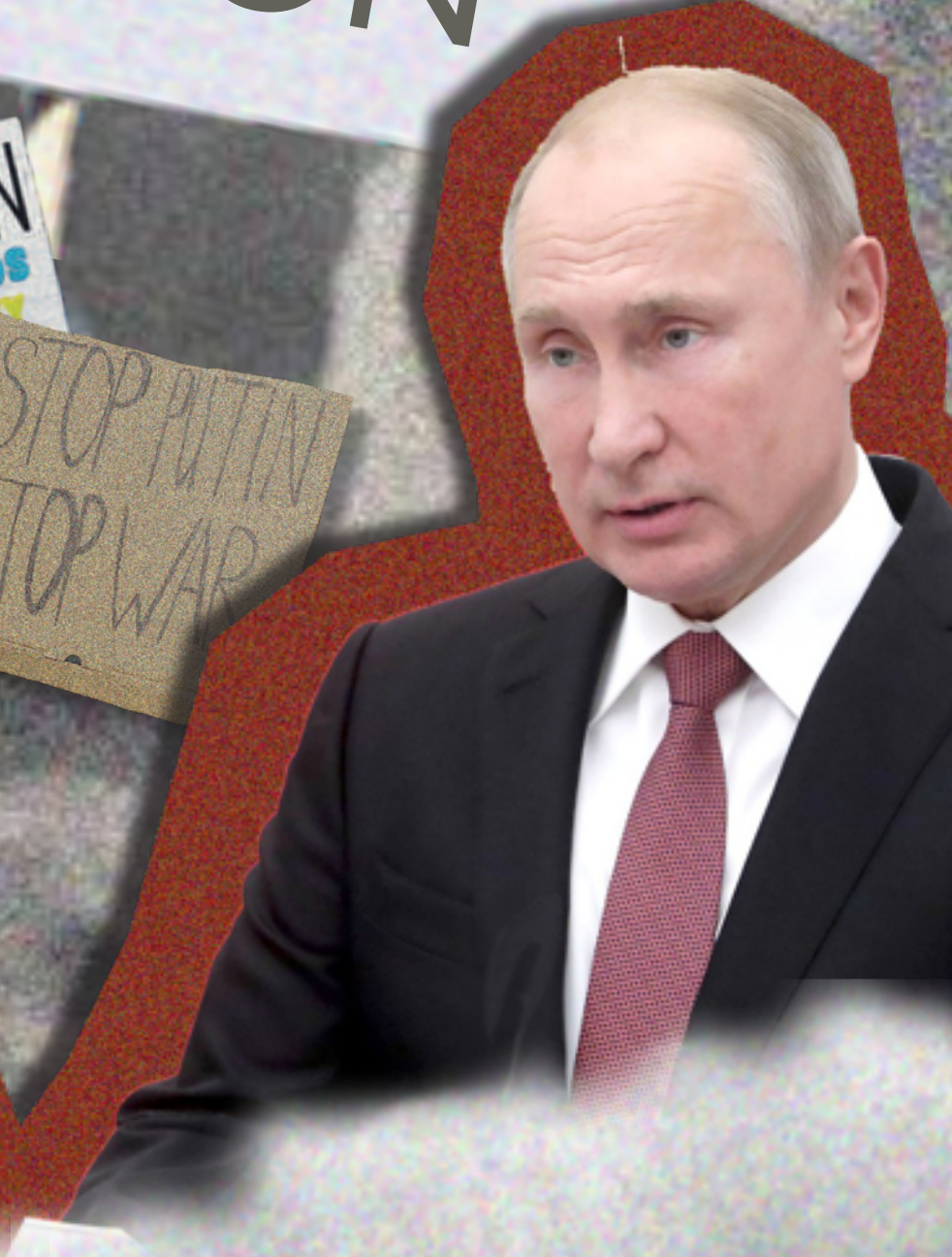


the accolade

VOLUME LXII, ISSUE VI // SUNNY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
1801 LANCER WAY, FULLERTON, CA 92833 // MARCH 4, 2022



BLOODY INVASION



*As President Vladimir Putin (right) storms his troops into Ukraine,
The Accolade looks into the Russia-Ukraine war's relevance to
Sunny Hills students and teachers.
See Spotlight, pages 7-9*

MICHELLE SHEEN | theaccolade



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Masks optional starting March 11

Gov. Gavin Newsom lifts mandate for indoor face coverings in all schools nearly 2 years after state lockdown

KRISTIMA ARYAL

Web Editor-in-Chief

After nearly two years of students and teachers having to wear masks in all school buildings, they will have the option of taking them off starting March 14.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday lifted the indoor face covering mandate — to be effective at 11:59 p.m., March 11.

Because that falls on a Friday after school hours, Newsom's decision won't have a direct impact on schools until the following school day, which will be on March 14.

"It's nice to finally have a choice instead of being forced to wear [a mask]," senior Sebastian Bonca said. "I would rather live carefree...From the data we're seeing, there is no point in being scared [about spreading COVID-19]."

But not all students agree with Bonca's assessment.

"I'm going to continue wearing my mask," freshman James Sy said. "I'm going to trust that people will make the right decision."

Some teachers are also in conflict with what to do with their KN95s once March 14 hits.

"It was about time — I think [the governor] is putting it off even farther than he



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK: March 14 will be the first school day in which students and staff will be allowed to unmask indoors. Some students, like the ones who attended last December's Link Crew-sponsored Cocoa and Cram for freshmen, may prefer to keep their face coverings on still.

needs to," said English teacher Tom Wiegman, who plans to keep his mask stored away on that upcoming Monday.

Wiegman also sees the state of the pandemic as a lower risk than two years ago.

"We have lived with the flu forever — life is risky," he said. "I don't think we're ever going to get it down to zero [COVID-19 cases]; that risk is just a part of life."

Spanish teacher Vanessa Lara sees it differently.

"Personally, I will wear a mask [because] I want students to know that I respect them," Lara said. "But I won't lie; there may be moments where I will pull it down because, as a language teacher, it is

very important for my students to clearly understand and hear me speak."

According to a recent *Accolade* poll of 95 respondents, the majority at 53% sided with people like Sy and Lara in preferring to stay masked while indoors. Only 23% opted to unmask while 24% see it as a peer pressure scenario, waiting to see what others will do before making their final decision.

Prior to Newsom's latest revision to the mask mandate, face coverings were required to be worn at all times — indoors and outdoors — during the 2020-2021 hybrid learning school year.

That was changed to masks only being required indoors at the start of the 2021-



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GONE: Signs like these outside classrooms will be removed by March 14.

LIFTOFF FACTS

- 11:59 p.m., March 11: School indoor masking ends.
- March 14: First school day that indoors face covering is optional

2022 school year.

"There were so many uncertainties, and there were so many questions," said assistant principal Hilda Arrendondo upon reflecting on the past two years since the March 2020 state lockdown that led to school closures and the beginning of distance learning. "These new updates will come [over the course of] time...I just hope that we are in the endemic mode, and we can continue in that fashion."

RELATED STORY

Head to Head: Should students continue wearing masks after March 14? See Opinion, page 11.

Food fair, assembly to return March 17

ALICE SHIN

Managing Editor

For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic two years ago, the International Food Fair [IFF] and International Week Assembly will return as in-person events March 17 on St. Patrick's Day.

"I'm so happy that the IFF will be held in person this year," said Amy Choi-Won, IFF chairwoman from the Parent Teacher Student Association [PTSA]. "It is a great opportunity for students to learn and experience different cultures in a fun and memorable way."

The International Week Assembly, followed by the food fair during an extended lunch period, was initially organized to take place in February but was postponed because of the district's re-

striction on non-essential school activities from the rise of positive Omicron cases.

School officials as of Thursday have yet to finalize what the bell schedule will look like as they are still awaiting the possibility of other updates to state COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

But as of Tuesday, the assembly will occur in a triple second period format similar to last fall's homecoming presentations, Associated Student Body [ASB] co-adviser Mike Paris said.

Among the more than 10 clubs that have signed up to participate in the IFF to sell desserts and raise money for their groups is the Bayanihan Club, which plans to sell Filipino dishes such as *adobo* and *lumpia*, president senior Jonah Alagao said.

Last school year, because distance learning was still in effect



Image used with permission from PTSA

TICKETS: IFF organizers have put together a digital flyer that explains how students can purchase food at the March 17 event.

at the time the IFF was scheduled to take place, the ASB organized a virtual assembly, compiling previous cultural club performances.

Paris said neither he nor school officials realized the re-scheduled assembly and that IFF fell on St. Patrick's Day when they settled

IFF comes back >> Page 3

Students face restrictions to food, drink purchases

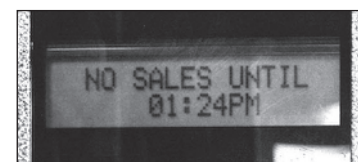
SUSIE KIM

Social Media Manager

Some students were disappointed upon finding out last week that school officials had initiated the implementation of timers on the campus's three snack and three beverage vending machines — prohibiting purchases during certain class times.

"I see why they put the implementation, but I also do not agree with it," said senior Arianna Amirthiah, who uses the snack machines at least once a week during her Period 3 class. "When a student is hungry, they should be able to get food when needed."

Campus supervisors called on Continental Vending Inc. to only allow the machines to work from before the school day to the end of Period 1, during break and



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STOP GAP: School officials have deactivated campus vending machines during certain class periods.

from lunch onward, campus supervisor Leslie Rains said.

Starting Feb. 22, the screens read: "NO SALES UNTIL 11:02AM" during periods two and three and "NO SALES UNTIL 01:24PM" from the end of break until the start of lunch.

