

THE SCOTCH TAPE



TRACK AND FIELD'S HARD WORK PAYS OFF

LHHS Track and Field distance team really hit their stride this season, reaching new PRs every week and showing other teams what they're capable of.

(Story by Audrey Beasley continues on page 2)

ANNUAL BLOCK SCHEDULE ANNOYS STUDENTS

By Kiki Huizar

For the past several years, La Habra High School has been using block scheduling for the junior class to complete their CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) testing.

The block scheduling here at La Habra is arranged as Monday and Tuesday are periods 1, 2, and 3, Wednesday is the normal school schedule, and lastly, Thursday and Friday are periods 4, 5, and 6.

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE: DISTANCE TEAM HAS STRONG SEASON PERFORMANCE

On Wednesday, April 2nd, La Habra raced against Foothill High School at the Foothill track, with Senior Brittany Rodriguez taking first place in the 1600 with a 5:38 mile. She also took second place in the 800, and third place in the 3200.



Senior Christian Reyes took first place in the boys varsity 800 with 2:08, and took third place in the 1600.

Sophomore Noah McCullough set the fastest PRs on the team this season in the boys varsity 1600 at 4:43, and in the 3200 at 10:19.



The girl's JV and FroshSoph 1600 runners are also showing great promise this season, with Sophia McCullough, Leilah Carillo, and Penelope Miles taking top three in the 1600 against Sunny Hills on April 10th.

Freshman Leilah Carillo, started the season with a 7:15 mile, and now she's running in the high 6:30's, she's scoring points for the girls Frosh team in every race.

After being a back-to-back winner in the 1600 and the 800, Sophomore Sophia McCullough is blazing past the competition not once, but twice. "I hope to set a new PR soon." Says McCullough.

La Habra Track and Field is really giving their all this season and showing what they're capable of.





FROM THE FRONT PAGE: BLOCK SCHEDULING

By Kiki Huizar

During English and Social Science classes, students complete the science, Math, and English portions of the exam over the 2.5 weeks. The CAASPP testing is important for students because it provides data on student achievements and progress, which helps schools, educators, and parents see the students' strengths and improvements.

Since the school has been on the block schedule, many students have complained about how long we have to be in our classrooms.

One student who is not taking the CAASPP test talks about how she feels about being in one classroom for two hours: "I honestly don't like it," they say, asking to remain anonymous. "I feel like an hour and a half should be fine, but two hours is too much. It makes the days feel longer and are more draining than the regular schedule."

Also, some students believe that the block schedule shouldn't be 2.5 weeks long. One student states, "It's stressful just being in one class for two hours," states another student who requested to remain anonymous. "I think they should give us 10 minutes during the class period (one break every hour) to walk around outside to get some fresh air, it's really hard to focus for two hours straight."

Even though the block scheduling doesn't benefit all the other classes, it does help the Junior Class take their time and try their best on the CAASPP testing for those who want to do their best in school.

But even students who did try their best think they didn't need that much time.

"I feel like the block scheduling was unnecessary, I understand that you need a lot of time but personally I didn't," explains a current Junior, who also requested to remain anonymous. "There was also a test that only had 5 questions, and I don't think we needed a full two hours to complete it."

Students offered a potential alternative solution to the block schedule: an alternate schedule that excuses the members of the Junior Class to alternate testing sites like the gym, lecture hall, or PAC to take the test during a singular block time. This would reduce the disruption of the weeks-long block schedule and simplify the testing time for the Juniors.



A GREAT TEACHER AND COACH

By Kayla Walsh

Mr. Cody Verdugo is a history teacher and coach with 24 years of experience. I got the chance to ask him a few questions, and his story is really inspiring.

For Mr. Verdugo, his family is his biggest achievement in life. In teaching, it's all about staying consistent and making a difference. In sports, he's won seven CIF championships—six in football and one in golf!

When I asked how he achieved so much, he said it's because of passion, perseverance, grit, and love. He also credits his family and God for supporting him through all his ups and downs. Even with all his success, he says he's still working to improve every day.

