

the accolade

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HANNAH KIM | theaccolade

WONDER WOMEN 2021

California Sen. Kamala Harris will be sworn in Jan. 20, 2021, as the first female (and half-Asian) vice president of the United States, while two Korean-American women — Young Kim and Michelle Steel — are among the increase in Republicans taking House seats; see our election recap on pages 2-3.



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Q & A with congresswoman-elect Young Kim, one of 3 female Asian Republicans to win a House seat

AALIYAH MAGANA

News Editor

Young Kim will be sworn in to Congress Jan. 3 after narrowly defeating Democratic incumbent Gil Cisneros in last month's elections.

When that happens, she will be making history as one of three Asian Republican women to be elected to the House of Representatives in the same election year.

Young will represent the 65th District, which includes Fullerton. *The Accolade's* news editor got a chance to ask her some questions about the elections.

Q: Do you think your achievement foreshadows the start of a new wave of Republican women and/or Asian Republican women? Why or why not?

A: This was a groundbreaking year for women, especially Republican women. We have the record number of Republican women serving in the history of Congress and I am among the first Korean American women to



Young Kim



Image printed with permission from Young Kim

GIVING BACK: After donating masks and hand sanitizers with Karat Packaging, Young Kim (right) meets with firefighters from the Chino Valley Fire District on Nov. 25.

be elected to Congress. This was especially meaningful because this year was the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which established women's right to vote.

We will bring much-needed perspective to Congress and to our national conversation, and

I know we will all fight for the American people and our districts.

This is just the beginning, and I hope my election will inspire many more women and especially Asian Republican women to step forward.

Q: What are your thoughts on

being a woman of color winning this seat in the House of Representatives?

A: I am very proud to be among three of the first Korean American women to be elected to the United States Congress. I think this shows that, in America, anything is possible and that the

American Dream is alive.

I want to spend my time in Congress working to ensure that the American dream I was able to achieve remains alive for all Americans for generations to come.

Q: What are your forecasts for what could happen in the next election for House seats in two years?

A: There is a lot that can happen before the next election, and I don't want to speculate.

However, if the 117th Congress can work together on finding solutions for the problems that the American people are facing, get results and make our government work for the people again, I trust that the American people will recognize that.

Q: What are some issues currently affecting Orange County, Fullerton or the local area that you're pushing to fix during your term?

A: COVID-19 has upended everyone's lives, including in Fullerton and the 39th District.

So my first focus in Congress will be to fight for COVID-19-related aid for our area, work on getting the economy back on track and fighting for affordable, quality healthcare.

SH alum first Korean American to win seat on Fullerton City Council

HANNA JUNG

Staff Reporter

As a Seoul immigrant who moved to the U.S. at only five years old, Fred Jung faced bullying and teasing for being the only Korean American attending his school until sixth grade.

"With loneliness, you become introverted," Jung said. "But I learned to develop a thick skin and a tenacity that has served me well in my adult life."

Through the years, Jung became a father, coach and businessman. He eventually started immersing himself within Fullerton's community and tossed his hat in the ring to run for office in the Fullerton City Council.

And in the Nov. 3 general election, he accrued enough votes to win — the first Korean American to be on the Fullerton City Council. (Julie Sa, who is Chinese but was raised in Korea, was the last Asian to be elected, leaving office in 2000, according to the *Orange County Register*).

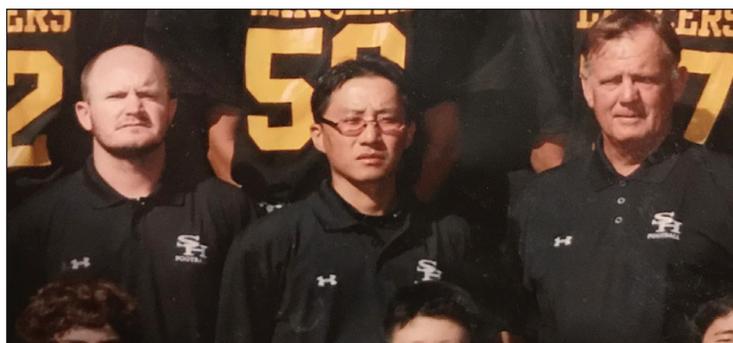


Image printed with permission from Fred Jung

TOUCHDOWN: A then-volunteer coach, Fred Jung (middle) with the Sunny Hills football team in August of 2009.

"I am humbled to be the first [male] Korean American City Council member in Fullerton's rich history," Jung said. "I am excited to represent our values and our collective history and work hard for the residents of Fullerton."

As a firm believer in supporting his local schools, Jung has enrolled three of his children at his alma mater — Sunny Hills — with two having already graduated and one a senior.

"My father has inspired us to

work our hardest to get where we are now," said cheer squad captain senior Leala Jung, whose older brother, Alex, graduated in 2018 and continues to hold the Freeway League football rushing record. "There are nights that he won't sleep because he is working around the clock to get every piece of work done, no matter how big or small it is."

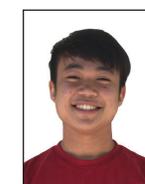


For the full story, go to shsaccolade.com/category/feature

I'm glad our leaders are becoming more diverse

Kamala Harris makes history.

In the weeks following Joe Biden's victory over Donald Trump for The White House, you've likely seen some form of this headline.



tylerPak
Editor-in-Chief

vice president.

Though I may not agree with all of her policies, it's great that our nation finally has a female vice president. I've already heard stories about how she has inspired my generation, but with all the attention on her, it's easy to miss the bigger picture.

In this same election season, two Korean American women from our community — Young Kim and Michelle Steel — have joined the U.S. Congress.

Rather than focusing on Harris' individual accomplishments, I'm going to try viewing the bigger picture: the start of a long-awaited movement.

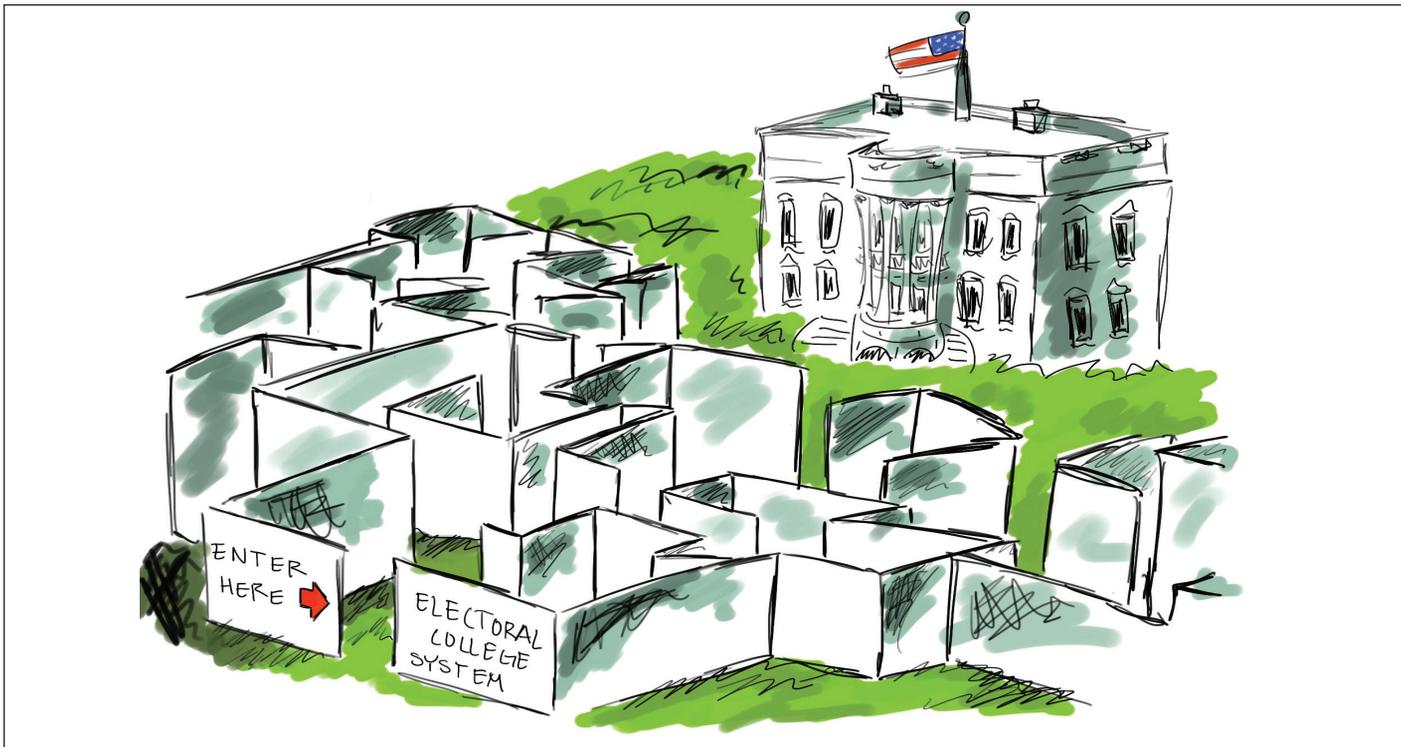
Kim and Steel have joined the 3.8% of Asian Americans in Congress.

Data from RepresentWomen, a non-profit organization trying to achieve gender parity in political offices, shows that women make up 51% of the U.S. population, yet they hold only 24% of the Senate and 27% of the House of Representatives.

And obviously, 0% of U.S. presidents.

But now we're witnessing the start of a shift in the political landscape. The leaders whom we've elected to represent us are actually beginning to look like us.

This is just the start of something new. Who knows? Maybe in four years, we'll see a woman running the show in the Oval Office. I'm excited about that prospect.



ANDREW (JUNGHYUN) LEE | theaccolade

Get rid of the Electoral College

KRISHNA THAKER

Staff Reporter

Without fail, every presidential election season, the phrase “your vote counts,” gets thrown around by campaigners for the executive office, attempting to attract high voter turnouts.

However, this saying is inaccurate, to say the least.

This is mainly a result of the Electoral College.

Created by the Founding Fathers, this system was meant to ensure citizens had a voice in choosing their president while leaving the final decision to state electors.

This allowed every state to support candidates who advocated for issues they cared about, but now that states no longer act independently, the benefits of this system are lost.

Clearly, now is the time to abolish the Electoral College once and for all.

This flawed system places too much importance on peoples’ geographic location rather than their actual vote.

Voters in certain U.S. regions are given

greater importance in the electoral process because their votes are more likely to sway the outcome of the election.

In the 2020 presidential election, voters in states like Georgia and Arizona essentially determined the outcome. Their votes were more impactful, giving them an unfair advantage in swaying the election.

Regions consisting of diverse ethnic populations like the West Coast of California end up being less likely to become battleground states, and so they end up getting the raw end of this deal -- something that 19th century leaders who ratified the Constitution’s 12th amendment creating the Electoral College system could not have fathomed.

The complicated nature of the Electoral College also poses another problem. It closely resembles a maze: presenting a series of dead ends and obstructing the path to a fair and simple election.

In light of all the failures of the Electoral College, many alternative systems of conducting an election have been suggested, the most viable being the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which calls for states to award their all electoral votes

to the winner of the national popular vote.

Through this system, every vote casted nationally would be counted to determine which of the two candidates will win the popular vote and therefore, the presidency.

Some argue that this compact will disenfranchise minority party voters who know that the country is very unlikely to elect their candidate.

However, this claim has very little merit.

The compact, quite literally, ensures that every person’s vote is counted equally and even forces the states to look past their differences of opinion and come together to make a decision on a national level.

When every vote is counted, each citizen has the power to influence the election and have their voices heard. The time to make this happen has come and adopting the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is the best way to do so.

If the federal government refuses to abolish such a corrupt system, then the saying should really go: “your vote matters... as long as you live in one of the four states that determine the outcome of the election.”

My candidate lost, and I got very depressed

I was depressed for a week. It wasn’t because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that I still can’t take an SAT exam (shameless plug for you to read my online column).



danieKong
Assistant Business Manager

It was because of the email that I read from my personal email inbox: “Emailing you today with sad news. Unfortunately, it does not look like David Ryu won his re-election campaign [for Los Angeles City Council, District 4]. We are pretty devastated!”

“It sucks to see an incredibly qualified candidate lose. It sucks even more to have put in so many hours as you all did to help this guy who many of you never even met in real life.”

“If this was your first campaign experience, I hope a loss did not turn you off to a future in campaigns or politics. ... Best, Madelynn Taras, community engagement deputy.”

Yes, this was my first foray into helping out with a political campaign.

And although my father originally forwarded me the email opportunity to work with Ryu’s re-election campaign, I found it ironic that my parents later told me I could’ve done something more useful with my summer like preparing for my upcoming 2020-2021 Advanced Placement [AP] classes.

But what if Ryu had won? Would that still have been a waste of my summer, Mom and Dad?

