

## NEWS

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Admin looks into hiring SH teacher to lead the program.

## FEATURE

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New Mario-themed park joins Universal Studios Hollywood.

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Senior basketball player makes the 1,000-points club.

# Modern Love



*In light of upcoming Valentine's Day festivities, The Accolade explores generational discrepancies in dating and romance culture*

DAHEE KIM | theaccolade

## JAIMIE CHUN

Managing Editor

"Since we're both fruity, let me take your booty to HOCO."

Senior Clarissa Arteaga wrote this message in rainbow letters on a large cardstock poster last September.

Arteaga was standing in the hallway next to the quad, holding up the sign and a bouquet of roses during lunch — eight days before homecoming as passing students stopped to watch the proposal.

It was for her girlfriend, senior Lola Orozco.

"I was really nervous and scared because people were watching, but I thought it was cute," Orozco said.

Though the two went to their first party together last year, Arteaga said she debated publicly proposing for a week before finally mustering up

the courage for their last homecoming together.

"Especially because we're two girls, it might be seen as weird, but then I don't really care what the other people hanging around think," Arteaga said.

Principal Craig Weinreich said this was his first time seeing or hearing of two queer students publicly proposing in his 24 years as a teacher and administrator.

Though Arteaga's hoco asking remains a rare sight on campus, willingness to come forth with LGBTQ+ relationships has progressed — though openness still has its consequences.

Growing LGBTQ+ relationships >> Page 10



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# Milestones before leaving the hills

## Search begins for new IB coordinator after Brian Wall announces retirement

KATE YANG

*Editor-in-Chief*

After more than 15 years as the International Baccalaureate [IB] coordinator, art teacher Brian Wall has announced his plan to retire at the end of this school year, prompting school officials to begin the process to find his replacement.

"We went from a program that was really based on competition to a culture of supporting each other," said Wall, who was first hired in 1991 and has served as the Conservatory of Fine Arts director since 2010. "We're not perfect, but I really feel like the family is our identity, and that's what I'm most proud of."

Although principal Craig Weinreich said Wall mentioned to him since the fall semester about this school year being his last, both waited until the spring semester to officially open the position for staff to apply.

"He and I have been talking for a little while about the new coordinator," Weinreich said. "We've been kind of game planning, and we wanted to wait until the beginning of this semester to move forward."

The principal sent an email to all staff on Jan. 19, giving two school days for anyone interested to apply. Next week, Wall and Weinreich will conduct a series of interviews along with a student representative, IB student junior Kasey Lee, to narrow down the candidate pool, Wall said.

Wall asked the IB Council to volunteer for the role of student panelist and selected Lee on a first come, first serve basis.

"I didn't necessarily choose Kasey," Wall said. "She immediately, at the moment I asked, came up and said 'I want to be a part of that,' and no one else came to

me and said they wanted to participate, interestingly."

Lee will formulate a few questions on behalf of the IB students for the candidates.

"It's an honor to be able to represent the IB student body by taking part in the interview process," Lee said. "I think it's crucial that the students have the opportunity to assist with this process as many of them will be working closely with the new IB coordinator after all."

The new coordinator will spend the remainder of the second semester shadowing Wall as he prepares his students for exam season in May, organizes Extended Essay submissions and manages CAS projects.

"I want [the new coordinator] to experience the different aspects of the job," Wall said. "For example in February, I'm going to start meeting with and recruiting sophomores, and ideally, that person will sit in with me as I do that because those are going to be that person's students next year."

Though the IB coordinator position is open to all staff members, the principal and Wall agreed that they prefer a successor who has previously worked with the program as a teacher of an IB subject.

"Normally, a position like this is not necessarily something that's usually opened outside, so we're not going to hire someone from outside school to come in and do this," Weinreich said. "We want somebody that knows our kids and has worked with our [IB] students."

IB junior Gabriella Gascon heard of Wall's retirement through an email he sent to all IB juniors and seniors Jan. 17.

"When Mr. Wall told us he was retiring, everybody at [the council] meeting got very emotional," said Gascon, who joined the IB Council this school year. "It hurts to see our favorite teacher leave; however,



theaccolade file photo

**LOOKING BACK:** International Baccalaureate [IB] coordinator and Conservatory of Fine Arts director Brian Wall speaks about IB at the 2007 Open House upon being appointed as the head of the program.

we are happy that after all his hard work at Sunny Hills he is finally getting the break he deserves."

Her fellow IB classmate, junior Matias Perez, said he treasures the camaraderie Wall constructed within the IB program.

"I think what sets Mr. Wall apart is that he managed to create such a safe and open space within the IB program," Perez said.

Wall said he's certain that the search

will result in finding someone who'll be the right fit.

"No. 1, [the new coordinator] has got to love the kids, and No. 2, they need to believe in the mission and philosophy of IB," he said. "Then finally, [the new coordinator] has to have some organization skills to administer everything, and technology is important, too, [because] there is a lot of organization and technical stuff needed."

## A Wall of Accomplishments

*The Accolade collects the achievements art teacher and International Baccalaureate coordinator Brian Wall made during his 32 years in position.*

- 1991 - Hired as art teacher
- 1992-2003 - Served as adviser for *Helios*
- 2000 - Appointed department chairman for visual arts
- 2007 - Began advising for International Baccalaureate program
- 2006-2013 - Coached junior varsity girls soccer
- 2010 - Started Conservatory of Fine Arts at Sunny Hills
- 2016 - Announced SH Teacher of the Year
- 2017 - Earned Top 25 Teachers in Orange County by *Parenting OC Magazine*
- 2020 - Awarded Yale Educator Award
- 2022 - Announced SH Teacher of the Year



Compiled by Susie Kim

## Veteran, second-year staffer named teacher, employee of the year

CHRISTOPHER LEE

*Staff Reporter*

One has worked at Sunny Hills High School for 32 years, while the other only two.

Despite the gap in their work experience, SH staff recognized both as the campus' employees of the year at a Jan. 18 lunchtime ceremony in the teachers lounge.

"I kind of figured that I won it already [in the 2015-2016 school year] and figured that it would go to someone else," said art teacher Brian Wall, International Baccalaureate [IB] coordinator and Conservatory of Fine Arts [COFA] director. "I was definitely surprised and humbled by it, too."

Wall first started teaching here

in 1991. Besides his current titles, the 32-year veteran, who on Jan. 17 announced his retirement at the end of this school year, has also taught Spanish and advised the *Helios* yearbook.

"I think everybody wants to end their career on a great note," he said. "It really couldn't be better."

The other employee of the year nod was awarded to site technician Anthony Jara, who was first hired in the 2021-2022 school year when the campus opened back up for in-person instruction.

Jara said Principal Craig Weinreich asked him to come to the staff lounge during lunch to video record the employees of the year announcement.

Sunny Hills' Stars >> Page 5



SHEILA NERI | theaccolade

**EMBRACING CULTURE:** Latinx club member senior Emma Balderrama practices for her International Food Fair performance in a traditional pollera dress in front of the gym Jan. 26.

# PTSA prepares increased food, performance variety for IFF

**FAITH JUNG**  
Social Media Manager

For the first time, the annual International Food Fair [IFF] and assembly will be held on a Friday next week with an increased number of students participating in performances as well as food and drink offerings, organizers said.

“IFF was held on Thursdays in the past, and we decided to hold it on Friday so people can relax afterward,” IFF chairwoman and Parent Teacher Student Association [PTSA] member Amy Choi-Won said.

Even though Feb. 10 will lead into a holiday weekend that includes the following Monday off because of Abraham Lincoln’s

birthday, school officials expect most parents will keep their children at school instead of leaving early to travel somewhere for a four-day break.

The Friday schedule consists of a double second period assembly showcasing six cultural performances and a 50-minute extended lunch break between fourth and fifth period, according to the SH website.

“I’m excited for everyone to see all the hard work that we’ve done in the past few months because this year, we decided to have more people perform,” Latinx club president junior Ariana Lopez said.

Following the Latinx club’s performance, the members will sell churros and ice cream together for 3-4 tickets between the 80s and

100s wing.

The Indian Student Association [ISA] will perform six dances that encompass different cultures and traditions across South Asia.

“Our performers have worked extremely hard, and we can’t wait for students to experience Indian culture,” ISA club president senior Krisi Patel said.

The IFF organizers and clubs hope to educate students on cultural diversity through the various performances, with dancers in their traditional clothing, and popular dishes.

“We attempt to bring at least a small slice of the world to the students at Sunny Hills, which aligns with our goal of raising intellectually and culturally sensitive global citizens,” Choi-Won said.

International Day		
Period	Start Time	End Time
0	7:41 AM	8:25 AM
1	8:30 AM	9:14 AM
2A	9:19 AM	10:11 AM
2B	10:16 AM	11:08 AM
Break	11:08 AM	11:18 AM
3	11:23 AM	12:07 PM
4	12:12 PM	12:56 PM
Lunch	12:56 PM	1:51 PM
5	1:56 PM	2:41 PM
6	2:46 PM	3:30 PM

Source: SH website

In response to the overwhelming number of students interested in buying food last year, the PTSA plans to increase the amount and variety of food served for its 34th annual International Food Fair [IFF] on Feb. 10.

“Last year’s experience taught the PTSA to recruit more food booths and to publicize more clubs, so people have more room to op-

erate,” Associated Student Body adviser David Fenstermaker said.

In compliance with the increased variety of food, the number of clubs selling desserts and other treats rose from 20 to 27 groups compared to last year, Choi-Won said.

