, Jamie Baeza about her baby, "Hazel".

"We treat them as if they were real babies and take them everywhere with us," adds Baeza. "I felt a little sense of happiness because I grew close to Hazel. It was a little overwhelming with the challenges of taking care of her, but it was definitely worth it," says Baeza.

"The most difficult part was having to work in class with the baby because you can't just leave it anywhere and after a while of carrying the baby you get tired because it's pretty heavy," says Dana Sanchez, mother of "Lucas Matthias Sanchez".

"My favorite part though was taking Lucas out and seeing people's reactions when they thought he was a real baby."

The participants learned valuable lessons about taking care of a child and being responsible.

"I feel like this project was necessary because it gave us a look as to what watching over a baby was like," says Anthony Silva, senior. "The hardest part of the project was having to take care of my baby wherever I went or finding someone to take care of it when I couldn't," adds Silva.

Unfortunately, the week-long project had to come to an end and the parents had to say goodbye to their children.

## VAPA showcase highlights ERUSD artists

BY SELINA TORRES  
AND EMILY LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

On Wednesday, April 25th, El Rancho High School held its first annual Visual and Performing Arts Showcase for the El Rancho Unified School District. Over 200 hundred community members joined at El Rancho High School to celebrate the art of the hard-working students in Pico Rivera.

Visual and Performing Arts are a huge program throughout our district. Ranging from Digital Photography to Hawaiian Hula to Mariachi band, programs are filled with students that have immense artistic talent.

"I have participated in art programs because they give me the freedom to express myself," says Erik Avalos, 11. He danced folklorico along with other Juniors and students from Valencia Elementary. "I wanted to help Mr. Magdaleno and to get closer to my culture," added Avalos.

The showcase displayed artwork and projects throughout the Main Gym. Community members were able to walk around and admire the creativity of the youth in Pico Rivera. The gym was separated into sections depending on which school the artwork is from. Artwork included everything from digital photos, paintings, sculptures, and digital images from each school.

In the quad, community members gathered on lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the theatrics of all types of performers. "My favorite part was S.T.E.A.M.'s Mariachi band; the students' talent was really impressive," says Oscar Maldonado, 9. "My favorite performance was the skit that the Magee Department put on about gangs. It was very enter-



From top-to-bottom clockwise: Valencia Elementary School Folklorico dancers during their final performance; Mr. Stanley Wlasick announces the North Park Academy of the Arts' Band; Mr. Justin Diaz shows appreciation to Ms. Valerie Kiralla and Wlasick, who are retiring after this year; Superintendent Karling Aguilara-Fort, left, and district administrative members enjoy the show.

taining and funny," said Avalos.

Mr. Magdaleno, the VAPA Showcase leader, wanted to put on the show because "the arts are such an important part of our learning process and allow our students a platform to express their unique creativity. ERUSD values art education and this showcase provided an opportunity for our students to demonstrate excellence in both visual and performing arts." With the help of students and staff, Magdaleno was able to captivate the creativity that is encouraged throughout the district.

"Our VAPA teachers and departments across the district deserve a space to showcase our students creativity and their con-

tributions to our community via the arts," says Magdaleno. He was astonished by all the work that was brought to the showcase.

"Every school in our district participated in our VAPA Showcase and gave the audience a greater appreciation of both visual and performing art. My personal favorite part of the event was seeing all our schools come together. It was a beautiful sight to see the gym and quad full of young artists, musicians, actors, dancers, and singers," adds Magdaleno.

"This is a passion of mine since I was a folklorico dancer at North Ranchito and an art student at El Rancho High School, the arts gave me the tools to succeed in college and eventually return

to my community and become an art teacher," says Magdaleno.

Magdaleno says "for all my young aspiring artists, in any VAPA field, my advice to you is follow your heart and let your creativity and appreciation of the arts guide your path in life."

At the end of the event Magdaleno, Art Teacher, Mr. Diaz, Digital Imaging, and Mrs. Leal, Assistant Principal of Activities, gave heartfelt speeches about Mr. Wlasick and Ms. Kiralla for inspiring them to become teachers. They presented Wlasick and Kiralla with plaques to thank them for over 35 years of hard work and to wish them well in retirement.

## Mothers and daughters rendezvous for tea in Paris



Senior Leslie Plaza and her mother after winning 'Best Dressed.'

BY BREMO MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho held its annual Mother Daughter event on April 20th. The theme this year was Mother Daughter Tea in Paris. In

order to participate, you had to purchase tickets from the Activities Office, which were \$10 each.

The event started at 6pm and lasted two hours. When entering, the black, pink, and white decor was found on all the tables. There

was a professional photographer available, for a fee in case mother's and daughter's wanted professional photos from the event.

Mothers and daughters then settled into their tables, as waiters assisted and satisfied their thirst

with an offer of tea, sweet or unsweetened, pink lemonade, water, or coffee. As for desserts, there were different cookies to choose from, cupcakes, and brownies.

As the event began, a raffle began which rewarded the ticket owners a \$5 gift card to Starbucks, In-n-Out, Target, Dollar Tree, McDonald's, or Subway. Raffles continued throughout the night, leaving several mothers and daughters, very happy.

For entertainment, Advanced Drama played several games, such as Symphony, Liar, Interview, Rewind, and Emo improv. The acts were entertaining and had several references to mothers and daughters, Paris, and Tea.

To wrap up the event, Advanced Drama concluded with their game Liar. Whilst the game was played, mothers and daughters laughter was heard throughout the room. Around 8pm, the event was over and mothers and daughters left not only happier, but closer than before.

Photo by Devenie Anchon-

# FEATURES

## Georjean Ortega is *Simply Irresistible!*

By MARIELA MICHEL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Georjean Ortega, the aspiring artist with a love for meaningful shows and a talent for athletics, is *simply irresistible!*

With duties as an active member of Teen Court, Track and Field Pole Vault, and band, it's clear Ortega has a lot on her plate, but she invests the spare time she does have in art, gaming, and reading.

"For as long as I can remember, I've always been drawing," Ortega says. "Whether it be cartoons, anime, or real people, I find inspiration in almost everything."

Ortega began taking advantage of watercolor her junior year and marvels at the freedom and surprising results. Her inspiration comes from several places.

"When I'm not on my phone, I take the time to draw or read a good book," Ortega says. "Whenever I get an art block, I find inspiration by either listening to a variety of music or looking through photos on *Pinterest*, *Tumblr*, or *Instagram*."

If you love reading, then you should definitely consider befriending Ortega.

"As for reading, I love reading fiction, fantasy, or mystery. If I had to



pick my favorite book, I'd have to say the Percy Jackson series. The books are always better than the movies; fight me."

A child at heart, Ortega loves watching cartoons with meaningful messages for the younger generation. "Although I love watching *Law & Order SVU*, I love *Steven Universe* just as much," she says. "Although it's a kid's show, it holds a lot of meaning and quality content."

She is also fond of shows that exceed expectations and go beyond

appearances. "Most people think that 'anime is for kids.' Most animes show amazing quality in their content and are very inspirational," Ortega says. "If you watched *Tokyo Ghoul*, I'm sure you'd take back your 'anime is for kids' because it certainly isn't that."

Her proudest moment allowed her to reflect on her success in art and give some inspirational advice.

"I'm proud to say that, after passing AP Studio Art my junior year, I am an artist," she says. "To me, it's

funny because I didn't think I would pass it because everyone else in the class was so incredibly talented. Word of advice: Just because someone seems good at something, don't feel as though you can never do the same. All it takes is time, patience, and passion!"

Despite her artistic abilities, Ortega has ambitious goals for a future in the medical field.

"Going into college, I'm aiming for a career as a registered nurse," she says. "I've always wanted to help people and I find this as one of the best ways to do so."

In fact, she's already taken the first steps to gaining experience in her career and learning about herself in the medical field.

"I had taken a volunteering program during the summer in the Emergency Room at Beverly Hospital and found out that I'm not as squeamish around blood as I would think I am," she says.

Ortega describes herself as "an introvert" with a big heart. "Once I get home I immediately lock myself in my room and just want to enjoy my solitude," says Ortega. "I would say that I'm certainly a kid at heart."

But we know there's more to her than meets the eye. Her talents and hard-work earn her the title of *simply irresistible!*

## Andrew Sepulveda adMITted to dream school

By ALEKSEY SOTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the past four years, senior Andrew Sepulveda has excelled in all of his high school endeavors. Recently, his hard work paid off when he was admitted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an extremely competitive school with an acceptance rate of about 7.9%.

Like most people who get accepted to their dream school, Sepulveda was in shock when he received the news of his acceptance.

"I had just finished [listening to] a three-hour lecture and I opened my portal and it said, 'On behalf,' I thought *Oh crap I didn't get in* because I knew that if you got in the portal would say 'Congratulations,'" he said.

Sepulveda has already committed to being a part of MIT's class of 2022 and will become the first Don to actually attend the school since 2003.

"I'm either planning to major in physics with a specialization in quantum mechanics, or computer science and electrical engineering," he said.

While Sepulveda was accepted to many other colleges, including UCLA and NYU, his

mind was already MIT-bound.

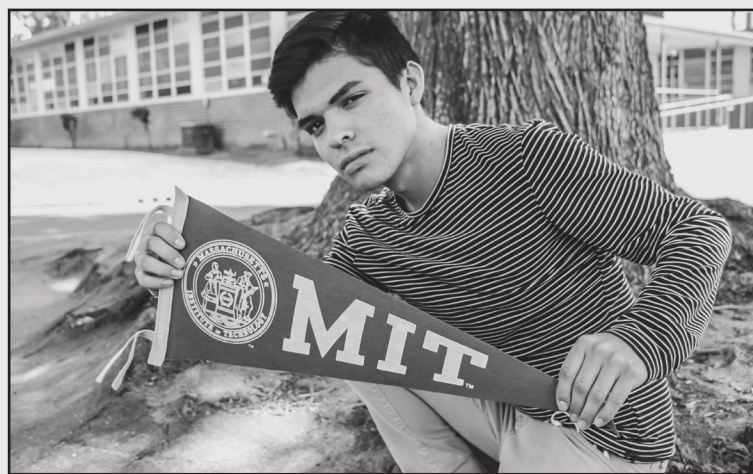
"You can't go wrong with the credibility that comes with [MIT], but also I know that it gives me so many more opportunities than anywhere else," Sepulveda said. "I can do undergraduate research during my freshman year which not many other colleges do, and they're giving me \$50,000 a year in scholarships."

