





# Holiday Treats

By: Anndrea Herrera  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

The holiday season usually creates a most amazing time to be around. Many reasons abound, including hanging with friends, family, watching movies under a blanket during cold weather, but most importantly, enjoying the treats! Making sweet and delicious treats during the season with the ones one loves creates the best feeling. If a person plans on making a list for what to do this holiday season, add “baking treats” and get ready to check it off!

### Holiday Variety

Numbers of people love many different kinds of treats. With different ingredients and flavorings getting discovered every day people can create a seemingly endless array of new flavors.

When people think of sweet holiday treats, they often think of “peppermint.” Poppy works for Miss Candace Nelson, pastry chef and judge of the television shows ‘Cupcake Wars’ and ‘Sugar Rush’. Poppy also owns a pastry shop: Sprinkles. She shares her must holiday treat. She says it includes “anything that involves peppermint! It’s one of my favorite flavors, but is most commonly incorporated into Christmas desserts!” Poppy continued by saying. “That fresh and sweet taste fits in any treat!”

### A Bliss to the Brain

The very exuberant Poppy reveals that “baking in general lets the brain act creatively.” Any person can bake a cake but never a “boring” cake, or cookie. Poppy shared the cool-

est cookie cake she recently made that generated a challenge but also created a fun experience. She says that she “recently made a very cool cookie cake in the shape of the number 29! This was a little tricky to make as I haven’t cut out numbers before,” she admitted, “but it ended up looking really great.” Consider people baking during the holiday, and it can lead to an amazing opportunity to see what people can produce without even knowing beforehand what they would create.

Everyone has a different first baking experience. A holiday experience may be a little special. Mrs. Bentley, an English teacher at Buena Park High School, shared her first holiday baking experience. “I was about five-yeara-old; I would help my grandma make many types of cookies.”

### Cookies Galore

Cookies play an important role during the holidays as they can act as a common holiday treat. Mrs. Bentley has the “how to make sugar cook-

*“Baking lets  
the brain act  
creatively.”*

ies” tradition developed with her grandmother, and now she has carried down the tradition to her son.

Oftentimes, everyone learns how to bake from someone older than themselves, similar to how Mrs. Bentley learned from her grandmother. During that time, though, the activity can act as a way to get to spend time with relatives, to



PHOTO BY MARIANA FERNANDEZ

*Poppy’s creative “29” cake was made from scratch.*

bond and to make memories that will last forever.

Mrs. Melody Volen, a Math teacher and Renaissance advisor at Buena Park High School, explained how her sister and she used to make holiday treats. “When my sister and I were young, we used to bake Swedish tea cakes and would eat powdered sugar while we baked,” she recalls. Baking with siblings offers a great opportunity to hang out during the holidays and get together as a family.

### Putting Traditions on Pause

Sometimes, the holidays bring up sad moments, focusing people on how some family members, or even whole sets of relatives can’t hang out with each other, especially in light of how the pandemic has played out over nearly the whole past year. People develop a melancholy attitude because of restrictions preventing them from getting together and doing such important connection activities such as baking during the holidays. The pandemic has limited their abilities to bond the way they did for years before.

Emily Byun, a freshman

Coyote at Buena Park High School, revealed that her family doesn’t have the tradition of baking, in general, but with some time off, they manage to come together during the holiday season. “My family doesn’t have time to bake on normal days, so we tend to bake during the holidays,” she said.

### Unique Sweet Treats

Everyone has a favorite treat, and sometimes it looks a little fancy. It just matters if that person loves the treat. Jessica Martinez, a senior Coyote at Buena Park High School, remembers a special moment in creating a tasty concoction. “The best treat I ever made,” she revealed, “was chocolate covered strawberries with chocolate drizzle on top. My family loved them and I had fun making them because it allowed me to destress and to get away from reality and the outside world. I was in a safe space.”

### Bonding and Baking

Creating holiday treats while hanging out with family during the holidays can lead to something much more than just standing or sitting in the

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same room with others. It can often lead to the development of new traditions and fresh memories. “Maybe this year it looks and feels different,” said one Coyote, “but, just because it is, does not mean it isn’t the same as other years. Enjoy your days, call your families, tell them you love them and, remember, if you can, bake some holiday treats!”

## The History Behind Christmas (Cont.)

By: Elizabeth Patterson  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

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Mrs. Marina Doria, Assistant Principal of Instruction Organization (A.P.I.O.) Secretary at Buena Park High School,



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

*The sun is pictured rising upon a snowy forest of Christmas day.*

detailed when Christmas was first celebrated. “Christmas first started being celebrated on December 25, 336 AD,” she asserted.

### More than Just a Tree

Mrs. Gallego explained why people set up trees for the Christmas holiday and

why they decorate these with ornaments and other items. “Ornaments have different meanings,” she said. “People began using the Christmas tree around the 1600’s. Many people did not read and write at that time. Churches would put on plays to tell biblical stories and the story of Christmas.” Mrs. Gallego added that trees were sometimes used to represent the Garden of Eden. “Sometimes,” she said, “the trees would be decorated with red apples to represent the tree of knowledge in those plays. That is one way red became associated with Christmas. In Germany and the areas of Estonia and Latvia, evergreen trees were used as Christmas

trees to represent the everlasting life of Jesus and everlasting life in heaven through Jesus. This is one reason green became associated with Christmas.”

### The Merry Colors

Red and Green have

*“Red represents  
the blood of Christ  
green represents the  
eternal life  
of Christ.”*

represented Christmas for a very long time. Ms. Whitaker offered another reason people use them, saying, “If you use

evergreen trees, they last all winter long. As the symbols for Christianity, red represents the blood of Christ and green represents the eternal life of Christ.”

### Appreciative of All

It seems as though Christmas has a more detailed past than many students and even adults might have acknowledged. Whether it comes down to who started it, where Santa Claus got his name from, or why red and green act as the default colors for the joyous holiday, Christmas will always hold its place as a time for family gathering and a season during which they all can appreciate each other and what they have. Merry



# Baseball: A Breach in the Season

By: Kevin Rosales  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

The global pandemic started March 11, 2020, and that led to the cancellation of all high school sports play during that Spring. With the new school year, Buena Park High School sports options remain limited. Specifically, COVID-19 has made a big impact on high school athletes. Baseball will start a new season with an unexpected change in practice schedules.

Izaac Rabelo, a Buena Park High School varsity baseball player, said about the change, “It’s been alright. I like that we are starting earlier than usual.”

Marshal White, a varsity baseball athlete who attends Buena Park High School added on by stating, “I am adjusting by getting more sleep, doing my homework, and workouts to keep in shape with the new practice schedule.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE  
*Coyotes are ready to batter up for their delayed season.*

Park High School varsity athlete responded by saying, “It is a little easier because we have some time after school to get ready.”

The Buena Park High School

baseball athletes couldn’t practice normally in the face of all the restrictions and regulations put in place. Even with restrictions now in existence, the baseball athletes continue to practice as a team. How did these Buena Park High School athletes feel when they started practicing as a team again?

Andrew Martinez, a senior who attends Buena Park High School explained, “My thoughts, [about] practicing with the team again, are good.” Said the varsity baseball athlete, “I love practicing with the team I play with, and we always have a good time while doing so.”

A varsity baseball athlete by the name of Daniel Cabral agrees with Andrew. “I love being able to practice as a team,” he said.

Buena Park High School’s Marshal White joined that sentiment saying, “It feels good to see my friends/teammates again, to get back to socializing in person.”

At almost the end of last school year all High School sports were cancelled due to the increase of Covid cases. How did the baseball athletes feel when sports were cancelled when the pandemic reached California?