Students and staff can purchase tickets for the festival during lunch and break by the stairs near the quad starting Feb. 8 for \$1 each, and the PTSA will accept cash and card payments. Online pre-sale tickets are available on [sunnyhillspta.org](http://sunnyhillspta.org) with an additional service charge of 25 cents for each five-ticket bundle; they will be available until Feb. 5.



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](http://shhsaccolade.com)



SUMMER SUEKI | theaccolade  
**YOU MATTER:** The wellness sticker in the girls restroom lists support services for those in a mental crisis.

# FJUHSd designs stickers promoting mental wellness

**DAVID KIM**  
Staff Reporter

Students who have been using the restrooms on campus since mid-January may have noticed some new decor.

Sprawled on doors and walls are vertical, rectangular-shaped stickers with the Lancer knight logo and black and gold school colors. All have messages like:

“YOU MATTER.”

“KNOW THAT WE HERE AT SHHS CARE ABOUT YOU.”

“HELP AND HOPE IS AVAILABLE.”

“I was confused yet surprised how they were plastered all over the walls and stalls, but they do get the message across of reaching out for support, which is nice,” junior Ariana Lopez said.

School officials said campus supervisors put up more than 60 stickers in restrooms

on Jan. 20 upon receiving them from the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHSd] mental wellness specialists earlier that week on Jan. 16. No stickers are in the gym or Performing Arts Center restrooms, but some are displayed in the all-gender restroom.

The 18-inch-by-7-inch and 12-inch-by-5-inch posters display two service lines that connect students to crisis counselors and the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, along with a text number to reach Trevor counselors for the LGBTQ+ community.

Two QR codes direct students to receive substance abuse support and access the STOPit app, which allows submission of images, videos or text files to school officials for them to take action accordingly, according to the FJUHSd website.

FJUHSd mental health coordinator Carlos Alcantara told journalism students in the

district during a Jan. 20 Zoom news conference that the campaign stemmed from a Fullerton Union High School parent.

The coordinator said he recalled receiving photos from one of Sonoma High School’s counselors, Jackie Nia, of similar wellness posters located in the California State University, Fullerton, bathrooms and brought the idea to the FJUHSd.

“Mrs. Rubio and our wellness team got together and talked about what we can do,” he said. “We recognize that when students are in a crisis, going to the bathroom is a space that they go to when they’re on campus.”

**RELATED STORY**  
**Staff Editorial:** District prioritizes student mental health.  
**See Opinion, page 12**



# Latest ChatGPT known to write essays for students

## New AI technology prompts English teachers to take action

AIDEN PARK

Entertainment Editor

With improving chatbots' ability to produce college admission essays and cover letters, Sunny Hills English teachers plan on taking a proactive approach to ensure students avoid using the program to complete their assignments.

English teacher Christina Zubko learned of the artificial intelligence [AI]-programmed chatbot in November 2022. Upon reading about the application through an online article, she immediately thought back to professor Faber from the novel *Fahrenheit 451*.

"Faber is the English teacher who was no longer needed because nobody was allowed to read, so his job was completely obsolete," Zubko said. "That's how I kind of felt like in November as another part of our career was getting chipped away."

Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer [GPT], developed by OpenAI, uses AI and a wide range of online sources to respond accordingly to users' textual input with contextually accurate human-like answers depending on the request.

Through its machine learning techniques and algorithms, the AI generates plagiarism-free responses, according to pguide.com.

"It does not really make sense to use [ChatGPT] in my class because I'm expecting them to write from their own mind," she said.

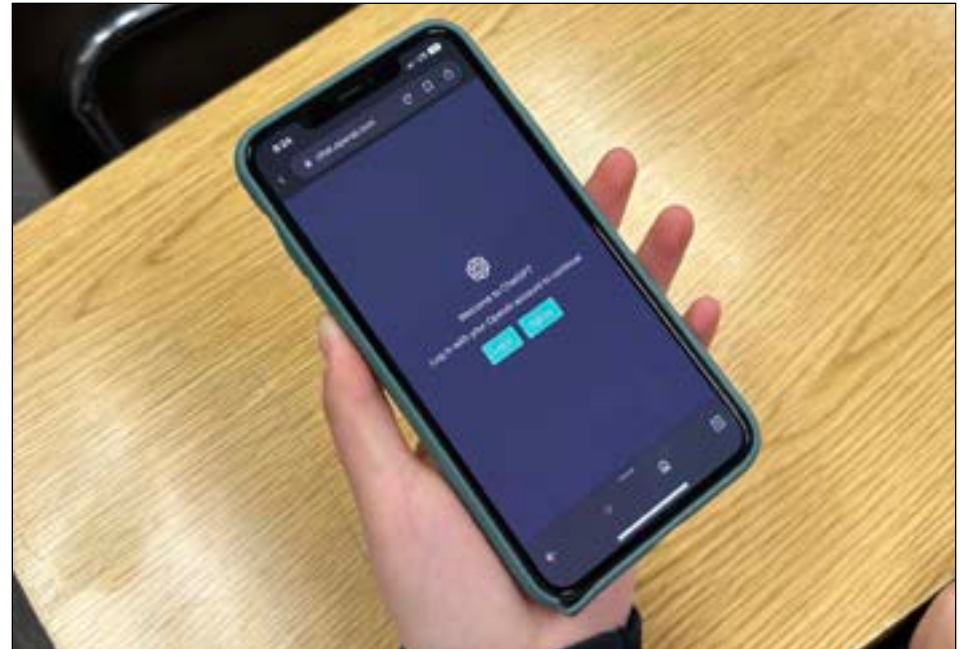
Although English Department chairperson Scott Rosenkranz has not made his students sign a new syllabus regarding the misuse of ChatGPT yet, he conversed with the administration to take action.

"If I suspect that a student is using tools such as ChatGPT to produce writing, I reserve the right to have an oral interview with the student to confirm the student's understanding of the material and to assess the validity of their writing," Rosenkranz said.

Sophomore Matthew Solio's English teacher Liese Wellmeyer-Garcia responded to the popularity of the chatbot by warning her students about the consequences of using ChatGPT for school assignments.

"She did not verbally tell us about the chatbot, but on her writing assignments, she wrote how any suspicion of ChatGPT usage will lead to a conversation regarding the student's understanding of the topic," Solio said.

Despite the school-issued Chromebook already blocking access to the chatbot but no written district policies actually against



SUSIE KIM | theaccolade

**SMARTY PANTS:** ChatGPT, an online chatbot, requires a user to log in on its home screen to converse with the artificially intelligent mechanism.

students using it, Zubko raised discussions among a few English teachers about assigning more in-class essays and potentially purchasing GPTZero, an app that detects text written by AI, to control student use of the application for at-home assignments.

"I think there is a place for [ChatGPT], such as a new college course where you ask

the bot to write an essay that you have to analyze and learn from, but just not in my class," she said.



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)

## Accolade, Helios named finalists of national journalism award

JIWOO HAN

Sports Editor

Four could become *The Accolade's* favorite number if it ends up earning a Gold Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association [CSPA] next month at an awards ceremony in New York.

The journalism program previously earned three Silver Crowns for its issues submitted in 2006, 2019 and 2021. This time around, *Accolade* adviser and English teacher Tommy Li hopes to break the streak when Gold and Silver Crown winners are announced at the CSPA journalism convention on March 17 at the Columbia University campus.

"That's St. Patrick's Day, so hopefully luck will be on our side," Li said. "But no matter what, I'm proud of last year's staff and the Journalism 1 students who helped produce the issues we submitted for judging last summer."

Li learned of the publication's Crown nomination through a Dec. 14, 2022, Twitter post and then showed it to the staff the same day during fourth period.

"Our staff was really excited as Mr. Li scrolled down the alphabetically listed nominee list

on the smart board," news editor junior Susie Kim said. "I was sitting in the front row as we all witnessed the announcement together and felt relieved knowing that we'd have another chance at winning a Gold Crown."

Li said he submitted seven issues from the 2021-2022 school year for judging, including the November and April cub issues that the Journalism 1 class helps to produce.

Those issues will compete against submissions from 41 other school publications nationwide under the "High School Hybrid News" category with 11 coming from California — *The Accolade* being the only finalist from Orange County.

Last year's editor-in-chief [EIC] Michelle Sheen said the first year of the return to in-person instruction presented itself as a struggle for her and her staff.

"It sort of felt like a test year as people were still getting used to the environment and the culture of *The Accolade* newsroom and getting to know how things worked," Sheen said.

The former EIC acknowledged that the program couldn't have achieved such accomplishments without the grit and perseverance of her peers.

"I feel like people being able



**AWARD-WINNER:** A spread in the 2021-2022 Helios yearbook addresses the theme, "It's Time. We're Ready, Are You?" The annual was named a Crown finalist Dec. 14, 2022.

to pull through [was a big factor], since creating a full print issue is all about teamwork," Sheen said.

Last year's web-EIC, Kristima Aryal, said she found out about the announcement when this year's EIC, senior Kate Yang, texted a group chat with Aryal and Sheen about the program's nomination.

"I was like, 'Wow, this is such a great surprise' because I was so in the college landscape I haven't thought about *The Accolade*," Aryal said.

The then-senior agreed with Sheen about the challenges they faced and emphasized the importance of perfecting the website and its visual aspects.

"We created a new header and a more cohesive color scheme, which helped the website look more professional, and we worked hard to promote all of our stories to stay engaged with our audience," Aryal said.

While *The Accolade* celebrates its fourth nomination, *Helios* awaits its second consecutive Gold Crown in the "Print Yearbook" category.

"I was in my third period class, and [the nominations] were being announced on Twitter every two minutes," *Helios* adviser Lindsay Safe said about the Dec. 15 posts. "As the letters got closer to us, it was nerve-racking, but when we came up, I just started screaming

and was very excited."