Looking ahead, Mr. Verdugo's goal is simple: he wants to keep sharing his blessings and energy with others. His positive attitude is contagious, and it's clear he cares a lot about the people in his life. From my experience, he's also an amazing teacher, constantly spreading positivity and lighting the class up with laughter.

Mr. Verdugo is an amazing role model, both in the classroom and on the field. He shows us that hard work and kindness can lead to great things.



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THE GUIDE TO A TEACHING CAREER

By Kiki Huizar

Saying what you want to be in the future is easy; putting in the work and effort is the hard part. Ms. Ryan, one of our beloved English teachers here at La Habra tells her story about how she became a teacher.

“From 18 on I was working at Apple, that’s where I was going to go forever, that was what my career was going to be,” says Ms. Ryan. She then continues to say, “Something happened in my family so I came back home, and that’s how I got into teaching.”

“I was able to finish my teaching credential and find a

job in the same district where I soon then taught...I was able to go into a master’s degree that I thought I’d never get.” She then goes on to say “I’m thankful that I went and

got my Master’s because now it’s over and that would be my biggest accomplishment..”

“What pushed me to get my master’s degree was that it would help me evolve my teaching skills, how I respond to students, and essentially how I’m able to teach where students can learn more than what I had ... the master’s gives me the understanding of students brains so I can help them achieve and succeed far beyond what I think I would have been able to do.”



A CAMPUS SUPERVISOR’S STORY

By Cecilia Munoz

Ruben Delira is a Campus Supervisor at La Habra High School and shares his story of how he ended up working at FJUHSD for 28 years.

“I’ve been working for FJUHSD for 28 years now, 6 years at La Habra in total,” he says.

Mr. Delira was moved to our school from Buena Park High School after working there for 22 years. La Habra was in need of a campus supervisor, and Ruben took the job happily. Although he was loyal to Buena Park and holds that job dear to his heart, he loves La Habra as well.

He shares that he loves giving kids advice or guidance and being able to see them grow up. He happily tells us one of his former students from Buena Park, Ms. Ceylon Dugas, works here as a teacher at La Habra, and he loves seeing her succeed.

Prior to working for this district, he shared that he was in the Army for 8 years. Ruben experienced many good memories and life lessons through this time of his life serving his country.

“I got to see the world. I’ve been to 17 different countries, purely thanks to the army. I do miss it there.”

He explains that he initially joined the Army because of his love of architecture. He had a drafting teacher in high

school who encouraged him to join the military so that he could see the architecture around the world. Once in the Army, Mr. Delira stayed beyond his original commission.

Today, Ruben is happy with the path his life had taken him on, and wishes to share one piece of advice with the students of La Habra High School: “Do the right thing, no matter what. And go Highlanders!”





THE BEAUTY OF THE ARTS

by Miranda Jones

My full name is Lily Castaneda and I am a senior at La Habra High School, which is pretty exciting. I'd say I've had way more good experiences than bad ones since being at La Habra High School. I love spending time with my family, as they are the closest people to me. My safe space is definitely my bed since it's a place where I can relax and not worry about talking to anyone.

My best memory would have to be performing in Clue the play. I love acting and participating in La Habra's theater program, it's definitely my passion. I have been acting for 6 years. I like the fact that I can be a completely different person and my favorite genre to act in is murder mysteries. I also love dancing, as I've been in dance at LHHS since my freshman year.

An experience that I'll always remember is my first heartbreak and how my friends were there for me. It was a difficult time for me, but I learned a lot from that experience. I've learned that I need to stand up for myself more and set strong boundaries.

A quote that I live by is, "Always do what makes you happy." This quote helps me a lot in life and with my mental health.

I am very proud of what I have accomplished as a senior in high school. I am extremely excited for my future and college. I want to continue theater in college and possibly even become a director in the future. I love the arts and I would love to pursue them for as long as I can.



BRIGHTER TOMORROW

by Evelyn Garcia

Setting goals for the future is a crucial step in achieving personal and professional success. By envisioning and planning ahead where we want to be, we can create a path to help us reach the end goal. Goals provide us with hope, purpose, and a sense of accomplishment as we work to make our dreams a reality. For Yazlin Morales, this is no different.