Rains also said the restrictions were put in place because too many students were found roaming around campus and talking with friends after purchasing

Vending machines >> Page 3

In-person campaigns return for ASB elections

YEIHN LEE

Staff Reporter

For the first time in two years, candidates running for the Associated Student Body [ASB] executive cabinet will be allowed to campaign on campus ahead of the March 11 election.

However, ASB officials said they will forgo the traditional election assembly in which students get to meet the candidates and watch video segments featuring friends who speak in favor of voting for them.

ASB co-adviser Mike Paris said the ASB had to choose between organizing the International Week assembly and putting on the spring assembly, which would have included ASB executive cabinet candidate presentations, and it decided on the former.

Candidates' campaign videos will be released separately on the jumbotron at the quad and on a social media platform on March 8.

The International Week assembly was originally scheduled for February, but that had to be postponed to March 17 because of COVID-19 restrictions.

"It'd be better if we could have more dances and assemblies, but

ASB executive cabinet candidates



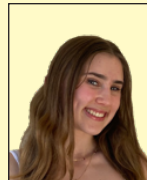
Crystal Louis
President



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Lindsey Kang
Vice President



Joya Blaho
Vice President

RUNNING UNOPPOSED:
Rebecca Tualla, secretary
Ariana Choi, treasurer

it's better than it was last year when we had nothing," Paris said.

The ASB had not organized an election assembly in the last two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

That also meant candidates could not campaign on campus by hanging individualized posters around the school campus

and crafting cardboard signs for their peers to take pictures with to post on various social media platforms to encourage voter turnout.

Candidates digitized their campaigns for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 elections by promoting their platforms on social media through Instagram stories since the students could not attend school because of the pandemic.

The optional on-campus campaigning will begin March 7 for each of the two candidates running for the top two spots of the ASB executive cabinet.

"I am super excited for in-person campaigns," said ASB cabinet vice president candidate junior Joya Blaho, who made stickers and stamps to put on students' hands or shirts around campus as well as posters to hang up around the school.

The other vice president candidate, junior Lindsey Kang, said she is OK with not having an assembly and feels thankful that videos can still be shown in the quad.



Find the full story online
by scanning this QR code



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IT WORKS: Sophomore Julia Bautista is able to make a snack purchase at a vending machine because it was during lunch time.

FROM PAGE 2

VENDING MACHINES

snacks.

Some teachers also started calling the office, asking if campus supervisors could be contacted to look for their students who had originally asked to use the restroom.

"We have seen a mass improvement of students staying in class and not hanging out at vending machines," Rains said.

Amirthiah's Period 3 teacher, Jennifer Papageorge, said she was concerned that school officials didn't inform anyone about this change, adding that these new restrictions could create potential problems for diabetic students.

"There should have been a little announcement or something sent out," Papageorge said. "Then people who depend on the vending machines for food at certain times would be aware."

Sophomore Darin Keungmanivong agreed.

"I was pretty upset and kind of disappointed," said Keungmanivong, who usually gets food during his fourth period class.

Meanwhile, students are beginning to adjust to this change.

"I'm planning on bringing my own snacks now since the new restriction gave me the motivation to be healthier with what I eat for my snacks," said Amirthiah, who expects declining sales for snacks and beverages because of the new restriction.

FROM PAGE 2

IFF COMES BACK

on March 17 — the week before spring break.

"I'm very excited because it has been a while since Bayanihan [Club] has performed in general, and it's always one of the most fun parts of being in the club," said Alagao, who has performed at the assembly since his freshman year.

According to the letter Choi-Won emailed to all club presidents, the attachment requested that clubs interested in participating in the food fair submit a Google Form by March 2 with information as to which dessert they would like to sell.

Because of the long-standing tradition of the PTSA parents and Korean Parents Group serving main dishes and the Grad Night committee and Chinese Culture Club [CCC] selling drinks, including boba, other clubs will only be permitted to sell desserts; parents can donate drinks and sign up to volunteer during the food fair.

"Each club is responsible for its

own shopping, food preparation, set up, serving and clean-up after the event," the letter announced. "Profits earned by each club will be retained for its own use...All preparers and servers must wear food handlers' gloves and may not handle tickets or money while serving."

In addition to each club's responsibilities, the notice added that each ticket would cost \$1 in comparison to two tickets for \$1 as in past years to accommodate for the inconvenience in counting by 50-cent intervals.

Though tickets will be sold during the IFF, it will also be available for purchase from March 10-15 online or in person from March 15-17, and online purchases can be picked up during lunch from March 15-16, Choi-Won said.

Along with cultural groups, other organizations such as the Mock Trial Club will also join the food fair for the first time this school year.

"I feel really excited about being able to participate in this year's IFF because as a new club, we really want to raise funds for our upcoming mock trial competition



accolade file photo

FOUR YEARS AGO: Students sell churros during the 2018 International Food Fair.

season next year, [so] IFF is a really great opportunity for this along with promoting clubs," Mock Trial Club president junior Rachel Miyamoto said.

The club plans on preparing to sell varieties of desserts from Britain — the birthplace of common law and mock trials — such

as trifles, sticky toffee pudding and mincemeat pies, Miyamoto said.

Upperclassmen such as senior Lauren Angelus, who have attended the assembly and the IFF in past years, are eager to see the performances in person and try the desserts the clubs will prepare.

"I'm excited for IFF, especially

since the last time we had it in person, I was a sophomore," Angelus said.

RELATED STORY

Staff Editorial: Don't ditch during IFF extended lunch.
See Opinion, page 10.

AWARD-WINNING ARTISTS

Eight Sunny Hills students were among the 31 who won cash prizes ranging from \$10 to \$100 as part of the 36th annual Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHSD] Education Art Show.

The following images are a few of the winning submissions from Sunny Hills students, and the rest can be viewed at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center.

The Accolade also interviewed some of the winning artists and asked them about the meanings behind their creations.



Find the full story online by scanning this QR code



“STAR STARE”: “This painting represents a person’s want for attention using the light as the people’s gaze. As the light shines on her, she lights up. When the light doesn’t shine, she turns dim.”

— Da-Hee Kim, 11



“BULAGE”: “I wanted to create a character design based off of [Perugia from the Korean fable] and how I imagined it as a kid as opposed to what I saw in the story-books.” — Sharon Sung, 11



“SMELL AWAY”: I wanted to show that anybody can really be anything they want to be or who they dream of.” — Sophia Kim, 11



“AFFLICTION”: “It was about COVID and its effects on society and how we basically have to behave these days.” — Patrisha Hordista, 10

Annual COFA quadshow returns in person after 2 years

MINJEONG KIM

Co-Feature Editor

For the first time since the 2018-2019 school year, the Conservatory of Fine Arts [COFA] will host an in-person Quadshow March 11 after school.

“I’m really excited for this event to happen in person this year because the virtual Quadshow last year experienced some technological difficulties, such as transitioning from one event to another, and it was hard for us to present it well,” Quadshow co-coordinator senior Abigail Hahm said of the 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. event. “Having it in person will definitely bring up the school spirit.”

Because of the distance learning school year from the pandemic, last year’s Quadshow transitioned to a virtual event. The COFA hosts this event annually to showcase students’ artistic, dramatic and musical talents.

After Hahm discussed ideas for the show’s name with the COFA departments, she suggested “The Elements” with her in-

spiration from the idea of each department within COFA representing an element.

“Each department’s own force of nature brings something different to the table of the world or, in this case, art,” she said. “Music would be wind, choir would be water, visual art would be earth and dance would be fire; yet, when they all come together, it forms art — the elements of COFA.”

There will be a total of 23 acts, 20 being independent acts not involved with the COFA departments, such as choir or dance, Hahm said. Like previous years’ shows, those in attendance will be able to purchase different drinks and sweets, selections undetermined as of March 1, with prices ranging from \$1 to \$4, COFA director Brian Wall said.

“It’s our first time back in person, so I hope to recreate the energy we used to have,” Wall said. “My hope is that a lot of the school would want to be here and just experience the whole vibe of sharing or enjoying the performances.”

Senior Isaiah Plasencia, who will sing with the choir for about seven minutes

looks forward to performing in front of a live audience.

“Finally being able to perform after two years of it being virtual is very exciting,” Plasencia said. “I really enjoy performing in front of others, so being able to be back with the choir and sing with them is something I’m looking forward to since we basically have a new choir full of amazing singers.”

Hahm said she and her co-coordinator, sophomore Zoe Kim, delegated others to work on service events and games. Some contacted teachers and students about auditions as well as promoted the event around campus through Instagram, the jumbotron and the morning announcements.

They also planned the show’s program, organized auditions, prepared rehearsals and managed other aspects to get ready for March 11.

“There were a lot of challenges from organizing the event primarily from the switch from online school to in-person school,” Kim said.

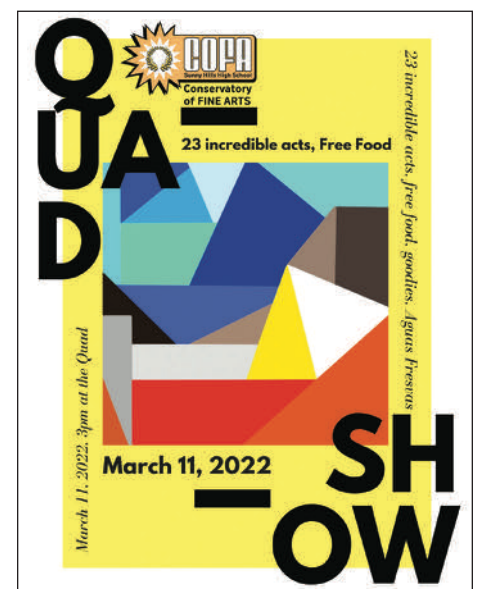


Image with permission from Jacqueline Chang
SHOWTIME: The official Quadshow poster displays the highlights of the March 11 event.