The yearbook staff experienced the same issue as *The Accolade* in terms of adjusting to in-person instruction.

"I was really proud of our kids coming back from [the COVID-19 pandemic] and from being at home," Safe said.

After seeing the Twitter announcement, Safe said she went to Albertsons during her fourth period and bought treats to celebrate with her staff.

"Getting an award is definitely always a great thing, especially being recognized nationally by a very prestigious association," last year's *Helios* co-EIC Joyce Pau said.



## TEACHER LEISURE

## Chemistry teacher also a Smash Bros. gamer

*The Accolade* explores Sunny Hills instructors' hobbies. What impacts have they made not only on students' education but also the outside world? *The Accolade* sends Pricilla Escobedo to investigate. If you know of a teacher or staff member for our next Teacher Leisure, email us at [theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com](mailto:theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com)

## PRICILLA ESCOBEDO

Staff Reporter

For chemistry teacher Alexander Hua, his fascination with Nintendo's Super Smash Bros. started when he was 8 years old.

Some time after the video game's Jan. 21, 1999 release, Hua said his parents bought him a Nintendo 64 console and the Super Smash Bros. game to play with, and since then he's been hooked.

"I remember I was really excited to have a new gaming console of my own because on weekends, I would usually go to my neighbor's house to play Smash Bros. early in the morning," he said. "And from that point on, it all just started from there."

Though other fighting games have been released for other consoles like Xbox and PlayStation, Hua said he remained loyal to



Image printed with permission from Alexander Hua  
**DOING SUPER :** Chemistry teacher Alexander Hua (right) stands next to his opponent, Kevin Granados, whom he beat in the final match of Fullerton's gaming arena Ultimate Weekly #50 competition on Jan. 8.

the Nintendo brand.

"I'm not into other fighting games," he said. "It's me just liking Nintendo. This [Smash Bros.] game has so many characters, and I find all of it very interesting."

So interesting that he decided to smash his way into competitive tournament play in 2018, the year Nintendo released Super Smash Bros. Ultimate on its Switch console.

"I wanted to enter after that newest game had come out," the teacher said. "My first time I had considered competing. I just thought the time was right."

After paying the \$15 entry fee at a Huntington Beach gaming location, Hua said he started out with a victory in his first match but lost the second so he left.

Hua said he didn't realize until later when he saw the posted stats online that it

was a double elimination tournament and that he got disqualified for not showing up for his next match.

But that result did not deter him from competing again, and since 2018 he has continued to enter tournaments — some on weekends and some on weekdays after work at Sunny Hills.

The teacher's first tournament win finally arrived on Jan. 8 when he paid \$15 to compete in the Ultimate Weekly #50 competition at Fullerton's Localhost gaming center. He said he beat 23 other gamers total ranging in age from high school to college to mid-30s, earning \$90 in cash.

"It was very fun," said Hua, whose favorite characters to choose from are Pokemon Trainer and Min Min. "I had an open mind, good mentality, and all while trying to have fun."

The science teacher has also brought his passion to campus, becoming the adviser for the Smash Bros. eSports team last school year.

Hua spends his time after school managing the Smash Bros. team consisting of a group of three official members; they practice after school on Wednesdays, and official matches are on Thursdays after school, he said.

"He points out things that I could be improving on and helps us stay calm by taking deep breaths," said junior Robert Rouse Jr., who has been on the team for five months.

## FROM PAGE 2

## SUNNY HILLS' STARS

"But when I got there, I was surprised with the news of finding out I won it, especially because I had no idea," he said.

Wall was among 16 other teacher nominees for this award, while Jara earned the most votes over 14 other non-teaching staff members.

From Jan. 9-13, staff members submitted candidates using a Google Form, which included a field to elaborate on the nominee. School officials traditionally do not release names of those who submitted comments.

The nomination for Wall reads: "Brian has contributed years of service to his students — IB and COFA. Beyond his artistic talent, he is a positive mentor, colleague and friend."

The person who nominated Jara provided a much longer statement: "Anthony has been vital for solving some of the school's biggest problems: our printers! He is happy to help any teachers with technological issues. ... All in all, our campus would be very different without our tech guy."



Image printed with permission from Sarah Murrietta  
**SHINING STARS:** Site technician Anthony Jara (left) and International Baccalaureate coordinator and art teacher Brian Wall pose after their nomination as the employees of the year in Room 3 on Jan. 18.

Staff were given from Jan. 17-18 to vote; Weinreich said at the employees of the year announcement ceremony that up to 90 staff members cast their votes, a higher number than in the past.

"Wall [and Jara] have done so much for our campus in the entire time that I've been here," he said. "Working as an IB coordinator and helping the machines behind the scenes make

them very deserving recipients."

Jara said he helps with most of the school's mechanical malfunctions, ranging from the speakers on campus to the computers in classrooms.

"Getting everything to work is something I strive for every day," the site technician said. "In a school of over 96 teachers, achieving this in an efficient manner is a major accomplishment."



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# QUOTE OF THE DAY



*Brothers randomly seek out peers on campus to share thoughts that are posted on Instagram feed that garnered 8.2 million views*

JUSTIN PAK

Copy Editor

Five days after Election Day last November, sophomore Jerome Bishay wanted to know what his peers on campus were thinking as he sat in the quad during lunch.

Not about politics, but about what might inspire, encourage or just make them laugh.

"I was right next to him, we were both sitting down," Bishay said. "The idea just popped into my head, and I told him 'Let's do it.'"

The younger Bishay then decided to take out a microphone and walked up to sophomore Gunnar Okerlund during lunch.

"We originally bought the microphone for YouTube, but we started using it for Instagram content," Bishay said. "I just saw [Okerlund] walking by, and he's a friend, so I asked him 'What's the quote of the day?'"

After the brothers explained the plan, Okerlund gave it some thought and said he was ready, so junior Abanoub Bishay took out his phone and hit record while Jerome Bishay walked up, microphone in hand.

Okerlund chose the quote "If there's a hole, there's a goal," after seeing it on TikTok videos.

"If you're in a deep hole, you can't find your way out, you find your goal to get out of the hole," he said.

The brothers decided to post it right when they got home from school on the junior's Instagram account, garnering around 300



CHLOE KANG | theaccolade

**VIRAL:** Junior Abanoub Bishay (right) asks for sophomore Luke Corrales' help in the quad during lunch on Jan. 18 to demonstrate how he interviews students for Bishay's Quote of the Day series on his Instagram Reels.

views on the first day.

The next day, Jerome Bishay walked up to sophomore Jared Dibble, and his quote of the day was: "If she can say, 'LOL,' without laughing, she can say, 'I love you,' without meaning it." After that got posted, it doubled the number of views from their first post and got over 1.8 million views.

"After I saw that the video got over a million views I thought 'We have to keep going,'" Jerome Bishay said.

Since that second post, the brothers have continued their Quote of the Day encounters, collecting 26 statements from Sunny Hills students and staff before winter break and adding five more since the start of the spring semester.

"We wanted to inspire people — we wanted to see if we can make videos that make a positive impact," Abanoub Bishay said.

So far, the highest number of views — 9 million — came from their fourth Quote of the Day: "People say nothing is impossible,

but I do nothing every day," sophomore Moe Ibrahim said.

While the quote may not seem inspirational, the Bishays view it differently.

"In life, there are two ways of looking at everything," Jerome Bishay said. "We're going to look at a tree and say that it grows by taking care of it, or you can just leave it there and say 'Oh, God's going to take care of it,' or 'It's nature, it's going to do its own thing. It depends on how you take it.'"

The brothers received positive feedback about how inspiring the quotes were from Instagram users in his comment section.

"Some people write back and are like, 'Your quote really helped me out today,'" the sophomore said. "I like to see that we reached back to the community."



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)

## TOP THREE TAKES



"The best time to start was years ago; the second best time to start is right now."

— senior **Samuel Ryoo**  
(Dec. 1, 2022, 4.8M views)



"Practice like you never won; play like you never lost."

— junior **Mateo Munoz**  
(Nov. 30, 2022, 2.4M views)



"A real friend walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

— sophomore **Zoey Matthews**  
(Nov. 23, 2022, 209K views)

Image printed with permission from Abanoub Bishay

# Origami Club folds its way to 1,000 paper cranes

NATHAN LEE

Staff Reporter

Senior Remy Garcia-Kakebeen has been doing origami for the past eight years.

"I find origami a great way of improving your motor skills because obviously when you fold paper, you learn to be more precise with your hands," Garcia-Kakebeen said.

Because of that benefit, she decided to form the Origami Club last semester with her friend, senior and co-president Caitlyn Alba.

The two sought club approval from the Associated Student Body, sharing with student leaders their main objective of introducing to the student body this traditional Japanese art form.

"Origami is more than a form of art, that's why our mission is to promote folding throughout daily life," Alba said.

After the club became official, it completed a paper cranes project before winter break with those who came to the meeting. The club, which has reached nearly 20 members, has been tying each crane together while club leaders

work on finding a place to send their work to for display, such as a hospital or a senior center or possibly somewhere on campus, club co-president Garcia-Kakebeen said.

The Origami Club meets Wednesdays at lunch in Room 66. For more information, contact Garcia at 600021860@fjuhsd.org or Alba at 600021729@fjuhsd.org.



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

**END IN MIND:** Origami Club's co-president senior Remy Garcia-Kakebeen holds up a strand of paper cranes Jan. 25 contributing toward the group's 1,000 crane challenge during weekly meetings on Wednesday in Room 66.