Buena Park High School senior Izaac Rabelo came out strongly about the effect of the situation. “It was devastating!” said Izaac. “It was my junior year and, when it got cancelled, it hurt real bad.”

Deigo Enriquez, a senior, joined the conversation by stating, “I was really disap-

pointed because I didn’t expect our season to end early.”

Daniel Cabral, a student attending Buena Park High School, held a philosophical outlook, saying, “I wasn’t happy about it, but there was nothing I could do about it.”

Since then, these Buena Park Baseball athletes have started to implement more and more to their practices. Does practicing with the pandemic still going on make diamond activity more difficult?

Marshal actually looked to another aspect when commenting on the difficulty of going to practice, claiming

***“It feels good to see my teammates again.”***

that homework makes things difficult. He stated, “It’s hard to stay on homework now since the teachers load us with assignments now and hard to keep our grades up.”

Izaac Rabelo realized that practices have to look a bit different because of the safety measures put into place. He said, “I would say yes it is a little harder because of all the precautions we have to be taking while practicing.”

Senior Andrew Martinez had something positive to say about practicing, even during a pandemic. He claimed, “It’s not hard; it’s just a step back for everyone else, but I believe my team and I will get

back to where we were and push ourselves to succeed.”

The Buena Park High School baseball team currently faces assorted obstacles to the old routine of practicing during a pandemic, but these athletes have faced training and conditioning challenges, as well, since Covid-19 awareness entered the campus.

Diego Enriquez said, “The biggest challenge I faced was starting from the beginning of the training cycle and having to get in shape again.”

The Buena Park High School Student Daniel Cabral saw the problem of balancing two or more priorities, observing, “One challenge is my focus towards school and baseball.”

Marshal said he faced a very real motivational question at the start of the altered routine. He said, “One of the challenges I’ve faced by not being in shape in the beginning and I had to keep challenging myself to keep going.”

Even though the baseball team faces so many obstacles, the players and coach still come out and practice because of their enjoyment of the sport. That love has helped a few of the teammates handle the disruption of ‘normal’ life a bit more easily.

Izaac stated, “Being a part of a family is the best thing. I love being with the guys on and off the field.”

Andrew Martinez offered the benefit of participating in something traditional. He explained, “The best part of baseball is the fact of playing the game that you’ve been lov-

ing your whole life. Whether it’s playing at your favorite position or hitting the pitch you like, it’s an overall fun sport.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE  
*Coyote baseball players rock their helmets in green.*

What makes Diego enjoy baseball involves “the elements of the game being physical and mental.” He said, “The physical part I love; the most is being able to hit.” He added, “The mental part I enjoy is memorizing and coordinating trick plays to get runners out.”

One thing remains solid despite all the distractions: Focus. The Buena Park High School baseball athletes remain at a high level of excitement about the game, their teammates and the activities surrounding practices and games. Diego Enriquez might have spoken the sentiment of the Coyote baseball program’s participants when he said, “I am ready to take this season and show what we truly have worked so hard for.”

Soon, the words, “Play ball!” might again ring on the diamonds of Buena Park High School.

# Water Polo: Don’t Tread on Me

By: Phiyen Tran  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

Buena Park Highschool has many different programs and activities for students to join. These endeavors help make sure Coyote students stay or become healthy and active. Some of these activities involve aquatic sports offerings, such as water polo. The sport of Water Polo involves two teams pitted against each other in a pool with goals on each end. Both teams try scoring points by throwing the ball into the opposing team’s goal. Buena Park High School’s water polo teams compete in the new Coyote pool when playing home matches. The captains and the coaches of the various levels of water polo teams on

the campus work hard to make sure the squads stay competitive but that also the sport stays fun for its participants.

Mr. Shane LaFortune has worked as a head coach for water polo teams at Buena Park High School since 2018. He started coaching at the campus as an assistant coach in 2016. Coach Shane has been teaching for six years. “I played Water Polo at Buena Park High School when I was [a teen],” he remembers. “I just loved the sport, and I like to help kids improve and learn.”

Coach Shane specializes in training the students for games, and his teams have missed the playoffs only once. However, due to the season changes, running a water polo season proves a bit difficult. Boys and girls usually play

during different times on the calendar. Shane decided to solve the problem by scheduling the games on the same days for the boys squads and the girls teams. That way he doesn’t lose practice time. COVID pandemic and the resultant restrictions might seem like it could cause a terrible disturbance to other courses at any school, but it has not negated water polo on the Coyote campus. Coach Shane explains things work “...because [of] the way the district set up the guidelines makes it safe for kids to practice.”

So, how does this all work? “We are not doing any contact drills at all,” said Coach Shane. “Also, in the pool, the students are in chlorine, which is pretty much hand sanitizer. Mr. LaFortune defends the

water polo activities because he sees another benefit besides the chance for students to maintain some activity in their lives. “For the mental health aspect, kids need to be able to get out of the office

***“Students are in chlorine, which is pretty much hand sanitizer.”***

and focus on something else.” National authorities wonder about the effect of the relative lack of social interaction since the pandemic hit the general population. Water polo provides one way to make friends and keep company while stay-

ing healthy during these times.

Student Nicky Enciso, a goalkeeper, signed up for water polo to both socialize and participate actively. The goalkeeper’s job involves guarding the goal in an attempt to deny the opposition from scoring points. “I enjoy being around my team and the teamwork that it takes to be able to win,” said the 12th-grader. “Water Polo keeps me really active and healthy. It makes you push yourself.”

Nicky’s goal on the Water Polo team remains playing the goalkeeper position. Nicky named one of her greatest accomplishments as when she earned 1st-team All League honors after playing for the varsity squad only one year.

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# COVID-19 Thanksgiving Memories

By: Jessica Pineda  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

With all the Covid-19 frustration disrupting and even ruining so many lives, no wonder numbers of people have displayed a lower enthusiasm level for daily activities. However, every once in a while a time comes along to remind people to look at not what got lost, but what they still hold. Many students had to commemorate the Thanksgiving holiday a little differently this year, but celebrate they did. Take a look as to how adaptations of a “normal Thanksgiving” and the ingenuity of plans for a quarantined Thanksgiving played out this interesting edition of the holiday.

### Reflect and Rethink

Alyssa Moua, a 17-year-old Link Crew commissioner of Buena Park High School shared what Thanksgiving reminds her and inspires her to do. “Thanksgiving to me is a day where I am able to reflect on myself and share to others about what I am grateful for,” she said.

Mrs. Jillian Bentley, who works at Buena Park High School as an English teacher, stated her thoughts on the meaning of Thanksgiving. She described it as “a time to come together with your family, friends, and community to recognize blessings in our lives.”

### The Holiday of Appreciation

Karina Magaña, a 17-year-old senior at Buena Park High School, said, “Thanksgiving means friends, family, happiness, and unison” as her way of summarizing the significance of the holiday for appreciation.

Ms. Christy Jimenez, an English teacher at Buena Park High School expressed her thoughts. “It’s an opportunity to bond with family over good food that is traditional for my family,” she said about her feelings relating to the symbolism of Thanksgiving.

Another 17-year-old senior at Buena Park High School, Antonella Sanchez offered what the late November time of gratitude meant to her. She stated, “Thanksgiving is a day where we give thanks to our loved ones and we show our appreciation.”

A fellow Buena Park High School senior, 17-year-old Jackeline Flores Godinez gave her opinion about the

importance of Thanksgiving. “[It] means to me taking that one day out of the year to appreciate everything we have in our lives and really making the most out of it with our loved ones.”

### Small Table, Big Meal

Alyssa explained how Thanksgiving usually looks in her world. “In my household, we gather with my immediate family,” she said, “and we have a large feast with all of these delicious foods that we prepare together. All of the younger children are playing ‘Hide-n-Seek’ around the house. They also scream happily from the tops of their lungs as they get tagged during a fun game of ‘Freeze Tag’,” she related.

