

## Language Clubs

By: Anndrea Herrera  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

People all over the world speak a variety of languages around the world and many folks acknowledge the advantage of having a working knowledge of knowing more than only one. Here at Buena Park High School students see a choice of different courses to help them learn different languages. Students can find clubs associated with those languages also on the Coyote campus. In this article, two such clubs at Buena Park High School will come under the spotlight. French Club and Latino Club promote those languages as well as the associated cultures.

Teaching a language with passion proves an awesome occupation. The course’s students will see that their teacher loves this language dearly, and so, will also want to learn it. Madame Kimiko Mann, a French teacher at Buena Park High School, shares why she decided to teach the language to high school students. She said she was inspired by her “wonderful French teacher in college” who gave her the dream to “see the world” by teaching French. Madame Mann explained about how she now can continue to see the world with her students by “sharing this wonderful language with young people, and ‘traveling’ with them through studies of the diverse and interesting French-speaking world.”

People join clubs to spend more time with their interests and with people who have made that same choice. The Latino club, “has a group of students with great personalities and a love for their culture,” says Ms. Isaura De Leon, a Buena Park High School Spanish teach-

# Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Carcich



Photo by

By: Grace Lee  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

With his glasses and buttoned down shirt, Mr. Ron Carcich always showed up to class, excited to teach his students. He dedicated 30 years of his life teaching students as an English teacher and Journalism advisor. However, he spent the most time teaching at Buena Park High School, where he changed students’ lives every day.

Perhaps one of the best qualities of Mr. Carcich was his ability to make students welcomed. Thwe Nwe Han, Buena Park High School graduate, entered his classroom as a sophomore. Although she was originally intimidated by his tall figure, his warm smile welcomed her to his classroom. “One of my favorite memories was when I saw ‘hello welcome,’ in Burmese written on the whiteboard on the second day of class. On the next day, there were phrases written in the native language of the other students. He was the only teacher who went out of his way to find out where I came from without my input,” she said.

Mr. Carcich’s easy-going personality also allowed students to learn in his classroom, but also have fun doing so. Emily Jimenez, a junior

at Buena Park High School, recalled, “My favorite memory with Mr. C was when I threw a whiteboard marker at the cabinet by his head. I had him for English that year, and we were messing around during break,” She said, “I threw the marker and quickly told Mr. C to catch it, but he just watched it fly by, and the cap exploded behind his head. That was so funny, I still have that marker with me today.

Not only has Mr. Carcich affected students’ lives, he has also touched the lives of teachers. Mrs. Melanie Schlager, Buena Park High Computer Science teacher, and long-time friend of Mr. Carcich, said, “Mr. C. was the first teacher at Buena Park High School who was nice to me. A group of ‘guy’ teachers were going to Sizzlers for lunch. No one knew how I was a new teacher on the campus. This was in 2005. He invited me to go to Sizzlers with the group. It was something I never forgot. It was a bigger deal to me than he knows. I have never forgotten that kind act. We have remained friends for 15 years now.”

Another close staff member, Mr. Sean Kitchin, explained his favorite memory, “My first impression is pretty accurate, I thought ‘he’s tall, funny, and bald.’ My favorite memory of Ron is attending an Ontario Reign minor

league hockey game because he is so intense and knowledgeable about the sport of hockey---a true ‘New Yorker.’”

Kenneth (Kenny) Fransisco, another graduate from Buena Park High School and former Paw Prints Editor, reminisced some experiences with the veteran teacher, “There’s way too many memories I have of this man that I cannot possibly pick for my favorites. But, I can tell you that any memory made with Mr. Carcich is a great memory,” the former Coyote continued saying, “From his stupid jokes, many great pieces of advice, past-time conversations, and his teachings, Mr. Carcich always has something fun or engaging happening in his classroom.”

Kenny shared an amusing story about his first impression of Mr. Carcich, “Oh boy, my first impression of this man. I was scared when I saw him. On that first day of ninth grade I thought I wouldn’t be able to fit in the room or feel appreciated. But, that all changed when he made one silly joke that I took seriously, and that one little joke caused four great years of having him as my Journalism advisor.”

A close friend of Mr. Carcich and English teacher at Buena Park High School, Ms. Silva Shamassian, also recalled an entertaining memory with the Paw Prints advisor, “Mr. [Carcich](#)

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# Coyote Staff

## Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Carcich

By: Grace Lee  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

had hired a landscaper to renovate his lawn one time. After they got to know each other a little better, Mr. C asked the landscaper if he could set him up with a nice young teacher (that would be me) with whom he works,” she remembered. “The landscaper said yes and asked questions about this nice young teacher. The more Mr. C. told the landscaper about me, the more suspicious the landscaper became and finally, the landscaper asked Mr. C. what this teacher’s name was. When Mr. C told him my name, the landscaper cringed and told Mr. C. that he was my cousin! Well, at least Mr. C tried!”