Find the full story online by scanning this QR code

IB senior uses Duolingo to learn languages

RACHEL YUN

Sports Editor

“Hallo mijn naam is Aidan.”

Translated to English from Dutch, this would read, “Hello, my name is Aidan.”

Senior Aidan Wong said he first started learning this European language in March 2019 when he was a freshman.



Aidan Wong

After that in the summer of 2020 before his junior year, he decided to pick

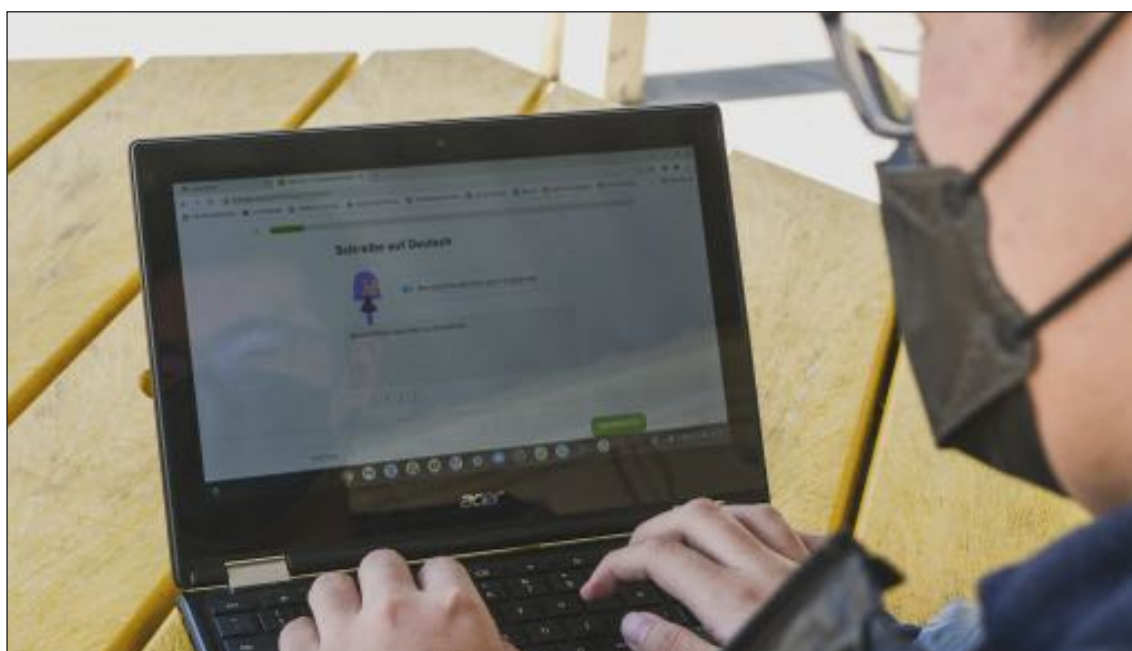
up French.

More than six months later in January 2021, he moved on to Swedish and Norwegian. Six months later, he took on Danish and near the end of 2021 as a senior, he wanted to speak Finnish.

All this was made possible because of a 2012 app called Duolingo.

“I was raised speaking Cantonese in my household and started learning German at [Sunny Hills], which eventually took me to Dutch,” said Wong, whose most fluent in Dutch and German. “I remember thinking, ‘OK, what would I want to learn next?’ and Dutch was pretty similar to German, so it came pretty quickly to me.”

Duolingo ended up being his first choice to learn these languages because of its free platform and its well-known recognition, he said. In addition, Wong was able to practice Dutch outside of Duolingo as he believes Dutch to be very similar to English and German.



AUDREY SEO | theaccolade

DUOLINGO FOR DUTCH: Senior Aidan Wong works on his Dutch through the Duolingo App on his Chromebook at the lunch tables near the 90s building on Feb. 23.

“Of course, everything’s easy at the start because it’s just like the basic words and translating them,” Wong said. “Of course it starts to get difficult later on, but I always say that it’s easy for me as I speak English and learn German at school, [both aiding] in my learning of Dutch.”

Mastering Dutch and German on the Duolingo platform took Wong about a year each during the pandemic, but learning how to converse took an additional six months, he said. During that time, the senior took upon himself to engage in the cultural aspect by listening to Dutch music and watching European television programs, like “Eurovision.”

In addition to this, Wong ended up taking his multilingual training to the next level by writing in Dutch his International Baccalaureate

extended essay, a mandatory requirement for IB seniors.

“It was always in the back of my mind, like when I knew about my extended essay requirement. ... I wanted to do something outside of the box, so I chose to write it in Dutch,” said Wong, who hopes to pursue his interest in the Dutch language in college.

However, it became very difficult for the senior to find an adviser who was fluent in Dutch. His Theory of Knowledge [TOK] teacher, Scott Rosenkranz, ultimately became his adviser for his IB extended essay.

Though Rosenkranz has no background in Dutch, the English teacher has experience in advising students who want to write their IB Extended Essay in a second language.

“I didn’t know any teachers

on campus that speak Dutch, so I went with my TOK teacher Mr. Rosenkranz, who helped me with translating,” the senior said. “One of the biggest challenges in learning languages was not having a conversation partner who can check my grammar, but I think I combatted that by reading slowly. So it was a lot individually, but I expected that.”

Rosenkranz praised Wong for his ability to overcome the difficulties that came along with the unique aspect of writing the essay in a foreign language.

“My reaction was surprised, [since] it is rare that students go for this topic in their Extended Essay as it requires academic writing in a new language,” he said. “I was concerned about the ability to find good sources on his topic, especially due to the lack of

resources stemming from COVID restrictions. He took a risk, but has a strong work ethic and character.”

Duolingo makes it easy for students to learn new languages through diverse learning features like podcasts and virtual events.

However, it doesn’t guarantee that students would become 100% fluent in a new language.

Despite his vast knowledge of European languages, the senior doesn’t know how he plans to use it for a future career as he hopes to major in math in whichever college he gets accepted to.

“I hope to travel to those countries, but I don’t know when,” Wong said. “For now, my goal is to be able to understand these languages because I find them interesting.”

GETTING THE LINGO

- language learning website and mobile app that started in 2012
- users can learn up to 38 languages
- offers free and subscription plan (for \$6.99 per month)
- 6.6 million users as of January 2022

Sources: duolingo.com, statista.com
Compiled by Divya Bharadwaj

Tutor.com website offers help 24/7 for students in all subjects

JAIMIE CHUN

Copy Editor

Junior Sierra Chavez had to memorize the definitions of what seemed like an endless list of terms for Advanced Placement [AP] Language and Composition teacher Teresa McCarty’s 100-words vocabulary test in December.

But she kept finding it difficult to even remember the first one.

“I am usually not the best at vocabulary in particular,” Chavez said. “I wanted to do well on the test because it was going to bring my grade up tremendously if I did well on it, which I desperately needed only a few weeks before the finals.”

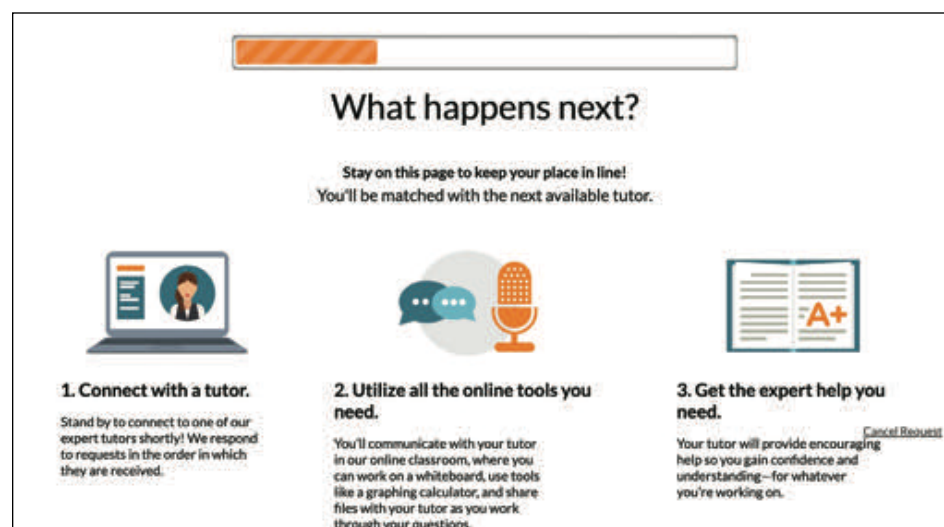
So Chavez remembered [tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com), a 24-hour service that offers one-to-one tu-

toring.

Upon connecting with her tutor, she spent about two hours working with her mentor as she steadily started grasping the meaning of words in sets of five when her tutor guided her in writing sentences in context — the next day she got an 85% on the test, just the score she needed to cling onto an overall A grade.

Chavez is among a growing number of Sunny Hills students who are discovering the benefits of a free, online service called tutor.com.

The site allows SH students to interact with live tutors via chat or video conferencing and ask questions related to over 40 subjects, including AP Psychology and International Baccalaureate History of the Americas.



TUTOR TIME: A screenshot of the [tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) page with the pre-session questionnaire students fill out as they wait to be connected with their tutor.

To access tutor.com’s features, students must be logged into their school account and can find the tutor.com icon on their Chrome app Launcher, which will direct students to a pre-questionnaire page where they can input their grade, subject,

type in a question or attach a file related to the assignment that they need help with and choose whether to connect with a tutor through chat only or video.

New campus supervisor aka 'cap guy' getting to know Sunny Hills students

DIVYA BHARADWAJ

Co-Feature Editor

Over the years, campus supervisors have been easily recognizable among Sunny Hills students.