# Spring Fashion 2023



**A.**

**Isabella Ramirez**

*senior*

REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade



**B.**

**Sarah Kienast**

*sophomore*

SUMMER SUEKI | theaccolade



**C.**

**Abdulsalam Lee**

*sophomore*

CHLOE KANG | theaccolade



**D.**

**Lauren Bromley**

*sophomore*

SHEILA NERI | theaccolade



**E.**

**Joshua Kim**

*freshman*

SUMMER SUEKI | theaccolade



## A. Pajama Pants

A comfortable – yet fashionable – alternative to everyday jeans.



## B. Low-Rise Jeans

The new (and old) trend of Y2K prompts students to flash back to the past.



## C. Puffer Vests

Although meant for the snow, puffer vests help complete a look by adding an extra layer.



## D. Flare Leggings

Following low-rise jeans, flared leggings bring out the inner 2000s yoga guru.



## E. Nike Jordans

These long-lasting shoes also provide a variety of colors, models and styling.

All illustrations by ELISA ARIAS | theaccolade  
Compiled by Alexxa Berumen



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## Initiating safe, inclusive teen conversations

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the content of this article, we strongly encourage you to contact us at [theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com](mailto:theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com).

As editor-in-chief Kate Yang and I considered potential Spotlight theme ideas for our fourth issue of the year, we came across an older issue from *The Accolade's* archive.



Irene Sheen  
Special  
Sections Editor

In the Feb. 14, 2020, issue headlined "Love Digitally," former staff members explored "teens' views on modern-day dating and whether high school sweet-heart relationships can succeed after graduation."

Making a tribute to the 2019-2020 staff, we collectively decided to honor Valentine's Day with a sweet and alluring series of stories.

Starting with a framework of trivial questions that challenged current and former romance trends, we found ourselves exploring an intense rabbit hole.

*How does our generation view romance differently than that of older generations?*

*Is Generation Z showing increasing acceptance of "atypical" relationships?*

*In what ways does technology impact dating life?*

*How do we combat the older generation's negative perception of teenage relationships?*

*What's responsible for shifting romance norms?*

Like the front cover subhead suggests, we want to investigate "unconventional" romance — evolving dating norms among teenagers. Our fascinating research led us to the conclusion that Gen Z is actively changing societal norms in a number of impressive ways.

And our school is proof of that.

Our community members are taking stronger measures to make our campus a safer and more accepting environment; and as reporters, we do our part by reflecting our community's transitions within our stories.

With topics including LGBTQ+ relationships, online dating culture and astrology compatibility, we hope that this issue can normalize conversations that may otherwise be considered taboo for older generations.

Like any other issue, however, I was faced with an additional challenge: How can I share this theme to our readers in an approachable and relatable manner?

We started tackling this concern by considering the visual aspect to this issue.

Honoring classic vintage aesthetics, we want this antique style to emphasize generational differences.

Cupid babies and heterosexual couples were the emblems of Valentine's Day postcards throughout the 1900s. Our eye-catching front cover, however, details a homosexual couple on a card — an image that we typically don't see on a vintage love letter.

By challenging the "unconventional," our publication guides thought-provoking discussions on some of the biggest 21st century social concerns. In other words, we want to reflect the growing acceptance of teenage romance and Gen Z trends within this issue and the articles under my section.

Afterall, Valentine's Day is a celebration open to all people of various backgrounds, sexualities, gender identities and dating preferences. Modern love has no boundaries, and being a teenager is no exception to that.

Though the topics that we cover in this issue may be uncomfortable and novel for some of our readers, we encourage all to explore the following pages with an earnest and open attitude.

Happy early Valentine's Day!

# Toss the old-school love letters; online dating is now in-style

IRENE SHEEN

Special Sections Editor

During the peak of the COVID-19 lockdown when social interactions were limited to technological forums, the multiplayer online game, *Among Us*, earned its title as an instant cultural phenomenon.

With over 60 million daily active users in 2020, the game reached a vast audience, going as far as turning into a platform for New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's voter engagement initiative.

But for senior Julia De Leon, the hit game issued a different and unique interaction — the opportunity to engage in a remote relationship.

"I started my own *Among Us* game because I hated everyone else's settings, and a few people stayed a few games; I liked playing with them," said De Leon, who does not consider her online dating experience as an official relationship. "So I told them to add my SnapChat, and this one guy added my SnapChat and we just started talking."

De Leon is just one of the few millions of American teenagers who've built romantic relationships or situationships from online applications.

"With social media and online dating, there are a lot more available options, so I think it has changed the way young people view the functions of different

relationships and how to enjoy them," said Tara Suwinyattichaiporn, an associate professor at California State University, Fullerton, who specializes in a specific niche of sexual and relational communication.

According to Wiktionary, e-dating is defined as relationships that occur via an internet application and those that usually do not involve physical interactions.

"You're the first generation who does not know of a time before you had access to those technologies, so it's a really easy and natural step to then transition to also navigating your dating relationships using technology," said Liesel Sharabi, an assistant professor and director of the Relationships and Technology Lab at Arizona State University.

Senior Kenneth Hyun who met his former partner through the instant messaging platform Discord believes that its accessibility, as well as its capacity to expose teenagers to a wider audience, makes the internet a favorable platform to connect with outsiders.

"The biggest advantage is that you can meet new people outside your local area and circle of friends," Hyun said.

"I don't see a future where online dating displaces in-person relationships, but I see a future where they're increasingly more integrated," Sharabi said.

In the midst of such popularity, Suwinyattichaiporn offers a psychological explanation behind the appeal of internet dating.

"In terms of e-dating, I think the pandemic definitely

increased the numbers of users for online dating," Suwinyattichaiporn said. "I think that it's more comfortable for people who have social anxiety to be online."

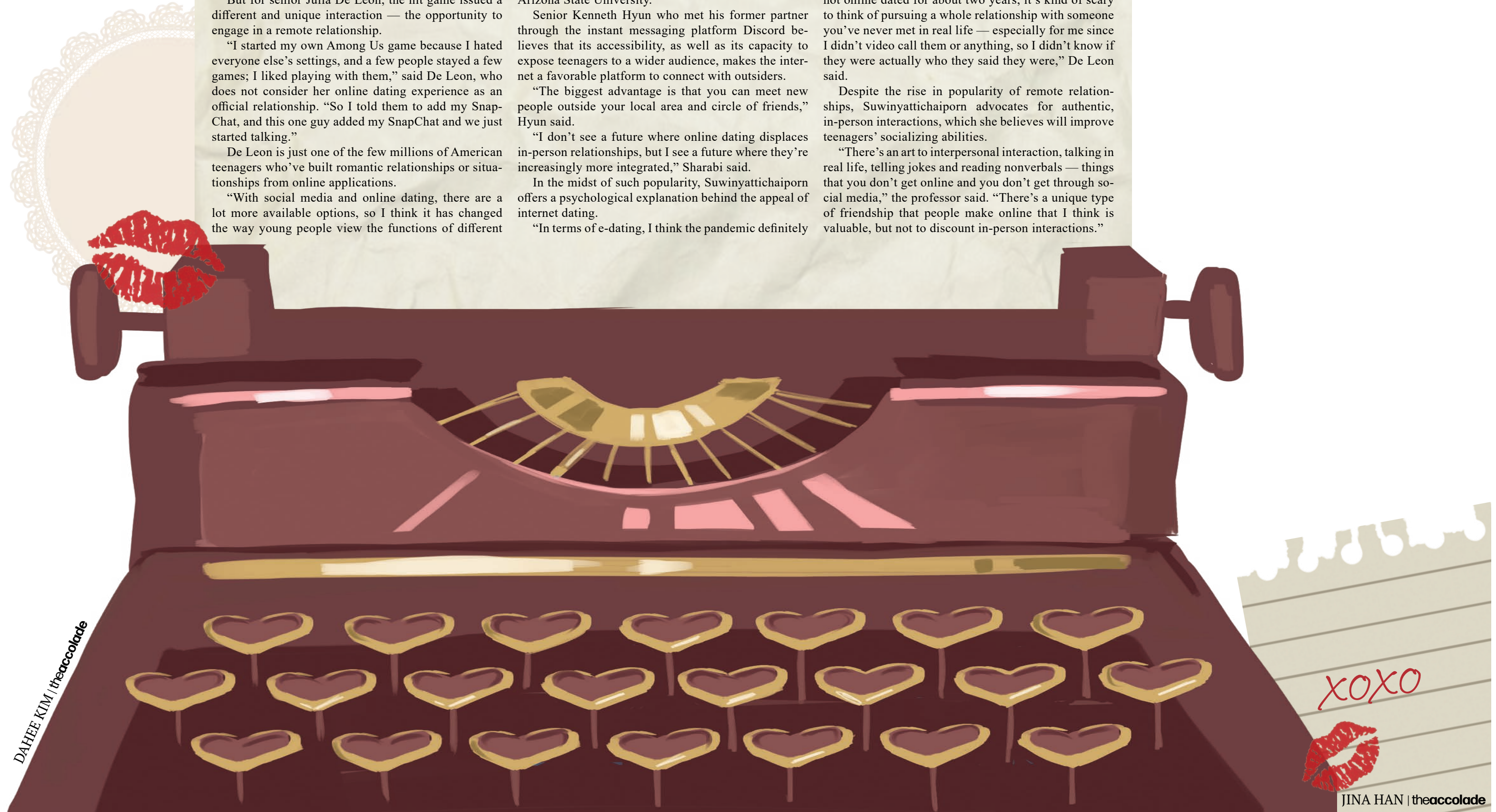
Though Hyun sees decreasing stigmatization of e-relationships, he proposes a different route toward experimenting with teenage romance.