### “Just seeing how tall and how he had a shiny head kind of intrigued me.”

A former Coyote, Perla Pineda also remembered her favorite moments with Mr. Carcich, “I was a junior walking into his journalism class and just seeing how tall and how he had a shiny head kind of intrigued me. Mr. C., being an English teacher and all, has always mispronounced my name saying ‘Pear-la’ like the fruit instead of ‘Per-la’ but he’s allowed to since he’s an English teacher.” A Chemistry teacher at Buena Park High School and a very close friend of the retiring teacher, Mr. Robert Vandershraaf said, mentioned a memory they both shared, “Back several years ago I was going through a really tough time and in one particular incident, someone publicly insulted me. Mr. C was just about the only person to come to my defense. He really cared.”

A junior Coyote recalls his favorite moments with the English teacher. Zachary Penn shared some highlights of Mr. Carcich’s humorous personality, “My favorite memory with Mr. C. is us playing the song called ‘Reading A Book’ by Julian Smith during a journalism party in order to annoy the heck out of everyone.” Adding on to Zachary’s thoughts, another graduate, Amy Lemus commented, “Well I always thought he was going to be that annoying teacher that talks a lot and bores everyone, but boy did

he prove me very wrong. When I was a freshman and I first took his big, brown chair that he had in his classroom in room 62 and ever since then, I’ve always sat in his chair.”

Another close friend of Mr. Carcich mentioned her favorite moments with the veteran teacher. Ms. Nolia Beauchamp, English teacher at Buena Park High School said, “Running the Challenge Days with him. We needed a break from one another after that, but it was a huge accomplishment for both us and the school.”

There seems to be a theme of Mr. Carcich’s outer appearance being at odds with his true personality. Angela Hennessy, a senior Coyote recalled her favorite shared moment with Mr. Ron Carcich and said, “My first impression was that he would be strict and firm. He can be assertive but getting to know him as a teacher over the years, he’s the complete opposite of what I thought he would be like the first time I’ve met him.” She continued, “My favorite memories of Mr. C. was overall having him as my teacher for Journalism and English. He would always make time aside from school work by joking around with students and engaging with us to get to know us better.”

Many staff members, current students, and former students commented on how the Paw Prints advisor impacted their lives. Jaanai mentioned, “Mr. C. did impact my life in a way since he helped me improve my writing skills and I work for a company where emails are required daily. He helped me expand my knowledge of vocabulary and structure for a piece.” Han shared, “He impacted my life and I am always going to be grateful for how he always trusts my capability more than I trust myself. His support pushed me to try a lot of new things and gained confidence that I would do well in anything in my life.”

#### Life Impact

Emily commented, “Mr. C impacted my life in several ways. Educationally, he taught me how to write better and speak more appropriately. I also found myself using bigger words when writing in my other classes which is a good habit one could obtain,” the Coyote mentioned. “Mentally, he helped me get through one of the darkest times of my life. I was having breakdowns during school and Mr. C introduced me to a lady who walked with me, so I didn’t feel trapped. I would have long conversations with Mr. C and if I had nowhere to release my frustrations and vent, I would not have made it this far in high school.

Mr. C. showed me how to properly express myself in the workplace and how to talk to people properly. I would get frustrated easily and he would always tell me to stop and take a breath, in different words of course,” Emily said. **Forever Grateful**

Kenny mentioned how Mr. C has impacted his life, “Mr. Carcich made me learn how to believe in myself, to work harder and smarter, while also helping others achieve their goal to do something greater.” He continued saying, “I was an anxious young guy when I came to his class on the first day of freshman year in Buena Park High School, and let me tell you this, all the lessons and advice I’ve learned from him will never leave my mind and for that, I will forever be grateful.”

Perlarecollectedsome thoughts and mentioned how the “Bald man” has impacted her life, “Mr. C. impacted and influenced my life positively. Mr. C. helped me with my writing skills that has prepared me for college level writing, challenging me to write and creating a safe environment in his classroom. I also want to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to observe and participate in your classes to learn from you how to become an effective teacher and passing me on your techniques. It has been an honor for all the things you’ve done and making time to have some fun.”

Amy recalled how Mr. Carcich impacted her life in ways she couldn’t explain, “I don’t know how to describe it but Mr. C helped me become more social and honestly he kinda got me to be a little nicer, but he impacted my life as a student to know someone actually cares. He wasn’t just there to teach, but he was there to be a part of his students lives and he’s a great listener. I would say Mr. C. wasn’t just there to do his job he was there to learn from us and to help us grow.” The former Coyote said, “He was involved with everything from the roots of the story until it got published. He’s a family guy as we all in that class have at least met one of his kids who are also very great people. Mr. C is just a great teacher. They’re so many more words to describe Mr. C but I just can’t think of them. I know that thanks to him I’m getting where I want to be.”