Of course, as a dutiful Asian son, I dared not challenge them with such questions.

Instead, I shared with them that I’m still interested in politics.

My current goal is to educate myself more about it until I choose a political party to identify with.

I plan for my next internship to be for a politician with different policies from Ryu because I strongly believe that varying experiences can be invaluable in terms of learning.

Ryu focused on community involvement such as the homeless issue. However, because of my interest specifically in global warming and public education, I want to work with a government official or someone seeking office who also prioritizes those issues.

Ryu’s defeat by Nithya Raman has taken a toll on me. I regret not making more phone calls when I had the time.

But now that it’s been a couple of weeks, I look back and reminisce on the four-hour phone banking sessions I had with my friends and the late nights we spent planning advertisements. I still wouldn’t have given that up to spend two hours twice a week with an AP Biology and U.S. History tutor.

I feel trapped in this ‘free’ society

As I scrolled through social media, bold text depicted a controversial statement that I couldn’t help but stare at.

Quickly, I typed up a response, but I hesitated when I reached to click the “post” button.

Should I really post this?

Along with that small button comes a heavy burden, and I decided it was not

worth the backlash and hurtful comments, so I swiped out of the app.

This captive society we live in has planted seeds of hesitation and doubt, prompting people to worry when we push

that “post” button. When others don’t see eye to eye, people retaliate violently with passionate verses and hurtful insults.

But this is not the society I want to live in. If someone does not share the same opinion as I do, that’s OK; people are entitled to their opinion, but backlash should not become the immediate response.

Both sides of the political spectrum are taking positions and criticizing one another, creating no space for the silent majority to speak their minds. This party system is tearing our society apart.

A recent poll posted on *The Accolade’s* website asked students if they felt comfortable sharing their political opinions.

With a total of 146 responses, 55 said they felt comfortable, and 50 said no because they feared backlash; 41 said they

did not know their answer.

Despite the slight lead, a very tight margin still exists, and these results prove that students feel conflicted if they can share their opinions freely.

Now, more than ever, our society should stand united, not divided.

I am not saying you have to agree with an opposing opinion, but you should accept that people can express their opinions. We should use our words to connect one another, not to suppress others’ ideals.

It is our society’s duty to make sure all viewpoints are heard and not ignored.

Beliefs are being lost in the midst of all of the criticism when every American citizen should have the opportunity to speak freely without the fear of backlash.

Let’s normalize the “post” button.



graceJohnson
Assistant Sports Editor

Exams to be taken at home

SHAYLA CAROLINO

Cub Reporter

Sunny Hills' final exam schedule has been changed for the first time to mirror one that will be applied to all campuses in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHSD], impacting those in zero and sixth periods the most.

Starting today, students will switch back from the hybrid learning schedule to a distance learning one, though the bell schedule will remain the same, according to a PDF file posted on the Sunny Hills website.

The bell schedule will change Tuesday with zero period (6:51-8:51 a.m.), followed by first period (9:01-11:01 a.m.) and then

ending with sixth period (11:11 a.m.-1:11 p.m.).

On Wednesday, second period class will start first, followed by third period. On Thursday, which will be the last day of finals, students will attend fourth and fifth periods.

The finals schedule was originally made available to administrators on Nov. 18, assistant principal Melissa Stinson said.

"The final exam schedule was discussed among all of the principals and the District office leadership team," Stinson said. "With a total of 2,400 students enrolled at SHHS, about 11% of the students have both a zero and sixth period academic class."

Some students were concerned about home WiFi connections,

while others saw the virtual finals as beneficial to stay on track during their exams.

"I thought it was a good idea since we're staying home, and it'll be easier for me to concentrate," junior Noah Eastman said.

This will be freshman Denise Bravo's first high school finals experience.

"When I heard that we were taking finals for the first time virtually, I was a bit surprised," Bravo said. "But then again everything was online this year, so I guess it's pretty understandable."

RELATED STORY

Editorial: Teachers should consider making final exams optional. **See Opinion, page 12.**

Finals week schedule (all distance learning)

Monday, Dec. 14

Period 0 6:51 - 7:39 a.m.
 Period 1 7:47 - 8:35 a.m.
 Period 2 8:43 - 9:31 a.m.
 Period 3 9:39 - 10:27 a.m.
 Break 10:27 - 10:42 a.m.
 Period 4 10:50 - 11:38 a.m.
 Period 5 11:46 a.m. - 12:34 p.m.
 Period 6 12:42 - 1:30 p.m.
 Lunch 1:30 - 2 p.m.
 Student Support 2 - 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

Period 0 6:51 - 8:51 a.m.
 Break 8:51 - 9:01 a.m.
 Period 1 9:01 - 11:01 a.m.
 Break 11:01 - 11:11 a.m.
 Period 6 11:11 a.m. - 1:11 p.m.
 Lunch 1:11 - 1:41 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Period 2 7:47 - 9:47 a.m.
 Break 9:47 - 9:57 a.m.
 Period 3 9:57 - 11:57 a.m.
 Lunch 11:57 a.m. - 12:27 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 17

Period 4 7:47 - 9:47 a.m.
 Break 9:47 - 9:57 a.m.
 Period 5 9:57 - 11:57 a.m.
 Lunch 11:57 a.m. - 12:27 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 18

Semester records day
 Students do not attend

Source: www.sunnyhills.net
 Compiled by Krishna Thaker

ASB plans virtual winter assembly, Spirit Day

REBEKAH KIM

Cub Reporter

Bright red streamers wrapped around the trees in the quad, vivid drawings with chalk swallowed up the campus floor and massive inflatables of Santa Claus and chimneys towered on the roofs of Sunny Hills' hallways.

Students dressed in snowflake pajama pants and furry Santa hats rushed to the quad during break for a cup of free hot chocolate passed out by the Associated Student Body [ASB].

The campus brightened with "Jingle Bell Rock" as Santa Claus and his helpers drove a cart around the school to hand out candy.

That was the scene on campus in previous years before the coronavirus pandemic hit in March. Now students will have to find other ways to ring in the holiday cheer as the ASB decided to hold



theaccolade file photo

LIT UP: ASB students decorate the quad at the start of finals week in December 2015. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the ASB will be unable to do so next week.

off on its regular plans carried out before winter break.

"The decorating of the quad on the week of finals will be

missed, but, like so many other events that have been postponed or canceled, it is an adjustment we will have to make," ASB

co-adviser Mike Paris said. "All of us will be adjusting our holiday schedules whether at school or home this year."

With a small number of people on campus, the ASB did not decorate the quad for cohorts A and B the week before finals week.

To keep students in the spirit, principal Allen Whitten played the Peanuts instrumental theme song over the loudspeakers Dec. 11.

Sophomore vice president Jacky Woo said she had looked forward to being a part of this tradition for her first year on the ASB.

"It sucks not being able to decorate the quad this year since I think the holiday decor would get people in the spirit and excited about the season, but there's nothing we can do about it," Woo said.

ASB Plans >> Page 14

Cohort A students to return to school Jan. 4

ALYSSA LEE

Cub Reporter

When the spring semester starts Jan. 4, students in Cohort A of the hybrid learning schedule will be expected to return to campus despite the recent increase in positive coronavirus cases in Orange County that has prompted state officials to move it back to a purple tier.

That color level means the virus is widely spread throughout the county and small businesses will close again. Schools, parks, and shopping centers, however, can continue to stay open.

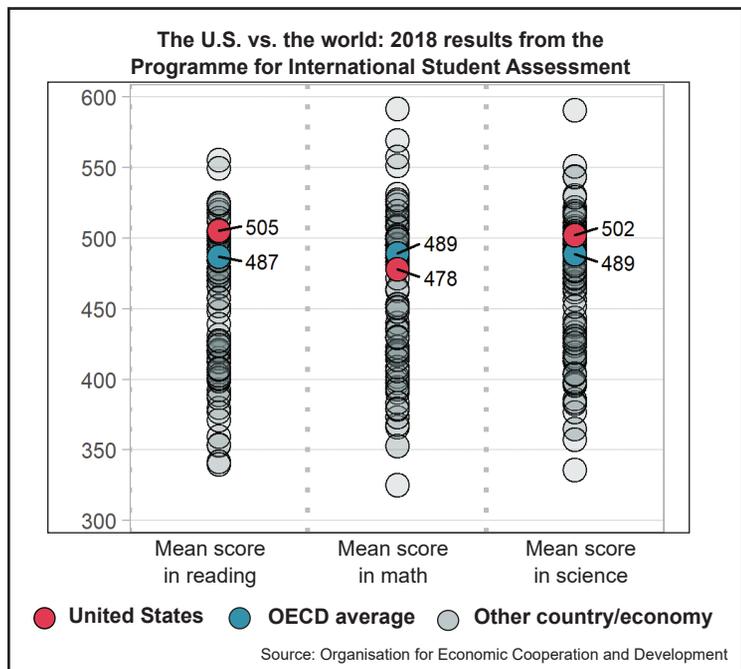
School officials are also working on releasing students' spring semester schedules through their Aeries accounts so they'll know which class to report to at the beginning of the school day.

"We do not have an exact date [for this] as counselors are still working on spring schedules," assistant principal Melissa Stinson said. "However, when they are ready for viewing, students will receive notice via [school] email."

In the meantime, students' parents can continue to send email requests to Stinson to switch their children from one cohort to another during the winter break.

"I will be checking my email over break and making those changes as requests come in,"

Students Return >> Page 14



Reading skills among the highest in the world based on 2018 test

JIWOO HAN

Cub Reporter

Top three worldwide in reading.

Top four worldwide in science.

Top eight worldwide in math.

Those were among the highlights of results from a test given to a randomly selected group of 15-year-old Sunny Hills students in 2018.

Known as the Programme for International Student Assessment [PISA], the test is given every three years and administered

by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD] in France.

The group randomly selects schools in countries worldwide and asks administrators at those campuses if they'd like to volunteer their students to take the exam that measures "15-year-olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges," according to OECD's website.

Principal Allen Whitten said

PISA Exam >> Page 14



HOPE LI | theaccolade

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?: Because of her medical condition, math teacher Kari Morita (top left) is allowed to teach from home during the shift from distance to hybrid learning. Substitute teacher Young Kim (bottom) comes to open the classroom for Morita's live instruction students like senior Sara Abel (top right), who's in Morita's second period class.

Some still teaching from home

HOPE LI

Opinion Editor

Every day, he receives an issue of the *Los Angeles Times*, slides the paper from the bag, throws the plastic away and immediately decontaminates.

"I wash my hands completely," said Michael Goulding, photography and video teacher for the Regional Occupational Program [ROP]. "It's something that from the very beginning I was concerned with."

Goulding is one of the school's instructors who got permission to teach from home through Zoom instead of returning to school in person on Nov. 2, when the Fullerton Joint Union High School District shifted from a distance to hybrid learning schedule.

The 65-year-old instructor said he was concerned for his health if he were to teach from his classroom during the coronavirus pandemic.

Although Goulding originally intended

to teach from home because of COVID-19 health and safety concerns, math teacher Kari Morita had a different medical reason.

"As I've shared with my students, I have epilepsy," Morita said. "Although I'd been seizure free for several years, the stress and additional work since last spring when we went remote has brought my seizures back."

Morita still teaches her Cohort A/B students over Zoom, while her substitute teacher, Young Kim, comes to campus to open the door to her classroom for those coming for live instruction throughout the school day.

"With my Algebra 1 students, she does examples with them and reviews problems from our notes," Morita said.

Goulding compared his current classroom with his substitute instructor to his pre-COVID-19 pandemic one, including the changes made in the curriculum for his students.

"Normally, we share cameras, you go into a dark room and we work in very close

quarters," he said.

Senior Cherish Aldama, who is in Cohort B, missed the experience she could have had.

"I was really disappointed," Aldama said. "I looked forward to learning to work a professional camera [and] use the darkroom."

For Morita, her lesson changes consisted of moving materials and lessons online.

"I have video lessons for everything now — a great resource for my students, especially when Zoom gets laggy or the WiFi cuts out," she said.

Ultimately, fostering connections with his students motivates Goulding to continue teaching in this situation.

"If I'm going to teach, I'm going to teach face to face," he said. "I will do anything to do that, but I have my reasons why I'm hesitant to come back to school."



For the full story, go to <https://shhsacolade.com/category/news/>

Gaming, coding students get 'Mr. E' after enduring 3 months of subs

CHARITI LI

Cub Reporter

In an unprecedented 2020-2021 school year in which students continued with distance learning and only returned to the classroom a little over a month ago, those in the Gaming and Coding elective classes and in the Advanced Placement [AP] Computer Science Principles course had to bear the worst of it.

These students had to endure four different substitute teachers from the first day of school Aug. 11 until Nov. 6.