Freddie Luna — the serious one — patrols the hallways with his infamous bike by his side.

Leslie Rains — the gregarious one — stops and checks on students roaming around the campus during class time.



Isai Fernandez
Campus Supervisor

Newton Thompson (also known as Money) — the smooth one — delivers his rap and busts out his moves in front of a crowd during past assemblies and Dancing With the Staff performances.

And so when Thompson did not return for undisclosed reasons after Sunny Hills started the 2021-2022 school year with in-person instruction, school officials were left needing to find a replacement.

It took until halfway through the first semester in October before school officials offered the position to Isai Fernandez. By the spring semester, many students have come to recognize him as the guy with the cap.

Junior Lauren Yamane has had positive

interactions with Fernandez, noting that she feels safer on campus.

"He's really nice and friendly," Yamane said. "He'll make jokes with you."

After four months of working here, the San Gabriel High School alumnus has enjoyed his part-time job, working from 8 a.m. to noon for each school day.

"It's good energy out here," Fernandez said. "I feel like I fit right into it."

GRIDIRON ORIGINS

With his demur presence on campus, most students and staff would not have figured out that he once played wide receiver and defensive back for his alma mater.

Fernandez said he broke his leg during his freshman year of high school. He was eventually offered a football scholarship to play at the University of La Verne and University of Saint Mary [USM] in Leavenworth, Kan., after attending the California Showcase, a football camp in Irvine.

Fernandez, who wanted to attend school out of state, said he took the opportunity to accept a better football scholarship at the Kansas university.

"I wanted to venture out of state to experience something other than home and USM was my ticket out," he said.

COMING BACK TO SOCAL

In 2017, he graduated from USM with a psychology degree but chose a different career path.



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

DOING HIS JOB: Wearing a black Lancer cap, new campus supervisor Isai Fernandez converses with juniors Lauren Yamane (left) and Bryce Liva on Jan. 20. Fernandez can easily be spotted sporting headwear.

"I was playing football, but I still wanted to stay in the game because I loved it so much, so I decided to pursue coaching," Fernandez said.

After spending eight years in the Midwest and coaching football for two seasons, Fernandez said he accepted a job helping to coach football at Santa Ana College.

"I thought it was a good opportunity to further my career and better myself," he

said. "I think I made the right choice."

Back in California, the coach decided to apply to campus supervisor positions throughout the Fullerton Joint Union High School District to secure a part-time job.

"Isai hit the ground running and knew his role on campus," assistant principal Hilda Arredondo said. "He has been instrumental in catching students who were involved in tagging around campus."

FROM PAGE 5

TUTOR.COM

Students can also access links to tutorial videos on how to use tutor.com as well as a step-by-step guide on the last page of the Feb. 4 digital newsletter from interim principal Cathy Gach.

According to tutor.com's website, the tutors are U.S. residents across the globe and must currently be enrolled as a college sophomore or higher at an accredited university in pursuit of a four year degree. To ensure the quality of help, prospective tutors must pass a rigorous vetting process, subject exam and complete an interview.

Though it sounds like students can just use this service to get the answers to their homework that they're stuck on, that's not the case.

According to students' experience with the website, tutors will only guide students through the learning process, refraining from simply tossing them the answer without actually challenging the student to solve independently to ensure that they can solve it themselves when they leave the session.

TUTOR.COM FACTS

- established in 2000
- provides free 24/7, 1-to-1 tutoring and homework help
- offers help in 250+ subjects
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Compiled by Jaimie Chun
and Minjeong Kim

"Working with the tutor late at night when none of my friends could be reached, and I would have to wait the next day to talk with my teacher was like a lifesaver," sophomore Swaroop Krishnan said. "My tutor would use the virtual whiteboard to write down my take on the problem instead of holding something like a lecture where he's just talking without checking if I understand in between — I'm doing the work."

Foreseeing the help tutor.com could offer, math teacher Cristian Bueno actively shared tutor.com with the staff and students who missed it on the newsletter, uploading a Screencastify on the steps to using the website on the Google Classroom stream as well

as emailing it to the math department.

"I thought it would be a great tool for all the students who can't stay after school for tutoring," Bueno said.

Some students who have made use of tutor.com have seen the service boost more than just their grades.

"My main focus was obviously to strive for those better grades, but it was also helping me to step out of my comfort zone," Chavez said. "Not only did I see my grade go up but also my confidence to ask other people for help when I needed it."

While the spring semester is almost at its halfway point, students are assured that tutor.com will still be available the rest of this semester.

In fact, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District's Education Services department has been granted funds for a three-year contract with tutor.com to not exceed \$90,000, data systems technician Evelyn Casillas said.

"It's a great tool and gives everyone an even playing field," Bueno said. "I think it's great that the district pays for this as students struggle, especially after our distance learning year."



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Online friendship opens my eyes to Ukrainian conflict

If it weren't for the COVID-19 pandemic two years ago, I would never have met Alyona Rozumets, a Ukrainian and a freshman attending a college in Kyiv — Ukraine's capital.

A volunteer program called ENGIN, a Ukraine-based service that connects English speakers with students from Ukraine, paired me up with Rozumets. My job was to send her a Zoom link so she can practice her English with me.



Chenny Kim
Guest
Columnist

We hit it off pretty easily, spending hours talking about everything — our lifestyles, TV

shows and books and similarities and differences we see in our communities living over 6,000 miles apart.

Our weekly chats were my main source of contact with Ukrainian news, but the past few days since Feb. 24 — when the Russians invaded Ukraine — have created a horrifying change to this.

During our Feb. 23 scheduled Zoom discussion, she shared that she had left Kyiv the day before and returned to her parents' home, an undisclosed suburb away from the capital.

Relief flooded my brain; knowing she was away from the danger brought some peace to my heart.

But that emotion did not last long. Regardless of where she currently stays, her country could be attacked at any moment — led by the heinous Russian President Vladimir Putin. No matter how much I wanted to give her comfort, no amount of my reassuring words would change her situation.

After initially bringing it up, she asked that we talk about other more carefree matters like social media trends and recent movies she watched, so we did.

Given the horrific situation, Americans should give their support to our fellow sovereign people.

Every so often, I come across "jokes" being made about the war on social media. While these may be funny to those living in the safety of their own homes, it feels insensitive and out of place knowing that thousands of people in Ukraine are being evacuated from their homes and the lives they have established for themselves to maintain some greater form of safety.

When it comes to U.S. involvement in the war, I understand why people may be wary.

But that does not mean we should sit idly and wait to find out how the situation will play out. I, for one, signed over five petitions Alyona sent me and researched various relief organizations I could donate to.

When saying goodbye to Rozumets after our most recent conversation, she said to me one of the scariest things I have ever heard: "I hope this is not the last time we see each other."

I, too, hope it won't be the last time I get to talk to my friend.



Image printed with permission from Alyona Rozumets

SEEKING SHELTER: Ukrainian teenager Alyona Rozumets's sister, 17-year-old Yana Rozument, scrolls through her phone Wednesday in their house's cellar, which they use as a bomb shelter. The two — including their parents — remained underground for an hour after an air alarm went off.

Q&A WITH UKRAINIAN TEEN

The Accolade contacted Alyona Rozumets, an 18-year-old Ukrainian who was staying in Kyiv for college prior to the Feb. 24 invasion by Russia. Rozumets left the capital to her parents' home on Feb. 23, only one day before the +bombings began.

Q: When did you evacuate from Kyiv?

A: I had a day off from the university for self-study on Feb. 23 so I went home ... to see my parents. I was not aware that anything would happen.

Q: Are you relieved that you left before the situation got worse?

A: Yeah of course. If I left the day after Feb. 24, it would be really difficult to get out of Kyiv. Everyone was trying to get out of Kyiv and immigrate to rural areas, so I was pretty relieved that I left the day before when everything was peaceful and pretty normal.

Q: What does the situation look like as of now?

A: I can't predict anything. It's hard for me to say it will end

in a month or more but I really hope that every single week will be rather peaceful. I have my birthday in April so I just want to celebrate my 19th birthday in a peaceful atmosphere without hearing these bombs and explosions. I just want to think it will last for a few days or weeks longer.

Q. Is it difficult for people to leave Kyiv right now?

A: Kyiv is kind of in total fights and war... Russian helicopters are constantly flying over some of the areas and districts.

Q: How do you view Vladimir Putin?

A: I'm confused about his figure. He is a really cruel person, and I just don't understand how a regular human being can be so cruel. ... He is just a person who somehow wants to kill the nation to strengthen the Russian empire or Soviet Union. I hate him a lot, and now this feeling is burning. There is anger inside me toward his name.

Q: If there's anything you would say to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, what would that be?

A: Thank you for all the effort you put in.

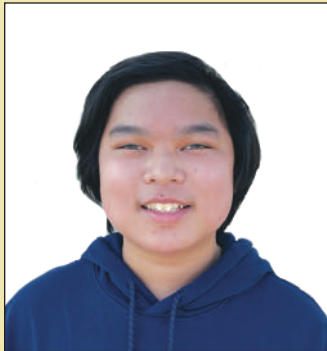
Q: What can we do to help the situation?

A: Firstly, become aware of the situation. Secondly, just share the information and show your support — not as a protest, but just show us you are our ally. People from all nations need to learn our side of the conversation.

Q: What are your thoughts on America interfering?

A: Of course, most of us think that the American armed forces will defend us which will be great. But we also understand that that's not how international things work because we are not a part of NATO or any transatlantic alliance. If you are supporting us with financial and humanitarian aid, it's super great and we are just really grateful for that.

What is your perspective on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine?