Angela Hennessy, senior at Buena Park High School, shared how the Paw Prints Advisor impacted her life, “Around the time I first had him for English, I wasn’t doing so well and had a lot going on in my personal life. At the time, I didn’t put in effort into my work and

would slack off,” she explained, “Mr. Carcich could have let me go downhill on my own and deal with the consequences, but he didn’t. He would check up on me, and try to work with me in getting back on track. I’ve never met a teacher as caring as Mr. Carcich is. It might not seem as much to others, but Mr. Carcich going out of his way for me is an act of kindness I will always remember. He believed in me, and knew I could do it. Because of him, I did.”

Many staffers gave their opinions on his unique teaching style. Mr. Kitchin mentioned, “His teaching style, in my opinion, is the right approach because he is a listener! Firstly, he interacts with each student by listening and allowing for an established conversation to occur; an exchange of ideals and ideas between giver and receiver.”

### “Mr. C has thousands of students who will remember him as their favorite teacher!”

Mrs. Schlager said, “Mr. C is outgoing, polite, and very dedicated to his teaching. He is respectful, humble, and dependable. This quote reminds me of Mr. C ‘Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us, teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives.’ Mr. C has thousands of students who will remember him as their favorite teacher!”

Mr. Vandershraaf added on saying, “His teaching style is to help students teach themselves. He understands that people are inherently very intelligent and he helps them see that in themselves. He presents the basic information to start with and then guides the students to discover how they actually understand the material already.”

Ms. Shamassian also shared how unique his teaching style has touched the lives of countless students, “His teaching style is to help students teach themselves. He understands that people are inherently very intelligent and he helps them see that in themselves,” she said, “He presents the basic information to start with and then guides the students to discover how they actually understand the material already.”

# Coyote Staff

## Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Carcich

By: Grace Lee  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

It becomes apparent that Mr. Carcich has truly changed the lives of both students and teachers in ways that some students may not have even expected. Although both students and staff remain saddened to see Mr. Carcich leave the Coyote Den, there exists a united feeling of gratefulness towards everything Mr. Carcich has done. We hope you have a relaxing retirement and don’t forget to visit us once in a while! Again, thank you so much for your time at Buena Park High School and we will miss you greatly.

**GRACE: “Hi, Mr. Carcich! Although this little message is far too short to deliver my thanks, I hope you’ll feel my sincere gratitude. I honestly don’t know what I would’ve done without taking Journalism; it’s truly been the highlight of my high school career. Last year,**

**when I was a shy sophomore, your welcoming smile and humorous personality always made me feel comfortable in your classroom. I’ll never forget your patience as we worked to make sure our Zoom was working properly, your jokes as we reviewed the Journalism jobs, and your kindness as I asked for countless recommendation letters. You’ll be so missed on our Coyote campus.”** Kaylee: “Hey Mr. C, I have great honor in saying that I got to have you as a journalism teacher. Although I’m just a freshman, I had a wonderful experience being in your class. I wish you could stay a little longer but we all have our duties in life. I’ve learned a lot from being in the journalism team. I used to be really quiet, and didn’t like talking to people, but this class really opened me up. I’ve developed

friendships here, as well as a strong voice. I’ll never forget your jokes, kindness, and compassion. Thank you for being our journalism teacher, thank you for being the best journalism teacher. We will all miss you dearly, and I wish you the best of luck.”

Kenny: “I would like to thank the entire Journalism team for giving me the opportunity to answer their questions and be featured in this awesome article. My last bit here: Thank you, Mr. Carcich, for all the hard work you have done and the great students and people you’ve made out of each student that walked into your class. I don’t know how to put my full gratitude into words, but know this: your students, alumni or not, will forever remember you and cherish everything that you have done for us. Thank you

and I hope you have a safe and amazing retirement.”

Isela: “Hi Mr. C! I would like to say that I’m really glad you were my teacher for four years! It was an amazing experience to see myself grow, not only emotionally but with writing and speaking as well. I remember when i first joined, i was shy and now i’m not as much, i can talk to a whole class without feeling as nervous as before. I’m really thankful that you got to spend your last first years with me! Thank you so much for everything you’ve done for not only me but for former and current students. You have seriously made a huge impact on all of our lives and for that, thank you for everything! We will miss you so much! I wish you all the best! I know Tennessee is lucky to have a person like you living there!”

## Yearbooks Back

Sometimes bad luck, even tragedy, can find its way to redemption. Sometimes mishaps and sadness can set up a recovery that shows what family can do. Sometimes that family does not reflect just blood relatives or even marital connection. Sometimes a school can rise up and show that platitudes and nice warm fuzzies have a basis in fact.

On a bright sunny day in the late Spring of 2008, Courtney Johnston graduated from Buena Park High School. She would later join the army. There, she got injured after basic training. She recovered, but the future would hold sadness.