"I would not encourage others to pursue online relationships," Hyun said. "Most high schoolers have little to minimal experience with dating, but by having an e-relationship they may develop a skewed sense of romance — something that might hinder them in the future."

"Now that I think about it since I am older and have not online dated for about two years, it's kind of scary to think of pursuing a whole relationship with someone you've never met in real life — especially for me since I didn't video call them or anything, so I didn't know if they were actually who they said they were," De Leon said.

Despite the rise in popularity of remote relationships, Suwinyattichaiporn advocates for authentic, in-person interactions, which she believes will improve teenagers' socializing abilities.

"There's an art to interpersonal interaction, talking in real life, telling jokes and reading nonverbal — things that you don't get online and you don't get through social media," the professor said. "There's a unique type of friendship that people make online that I think is valuable, but not to discount in-person interactions."







JINA HAN | theaccolade

# Searching the stars: SH students look into astrology to determine romantic compatibility, similarity

SUSIE KIM

News Editor

When it comes to seeking compatibility in a friendship or one's love life, gone are the days when Sunny Hills students are asking each other, "What is your MBTI?"

The use of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator [MBTI] test to determine one's communication and interaction preferences has recently been replaced by teens' interest in something that has been around since the fifth century.

More than ever before, they're resorting back to astrology and asking the question, "What's your sign?"

"My zodiac sign horoscopes can be a very hit or miss, but they're mostly accurate," senior Irene Kang said.

Even though the concept existed for decades, astrology has been making a come-

back among Generation Z. A January 2018 article from *The Atlantic* attributed the rise of astrology analyses to increased exposure in the media, especially through meme culture during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Advanced Placement Psychology teacher David Fenstermaker believes people seek astrology and horoscopes to make sense of irregular and unexplainable occurrences.

"People like to believe that we have an answer for things, like why we're compatible with people," he said.

He recalled that newspapers from his teenage years printed astrological information and characteristics, which contributed to their popularity. With a smaller proportion of Gen Zers reading print products, interest in this field diminished until its re-emergence during the COVID-19 pandemic, Fenstermaker said.

Forty-three percent of Gen Zers would

make a big life decision based on a horoscope or tarot reading, according to an October 2019 online publication from *Gen Z Insights*. Though senior Chanel Merino falls into that minority, he said he relies more on his zodiac sign characteristics for assurance.

Influenced by his grandma's interest in astrology, Merino said he frequently saw daily horoscopes when he was a child.

According to a January 2022 article from dictionary.com, the 12 zodiac signs — determined based on the angle of stars and planets on the day, time and location of one's birth — affect an individual's personality, physical traits and relationships.

Merino, a Pisces born on Feb. 20, utilizes his zodiac sign to assess his compatibility with potential romantic partners or friends. As a Piscean, he finds himself best suited with Virgos, Tauruses, Cancers, Scorpios and Capricorns.

"I noticed I best get along with my friend who is a Cancer, and there's a high level of emotional understanding between us," he said.

Kang first encountered astrology through TikTok and other social media platforms during quarantine, around the same time the field gained attraction among Gen Z.

"I've talked about zodiac signs before with my boyfriend Chad Nguyen and it's kind of funny to see how accurate it is," said Kang, who is a Cancer.

Though astrology does not dictate her behavior in a relationship, Kang sees similarities between her and Nguyen, also a Cancer, whom she met through mutual friends at the end of their sophomore year in May 2021.

"We kind of know that our personalities sometimes clash, and we keep in mind that it is like that because of our zodiac signs being the same," Kang said.

FROM PAGE 1

## Growing LGBTQ+ relationships

LGBTQ+ identification has risen steeply in the last decade with nearly twice as many Generation Z Americans coming out as queer compared to millennials, according to Gallup.

Amid the awakening of gender diversity, junior Alex Sobocinski met their partner, senior Delaney Jackson, who identifies as non-binary (an umbrella term describing a person who does not identify as a man or a woman).

A year into their relationship, the couple said they've felt safe out on campus and are looking forward to spending their first Valentine's Day together.

"I'm aware of what my relationship may look like to others when I hold hands with Alex, but I can't say that that's stopped me from doing anything," Jackson said.

However, for junior Pierre Guerrero, his history with coming out about his sexuality and queer relationship with his former boyfriend last year resulted in backlash from family and friends.

"Me and my boyfriend were broken up by my parents,"

Guerrero said. "But we still talk today and are good friends, and I've had a lot of romantic encounters since then."

Reasons for closeting queer romantic relationships include fear of getting disowned by parents or getting ostracized by peers, said Guerrero, who's currently in the talking stages for a potential relationship.

"People against the LGBTQ community are quick to say that gay people are promiscuous and not as serious when it comes to romantic situations," he said. "Especially here, queer relationships are more secretive, and those that are public have to deal with the thought that they're going to be criticized or judged."

Despite the ongoing stigma around non-traditional gender relationships, Alexandra Gerdt, who's Sobocinski's cousin and identifies as bisexual, said she's seen progress with queer relationships growing to become as accepted as straight affairs compared to when she entered high school — not Sunny Hills — 17 years ago.

Similar to Arteaga and Orozco, Gerdt's relationship with her then-partner was publicized. However, the similarities end there. As soon as Gerdt started dating, she said she confided in a few of her close friends. In a matter of days, the entire school knew about their relationship.

"We were the only out people in our whole school, and

instantly my whole life changed," Gerdt said. "All of a sudden, they wanted nothing to do with me."

From getting milk cartons and homophobic slurs thrown at her, she said the stigma of LGBTQ+ relationships years ago would have made it impossible for her to publicly show her love as Arteaga and Orozco did.

"I know that our society has made a lot of progress since I was in eighth grade, and I've been with my partner now, who's non-binary, for eight years, but I still struggle with PDA, the public displays of affection, because I'm convinced that we will be hate crimed," she said.

Almost two decades later, however, junior Sunny Jam, who identifies as transgender, said most of his friends are queer themselves or allies, so he isn't conscious of holding hands or walking each other to classes.

"I've struggled with feeling ashamed because people say stuff, but it's not something you should be ashamed of," Jam said.

That's also the message Arteaga and Orozco's open proposal has sent to other Sunny Hills students, who may be learning about their sexuality and gender identity. From the passing students who yelled, "We love queer people," that day to receiving support on social media, the couple said they hope queer relationships continue to grow.





DAHEE KIM | theaccolade

IRENE SHEEN

Special Sections Editor

After exploring a plethora of temporary career paths including a photoshoot for a Burberry campaign and a failed attempt at publishing a photography book, 23-year-old Brooklyn Beckham returns to the camera as a reinvented celebrity chef.

Hosting a Facebook watch series, “Cookin’ With Brooklyn,” with a reported budget of \$100,000 per episode, he does no more than plate the pre-made scraps of food prepared by his crew of 62 culinary professionals.

Although the photographer-to-chef pipeline is one that we never expected to see, his family’s elite status and the value of the “Beckham” name alone finances the young socialite’s expensive “hobbies.”

Needless to say, Beckham is embarrassingly good at being a

nepo baby — the latest internet phenomenon.

Short for nepotism, the term describes the child of a high-profile celebrity who benefits from generational fame.

From TikTok memes to snarky Twitter posts, the exhaustive list of Hollywood celebrities who rode on the backs of their parents’ fame fill the pages of practically every social media platform.

In honor of this nepo baby craze, the *New York Magazine* dedicated the front page of its

December 2022 issue to these brilliant stars. With the headline, “She has her Mother’s Eyes. And Agent,” the cover had faces of Hollywood faces Photoshopped onto the bodies of literal infants. It was witty, to say the least.

Although at face value, it appears to be nothing more than a satirical commentary on Hollywood’s overwhelming wave of nepo babies, the truth is that *New York Magazine*’s cover is an earnest invitation for us to reconsider meritocracy as a whole, in

America.

“Get your ... up and work. It seems like nobody wants to work these days,” TV personality and CEO Kim Kardashian said in a March 2022, interview with *Variety*.

Kardashian, a household name, flaunts an estimated 1.8 billion net worth and overwhelming popularity in the entertainment industry. But her “advice” for women in business only triggered the public’s irritation.

She blatantly perpetuates the

narrative that hard work alone was responsible for her path to stardom. She’s an advocate of the dead American Dream.

Of course, this discourse shouldn’t discredit the obvious struggles of growing up in the public eye. After all, nothing inherently is wrong with being the child of a successful celebrity.

For as long as these industry insiders continue to have children, the wealthy and privileged will only continue to grow in status. But our society must change its perception of class and wealth. It starts with nepo celebrities acknowledging their privilege.

For online critics, Beckham is no more than an insanely rich kid messing around with Daddy’s money. And as the internet continues to question his cooking abilities, Beckham’s series of short-lived careers reveal one profoundly clear truth — success isn’t based on merit alone.

## America’s meritocracy problem manifests in NEPO BABIES



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

**SPEAKING TO THE CROWD:** Seniors Alejandra Quismorio (left) and Kate Yang deliver a speech about their experience as International Baccalaureate students in the gym as part of the opening ceremonies of the Jan. 24 Open House for eighth-graders and their parents.

## Speaking at Open House brings back fond memories

Four years ago, I took a seat in the Sunny Hills gym as an eighth-grader, listening to former principal Allen Whitten introduce a few Open House student speakers



**Kate Yang**  
Editor-in-Chief

who delineated their individual high school experiences.

I listened to their anecdotes while questions raced through my mind.

Would I participate in on-campus clubs? Would I join any academic programs?