### All Fun and Games

Mrs. Bentley summarized her household activity on Thanksgiving as, “Our small family eating traditional Thanksgiving dinner and spending time talking and enjoying each other’s company.”

Karina discussed the traditions in her house. “We usually have my family come over to my house and we all eat. We sometimes play games, watch movies, or just talk and laugh. Everyone usually brings something to eat too,” she declared.

Ms. Jimenez put together the main happenings of her family’s home during the Autumn holiday. “Everyone makes some of the food, siblings gather in the kitchen, and football is on the TV,” she mentioned.

Antonella expressed the practices of her family. “On Thanksgiving, my family gets together and everyone brings a homemade dish. We all go around the table and say what we’re thankful for. Usually, we have music playing and

*“Thanksgiving means friends, family, happiness and unison.”*

the kids are playing while the adults sit around and talk,” she said.

Jackeline put forth the customs of her loved ones and herself by saying, “Thanksgiving in my household usually looks like waking up early to clean the house and to prepare the food all day. There is chaos throughout the entire day, but it usually dies down as we sit down and eat.”

Alyssa claimed the following about what she looked

forward to the most on Thanksgiving. “During this holiday, I always look forward to seeing familiar faces as, throughout most of the year, I don’t get to see them.” Ad-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

*A family is pictured wearing masks during Thanksgiving dinner.*

ditionally, Alyssa put forth a description of the traditional meals included in her home. “Normally, my family would serve a roasted turkey, ham, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, and a traditional Hmong dish of sweet pork called Nqaj Qaab Zib,” she said. One of my favorite foods to eat during Thanksgiving is stuffing,” she admitted.

Mrs. Bentley mentioned the one thing she would always like on Thanksgiving: “Green bean casserole.” She also identified the meals that usually sit upon her table during the annual holiday. She listed, along with the casserole, “Corn casserole, mashed potatoes, mac n cheese, salad, stuffing, turkey + gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls, and pumpkin pie.”

Karina asserted, “I always look forward to eating and spending time with my family.” Furthermore, she stated, “We usually eat turkey, ham, and the typical sides like mashed potatoes, corn, and mac n cheese. We’ll also have pumpkin pie.” she remembers.

Ms. Jimenez recited, “Stuffing, green bean casserole, apple crisp - all food!!” as her main things to which she looks forward. These include what her family traditionally eats and those that she identifies as her favorite food items to have, as well.

### Favorite Dishes

Antonella expressed, “On Thanksgiving, I look forward to the food and being with my cousins.” Also, she and her family typically have certain foods during this holiday. “We usually eat carne asada, mashed potatoes, potato salad, some kind of pasta, and more,” she said.

Jackeline declared, “I always look forward to all

the different desserts I eat on Thanksgiving such as pecan pie or cheesecake and getting the chance to eat tamales!” The meals that end up gracing her household include

tamales, mashed potatoes, and ham. “Personally,” she inserted, “my favorites are definitely the tamales and mashed potatoes.”

### A Change of Plans

Alyssa claimed, “My family and I don’t have any significant/special activities that we do on Thanksgiving,” yet, she did describe some changes in her family’s celebration due to Covid-19’s interference. “Thanksgiving was not the same this year,” she confessed. “We had planned to meet up; however, we were not able to do so, due to safety precautions.”

Mrs. Bentley shared what her family and she do on this day. “We write things we’re thankful for on leaves and hang them from the light fixture above the dining room table,” she said. Additionally, she described what made things different due to the virus by stating, “We shared dinner as our family of four, our household, instead my husband’s and my parents. [We went through] just missing a few this year.”

Karina said of the usual activities at her celebrations, “We usually play board or card games at my big dinner table.” However, she sadly expressed the current situation about Thanksgiving just before 2020’s edition, stating, “We can’t have my family over for Thanksgiving, so it’ll be really lonely.”

Ms. Jimenez mentioned her two special traditional Thanksgiving activities: Watching football and The Twilight Zone. She gave a nod to the circumstances this year, speaking the alternative to the normal gathering on Thanksgiving. “Yes, my family didn’t get together; we ‘Zoom’ed instead,” she remembers.

Antonella listed the activities that her group partakes of in her household, “Some activities we do would be play cards, dance to music and, usually, the kids play board games and tag.” She explained “Due to Covid-19, the family didn’t get together this year. We still made a lot of food and face-timed some family members.”

Jackeline said, “We don’t do any specific special activities but,” she asserted, “we are always dancing for sure!” As to the social effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, she remarked, “My plans for Thanksgiving changed. We weren’t able to celebrate it with my extended family this year, so it was just my family and me alone.” Jackeline did add, “It was still fun.”

Alyssa brought forth that for what she feels appreciative. “I’m grateful for the growth of my character and for having been able to overcome the obstacles in order to get to where I am now.”

Mrs. Bentley stated, “I am most thankful for my family and our health.”

Karina commented about being grateful, saying, “I am thankful for being healthy and that none of my close friends or family have been seriously affected by the virus.”

Ms. Jimenez shared some of the things for which she bears thankfulness this year. “My health, and the health of my family and loved ones,” sat at the top of her list.

Antonella revealed that for which she expresses gratitude, saying, “I’m most thankful for my friends and family because they help me go forward in life. Without them, I wouldn’t be as happy as I am.”

### Acknowledging Blessings

Jackeline related her positive feelings, saying, “I am most thankful for my family’s well-being, especially under these circumstances. I know many families are not as fortunate as us. I’m thankful that we are able to celebrate this time together and can cherish our moments with one another.”

### More Grateful than Ever

Even with the big change this year, people pulled through and remembered what they do, indeed, still have in this often difficult time. Now, the Coyote families head on to the Winter Break during which alternate memories will come into their lives.



# Your New Year's Resolutions (Cont.)

By: Isela Santillanes  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

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"The year 2020 made me realize that things can happen in the blink of an eye, so making this goal for next year hopefully can help me with spending as much time as I can with family and doing stuff to live to the fullest."

Along with the practical come some more nuanced resolutions. "I haven't heard many crazy resolutions," Henry said, "but one I have heard was that someone wanted to start being nicer. I guess it works."

Freshman Symone Taylor shared about her feelings about the year of 2020, "This year I feel okay," she said. "It was probably not the best year for everyone but, I mean, it's getting better for me." She also mentioned how she has a strong feeling about the year to come. "I think next year will definitely be so much better because I feel like things in the world are gonna get better, slowly but surely."

## Attitude and Actions

Symone explained her New Year's resolutions. "For the next year, I definitely want to change my attitude and how I act with my family, and with my friends as well." She also explained her plan on achieving her goal. "I think I'll com-

plete this resolution by challenging myself and focusing on how I am acting. I will be on alert about how my attitude is coming out." The Coyote student also shared how she will start, the very first day of the year, to go through her resolution. "On New Year's Day I will start by watching my own attitude. I will have my family members track how my attitude is changing." She also shared her history with New Year's resolutions. "In the past, I did manage to accomplish finishing some of them, but they were a bit hard. I did, and still will, try my hardest to complete my resolutions." She remembers, "I don't think any of my past resolutions ever made me stop. I always stay with the one that is hard

***"I will manage my time by being productive and not slacking off."***

for me, so I can push myself. I don't regret not finishing any that I have had in the past, because without not completing them, I wouldn't be who I am today. In a way, they shaped me into a person that works hard and likes pushing herself." Symone put forth one of

the craziest resolutions she's ever wanted to make happen. "I've always wanted to cut my hair really short and change my style just because I felt like doing something spontaneous."