In 2017, Courtney lost her grandmother. The night her grandmother passed, the garage where the family lived at the time burned down. Among other items destroyed by the blaze and ensuing water, the yearbooks--the ones Courtney’s grandmother had bought her--became collateral damage.

Last month, Courtney’s mother contacted Buena Park High School asking if there existed any way to re-publish the yearbooks that the fire had taken from the family. She said she’s pay any cost for them. It shows the value, beyond the dollar amount, of a Coyote yearbook. Connection to Buena Park High School matters and many graduated students hold the site in high regard.

Courtney’s second family, Buena Park High School, could not let that tragedy of lost mementos stand. With the work of Principal Dr. Sonje Berg and the volunteer efforts of a few Coyote staffers, Courtney Johnston now has in her possession, three replaced Buena Park High School yearbooks.

Buena Park High School students might well remember this as they think of purchasing a Coyote yearbook next year.



## A Great Honor

Seventeen-year-old Coyote junior Grace Lee became the 2021-22 Fullerton Joint Union School Board’s Student Member. The board formally introduced her into the position on May 11th during its regular meeting. “Grace is a phenomenal kid who represents Buena Park High School (and FJUHSD) well!” said Buena Park High School Principal Dr. Sonje Berg.





# Coyote Graduates

## Senior Plans Contain Big Futures

By: Esmeralda Medel  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

Freshmen, take note of how former first-year students have evolved, and see what students just a couple of years older than you have found most important in their lives. You won't see "music, drama, popularity, candy, or other such distractions on the list. Take the advice you see here, from students who maybe once valued what you currently do.

As the 2020-2021 school year winds down, seniors at many sites, including Buena Park High School, hope for colleges' acceptance letters to appear in their inboxes and look for further ways to achieve their goals. Not all students will attend college right away; many will search for full-time jobs first, in preparation to pay off college tuition that remains after scholarships and grants take care of some of that monetary obligation. As the saying goes, "College is not for everyone," so different paths will offer ways of travel to every graduate towards their dream careers, lifestyles and goals.

Seventeen-year-old senior James Lippiatt said, "I see myself completing my master's degree and working on changing the future and making a difference in what I need or want for others. I want to invent something that can help in the long run for everyone." The Buena Park High School senior revealed, "Chemical engineering or computer science are

the careers I'd be interested in. I intend to get an associate's degree in chemistry, spend a year or two in a lab and then head out to a university to get a master's degree in chemical engineering. First I'll attend Fullerton college for my associates, then I will go to Washington State University (W.S.U.). It's well known for its education in chemical engineering and work effort in science." The Coyote affirmed, "Mostly I just want to complete college, spend as much time with family and friends before I leave, and maybe find someone to be with before I start off at Washington State University."

Buena Park High School student Jessica Piñeda stated, "One big plan I have after I graduate is to continue with my job which will become a full-time job. Right now, I work part time. I'm doing this in order to raise enough money so I can then go to community college. I would like to attend American Career College (ACC) since it is pretty close to where I live and I want to be able to have a career in a relatively short amount of time." The 18-year-old senior offered, "There are a few different careers that interest me. The main ones that come to my mind are a medical assistant, counselor, or psychiatrist. These all have something in common: An ability to help others, which I would really like to do. Over the course of ten years, I see myself having a career of my choice. Also, I would probably have a family which would be a husband, a daughter, and a son. Lastly, I would have a nice place

to live like a house or decent-sized apartment." She confirmed, "High school has taught me that I always have to persevere, even when things get rough. There were times where I felt like I wouldn't be able to handle all of the things life threw at me, but then I realized that completing high school was a goal that I had to accomplish. Thinking about high school as an end goal really did help me see that one should keep moving forward. Then you'll be able to achieve pretty much anything you want."

**"I have  
a chance  
to break  
the cycle."**

Fellow senior Justin Loague said, "After High School, my plans are to attend Hope International University running for the cross country squad and the Track and Field team, all while acquiring a major in business administration. I chose Hope International University because it was one of the very few choices I had when it came to running after high school. Not too many people continue running after graduating from Buena Park High School, so I have a chance to break the cycle." Justin explained, "One goal I'd like to accomplish is to earn my degree with flying colors, since I will be the first son in my family to do so. With my degree, the career of my choice is one of an insurance adjuster or sales manager."

Isela Santillanes, an 18-year-old Coyote, stated, "One career that interests me is being a veterinarian! It's been my dream since I was a kid with my dog by my side. Also,

another one that interests me, ever since watching Grey's Anatomy, was becoming a surgeon. One goal I want to accomplish while I'm trying to get further education is to make my parents proud to have me in their lives." The Buena Park High School student added, "This summer I'm going to work as hard as I can to make a good amount of money and then enjoy my summer as best I can, hanging out with my friends and family!" The Coyote student went on to mention, "I'm going to attend Fullerton Community College for my first two years and then transfer to a four-year university, maybe Cal State Fullerton, or Cal State Long Beach, or even Cal Poly Pomona." The senior student talked

about her future career. "In ten years, I see myself starting to work as a vet and traveling across the world, and finally, after that, maybe having a family of my own."