But not once did the following question cross my mind: Would I end up standing behind that podium sharing my SH story?

Nearly four years later on Jan. 13, the opportunity I never expected came my way. I received a summons slip from assistant principal Sarah Murrietta during fifth period.

In under roughly two minutes, she asked that I speak about my academic and extracurricular experiences as a Lancer alongside senior Alejandra Quismorio, a fellow International Baccalaureate [IB] classmate of mine. I was to press upon the reasons students should enroll at Sunny Hills.

After I left the meeting, I — without hesitation — knew I would be centering the bulk of my speech on *The Accolade*.

It was a no-brainer.

I dedicated nearly four years to student journalism: from learning

the fundamentals of the 5Ws + H to reporting campus news as a sophomore and junior in the Advanced Journalism class.

I, however, sought to not limit the activities I pursued on the Hill. As a freshman, I played for the varsity girls golf team, continuing on with the sport to senior year. From junior to senior year, I registered for IB classes as a full-Diploma candidate to push the boundaries of my education.

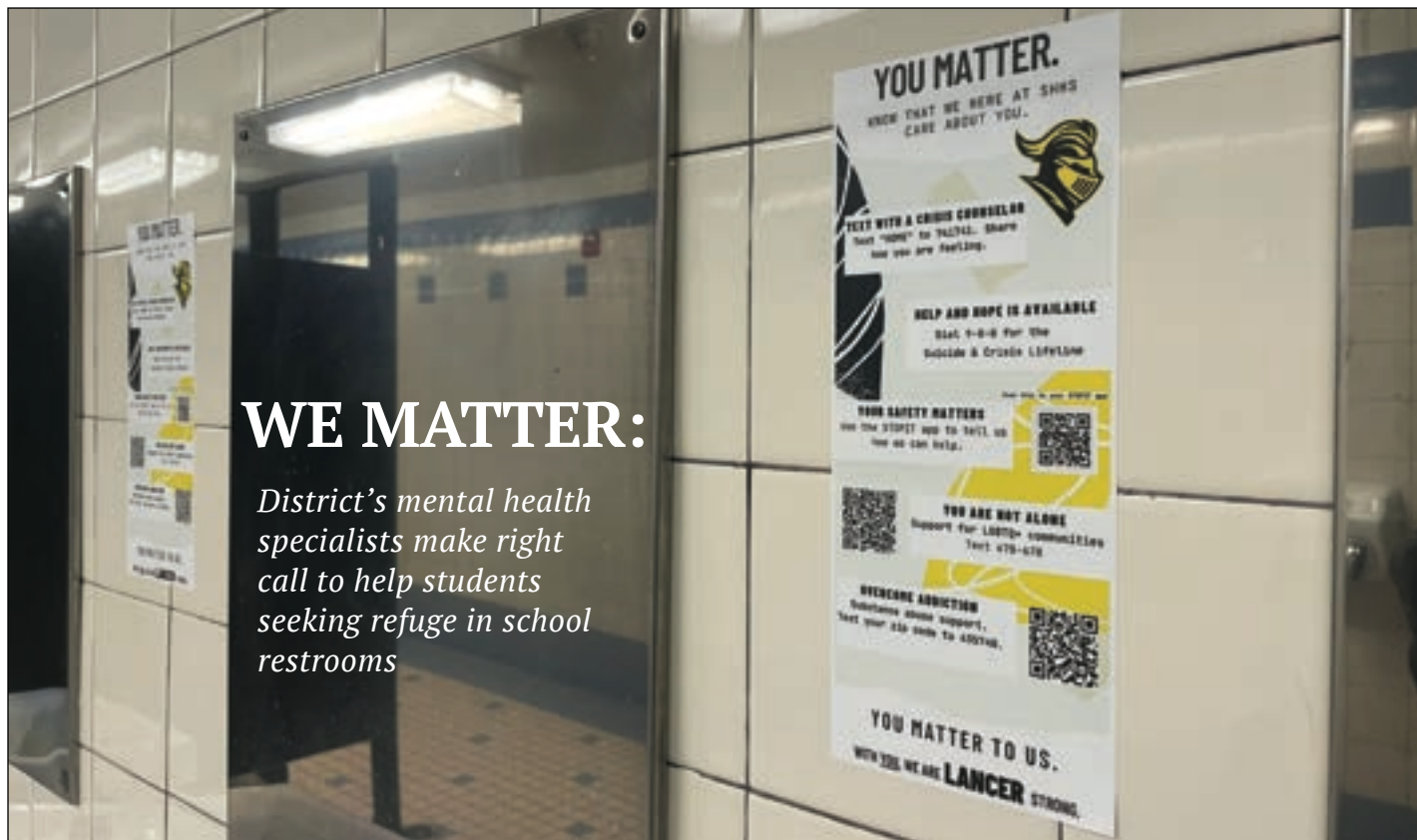
My journey at Sunny Hills has been arduous but worth every word — in print and online.



For the full story, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)



## STAFF EDITORIAL



## WE MATTER:

*District's mental health specialists make right call to help students seeking refuge in school restrooms*

SUMMER SUEKI | theaccolade

The Accolade Editorial Board is unanimously in favor of the Fullerton Joint Union High School's [FJUHSD] decision to provide students with resources that prompt healthier mental well-being.

It starts with a single assignment, but by the end of the day students have a daunting to-do list staring back at them. Just as the number of tasks pile up, high schoolers stress about juggling academics with personal life becomes overwhelming and in desperate need of attention.

Thankfully, the FJUHSD recognized this and took initiative to support its students.

In a January 2022 Staff Editorial article published on shhsaccolade.com, *The Accolade* Editorial Board previously suggested that the district provide mental well-being services. After a year, students experiencing mental health difficulties are now able to access the help that they need.

On Jan. 20, stickers featuring QR codes that direct students to various hotlines for LGBTQ+

communities and suicide prevention among others began to pop up on campus bathroom walls.

Although this new implementation can be prone to vandalism, the district's efforts in aiding the struggles of students will outshine the possible downfalls.

Safe environments entail a place where students feel free to express their emotions and have their needs met to reach their social, emotional and academic potential.

Behaviors that reflect a healthy mind also reflect a nurturing and involved school, which hopefully will prevail on campus. Thanks for reminding us that we matter.

The Accolade Editorial Board is made up of the top editors and section editors on the new 2022-2023 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.

## Letters to the editor

Euree Kim and Dareen Hagekhalil's News article "DANCING WITH THE STAFF (UNMASKED EDITION)" was remarkable.

It was an honor being able to see the students and staff being able to interact together unmasked for the first time since 2019, and it solidified the connections between the staff and students.

— Cheney Mo, freshman

Kayla Martinez and Troy Yang's News article "West parking lot in need of resurfacing, repainting" brought to my attention a problem that I wasn't aware of before.

I usually get dropped off and picked up in the west parking lot, but I never noticed the faded markings on the street.

— Jacob Nguyen, freshman

The News article "TIKTOK INFLUENCERS" by Grace Min was interesting to read.

TikTok is something that I use very often, so this caught my eye quickly.

— Jaden Lee, freshman

I really liked the Special Sections editorial "AI POWERS NEW AGE OF TALENT" by Irene Sheen.

It was cool to see what was going on in the artificial intelligence world of today and that people have figured out how to remake voices from archival recordings.

— Serenity Li, freshman

Kate Yang's Feature article "BROADY'S BOOKSHELF" greatly inspired me as I read about a teacher that used the pandemic as an opportunity to write a book.

— Kayleen Kim, freshman

I could relate to the News article "Students disfavor cashless payment" by Alexxa Berumen.

Ever since the vending machines only accepted cards, I was having difficulties accessing snacks and drinks, and as a freshman, I didn't think I would need Apply Pay or a card until this incident. I think Berumen addressed an important issue that lots of students experience.

— Jiseong Yoo, freshman

## For the record

*The Accolade* regrets the following error from the Oct. 14 issue:

On page 22 of the Sports section, senior Dustin Staggs' last name was misspelled twice in two captions describing two images Staggs is in.

*The Accolade* regrets the following errors from the Nov. 18 issue:

On page 10 of the Feature section, junior Nadia Jaurequi's last name was misspelled in the attribution to her direct quote about her club, Helping Hands, which was among the new campus groups featured in the full-page infographic titled, "TIME TO GO CLUBBING."

In a page 22 Sports article titled, "Looking back at Lady Lancer's success," the number of years English teacher Scott Enrico has served as girls golf head coach should have been listed as five; the name of the Western Hills Country Club event in which the girls golf team placed ninth in should have been listed as the Southern California Golf Association Qualifier.