"It was pretty much negligent in terms of what I'm basically learning," said junior Darshil Sheth, who's enrolled in the



John Eskelson

Period 6 AP Computer Science Principles class. "[The substitutes] tried, but some part of me thought that there was more reading than anything else in terms of actual analysis considering certain topics at some times."

Periods 1 and 2 Gaming and Coding students also had second thoughts about signing up for the class.

"The other subs — they really weren't sure what to do; they kept telling us to do this typing club thing every week or they kept giving us assignments with code blocks on Scratch," said senior Aya Tarabay, who's in the first period class. "We felt like we were back in sixth grade; it was 'noobie' stuff."

Principal Allen Whitten acknowledged the challenge of finding a teacher after the

instructor he had hired last year to build the gaming and coding program's inaugural year did not return to teach this school year.

"It is challenging to find people with this experience and credential," Whitten said. "[Eskelson]'s experience and resume were very impressive, so we were excited."

Eskelson, who replaces Jeremiah Wai, has already eased the level of anxiety for his students by encouraging them to call him "Mr. E" on his first day in the classroom, which was Nov. 9.

"I've been teaching [computer science] for about 10 years now so it's all building upon itself," he said. "I want to always try and pass on the best information to my stu-

Mr. E >> Page 14

More students opting to switch back to learning from their homes as COVID cases increase in OC

AUDREY SEO

Staff Reporter

With the spike in COVID-19 cases in Orange County over the past two months, more parents whose children were attending school in cohorts A or B have decided to keep them home, decreasing the number of students in the classroom.

"My mother felt uneasy that coronavirus cases were going up," said freshman Graham Chun, who's in Cohort B and was coming to campus on Tuesdays and Fridays. "My mother said she was going to switch [me] to cohort C online."

Freshman Kayla Taylor, who's in Cohort A and was coming to school on Mondays and Thursdays, said she needed to self-quarantine the week of Dec. 10.

"I did stay home both days last week because I was potentially exposed to COVID — I tested negative, though," Taylor said.

As of Dec. 13, Orange County has 102,514 positive coronavirus cases, according to the Orange County Health Care Agency. The county is among the 54 in the state that are in the purple tier — the state's most restrictive one.

Social science teacher Hera Kwon said she doesn't ask any of her Cohort A or B students why they decide to stay home instead of coming to her U.S. History and Government classes.

In the meantime, Kwon said she makes an effort to teach to each student know matter how many are in her class or on a Zoom screen.

"Every student in my classroom (online or in person) is worth my time and are important," she said. "The way I teach hasn't changed that much from remote to hybrid."

And even before the positive COVID-19 cases in the county began to spike, some students coming to campus soon after hybrid learning started last month quickly decided to switch cohorts to stay home.

"In-person [classes were] uncomfortable because my glasses fog up when I wear a mask, so it's hard to see, and it's difficult to breathe in them," said sophomore Ishan Patel, who switched to Cohort C after the first two weeks of live instruction. "And I thought the social distancing guidelines weren't really followed at school."

"I would see around eight people at a time really closely huddled together, and there would be a lot of empty space in the hallways. It was kind of concerning seeing everyone like that."



For the full story, go to <https://shhsacolade.com/category/news/>

Video drive-in replaces Dancing With the Staff

STACY KIM

Cub Reporter

As the first campus organized event of the 2020-2021 school year during the coronavirus pandemic, the Sunny Hills dance program held an alternative to its traditional Dancing With the Staff [DWTS] fundraiser Dec. 11 in the campus' farm parking lot.

Called "Dancing Under the Stars," the 7-9 p.m. event featured video performances from dance instructor Leiana Volen's Dance 3 and Dance Production [DP] students along with cameo appearances from 19 faculty members, Volen said.

"Like all the performers, I am obviously sad to not host our [DWTS event] like normal, but this is completely out of any of our control," she said.

The traditional fall, end-of-the-semester event would have reached its 10th year in featuring students sharing the Performing Arts Center [PAC] stage with a number of teachers and staff to raise money for Volen's program. For the first time in its history last year, it was held in the gym because the PAC was closed for modernization.

This second change in the venue came about after Volen and her husband went to one of the Dodger Stadium Drive-in events to watch the World Series in October, and

together, they came up with Dancing Under the Stars, Volen said.

Volen then promoted the event primarily on social media through the Instagram account, @shhsdance, while her DP students helped out by reposting.

Those who wanted to attend paid \$10, which was \$2 less than last year's DTWS fundraiser; payments were made online through the link in @shhsdance's bio.

To gain entry into the farm's parking lot, drivers in their cars had to show the DP members their order confirmation email before they were allowed to find a parking spot; each car had to remain six feet apart, and motorists and their passengers had to remain inside their vehicles at all times to watch the video clips on a large screen with ample sound to carry to all the cars.

Among the faculty members who appeared in the video performances was Korean teacher Esther Lee.

"A Dance 3 member asked me to learn the Korean traditional Fan Dance, and it was very fun to do but also very tiring," said Lee, who was unable to attend Dec. 11. "My legs felt like they were dying the whole time."

Math teacher Cristian Bueno, a former participant and champion of DWTS, acknowledged Volen's efforts in making this event possible during the COVID-19 crisis.



theaccolade file photo

NO WINNER THIS YEAR: Math teacher Christian Bueno (middle) holds a bouquet of roses and the Dancing with the Staff trophy on Dec. 8, 2017. The annual fundraiser for the dance program would have reached its 10th year had it not been for the coronavirus pandemic. The event was replaced with a drive-in at the farm parking lot where the audience watched video dance performances.

"I'm especially in awe of [Volen] for doing Dancing Under the Stars this year, and having to think outside the box so her students still get to experience something," Bueno said.

One other change to the format was that clubs such as Deviation, a hip hop group at Sunny Hills, that performed in previous DWTS were not part of the videos.

"I am sad about the cancellation of DWTS because I don't get to perform with my friends," said Deviation club member

sophomore Charlize Seh, who opted not to attend the event. "It was a very enjoyable experience for me," said Seh, who will not be attending the event.

Freshman Ashley Hong was among those from DP who attended the drive-in.

"It went really well, and there was more people than I expected," Hong said. "The performances were so fun, especially seeing how the dance that I was featured in turned out. This event was so unique, and the experience was very enjoyable."

Yearbook program a Crown finalist for second year in a row

KATE YANG

Staff Reporter

For a second consecutive year, a national journalism organization named the *Helios* 2019-2020 yearbook a Crown finalist — the only program to receive the award in Orange County and one of only three in Southern California.

"Being nominated a second time adds a bit of pressure to the current staff," yearbook adviser Lindsay Safe said. "I want them to understand [that] if we do our job well and tell the stories of the year with great design, photography and writing, that's all that really matters."

Last year, the Columbia Scholastic Press Association [CSPA] also awarded *Helios*' 2018-2019 yearbook a Crown finalist nod on Halloween; the annual eventually received the highest prize, a Gold Crown, via a virtual awards ceremony in March.

Safe and two of her student editors were supposed to travel to New York to Columbia University to accept their plaque, but the trip was canceled after CSPA officials axed the awards ceremony and spring journalism convention because of the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus.

This is the first time in Safe's 14 years as *Helios* adviser that her program has received such national recognition from back to back yearbooks. The program has never won consecutive Gold Crown awards from the CSPA in its 30 years.

"I was scared that we weren't going to



Screenshot image taken by Andrew Ngo

CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT: The Columbia Scholastic Press Association announces a finalist nod to the *Helios*' 2019-2020 yearbook Dec. 4 via Twitter.

receive the Crown award because our previous yearbook was so much to live up to," said Kaylee Kim, one of *Helios*' co-editor-in-chiefs during the 2019-2020 school year. "Even now, I don't know if we will win Silver or Gold, but either way, I'm proud of our book and staff."

Crown finalists in the yearbook category were released Dec. 4 via Twitter and later on the CSPA website. *Helios*' book was one of 41 nominated to receive either a Silver or Gold Crown in March 2021. No information was available as of Dec. 8 whether the CSPA will hold a live ceremony or a virtual one again, pending the situation with the COVID-19 crisis.

At the moment, Safe said she wants her staff to focus more on their task at hand instead of what type of award it would win next year.

"Our major source of motivation is creating a book for this year — a year like no other," she said. "Students need to hold the yearbook 21 years from now, marvelling at the history they experienced."

IN OTHER STUDENT MEDIA NEWS

The Accolade newspaper's Oct. 30 PDF of a special section covering the November elections earned it a third-place certificate in the Best of Show individual award cate-

gory sponsored by the National Scholastic Press Association [NSPA].

Titled "Photo Finish," the five pages covered national, state and local election topics, including a special "King for a Day" spread in which the staff's top editors took on the major issues affecting the nation, offering their solutions to such problems as immigration, cost of college tuition and climate change.

The Accolade was the only Southern California journalism program to place in this category when the winners were announced Nov. 21.

"I felt super excited when I heard about the achievement," said *The Accolade* editor-in-chief senior Tyler Pak, one of three top editors to be named in receiving the award. "This issue will definitely be one to remember — both the stories written and the process of creating it were, in my opinion, historic."

The election coverage category specifically focused on the 2020 presidential election's impact on student audiences and was opened to submissions from print, broadcast and online student media outlets.

"To know that we made the top three in a contest open to all forms of student media substantiates the work the top editors and our special section editor [senior Hannah Kim] put in," *The Accolade* newspaper adviser Tommy Li said. "I'm also very proud of the whole staff, too, because without everyone pitching in, we wouldn't be able to even submit anything."

Grad Nite canceled again at Disneyland

KATIE LEE

Cub Reporter

Although the Disneyland Resort has canceled Grad Nite for a second consecutive year because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Sunny Hills Parent Teacher Student Association [PTSA] will look for another venue for the Class of 2021 to celebrate seniors' graduation next May.

"We unfortunately received notice ... directly from Disneyland that Grad Nite has been canceled for this coming year," said PTSA Grad Nite committee chairwoman Nivie Jhawar, who was referring to an email that the Resort sent on Nov. 13.

Jhawar said her committee will review California's coronavirus health and safety regulations to figure out what other activity the seniors can participate in. It will also reach out to seniors to get input from them.

The uncertainty over the spread of COVID-19 next year as well as how soon a coronavirus vaccine will be available for students are additional obstacles that the PTSA Grad Nite committee faces, she said.

"The committee is going to revisit the topic in January as soon as school resumes," Jhawar said. "We are hoping that by then, we will have a better idea as to how the COVID situation looks and can move forward with some type of plan."

One thing for sure that the committee will work toward is to avoid having to split up the senior class into cohorts similar to how students in hybrid learning have been divided into three different groups.

"I think it would be harder to coordinate [because] the whole idea behind Grad



GHOST TOWN: The Pixar Pal-A-Round at Disney resort's California Adventure is one of the attractions that seniors could ride on during Grad Nite. That park and Disneyland remain closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Nite is that the seniors get to celebrate together as a class," Jhawar said. "We will try to keep that part of the celebration intact as much as possible."

The committee hopes to have everything figured out by March and plans on emailing seniors an update.

A majority of seniors who heard the news from either teachers or friends are upset that Grad Nite will not take place at Disneyland, as this is an annual event that they have been looking forward to for a while.

"Grad Nite has always been at Disneyland where students can have fun, but if that gets taken away, it's just depressing," se-

nior Kirstyn Kim said. "If it gets [moved] to a different location, it won't feel the same."

Some say they do not mind paying money for another venue.

"If there's something worth making up for it, I'll go," senior Dominic Elisaldez said. "Paying for the venue depends on what it is."

Some seniors suggested the PTSA should look into other amusement parks such as Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park or Universal Studios or Six Flags Magic Mountain in Los Angeles County or Lego Land in San Diego.

"We were talking about having a drive-in movie within the senior cabinet," senior

Kathryn Aurelio said. "Similar to the dance department's 'Dancing Under the Stars.'"

Many also acknowledged that the safety of people should be prioritized.

"I'd be upset at first if it's ultimately canceled, but I'd rather protect my health than have fun and get myself or my family sick," senior Amaya Mitchell said.

While the "Happiest Place on Earth" is no longer an option for the PTSA, Jhawar remains optimistic about Grad Nite in May for the Class of 2021.

"Hopefully, we will be in a better place by then and will not have to divide the class up, but it's too early to know for sure," she said. "A lot can change by May 2021."

Students visit colleges virtually during COVID-19 pandemic

CHAMONIX BAS

Cub Reporter

Senior Abigail Haan spent two days of her two-week winter break last year touring one of her dream schools, the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"I really liked it because everyone biked around campus; it was close to the beach, and the city was pretty small," Haan said.

Although the senior and her mother didn't go on an official tour, they did walk around the school and explore the surrounding area, including housing, restaurants and the beach.

But when winter break starts later this week, college campuses will not be as accessible to Haan and many of her peers because of the coronavirus pandemic and recent travel restrictions. Instead, their main sources of information about potential colleges will come from universities' virtual tours, websites and admissions webinars.