### Taking a Break

Eighteen-year-old Angela Hennessey said, "After high school, I'm moving to Helendale for college as a fresh start. I'm going to Barstow community college for the first two years, and from there on out, I plan to transfer to Grand Canyon University. Barstow is the closest community college to where I'm moving and it does have the classes I need to take for my major, psychology." The Coyote senior student mentioned, "One goal I want to accomplish while trying to further my education is to be able to balance time for myself and other priorities while also going to school as well." She went said, "My goal is to take a break for a couple of months from school just for myself. I want to go on a trip to the Philippines. I'm part Filipino, have family over there, and want to know more about my culture. As for other goals, I want to start working, save up for a car, and do things I haven't had the chance to do over the years." She claimed, "I see myself eventually moving to New York, where I've wanted to live since I was a kid. I see myself a few years into my college degree in behavioral health while working as a therapist. Other than my planned trip to the Philippines, I want to travel to Hawaii, Mexico, Japan, Greece, and Italy. I've been to Mexico once and found the area I went to very beautiful. I would like to visit the other areas as well as I've always found them fascinating."

### Seniors Leaving

As seniors take their leave and travel down the hallways one last time, they take a moment to realize that the last four years have changed their lives in ways they never thought.

Freshmen, do you see this? The journey prepared them for life as an adult and helped them to become responsible; their high school experience gave them many lessons. Those who listened to the right voices have emerged with strength and within reach of really powerful goals and dreams.

Seniors will put on their caps and gowns for the upcoming graduation ceremony as they say thank you to all the teachers, staff and positive students who have shaped their lives. "LET'S GO, CLASS OF 2021!"

# Coyote Graduates

## Grad Night Fesitivities, Promises

By: Kevin Rosales  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

The 2020-2021 academic school year has come to a virtual end for senior students of Buena Park High School. The seniors of the 2020-2021 school year graduate on Thursday, May 27. Before they do, and move on to the real world, the seniors can look forward to some special days where they can have fun and enjoy their last days as high school students.

"Ms. Scottie" (Scott), a teacher at Buena Park High School, gave a summary of the place the seniors chose for "Grad Night" and why they made that pick. She explained,"We were initially set with Universal Studios (having to schedule it at least a year in advance) but, due to Covid-19 [concerns,] they could not guarantee the same event as the past," she said. "There was no guarantee that all rides would be open, no DJ's or special guests. We did not want to risk everyone paying a large amount of money to just walk around the park and eat. So," she said, "we looked into other parks. Most were not having Grad nights this year, due to the pandemic, and/or could not guarantee a full experience. Then we found Camelot," she said. "They offered us a great package for a reasonable price."

Knowing how they ended with the idea, the next natural thought would go to what kind of steps or obstacles the organizers faced when planning for Grad Night.

Mrs. Rod-Kam, English Department Chair and advisor for the senior class at Buena Park High School, states that, "The Parent Teacher Student Association (P.T.S.A.) very graciously agreed to look at options and collaborated with 'Scottie' to evaluate the best options--and this is what they felt was the best."

Yet, not all seniors will attend the Grad Night gala this year. A Buena Park High School senior, Isela Santillanes, explained why she will not attend Grad Night this year. The 18-year-old Coyote student stated, "At first I was planning to go, but then I decided not to, since my friend and I want to go to Knott's Berry Farm instead." Isela added how she felt about the change in location. She said, " Honestly, I feel kind of good about it because, at first, my parents [were not going to] let me go to Grad Night since it was going to be at night and kind of far from [the school]," she said.

When in the process of planning the event, frustrations that usually go unseen by eager students arose for the organizers. These roadblocks became more of an issue because of the special circumstances created by the pandemic. Organizers had to face more than the usual organic closed doors and hills and valleys on their way to finding and securing an appropriate, entertaining, cost-efficient location and transportation.

Mrs. Rod-Kam explained, "The hardest part of the process was to evaluate the options and make sure that we were finding something reasonable and something that would be fun and memorable for the seniors."