“This is pretty scary stuff. ... I was shocked because I saw videos that showed that Russia can send nukes if we interfered. It was something I would only imagine seeing in movies.”
— Dylan Sarino, 9



“I feel a great amount of empathy from seeing many first-hand stories of the people of Ukraine. ... I will always advocate for the freedom and deserved peace for innocent people.”
— Samantha Burgess, 10



“To Biden, I would say keep being cautious of using American troops and enforcing sanctions that are too strong because Putin could engage in cyber warfare.”
— Louie Loveland, 11



“It feels almost as if we’re forced to stand by and watch as innocent Ukrainian lives are disrupted and taken because of conflicting alliances and threats of severe action from Russia.”
— Ashley Hoang, 12

Compiled by Jaimie Chun and Kate Yang

BLOODY INVASION: Students, teachers address Russian aggression on neighboring Ukraine in their social science classes; some wonder how much the war impacts U.S.

KATE YANG & KRISHNA THAKER
Web Managing Editor & Special Sections Editor

Teacher and student reactions to the recent war in Ukraine have reached a unanimous consensus framing Russian President Vladimir Putin as the aggressor aiming for Russian dominance over its neighboring nation.

“Mr. Putin has made a bad decision,” social science teacher Robert Bradburn said. “Because he’s been in power for so long and because of his age, he may have become isolated from advisers who could counsel him, and he’s become harder in his resolve to make Russia great again. ... It may turn out to be his worst decision.”

Junior Chirag Agarwal sympathizes with the victims of the Ukrainian invasion and recognizes the global repercussions of Putin’s military orders.

“Historically, we noticed patterns which showed that when any country was looking to expand its territorial ownership, there was also a war,” Agarwal said. “This again, is happening in the 21st century, and I am just very frustrated.”

ORIGIN OF RUSSIA’S AGGRESSION

Ukraine declared its independence from Russia Dec. 1 of 1991 as the communist-led Soviet Union began to collapse. Upon his first inauguration held May 7 of 2000, Putin has been working toward reasserting the nation under Russia’s dominion, according to various media reports.

Beginning April 2014, Putin stationed his troops in Donetsk and Luhansk, two eastern Ukrainian cities within the Donbas region, to regain the territory essential to keeping the nation in line with Russia’s geopolitical demands — supposedly to show support for the pro-Russians living in that area.

By November 2021, Putin escalated his pursuit for that western neighboring nation by mobilizing tens of thousands more troops along the border, according to Aljazeera.

Based on media reports, Putin launched a full-scale invasion on Ukraine on Feb. 24 — four days after the closing ceremony of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics held on Feb. 20.

He then ordered missile strikes to strike in Belarus and sent tanks accompanying nearly 200,000 troops all headed for the Ukrainian capital — Kyiv. Convoys of troops and tanks also entered from Crimea, which shares a southern border with Ukraine.

To the north of Ukraine, the country of Belarus and its leaders decided in 1995 to align with Putin and Russia, which has allowed the Russian leader to fire ballistic missiles on Feb. 24.

According to the Council on Foreign Relations, Russia’s military advancements have led to more than 50,000 estimated casualties and displaced more than 1.5 million Ukrainians within the country or to outside European states as of March 2.

“I think it’s pretty obvious what Russia is doing in Ukraine, and it’s hard to see how anyone could be on Putin’s side at this point,” said senior Ian Whedon, one of the students in Bradburn’s third period having in-class discussions about the war overseas. “He’s not sending in peacekeeping forces — he’s invaded the country, and I think it’s telling about how despicable this attack is on Ukraine when Russian soldiers are just putting down their arms and choosing not to fight.”

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE WAR

Responsible for the supply of crude oil and foreign petroleum, Russia holds the power of swaying the U.S. economy, specifically its gas prices and inflation rates in times of political strife, according to Project Syndicate.

“Gas prices have gone up, but right now I am not concerned,” social science teacher Greg Del Crognale said. “I think people have already seen the high prices and will not be so shocked if it increases a little.”

Russia, on the other hand, is likely to experience extreme economic fallbacks, as the tariffs from the United States and other NATO countries continue to pill on.

“[Russia’s] prices will keep going up for quite a while,



ERUPTING IN FLAMES: An oil depot explodes the morning of Feb. 27 — three days after Russian President Vladimir Putin launches a full-scale invasion on Ukraine — near the Kyiv region in the city of Vasylykiv. Military activity and explosions in the city have forced citizens to evacuate or find refuge in bomb shelters.

and there’s some chance that if Russia’s economy gets terrible, it will have a domino effect,” Bradburn said. “However, their economy is not especially big, so hopefully it won’t cause a ripple effect.”

Bradburn, who teaches International Baccalaureate [IB] Economics and four Advanced Placement [AP] Human Geography classes, does not foresee this war in Europe as taking a significant toll on the U.S. economy.

“Our businesses will perhaps have some losses, but that’s not going to affect regular Americans,” he said. “Inflation will affect regular Americans by a lot, but other than that, I don’t see anything that would make it hurt our economy.”

Del Crognale, who teaches three AP Macro Economics and two American Government classes this semester, shares Bradburn’s perspective about the financial impact of the war.

“[The long-term effect] depends on how long this war drives on,” Del Crognale said. “I think if [gas prices] shot up by double, people would go crazy, but if it’s incremental, I don’t think it’s going to cause that much of a problem.”

AMERICAN INTERVENTION

As Putin’s military continues its assault, many supporters of Ukrainian sovereignty are calling for American intervention in addition to the recent sanctions passed on the Russian banks, government and elites.

In his first statement after the Russian invasion on Feb. 23, President Joe Biden condemned the “unprovoked and unjustified attack by Russian military forces” and vowed to work with NATO allies toward deterring future action against the Alliance.

On multiple occasions, Biden emphasized that American “...forces are not and will not be engaged in the conflict with Russia in Ukraine.”

That promise has reassured several SH students and staff. “We are choosing not to get involved because [Ukraine] is not a NATO country,” Del Crognale said. “What we’re trying

to do, along with the rest of the world, is limit what Russia can do [without] using air strikes or something, which would lead to World War III.”

Bradburn does not expect the United States to step past its financial intervention by stationing military troops; however, he hopes to avoid such a measure from taking place.

“I don’t think [the United States will intervene], but I don’t know enough about it to be sure,” he said. “But troops of two nuclear powers fighting each other hasn’t happened before, and it seems awfully dangerous.”

Whedon shares his instructor’s judgments and believes U.S. involvement will only result in losses for all parties involved.

“Not only would sending troops to the conflict destabilize the area and possibly escalate into a greater land war in Europe, but doing so carries the weight of a possible nuclear strike from Russia,” he said. “While I wish more could be done, I think the monetary aid the United States and other countries are sending to Ukraine as well as the heavy sanctions being imposed on Russia will ideally be effective means of support while not engaging in direct conflict.”

GETTING STUDENTS TO CARE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STRIFE

Since Feb. 24 when the war in Europe started, Bradburn said he has allocated the beginning of his IB Economics class and AP Human Geography classes to conducting discussions and updating his students about Ukraine’s current events.

“We have a Sunny Hills poster about what we want a Lancer to be, and we want them to be ready for what comes next, and we want them to participate in society in a meaningful way,” said Bradburn, referring to the Schoolwide Learning Outcomes sign required for accreditation purposes. “Democracy can work, but it takes a lot of people who are willing to participate in it.”

By supplying his students with Ukraine-Russia news,



RAGING RED: Firefighters battle flames on Feb. 28 in the city of Kharkiv, located in eastern Ukraine.

general is staying informed on the situation,” Whedon said.

Sophomore Katelyn Fu, who takes Bradburn’s period two AP Human Geography class, uses the social media platform TikTok to educate herself on the war taking place in Ukraine.

“[Bradburn] posted some photos and videos about the war in our Google Classroom, but I get updated mostly by watching the news,” Fu said. “I’m still confused as to why this war is happening though, because I don’t think Russia gains anything economically by invading Ukraine.”

Though Fu sympathizes with the Ukrainian citizens, she understands the limitations of the U.S. government’s intervention.

“I don’t want anyone to feel helpless against protecting their basic human rights, but the United States intervening would definitely escalate the situation into a world war,” Fu said. “I’m just hoping the sanctions on Russia are harsh enough because I really don’t want to go to war.”

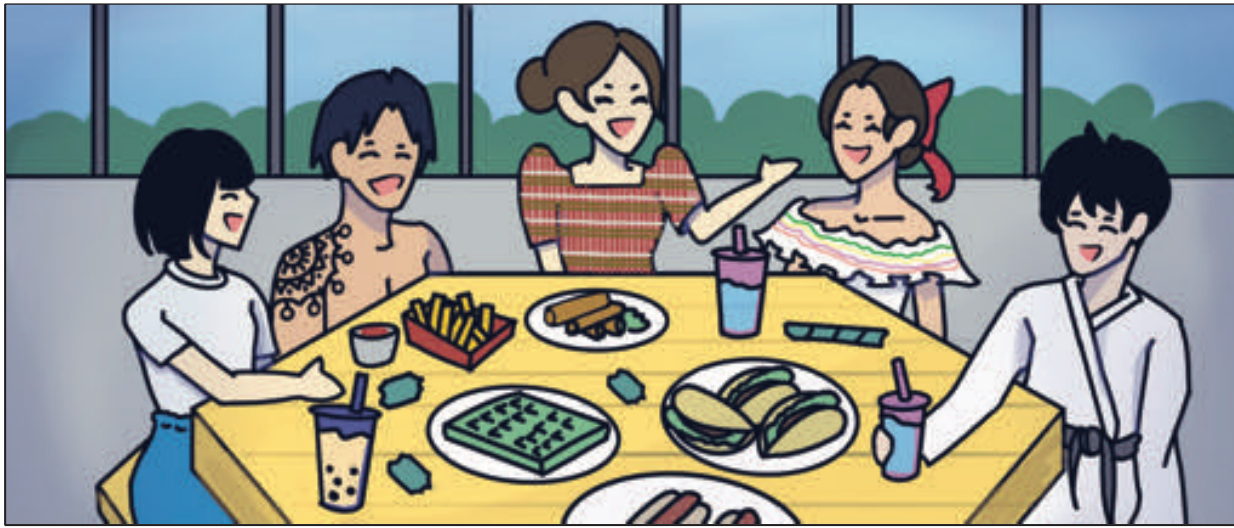
Surrounded: A look at the different fronts of the Ukraine invasion



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

Compiled by Krishna Thaker

STAFF EDITORIAL



SAMANTHA GALANG | theaccolade

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: *Stay for lunch during IFF*

The Accolade editorial board unanimously agreed that students at Sunny Hills should stay on campus during the March 17 extended lunch for International Food Fair.