For seniors like Alexa Palmer, being able to see a school in-person would be preferred but not as important because virtual resources have been sufficient. Since Palmer can't visit, she plans to spend winter break going online to browse virtual

college tours.

"Since I can't go in person, pictures are enough for me to get an idea of what the campus is like," she said. "Virtual tours of campuses with a guide have been helpful and informative, [and] interviews with deans of admission shed light on what kind of students the college is looking to accept."

Even though he has a year left until he has to worry about filling out his college applications, junior Zachary Gomez said he has been taking advantage of resources such as Zoom conferences and school websites to start learning about the places he hopes to apply to.

Official campus tours may resume by the time he is a senior, but he started his college search on Nov. 2 because his father wanted him to get a head start.

All of the information he has needed so far has been easily accessible, so he had no suggestions about what schools could do to improve their virtual outreach.

"I honestly don't think that not visiting the campus will affect my decision to go to whatever college I choose because I think as long as the studies are good, I can manage with any campus," Gomez said.

As one of the few to visit campuses in

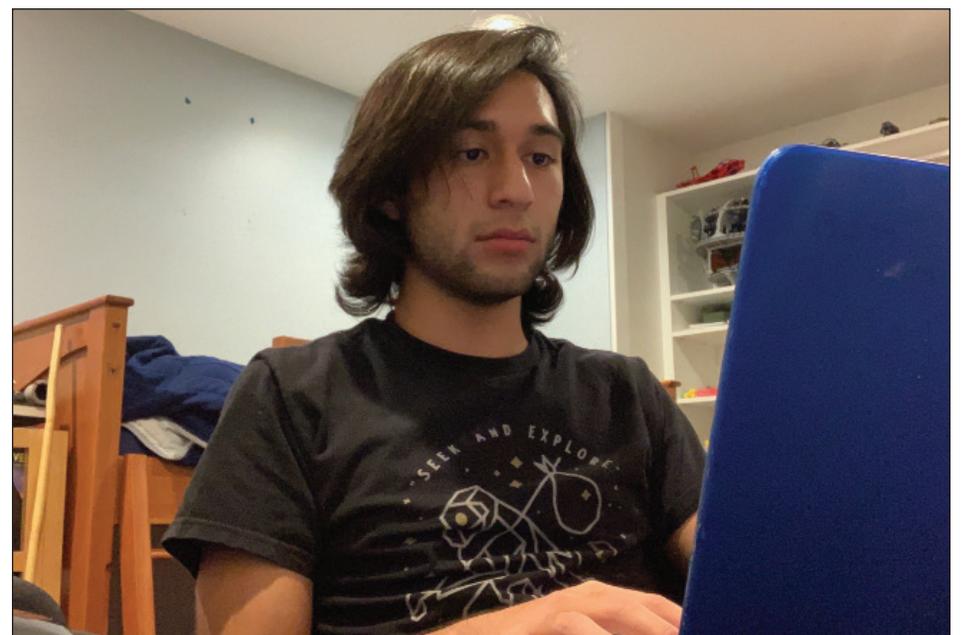


Image printed with permission from Zachary Gomez

EARLY BIRD SEARCHING: Junior Zachary Gomez uses his laptop to browse UCLA's admissions website and to see what other virtual tours of the campus it offers. Gomez would still prefer an in-person campus tour one day.

person during the pandemic, senior Esther Fee said she visited Northern Arizona University on Oct. 17, Colorado State University on Oct. 19, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on Oct. 21 and Davis and Elkins College on Nov. 23.

The tours were significantly modified to meet social distancing orders, and two of them were self-guided, Fee said, adding that visiting schools was more helpful than

any other resource because it was hard to grasp the atmosphere from virtual tours and pictures.

"Overall, I am much more interested in the schools I visited [in person] largely because I was impressed by their campuses," she said. "It was also much easier to envision life as a student at those schools, which will definitely be a big help when making my final decision."

What's in the cards for 2021?

The Accolade speaks to various experts including Sunny Hills teachers and even some local forecasters — yes, psychics — to find out what the new year has in store for Americans and the rest of the world

During the last presidential debate, Democratic nominee and former vice president Joe Biden described 2021 as the start of a “dark winter” because of the spread of COVID-19.

Will 2021 start out as bad as Biden thinks? Or will the distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine be a game changer?

BABY BUST EXPECTED

Brookings Institution, a Washington, D.C.-based public policy group, posted an online article suggesting that the coronavirus pandemic will lead to a global decline in births.

“In drawing lessons from the Spanish Flu for the COVID-19 pandemic, we note both similarities and differences,” according to the June 15 post titled, “Half a million fewer children? The coming COVID baby bust” by Melissa S. Kearney and Phillip B. Levine. “The drop in births that resulted from the Spanish flu was likely due to the uncertainty and anxiety that a public health crisis can generate, which could affect people’s desire to give birth, and also biologically affect pregnancy and birth outcomes.”

“That could be true during this crisis as well.”

Kearney and Levine go on to indicate that the Spanish Flu of 1918 did not lead to an economic depression because manufacturing jobs were still needed during World War I.

But that’s not what the economy looks like when the coronavirus pandemic struck in March, leading to stay-at-home orders and government-imposed closure of non-essential businesses, which subsequently caused layoffs nationwide.

“Although it is difficult to forecast the 2020 annual unemployment rate, assuming a 7 to 10 percentage-point jump to 10.6 to 13.6% seems reasonable,” Kearney and Levine wrote in the article. “We find that a 1% increase in unemployment reduces the birth rates by 1.4%.”

English teacher Tom Wiegman said he has seen how the loss of jobs has affected not

only his loved ones, but others as well, making it harder for them to decide whether they can afford the costs of raising another child.

“My son lost his previously secure management job several months ago due to COVID,” Wiegman said. “I was [also] out at a store a few days ago and saw a car window sticker that said, ‘Huge Financial Burden On Board,’ as a variation of the much more common ‘Baby on Board’ stickers,” he said.

Sunny Hills science teacher Mike Schade also agrees with the Brookings article’s forecast.

“I believe if you look back at difficult economic times in our country, you will see a decrease in the birth rates when poverty increases, and one’s confidence in the economy decreases,” Schade said.

— by Alex Lee, Cub Reporter

THE NEXT AMAZON?

With more than 27,000 followers on her TikTok account, social media influencer senior Carrie Cheng spends hours shopping for trendy clothes on her new favorite app to build up her winter wardrobe.

That app is Depop, an online thifting retailer that may grow to become just as popular as eBay or Amazon. Besides clothing, it sells sneakers, art, books and records.

“The app has been reaching a bigger audience because people have started to sell many of their clothes during quarantine through the app,” Cheng said.

Depop has over 20 million global users and counting.

More people are becoming attracted especially to the app’s fashion-based features.

“It’s a new season, and we love shopping for winter clothes such as jackets or sweaters,” Cheng said. “Depop provides many options at affordable prices.”

Another influencer at Sunny Hills is Sarah Roh, who usually posts her insights on fashion sense through her TikTok (326,000 followers) and Instagram (68,400 followers) accounts.

Roh has noticed that pieces such as puffer jackets, brown clothing, sweater vests, crew-necks and fluffy bags are popular items that customers search for on the thrifting app.

“I love using Depop for outfit inspo,” she said.

— by Ashley Han, Cub Reporter



KAREN LEE | theaccolade

Tell us what’s in your crystal ball forecast for the new year. Email your predictions to theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com, and we’ll post your ideas on *The Accolade’s* online news website, shhsaccolade.com.

FUTURE FORECASTERS

Two Orange County psychics agree with Biden regarding his “dark winter” forecast, but both see light at the end of the tunnel.

“The energy in 2021 at the beginning of the year is going to be a little hard,” says Katie Daley, who runs her own psychic business from her Fullerton home. “In March-April, the negative energy will tone down a little bit, and by October it will be more positive energy.”

Brea Psychic’s Gianna Becarri has a prediction that has already come true — for those in the United Kingdom.

“Near the last weeks of December, the COVID-19 vaccine will be pushed out,” Becarri says when contacted Nov. 20. Just more than two weeks after her prediction on Dec. 8, the British government officially rolled out Pfizer and BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine for the U.K. public, administering thousands of doses so far.

Following in the U.K.’s footsteps, the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] on Dec. 11 has approved Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccination, pushing out nearly 20 million doses of the vaccine later this month for U.S.

residents.

Although coronavirus cases in the U.S. are rapidly increasing, Becarri expects infections to die down and predicts a turnaround in the travel industry by 2021.

“After March, things are going to be completely in the clear,” Becarri says. “People will be walking around without masks.”

Despite all of the challenges from 2020, both forecasters are looking forward to what 2021 has to offer.

“This year was really bad for everyone — that’s obvious, but 2021 will be a whole lot better,” Becarri says. “Thank God 2020 is over.”

Anyone interested in a more personal reading of their future can contact Daley at (714) 738-8272 and Becarri at (714) 772-8585.

— by Irene Sheen, Cub Reporter



CHARITTI LI | theaccolade



MENTAL HEALTH WATCH: *Holiday season brings heightened concern for those struggling at home during the coronavirus pandemic*

School psychologist offers self-check tips to stay well

SUE OH

Cub Reporter

It was March 13, the last day of in-person classroom instruction before the Fullerton Joint Union High School District closed all of its campuses in response to the rapid diffusion of COVID-19 cases worldwide.



Ellen Stickler

Ellen Stickler, one of the district's school psychologists who's been assigned to Sunny Hills for two years, guided her students like a normal day, unaware that this meeting would be her last in-person conference for a while.

"Once remote learning hit, I had to figure out ways to connect and make counseling meaningful on a Google Hangouts platform," Stickler said.

In the face of an unprecedented pandemic, she provides insight on methods to maintain mental wellness.

"I found that while every student is different — each and every one of them had new challenges that came with the changes to hybrid learning because it was a huge disruption in their routine," Stickler said.

To deal with such challenges, the psychologist encourages students to take breaks from Zoom in between classes, keep a routine and immerse themselves in guided meditation for at least five minutes daily. She also believes that limiting social media usage as much as possible and exercising outside are all important parts of self-care.

Stickler also offered the following questions that students can ask to determine if they're exhibiting any symptoms of anxiety or depression:

- Are you sleeping a lot more than usual?
- Do you have a lot less energy?
- Are you eating a lot more or less than normal?
- Are you easily irritated?
- Does it seem like you are overreacting or indifferent?

"Just any big change from who you are as a person warrants caution," the psychologist said.

For anyone in need of counseling, Stickler recommends talking with a parent or guardian first, but she is always open for students to schedule an appointment.

"Talk about it with your parents or guardians because they might be dealing with their own stuff that they might not notice or know how to ask," she said.

AP Psychology teacher Greg Abbott agrees that quarantine has made it harder for adults to recognize mental challenges their children might be facing.

"Students and teachers have a harder time developing a relationship online as opposed to real life, so there is a little bit more guessing of how a student is doing mentally than usual," Abbott said. "They might not know me well enough to talk to me."

The social science instructor emphasizes the need for students to prioritize self-care — particularly when under the stress of hybrid learning — by socializing in a safe way.

"Especially with online school, we need exercise, physical activity, mental stimulation and safe social interaction," Abbott said. "When I walk my dog, I notice that many students converse with their friends at parks while wearing masks and maintaining social distance, which is safe and very healthy for the mind."



KAREN LEE | theaccolade

COVID-19 makes first year of high school more difficult

HANNAH LEE

Cub Reporter

*Names have been changed for anonymity.

With the arrival of the holiday season comes the cheerful atmosphere of festivities like shopping for gifts, decorating Christmas trees or baking holiday treats.

Many express their excitement for the upcoming celebrations on Dec. 25 — a day bound to be full of family, food and happiness.

However, some lie at the opposite end of the spectrum; one that is not addressed nearly enough.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on their mental health, and this holiday season may end up triggering several problems for individuals struggling with stability.

Although freshman Jane Smith was diagnosed with depression in late 2019

before the March 2020 shutdown of schools and non-essential businesses, the COVID-19 crisis didn't help ease her mental well-being.

"Quarantine has affected my mental health in both a positive and negative way," Smith said. "But staying with your family 24/7 is not very fun, especially when you have an overbearing parent [who] thinks mental illnesses are just a thing of the moment and will go away soon enough."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, the pandemic has elevated stress and anxiety among both children and adults, and more than a quarter of surveyors have reported trauma and stressor-related disorder symptoms related to COVID-19.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't worried," another anonymous freshman source said. "My coping mechanisms are limited, but

COVID-19 >> Page 16

'21 New Year's resolutions even more special because of pandemic

GRACE MIN

Cub Reporter

After starting the 2020-2021 school year with the distance learning model, students' New Year's resolutions are sounding very familiar: less procrastination, improving studying habits and finishing the semester with high marks.