With the process of how they put

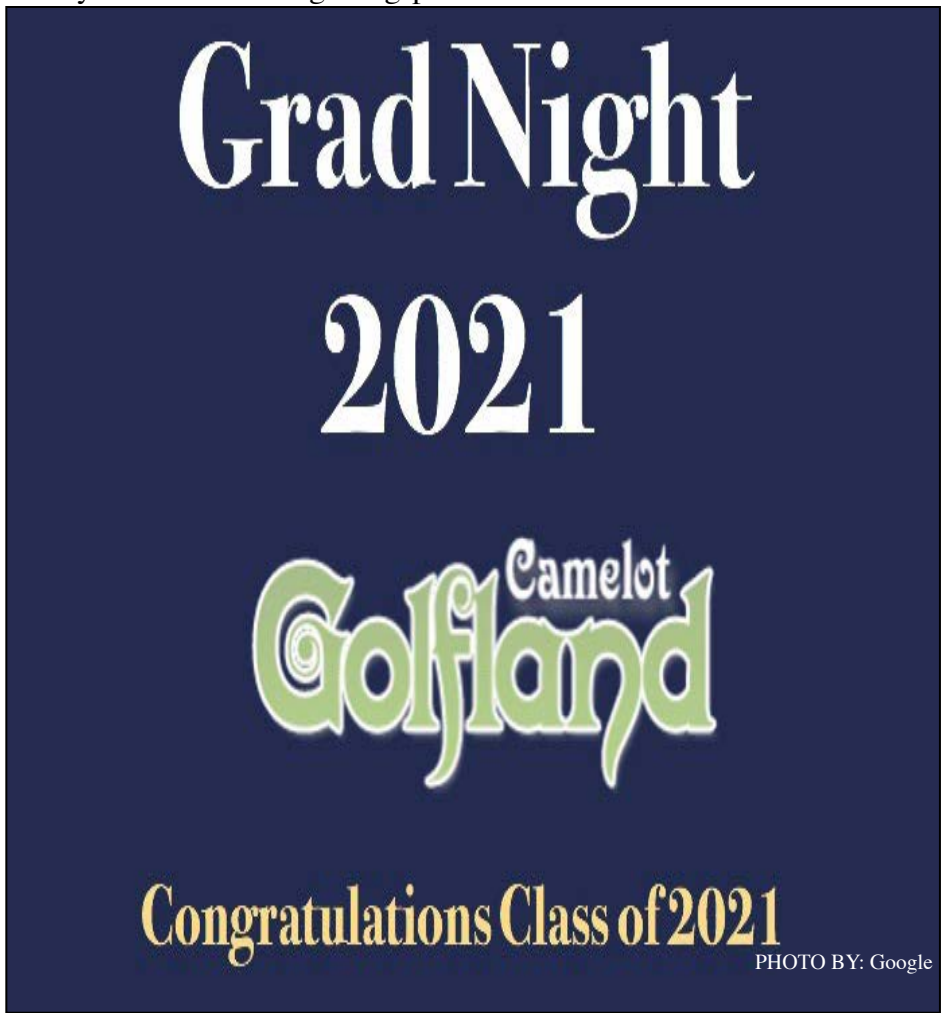
the whole event together explained, the question remains of what the organizers mainly focused on when putting this massive event together.

Dr. Sonje Berg, Principal of Buena Park High School, listed the focuses for Grad Night. He said, "Having a venue was one of the biggest focuses, an affordable venue for the students, having a fun environment for them, the availability [of the desired site], and having the venue just for Buena Park High School students."

Isela summarized what she's most excited about in connection with the night. She stated, "I was excited mostly about the mini golfing part

and hanging out with my friends because I wanted to see them one last time before the school year ended. Although I'm now not going, I am still okay and happy for that. They're still going, and I expect they will have a lot of fun!"

Ms. Scottie might have inadvertently voiced what a lot of teachers and staffers at Buena Park High School feel about Grad Night when it comes to the graduating students. What satisfies her the most when it comes to this event? She said, "I'm excited to finally see kids with their friends having fun."



*The Class of 2021 will celebrate its graduation at Camelot Golfland.*

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# Coyote Facilities

## New Gym Sparkles as “The Den”

By: Phiyen Tran  
Paw Prints Staff Writer



PHOTO BY: T. Valdes  
The new gymnasium, also known as “The Den,” shines brightly awaiting students to make many victorious memories in it.

in more school activities there. Most people would agree that this produces a positive aspect, a great thing of course, because of the importance of staying healthy...and happy. Sports and physical activities remain some of the many ways to really get that multi-dimensional high school experience. Once students get involved in sports, they set themselves up to make plenty of great memories and friends along the way. Staying healthy during these strange times carries its own unique value..

Myah Interian, a 15-year-old sophomore at Buena Park High School, shared her positive feedback on the new gym, saying, “I wouldn’t change anything about it.” Almost all of the feedback from the students has proven posi-

tive, so it seems as if the new gym has become a really solid success story. From the new design on the court floor of the gym to the brand new color palette of the entire room, it seems everything has resulted in success. Students really like the new design and some have said they enjoy it a lot more than the previous look.