When longing for a day filled with Lancer spirit, tasty food and a bustling atmosphere, look no further than the International Food Fair [IFF].

The Parent Teacher Student Association [PTSA] will once again host the IFF — scheduled to be in the quad during lunch on March 17 — for parents and clubs to raise money by selling cultural foods, drinks and desserts. The event reflects the school's diverse student population and unites the Lancer community.

Students, especially upperclassmen who can drive and have already experienced the fair in previous years, may be tempted to skip out on the school event to buy food elsewhere. But the IFF is worth the stay.

Instead of taking advantage of the extended lunch, students should recognize that the event serves as an opportunity to branch out of comfort zones and connect with peers of different cultures.

The IFF not only offers delicious food, but the assembly before it also has captivating performances from student cultural clubs. Most importantly, the full day emphasizes the importance of being a Lancer: showing support for the community and opening up to new experiences.

Though the price increase from 50 cents to \$1 per ticket is unfavorable, each purchase of dessert or beverages will go back to student-run clubs, which makes the value worth it. The money used to pay for meals served by adults will go toward PTSA funds.

So, *The Accolade* wants to offer some advice for first-timers' to the event, making sure that everything rolls smoothly for all parties involved.

BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Tickets tend to be cheaper before the event begins, so take advantage of the lower prices.

Even though all Lancers are given an extended lunch, currently over 10 clubs signed up to serve food at the event, so buying tickets beforehand is imperative to stay efficient and try all the different cuisines.

BE RESPECTFUL

It always helps when reminded of the golden rule, "Treat others the way you wish to be treated."

When lines get long, students tend to get restless and frustrated, but remember that the IFF is a fundraiser for the community, so be kind to fellow hard-working Lancers.

DON'T DITCH THE EVENT

To sustain the IFF legacy, do not use the event as an opportunity to go off campus.

The faculty and administration, along with our ASB, ensure the safety of our students by implementing necessary precautions. Because the IFF is an event that symbolizes the return to the "new-normal," *The Accolade* hopes all students will be respectful and enjoy themselves to the fullest.

The Accolade editorial board is made up of the top editors and section editors on the 2021-2022 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 theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.

Using my voice with student press freedom

Like many youths nationwide, I took part in the annual celebration of free speech.

I attended a Zoom workshop on Feb. 23 hosted by PEN America, an organization aimed at protecting free expression in the United States, and listened to guest speaker Mary Beth Tinker, the historic advocate of students' free speech from the Supreme Court landmark case *Tinker v. Des Moines*.

Tinker wore black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War, but were suspended for not abiding to the school policy prohibiting armbands. Through this case, the Supreme Court ruled that students "did not lose their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech when they stepped onto school property," according to oyez.org.

Signing up to watch the workshop reminded me of my rights as a student reporter and how I exercise them every time I write an ar-

ticle, engage in conversations with my peers and use social media to express opinions that matter to me.

Tinker paved the way for student speech freedom, and, as a student journalist, I'd like to also advocate for the same rights. High schools should focus on expanding the existing opportunities for students to exercise free speech, particularly by offering support for the growth of journalism programs.

The first step would be through greater publicizing because all newspapers need a continuous stream of students joining to keep their programs running.

Although *The Accolade* never faced a possible termination because of a lack of students, in the 2020-2021 school year, my adviser, Tommy Li, risked seeing his beginning journalism class combined with his Advanced Journalism one because of a shortage of incoming J1ers that year.

All students deserve the right to free speech, and one of the most effective mediums of expression lies in writing.

High schools can easily spread the word and put in the extra effort to advocate for their journalism programs by sending a representative to middle schools to speak with prospective students.

The next step would be for administrators to be more tolerant of the topics that teenagers report on — especially those that present themselves as being "controversial."

Publishing accurate and unbiased articles on the most pressing issues for students — nationally and locally — is the best way to exercise free speech. Unfortunately, students may engage in self-censorship because of an administrator, adviser, peer or teachers' displeasure with the written topic.

Student reporters make sure to fact-check and interview sources who will provide accurate information; covering stories of true concern gives budding adults the power to hold people and institutions accountable.

In turn, I hope readers will take the initiative to exercise free speech. Perhaps even by writing for their school paper.

the accolade

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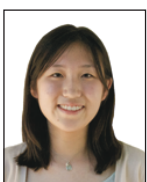
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The Accolade is produced by the Advanced Journalism class of Sunny Hills High School and distributed during Period 4 (714) 626-4225
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and printed by the *International Daily News*

The Accolade welcomes signed letters to the editor with full name and grade level emailed to theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.
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Michelle Sheen
Editor-in-Chief

Broken policies in the past risk my future safety

Donning a standard surgical mask may be the most intuitive things to learn.

The entire procedure is incredibly simple, yet many Sunny Hills students seem to struggle with keeping their masks on properly.

In nearly every class I have, some students will have their mask under their nose, resting under their chin or not on at all.



Anthony
Keem
Staff
Reporter

I can't help but remember a study by Harvard Health which found that the coronavirus stays in the air for up to three hours, and it would only take one unknowingly infected, poorly masked

student to expose their peers throughout several different periods.

As a consequence of such an observation, when the day after March 11, or when I come back to school on Monday, comes to allow optional mask wearing for indoor classrooms, I will adamantly insist on keeping mine on based on the mistrust I have for my fellow students.

Though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention affirms that the coronavirus spread will be low enough for students to take off their masks indoors, the estimate highly depends on the degree of reinforced personal responsibility.

If I can't even trust my fellow students now to be responsible for doing something as simple as wearing their mask properly, it would be reasonable to assume an even higher transmission risk when a no-mask policy becomes introduced.

With no masks, the students who already disregard the current policy would be even more of a health risk, as it can be assumed they would ignore other coronavirus precautions like wearing a mask in crowded areas or getting vaccinated.

I'm keeping myself masked – indoors and outdoors (unless I'm eating) – the rest of this semester, beyond graduation. All the way until the World Health Organization declares the pandemic over.



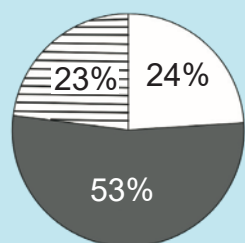
JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

HEAD TO HEAD

MISTRUST or MAJORITY RULES

Two Accolade reporters debate Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to lift school mask mandates

How do you feel about indoor student mask mandate being dropped?



*From 97 responses

Before I unmask, I'm going to see what my peers do

I am counting down the days before I can finally unmask

I plan to remain masked still

Source: The Accolade online poll
Compiled by Rida Zar

I refuse to take off my mask until my peers do the same

What seemed like an endless two years of the COVID-19 pandemic changed when I read the email notification on my phone from the district titled "2-28-22 Mask Update."

Following the surge of positive cases the past few months, California Gov.



Alice
Shin
Managing
Editor

Gavin Newsom announced Monday that "the state's requirement for student masking in schools will expire" March 11 at 11:59 p.m., regardless of vaccination status, according to the district email.

Hearing about this news, during the discussion at the dining table on

Tuesday, my family members suggested that I still keep my mask on and wait it out before I return to my pre-pandemic life.

Upon listening to my peers talking about it in between my classes and during break, I agreed with their general consensus; I will still remain masked for the time being as many students are now accustomed to keeping theirs on.

Despite my initial decision to take extra precaution, because changes in safety guidelines are constantly occurring on campus, going mask-free will be an open option for me in the upcoming weeks depending on my peers.

I'm looking forward to eventually taking my mask off, but I'm also influenced by my classmates' actions. Being the only person in class without a face covering on would make me feel like I'm doing the wrong thing since the people I trust around me would still be wearing it.

Drawing close to the end of my senior year, I'd feel devastated leaving my second home without a proper maskless experience with my graduating class.

I hope to once again see my peers' smiling faces rather than to continue to stare at dozens of face coverings at indoor settings. Now I'll just wait for my friends to behave accordingly in hopes that they maintain a safe environment.

Letters to the editor

In the Environmental Corner News article by Yeihn Lee, I really liked the concept of recycling food that would've gone to waste.

I also believe that food waste is a huge problem as we take our food for granted.

I agree with the goal of improving sustainability in our community, and in the future, I'll also make sure to drop off food waste in the bins near the cafeteria.

— Brandon Choi, freshman

I like the News story titled, "Break, lunch lines getting longer; many cite cutting in front an issue."

It mentioned complaints about cutting in the lunch line because I, too, have also noticed that a lot of people cut, and some-

times it's not even just one person.

Usually, it's a whole group that just cuts in line because someone's friends are there.

I hope the school will do something about this before it turns into a bigger problem.

— Aryana Garcia, sophomore

After reading Michelle Sheen's Spotlight article, "Going Viral: Omicron variant prompts changes in traditional events," I was heavily informed on how our school was affected during the upsurge of the Omicron COVID-19 cases.

This section stood out to me because of how my friends and family have been affected by the virus.