"I think I could have a better attitude about online learning," freshman Jacob Chen said. "I'm not going to look at joining virtual Zoom sessions as a chore next year."

Though Chen does not usually view a new year as symbolic, he said he's looking forward to excelling in school for the second semester as well as the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

"I'd also like to get better at writing because I'm not that great at it yet," said Chen, who attends Jennifer Kim's English



Image printed with permission from Kayla Taylor

NEW YEAR, NEW ME: Freshman Kayla Taylor writes down her resolutions on a piece of paper Dec. 11 at home while wearing her Apple AirPods.

1 Honors class on Mondays and Thursdays as part of being in Cohort A for hybrid learning.

Junior Matthew Chang, however, has

been in Cohort C since the school's hybrid learning model started Nov. 2, which explains why he wants to improve his time management and develop new study hab-

its.

"I want to try to remove any distractions that may keep me from doing my homework, like playing video games or being on my phone," Chang said.

Girls are no different than boys when it comes to their New Year's resolutions.

"Next year I want to change my habit of procrastinating work and doing things last minute," said freshman Kayla Taylor, who was in Cohort A before recently choosing to stay home when Orange County started seeing increases in positive coronavirus cases. "I hope to do this by knowing when my assignments are due and planning reasonable times to work on them."

Taylor also plans to branch out her resolutions beyond academics.

"The new year is definitely symbolic for me; it's a new way to boost my motivation for my goals," she said. "[My other] New

Resolutions >> Page 16

'Dear Mrs. Claus' ad campaign flips script to bring mothers to forefront

OMAR METTWELY

Cub Reporter

"You better watch out / you better not cry / you better not pout / I'm telling you why / Mrs. Claus is coming to town."

That's right, it's about time that someone recognized the work of Santa's wife and not just jolly ol' St. Nick's or his elves.

A 30-second video posted Oct. 24 on YouTube promoting this idea has recently reached 10 million views as of Dec. 13 and has earned its own hashtag: #dearmrsclaus.

It starts out with tight closeups of three women of different backgrounds and ethnicities, each saying, "Dear Mrs. Claus."

Then the camera pans to a tight shot of a young girl wearing her PJs and holding a toy rocket in her right hand. It zooms out to reveal that the girl is resting comfortably in the arms of her mother.

The voiceover continues:

"Dear Mrs. Claus, for centuries you've run this holiday."

Then viewers see another closeup — this time, it's of that mother's fingers holding onto her phone and scrolling through toy items on the website, "Zulily," while the voiceover resumes, "Tirelessly searching for that perfect gift, keeping the flame of every tradition."

The spot, which has also been broadcast on several TV stations, ends with this final pitch:

"Thank you for being in every family and every heart. giving until you can't give no more and giving again," followed by a tight shot of a girl wearing a hoodie and saying, "Dear Mrs. Claus, thank you."



Image printed with permission from Zulily

SANTA'S MOST IMPORTANT HELPER: A young girl shares a wish list for the guy in the red suit, but for his wife, Mrs. Claus. In its latest ad campaign, Zulily is highlighting the true force behind the holiday season.

Zulily, an online retailer based in Washington, teamed up with marketing company Butler, Shine, Stern and Partners [BSSP] to shed light on mothers and their behind the scene efforts to raise her children.

"This isn't a new concept, but over the last few years — and especially now facing the current challenges of COVID — women really have a lot put on their shoulders, especially moms," according to a statement from

Nicole Michels McDonagh, BSSP's group creative director. "This is a reality 365 days a year that is dialed up even more during the holidays.

"We wanted every woman who sees this work to feel acknowledged, appreciated and recognized, and hopefully men and women collectively will say, 'It's about time some-

Mrs. Claus >> Page 16

What would you ask Mrs. Claus for Christmas?



"I want a Spotify Premium membership and a laptop."

- Isabella Jacobs, 9



"I want some new brush tip markers for Christmas; they're so nice to draw with."

- Judah Crowell, 10



"I just want money and clothes because it's hard to go shopping right now."

- Madison Legeyada, 11



"Money for college and moving out"

- Aaron Sim, 12



"A new car for the auto shop class."

- Carl Santiago, ROP/Auto Technology teacher

Students stay ho-ho-home for the holidays

SYDNEY LEE

Cub Reporter

Sunny Hills students have had to adjust to how they celebrate Thanksgiving with their loved ones amid the COVID-19 crisis, and now they must do so again this month during winter break.

"Usually around Christmas time, my whole family gets together, and I'm pretty sure we're not going to do that this year so I'm really going to miss it," sophomore Rebecca Tualla said. "But I'd rather be safe than sorry. I don't want to endanger other people, and it would just contribute more to the pandemic."

That leaves Tualla with only one other option, which is what many have been doing since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March: drive-through or drop-off visits.

"I plan on delivering their gifts to their front door since it seems the safest," she said. "It might suck not being able to hug them when I see them, but it's the safest thing to do."

According to a Nov. 16 CNBC online article, more holiday shoppers are looking for personalized gifts during the COVID-19 crisis than in the past.

“I plan on delivering [loved ones] gifts to their front doors since it seems the safest.”
— sophomore Rebecca Tualla

"A lot of times, the holidays can just be about excess," Signet jewelry CEO Gina Drosos said in the article. "This year is more about consideration, thoughtfulness and really asking yourself why you're making this purchase and who are you supporting."

But for many students, they plan to shop for something more practical.

"I would get my friends something they could wear like clothes or accessories," se-

nior Shawn Grays said. "But for myself, I really want a PS5."

Designer safety masks or scented sanitizer bottles may be a bit too practical of a gift.

"I wouldn't get my friends masks or hand sanitizer because they already have a lot," freshman Yubin Kwak said.

Many students in particular are realizing they no longer can organize Secret Santa gift exchanges with their friends; nor can they exchange holiday treats like candy canes or chocolates.

"I've done Secret Santa in the past at the church I go to," junior Joshua Jung said. "But this year, I'll probably wear a glove or sanitize the gift and put it in a Ziploc bag so my friends know my gift is safe."

Junior Ellen Kim plans to continue what she and her friends have been doing since the lockdown to stay connected with each other.

"Sometimes, my friends and I have a game night, and we'll play Skribbl.io or Among Us," Kim said. "So we'll probably do that more over winter break."

The coronavirus pandemic will especially disrupt travel plans for students and their families.

"I'm going to miss going to [South] Korea because my family lives there," said Jung, who moved to America three years ago.

STAFF EDITORIAL



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

Patience with vaccine provides perfect gift

The Accolade's editorial board, with the exception of a student whose parent is anti-vaccination, unanimously agreed to take a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to students.

With the FDA's green light on Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna one in review, we've gotten an early gift amid California Gov. Gavin Newsom's newest stay-at-home order and the recent surge in coronavirus cases.

But before we rush to receive a vaccine when it becomes available to the public, we should consider those at a greater risk of contracting the virus. In fact, patience might be the most wonderful gift for students in this holiday season.

According to a Dec. 3 recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], healthcare and essential workers, those with underlying medical conditions and people 65 years and older hold the first spot in line.

Healthcare personnel fight the coronavirus head on in environments that expose them to it,

putting them at a higher risk than other groups. We must give these people the rightful place in line to continue helping others battle the virus.

Remembering the immunocompromised and elderly who are more vulnerable to COVID-19, teenagers should wait to get inoculated.

Normally, pharmaceutical companies spend 10-15 years in development of such medical supplies, according to the CDC; so in comparison, Pfizer and Moderna have accepted the challenge President Donald Trump has set in creating what he termed as "Operation Warp Speed." At the same time, such a quick debut points to potential risks and negative side effects.

In 1955, Cutter Laboratories released an underdeveloped vaccine with live polio viruses, causing 40,000 new cases of the disease and the paralysis of 200 children and death of 10, according to an online article from the National Center for Biotechnology Information.

Despite these risks, the current COVID-19 situation calls for urgent action, and vaccinating

vulnerable groups would be the best way to ensure their safety.

The coronavirus shots won't yield the same detrimental side effects as the Cutter incident because of its quicker legal processing and approval, according to a Dec. 8 article in *The Guardian*.

According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, taking a vaccine shouldn't cause concern since trustworthy companies like Pfizer and Moderna went through different phases of testing for abnormalities and underwent thorough inspection to ensure its health and safety.

While this offers a cause to celebrate, we must in true holiday fashion set aside our impatience and let older folks get vaccinated first.

The Accolade editorial board is made up of the top editors and section editors on staff with the guidance of adviser Tommy Li. If you have a question about the board's decision or an issue for the board to discuss and write about, please send an email to theaccoladeshs@gmail.com.

Teachers should make online finals optional

ALICE LEE

Staff Reporter

With final exams scheduled for next week, teachers have started to address what they plan to do during the two-hour period.

At Sunny Hills, students normally attend two classes from Tuesday through Thursday with the last period ending at 12:38 p.m. The first finals day would be for students in periods one and two, while the second day would be for those in periods three and four. The last day would be for the remaining periods, five and six.

However, with this year's COVID-19 circumstances leading to the distance and hybrid learning schedules during the fall semester, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District has modified the schedule for all of its high school campuses to follow. (In previous years, the district had left it up to each individual campus to deter-

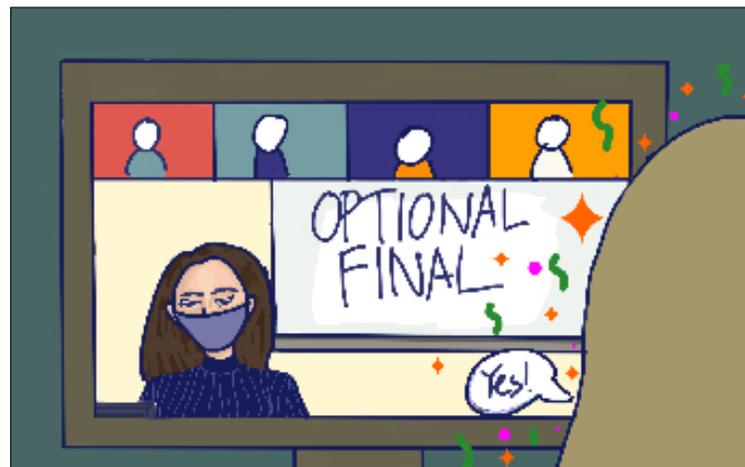
mine what its finals week schedule looks like.)

So on Dec. 15, for example, students in zero, first and sixth periods will Zoom into their respective classes for two hours.

On the second day, Dec. 16, periods two and three would be next followed by four and five on Dec. 17.

Considerate teachers who have acknowledged the technical difficulties and the toll it takes on students have made finals optional, and more instructors should do the same.

"To lift some burden[s] off of students with finals coming up and to motivate students who are struggling but wanting to raise up their grades, I came up with an idea of having an optional final," said Jina Shia, who teaches Honors Geometry. "It's still mind-boggling for me to make my final exam optional, but it's the best decision for a lot of my students who struggle a



NGAN DANG | theaccolade

lot in prerequisite math classes."

Along with Shia, the Honors Pre-Calculus teachers including Mariam Tan reached the decision of also making finals optional.

"[Given] the fact that this year is just so different from other years, I just feel that a cumulative exam in Honors Pre-calculus doesn't have to be a requirement like it usually is," Tan said.

While many in the math department have come up with this approach to next week, it's clear that other departments should consider the conclusions of Shia and Tan.

Even though finals can gauge

students' comprehension of the course, the amount of stress and time it consumes outweighs such a necessity, especially during these confusing and unprecedented times in which students and teachers are uncertain about the future.

Although finals serve as a comprehension check for students and teachers, especially in Advanced Placement classes, the resulting stress, especially while adapting to online learning, is not worth making finals mandatory.

In this new method of education, mental health has the final word.

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Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this issue was created as a PDF file posted on the school website, sunnyhills.net, and *The Accolade's* online news website, shsaccolade.com.

Sibling survival: *Stuck at home during the coronavirus pandemic, loved ones either bicker or bond*



IRENE SHEEN | theaccolade

I WANT IT: Sisters junior Michelle (left) and freshman Irene Sheen haggle over a Choco Pie snack, one of many tiffs they've had since the March lockdown.



ALEX LEE | theaccolade

PLAY NICE: Siblings junior Alice (left) and freshman Alex Lee enjoy a bonding moment playing a Wii video game together during the coronavirus pandemic.

We won't put a fork in it

"I literally did the dishes last night. It's your turn," I interjected.

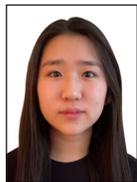
"You're younger, so obviously you should do it," my sister said.

Thanks to quarantine, our petty quarrel about doing the dishes prolongs for another five minutes.

While family bonding is great, being cramped inside the house with my family members all day long drives me crazy — especially with my sister, who's two years older than me. Our relationship isn't deteriorating, but two months into lockdown, it evolved into daily fights between 6-year-olds.