"One of my goals beyond high school is to become an EMT," Morales says. Even with balancing her home life, social life, and school life, Morales strives to do more and push herself to reach her goals of being an EMT. She would often attend Mr. Bernier's Thursday after-school classes, which taught her a lot of different skills and different perspectives of being an EMT. To her, this was a step she needed to take in order to further help herself achieve her goals of becoming an EMT.

Getting guidance is something that everyone needs. "Mr. Bernier encouraged me and showed me how to become and get ready to be an EMT," Morales states. Mr. Bernier was Yazlin's helping hand when it came down to showing her what it takes to become an EMT. With her teachers helping her and giving her the confidence to continue on her dreams, Yazlin now has a clear vision, mindset, and goal for her future.

As we look towards our future, setting clear and meaningful goals is valuable for personal growth and success. Our goals shape the path to a fulfilling and purposeful life, guiding us toward a brighter tomorrow.





SOMEONE SPECIAL CAN REALLY TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND

by *Liam Howard*

For Corey Griffin, a student at La Habra High School, surfing is more than just a sport, it's a journey of resilience and self-discovery.

It began in middle school, a challenging time in his life, but his grandpa would introduce him to the ocean waves at Huntington Beach.

Corey would recall how his grandpa played a pivotal role in shaping his experience. "My grandpa was involved through my journey of surfing, which really helped me mentally, especially because I was going through rough times," Corey shares.

Surfing became a way for him to channel his emotions and build strength. The bond between Corey and his grandpa extended beyond the waves, as he mentored Corey on endurance and resilience. "He helped me with my physical strength, endurance, and surfing skills," Corey explains. Each wave Corey conquered was a testament to their connection and the life lessons he was taught.

And when asked what you would do differently, he explicitly stated, "I would change absolutely nothing".

Through surfing, Corey was able to find a source of support, a way to grow stronger, and memories that will stay with him throughout his life.



TARGET HORROR

by *Kayla Walsh*

Samantha Kim, a talented dancer with an extremely demanding schedule, recently shared one of the most terrifying moments of her life. Juggling a busy week of dance rehearsals for upcoming teasers, Samantha took time to reflect on an experience that profoundly shaped her outlook on safety and family.

The incident occurred during an ordinary shopping trip to Target with her mom. While they browsed the aisles, Samantha suddenly realized her mom was nowhere to be found. "I had no idea where she was and desperately needed to use the bathroom but couldn't find her or the bathroom," Samantha recounted. "I was so overwhelmed by the busy store and the thought of not finding my mom again I felt helpless."

This event taught Samantha a valuable lesson. "It taught me a lesson not to wander off by myself as well as to grow a stronger attachment to my mom," she explained. The experience also affected those around her. Family members became more cautious, always ensuring Samantha stayed close during outings. "This made people be more wary of my whereabouts and to keep me close as a kid," she said.

When asked what she learned from the event, Samantha emphasized the importance of staying together. "Don't wander alone and stay close to the people you are shopping with," she advised, a piece of wisdom she carries to this day. The memory remains fresh, especially when she visits that same Target.





MEANINGFUL FIRST TIME EXPERIENCES *by Liam Howard*

Celebrating a friend's birthday may seem normal for just about anyone, but this birthday celebration was special to Daniel Arroyo. Even though he wasn't the birthday boy this day would be one for the books.

As for Liam Howard's 17th birthday, he invited Daniel, Ryan, Javi, Joshua, and Christian to play at TopGolf, and there they would all have a blast. But after that was done, they all went back to Liam's House where they would eat, play games, and mess around. This may seem normal to anyone else.

But for Daniel, this was a first-time experience.

He described the hangout as one of the most cherished moments in his life. "It was the first time I ever got to do something like this," he said, highlighting how special the day felt to him.

What made this experience even more meaningful for Daniel was how it marked a personal milestone. Coming from a family where hangouts with friends never happened meant, things were changing. "My parents are starting to realize that I'm growing up,".