Attending college out of state might cause fear in some, but Sepulveda is excited to be so far away from home.

"I want to be free. I'm not saying that I'm not free right now, but the thing is that I want to experience living alone somewhere that I've never been. I want to reimagine who I am," he said.

"I also really like the Boston/Cambridge area because it's probably the best college city. You have Harvard right next to Boston University right next to MIT and then right across the street is Berkeley."

Prior to applying, Sepulveda participated in the MIT Online Science, Technology, and Engineering Community program (aka MOSTEC), a six-week online program that includes a five-day visit to MIT's campus. He believes this program helped him both decide to apply and secure his admission.



"For the longest time, I had not wanted to apply. I always thought I wanted to do something with music," he said, "but when I got there I learned that MIT has a good music program, although not as big as I wanted, and I also fell in love with the campus."

"At the end of MOSTEC, I got an evaluation from my astrophysics instructor and my science writing course instructor. He wrote me one of the best letters of recommendation ever, and given that he was a Ph.D. student at MIT, I think it gave it a little more weight."

To the juniors getting ready to apply for college this fall, Sepulveda said, "Some advice I got for applying to colleges was that you want to make the admissions officers remember you. 'You want to make them laugh or cry. Make a lasting impact on them.'"

"Start on your applications right away and get some help on your essays. Don't feel like you're alone when you're working on them. You're going to feel very stressed, and that's normal, but don't slack off" he said. "Try to enjoy as much of your senior year as you can."

## Soto to study in South Korea during summer



By LESLIE PLAZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Aleksey Soto recently became the first Don to receive a National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship to study Korean in South Korea. The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) is a U.S. government initiative that prepares selected high-school students to study abroad and learn critical need languages in order to become leaders.

Approximately 3,000 students across the country applied to the NSLI-Y scholarship, which is sponsored by

the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Each year, approximately 600 finalists are chosen for the following languages: Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Tajik and Farsi Persian, Russian, Turkish, and Bahasa Indonesian.

As a language enthusiast, Soto dreamed of studying language abroad since her sophomore year. "I found a *YouTube* video of a girl talking about studying abroad for free," she said. "I looked into the program and that's how I discovered NSLI-Y."

"I applied for the scholarship in 2016 because I missed the 2015 appli-

cation, but I was rejected. I felt really disappointed for a couple of months after finding out, but I still pulled myself together to apply in 2017."

Soto had to dedicate enough time to do well on this application on top of college applications.

"The application process was so long! I had to do fill out academic activities and social activities, resumes, transcripts, a teacher reference, a parent reference, two 250-word essays, and a 100-word essay," she said.

Her chances of full acceptance into the program increased on December 1st when Soto entered the semi-finals.

"I got the email in the middle of fifth period and I started crying," Soto said. "I immediately called everyone in my family to tell them the news."

But, the process didn't end there. "Once I went into the semi-finals, I had to turn in a medical evaluation, and I had an interview," she said.

Soto was finally accepted into the 2018 NSLI-Y Pre-College Summer Immersion Program for Korean on March 30th.

"I screamed so loud I think my

neighbors heard me! My mom ran into my room asking what happened and I broke into tears telling her the news. I'm still in shock," she said.

Soto will leave on June 17 to New York's Stony Brook University for the pre-departure orientation. She'll then leave on the 19th to Songdo, South Korea.

"I'm so excited to leave," she said. "The other participants and I are counting down the days. It's all we can talk about"

Although she's passionate about the Korean language, Soto is already familiarizing herself with other languages.

"I already know Spanish, and I currently study French, which I hope to continue it as I grow older," she said. "I also hope to learn Russian and Japanese in the future. My overall goal is to be able to read and write five languages by the time I'm done with college."

"I obviously want to come back with more knowledge about the Korean language, but what's important to me is being able to experience and learn about a different culture and see more of the world."

## El Rodeo

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*El Rodeo*, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience's issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers.

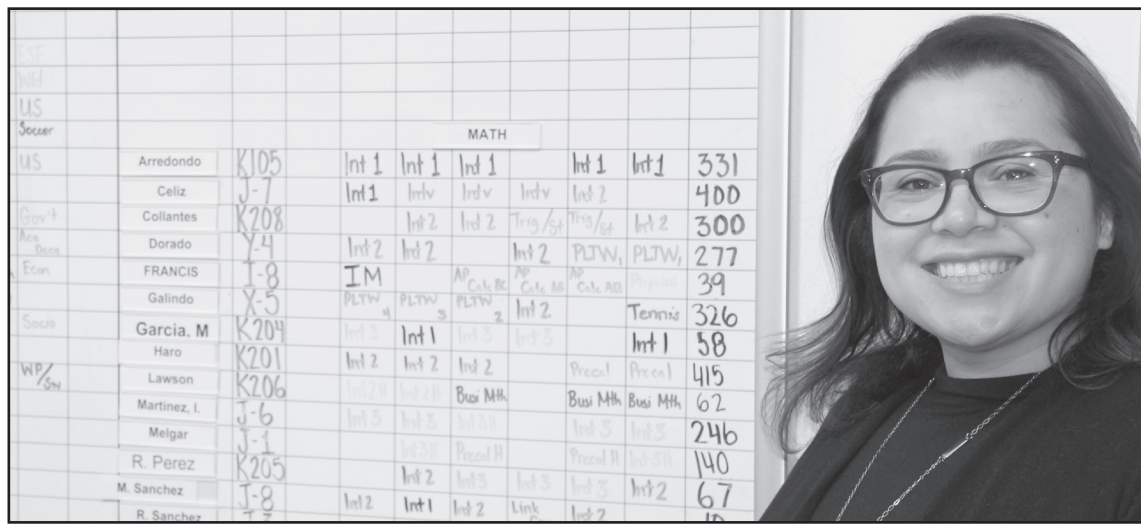
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Student journalists on the *El Rodeo* staff will make every effort to publish following the legal definitions of libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy. Consistent with California Education Code section 48907, the staff will refrain from printing material that may incite students, be a violation of school regulations or disrupt school operations. At the beginning of each semester, journalism students will be reminded of the legal, financial and ethical implications of each article they write.

**Ed Code 48907 affirms the right of high school newspapers to publish whatever they choose, so long as the content is not explicitly obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also, there shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section.**

# FEATURES

## Assistant principal Chavez-Diaz shares some advice



Mrs. Chavez-Diaz proudly shows off her class-organization board for the 2017-2018 school year.

BY KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She's the magic behind our classes with the skill of a masterchef; she's Jazmine Chavez-Diaz! For the past sixteen years, Mrs. Chavez-Diaz has brought a helping hand to El Rancho. Her hard work and determination has stabilized the academic foundation of El Rancho and has expanded our educational opportunities; however, teaching at El Rancho was never her first choice.

"It's kind of interesting how I ended up at El Rancho because I never wanted to work here initially," Chavez-Diaz laughs. "I went in for an interview when I was 21 and ended up getting the job and it paid \$6,000 more than my others offers so I just decided to stick with it and I'm glad I did." Despite being constantly busy with paperwork, Mrs. Chavez-Diaz always makes room in her schedule for fun. "I always try to be involved with as many

events as I can," says Chavez-Diaz. "We have great staff and students here and the memories we make together are incredible." However, Mrs. Chavez-Diaz wasn't always the intricate, stationary-enthusiast we've always known here to be; she's has her own share of rebellious acts as a teenager. "You may never guess but I was in a punk band and I had purple hair," Chavez-Diaz laughs. "I also wasn't al-

lowed to attend my prom due to being late all the time." Even though she's been through many phases, Mrs. Chavez always looks back on her past with positivity. "I grew up in a very traditional household, so things like going to college or becoming a professional worker were not ideally supported," Chavez-Diaz says. "Instead of letting that stop me, I used it to push me further and achieve my goals." Mrs. Chavez-Diaz always encourages students and staff to explore the world and learn as much as they can! "I love math and always love learning more about it," Chavez-Diaz says. "I also love cooking and finding ways to improve in all my basic abilities." We love a multi-talented queen! If she had any final words of advice to give to her students it would be "Always leave the state if you get a chance to for college, you never know what new experiences might be out there and you might change your mind on what you like or who you are, and that's okay!"

## Coach Shigezane receives Coach of the Year honor



BY LESLIE PLAZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Varsity girls' basketball head coach, Randy Shigezane, has been awarded Whittier Daily News' Coach of the Year award for the second consecutive year. Shigezane has coached the Lady Dons to undefeated in league for the past four years.

"I've been [coaching] for thirty years," said Shigezane. "I started by coaching basketball camps, and when I did that, I realized that I really enjoyed teaching and coaching."

Shigezane's passion for teaching and coaching landed him the position as head coach for girls' basketball team.

"This is my first job as a head coach, but I coached Track and Field and Cross Country, but basketball is something I've always loved."

Although he coaches basketball, Shigezane also played baseball growing up. Aside from being head coach, Shigezane also teaches physical education, incorporating a variety of sports and techniques.

"I've been an assistant coach for high profile programs and they've had varied styles," said Shigezane. "I've coached for teams that have pressed a lot, which is what we do. I've coached for teams where we'd work inside a lot. I've also coached for teams that focused on perimeters."

Throughout his career, Shigezane devotes time to researching the newest techniques in basketball.

"I watch a lot of basketball and I also have a lot of friends in the coaching fraternity so I always ask what are they doing to see what I can incorporate."