She does everything in her power to get out of doing all the dirty work, leaving it to me, the vulnerable younger sister, to clean up after her mess.

While trying to fix a problematic sister



ireneSheen
Cub Reporter

remains difficult, sometimes a bit of blackmailing solves it, like threatening to expose her secrets to our mom.

Before COVID-19 hit, our sisterly relationship seemed considerably better.

Once school began in August, it became both a safeguard and a threat to our petty bickering.

Because we're in our own rooms attending classes or doing homework, we don't spend as much time together as we did over the summer.

But with the addition of school and its heavy workload comes stress, which inevitably makes us more irritable and intemperate. And contrary to past school years, the awkward adjustment into distance learning and the rapid change in environment also posed as a serious stress factor.



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com/category/opinion

'Wii' get along easily now

On a cozy April evening about a month after quarantine began, my older sister Alice — a junior at Sunny Hills — and I were dying of boredom in the living room. As we searched for the TV remote batteries, we found our 8-year-old Wii. With nothing else to do, we reconnected the console to entertain ourselves with an old video game called New Super Mario Bros.

Prior to the pandemic, my sister and I only focused on our individual lives, almost as if we didn't have a sibling. Around half of our interactions consisted of us arguing, dissing or screaming at one another.

On many occasions, I wouldn't even talk to my sister for a full week or more — I just never felt the need to interact with her.

With this Wii game, it not only brought us entertainment, but also unity.



alexLee
Cub Reporter

Despite the Wii's outdated graphics, gaming with my sister brought about one of the most delightful nights I experienced that quarantine summer. The terrible illustrations within the game just brought us laughter and memories of playing with it as a family during our early childhood.

Surprisingly, competing against each other in golf two to three times a week also brought us a lot closer.

It especially motivated my sister to improve in this sport, considering she lost every game against me, a freshman.

We even stayed up until 1-2 a.m. just watching K-pop music videos. I'm embarrassed to report that I danced along to a lot of them, but my weird dances only made us laugh and bond more.

Although we still fight from time to time, the pandemic ultimately strengthened our relationship. Through all the hardships of quarantine and COVID-19, I know I can look to my sister for some comfort.

Letters to the editor

Reader response to the Oct. 30 special section on the Nov. 3 elections:

I loved how you guys implemented humor into the narrative by talking about the fly on Mike Pence's head; it is a way for people of different political beliefs to laugh over something that doesn't cause tension or disagreement.

The Accolade has a great contrast between cracking jokes and breaking down important topics, which makes it fun to read.

— Caleb King, freshman

Michelle Sheen's article, "No more sparklers on the 4th?" was very informative and entertaining. I love how she started off her article by stating, "The savory aroma of meat grilling ... while patriotic music like 'Firework' by Katy Perry plays around the house." This sentence really catches the reader's attention.

It is unfortunate that it is a current debate on whether to ban safe and sane fireworks since the fireworks create so much joy in people. But, there are others with post trauma-

tic stress disorder who receive trauma from past events from these fireworks. There are both good and bad sides to fireworks, and it is significant to get everyone's opinion.

— Lindsey Kang, sophomore

I disagree with the article, "No on Prop. 18: 17-year-olds lack essential voting experience." By the age of 17, students have a good idea of what philosophies they believe in and how they would best impact our nation.

Although some teenagers may be inexperienced, many adults lack knowledge, too, but have the right to vote. Waiting one year takes an opportunity to vote away from students who are aware of their stance.

— Sarah Aurelio, freshman

For Divya Bharadwaj's article, "Fresh wave of female politicians inspires school's JSA club members," I agree with Jenna Beining's statement on how the trio opened more opportunities for people of color [POC] and women.

As a person of color myself, I have ex-

perienced discrimination from past mentors, so being able to view a POC fulfill one of the most powerful positions in the United States encourages me to achieve my goals.

— Grace Suh, freshman

Reader response to other sections in the Oct. 30 issue:

I would like to respond to Charis Lee, author of "Blended bursts safe bubble" in the Opinion section.

After two weeks in Cohort A, I feel very safe and secure on campus. I have yet to see a student jeopardizing others' safety by incorrectly wearing a mask, and I notice many safety guidelines, such as social distancing, being followed.

This assures me that the hybrid model is safe and also a healthy way for kids to get out of the house more often.

— Kayla Taylor, freshman

Through reading "Sunny Hills alumna share stories of treating COVID-19 patients" in the Feature section, I felt proud of Sunny

Hills High School. It was great to see the accomplishments of these three nurses and how they are working hard to prevent COVID-19, such as taking night shifts.

Adding multiple quotes on what they said gave me the opportunity to hear the experience from somebody I would have never been in contact with.

— Yeavit Kim, freshman

Reading "Uncertainty remains about fan attendance" in the Sports section, I was delighted to read about the backup plans in place if students cannot attend the sporting events. Although it won't be the same environment for the fans or players, I'm glad there is going to be a way to support our athletes.

Knowing that there is a possibility of fans coming in person gets me excited.

— Brennan McVicar, sophomore

The Accolade welcomes signed letters to the editor with full name and grade level emailed to theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.

The staff reserves the right to edit.

Virtual competitions cause more stress than success for many SH student clubs

ASHLEY KIM

Cub Reporter

It was sophomores Magdalene Kho and Lynette Ochoa's first virtual competition for the Science Olympiad club.

"I was very nervous about it because I put a lot of pressure on myself for this event in particular and because of potential tech issues," said Kho, SciOly's co-vice captain.

While working on her anatomy and physiology assignment from home on her Apple computer, Kho said she was logged into the BEARSO Invitational website when she started experiencing server issues.

"My screen had timed out, and that's when all the problems started arising," she said. "The proctor couldn't see any of our messages as I tried to ask if our test got submitted successfully."

Despite refreshing her screen repeatedly, it didn't confirm that her answers were submitted, and she said she had to move on to the next event.

"Later on, I found out that only the last 15 minutes were compromised, which sadly meant that basically all of my short answers went unsaved," Kho said.

After the Oct. 10 competition ended, she and her partner learned that they ironically placed ninth out of more than 100 teams.

"I was still a little disappointed with



Image printed with permission from Da Hee Kim

TAKING THE "L": Some Science Olympiad members show the letter representing "Lancers" after placing fourth at the Regionals Feb. 15 at the University of California, Irvine. Since then, COVID-19 has shut down all live events.

what happened," Kho said.

The sophomore is not alone in her feelings toward participating in a virtual event during the coronavirus pandemic, which has forced the closure of all live, large group competitions.

Though his Orange County Academic Decathlon [OCAD] team placed 16th out of 23 teams at a Nov. 21 event, OCAD club president senior Christian Rivas missed the team bonding he experienced when the contest was held live.

"[Last year,] the team really came together during competitions because it was

a nice break to talk to your friends after the stress of constant testing, speeches, essays and interviews," Rivas said. "Now, camaraderie is missing among the team because of how impersonal practicing and studying online can be."

The Cyber Patriots club entered its first virtual event Nov. 14, the National Youth Cyber Defense competition on Nov. 14.

"[Contestants] seemed much more tired and much more fatigued near the end of the competition," Cyber Patriots club president sophomore Remy Garcia-Kakebeen said.

FROM PAGE 4

STUDENTS RETURN

she said. "[Changes] would be immediate — starting on day one of spring semester."

Once students see their new class schedules, they can contact their counselors via email to address any discrepancies.

"They can email their counselors over break, but counselors will not be available to respond until we return from break," Stinson said.

Senior Clara Guirguis plans to stick with Cohort A next semester as long as the virus doesn't get worse.

"I do think it's benefited me and made me a little more motivated to actually learn since I know I have to physically go to school and see a teacher in person rather than just a screen," Guirguis said.

This hybrid learning model also balances the time at home and school and has a smaller, more focused class of students, said freshman Ryder Robbins, who is also in Cohort A.

"I think it is a good balance of coming to school and socializing and staying home and keeping safe," Robbins said. "I also enjoy having a smaller class."

As a reminder, after Jan. 4, students in Cohort B will attend classes as they have been doing since the Fullerton Joint Union High School District switched to the hybrid learning model.

FROM PAGE 4

ASB PLANS

The ASB had also planned to release a virtual winter sports assembly video Dec. 11, but filming issues postponed the release until Dec. 15, Paris said.

The 15-20 minute video will feature performances from the Pep Squad and Dance Production; it will also include interviews with sports teams and a surprise online game with the teachers, he said.

Students can watch it from the Sunny Hills website at a time of their choosing, Paris said.

The ASB Instagram page (@sunnyhills.asb) posted a video of the weekly morning announcements on Dec. 9, which reminds viewers to tune into the assembly, and members have been posting stories on their accounts to promote the video.

Today's Spirit Day will most likely be hosted via Instagram, where students can dress up in holiday gear and post pictures on their accounts, Paris said.

The ASB wanted it on a date when all periods met, while the assembly video was pushed to Tuesday to allow time for its approval from the administration.

Senior Amanda Ochoa is among the students who plan to participate in today's Spirit Day and watch the virtual assembly on Tuesday.

"Even though I am not at school, I still want to participate, especially since it's my senior year, and I know I need to make the most out of it," Ochoa said.

FROM PAGE 4

PISA EXAM

he received a report from OECD Nov. 9 showing that the students who took the exam ranked among the best high schools worldwide.

"I was blown away and thrilled," Whitten said. "I know we are doing a great job preparing kids for the world they will face post-high school, but to see that we are at this level was just awesome."

OECD's website provided a PDF of findings based only on results from the 15-year-olds who took the test in 215 U.S. schools.

"Students in the United States performed above the OECD average in reading (505 score points) and science (502), and below the OECD average in mathematics (478)," according to the report. The highest score total in each category is 600.

"Their scores were similar to those of students in Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden and the United Kingdom in at least two of these three subjects," according to the report.

Of the nearly 2,400 students enrolled on campus in 2018, 51 15-year-olds — sophomores and juniors at Sunny Hills — were randomly chosen to take the exam, which was administered from the end of first period to part of fifth period.

In the United States, 4,838 students in 215 schools completed the assessment, according to the OECD's report.

"We have incredibly talented teach-

ers serving a wonderful community that values education," Whitten wrote in his Nov. 13 digital newsletter to staff, parents and students. "You combine that with the Sunny Hills culture of high achievement, and magic happens."

The test itself was not troubling to the group of Sunny Hills students who were offered test-takers received a \$25 check made out to their names and a certificate indicating completion of four hours of community service. Breakfast burritos for test-takers were offered by school officials before the assessment started.

"The test format included a mixture of multiple-choice questions and free-response questions," senior Alyssa Ogas said. "I don't personally recall experiencing any struggles while taking the test."

Sunny Hills even tied for first place in Reading, with provinces of China and Singapore, and senior Sebastian Villarreal agrees that he did not struggle with that portion.

"There is a big focus on reading especially in 10th-grade curriculum and it helped most of us on that part," Villarreal said.

English teacher Suzanne Boxdorfer said she was very excited when she first heard about Sunny Hills's success.

"I was surprised not because I don't think Sunny Hills is amazing and high achieving academically, but because America is generally behind in academics," Boxdorfer said. "Sunny Hills students are not, so I will continue to teach the students as I've always done, knowing they are more than capable."

FROM PAGE 5

MR. E

dents so that they will be prepared in whatever ways they can in the future."

Eskelson said he worked in the Alhambra and Chino Valley unified school districts, but he declined to provide any more details as to when he worked there and the names of the specific campuses he worked at.

At Sunny Hills, he started his first day with the students conducting one-on-one Zoom interviews.

"It was important for each student to have face time with me back and forth because I know not every [substitute] teacher did it," Eskelson said.

That student-teacher relationship is an essential part of his teaching philosophy.

"That makes it much more positive in the classroom [in] the long run," Eskelson said. "I always try and make every single day a positive experience."

Several of his students offered positive feedback about the new teacher.

"He's energetic," Sheth said.

Eskelson said he has developed his own plan for the elective classes.

"Students in my video game design classes are going to be able to really develop and learn from a great source called, 'GAME:IT STEM Fuse,'" he said.

Tarabay said she is looking forward to this new approach.

"Hopefully, he gets a start on Java[script] because I'm sick of code blocks," she said.



Marvel's Scarlet Witch gets own 'Vision' show

Image printed with permission from Walt Disney Studios

SUBURBIA: Paul Bettany (left) reprises his role as Vision, who now lives with Elizabeth Olsen's Wanda Maximoff. In the six-episode series to stream on Disney+ Jan. 15, the two begin suspecting that their idealized lives are not what they seem to be.

ANDREW PARK

Staff Reporter

Avengers will assemble next year — not in another movie but individually on Disney+ TV series with Marvel's Scarlet Witch leading the way.

Scheduled to stream Jan. 15 for the first of its six-episode run, "WandaVision" takes place after the events of "Avengers: Endgame" and stars Elizabeth Olsen as the title character, Wanda Maximoff.