This experience made him truly realize that he has grown and his family came to see it as well. This marked a moment of his life for growth and freedom for him.



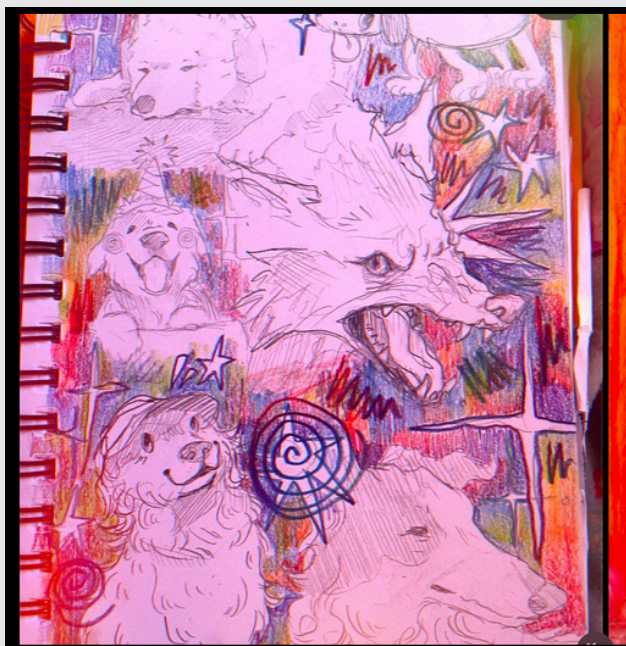
A CREATIVE INSPIRATION *by Kayla Walsh*

Racquelle Nicole Ramos is one of the most creative people I've had the chance to get to know. She loves making art using crayons, finger paints, and water pastels as well as her drawing tablet. Her unique style really shows how much she enjoys what she does, even on Procreate you can see her style pop.

When I asked how her day was going, Racquelle said it had been "very good" because she got to go thrift shopping at an antique store. It's cool to see how she finds inspiration everywhere, even in everyday activities. She told me she got into art because she loves taking things from her imagination and putting them onto paper. One of her favorite pieces is a drawing of two little bears hanging on a clothesline. It's clear she puts a lot of heart into everything she creates, and nothing she makes ever looks the same.

Racquelle looks up to artists like Louis Wain, Jim Henson, and Wes Anderson. They inspire her to think outside the box and keep pushing herself in every direction. Even though being an artist can be tough, like when her ideas don't come out exactly as she imagines, she stays positive and pushes herself to create.

Her advice to others? "Have fun with art, and don't worry about always being perfect. Just have fun." Talking to Racquelle reminded me that art is about expressing yourself and enjoying the process and just having fun. Art is different for everyone, its been a pleasure being able to interview such a creative person.





MINECRAFT MOVIE A GLOBAL SUCCESS *by Gabriel Gambol*

“A Minecraft Movie,” which was released on April 4, has been met with worldwide success, breaking records for the ever-evolving videogame genre of movies.

The movie, starring actors Jason Momoa and Jack Black, shattered expectations with over 150 million dollars on opening day and 300 million globally, with half of it coming mostly from the U.S and Canada. It single-handedly became the biggest opening for a video-game adaptation yet, beating 2023’s “Super Mario Movie” (which also co-starred Jack Black).



The movie took a surprisingly long amount of time to produce and make, first being announced about 11 years ago. Several delays because of development issues, scheduling conflicts, and the writer’s strike meant that the release date kept being pushed back.

Critics didn’t like the movie as much, giving it a

48% on Rotten Tomatoes, unlike the audience who severely enjoyed it and gave it a 88%.

“In my opinion I thought the movie was pretty good,” said Freshman Angel Lopez, “Yeah there were a few characters that were kinda boring and didn’t add anything but it was still a good movie.”

SUNRISE ON THE REAPING HAS HUNGER GAMES FANS ELATED *by Mia Soza*

The Hunger Games fans are ecstatic about the recent release of the novel *Sunrise on the Reaping* and its upcoming film adaptation.