— Jerika Mae Tabuada, sophomore

In the Head to Head Opinion story, "Would you cut in line to get food?" I think that Alex Lee did a good job on explaining a point that a lot of people disagree with.

He also incorporated humor to his writing, so it was not boring to read unlike some other articles that I sometimes come across.

— Sung Kang, freshman

I was pretty surprised when I saw that I was in the picture for Nevya Patel's News story, "Here for the interim."

Our new interim principal was really nice to us.

She always comes up to us and asks what we had for lunch and really listens to our responses. I feel very lucky to have a

nice and caring interim principal.

— Hyunwoo Park, freshman

My favorite article while reading this month's The Accolade was "AVID Senior Standout reflects on her recognition" in the Feature section.

I loved how I got to read about senior Andi Elisaldez's experience and her commentary. Because I am also in AVID, I will take this information to help myself achieve goals just like her. The article was also very fun and informational to read.

— Raylene Estrada, sophomore

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

‘Butter’ succeeds in reprising films about teenagers

KRISHNA THAKER

Special Section Editor

For those seeking a respite from superhero or zombie movies, look no further than “Butter.”

The 110-minute movie will remind viewers of 1980s, John Hughes-directed teen romance-dramedies like “The Breakfast Club,” “Sixteen Candles” and “Pretty in Pink.”



Though director Paul Kaufman (“Christmas on the Vine”) is known more for his work on TV shows like “Rogue” and “NCIS: Los Angeles,” he shared during an exclusive interview with *The Accolade* — his first and only one that he’s done with a high school publication/online news website as of Feb. 11 — that he wanted to film “Butter” as an ode to Hughes’ productions.

But unlike that director’s films, Kaufman has chosen to base his latest work on a 2012 young adult novel titled *Butter*, written by Erin Jade Lange.

The director remained faithful to the novel by including all of the major characters and plot points, only changing and omitting a few details, such as the name of the high school Butter attends.

The film’s casting is equally as excellent; the actors chosen for the roles truly make it seem like the characters jumped off the pages of the novel.

With comedic and emotionally raw moments, “Butter” undoubtedly captures the audience’s attention and plays with viewers’ heartstrings.

It is important to stress that this film includes serious topics such as bullying and suicide — teen issues that Hughes rarely explored in his movies.

Viewers are urged to consider the trigger warnings prior to watching the movie.

Nevertheless, “Butter” deserves to be seen, and it wouldn’t be surprising if it becomes a precursor to a rebirth of the teen romantic-dramedy in the 2020s.

“Butter” is in limited release in Orange County movie theaters.



For the full story, scan the QR code



Image used with permission from Butter’s Final Meal LLC

NOW IN THEATERS: Director Paul Kaufman gets ready to shoot the New Year’s Eve party scene for “Butter,” a 110-minute film about a teenager and his suicide pact that’s in limited theatrical release.

Director shares his personal ties to teen-genre film about suicide

ANDREW PARK

Entertainment Editor

As “Butter” is set for a Feb. 25, theatrical release, *The Accolade* was offered the opportunity to interview the movie’s director, Paul Kaufman, via Zoom on Feb. 11.

While Kaufman acknowledged promoting his latest work with other media outlets, he confirmed that *The Accolade* was the first high school media program he spoke with about the teen romance-dramedy that’s based on the 2012 young adult novel of the same name. This story is based on the more than a 40 minute zoom meeting that Kaufman spent on Zoom with *The Accolade* staff.

While California has been dealing with a drought because of a lack of a rainy season over the years, Hollywood TV and movie director Paul Kaufman has noticed a dearth of another kind — this one in the film industry.

“Teenagers told me there are no movies for them in the theater,” Kaufman said.

“Butter” tells a story about a lonely, obese high school junior, who recklessly creates a website with the URL, buttersfinalmeal.com, and posts the link to it on a popular social media platform that many of his peers at his Arizona high school use.

On that website, he types his suicide pact

TEEN RESOURCES

- buttersfinalmeal.com includes an “R U OK?” page, which offers mental health hotline numbers
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
- The Trevor Project (for LGBTQ Youth): 866-488-7386

Source: www.buttersfinalmeal.com
Compiled by Andrew Park

that he will start eating himself to death once the clock strikes midnight on New Year’s Day.

In the midst of this decision, he must figure out how he will introduce himself to his high school crush, whom he has secretly befriended through social media under a different persona, and deal with his sudden fame among his peers.

“I’m really proud of the film ‘Butter’; we made it for very little money,” Kaufman said.

The 57-year-old director’s vast experience in the Hollywood industry spans 30 years, including 23 movies and directing four episodes of the top-rated CBS TV show, “NCIS: Los Angeles,” according to imdb.com.

“I just felt that as a filmmaker, I didn’t

want to do cop shows anymore with violence where I’m shooting people,” said Kaufman, who adapted Erin Jade Lang’s 2012 novel of the same name into film.

“Butter” dives deeply into the social issues prevalent in high schools such as suicide, bullying and fat shaming.

The director also wanted to make sure he treated the controversial issues of the film in a respectful manner, which is why he sought out the services of The Jed Foundation, a New York-based non-profit organization based in New York that aims to protect teens’ emotional health and prevent teen suicide.

Kaufman said he felt personally connected to the main protagonist’s struggle with mental wellness as he too suffered from depression in his teenage years.

“I know for me personally from when I was young, and I wanted to take my own life, and I didn’t. ... My sadness got better — it went away, but there’s so much going on with you teenagers and there’s so much pressure being a teenager,” the director and screenwriter said. “And don’t quit. ... Talk to somebody about it, and that’s ultimately the discussion we have after the movie.”



For the full story, scan the QR code

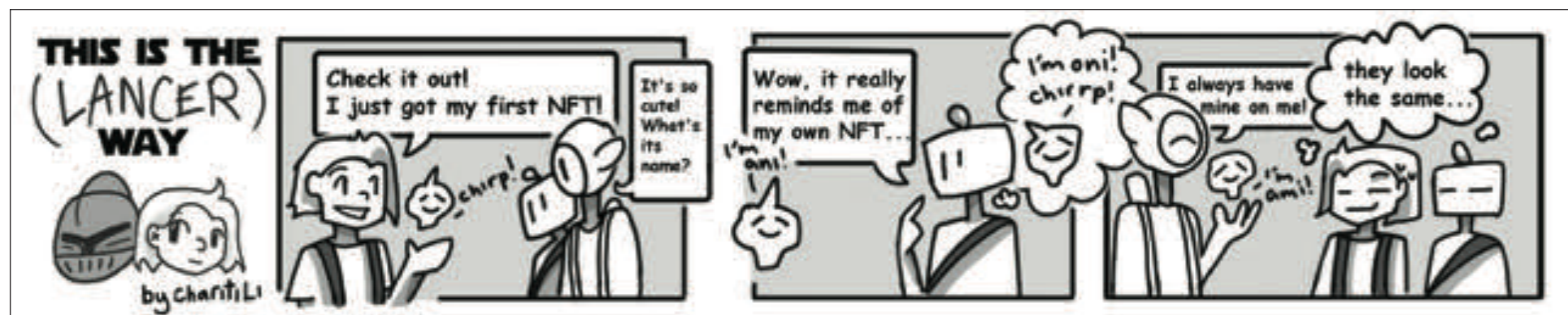




Image used with permission from Bandai Namco Entertainment

DETERMINED WARRIOR: *Elden Ring*, released Feb. 25, features the depicted Stormveil Castle and other captivating sites for the character to visit.

Halo Infinite provides deep story, intense combat

JONATHON ALEXANDER
Guest Writer

Devastating broadsides tear open the hull of the human supercarrier. Guns and bombs flare from all over. The super-soldier protagonist, Master Chief, desperately fights to defend the shuttle.

Then, the cinematic animation cuts to Master Chief floating in space, lifeless. And now it's up to the players to decide his fate.

As the sixth entry to the Halo series, the first-person shooter game, Halo: Infinite with its Dec. 8 release, once again sets players in the perspective of Master Chief in a journey to stop the alien threat inhabiting the ancient super-weapon — Zeta Halo.



READY: *The Master Chief stands prepared to fight off the alien army.*

Even though Halo Infinite offers a fantastic story mode with a deep narrative of Master Chief, players should first start off by trying the multiplayer because it teaches new gamers the general controls and the overall gameplay.

The multiplayer includes various game modes to choose from such as “Capture the Flag,” “King of the Hill” and “Team Deathmatch.” Allowing players to team up with their friends in either four-player or 12-player mode, the multiplayer setting allows for a competitive game that challenges people to formulate game strategies to defeat the opponents.

However, the hallmark of Halo Infinite has to be the newly established “open world” game setting — a large environment players can explore freely under their own volition, which breaks the conventional linear storytelling of its predecessors.

While still maintaining the traditional linear narratives of the previous titles, this latest release allows in the story mode a large amount of freedom in how players wish to progress through it, keeping us more engaged and creative.

Halo Infinite serves as an entertaining first-person shooter game that satisfies players in both the multiplayer settings and the newly upgraded story mode.

COLE SASS

Guest Writer

Whether it be from the influence of watching a TV series like HBO’s “Game of Thrones” or reading novels from the series Percy Jackson and the Olympians, most young adults, at one point, have imagined themselves exploring magical worlds teeming with dense forests and fighting mythical creatures.

This is the experience that video game developer Hidetaka Miyazaki sought to accomplish with the Feb. 25 release of his newest action role playing game [RPG] Elden Ring, which is an eighth installment of the Souls franchise.

Since the 2011 release of Dark Souls — the second game of the franchise that perhaps revolutionized the concept of challenging its players with a high level of difficulty — video game development company “FromSoftware” continued to introduce in each of its new titles different types of gameplay, deeply rich storytelling and intricate combat.