Shigezane admires the enthusiasm of the Lady Dons, which inspires him to persevere through the challenging practices and games.

"Coach of Year award is more of a team award. If we were 11-15 last year instead of winning the 26 games, I wouldn't have won. I've been fortunate to have some great players these past few years, so they always get the credit."

## All Club Council seeks to unify campus organizations

BY SELINA TORRES  
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

Are you interested in promoting school spirit and getting involved on campus? Well, All Club Council might just be for you. Run by ASB Vice President, Miranda Zorrilla, along with advisor, Mrs. Senteno-Tapia, All Club Council is determined to reinvent El Rancho tradition. All Club Council is a relatively new club on campus. The first official club meeting was in February when Senteno-Tapia and Zorrilla wanted to provide students with a new opportunity to increase involvement. "Our goal is to be more inclusive and to communicate

better," said Zorrilla. "We want all students and staff on campus to feel involved and included in our events. We also want to create a stronger foundation between clubs and sports." All Club Council encourages students, whether in a club or not, to voice their opinions and communicate about their own events to increase the population at such events. "With All Club Council, we are directly communicating at meetings, giving insight, and providing information on each of our own events," said Zorrilla. Senior and Choir president, Isa Valenzuela, believes that All Club Council helps "the leaders get to know about all upcoming



ASB Advisor Mrs. Senteno-Tapia constantly works with students to expand their interest with clubs.

events and helps spread the word about other clubs on campus." All Club Council meets once a month in B104 and is open to the advisors, presidents, coaches, captains, and anyone who is

holding an event or planning to. If you are interested in joining All Club Council, contact Miranda Zorrilla or Mrs. Senteno-Tapia via email or in-person, for information about the next meeting.

# Want to Join Journalism?

El Rodeo is looking for reporters and photographers for the 2018-2019 school year!



- Improve your writing!
- Get access to school events!
- Make new friends!

Pick up an application in X-1 or email @KaylaP08175@stu.erusd.org for more information now!

# CAMPUS

## How to survive AP Testing

By MARIELA MICHEL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Whether you're taking one or six, AP exam week is one of the most stressful weeks of the year and it's coming fast if you don't prepare. Therefore, here are a few tips to help you manage your time to study, work on homework, and still maintain a life (or lack thereof):

Have a schedule. We struggle enough turning in our homework on time. Take your time to plan. Study a subject a day. Take certain days as breaks from studying.

Set an amount of time to study a day. You can study 20 or 30 minutes a day for whatever subject you want to study that day. However, no less than 20 as you need to take every minute to learn the content. AP exam week is coming at you fast!

Take care of yourself: eat and sleep. Try not to pull

off all-nighters. You need all the energy you can manage to scrounge up for the big day!

Buy a review book. The whole subject's content condensed into a thinner book for you to cram into your poor little brains. Take notes and highlight. Read and re-read and definitely do the practice quizzes. You may also be able to find free online study guides and practice tests if you search.

Form study groups. If you lack the motivation, get yourself a squad who will keep you on track and contribute to group efforts to learn the content on time. You could learn the content faster and will have other people to help you with topics you don't understand. I strongly recommend you exclude procrastinators from your squad!

Set deadlines. Get through a set amount of chapters by a set amount days. Make sure to find ways to motivate yourself to stick to those deadlines as well.

Ask for help. There is no

point studying if all you're going to do is read. You need to make sure you actually learn to understand all the terms and concepts that might be on the test. Ask your teachers for explanations on topics you struggle with. Taking advantage of office hours is a guaranteed way of getting a hold of your teachers.

Take into consideration the environment. If you have annoying siblings at home as you're down to your last few days to study for that AP exam...then get rid of them. Just kidding! Find yourself a less distracting environment. Too much may be going on at home for you to actually focus. Instead, try your local library, or even the El Rancho library, open mornings, nutrition, lunch and after school.

As a final word of advice, remember the dates and times for your exams. Don't be late and good luck! AP Schedule to the right -->

May 7-11 and May 14-18, 2018		Exam Dates
<b>Week 1</b>		
Test Date	Morning (8 AM)	Afternoon (12 PM)
<b>Monday May 7</b>	AP Chemistry AP Spanish Literature and Culture	AP Psychology
<b>Tuesday May 8</b>	AP Seminar AP Spanish Language and Culture	AP Art History AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based
<b>Wednesday May 9</b>	AP English Literature and Composition	AP Japanese Language and Culture AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based
<b>Thursday May 10</b>	AP United States Government and Politics	AP Chinese Language and Culture AP Environmental Science
<b>Friday May 11</b>	AP German Language and Culture AP United States History	AP Computer Science Principles
<small>Studio Art: May 11th is the last day for your school to submit digital portfolios and to gather 2-D Design and Drawing students for the physical portfolio assembly. Students should have forwarded their completed digital portfolios to their teachers well before this date.</small>		
<b>Week 2</b>		
Test Date	Morning (8 AM)	Afternoon (12 PM)
<b>Monday May 14</b>	AP Biology AP Music Theory	AP Physics C: Mechanics  ⚠️ <b>AFTERNOON (2 p.m.)</b> Special Exam time. AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism is the only exam given at 2 p.m.
<b>Tuesday May 15</b>	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC	AP French Language and Culture AP Computer Science A
<b>Wednesday May 16</b>	AP English Language and Composition	AP Italian Language and Culture AP Macroeconomics
<b>Thursday May 17</b>	AP Comparative Government and Politics AP World History	AP Statistics
<b>Friday May 18</b>	AP Human Geography AP Microeconomics	AP European History AP Latin

## Career Day helps students see new possibilities

By BIANCA ARIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



El Rancho High School held its annual Career Day on April 19th. Professionals from different career fields came to talk to students about what they do for a living.

Career Day is a great time for students to explore different types of professions and get a feel of what type of job they might be interested in.

Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and familiarize with the steps they need to take in order to work in their profession in the future.

Mr. Padilla, a California Highway Patrol Officer, was one of the many profes-

sionals who came to talk to students about his job duties.

"[The job] is very rigorous. Your day starts at four in the morning but you get to learn about the law and how it works," Padilla says. "It's a great [job] opportunity if you haven't had the experience of leaving home."

Padilla says, "No days are ever the same. "It's a great way to do something good in society."

Ms. Spathias, another professional invited to speak, is a nurse that focuses on labor and delivery. She went to Mount Sac where she began her general education requirements and began volunteering at Whittier hospital as a candy striper. The nursing program at Mount Sac was impacted so Spathias ended up

transferring to Rio Hondo College to complete the requisites.

"I met a nurse there, and I started talking to her about what she did. She said that if I was mildly interested, she'd recommend I'd go for it," Spathias said. "There are so many types [of jobs you are able to do with nursing]. You can be a school nurse [work at clinics] or become a nurse practitioner."

These adults were able to inspire students to pursue careers they may have not been aware of prior to the event.

"It made me think of myself working a job I may not have considered beforehand," says junior Annica Mejia.

## ASB 2018-2019 Elections



By EMILY LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The ASB elections are just around the corner. These elections will determine who will be in charge of next year's school activities. Each candidate will have a video uploaded to the Don Page on Friday, May 4th, so you can see what he or she want to do to make next year successful. Make

your voice heard and vote for your favorite candidate on May 15th or May 16th in the quad.

Which positions to vote for:

- ASB President
- ASB Vice President
- ASB Secretary
- Chief Justice
- Academic Affairs
- Dance Commissioner
- Activities Commissioner

- Co-Pep Commissioners
- Boys and Girls Athletics Commissioner
- Publicity Commissioner
- Senior Class President
- Senior Class Vice President
- Junior Class President
- Junior Class Vice President
- Sophomore Class President
- Sophomore Class Vice President



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APRIL 23-27

ASB: \$85

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ASB: \$90

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Banned list is in effect for prom. To check if you are on the banned list, visit <http://www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho/activities/BannedList/>

# CAMPUS

## El Rancho declared International Baccalaureate School

BY ALONZO MURRIETA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School was recently declared an International Baccalaureate (IB) School by the IB Organization. International Baccalaureate schools, also commonly referred to as "International World schools" are schools that offer high-quality classes that give students an extra chance to pursue college-level interests aside from AP classes.

IB classes can be considered one level above APs. When compared side-by-side, IBs are more difficult and can have a higher workload.

The International Baccalaureate Organization "aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect." This is achieved through rigorous courses that test a student's knowledge and passion on a subject.

El Rancho will be offering the Diploma Program, which tests students in six core areas over the course of their junior and senior year. Along with tests, the students are also required to



create a research paper and provide community service hours.

When graduating from the Diploma Program, students will receive a diploma from the IB Organization aside from their El Rancho diploma which is accepted internationally. With it, students may be able to attend college in London, France, or anywhere else around the world.

IB classes offer a holistic approach to teaching whereas AP classes are set around a curriculum surrounding one whole test. IB courses are different from AP courses in that they teach curriculum for the student's sake.

School Principal, Mr.

Hector Vasquez, explained that "IB courses have more of a world focus. IB is almost the same, but it has a more different approach, different view, it's more of a worldview."

Vasquez went on to say that "[IB] really challenges students to not think of everything you see here, look at the world, and look at everything you see."

The other main difference from IB to AP courses is that you must be enrolled to take the course. Students in the IB program do not rely on one test to show their knowledge on a subject. Instead, IB offers students multiple chances through numer-

ous tests and a research paper.

Vasquez noted that IB courses help make other courses easier for students. "If you're an IB and you're well prepared, you can take any AP exam and pass it. If you're training for the IB program, you can take AP classes and not have a problem," he said.

Both IB and AP courses are both extremely rigorous, and they also give college credit which can be appealing to colleges and universities.

El Rancho High School wanted to implement IB on its campus for these reasons. IB coordinator, Mrs. Parvin Qureshi, said El Rancho initially began

its three-year process of becoming an IB school in 2015.

With advancing technologies and a growing population, getting into college is becoming a more difficult task. On average, only one El Rancho student gets accepted into a competitive high-tier school per year. The school hopes this number will dramatically change after the implementation of IB courses.