Sunrise on the Reaping, the fifth book of *The Hunger Games* franchise, centers around the younger version of the beloved Haymitch Abernathy and his time as a District 12 tribute in the 50th Hunger Games.

Much of SOTR centers around propaganda and the manipulation of truth by a government, and the impact of that on societal control, similar to its predecessors.

Sales for SOTR surpassed all expectations after nearly a year of anticipation, receiving an “overwhelmingly positive critical and fan response to the book across the world,” according to Ellie Berger, EVP, President, Scholastic Trade.

Hunger Games fans crowded in bookstores across the world to celebrate the release of the novel, especially those who had been following the franchise since its original release.

Savannah Miller, a 26-year-old Hunger Games fan for almost half of her life, was among the hundreds of fans gathered at Barnes and Noble in Union Square for the midnight launch party for SOTR, published March 18.

“As a kid, you focus so much on the plot and the action,” Miller told the Associated Press. “As an adult, I connected to the characters a lot more and had more of an emotional response. I also appreciated the writing a lot.”

The four previous books have sold millions of copies according to Scholastic Inc., with film adaptations launching the careers of its lead actors Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson.

The film adaptation for SOTR was announced simultaneously with the novel, and will be directed by Francis Lawrence, who took on *Catching Fire* (2012), *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1* (2014), and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2* (2015).

The announcement of the film leaves fans with one pressing question: How are they going to find an actor who will live up to Woody Harrelson’s memorable performance as Haymitch in the four original films? Director Francis Lawrence wasn’t concerned about it when questioned in December 2024.

“It’s a search and you have to dig down to figure out what some of the elements that make Woody Harrelson so interesting,” he told ComicBook. “Some of it is humor. Some of it is intelligence. We’re going to have to find somebody who has all of that. It’s not somebody that just looks like him, or is going to study Woody Harrelson and just act like him.”

Sunrise on the Reaping is expected to begin filming this July and reach the big screen on November 20, 2026.



‘HANDS OFF!’ PROTESTS BRING ATTENTION TO CIVIL UNREST

by Cecilia Munoz

Saturday, April 4th, thousands of protesters flocked to downtown LA to share their voice against President Trump and his administration over recent political choices in a protest named “Hands Off!”

Trump’s recent tariffs, cuts to programs such as the Department of Education, and massive layoffs among federal workers have upset others and affected millions of families and individuals. Those who were affected and those in support of those who were affected planned a moving protest to get the message to Trump to keep his “Hands Off!”



Protesters mainly gathered at Pershing Square, but other protesters were seen in Torrance, Long Beach, Santa Clarita, Santa Ana, and Riverside. Many different groups came together to support, such as civil rights organizations, LGBTQ+ advocates, labor unions, veterans, democrats, and election advocates.

In an interview with BBC News, Katie Smith said, “I was motivated to protest by Rumeysa Ozturk, an international student arrested by masked U.S. Agents. My thoughts are: You can stand up today or you can be taken later.”

Following the “Hands Off!” protest, over 100 further protests are planned spreading across the U.S. in hopes of gathering Trump and his administration’s attention. All protests have been peaceful and are expected to remain that way going forward.

Trump has yet to respond to these countless protests, and shows silence towards the millions affected.

BIGGER AND BETTER COMING TO YOU!

by Kayla Walsh

Nintendo is officially leveling up its gameplay with the highly anticipated release of the Nintendo Switch 2 on June 5, 2025.

Building on the legacy of the original Switch, this next-generation console introduces an interesting twist with major updates and upgrades. These upgrades focus on the performance, design, and gameplay, making it a must-have for all gamers.

The Switch 2 boasts a 7.9 inch screen with a smooth 120Hz refresh rate, delivering smoother and sharper gameplay with amazing new visuals. In docked mode, the console now supports 4k resolution, which is a massive upgrade that was promised for a more immersive experience.