The design, however, isn’t the only thing students appreciate about the new gym. One of the things most students really enjoy involves the brand new air conditioning that promises to keep them cool when they participate in sports. Spectators will also enjoy a more comfortable game or presentation experience. Deanthony Wiley stated, “It’s great to have air conditioning; the old gym would get really hot.” The new air conditioning gains much importance for students, because it will make sure they stay ready to learn or to compete on hot days, and will make having fun playing in the gym a much more satisfying experience.

Okay, so some people call the new Den, a name given long ago to the Coyote athletic home, a basically perfect structure now, but do some students wish for further changes to it? “Maybe the bathrooms,” Mr. Wiley suggested, “because they are still the original from the old gym.”

Buena Park High School will possibly add more changes to the high school to improve student’s learning experiences, but with all that has already happened, more alterations outside of the recently adopted school facilities bond specifications would come far down the line.

Buena Park Highschool stu-

dent Ashley Bustamante replies, “My thoughts about the gym since I’ve been in it more is that it looks better than the other gymnasiums in the district. Also, the grip the floors have on my shoes is nice, and the air conditioning is great for when I practice.”

### “My first time in the gym was great”

The new gym’s floors truly encourage the students who want to or already participate in sports; this comes not only from the new design standpoint, but also from its allowance of students to perform even more efficiently. “My first time in the gym was great,” Ashley added, “because I was excited to start having games for Girls Basketball and practice.” She confessed, though, “My favorite thing about the gym is the newer colors it has--and how bright it now looks. Also, the new flooring is just wonderful. I love it.”

Even though students, especially the seniors, have seen many changes, it doesn’t mean positive ones have not come about. The gymnasium has become one of the largest examples of the physical improvements they have seen. From the design, to the air conditioning, to the large room in general, the Coyote Den and the future look really positive for students. Things might look different going back to school next semester, and with the new infrastructure, students can challenge themselves to academically do even better.

# Coyote Leaders

## Link Crew Made Quite the Year

By: Jessica Pindea  
Paw Prints Staff Writer

Further education and success become some of the greatest achievements in a person’s life. Buena Park High School makes it possible for students to reach a goal they have looked forward to since their freshman year (9th grade) and much of it comes down to a program called Link Crew where upperclassmen (11th and 12th graders) join the program in order to help freshman commit to graduation and help them reach that goal.

Students that participate in Link Crew give guidance to the freshman. They provide them with homework help, advice, and sometimes just share their freshman experiences.

Mrs. Melody Volen, who works as a Math teacher as well as one of the advisors of Link Crew, said the program’s Commit to Graduate event aims “to get [Buena Park High School] freshman more involved and meet their link crew leaders and start thinking about how important it is to graduate and commit to that.”

Jason Mendez, a Senior Link Crew leader, stated his motivation for being there. “Just seeing everyone happy and full of energy makes me want to help students achieve goals that many thought weren’t possible,” he said. Jason also shared some advice that might help freshmen go through their four years of high school. “Focus on school,” he offered. “Don’t mess around, and get good grades.” Jason admitted that he wished

someone had told him the same or similar during his freshman year.

Freddie Madera, a fellow Senior Link Crew leader revealed, “What motivated me was all the kids, and just the year being so difficult for everyone. I feel like this is a great opportunity for everyone to express themselves and have fun.” Additionally, the senior described what he thinks freshmen need to hear, commenting, “I would tell them to just work hard and take nothing for granted, because time flies. I was told that freshmen and senior years would go by quickly and I didn’t believe it, but here I am, a senior getting ready to graduate.”

### Buena Park Family

Linane Dacayo, a 14-year-old freshman, put forth what she learned: “People were nice and welcoming at Buena Park High School; it was almost like everyone was a family and I really enjoyed that.” Moreover, she expressed her appreciation toward the seniors by saying, “Good job and thank you for letting us do it. Congratulations on your graduation.”

Danelle Bahena, a fellow 14-year-old freshman realized the following: “I’m more sure of myself--that I will be graduating--and, if I’m not graduating here I will be graduating at another school. I will try my best to be successful.” She showed her gratitude by commenting, “I would say thank you [to Link Crew leaders] for taking the time, because I know you had to wake up early to set everything up.”

Not only do Buena Park High School Link Crew Leaders come and talk to freshman,



PHOTO BY: T. Valdes  
Spectacles such as the one seen inspired freshman to do well in school.

they hold activities that help students bond with each other and to help them have a great experience on the Coyote Campus.

Mrs. Volen described the aspect with which she had the most fun by saying, “I think I really enjoyed watching the freshman and the link crew leaders interact at the end playing their games and introducing themselves, as well as watching them play some extra games they weren’t even scheduled to play. One can see how engaged they were during the whole event and how they enjoyed having a good time.”

Jason identified common mistakes that underclassmen make. He said, “Not taking high school seriously, and trying to be more ‘popular’ instead of focusing

on school is a mistake that I see some freshmen make. They really need to start working and not slack off. It really affects them in the long run.” Furthermore, he explained, one important aspect that freshmen need to know includes focusing on school.