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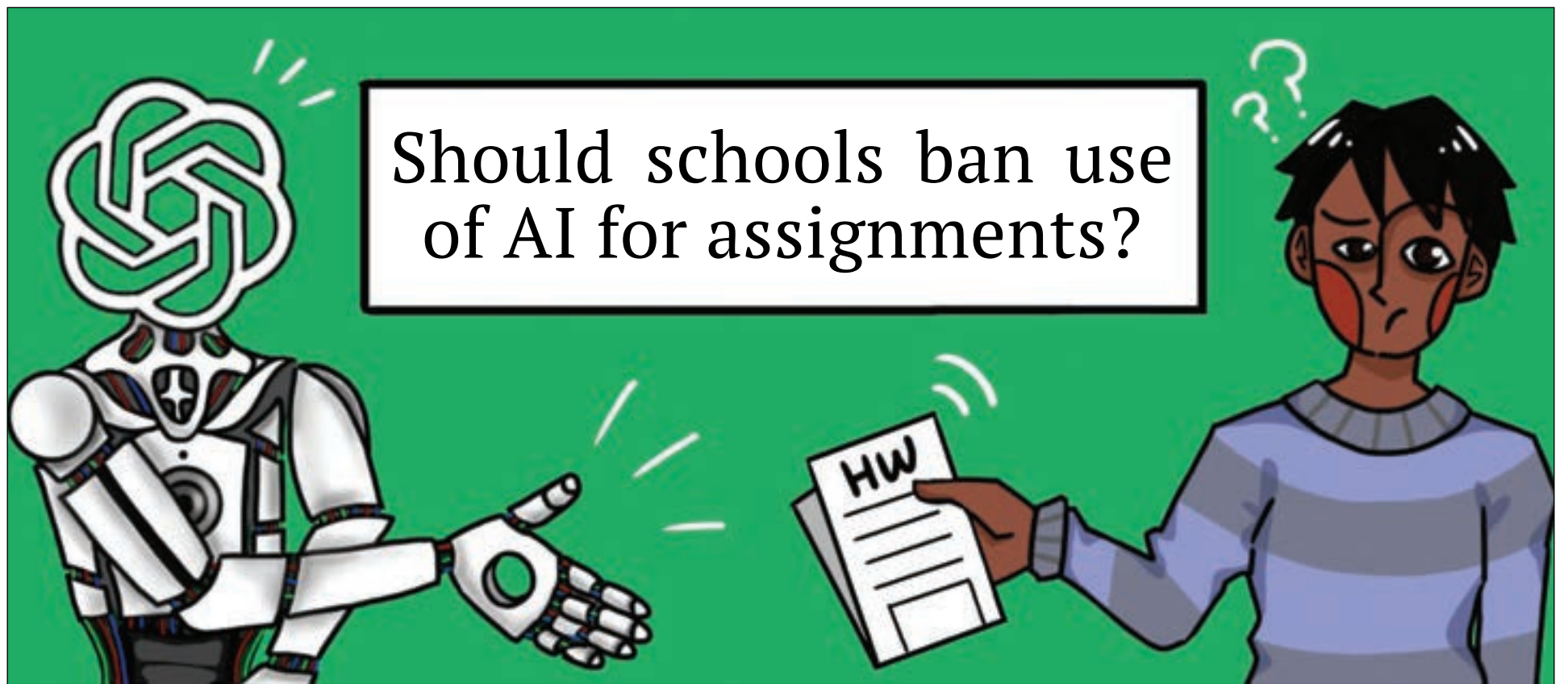
Tommy Li

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IRIS KIM | theaccolade

## YES: Apps like ChatGPT hinder student growth

KAYLA MARTINEZ

Staff Reporter

Artificial intelligence [AI] programs have been aiding generations through educational applications such as Grammarly, Mathway, Symbolab, Google Translator and more, which provide means of instruction for those who utilize their features.

Specifically, an AI platform called ChatGPT has been gaining traction since its launch in November 2022.

As a chatbot capable of writing essays, drafting emails and answering questions for those who need extra assistance, this rising platform has opened the potential for students to use to complete their writing assignments for them, which can be interpreted by school officials as a form of plagiarism.

At Sunny Hills, English teachers who have addressed this concern with their classes should be applauded for doing so.

Schools should start taking more serious and specific measures to ban these programs in classrooms for any educational purposes. Though some educators have increasingly been combatting the use of AI in classrooms, whether it be through in-class essays or signed contracts, more teachers in other academic subjects should consider the long-term

risks of becoming dependent on technology.

Although this program allows for students to easily be stress-free about their academics, the more students rely on apps to do their homework, the less they will learn to be self-sufficient and confident in their academic abilities. Ultimately, students won't be putting in any work at school.

Without being given the opportunity to learn, they mindlessly copy off of these apps that give answers for free.

Students will become used to talking to a chatbox instead of asking teachers for help. Eventually, not one school-learned skill will be able to be applied in the real world.

While it is believed that ChatGPT is a 24-hour service that will give accurate answers — in actuality, the robot will not always know the exact problem and how to solve it correctly, which may lead to an error on the students' end.

At times, teachers may never know that their students are using a robot to write an essay for them. But if perpetrators do get caught, they face detrimental effects that may affect their capability to get into colleges.

Ultimately, students should show academic responsibility for their own work.

The Accolade online polled students about the following:

Have you used the recent AI program ChatGPT?

Yes, I used the program for entertainment purposes only

16%

Yes, I've used it to cheat on my assignments

6%

No, I don't really care or never heard of it

78%

From 106 responses

Responses collected from Jan. 11 - Feb. 2

### Some of ChatGPT's capabilities:

- Generate computer code
- Carry conversations and ask follow-up questions
- Explain math concepts
- Summarize texts, historic events and conversations
- Write emails, essays, limericks, formal and informal letters, etc.
- Refuse to answer questions that relate to illegal activities

Source: openai.com

Compiled by Hannah Lee



For the full stories, go to [shhsaccolade.com](https://shhsaccolade.com)

## NO: If we can't beat it, we need to embrace it

HANNAH LEE

Opinion Editor

A world of artificial intelligence [AI] is not approaching. It's already here.

Since its initial launch in November 2022, ChatGPT, a chatbot released by the technology research company OpenAI, has been a powerful tool in aiding people to perform human-like writing tasks with remarkable speed and skill.

From writing realistic work emails to debugging complex lines of computer code, ChatGPT is capable of it all.

Though the exponentially growing improvements of AI platforms are undeniably historic milestones, educators across the world express opposition to the spread of such technologies, executing harsh measures to prevent students from utilizing AI for school.

Banning AI technologies in a classroom environment is a reasonable response to the alarming potential and growing power of ChatGPT. This is just as competent in drafting literary analysis essays or solving mathematical proofs.

In a world where AI will only prosper further from now, attempting to restrict any sort of AI usage for educational purposes is a nearsighted response that fails to counter any real problem.

Instead of pushing futile

bans to counter the unavoidable developments of AI, educators should consider embracing this new factor and implementing changes in classrooms to reflect the current technologically advanced society. In the long run, working to complement ChatGPT is far more pragmatic than trying to limit it.

"Designing authentic tasks that are highly personalized and contextualized, and perhaps involve multimedia elements, will mean that students can only use tools like ChatGPT as a starting point. Teachers may choose to use AI as a prompt for discussion and collective critique that students will then need to build upon," wrote Matt Bower, interim dean and professor of the Macquarie University School of Education, in a recent *Los Angeles Times* editorial.

Using technology as calculators, spell-checkers and MLA format generators is typical in educational settings. And even if ChatGPT, admittedly, varies from websites like Grammarly or Easybib, the future holds no promises to how normalized AI technologies can become.

At the end of the day, AI is unstoppable. Though ChatGPT may be the knowers, students still remain the thinkers.





Image printed with permission from Universal Studios Hollywood  
**SO LONG KING-A-BOWSER:** A statue of King Bowser, the Mario franchise's main villain, greets guests waiting for the new augmented reality [AR] ride, Mario Kart: Bowser's Challenge, in his castle's entryway.

## Super Nintendo World powers up at Universal Studios Hollywood

EUREE KIM

Staff Reporter

It's Mario time for Universal Studios Hollywood with the new Super Nintendo World set to open Feb. 17.

Bringing to life people's favorite video game characters to a thrilling ride and other interactive features, the amusement park located in Los Angeles County will introduce Mario-themed attractions that will get people saying the video game character's classic line: "Let's-a-go!"

Some Sunny Hills students like freshman Arianna Holguin said they're looking forward to checking it out.

"Ever since I was young, Nintendo video games have always been an important part of my life because it was a common interest for both my sister and I," Holguin said. "We basically grew up with this world surrounding us, which is why I am excited for this new release."

Sophomore Shenelle Bible said she looks forward to going on the new theme park's main attraction and only ride so far: Mario Kart: Bowser's Challenge.

"I love the concept of it — how the virtual reality rides really make everything come to life and how we get to experience being the characters ourselves," said Bible, who plans to visit the park during spring break next month.

Following the first Super Nintendo World theme park that opened in Osaka, Japan, 2021 through a collaboration with Universal Creative and Nintendo, this will be the second one to open globally.

"The all-new, innovative, immersive and highly themed land debuts as a visual spectacle of vibrant colors and architectural ingenuity located within a newly expanded area of Universal Studios Hol-

lywood," according to a Jan. 18 Universal Studios Hollywood news release.

Holguin said she knew about the attraction in Japan through social media and hopes that Universal Studios Hollywood would have something similar, such as multi-sensory rides, creative dining options and character-like souvenirs.

"When I first heard about the opening in Japan, I had a part of me that wished it would someday be included in the Universal Studios nearby, and so now it is like a wish come true," she said. "I want to experience it all."

Junior Jack Rosenkranz also has high hopes for the new attraction.

"I think Super Nintendo World is a great addition to Universal Studios because it was a piece of my childhood," said Rosenkranz, who found out about the new attraction through a news app. "I know for sure that my younger self would be overjoyed to go and experience all the creativeness in real life."

### The Accolade online polled students about the following:

Do you plan on checking out Universal Studios' new Super Nintendo World next month?

As Mario would say, "Let's a Go!" (Yes)

 **30%**

As Bowser would say, "Roar" (No)

 **28%**

Not sure (Depending on what I hear from social media and friends after it opens)

 **42%**

From 103 responses  
 Responses collected Jan. 11-31

ELISA ARIAS | theaccolade



Image printed with permission from Universal Studios Hollywood  
**START THOSE ENGINES:** Past King Bowser's sculpture, guests wear AR goggles to race in a video-game inspired battle for the prized Golden Cup.