Elden Ring, to say the least, has taken the formula of the Dark Souls series to another level.

Deviating from the previous games of the series, this installment offers an enriching open world experience in which players can freely explore the game without being limited to a fairly linear path and provides an upgraded combat system, allowing for more creativity and diversity in fighting enemies and bosses.

Following the traditional one customizable character formula of the series, players begin by learning the basic controls, such as how to move and attack. Before giving enough time to fully adjust

to the character, the story forces players to combat a monster with a backbreaking difficulty, teasing how challenging the game will be throughout the player’s journey.

Therefore, for anyone unaccustomed to difficult games, such as the Dark Souls or Nioh series, Elden Ring may come out as rather too challenging, especially how it requires around 70 hours to complete.

But these factors have tapped into a niche of players who seek to be challenged in a video game.

After the futile boss fight, the main character is thrown to a random cave setting, leaving the player without any explanation or direction.

Should individuals be willing to learn and overcome this game’s brutal difficulty, they will be rewarded with what is arguably the most expansive, well-built and

beautiful open world game to this date.

FromSoftware brought together all of the most successful mechanics of its past titles and fused them with creative and ambitious leaps of faith to create what is by far its best game.

Elden Ring certainly represents the pinnacle of action RPGs.



ENGAGE: *The Tarnished draws his sword against the dangerous enemies.*

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CIF DIVISION 3 CHAMPS

Overtime Opera.

After taking first place in Freeway League, the boys soccer team dribbled past multiple teams in close-tight playoff matches — including three overtimes.

The team defeated Norte Vista 1-0 in overtime on Feb. 26 to take the CIF-Southern Section Division 3 Championship title.

— Grace Johnson, web managing editor and Alex Lee, staff reporter



Image printed with permission from Jim McCormack

CLUTCH: Forward junior Mathias Brown maneuvers around a Braves defender in the CIF Division 3 finals. Brown would lead his team as the sole scorer to a 1-0 overtime victory.

Image printed with permission from Jim McCormack

'GOAL' ORIENTED: Midfielder freshman Ethan Castro catches up to receive the pass



Image printed with permission from Jim McCormack

HEADING TO THE TOP: With their plaque, the Lancers celebrate becoming CIF Division 3 champions after a 1-0 victory against Norte Vista in overtime.



SUMMER SUEKI | theaccolade

HAT TRICK: The team celebrates after scoring the first goal in the first round of CIF state regionals against Panorama, Tuesday at Buena Park High School. Mathias Brown (right) scored three goals in the first half in a 4-3 victory.



Wrestling

Five Lady Lancers and seven Lancers made it to the CIF Qualifiers.

Juniors Jenna Park and Kylie Yang qualified for Masters, and Yang qualified for CIF finals.



Girls Waterpolo

After capturing their fifth consecutive Freeway League title, the Lady Lancers fell to Glendora High School, 14-7 in the first round of Division 2 CIF.



Boys Basketball

The Lancers advanced to the semifinals of Division 4AA CIF but fell to Garden Grove with a score of 45-39.



WINTER SPORTS CIF JOURNEY



Girls Soccer

In a CIF Division 1 wildcard match, the Lady Lancers lost to Temecula Valley with a score of 8-1.



Boys Soccer

The Lancers reigned CIF Division 3 champions after an 1-0 overtime victory against Norte Vista.



Girls Basketball

The Lady Lancers fell to Crescenta Valley in the first round of CIF Division 2A with a score of 43-25.



Return of fans leads to revival of student section antics

HENRY LEE

Asst. Sports Editor

They're reading newspapers! They're reading newspapers!

Well, sort of.

The Associated Student Body [ASB] and other students sitting in the Sunny Hills home bleachers of the varsity boys basketball games this season have taken an interest in gathering *The Accolade* school newspapers before the matchups start.

When the game announcer, Spanish teacher Gene Bordy, introduces the opposing team's starting lineup, many in the student section can be seen taking out these printed issues and holding them up in front of their faces, feigning interest in something else.

"It adds to the solidarity for the Lancer spirit, even for people who aren't the most spirited because it allows people to participate in different ways," said ASB athletics commissioner senior Natalie Moss, who originally came up with the idea of reviving this antic that was used in the past before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moss said she first thought of this mid-November when she scrolled through TikTok and watched a video of the University of Connecticut's student section holding up newspapers mid-November.

She then brought it up to her ASB peers during the fifth period ASB class when the 500 spectator limit was released two months after she saw the video.

"They were pretty excited about it," Moss said. "They would all help me bring in newspapers."

ASB co-adviser and SH Class of 1978 alumnus Mike Paris said he was surprised



HENRY LEE | theaccolade

BORING!: Many students in the Sunny Hills home section in the gym deliberately flip through *The Accolade's* most recent issue, "Going Viral," at the Feb. 18 boys basketball game against Ontario Christian High School.

to hear that the ASB wanted to take part in this antic during home basketball games. Nevertheless, he did not think it would violate any sportsmanlike conduct codes.

"This brings back memories of how fun it was to be a spectator at games," Paris said. "You become part of the game itself, and it's something that you will miss when you move on."

Compared with what SH students have done when Paris was a student here, pretending to read a newspaper while the opposing players are introduced is much tamer, he said.

One stunt in particular involved Sunny Hills students bringing toilet paper to the game against Fullerton Union High School, which back then was known as the Indians.

"I remember the toilet paper being thrown [to teepee the Indians]," he said. "The students hid the rolls and then [threw] them after the first basket was made."

Paris said he thinks this was stopped because it had the potential to get out of control and escalate into further problems.

Moss agreed.

"I think that shows very good school spirit, but logistically speaking, there are just so many rules or regulations that we can't do this [nowadays]," Moss said.

Boys basketball head coach Joe Ok said he first noticed the students holding up newspapers at the Jan. 26 home game against Buena Park High School and believes it's a good way to liven the crowd.

Ok, who also graduated from Sunny Hills in 1997, has also seen his fair share of stunts from the bleachers.

"It's better than throwing toilet paper because every time you throw something onto the floor, there is a technical foul, and the other team gets two free throws," said Ok, who witnessed this happening in 2002 when he was the assistant head coach.

"One game against Fullerton, we lost by one point, and ever since then, we decided not to do that anymore."

Though the Fullerton Joint Union High School District has a policy of sportsmanship for what student athletes and student fans can or can't do, such as yelling hate comments, school officials don't believe the newspaper antics cross that line.

"College students do it all the time, and I've seen some other high schools do it — it's really all in good fun," SH athletic director Paul Jones said. "It's not meant to be disrespectful or anything in that nature."

Using only *The Accolade* issues, the ASB distributes one page of the newspapers for students to share before the starting lineup announcements.

"I saw pictures and thought it was cool that so many SH students were reading — or pretending to read — them," *The Accolade* editor-in-chief senior Michelle Sheen said.

"I hope these acts of school spirit will publicize the paper and encourage more students to pick up future issues."

So will this stunt go away once the boys basketball season ends?

"Right now, spring [sports] is about to start, so we'll hopefully go to some baseball and softball games," Moss said.

Baseball takes Monday's game against Kennedy 5-1 before starting Freeway League play vs. La Habra

JIWOO HAN

Staff Reporter

Despite a 1-6 all-time record against Kennedy High School, the Sunny Hills baseball team defeated the Fighting Irish 5-1 on Monday at home.

"Our big thing is don't concern ourselves with the other team," first-year baseball head coach Ryan Bateman said when asked of Kennedy's performance.

The top of the first inning began with a base on balls for Kennedy catcher senior Evan Chadwick. The next at-bat, Kennedy shortstop junior Jayden Angeli's bunt attempt ended up getting Chadwick out at second, but Angeli was safe at first.

A walk and a wild pitch led to the two Irish runners advancing to second and third base. After Kennedy's second baseman junior Nicolas Aguilar singled to left field, Angeli ran home and scored, which gave the Fighting Irish the

edge in the first inning, 1-0.

Though Kennedy got an early run advantage, the Lancers pulled through in their offensive turn in the bottom of the first inning. Second baseman senior Darian Choi doubled, and third baseman junior Jack Bender singled, which moved Choi over to third base.

Choi scored from third base off a wild pitch from Kennedy pitcher junior Daniel Villagomez to tie the game 1-1.

"We have never beaten Kennedy in a regular season during my time here and to hit a double gave the team momentum to be able to put up a lot of runs and eventually go on to win the game," Choi said.

After three scoreless innings, the Lancers continued their advantage in the fifth inning during catcher senior Matthew Cho's nine-pitch at-bat, which resulted in the Lancers scoring a run.

"I swung on the first pitch and learned my timing well," Cho said. "Then I came into the third at-bat thinking I would get a hit

and eventually got my pitch and smacked it up the middle."

During the sixth inning, miscommunication among the Lancers and pitcher junior Joe Diaz became an issue.

The Fighting Irish came into scoring position with runners at first and third, but the Lancers regained control after Bateman talked to Diaz during a timeout. Diaz ended the sixth inning with a strikeout and a fly ball, giving up no runs.

"I just went out there and did my best to have everyone take a second to breathe," he said.

Although the Lancers fell short on Wednesday to La Habra 2-1, they hope to regain their winning momentum against the Buena Park Coyotes today at 3:30 p.m. at Buena Park.

"This team has a good work ethic," Cho said. "We just have to keep a good attitude and avoid making any tiny, silly mistakes. Being energized is super important, which helped us today."



GRACE JOHNSON | theaccolade

BATTER UP: Second baseman senior Darian Choi gets ready to hit a pitch Feb. 28. The Lancers beat the Fighting Irish 5-1.

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- #3. If you lose your ticket it is not replaceable.
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