Mr. Vasquez stated that "One-hundred percent of the students that graduate with an IB diploma end up at either an Ivy school: USC, Stanford, or Berkeley."

El Rancho will be offering the following standard level classes: Math, Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay, Biology, Art History, Sports Exercise and Health Science; and the following higher level classes: Math, English, and History of the Americas will also be offered. Freshmen and Sophomores that are both involved in school and excelling academically are strongly encouraged to apply to these programs their junior year.

If you have questions about taking an IB class next year, see Mrs. Qureshi in A208 or Mrs. Arriola in the front office.

## College-bound Dons visit California colleges



Dons learn about the college experience. Photo By Emily Lopez

BY EMILY LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A group of 40 juniors got the chance to visit six universities in Northern California between April 5th and April 7th.

They visited Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, University of Notre Dame de Namur, Stanford University, San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, and UC Santa Cruz.

Students on the trip hoped

to experience what campus life is truly like, seeing as they will be applying to some of these schools in the near future.

"I haven't really visited any colleges so this was a good opportunity to change that and to see what each campus had to offer. I'd prefer a larger populated campus over a smaller, secluded campus," Dylan Joseph said. "I really enjoyed the tour of UC Santa Cruz because of the beautiful nature and wildlife."

Students were able to see life on campus for themselves. "This trip taught me that I'm excited for change and can't wait to get to college!" said Bianca Aispuro.

"It made me realize that every college is way different, also seeing the campuses made me feel less anxious and more excited towards going to college,"

added Bianca Aispuro. "My favorite school was a tie between UCSC and Cal State San Jose."

Dawne Cisneros says, "Since freshman year, I knew I wanted to major in Psychology. Stanford has a great psychology program, so finding out there would be a free field trip to visit Stanford already had me hooked. Also, I haven't seen many college campuses and I felt it would be a great experience to get the college feel."

The trip was a great way for students to learn more about themselves as well.

"I realized I would prefer a smaller school because I want to be close to my professors and peers," said Dawne Cisneros. "I feel the most important thing I learned from the trip is when you're in college

you have to grow up and take care of yourself because it's very different from high school."

"My favorite school was SFSU. They don't have big companies on their campus because they believe in giving back to the community and so they have mom and pop shops," said Dawne Cisneros.

On top of learning about different schools, the group made new memories.

"Spilling my food at Stanford and forever embarrassing myself was definitely a memorable part of the trip," says Dylan Joseph.

This trip could not have been successful without the efforts of Mrs. Nasouf, College Career Counselor, Michelle Sandoval, Advisor of the Leader Program, and other staff members.

## HOSA represents ERHS at State Leadership Conference

BY BREMO MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Students from the Health Occupations Students of America, Club went on a trip from April 5th to April 8th. HOSA is a club that benefits students who want to pursue a medical career.

In total, nineteen students and teachers from El Rancho participated, but over 3,500 teachers and students in total attended and stayed at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim.

The purpose of the trip was to participate in the State Leadership Conference which had workshops students could participate in, as well as compe-

titions they had to prepare for.

Mrs. McCaw, one of the HOSA advisors, said that HOSA is important for "developing effective leadership qualities and skills to be able to communicate more effectively with people, [as well as] for students to develop responsible citizenship traits and build self-confidence to take pride in their work. I want them to understand current healthcare issues and to learn about career opportunities in health care."

Senior, Alondra Aguilar said "I joined HOSA because I wanted to get involved with a medical career club besides my EMR class."

The knowledge the HOSA trip provided was mainly an in-

depth look on the medical field. Students got to discover a medical outlook on the world, as well as getting to know other students.

Senior Katia Andrade, said "I would like to be an Anesthesiologist because, I wanted to do something in the medical field that was similar to a doctor, but something that didn't involve blood."

HOSA is a student led club that is advised by Mrs. McCaw, Mr. Alonso, and Mr. Guerra. Typically, the club meets every other Wednesday in Y-3, during lunch. Students apart of HOSA, do want to pursue a field in the medical industry. So, if any of this interests you, be sure to check out HOSA!



The HOSA crew posing outside of the Anaheim Convention Center Photo by Annual Yearbook Staff

# DISCOVERING DON'S

Senior Briana Kurovsky, otherwise known as Brana Banana, is one of El Rancho's top students. Kurovsky also has a cool job and is a very nice person.

Growing up, her family had a lot of influence on the interests she has today. A perfect example is her love for System of a Down and Deftones, which she got from her aunt and uncle.

Kurovsky grew up on Disney and continues to have a love for it today. In fact, she is a current passholder!

Since Freshman year Kurovsky has maintained a 4.0 GPA until senior year. By doing this, she not only got accepted to several colleges but will be attending University of California, Irvine this fall.

Although Kurovsky seems like all brains, she is an overall interesting and fun person. As you can tell, Kurovsky loves music, which is why she was in band until she quit her senior year.

She enjoys supporting local artists by going to their weekend shows. Kurovsky has also been to eleven concerts and counting.

## Briana Kurovsky



BY BREMO MARS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

So far, she has seen One Direction, Deftones twice, System of a Down, Twenty One Pilots twice, Gwen Stefani, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Coldplay, Incubus, Jimmy Eat World, and Green Day.

Her interests outside of school are music, hedgehogs, Gwen Stefani, Brandon Boyd, Star Wars, Horror Movies, Beyoncé, Kanye, and Dominos. She's also a former member of tennis.

Recently, she got a job at an ice cream parlor at the Montebello Mall. Even though the parlor is called Ice Cool, Kurovsky likes to refer to it as "I'm cool."

Kurovsky is also really adventurous and enjoys going on Metro trips with her friends, Esmeralda, Dani, Musty, and Jeff. They have traveled to Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Olvera Street, Los Angeles, Chinatown, Little Tokyo, and Universal City Walk.

Although she's leaving for college soon, you can always check out her twitter @brana24\_ to be friends or check out her UCI, Metro, or concert journeys!

## Yazlin Juarez

BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Yazlin Juarez started baking in the fourth grade because her mother inspired her to do so. The first thing she made was strawberry cupcakes out of the box. "They came out terrible but I thought it was so cool," says Juarez. Even though baking was a bit difficult at first, Juarez did not give up and progressed a lot over time.

Now, she makes pies, cakes, and many complex desserts. "My dream has always been to have an apartment where I am right over a bakery and maybe have cooking classes. I think I can make a nice profession out of it," Juarez says.

Juarez connects and looks up to Disney's Princess Tiana because she is a woman of color who overcomes so many obstacles to get her restaurant.

Juarez has been in her school's band since the sixth grade. Her family is very into playing music which played a factor in her joining El Rancho's band. "I come from a very musical family. We're always singing something together," says Juarez.

She is one of El Rancho's band leaders, sings, and plays instruments such as the flute, marimba, the vibraphone as well as many other percussion instruments "It's tough, not gonna lie, but it's also inspiring because I get to see people express themselves through music to make something really awesome," continues Juarez.

"I've been doing baking and music the longest, but when I came to high school I realized that there are a lot of other mediums that I can express emotion through," continues Juarez. She became interested in photography and likes to photograph nature and the small things that usually go unnoticed by people, like the dew drops in the trees. "There are lots of little things that people don't notice or that can't be seen through the human eye that you can capture through photography," she says.

Aside from baking, playing instruments, and photography, Juarez enjoys drawing. "I've only really done drawing in high school but I really love it and I like exploring different mediums." Her favorite things to draw are the human figure and plants. Juarez is currently taking AP Studio Art where she is able to express her creativity through her drawings.

If you'd like to check out Juarez's photography, you can find her on Instagram: @yazlinj08. To check out Juarez's des-

## Briana Alcala

BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Seniors, are you excited to graduate from high school? Most graduating seniors will be seventeen or eighteen, but imagine graduating at sixteen? Senior Briana Alcala knows what that is like. Alcala was in second grade when the teachers realized she was really advanced in her mathematics so they gave her third grade work. Alcala ended up passing the tests and the work she was given, so when the time came for her to come to math class, she went to a third grade math class instead.

At the end of her second grade year, there was a meeting where it was decided Alcala would be skipping a grade. Since Alcala only excelled in mathematics the

other school subjects were self-taught. "I went from 2nd to 4th and it was a huge transition because I had to mature faster than others. I also had to teach myself handwriting and about the planets that summer," Alcala said. "I remember being terrified to enter a new grade without any friends because all of my younger friends weren't going to have lunch with me anymore, but I managed and I made some pretty great friends that I still talk to now."

Although skipping a grade was a bit difficult for her, Alcala feels that the experience did benefit her. "I feel like the experience kind of made me more outgoing since I had to get to know more people. Now I'm involved in so many things," said Alcala.

Alcala is throwing captain for El Rancho's track and field. She actively participates in clubs and organizations such as Social Justice, Mu Alpha Theta, Link Crew, Leader Program, California Scholarship Federation, and Math Club. Alcala is also taking Advanced Placement courses such as AP Government, AP Calculus BC, and AP Literature, making it a total of ten AP courses she has taken throughout her high school years.

As for starting college, Alcala feels excited to attend University of California, Riverside and begin the next part of her life. "I'll be attending college as a minor for about a year away from my family so that's kind of scary but I'm so ready," said Alcala.



# TEEN READ WEEK 2018

Head Librarian Mrs. Jean Chodos hosted her annual Teen Read Week from April 9th-13th. This amazing event was filled with many activities to help students and staff engage with reading. Some of the activities included: visits from therapy dogs, performances by the Get Lit Players, Literary Lunchbag Theater, and Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair.



Teen Read Week allows students and staff to engage with their love for reading!



Junior, Cecilia Lara serves staff at staff appreciation breakfast.



Mrs. Berry greets students and staff!



Faculty gather together to celebrate the importance words have on the world.