Disney+ describes it as "a blend of classic television and the Marvel Cinematic Universe in which Wanda ... and Vision (Paul Bettany) — two super-powered beings living idealized suburban lives — begin to suspect that everything is not as it seems."

The streaming service did not provide any explanations as to how Vision can still be alive after the events of "Avengers: Infinity War" in which Thanos kills the artificial life form by taking away his Mind Stone.

At Disney's Investor Day 2020 on Dec. 10, the company also showered Marvel fans with a list of other projects that will run next year through 2023:

- Two months after "WandaVision" on an unspecified date in March, Disney+ will stream ep-

Is Wonder Woman sequel worth \$14.99 to stream?

RACHEL YUN

Staff Reporter

Fans waiting for the much delayed sequel to "Wonder Woman" but don't want to catch it in theaters on Christmas Day will now be able to watch it from home on the streaming service, HBO Max — a move that Warner Bros. Studios has for the first time decided to do for its 17 other upcoming releases next year.

Junior Darshil Sheth planned on watching

SHE'S BACK: Diana Prince sprints to where the action is.



Image printed with permission from Warner Bros.

"Wonder Woman 1984" over winter break in a local movie theater but changed his mind upon realizing how much that could pose a safety risk for his family.

"The fact remains that people have to meet their personal responsibilities in theaters, which isn't guaranteed," Sheth said. "I'm probably going to watch it on HBO Max so we don't have to risk our health, especially since my family has pre existing conditions."

Sheth's family's decision to pay \$14.99 a month for HBO Max is among only 22%

Wonder >> Page 16

isodes about the Falcon and the Winter Soldier

- "Loki" starring Tom Hiddleston will get his own show with a May 2021 release date
- "Hawkeye" will then pre-

miere next fall.

Disney didn't provide release dates for these other projects, but it plans to develop an animated series based on Marvel's *What If?* comic book line and live-ac-

tion ones based on such lesser known characters as Ironheart, Col. James "Rhodey" Rhodes and Nick Fury with Samuel L. Jackson returning to play the SHIELD director.

Finally, Mark Ruffalo's Bruce Banner will appear in a series based on She-Hulk.

In two years, Marvel Studios plans to produce a new Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special for Disney+ with "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 3" due out in 2023.

Comic Book Club adviser and science teacher Alexander Hua said he has been following the announcements from Disney with excitement.

"It's been a long time since we have gotten any Marvel content because 'Black Widow' was delayed from COVID," Hua said. "I think they are going to be very rewarding for long-time fans of the MCU because they'll link into the movies in some ways."

Comic Book Club co-president junior Jasmine Lee won't be able to binge watch any "WandaVision" episodes as she had hoped during winter break after the series got pushed back to January.

"My expectations are high because I really like Wanda's character, and I am excited for her to be more developed," Lee said.

Quarantine changes taste in music for some students

SUSIE KIM

Cub Reporter

*The papers say it's doomsday
The button has been pressed
We're gonna nuke each other
up boys*

'Til old Satan stands impressed

This is part of the first verse in singer Matt Maltese's "As the World Caves In."

Filled with sounds from a bass guitar, piano, drums and guitars, the three-minute-and-38-second song produced in 2017 goes on to dramatize a couple's last moments amid a nuclear apocalypse.

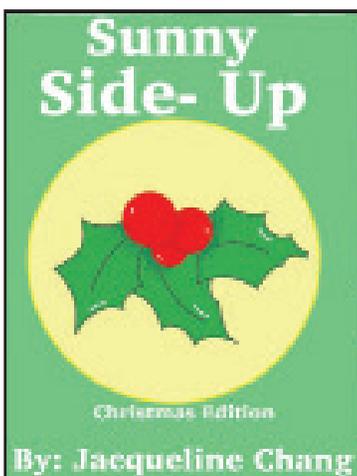
"I started listening to it during the pandemic, and it somewhat relates to the situation that the world is in right now," said senior Vivian Tran, who first heard it in June from TikTok. "I also enjoy the dark and melancholy, yet romantic aspects of the song."

The choir president is among other students in the music program on campus who have noticed their taste in tunes changing during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Some songs I listened to before the pandemic would probably be 'La La Lost You' by 88 Rising And 'Japanese Denim' by Daniel Caesar, and some songs I've listened to during the pandemic are 'May I Ask' by Luke Chiang and 'My Future' by Billie Eilish," choir student sophomore Maiya Dinh said.

These days, Dinh said she gets inspired by suggestions on her friends' Instagram stories with its additive music feature.

"My music preference is based off of other people's other suggestions, so I have a wide range of music," she said. "Before, I would listen to what was on the radio or what was recommended on Apple Music."



FROM PAGE 15

WONDER

of 161 responses to an *Accolade* online poll asking, "Would you be willing to subscribe to HBO Max to watch 'Wonder Woman 1984' for free when it's released on Christmas Day?"

As of Dec. 11, 42% voted for "I don't know; depends on what the buzz is about this movie when it's released," while 36% opted for "I'd rather wait for the COVID-19 vaccine to arrive so I can watch it in a movie theater."

Junior Carolyn Tran said she's going to do neither as she isn't feeling optimistic about the sequel, calling it unnecessary.

"When I first watched the [first film], I thought it was a good approach to incorporate heroine characters and showcase female empowerment in the entertainment business," said Tran, who also predicts the sequel to be a bomb because of the overwhelming success of the first film, which grossed more than \$821.8 million in box office sales in 2017. "The trailer seemed interesting at first, but it felt like the new villain overshadowed Wonder Woman and all the overwhelming aspects made it confusing."

Taking place several decades after World War II, "Wonder Woman 1984" follows up on Diana Prince and her life away

from her home island of Themyscira.

Prince's romantic interest, U.S. soldier Steve Trevor, somehow makes an appearance in the sequel, which also introduces villains Maxwell Lord and Cheetah.

The fate of the superhero film had been treading on thin line since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, pushing the film's release date from Dec. 1, 2019, to June 5 earlier this summer.

Because the coronavirus crisis did not settle down, Warner Bros. decided to push back the opening to Oct. 2, and finally to Christmas Day. The studio decided on the film's postponement to clear room for its other films, including "Tenet," which was released Sept. 3, in movie theaters.

As a self-proclaimed avid comic book reader, Sheth said he found the first film to be a great addition to the DC Universe. He enjoyed Gal Gadot's portrayal of the demi-goddess, specifically her battle cries.

"I'm excited to see some of the new features of the movie as well, especially the golden outfit featured in the trailer because those outfits are usually reserved for really strong people," he said. "I also heard that Hans Zimmer is the lead composer for the film, which excites me because some of his works are my favorites."

After "Wonder Woman 1984," Warner Bros. is scheduled to release "Mortal Kombat" on Jan. 15, and "The Little Things," on Jan. 29.



Image printed with permission from Warner Bros.

ROUND 'EM UP: Gal Gadot plays Wonder Woman, who uses her Lasso of Truth to fight enemies in the Dec. 25 sequel, 'Wonder Woman 1984.'

FROM PAGE 10

COVID-19

I'm thankful for such supportive people around me."

AP Psychology and AP U.S. History teacher Greg Abbott agrees that the struggles of the pandemic may contribute to diminishing mental health, stating that teaching in real life is more preferred than distance learning.

"I have been impressed with the resiliency of my students," Abbott said. "To handle this new reality we find ourselves in, we all will have to find comfort and stability in this world that is amazing in so many ways but destabilizing all the while."

FROM PAGE 10

RESOLUTIONS

Year's resolution is to be less negative and more energetic about things."

Freshman Katie Larson agrees that it all comes down to have the proper perspective.

"I want to be more motivated to do my homework next year," Larson said. "I also want to be able to look at bad situations as learning experiences to help me grow instead of viewing them as solely bad."

Teachers and athletic coaches, on the other hand, are orienting their goals around hybrid learning and keeping their students motivated for the second semester.

After transitioning from distance to hybrid learning, Honors Algebra 2 teach-

er Lauren Johnson hopes to create a class environment where her students on Zoom will be just as involved as the students in her physical classroom.

Johnson wants to ensure all her students have an opportunity to share their voice, especially when a single math problem can be solved in various ways.

"I like to look at the semester as a chance to restart and reflect on what worked and what didn't [work] so we can all do better," she said. "It's a good chance to make sure I'm doing all the things I want to."

Girls volleyball head coach Amanda Donaldson sees the new year as a time for seizing the day.

"I have extremely high goals for the girls and the program," Donaldson said. "I think we have a lot of potential on all three of our

teams, and I'm really excited to see where this takes us.

"With all the unknowns, we may not get as many pre-season matches, which are a big part of our season. ... The goal is to be able to simulate game-like situations in practice, which can be tough, but it will be something we as coaches have to plan so we get all the kinks out before [Freeway League starts]."

What's more, the coach has taken a more optimistic view for what the new year has in store.

"I think we are all optimistic about 2021," Donaldson said. "Everyone is hoping for more normalcy and to get back to full capacity. We can't wait to represent the Lancers and show everyone what we've got."

FROM PAGE 11

MRS. CLAUS

one came out with this message."

Though many of the Sunny Hills students and staff were not aware of the Zulily ad campaign, upon sharing the video link with them and then their watching it, many agreed with its approach.

"I believe the design of this advertisement isn't looking to push with the recent female empowerment but rather possibly to direct your attention toward women in general," science teacher Jack Adams said. "Mrs. Claus asks people to focus on the often neglected women in their lives."

Senior Alice Pham said Mrs. Claus serves as a symbol of encouragement for her.

"[She] is a symbol for the compassionate, hardworking individuals in our lives to emphasize that the viewer should be appreciative of the Mrs. Claus in their lives," Pham said.

Despite being exposed to the online retailer, the senior doesn't plan on checking on Zulily anytime soon.

"I am not too sure if I am convinced to purchase from this company because I wasn't aware of the service being advertised other than a quick flash of the company name," Pham said. "I do think that this is a meaningful commercial that on the surface may seem as though they are solely preaching female empowerment; however, it has more depth to it as well."

Math teacher Dorothy Cheng offered a different take on the Mrs. Claus commercials.

"The commercial tries to make women seem like they are oppressed, and so they need a commercial to make them feel valued," Cheng said. "I would have rather liked to see a commercial where men and women work together and use each other's unique strengths to accomplish great things."

Perhaps the math teacher may have offered Zulily its marketing strategy for the next holiday season: "Thank you, Mrs. and Mr. Claus."

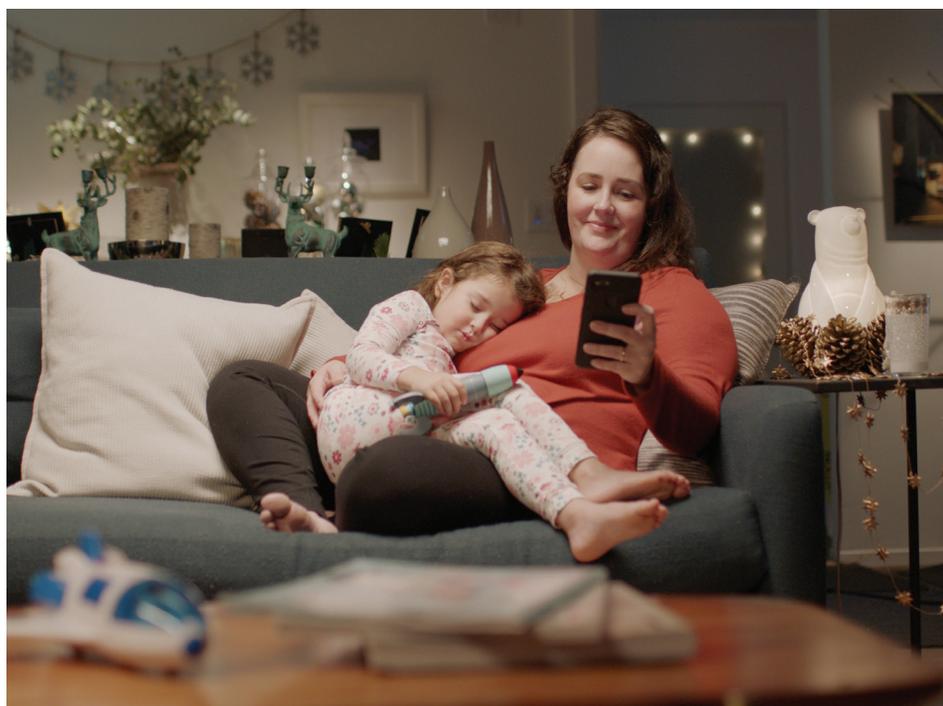


Image printed with permission from Zulily

MOM TIME: A mother in the recent Zulily "Mrs. Claus" ad campaign uses her smartphone to shop for holiday gifts while her daughter's sleeping.