One of the most exciting changes comes in the form of the redesigned magnetic joy-cons. Unlike the older slide-on models, the new controller magnetically snaps into place. No more fighting to get your Joy-Cons in and out, this offers better durability and less weathering on your switch. The Joy-Cons also come with enhanced motion sensors and mouse-like responsiveness, this is perfect for motion based games.

With 256GB of internal storage, the switch gives players more room to store their favorite games and the downloadable content. This is huge as so many users have complained about this in the past so it's awesome that

Nintendo was able to do this for users.

The console will be priced \$499.99 for the bundle including Mario Kart world. However, U.S. pre-orders have been paused due to an “ongoing trade dispute involving tariff,” so unfortunately for us American fans we will have to wait a bit longer to be able to preorder.

Long-time player and father Joshua Boothe was over the moon when the Switch 2 was announced, “I’ve been a Nintendo fan for over 15 years, I truly never thought they’d make another switch, but I’m absolutely ecstatic about it and all its new upgrades! I would be lying if I said I didn’t want to get my hands on it.”

With so many new upgrades, powerful hardware, redesigned controllers, and a strong game lineup, the Nintendo Switch 2 is shaping up to be a pretty worthy successor to one of the best-selling consoles of all time.





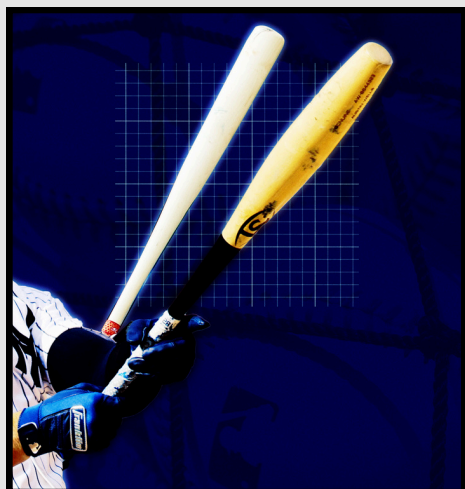
NEW TORPEDO BATS STIR DEBATE THROUGHOUT MLB

by Mia Soza

Controversy erupts throughout the baseball world following the introduction of the Yankees new Torpedo bats.

The Yankees' popularity is already huge as the 2025 season kicks off, but with an offensive explosion the first three games and usage of abnormal bats by numerous players, questions have emerged regarding the details of these new bats.

It's called the "Torpedo" bat, and its shape differs from normal bats. It has a thicker barrel, which is the sweet spot of the bat—producing the most power—and thins out at the top.



Brewers reliever Trevor Megil is one of the many frustrated with the new bats after witnessing the Yankees home-run shower.

"I think it's terrible," Megil told Men's Journal. "I've never seen anything like it before. But it's the Yankees, so they'll [MLB] let it slide. It took a minute for the shock to go away, since from the bullpen, they looked like bowling pins."



But despite the outrage, the bats are legal under MLB policy.

MIT physicist Aaron Leanhardt, current field coordinator for the Marlins and former hitting analyst with the Yankees, is credited with the creation of torpedo bats. He came up with the idea after studying Yankee shortstop Anthony Volpe's swing, which showed him that if the barrel was moved closer to the middle, Volpe would make better contact with the ball.

"I think the eureka moment, really, was when players pointed to where they were trying to hit the ball," Leanhardt told the media regarding where the idea for the bats originated. "They noticed that the tip was the fattest part of the bat, and then everyone looked at each other like 'Let's flip it around'. So that was really the moment.

While a handful of Yankees have gained popularity for their usage of the bats, they're not the only ones. Torpedo bats have been used by several players around the league, including Alec Bohm, Oneil Cruz, Elly De La Cruz, Francisco Lindor, and Adley Rutschman.

But even in the face of criticism, Yankees manager Aaron Boone is confident they're doing nothing wrong.

"The reality is, it's all within Major League standards," he told reporter Bryan Koch. "It's 2025, so we can account for things a lot better. When I played, I probably used six, seven, eight different model bats throughout my career... Those things aren't new."

In favor of them or not— one thing is very clear: The Torpedo bat era has officially launched, and it's changing the game one swing at a time.