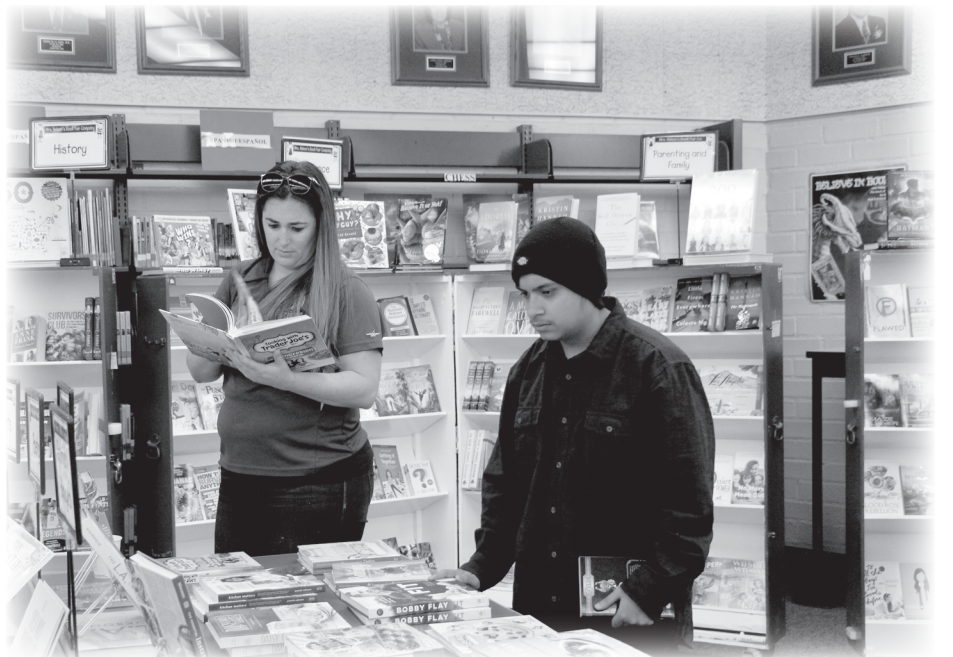
Mr. Schneidman discusses Teen Read Week with library clerk Natalie Laguna.



Mr. Retana can't resist a good read!



Mrs. Stubendorff checks out the offerings at staff breakfast.



Ms. Kerr looks through a book at Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair.

MEET YOUR 2017-2018

Final part of our series designed to help El Rancho students



Mr. Miguel Roman



Ms. Alejandra Rosales



Mr. Jessica Salazar



Mr. Coach Sanchez



Mr. Roger Sanchez



Ms. Lydia Sandoval Harris



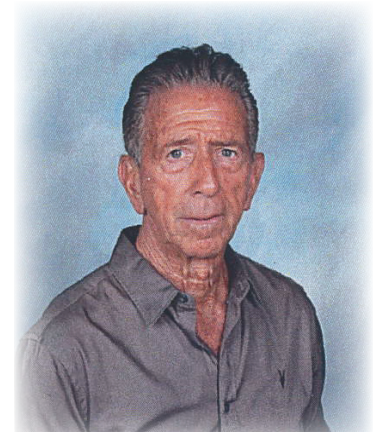
Ms. Carmen Santos



Mr. Saucedo



Ms. Saucedo



Mr. Vic Schneidman



Mr. Stevenson



Ms. Nadine Segal



Ms. Jan Cell



Ms. Stephanie Senteno Tapia



Mr. Greg Setlich



Ms. Annette Sevillano



Ms. Coach Shigezane



Ms. Olivia Soltero



Ms. Jim Sorenson



Ms. Sandra Tapia



Mr. Ron Telles



Ms. Elia Trujillo



Ms. Cecilia Sakim



Ms. Jennie Valdez



Ms. Valle



# 2017-2018 STAFF: PART FOUR

Students get to know the names and faces of our amazing staff.



Ms. Margarita Vargas



Ms. Elizabeth Vasquez  
Perez



Mr. Hector Vasquez



Ms. Amaryllis Velasco



Ms. Julia Velasquez



Ms. Soledad Villanueva



Mr. Barry Walsh



Mr. Hary Helen Welch  
Ebert



Mr. Stanley Wlasick



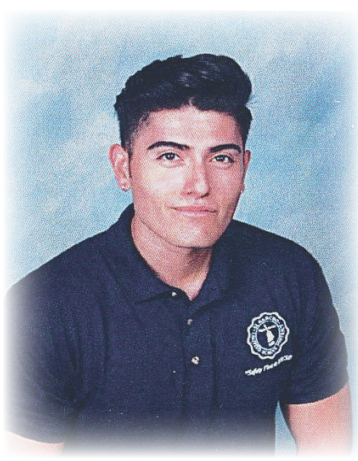
Ms. Griselda Yaber



Ms. Charissa Zeko



Mr. Paul Zeko



Mr. Mike Zevallos



Ms. Angela Moghimi-  
Danesh

*This concludes the Meet  
Our 2017-2018 Staff series.  
A big thank you to  
Mr. Elías for proposing  
this wonderful idea.*

## SPORTS

## Boys Tennis focuses on positives heading into prelims



Bryan Yanez getting ready to start his match.

BY JENNIFER BECERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys varsity tennis team finished their season with a league record of 2 wins and 4 losses and an overall record of 9 wins 5 losses and 2 tied games. The team worked hard and overcame their obstacles that blocked their path, from the member's injuries and absences to almost losses turning into wins. The boys "smashed" some of their competi-

tion and although they didn't place first, they did try their hardest.

The whole team is disappointed because they know that it was simple mistakes that caused them to lose a game.

"If all we worked just a little bit harder during our games and not messed around when we had practice, I think we may have had a better chance to win the league," said junior, Bryan Yanez

As their season comes to a close, the boys can only look at their failure in a more positive outlook.

"I'm disappointed about where we placed, but I'm proud of how we all came together as a team. We all tried our best, and even though we didn't win many matches, I am still proud of what we've done," says Yanez.

But there is still a chance for the Dons. "If we fight hard enough and win all our prelims we have a chance of making it to the finals," says senior Anthony Aldridge. "It's gonna be really hard but I have faith in my teammates."

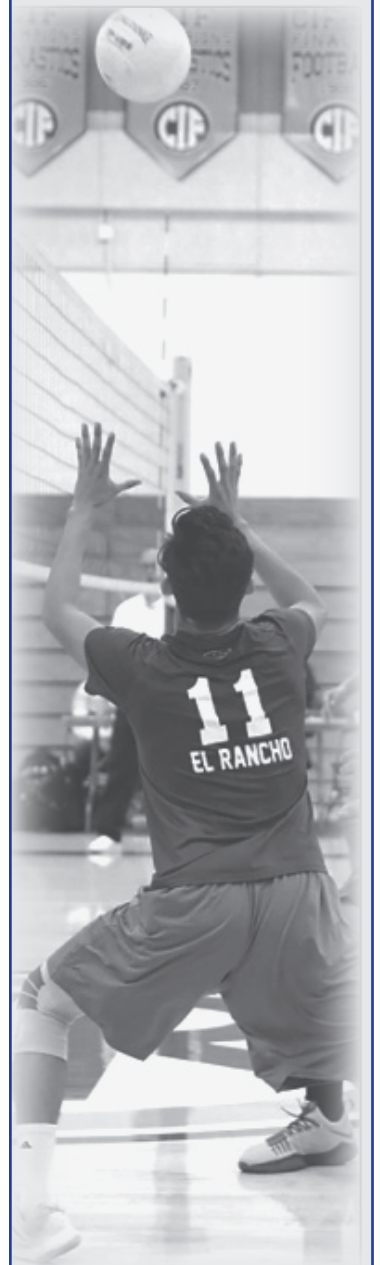
For some of the members

of the team, it is their first year playing tennis whereas for others it is their last. "It's emotional knowing that this is my last year in tennis. I have been in this sport for a couple of years and I feel like I have grown as a player and developed my skills in this sport. It's been a fun couple of years I'm going to miss the team, our coach, and the sport," says Aldridge.

Although the season didn't go as planned, the Dons still have a shot at a league title as prelims begin at home May 2nd at 12pm.

Photo by Leslie Plaza

## Boys volleyball battles for playoff spot



Bryan Zepeda setting the ball for his teammate.

Photo by Annual Staff

BY SELINA TORRES  
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

With a overall record of 10-10 and a league record of 3-4, the Boys Volleyball season is coming to an end.

Though they have three more games, the season is "not going as expected" said Adam Morales, junior. Team member, Sebastian Ruiz, senior added "the last game was stressful because the little mistakes cost us points. Although our chance for league have slipped away, that's not going to stop us from competing in CIF."

Their season was hindered when "two of our really good players quit, one due to injury and the other just quit. As a result, more people had to step up with there being five first-year varsity players" said Morales. "Most of it is lack of experience, so next year we should know how to handle more game situations" he continued.

Even though the season has not gone as planned, the boys will continue to play their best. Support the Boy's Volleyball Team at their next game today against La Serna.

## Baseball currently in third place



Senior Jason Vela is set for the pitch.

BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys in blue have had an impressive start this season with a league record of 7 wins and 3 losses and an overall record of 13 wins and 10 losses. The Dons are staying strong and have managed to keep their position in third, trailing behind Santa Fe in first and La Serna in second by just a couple of wins. Many things are the reason

for the Dons' success this season. "We're all doing our jobs and we're all playing as a family... we're being team players and doing what we have to do and it's resulting in a good season so far," says senior pitcher Daniel Lopez.

Although things have been going well for the Dons, they could be going better. "We have a great group of guys this season and we all have talent," says Lopez, "but we have the potential to be greater and be first in league." The games are not the only

part the team looks forward to. "I really enjoy the bond I have with my team and the intensity of the sport," says Lopez. "We've had some good and bad experiences on the field, but our bond is strong. I wouldn't trade it for any other team."

But with only a handful of games left in the season and CIF playoffs in sight, the seniors are giving it their all.

"We have a lot more obstacles coming our way as the season comes to an end but I know we can

achieve anything," says Lopez.