## Living the Unexpected

Buena Park High School student Jessica Martinez brought up her thoughts about the year of 2020. "This year was an unexpected turn that nobody would ever see coming," the 17-year-old Coyote said. "Honestly, I am disappointed and sad how this year turned out to be, like being in quarantine and not being able to be in gatherings, but it is all for our safety, so it is understandable." She went on to say, "I do think next year will be better, but I don't want to jinx it. I do believe it will be better because [the news] has said that the COVID-19 vaccine would be available soon."

Jessica shared her plans for the new year. "My New Year's resolution is to not procrastinate on my work. I have been realizing that ever since distance learning has started that I have done all my assignments at the last minute," she said. "Next year I will not make that mistake because I do not want to be stressed over something I could avoid." Jessica has a method to accomplish what she wishes. "I will be achieving that goal by setting up a schedule with

every activity I do," she promised, "and I will manage my time by being productive and not slacking off." Will this qualify as a New Year resolution?

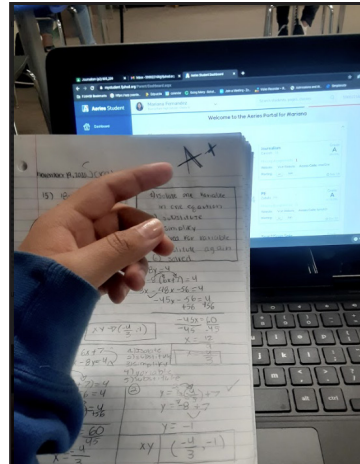


PHOTO BY MARIANA FERNANDEZ

Students are keen in improving their grades for next semester.

Jessica said, "I will definitely be starting when we get back from the winter break."

The Coyote student reminisced about some of the resolutions she has not completed, saying, "Honestly, in the past, I have had resolutions, and I never completed them just because I felt like they were not realistic enough to complete. Sometimes I would set my standards too high and, in the end, I wouldn't finish them because I didn't give myself a specific time to work on [the goal]." Jessica also explained her conflict, saying, "Yes I do regret not completing past resolutions, but then I don't." Jessica looked to the future

saying, "I am 17 years old; I have the rest of my life to complete any resolutions that I have wanted to accomplish."

Another 17-year-old senior Coyote, Julia Trinidad, shared her feelings about these past twelve months. "I feel like this year was overall kind of okay," she said. It definitely had its ups and downs." She also shared, "I feel like next year will definitely be so much better because we deserve it. We deserve to be with our friends and family without having to take as much precaution." Julia revealed her resolution for the year of 2021, saying, "Next year, I want to be more open with people." She also mentioned how she will be achieving that goal. "I want to achieve that by talking to more people and trying to not close myself off. On New Year's Day and beyond, I will definitely be more open to friendships; I want to start making some then."

## What are your's?

As the many Coyotes at Buena Park High School get ready for their upcoming winter break, a select few have come up with their goals and ambitions for the coming year. A number of Buena Park High School students hope for a better New Year and wish to not leave their resolutions unfinished. Have you thought of yours yet?

# Coyotes 4 Christ Club

By: David Gonzalez  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

Buena Park High School welcomes a wide range of clubs. Those looking to become a member of a club this year might want to give the Coyotes 4 Christ Club a look. The club meets every other Thursday via Zoom during lunch period.

## Grow in Faith

Buena Park High School physics teacher Mr. Bryan O'Neill serves as the club advisor. He said, "Coyotes 4 Christ is a club of students who want to learn about Christ, grow in their faith, encourage each other, pray for each other, and enjoy each other's company. At club meetings, the students read the Bible, play games, eat food, encourage each other, pray for each other, and pray for our school." He said, "Everybody needs a place to belong and a place to connect with people

who care about you. Coyotes for Christ is that place!" he shared his aspirations for the club members saying, "I hope that club members will grow in their faith and share their hope in Christ with oth-

ers around them. This year I would say everybody can use a little encouragement and a little hope."

## Sharing Her Faith

Coyotes 4 Christ Club President, 18-year-old senior Kimberly Castellon, shared her personal connection with the organization. "This club means a lot to me," she explained, "because it's a place I can share my faith with others and read God's word. Some topics [we've] covered have been 'How to Deal With Stress and Anxiety'." She also announced, "I want to be able to share and give encouragement from all that has happened this year through God."

The Coyotes 4 Christ Club Vice President, junior Jared Hsu, became a member of the Coyotes 4 Christ Club cabinet "out of a desire for Christian fellowship, the opportunity for leadership, and to learn more about God with others that hold the same beliefs." He said, "You do not have to be a Christian to

join. You could be of another religion or an atheist. We welcome people with all kinds of ideas for collective edification." The 15-year-old Buena Park High School student shared his end-of-the-year

***"I want to be able to share and give encouragement from all that has happened this year through God."***

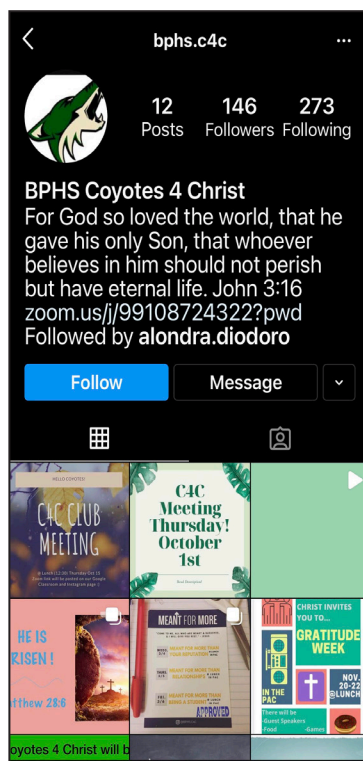
goals saying, "I want club members to walk away with a more rational, more focused, more certain view of the world. I want club members to own their beliefs, to know why they believe what they believe, and to have an explanation for it."

## Surrounded by the Same

Seventeen-year-old Coyotes 4 Christ Club publicist, Nathan Kwon said, "This club gives me the opportunity to spend time with God and my fellow Christians. It means a lot to me." The junior Buena Park High School student wants his fellow club members to end the year in the club knowing "God is good, and you'll see how He will use you for His Kingdom."

## Join Coyotes 4 Christ

Buena Park High School students who want to check out the club can attend meetings that the group holds every other Thursday during lunch via ZOOM or Google Meets. The club encourages all students, regardless of their religious background, to join. Students can contact the advisor or any of the cabinet members for more information. In addition, students can look to the club Instagram page, @bphs.c4c, for updates and announcements.



Follow Coyote 4 Christ's Instagram: @BPHS.c4c



# Water Polo: Don’t Tread on Me

By: Phiyen Tran  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

**Continued from Page 3**  
She named Ashleigh Johnson, a national team goalie who helped the US win a gold medal, as her inspiration. So, what keeps Nicky focused through the season? “I believe that my strength is that when I put my mind to something, I won’t stop ‘til I accomplish that goal,” she said. Students and adult staff-ers, alike, might fear Water Polo as a hard sport to play,