## 'Avatar' wrongly profits on 'the way of racism'

Crystal clear waters and vibrant green plants conjure peace and prosperity. Crimson blood swirls in the ocean and the ground quakes with screams of anguish.



**Chloe Chun**  
 Asst.  
 Entertainment  
 Editor

When I tell others I did not watch "Avatar: The Way of the Water" despite watching the prior movie, they demand an explanation of why I refuse to watch it. After hearing endless praise for the blockbuster, I relented to watch the trailer. I regretted my decision instantly.

Directed and written by James Cameron, the film's recycled plot, idealisation of colonialism and theft from black, indigenous and people of color's [BIPOC] culture for the native Na'vi of Pandora are impossible to excuse.

In the first installment, Colonel Miles Quaritch (Stephen Lang, "My Love Affair With Marriage") leads the human Resources Development Association [RDA] to attack the Omatikaya clan, which human protagonist Jake Sully (Sam Worthington, "Transfusion") saves and assimilates into as a Na'vi. In the sequel, a cloned Colonel Quaritch leads the RDA to attack the Metkayina clan, which Sully saves and assimilates into.

Sound familiar? The sequel does not even attempt to fix its "White Savior" narrative, and continues to present Sully as Pandora's hero.

A July 2021 article from Healthline describes the white messiahs as "those who work from the assumption that they know best what BIPOC folks need ... because people of color lack the resources, willpower and intelligence to do it themselves."

Critics such as Gizmodo editor Annalee Newitz and Southern Cheyenne decolonial activist Autumn Asher BlackDeer remark on the use of colonialism to appease white desires.

"'Avatar' is a fantasy about ceasing to be white, giving up the old human meatsack to join the blue people, but never losing white privilege," Newitz said. "Whites need to stop remaking the white guilt story, which is a sneaky way of turning every story about people of color into a story about being white."

Even from a design standpoint, the racism in this film is obvious. The Na'vi have locs (a Black hairstyle), cultural indigenous markings and blue skin from Hindu deities.

The producer, 20th Century Fox, exploits, discredits and markets BIPOC trauma, people and culture to create profitable, aquatic aliens.

Some people claim they only enjoy the film because of the award-winning visuals; however, lush wildlife and vibrant outfits cannot gloss over genocide.

Because of perpetuation of the glorification of "white saviors," diminutization of BIPOC struggles and the capitalization on colonialism and genocide, people should not continue to support the "Avatar" series. Thus, I refuse to spend my time and money on "Avatar: Way of the Water" and all other future films of Cameron's "Avatar" series.





**HANG IN THERE:** Gymnast senior Andrew Gonzalez performs an "L-sit" at a Stanford University competition Jan. 28. This was the second level-nine meet for him and freshman Cailean Travis, his teammate.

# SH boys bringing own brand of balance to gymnastics

KATE YANG

Editor-in-Chief

According to USA Gymnastics, 69,797 female athletes compete in its women's programs, while only 12,072 male athletes compete in the men's.

In the Eric Will Gymnastic Center, the female athletes outnumber the male contestants by 33, yet for freshman Cailean Travis and senior Andrew Gonzalez, such a disparity means nothing on the balance beam.

"I don't feel overlooked as a male gymnast," said Travis, who's been competing for the Eric Will club for seven years. "We practice regardless of whether there are more girls in the gym or not."

The freshman adopted the sport from his step-mother and his step-sister, Lisa Nesterova, both of whom practiced as recreational gymnasts in Russia.

"Gymnastics was a lot more strict in Russia mainly because the coaches were very strict," he said.

Gonzalez's origin story does not differ much from that of Travis' experiences.

At 10 years old, he began taking classes once a week after his younger sister began learning the sport to strengthen her tumbling as a competitive cheerleader.

The two male gymnasts now compete under coach Sameera Ekanayake and practice every day from 5-8:30 p.m.

"They are really motivated, and I have seen how far they've come in their passion," Ekanayake said, who's been coaching Travis for six years and Gonzalez for four.

Ekanayake's players compete at least five times a year — their most recent meet being this past weekend at Stanford University against national athletes. The two gymnasts did not place; however, the boys said they left with a greater drive.

"The competition was a huge motivation boost for me, because I spoke with a gymnast from Stanford University who competed for the USA team," Travis said. "Talking to him and watching him made me want to achieve a higher level myself."

Upon joining the competitive team, the senior received backlash from his middle school peers who viewed gymnastics as solely a feminine sport, he said.

"There was mild bullying with people in middle school saying things like, 'Why don't you play a real sport?'" Gonzalez said. "But [the responses] weren't all bad [because] most people were interested and super supportive."

Ekanayake said he looks forward to seeing the two flourish as level nines.

"The boys handle the pressure very well," he said. "They are doing well performance-wise, and I'm excited to see how they will improve."

## School district needs to add 1 more SH gym

One gym.

Four indoor athletic teams.

They all overlap one another throughout the three sports seasons within the whole school year. Girls volleyball coincides with both boys and girls basketball in the fall and winter season, which extend into the start of boys volleyball in the spring.

While the Sunny Hills volleyball and basketball teams have to sacrifice gym time for one another, schools such as Troy and Sonora do not.

Why? They have two gym facilities to accommodate indoor athletics teams. Their teams have the luxury of practicing right after school without needing to worry about other teams' times.

As a volleyball player in the boys program, I have experienced constantly moving practice times to adjust to the basketball team's schedule during its winter season and have ended up staying in the gym until 10 p.m.

While I do not mind the spontaneous schedule changes, I wish our school had another place to practice in to ease our own respective schedules during volleyball's preseason. That way, I can go home earlier, maintain a consistent routine and prepare myself for the Free-way League season.

Although the school has an outdoor court we use to practice during our preseason, it is nowhere near as efficient as a gym, where factors such as the sun, wind or rain do not affect our practice. Troy's volleyball team has the luxury to start practicing indoors right after winter break, but we don't get that privilege of practicing on multiple courts with a set schedule. Sharing one facility with multiple sports teams inevitably limits our practice time and ultimately our preparation for the season.

Additionally, we do not have turf for our soccer teams, putting us at a disadvantage because other schools and their respective sports do not need to worry about the muddy fields when rain falls.

While this isn't a major concern, considering how amazingly our soccer teams performed this winter season, I believe this is something that can be invested in throughout the upcoming years.

The school used our funds from the pandemic on the new Performing Arts Center, and while I know we are privileged to own this redesigned building that other schools do not, I hope to see future investments toward athletic purposes.

Don't get me wrong — Sunny Hills has an amazing arts program, and I love that we get a nice auditorium to watch Dance Production, theater and more programs like such perform.



Henry Lee

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# 1,000 points for the records



SHEILA NERI | theaccolade

**SWISH!:** Shooting guard senior Johann Kwon gets ready to throw the ball into the net against the Troy Warriors on Tuesday, as he positions himself in the paint. The Lancers won this home conference game 62-49.



Image printed with permission from Sonny Kwon  
**BUCKETS FOR DAYS:** The boys basketball team celebrates Kwon's feat Dec. 16, 2022, right after its 89-65 victory against Loara High School. Kwon was the third player in Lancer history to score 1,000 career points.



ELISA ARIAS | theaccolade

## *Shooting guard senior Johann Kwon becomes the third top-scorer in Lancer history after his feat*

GRACE MIN

Sports Editor

Dec. 16, 2022.

That's the day when senior Johann Kwon accomplished a goal that he and his father had set before even joining the boys basketball team as a freshman.

Kwon, who plays shooting guard, sank a three-point shot against the Loara High School Saxons in an away conference game that the Lancers won 89-65. Those points ended up totaling 1,000 that he has scored for the team since ninth grade.

The shooting guard said there was an unexplainable joy when he fulfilled his long-term goal after keeping track of the number of points he scored alone.

"It felt good scoring my 1,000th point, and I felt so much weight go off my shoulders," Kwon said. "I pointed at my teammates because I wouldn't ever have been able to reach this mark without them."

He and his dad, Sonny Kwon, set a goal of reaching 1,500 scored points by the end of his high school career; however, considering the limited playtime in freshman year, they lowered the goal to 1,000 points.

"I have respect for my son who had to sacrifice a lot, such as spending time with friends, playing video games and vacation get-aways," Sonny Kwon said. "As he developed physically over the years and as the time invested in practice piled up, I could see a higher shooting percentage and better court vision."

Boys basketball head coach Joe Ok praised his team captain for reaching this goal in his 101st game.

"Johann's probably going to finish as one of the best shooters to ever play at our school," Ok said. "One person can't win basketball games, but what he has done has helped [the team] tremendously."

The fact that Johann Kwon never shared the 1,000 points goal with Ok revealed Kwon's selflessness, but Kwon and his teammates knew well about the accomplishment, the head coach said.

"He's never been a guy that's selfish," he said. "[That goal] wasn't the only thing he cared about."

In the locker room after winning against Loara and realizing that he had reached his goal, the senior captain celebrated with his teammates, coaches and family.

After enjoying such festivities, the basketball star took some time to himself and reflected on his journey.

"I just took a moment of silence," Kwon said. "I had to take a minute to soak everything in because it felt so surreal."

A big factor that played into Kwon reaching 1,000 points was that he remained injury-free.

"My advice to him was to avoid injuries by taking time to warm up and by playing smart," Sonny Kwon said.

As the boys basketball program honored its seniors Thursday night in the gym before the start of the home game against Sonora, Johann Kwon knows he's not done with his expectations.

"The obvious goal the team has is to win CIF," he said. "We are most likely to face one of the better teams in our division, but we are fearless and don't care about who our opponents are."