"We want to finish this season with no regrets," senior Jason Vela adds, "I hope everybody, including myself, will play a hundred percent at every game, every practice, every week, until the last time we get to play together."

Go and support the boys in blue at their next home game against Whittier next Friday on May 4th at 3:15 pm, as they take on the Cardinals and look to improve their record.

# SPORTS

## Softball looks to finish strong



Head coach Ralph del Campo and captain Dominique Jimenez discuss game plan

Photo by Sofia Dominguez

BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With an overall record of 10 wins and 6 losses and a league record of 3 wins and 3 losses, the Varsity Softball team is gearing up to take on Whittier High and the rest of their opponents as they keep their CIF hopes high.

Senior varsity captain, Dominique Jimenez believes that as a team, the girls are doing well. “We have prepared very well for this season, it’s just a

matter of applying everything we have practiced into our remaining games,” says Jimenez.

Jimenez firmly believes that if anything happens, whether it is good or bad, the girls will stand together as a team, proudly because they know in their hearts that they did everything they could possibly do. “We’ll stay united as a team by staying positive and picking each other up when we need it,” says Jimenez.

Jimenez believes that the reason behind the team’s success is the fact that the team is full of

talent. “We’re a strong team because there is talent up and down the lineup and at every position on the field,” says Jimenez.

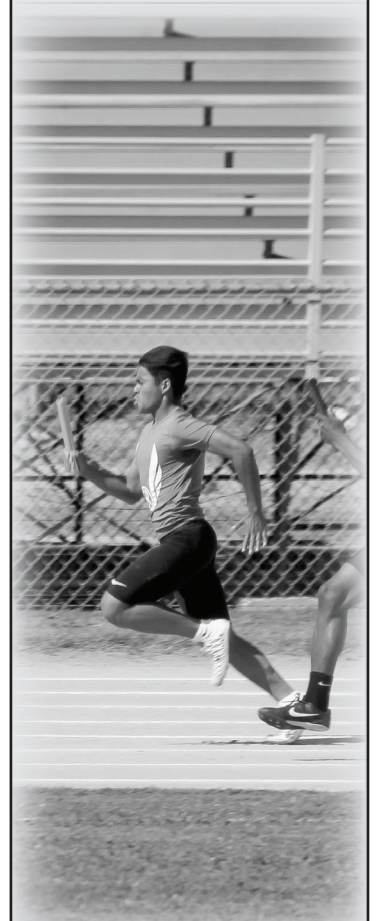
Jimenez believes that every team has both strengths and weaknesses. “Our biggest strengths are our defense and pitching staff and we have a good offense, we just need to stay consistent,” says Jimenez.

The team feels that their biggest competition is California High School and La Serna High School. Although these two schools are very competi-

tive, Jimenez is confident that her team can conquer anything they set their mind on. “They are both strong teams, but we can definitely beat them as long as we work as a team,” says Jimenez.

Although the competition is fierce, Jimenez and the seniors want their last session playing softball at El Rancho to be memorable. Make sure to come and support the girls at their next home game against Whittier this Tuesday on May 1st at 3:15 pm!

## Track and field in final stretch to prelims



Dons vs. Whittier in 4x100 relay race

Photo by Leslie Plaza

EMILY LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With yesterday being their last home meet, the Track and Field athletes enjoy the end of their season.

“As a team, we worked hard and stayed positive,” says Stephanie Alva, 12. The athletes have been working since December to better themselves. “We did our best whether it being running faster, jumping higher, or throwing farther,” adds Alva.

“My favorite part of the season was crossing that final finish line at every race because that meant I could rest and eat,” says Alva. After four years of hard work, Alva is “happy to see our underclassmen step it up.” She trusts that they will make her proud and will continue to do their best.

Sophomore, Karla Rivas, says, “My favorite part of track is telling everyone that they are going to do amazing after a race.” Though she didn’t do as well as she hoped, Rivas hopes that next year she will do better. “Next year, I am going to train harder, so that I can beat my personal record,” adds Rivas.

Track and field athletes will continue to better themselves until the end of their season.

## Golf “putt”s best effort forward in attempt to make CIF



From left to right: Eyan Baul, Kirk Islas, Eloy Rodriguez

BY DEVENIE ANCHONDO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho’s golf team started their season on March 19th. Their record is currently 7 wins and 2 losses.

Senior Kirk Islas said, “Golf is a tough sport, physically and mentally. However, if you’re willing to put in the time and commitment, you will build up confidence and improve your game.” The team’s goal this year

was to win the league since their team was more solid than it has ever been. Unfortunately, the team was unable to achieve their goal of winning the league.

Junior Eyan Baul said “In all honesty, there was a lack of concentration and commitment from a couple players and coming down to the important matches, we as a team just weren’t able to pull through and it’s really disappointing having to settle for second place in the league again for the third year in a row.”

Senior Eloy Rodriguez said, “The season has been going pretty well, but I am a little upset that we did not take the league.”

Even though the Dons took some losses, they still enjoy and appreciate the experiences they’ve gained through playing golf.

“Playing golf has been such a great experience. Since we have such a small team, you really get to know everyone and love them as a family,” said Rodriguez.

“I’ve been playing golf since I was three years old and

it was kind of what brought me and my grandpa closer together. It was a last minute decision to try out for golf and it’s all turned into what we have going on right now,” said Baul.

Baul continued, “Now the main focus is preparing for league finals and putting up two solid rounds in hopes of making it to CIF individuals. There is some fun, little rivalries going on between us and some La Serna players.”

Photo by Devenie Ochando

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Cardi B releases debut studio album



BY KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Cardi B set records straight to success on April 6th with the release of her debut album *Invasion of Privacy*. The highly anticipated album was certified gold by the RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) overnight and claimed top of the Billboard 200 chart the following week.

Known as a public figure with an outgoing personality, Cardi B has rose in popularity over the past two years. From taping the show *Love & Hip Hop: New York* to her iconic posts on social media, Cardi B has always meant to be the center of attention.

"But could so much attention be too much?" is question of motive for the album and Cardi B delivers a straightforward, passionate response stating yes with *Invasion of Privacy*.

The album starts out with a rag-to-riches tale with "Get Up 10" as Cardi B recalls the start of her career and bringing into this world. She speaks "Knock me down nine times but I get up ten," as she establishes herself strong, poise, with ability to endure like no other as.

Following is one of the many features of the album titled, "Drip feat. Migos" which in all honesty was pointless to the album. It is one of the lower ranked songs on the album and could have done good without it.

One stand out collaboration that captured the attention of many would be "I Like It feat. Bad Bunny and J Balvin," in which Cardi B gives note to her hispanic heritage and upbringing. However, the main feature that made the track shine is the 1960s boogaloo sample "I Like It Like That" by Pete Rodriguez which is layered over a catchy beat that forces you to move your hips.

Another notable track would be the Album's 3rd single, "Be Careful," in which Cardi B takes stage to warn those who do her wrong and showcase how much she has grown with her rise to fame.

Overall, *Invasion of Privacy* was a standout for the rap scene but did have fault in some tracks. However, Cardi B still managed to establish her own platform. She plans to rule for a long time and coincided her artistic expression with feedback to those who comment on controversies within her life and invade her privacy.

Kali Uchis drops highly anticipated album *Isolation*

BY FATIMA LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Karly-Marina Loiza, better known by her stage name Kali Uchis, has taken the music industry and the world by storm. The rising artist dropped her debut album *Isolation* this month which quickly climbed to the top of the iTunes charts. Uchis' album took the second spot on the R&B chart and the seventeenth spot on the All Genres chart in its first week out.

Uchis has been in the music scene for quite some time, but *Isolation* is her biggest release yet. In 2012, Kali Uchis released her mixtape, *Drunken Babble* and her EP, *Por Vida* in 2015, but neither received the critical acclaim that her most recent release has garnered. The R&B singer herself was surprised by the number of positive reviews *Isolation* has gained in these past few weeks.

*Isolation* is the child of a unique blend of different music genres. Uchis took genres like R&B, soul, and funk and created a story with her music. She managed to seamlessly blend them all into a new and refreshing sound that music-lovers everywhere have longed to hear for a long time. With her capti-

vating lyrics and her melodious voice, Uchis has really stepped it up from her previous releases and continues to garner attention for her outstanding work.

Kali Uchis' debut album consists of fifteen songs that each display the creativity and playfulness that resides in the rising star, but her songwriting skills and mean pipes aren't the only things that make this album the success that it is. *Isolation* is a star-studded album that features many well-known artists and producers as well.

One of Uchis' most popular tracks off of *Isolation* is "Miami" featuring Puerto Rican rapper, Bia. This song is a bit slower than most of the songs on the album, but it is fantastic nonetheless. This track is about Uchis' move to the United States from Colombia and how many back home doubted that she was actually pursuing a singing career. She takes pride in the fact that she moved the U.S. for her career and nothing else and this song shows that. The pride that she feels can be heard in her voice on this track. The slow beat, Kali's vocals, and Bia's rap all make this an R&B hit in the making.

Next on the album is "Just

a Stranger" featuring The Internet's Steve Lacy. The third song is more upbeat than the previous ones and it resembles some of Lacy's own solo work. The song is very guitar and drums heavy, making it a perfect dance track if that's what you enjoy, Kali sure does! The track was produced by Steve Lacy himself and by Brockhampton's, Romil Hemnani.

Another notable track on the album is "Tyrant," featuring British singer, Jorja Smith. Don't let this song's upbeat music fool you. Uchis wrote this song about an emotionally manipulative ex-boyfriend who she likens to nothing more than a tyrant. This track, much like many other on Kali Uchis' debut album, has a strong message but hides it in the danceable music. Uchis' ability to create a song that is not only a hit but also talks about important topics is what makes her so special and such a visionary for the music industry.