PHOTO BY TYLER VALDES  
*Sophomore Kai Santos practices scoring.*

but that very difficulty makes it special. Water Polo pushes its participants to do their best for their team, trains people to become leaders, and helps discipline its participants. Another Coyote goal-keeper, Keila Rose Galindo, plays water polo at Buena Park High School. Keila enjoys swimming involved in the sport, she likes doing drills, and she believes Water Polo has helped her improve on teamwork needed to win games. Water Polo often demands improved swimming skill and athleticism. Mem-bers of a team get to learn dif-ferent ways to swim and float on water, sometimes without using their hands. “What I like most about being a part of a team is that it teaches you loyalty and support and taught me how to strive for the top and make new friends,” Keila said. The freshman’s great-est accomplishment in Water Polo involved moving up to junior varsity level play dur-ing her freshmen year. She credits this move to her hard work. Mr. LaFortune became Keila’s role model; she looks up to him because she says Mr. LaFortune has accom-plished so much in his life and for the team, and provides an ear for the Water Polo members. “I look up to him,” said Keila, “because he’s ac-complished so much and he 6

always has a plan when things go wrong, but the best part is that you can always talk to him about anything and he’ll understand.” Keisha says her strengths involve her height, stamina, and her ability to keep balance while in water. She advises others on campus to join a sport. She believes it helps a person identify them-selves. Her philosophy: Even if, at times, you might not en-joy [something], always put in your full effort in everything. **Putting In the Hard-Work**  
Carmen Liberto, an attacker/utility player for the water polo team, goes at the

opposing goalie with shots and she also runs the plays. Carmen likes participating in Water Polo because of the friendships she makes every year, the adrenaline she gets from when she plays, and the experience/training that it gives her for future college play. She remembers going to the California Interscholastic Federation (C.I.F.) playoffs again with her friends as her favorite time. She credits their hard work together. “My coach and team would con-sider me a good leader,” the senior Coyote said, “because I always encourage them to do their best no matter what, and to have a good time.” She says she occasionally has to become harsh on the mem-bers, and being the “mom” of the team proves difficult. Working as captain of the Water Polo team means main-taining a good relationship with the members, and having good knowledge of the game. Even if the team doesn’t win, members can still find the sat-isfaction in having made good memories during a match.

**Perspective and Perseverance**  
The Covid-19 pandemic has played havoc with sched-uling, but Carmen keeps a bal-anced perspective. “I would like to believe we will get a season,” she said of her team and the sport, “but I know the

safety of everyone is more im-portant. If we get a season, I’ll be happy, but if we don’t, it won’t be the end of the world-because it’ll be what’s best.” Ke’aloha Santos, a 10th-grade player, has the job of swimming to the goal in hopes of setting up scoring chances for the team. “What I enjoy most about water polo is playing,” she revealed. “It is really satisfying when you make a shot and get a point.” Ke’aloha adds, “One reason I like being on a sports team is you get to meet a lot of different people. A second reason I like being on a team is because everyone pushes each other to get better. Also, I have had a great experience being on a team.” Ke’aloha notes her greatest accomplish-ment in Water Polo as getting to play with the varsity squad. She looks up to Carmen Liberto. Ke’aloha admires Carmen’s hard work and dedi-cation to Water Polo. Partly from watching Carmen work as captain, Ke’aloha says, “I believe that my greatest strength is my ability to cooperate with oth-ers and my leadership skills. Also [I like] my ability to get going even when it’s hard.” Ke’aloha encourages people to try the sport of water polo. Elizabeth Fowler, a 10th grader, has a lot of fun par-ticipating with the water polo team. Water Polo players and many spectators look at water polo as a challenging sport, and agree it can sometimes get a bit viscous, but that, in small doses, can add to the fun. Still, participation gains the biggest reward: teamwork and socialization. “I most enjoy having a fun and caring team who will help you and be bru-tally honest with you no mat-ter what,” said Elizabeth. “The Water Polo team will always have your back, no matter what, which is why it’s built off of teamwork. I like being a part of the team sport because the players support you, they are there for you, and they are your second family.” The sophomore recalls one of her greatest accomplishments in Water Polo as the time she got to participated at a junior varsity tournament when she played on the frosh level. Ju-dith Celis inspires Elizabeth. “She is strong, determined, kind, helpful, and just overall an amazing person, athlete, and friend,” said Elizabeth. Kindness, patience and a help-ful nature have helped Eliza-beth become a great athlete. Water Polo doesn’t just teach

students about itself. **Healthy Competition**  
Diana Maequez currently plays water polo with the Buena Park High School junior varsity team. Diana likes water polo, claiming the fun, competitive aspects of it. She says the sport allows participants to stay healthy as well as to meet new people with the same interests. “I can rely on my teammates,” she said. “We help out each other when someone’s strug-gling. “It’s just fun being in a game, whether you win or

*“We help each other when someone is struggling.”*

lose.” One of Diana’s biggest accomplishments involved learning from her teammates and from the varsity, all help-ing to improve her water polo skills. Multiple athletes inspire Diana, reminding her of the goal of continuing. “Yes,” said the sophomore, “there are a lot of athletes that I look up to; they inspire me to do better by getting faster at swimming and throwing the ball as far as I can.” Diana states, “I don’t believe that I am a great ath-lete but I’m still training to get better. My greatest strength would just be that I just keep swimming.” Diana wants to motivate people to join water polo, the activity holds a unique position in sports, it presents lots of new skills to



PHOTO BY TYLER VALDES  
*Freshman Kaylee Orozco swiftly passes the ball during practice.*

learn, and opens one’s world up to a lot of new people with whom to talk and build friend-ships. Those can become a perfect distraction during these distance learning times. The sport seems a good fit for students interested in soccer, or in swimming in general. Anahi Benitez, a junior varsity water polo player, shared her passion for swim-

ming. Anahi enjoys the relaxation the sport offers and she enjoys bonding with her teammates. “I like being in a team sport,” the junior Coyote offered, “because [teammates] become like your second family. You spend so much time with these people that you have no other op-tion than to become close. You all become great players together, no man left behind. You give each other feedback & what you should do better for next time.” With the help of her coaches and her friends on the Water Polo team, Anahi actually learned how to swim when she joined to play the sport. After a while of hard work and practice, she became strong. The result gained those people favor in Anahi’s eyes. “I look up to all my team-mates,” she said. “They show me the type of player I want to become and they advise me about how to improve my game.” The sport of water polo demands strong com-munication skills, although after a while of hanging out with the team, most members find opening up and having fun fairly easy. Anahi agrees. “If you have the opportunity, JOIN!” she urged fellow Coyote students. “I’m sure you’ll become as fond as I am towards water polo.” Anahi has some advice for those thinking about looking into playing but hesitating to take the next step: “I regret not taking waterpolo my freshman year,” she admitted. “Don’t make the same mistake that I did! JOIN!” Almost all members say this sport teaches a participant the importance of teamwork and how to have a fun time. Build-ing relationships with other people who share the same interest as well as staying healthy during this pandemic has proven very important. Water polo can offer itself as the perfect sport for many students.



# LEGO Star Wars

By: Zachary Penn  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

LEGO Star Wars denotes a series of games that combines three things: Legos, Video Games, and Star Wars. Made by Traveller's Tales, the games went on to become massive successes with astonishing amounts of content; it led the way for other Lego games of a similar nature.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE  
*Darth Maul, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Yoda, Anakin Skywalker are pictured holding lightsabers.*

The first Lego Star Wars game followed in the footsteps of the Star Wars prequel trilogy as those, collectively, got released at the time.

Andrew Penn, a sophomore currently attending Buena Park High School, reveals that Lego Star Wars games offer over 36 levels to play through. Meanwhile, players have more than 900 collectables waiting for them. Add to those features many buyable items.

Players can get excited and intrigued by over 100 characters as whom they can play. This game also allows the player an ability to create personalized characters with the Lego parts of others. All of this comes from one game on the PlayStation2 (ps2) console. "They made up a sizable part of my childhood," says one student who has played the games.

The marketers released the first Lego Star Wars game to the public on March 28, 2005.

A great number of people played the games during childhood years. "I remember just how soothing the blocks sounded while building and the sound of lightsabers crashing onto other lego characters," expressed Miguel Jimenez, a junior currently attending Buena Park High School. "I remember playing the complete saga on my DS because I didn't have another console at the time.

[I recall that] I would play all the time with my cousin."