 **Game Ball** 

Senior softball player travels from coast to coast pitching in for her teams in Virginia, California

NEVYA PATEL

Asst. Business Manager

During her sophomore year, senior Abbie Landrum had an essay assignment related to the novel *Fahrenheit 451*.

Unfortunately for Landrum, the essay was due as soon as her plane touched down at the Los Angeles International Airport from Virginia, where she played as a pitcher for Team Virginia Mizuno, a club team located in Virginia Beach.

Her only solution was to write it during her flight.

"It was quite stressful because it is loud on planes, and there are people next to you," Landrum said. "It was hard to focus at times, but I did finish the essay."

Not only does Landrum play for a club team in Virginia, but she also bounces between the West and East coasts since she participates in two club teams.

Her softball journey began with her parents, both of whom played the sport when they were younger and signed her up at 5-years old, Landrum said.

July 2018 was the first time she was offered the opportunity to play for different club teams on opposite sides of the country, she said.

Landrum was with the California Cruisers in Rancho Santa Margarita when she pitched against Team Virginia Mizuno in Atlanta at a showcase tourna-



Image printed with permission from Abbie Landrum

STRIKE: Then-junior Abbie Landrum pitches in a 10-4 win against Tesoro at Sunny Hills High School on March 7.

ment.

After playing against Team Virginia, one of the coaches from that team offered her the chance to pitch for them one week later at a national tournament in California.

"I love it," said Landrum, who plays pitcher and third baseman. "It is a new opportunity and only great things can come of it in my eyes."

In California, she said she left the California Cruisers to join the Firecrackers Lutterloh King in Rancho Santa Margarita in August 2019. Then three months

later in November, she joined the Irvine Sting Club.

"My previous California club teams just were not the right fit for me," Landrum said.

Although the responsibility of juggling two club teams on both coasts seems difficult, her parents encouraged her decision.

"My parents are fully supportive of me playing across the country," Landrum said. "They absolutely love it."

Her friend, senior Ellyse Fuller, echoed Landrum's parents' support as well as praise.

"I think Abbie traveling to

Virginia is awesome," Fuller said. "It is a great opportunity for her, and I know how important it is for her. She is literally the hardest working person I know."

As a result of playing in another state, she gained interest from local Virginia colleges and has become familiar with the surrounding area.

"I am definitely looking forward to going to school back there if I get an offer," Landrum said. "The girls and the bond that we have created is so different and something that I never experienced before."

Despite the rewards, the responsibilities have felt overwhelming at times, she said.

"It is an emotional and mental sport," the softball player said. "Sometimes when you screw up or have a bad practice, it is really hard not to get worked up toward yourself."

But she said that she can strive through the obstacles and pick herself up.

"It is a sport designed to make you fail, but it depends on how mentally tough you are and if you can pick yourself up," Landrum said.

"Sometimes you feel lost, and I think that it is OK because you can come back up the next day and feel perfectly fine."

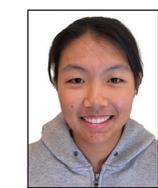
And her grade on that essay she wrote on the airplane?

"I got an A on that essay," she said.

Houston, we have a problem

One month ago, I wouldn't have expected to see myself boarding a flight to Houston (with a layover in Las Vegas).

But when my club softball coach announced on Sep 15. our team would travel to College Station, Texas, to attend the



jaimieChun
Cub Reporter

Texas Bomber Exposure Weekend on Nov. 7 — one of the most competitive youth softball showcases — I had no choice but to pack my bags.

When I arrived in College Station, I was greeted with players not social distancing and clusters of fans from all across the country, fitting the definition of a "super spreader" event that our local officials in California had cracked down on.

As much as I enjoyed competing again, it was clear to me that changes needed to be made.

One thing that stood out to me was the presence of snack bars that attracted maskless fans like, and although organizers cannot control the way that people in the stands behave, I felt they should have limited interactions by closing these shacks.

More importantly, team sports should adopt the cohort system that our own school district implemented. Instead of putting entire teams on the same field, players can be put into small squads based on positions to remain together. This way, should someone test positive, only a small group will have to isolate, allowing the rest of the team to continue practicing.

But this can only be initiated if coaches make official and firm statements to modify their practices.

After returning to softball practices five months ago, I've observed COVID-19 protocols go from strict enforcement to practically nothing at all, so much so that it looks like nothing has changed since the pre-coronavirus days. Perhaps this played a role in one of the players on the 18u team testing positive for COVID-19 on Nov. 28, which prompted my coaches to enact more strict protocols. Yet, I will have to wait to see whether these too will actually be enforced.

For the past five months, I had the opportunity to taste what it's like to go back to normal play, but until our situation improves, we must make amends and sacrifice nonessential conventions for the sake of our health.

Freshman strives to become the next top golfer

YEIHN LEE

Staff Reporter

A day without golf practice is like a day wasted.

Freshman Yurang Li practices golf four to five days a week for two to three hours to be efficient with professional golfer Rory McIlroy as her role model.

As a skilled golfer, Li had her first top three finish at the AJGA Junior All-Star at Morongo tournament held from July 20-23 in Beaumont, Calif. and placed second.

She also flew to compete in the UHY Kansas City Junior tournament held from Sept. 25-27 because she wanted to play one last American Junior Golf Association [AJGA] event before the year ended.

"Flying out to play golf seemed scary to me at first, but

looking back, it was an exciting learning experience," Li said.

Li hopes to play in more AJGA events because there are many across the states that she would like to attend.

Sunny Hills boys and girls golf head coach Scott Enrico has high expectations for Li's performance in the upcoming high school season, which is slated to begin as early as March 20.

"I expect her to immediately compete with the best players in our league and make a run during the CIF playoffs," Enrico said.

Though the status of her first full high school season remains up in the air, Li appreciates the value of golf and what it's done for her.

"My future goal is playing at a Division 1 college," said Li, who wants to play on the West Coast.



Image printed with permission from Yurang Li

FOLLOW THROUGH: Freshman Yurang Li swings her club during the AJGA Junior All-Star at Morongo tournament in Beaumont in July 20-23. She would finish tied for second.

"Golf has helped me overcome many mental obstacles regarding fear, anxiety and stress,

and I hope to play in higher levels of golf and create memories to look back at."

'Fall' sports' postponed, boys volleyball moved

ISAAC CHOI

Social Media Manager

Five months after the traditional three-season sports calendar was condensed into two, the California Interscholastic Federation [CIF] State office delayed the start of games statewide as well as canceled the Regional and State Championships because of the state's spike in positive coronavirus cases.

The decision pushes off the start date for Season 1 sports that were originally scheduled to start this month with the exception of football, which was scheduled to begin Jan. 8.

Boys volleyball was also pushed over from Season 1 to Season 2.

"This [postponement] offers our Sections and Leagues the flexibility and needed time to plan for the return to practice and competition once updated guidance is provided by the CDPH," according to the CIF State news release dated Dec. 1.

Without California Department of Public Health's [CDPH] approval of plans for student-athletes returning to play, high school sports cannot start. CIF State cannot release the sports calendar of the full games and seasons for spring sports.

A news release later that day from CIF Southern Section Commissioner of Athletics Rob Wigod confirmed this statement.

"We believed that if we allowed the maximum amount of time possible to gain control of the situation, we could deliver to



ALIYAH AHMAD | theaccolade

ON THE BALL: Center defensive midfielder junior Michael Franco guides the soccer ball during practice on the practice field on Dec. 8.

our student-athletes what we all want for them and give them what they deserve," Wigod said. "In the time we have before the new year and into the new year, we must strive to make progress within our Southern Section footprint to have the opportunity to return to play when the time comes."

The Lancers' first boys volleyball match was scheduled for Dec. 18, and now the

team has no start date because of its transfer to Season 2.

"My initial reaction to this delay was full of nerves, but once [I heard] the news, I felt relieved that our season is now back to its original schedule, which is in spring," new volleyball head coach Albert Soliguen said. "This will definitely allow more time for the team to prepare and work on our team chemistry."

Although the news release made no stipulations as to how practices should be operated, local school districts including Anaheim Unified High School District, Brea Olinda High School District and Los Angeles Unified High School District have all halted in-person practices.

Despite the threat of the suspension of practices on Fullerton Joint Union High School District campuses, volleyball outside hitter senior Joseph Pak isn't concerned.

"A little less worried that our season was pushed to spring because now we have time to prepare ourselves individually," Pak said. "At this point everything is up in the air, but with all the things going on, I'm hopeful we'll just take it day by day."

Football linebacker senior Noah Brown echoed Pak's statement.

"We can only control what we control so some of my teammates and I usually work out with each other on our own when we aren't in practice as a team," Brown said.

Despite CIF State's second postponement of sports during the 2020-2021 school year, new athletic director Paul Jones still anticipates the return of high school sports.

"My heart goes out to the students and especially the seniors who missed competitions last year and now face the possibility of missing competitions this year," Jones said. "We all wait with great anticipation, the guidelines from the California Department of Health and CIF to determine when we will return to high school sports."

New athletic director joins staff

KRISTIMA ARYAL

Sports Editor

Sunny Hills' newly hired athletic director has quite the sports resume:

A letterman in three high school sports: baseball, basketball and football.

A roster spot on a college football team.

An athletic director at Orange Lutheran High School, one of seven schools in the talent-rich Trinity League.



Paul Jones

Six years later, Paul Jones oversees Sunny Hills' 25 sports programs, replacing Jon Caffrey, who accepted an assistant principal job at Fullerton Union High School.

Jones took classes at Fullerton College [FC] to play as the wide receiver on the football team while simultaneously enrolling at California State University, Fullerton [CSUF], where he graduated in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in radio, television and film.

"My brother told me that I could be a student at CSUF and play football at FC if I was a full-time student," Jones said. "It was one of the best decisions of my life."

From 2006-2008, Jones said he worked in Southern California broadcast newsrooms working on sports packages and data research for commercials. His reporting journey took him to Torrance Cit-

iCable Channel 3 in 2008, where he shot video with local high schools.

"I started mentoring a couple of kids, and I felt that I would make more of an impact on students' lives if I was on campus," Jones said. "It was much more exciting for me."

The new athletic director then earned a master's degree in coaching and athletic administration in 2009 later adding a teaching credential in 2011 from Concordia University, Irvine.

He began teaching at Hephatha Lutheran School in Anaheim as a physical education teacher before returning to Orange Lutheran High School, his alma mater, in 2014, as the athletic director.

But after six years of leading Orange Lutheran's athletic programs, Jones started looking for other options. Then, he found Sunny Hills, where he oversees athletic programs and teaches first and third period physical education.

Principal Allen Whitten commended Jones' attitude going into the school year.

"He definitely embodies the Sunny Hills way of doing the right thing, the right way," Whitten said.

Now that he's at Sunny Hills, Jones said he looks forward to bringing the same level of competition that he witnessed while working in the Trinity League.

"I aspire to lead with character and integrity, and I'm looking forward to continuing the standard of success that is put in place," he said.

Boys volleyball adds new coach

JAIMIE CHUN

Cub Reporter

After he earned MVP honors at Garden Grove High School in 2009, was recruited to play college-level volleyball at Orange Coast College and led Sonora's girls volleyball team to a runner-up finish in the 2017 CIF-Southern Section Division 3 playoffs, new boys volleyball coach Albert Soliguen is exactly what Sunny Hills has been looking for.



Albert Soliguen

"For the upcoming season, I hope to bring the boys together, have a cohesive team and have the team be able to recognize and value each other's strengths and weaknesses," Soliguen said. "So there is a lot that can be accomplished, but most importantly, establishing that connection between the team and then being able to recognize the value among each other."

Soliguen attended Garden Grove High School where he joined the junior varsity volleyball team in his sophomore year. He credits his high school volleyball coach for sparking his enthusiasm for the game.

"I tried out, made the team, and he and the other staff really facilitated my growth," he said. "They had a different approach to coaching, which I liked. He has been a really big role model for my

personal and professional development."

Although Soliguen initially planned to offer his coaching services for Troy's JV girls volleyball squad, he decided on to aim for a higher position as the head coach at Sunny Hills and was announced the coach on Nov. 2.

"Personally, I think that one of my dream goals was to be part of a program as head coach and to be able to contribute and give back to the volleyball community," Soliguen said.

Although practices have only recently started, several players comment on Soliguen's impactful arrival.

"When [Soliguen] started to play volleyball he never played in a club team and the reason he got to where he was, was through hard work and dedication," libero senior Ethan Lim said. "It was really inspiring to see how good he was just by working hard and it motivated me to try my best during all our practices to be a great player like him."

Soliguen said he aims to not only win Freeway League titles, but also to build a strong foundation that acquires skills outside of the game itself.

"I do not look at volleyball as just pure performance," he said. "If we put everything like fundamentals, skills and the performance side of volleyball in a different box, you get a lot of skills that you learn that will transition into life and progress as a human being."