Another popular song on *Isolation* is "Nuestro Planeta," featuring Colombian reggaeton artist, Reykon. This track is the only one on the album that is fully sung in Spanish. The Reggaeton beat and the Spanish lyrics add to the authenticity of this

homage to Uchis' home country. They also make this song the perfect party song. "Nuestro Planeta," is so upbeat and fun, it's impossible not to dance to it!

The next track on the album features Gorillaz's very own, Damon Albarn. "In My Dreams," is a look into Kali Uchis' dream world. Growing up in Colombia, Uchis was exposed to a lot of violence and this song paints the image of her made up world that she created in order to cope with the loss of friends and family during her time in the country. This song is a very happy one, which shows Kali's childlike innocence and attitude toward the violence she witnessed when she was younger. Uchis' dreamy voice on the soft keys of the song takes the listener on a trip into her own little world.

The most notable song on the album is the thirteenth track. "After the Storm," featuring the legendary bassist and singer Bootsy Collins and Tyler, The Creator. This song features a funky R&B beat that is reminiscent of an oldies song you might hear somewhere along the streets of L.A. In this track, Uchis describes the struggles of being away from loved ones for a long time but reassures the listener that it's all part of life. Collins' signature funk and Tyler's rap really add elements that make this song the huge hit that it is.

With this debut album, Kali Uchis has proven to the world that she is one of music's hottest acts and she is not one to be slept on. Her creativity and her fresh take on music are just what the music scene has been waiting for. Uchis' unique voice and ability to create such captivating stories through her music are what sets her apart from others.

If you're in need of new music or just want to broaden your music taste to some funky R&B, look no further than Kali Uchis. Her debut album, *Isolation*, is now available on all streaming platforms!

The Weeknd channels love and heartbreak in *My Dear Melancholy*

BY KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Abel Tesfaye aka "The Weeknd" has returned to the music scene with his latest project *My Dear Melancholy*. The gloomy six-tracked EP was released on March 30th, claiming success instantly as it soared to No.1 on the iTunes charts within 24 hours and dominated the *Billboard 200* chart for three consecutive weeks.

Chart triumph and critical praise is nothing new to The Weeknd as he has a reputation of accomplishments to his name. His last two multi-platinum albums built him a solid platform in R&B/Pop genre as his musical envisionment wooed the lives of many; yet, can the same be said for 'My Dear Melancholy'?

Compared to his usual up-tempoed electronic anthems, 'My Dear Melancholy' showcases The Weeknd in a deep slumber



of heartbreak. The EP's main single "Call Out My Name," stands as an emblem for the theme of the entire album with it's dark tone and lyrical confession of anger. "I said I didn't feel nothing baby, but I lied" and "What makes a grown man cry, what makes him wanna take his life?" are some standout lyrics that establish The Weeknd is his own abyss of self-destruction.

The Weeknd has always been known for his raw perception of love and his creation of 'My Dear Melancholy' fits the classic love-sick concept perfectly. Like any artist, The Weeknd's music reflects the course of events in his life.

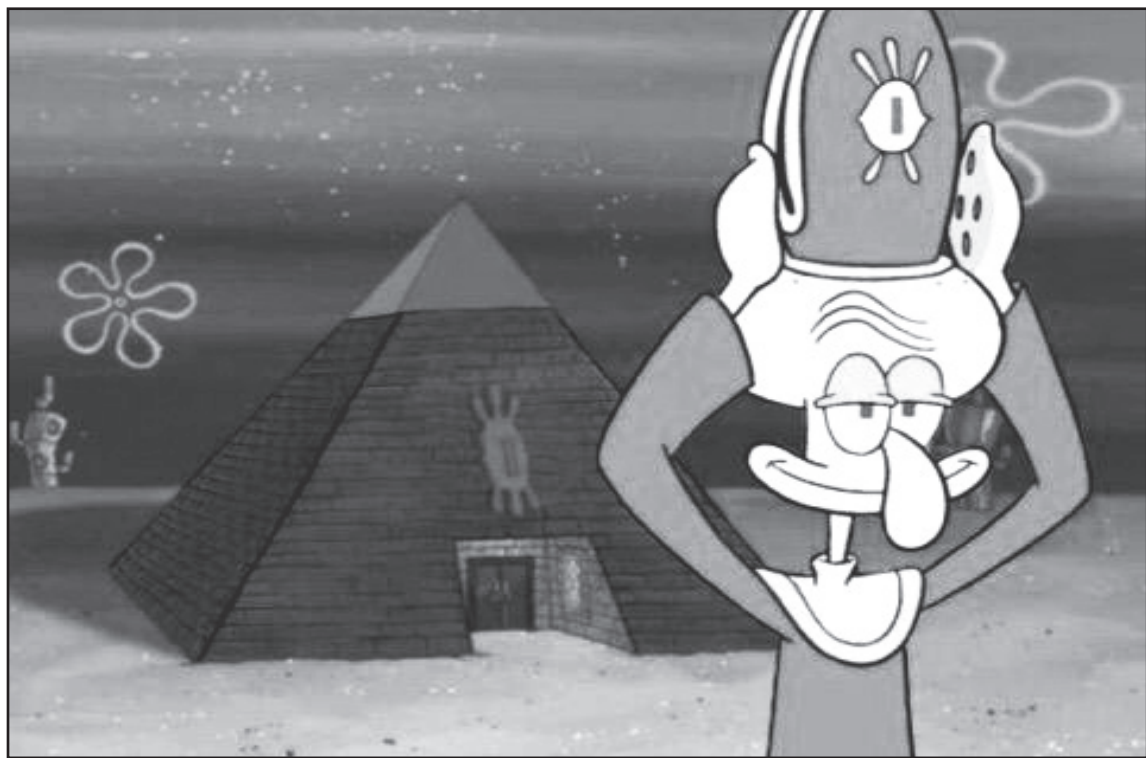
For instance, if we evaluate the dynamics from his previous release, 'Starboy'-a breakup with

pop singer Selena Gomez, reunion with model ex-girlfriend Bella Hadid-his life has been filled with nothing but the basic inspiration for a "love-letter" styled EP.

In conclusion, 'My Dear Melancholy' has broken the charts with it's relatable trials of love, but failed to be artistically ground-breaking

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Have you heard of the Mandela Effect?



BY FRANKY LEON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Mandela Effect is a theory that's gained popularity in recent years, especially in 2016 when it first started gaining headlines. For those that don't know this theory, I'll break it down. The Mandela Effect is when everyone remembers something one way but it is now different than how we remember it. Theorists think this happen because we might have gone into a parallel universe or someone went back in time and

did something small that ended up changing a bunch of little things.

A little origin as to why it's called the Mandela Effect is because of the historical figure, Nelson Mandela. Now if you paid attention to the history lessons from class, you know that he was in prison was most of his life because he was anti-apartheid. A lot of people remember him dying while he was in prison but it had turned out he died on December 5, 2013, in his Houghton Estate, Johannesburg, South Africa home. This confused a lot of people which sparked his name

being used to call this conspiracy.

### The Berenstain Bears

So do you remember that book series with the family of four bears? The one that was also a TV series? Do you remember it being, 'Berenstein bears'? Well if you're like me and grew up with the books, Berenstain sounds right. But it's actually Berenstain! I remember singing the theme song at the top of my lungs when it would play, I remember it having 'ei' but now it's 'ai'. I'm not the only one that remembers it being spelled that way, a lot

of people remember it that way.

### Snow White

If you grew up loving Disney and watching the Disney princess movies, then you've definitely watched 'Snow White,' which gives us one of the most iconic animated movie quotes. Try filling in the blank: "\_\_\_ Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" I'm guessing you might've thought the blank was 'Mirror,' well you're wrong. It's 'Magic Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all.'

### Forrest Gump

This movie will always be a classic and one that will forever stay famous, especially for its quotes. One quote in particular that people will remember is "Life is like a box of chocolates."- or is that what he says? It isn't when you look back at the movie he says "Life was like a box of chocolates." Am I the only one that remembers it being 'is' instead of 'was'?

### Star Wars

Sorry in advance for all the 'Star Wars' stans out there. If you've watched the movie even once or have friends that are fans of 'Star Wars' you'll know the most famous quote from the franchise is "Luke, I am your father." But if you rewatch that scene, Darth Vader says, "No, I am your father."

### Star Crab serves quality sea food in Pico Rivera



Photo by Jonathan Eui Hyuk Choi

BY ALEKSEY SOTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Pico Rivera is a great city, but it's no secret that it lacks in the food department. Most restaurants around town serve fast food while good sit down restaurants are hard to find. However, the addition of Star Crab is surely helping change this situation.

Located at 8949 Washington Blvd. next to Wingstop, Star Crab is a Cajun-style restaurant specializing in seafood. The menu is similar to places like Boiling Crab or the Stinkin' Crawfish, serving steaming-hot seafood by the pound in plastic bags. Customers can choose to have things like potatoes, corn, and sausages mixed into the bag for an extra charge.

Customers start off by choosing their preferred seafood from the 13 options they have. Shrimp is the most popular at \$12.95, but crawfish and clams are equally as delicious. Then, you can choose either garlic butter, lemon pepper, or Cajun sauce but the best choice is to mix all three.

After you choose your sauce, choose your spice level. Medium is a good start for those who want just a hint of spice, and spicy is good for those who want good flavor with a good kick. For those who are brave, take the challenge and try the 911 level. Be sure to ask for salt and pepper and squeeze some lemon into the container. Don't forget to ask for water!

Along with its main offerings, Star Crab has a decent sides menu as well. You can choose from Cajun fries to onion rings to chicken wings. The sides range in price, with the most expensive being their breaded seafood options for \$9.95, but they're definitely large enough to share comfortably with two other people. The wings are a great deal at only \$8.95 for 8 wings AND fries.

Overall, the food is great. The flavors are on par with Boiling Crab and sauce is extremely better than the sauce from The Stinkin' Crawfish. The shrimp is large and flavorful so you're definitely getting your money's worth.

The casual and clean interior makes it the perfect place for a quick lunch date. Plus, the service was attentive and there's usually little to no wait on weekdays!