Some players' favorite parts about the games don't compare to other aspects of the challenging pastime. Andrew expressed this sentiment, saying, "My favorite was a sort of play-mat level in which the player characters were situated on a flat plane and made to gather

***"I remember how soothing the blocks sounded while building."***

about a million studs, which are the game's currency."

Said Miguel, "I would recommend these games to kids who love LEGOs or who are getting into them but who also want to play video games in this day and age."

Miguel waxed nostalgic



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

*Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker are pictured clashing.*

when speaking of the Lego Star Wars series. "It's a way of remembering what you had as a child," he explained, "while also letting the next generation find entertainment that suits them--even if they're not fully aware of the Star Wars Universe".

Lego Star Wars has found its place in the hearts of many childhoods with its whimsy, enjoyability, and ease of play for everyone. Interested Coyote students can still check out the play attraction of this series.

## 'Tis the Season for Holiday Movies

By: Jackelyn Ballinas and Staffers  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

The holiday movies are coming for the holiday season in December. Netflix, Disney Plus and Hulu will present new movies timed for the winter holidays. Those holiday movies come in all varieties. Coyote students and teachers described the movies they like, including their favorites. This time of pandemic and the winter break without classes will give many Coyotes a good reason to binge watch during late December while drinking their hot chocolate and making cookies, building Christmas gingerbread houses and, of course, decorating the tree.

### **Classics All Season**

Ms. Isaura DeLeon, a Buena Park High Math teacher, mentions "Elf" as her favorite movie to enjoy during her winter break. season. She enjoys the location (New York City, with the big tree in Rockefeller Center!) and appreciates how a human is raised like an elf and gets himself into funny situations. "I just think it's hilarious overall," she said. "It's a great, clean comedy. I watch it with family, friends or by myself!" She said, "I watched it just last week! It was playing on television. Buddy, the elf comes off as a genuinely

nice person trying to figure out how the real world works. Michael, a kid who needs the spirit of Christmas, helps Buddy. They build a brotherly relationship." She likes this movie because it brings back memories. She said, "I like when Buddy is trying to pronounce the name "Francisco" because he has to roll his "r" and finds it fun to pronounce. I can relate because it has happened when people have tried pronouncing my first



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE  
*"The Grinch" reenters Netflix's Top Ten trending movies.*

name as well. Ms. DeLeon chose that movie as a favorite partly because the guy grows up to be Santa's elf helper. She labeled it a romance comedy movie.

### **Early X-Mas Movies**

Ms. Beauchamp, another veteran English teacher at Buena Park High School, details her favorite winter holiday movie. The Goonies plays out a treasure hunt with

pirates! "I'll make people who have not seen it watch it," she said. I watched it probably this past summer." Ms. Beauchamp likes a character in it named Chunk, whom she describes as the lovable awkward fat kid. Ms. Beachamp added Sloth, the misunderstood gentle giant who comes in the clutch to rescue Chunk's friends as another favorite of hers. Ms. Beauchamp's favorite part? "The end," she admits, "where the pirate ship sets sail. She struggled to remember how many times she has watched the movie. "I have no idea," she said of the count. "Not a hundred times, but it's up there." She likes the movie because "the good guys win, and it is a good adventure." Ms. Beauchamp considers this "a Christmas movie where the people go on a treasure hunt and get gold and meet the pirates."

### **A Comedic Christmas**

Mrs. Klaus, the Buena Park High School Dance Company Instructor, picked her favorite of all holiday movies. "My favorite Holiday movie is Christmas Vacation," she revealed. "It catches my attention because it is funny; it is one of those movies that, no matter how many times I watch it, never gets old and it always is funny! I always watch it with my family every year," she said. "It used to be

a tradition every Christmas with my family growing up and now it is tradition in my home. The last time I watched this movie was last Christmas! I was planning on putting it on earlier this month, though, to get into the holiday spirit."

Mrs. Klaus has some favorite characters in the movie. Two of my favorites are Cousin Eddie and Aunt Bethany," she said. "Cousin Eddie is the crazy cousin whom everyone talks about; he is funny without even knowing it. Aunt Bethany is so old and hard of hearing and is hilarious.

"My favorite part of the movie is when Aunt Bethany starts to say the Pledge of Allegiance when Clark finally gets all the Christmas lights to go on. I have watched this movie about 50 times for sure! It is just funny and is relatable, because of how they gather as a family for Christmas. It is almost like you know you have someone like each one of them in your family who comes over for the holidays. The first time Mrs. Klaus watched it she was very young, but knows she thought it was funny or she wouldn't have continued watching it every year. Her favorite parts of the movie involve the time when the two main characters on Christmas vacation celebrate their tradition and spread happiness and

good times.

Johanna Penaloza, a student at Buena Park High School, talked about her favorite movie, called "If I stay." She said this movie caught her attention because of the storyline behind it, and how the movie plays out. "I don't watch it with anyone, just myself," she said. Johanna watched it just three weeks ago. She pays attention to Mia and Adam. "Mia is a quiet girl who has big plans for her future and knows what college she wants to attend," Johanna said. "Adam is a part of a band and is into music, and cares for Mia." Johanna's favorite part of the movie revolves around Adam taking Mia on a date to the opera. The senior Coyote student says she has watched the movie about 15 times.

### **Repetition and Remembering Lines**

Isela Santillanes, a fellow student at Buena Park High School, related information about her favorite movie in the holiday movie genre. She described excitement about her favorite parts of the movie, "A Christmas Prince." Netflix aired this movie. "It catches my attention because it's honestly a really cute movie," Isela said, "and I'm a little bit of a sucker for romance movies.

**Continued on Page 8**



# Winter vs. Summer

By: Aaron Robbins  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

This December Buena Park students and adult staffers headed into a southern California winter break. To much of the population of the United States, “cold” means something much more intense than the possible frost that Coyotes might see at two

different experience in California’s Orange County than in other parts of America. Ask anyone who has lived outside of the southwestern United States about humidity. Having that as a background, opinions flew as to which season (between the two technical opposites) creates the better feeling.

“I prefer the Summer,” Carlos Mendez, fourteen-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

*Drinks are pictured poolside during the summer time.*

o’clock in the morning on the grass in some dark corner. Summer, itself, provides a

year-old Coyote freshman.

Mr. Alvin Graham, a football coach at Buena Park High

School disagrees, “I like the Winter,” he said.

“I prefer Winter.” agreed Cristian Agrendo, a freshman student at Buena Park High School.

Mr. Brian Johnson, an English teacher at Buena Park High School, continued the tug of war between the seasons. “I prefer the Summer,” he said.

Mr. Blea, English Department member and advisor to the Buena Park High School Yearbook course, played cheerleader for July, August and most of September, saying he prefers Summer. “Bring the heat!” he announced.

“You can do more stuff in the Summer,” said Carlos Mendez, defending the warmer months. He liked it because of the holidays,” he explained. “I like to feel warm,” he added.

“I like to wear hoodies a lot, and it’s perfect for the

cold,” said Cristian Agrendo.

“I love going to the beach and into the ocean so I prefer Summer,” Mr. Johnson countered.

Mr. Blea made a peace offering for the two sides, saying, “I like summer activities more, even though I do enjoy the snow!”

When asked to defend either season, the opinions kept coming. “I can skate without having to worry about puddles and I can go out without having to carry a sweater,” said Carlos.

On the other side of the fence, Coach Graham said in defense of the colder season, “Pro for me would have to be holidays and spending time with family.”

Cristian Agrendo had the coach’s back. Cristian said about Winter, “You don’t feel nasty while sweating in the heat. Also while doing exercises, it’s better in the cold weather.”

Mr. Johnson talked about the longer period of free time that most teachers (who don’t choose to teach a summer school schedule) enjoy during the summer months. “One of the major pros of the summer is that I don’t work,” said Mr. Johnson. “My wife and I love to travel, so we can do that on our summer vacations.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Blea continued to strike a balance about which season he prefers, giving a nod to each. “Pro for winter: The weather is more comfortable. Pro for summer: You can go outside all day long,” he said. Yet, Summer still seems the choice of Mr. Blea. “The beach is warm!” he said.

Carlos agrees about that area. “My favorite activity would be going to the beach,” he said.

Still, winter has its fans. “I love winter.” Mr. Graham asserted.

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# ‘Tis the Season for Holiday Movies (Cont.)

By: Jackelyn Ballinas  
and Staffers  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

**Continued from Page 7**

I watched the movie with my sister and my mom over a cup of Champurrado and bread. I think the last time I watched it was about a week ago,” said the Coyote senior. The main character is a girl who is a journalist and gets sent abroad to interview the Royal Family. Her personality is spontaneous. She can be a little awkward at times, which can make the scenes a bit funnier at times. The prince is a guy who is having a tough time learning how to be a king since he has to fill in the spot. The journalist goes over there to Great Britain to interview the prince and write a story about the family. The prince doesn’t seem like a snobby person. He was really nice and welcoming to the journalist and he took a liking to her.”

### **Favorite Scenes**

Isela admits that her favorite part of this movie “is probably the part where the prince is kind of falling for her and his sister sees that. So, as the journalist girl is helping with something, he’s just looking at her. The sister pushes him towards her and he almost trips.” Compared to other moviegoers, Isela has watched her favorite movie only

lightly. “I think I’ve watched it five or six times,” she remembers, “mostly around the holidays.” Isela added that “they have two other movies that continue their story and it’s really cute. I like [watching this movie] because I get to hang out with my family even if it is just my sister and my mom, but my brother and dad do come out to the living room to sit and talk with us for a little bit. I also really like this movie because it reassures everyone that if they do believe, the Christmas spirit can be there.”

Any good movie can elicit a strong reaction and, for Isela, this movie did that for her. “Honestly, the first time, I think I cried,” she admitted, “because even if it was like a cliché and everyone knew they were going to get together, the satisfaction of seeing it for yourself feels really good and

***‘I’ve watched  
‘A Christmas  
Prince’ five or  
six times.’***

also because they get together and we were all rooting for it. My favorite part of the movie centers on when the woman reporter sneaks into the prince’s house but has to

go undercover to move around there, so she says she’s a tutor for her little sister. She says she needs to write what living as a prince feels like. She says she has to describe his life as it goes. She meets the prince there.”

### **Pick and Choose**

Mrs. Shamassian, an English teacher at Buena Park High School described the movies she would pick, listing first “An Armenian Christmas.” She says it caught her attention because the characters are the ones with whom her family and she can totally relate. “I’ve watched it with my family and my cousins,” said the veteran Coyote teacher, “and once I watched it with my Armenian friend, Maral. I watched it a couple of years ago. Since the movie is in Armenian and not English, I don’t watch it with friends.

“One character is Salpy Badrakaghian. She is the teenager in the family who causes all kinds of chaos,” Ms. Shamassian remembers, “because she goes against what her older family members believe. Another character who stands out to me,” remembers Ms. Shamassian, “is the grandpa of the family, Big Bachigian. He is so funny with his one-liners and his physical comedy. There is one scene where it’s after the big holiday feast and everyone is sitting around eating baklava



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

*“The Night Before Christmas” is pictured above.*

(an Armenian dessert). The grandpa is not supposed to eat desserts, especially ones that can stick to his dentures, but he sneaks a piece and his dentures get stuck in it and it just turns into a giant mess. Everyone’s trying to help him at once and it’s just craziness all around. “There is some drama going on in the movie going on, but consider it a holiday movie. It describes the chaos of a Christmas with family.”

### **Traditional Movies**

All these people spoke of what their favorite holiday movies involve. They relate to old movies, new movies, ones in theaters and others that came out through Netflix, Hulu or Disney or on regular over-the-air television stations. The winter break allows Buena Park students and their families time of low pressure

between the semesters. The stress of reaching for that grade during the distractions of distance learning can get put on a shelf for a few weeks and people can celebrate their traditions with favorite movies as part of the holiday season. Coyote students have their different opinions about which holiday movie to pick and watch--and to see a bunch of times. Whichever movies get the nod does not matter as much as their power to put Buena Park High School’s students and adults into the holiday spirit.



# Winter vs. Summer (Cont.)

By: Aaron Robbins  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

**Continued from Page 8**  
As in most areas around the country, January holds the distinction as “coldest” month on the southern California calendar. During an Orange County January, high temperatures reach an average of 68 degrees Farenheit and dip to 48 degrees during the first hours after midnight. Cristian said his favorite winter activity “is probably about going to see the snow.” Mr. Johnson spoke as



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE  
*Snow falls upon the ground during the winter season.*

a true English teacher and Theater enthusiast. He said, “My favorite activity is to go to Ashland Oregon and visit the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.” Mr. Johnson.  
“I love swimming and sitting in the pool,” said Mr. Blea.  
Even fans of those two seasons do realize the downside of them. “The cons of winter are that sometimes it’s too cold to do stuff you like and it rains too much,” Carlos said.  
**Feelin’ the Summer Heat**  
“I can’t say I don’t like summer but it really gets hot,”

Cristian acknowledged. “One con for me is just being hot all the time.”  
**Summer All Year in OC**  
In Orange County, August actually out-heats July. The average high temperature during August in the local area reaches 84 degrees. The average drop slides the thermometer down to 64 degrees.  
“I hate working out when it’s too hot,” said Cristian Agrendo.  
Taking a balanced approach much as Mr. Blea does, Mr. Johnson admitted, “I don’t like to dislike the winter. I actually like the cold.”  
“It doesn’t get too cold in SoCal,” Mr. Blea said, “but it is freezing where I visit my family.”  
Carlos said, “I don’t really have a least favorite activity,” when asked to identify what one might label a chore during the Summer months.  
**Rain, Rain, Go Away**  
“My least favorite activity is having anything to do with being in the rain,” said Mr. Johnson.  
Mr. Blea identified ice skating as his least favorite season-based activity. “My

wife loves it, but it hurts my ankles,” he said.  
**Dream Locations**  
Where would these fellows prefer to live, based on their advocacy of one or the other season? “I’d want to live here because it’s close to the beaches and the things perfect for summer,” said Carlos.  
Meanwhile, Mr. Graham said, “I would love to live back East, where it snows.”  
Cristian agreed in principle, but took a look at another spot in the United States. “I

*“My least favorite activity is having anything to do with rain.”*

would love to live in Colorado in the winter...because it snows,” he said.  
“I love Southern California,” Mr. Johnson revealed. “I think we have great weather here, and you can visit all kinds of other places in a pretty short time, where the weather can be very different.”

If any doubt existed about what Mr. Blea loves about Summer, his next words will end it. “I’d love to live in Hawaii. It looks tropical, warm, and close to the ocean!” he said.  
**The Final Verdict**  
So, do each of these guys think their preferences attach to the majority or the minority? “I feel like people like summer more because there’s more activities,” said Carlos.  
After reflecting on the question, Mr. Graham said, “I think Cali people would say summer.”  
Thinking about his own preference, Cristian said, “I think lots of people like winter as well.”  
“I bet most people will say they like summer for the weather and vacation time,” said Mr. Johnson.  
“I think people from southern California would probably say Summer because it always feels like summer here,” Mr. Blae explained.  
The topic gets people talking. Just ask the person sitting next to you right now, and see where the conversation goes.