If you're looking for a new hangout spot, or you're tired of having to wait 20 minutes for a table at Wingstop, grab a couple of friends and head to Star Crab for a great meal and a great time.

## What are your predictions for THE AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR?



"YOU DON'T KNOW HOW EXCITED I AM. I don't want to admit it, but I do believe Cap is going to bite the dust in this one. But, I know for sure that tears will be shed."

David Marquez, 12



"Vision is going to die because Thanos needs the stone for the gauntlet."

Marco Cabral, 11



"I don't think anybody is going to die, but it looks really good. It should be a cute date to go on."

Layla Prieto, 12



"I think they played my boy, Hawkeye, because he wasn't even on the poster. He's just an archer trying to live in an anti-archery world. Nobody appreciates his talents."

Draven Mendoza, 11



"I believe Captain America is going to die because in the comic he died in Civil War, but in real life he had a contract for one more movie so that's why they didn't kill him off. But, because his contract is up now, I think they are going to kill him off. Vision is going to die because he has the Infinity Stone that Thanos needs."

Joey Molina, 12

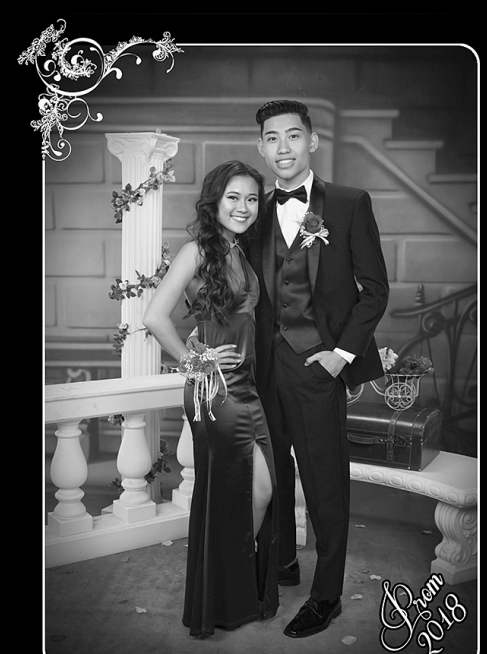
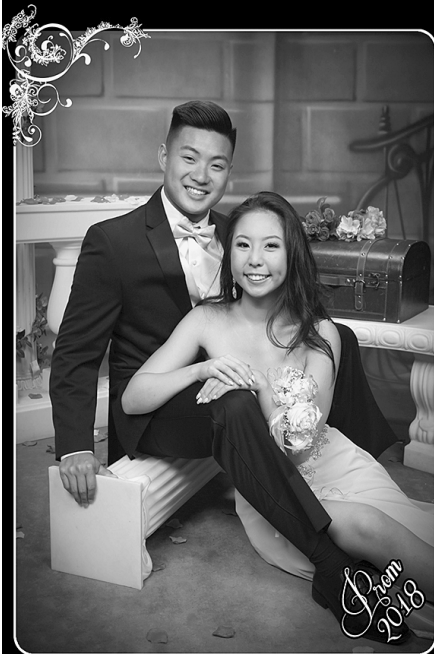


"I think that Tony Stark is going to die because there has been some speculation since the second trailer was released. He started the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and I feel like it would be the right time to kill him off. He could start off and end the MCU. I know fans will hate Marvel, but I think Marvel has to do this because it's right."

Hugo Vera, 12

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# FUN ZONE

## Flowerscopes

BY FRANKY LEON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

### Aries

It's time to get moving! You've been slacking recently and it hasn't been pretty. Yes things have been a little tricky lately, but that's no excuse for the way you've been treating yourself and other people. Check in on your loved ones, your heart, and your body. You can get through this. You just need to calm down and think.

### Leo

You are thinking WAY too hard. You're sapping your own abilities by thinking you aren't in control. Breathe. The pool isn't as deep as you think it is. Stand up, firmly plant your feet on the ground, and keep moving forward. You are in charge of your mind. Take back the driver's seat. Your manifestations will come to pass. Be careful of which ones you're feeding.

### Sagittarius

You've been feeling a little stuck lately. Not physically, just mentally. Shake it out. You're going a lot slower than you're used to (which is good) but doing it cold turkey has made your body feel a little weird. Try incorporating stretching and/or shaking your body, as part of your daily. If that's too much, try breathing exercises focused on your head. You'll be able to think a lot clearer.

### Taurus

Get it together. You've been a little too comfortable. Make sure the emotional connections you're trying to build are coming from a place of genuine feeling and not low key procrastination. Is this feeling you have real or are you just trying to distract yourself? Get it together sweetie. Stop ignoring your feelings so you can stay comfortable. You know what you should and shouldn't be doing. Be honest with yourself.

### Virgo

Ease your mind, give it time. Things may seem a little hazy, only because you haven't gotten everything you need to move forward just yet. Use your wisdom to guide your actions. Look to your dreams for clarity. If you remember them, compare your last 4 dreams. What do they all have in common? If you don't, what stood out the most? What does it mean to you?

### Capricorn

Do you just like...not like seeing yourself happy? You are literally standing in the way of a genuine connection because you feel it doesn't adequately represent who you are. Sweetie...you barely know who you are. Stop that. (And then you complain that your love life isn't what you want it to be. Well, it can't be if you're so resistant.) Give it a shot! It can't hurt. It might be fun!

### Gemini

It's been a while since you've felt this amount of contentment. You can actually say "I'm doing alright" and mean it. However, there's still something bugging you. You're feeling a little lonely. (It's low key by choice.) You feel like you're too busy and you don't have the time, but if you really wanted to, you could make the time. Just make sure you set the proper boundaries and you'll be okay.

### Libra

Don't block your blessings. Things have been going well because you haven't been clouding your mind with unnecessary thoughts. Keeping a level head right now is the best thing you can do. Focus on getting your list of things complete. Rest when you need to. Write down any ideas that come to mind. You may need them later.

### Aquarius

Emotions, movement, and thoughts are on high. You're healing but stifling your progress by continuing to hold on to past expectations. You can't improve if you keep the same mind set of your previous experiences. Moving forward requires looking at things in a new light. Not time for being stubborn.

### Cancer

You are proudly stepping back into your power. It feels so good! Hanging out with loved ones (or yourself) has helped you renew your lost spark. You feel like you again. There may be a new love interest nearby. But don't let that take away from your plans or your journey. You just continue focusing on your healing. All is well. Get back to work.

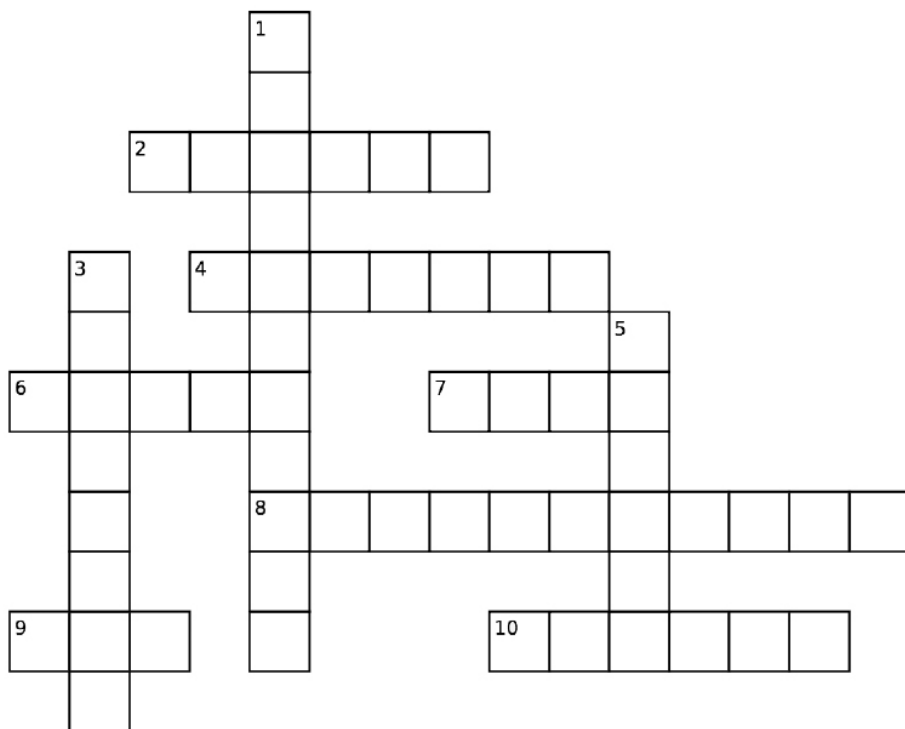
### Scorpio

There has been a lot of pressure being put on you lately. In order to maintain a good balance of the energies you're being affected by this month (stress, fatigue, anxiety, etc.) Try having moments of stillness and silence. Just allowing thoughts and things to flow. Giving them space and not building up any resistance against yourself. Remember that you are a spirit having a human experience. You are so powerful.

### Pisces

Stop sulking! We've gone over this! It's not that bad! Everyone messes up sometimes. It's okay it doesn't define you. What does define you is how you choose to deal with your feelings. Are you going to act helpless or actually take initiative and do the work? Come on let's get moving!

The first two person to deliver the correct answers of the crossword and word search to X-1 wins a prize!



#### Down:

- 1. Mrs. McCaw and Mr. Ross's students had to carry these around
- 3. This Month's Simply Irresistible
- 5. Teacher in K-104

#### Across:

- 2. ERHS's Head Librarian
- 4. Teacher in I-8
- 6. Aleksey Soto won a free study trip to
- 7. Teacher in X-1
- 8. Movie mentioned in this weeks Word On the Street
- 9. Month of AP Testing

## TEEN READ SEARCH



- CHARLESDICKENS
- RICKRIORDAN
- JOHNGREEN
- SUZANNECOLLINS
- JAMESPATTERSON
- STEPHENKING
- JANEAUSTEN
- HARPERLEE
- STEPHENIEMEYER
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