# Holiday Traditons

By: Johanna Penalosa  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

“Happy holidays!”  
“Merry Christmas!”  
“Happy Hanukkah!”  
“Happy Kwanzaa!”  
“Happy New Year to all, and to all: a good night!”  
Holiday Traditions usually play out essentially ritualistic behaviors that nurture people and their relationships. The traditional celebration of holidays has stuck around at least since all the way back to the beginning of recorded history. Holiday traditions can revolve around families, or persons and their traditions. Students and staffers at Buena Park High School share the traditional ways they celebrate during the holidays.  
Leslie Cardenas, a 14-year-old freshman at Buena Park High School, explains how she celebrates during the holidays. “My family and I eat food, and we hang out,” she said. Leslie went on to explain her favorite annual activity. “My favorite tradition,” she reports, “is to 9

get matching pajamas with my mom and my sister every year.” Leslie states what she believes what a holiday tradition is to her. She defined it as “to have something for you for years that never changes.” A special tradition Leslie has comes around near the “American” holiday of Halloween. “A special tradition I



CARTOON BY MAY DO  
*The Star of David is pictured.*

gained from my culture,” said Leslie, “is Dia De Los Muertos.” Still, “The tradition that will get passed down is the matching pajamas every year for Christmas,” she said.  
Seventeen-year-old Savannah High School student, Natalie Abarca, explains how she commemorates holidays, “We usually celebrate together as a family,” she said. “For example, this year we

will make tamales and eat at my aunt’s house.” The senior shares the tradition she has made. “Every year on my birthday, I would spend time alone and get my favorite food.” Natalie describes what a holiday tradition means to her, “I think to me it is when you can celebrate with your family in a special way and that continues to stay alive even after, for many generations to come.”  
Mrs. Rod-Kam, an Advancement Via Individual Determination (A.V.I.D.) and English teacher at Buena Park High School, expressed her enthusiasm for the holidays. “YES!!!” she answered the question, “We celebrate everything and we absolutely love it!!!” Mrs. Rod-Kam shares some traditions she would love to start with her family, “I think eventually, I’d like to be able to do an annual destination trip or cruise during the holiday,” she offered. “It would be nice to have everyone all together and no one physically responsible for doing anything, like cooking or decorating.” She then explained a tradition she has

and would like to keep doing. “We have two traditions; we go to Disneyland and watch the holiday parade and the tree lighting. We eat junk food  
*“The tradition that will get passed down is matching PJ’s every year.”*

and drink hot chocolate... just my little family!” The staffer continued, “We drive around the area and look at all the different houses and the way they have decorated... and again, hot chocolate and cupcakes!” She went on to include, “A kiss at midnight (with my sweet hubby of course) on New Year’s Eve.” Mrs. Rod-Kam goes into detail of what a tradition looks like to her. “[It] is something that you do each year with the people you love and care for, something that allows you the chance to focus ONLY on them and on THAT moment in time, something that makes a memory and symbolizes this

holiday or the spirit of it, for all of you.” Mrs. Rod-Kam has gained some special traditions from her diverse cultures. She counts on her list two top items: “Doing some caroling that I picked up from the Mexican part, and eating mochi on New Year’s Day, from my Japanese part.” Mrs. Rod-Kam concluded by focusing on what tradition she sees will be passed down. “The parade and the lights... we’re going on 20 years now with my hubby, and my family did it when my brother and I were young...so I think this one is a keeper!”  
Mr. Ron Carcich, English and Journalism teacher at Buena Park High School, shared his traditions. Mr. Carcich explained which holidays his family celebrates. “I do celebrate many (not all) holidays with my family,” he said. “We don’t much like Hallowe’en very much. It’s a 2 on a scale of 10, our least favorite holiday, in our opinion.

**Continued on Page 10**



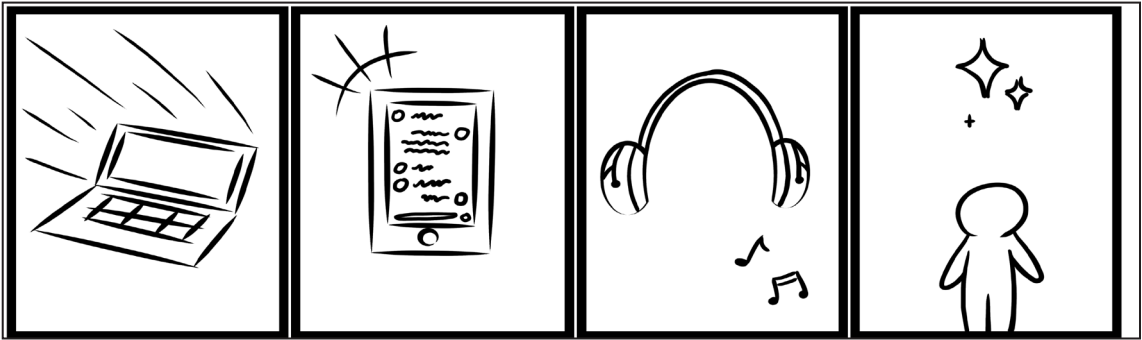
# Holiday Traditons (Cont.)

By: Johanna Penaloza  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

**Continued from Page 9**  
However, we love, love, love Christmas and rate it a 10 of 10. We get to open one present at midnight on Christmas Eve, and a tradition with my daughters for years was to get a new pair of pajamas--the more goofy comic patterns on them, the better.” A tradition Mr. Carcich would love to start involves a childhood memory. “When I was a kid, my parents were in a club that held an annual “Goodbye to Summer” dance, basically the last time for all to get together before closing the summer vacations and going back to work or to school. I hated the symbolism of that dance and always wondered why they all didn’t begin each vacation period with a “HELLO to Summer” dance!”

Mr. Carcich shares his favorite tradition. “My family has “Bad Joke Time” at the

Thanksgiving dinner table. We go online days beforehand and find bad, really corny, awful turkey-themed jokes that revolve around pilgrims, pumpkin pie, wishbones, whatever. If it includes any part of Thanksgiving and can find its way into a bad joke, we tell it. We put our secret jokes on paper and into a bowl.” The veteran staffer said, “Then, each member of the family pulls one out and reads it out loud. Around and around we go until all the jokes, maybe ten, get told.” Mr. Carcich defines what a holiday tradition means to him. “To me, it includes bonding, fun, respect, continuity, and family desire to keep it going.” He said, “Whatever it includes, a holiday tradition always involves all of us.”  
A holiday tradition Mr. Carcich would love to celebrate doesn’t happen and for reasons of safety. “I would enjoy going out with my wife to New Year’s Eve parties, but the whole concept of drunk drivers out there lessens our



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*Don’t forget to make time for yourself during the holiday season.*  
passion for celebrating out during that time. However, we often go and party with our friends the weekend AFTER

**“Holiday tradition means bonding, fun, respect, continuity and family..”**

New Year’s Eve. By that time, the amateur “once a year” people have finished bouncing off the walls and the police have taken a large chunk of drunk drivers off the road.” For a tradition Mr. Carcich

gained from his culture, he goes back to the cultural dance. “Oh, that “Farewell to Summer” dance got held every year...and every year I mentioned the idea that we should have had a “HELLO to Summer” dance. However, nobody listens to kids, right?”  
Mr. “C” sees passing down a Spring tradition in the future. “We had Easter egg hunts every year for about a decade. I had fun hiding the eggs all over the house and in the backyard. I hid the eggs so they could get found while still challenging my two daughters to use their imagination. I had to come up with new hiding places every year

in that same back yard.”  
As a large number of students and staffers at Buena Park High School not only create, share, remember their own traditions, they also hope to pass down their own traditions to their families coming in future generations. They also hope to finish their 2020 year off with much love from their families. Many want to finish off strong and get excited for the new year to come in an effort to build new traditions and to create new memories.  
“The Journalism Staff wishes you and your family happy holidays!”