### “Thinking they’re better than everyone else is not the way to go.”

Freddie tried to turn the journey he thought freshman would mistakenly take by explaining, “Thinking they’re better than everyone else is not the way to go. Just trying to fit in while being themselves is the best thing possible.” Moreover, he believed freshmen should “take nothing for granted, work hard and have fun. Enjoy these four years, because they go by in a flash.”

In short, Link Crew can benefit both freshmen and upperclassmen. Freshman can receive encouraging words with serious advice. Meanwhile, juniors and seniors can provide the freshmen with real life advice from personal experience. The juniors and seniors can also cultivate motivation to keep the younger students going towards achieving positive goals.

To gain more information about possibly becoming a part of the Link Crew program, do contact Mrs. Volen at mvolen@fjuhsd.org



PHOTO BY: T. Valdes  
Buena Park High School’s Link crew members worked with Principal Berg to focus the Class of 2024 earlier this academic year.



PHOTO BY: T. Valdes

Soon, fans might again hear: “Up in the air, over the rim; come on, Coyotes, sink it!”



# Coyote Aerospace

## StellarXplorers Soar Again

By: Nathaniel Soto  
Paw Prints Staff Writer

Looking at recent history, Buena Park High School awards detectives can travel from the thrills of a magnificent Theater troupe to a strong Football program to an award-winning Agriculture department to numerous invitations for the Choir to perform, to the Band and to last month's honors earned by the Colorguard team. Buena Park High School has truly become a destination school. It does not sit on its accomplishments, though. Each semester seems to bring fresh awards to add to the Golden Bells and the special state designations bestowed upon the Coyote campus.

### Multi-year Streak

To that mix, the school can add the still-continuing multi-year streak of The Buena Park High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps' StellarXplorers' trips to the national finals in that annual competition.

Buena Park High School's own Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets competed, on Friday, April 16, 2021, in the StellarXplorers national finals (virtual event). Sophia Fanslow, Daniel Hong, Martin Morales, Andrew Palacio, Daniel Ventura, Skyler Gomez, Carlos Lopez, Brandon Ugliano, Samuel Yu and Stephanie Hong represented the Coyote effort, working as members of two team entries for Buena Park High School.

Colonel James Miller, explained the difficulties of the

event. "The most difficult for students in this work was understanding orbital mechanics and solving multiple varied problems."

The AFJROTC lead officer at Buena Park High School discussed some of the general guidance he gave to students who attempted this work. "You have to be good in math, also good in analysis," he said. Colonel Miller spoke of specific details that he noticed he had to really hammer home to help the cadets succeed. "Learning the STK software and getting really good at it," he identified as that aspect.

The colonel relied on some juniors, such as Daniel Hong, a 17-year-old cadet, to lead one of the two teams that reached the national finals this year. Said Hong, "I specifically as a co-captain of Team 48, organized the members to guide the missions and duties they had to work on and I was mostly leading to use the skills of orbits or interpolations that skills are needed for StellarXplorers."

Daniel's co-captain on Team 48 of the StellarXplorers, Samuel Yu, stepped up as leader during the final round. "I worked on the analysis sheet of the Excel spreadsheet needed to calculate the final score of the problem we received during the competition," the 17-year-old senior said. "This analysis sheet consisted of components of a satellite that we needed to calculate the weights, cost, and power requirement of in order to fulfill the problem."

Brandon Ugliano, a Coyote junior, reported that he "personally worked on the Orbits during the problem and tried to maximize the minutes



Legion of Success: The Buena Park High School teams have won honors frequently.

across the points of contact."

Sophia Fanslow, a 16-year-old sophomore, helped create orbits during the finals. She also calculated the points received from each orbit during the finals. During the qualification rounds, Sophia mainly performed component analysis and rocket analysis.

This program does not attract just one gender. "The percentage of boys is 70% and of girls, it is 30%," Colonel Miller reported. During the past couple of years, Buena Park has done well with not one, but actually two teams gaining high standing in the competition. Colonel Miller liked that, because two teams entering push each other in natural sibling rivalry. "The teams compete with each other so they can get better," he said.

With all the accolades that the Buena Park High School Xplorers teams have earned, they still have one more elusive goal. This item remains something that Colonel Miller wants one of the Coyote teams to acquire.

**"It was completely new and I was completely stumped for a whole 2 hours."**

The National Championship. To get there, the teams of Buena Park High School's AFJROTC will have to overcome some bumps in the road and sometimes molehills and even some mountains. Some can get solved by getting more experience, some problems come from mechanical and electrical sources and still others come from other human influences. "One frustration that I encountered

was running into a factor in the problem that we as a team had never practiced before," Samuel admitted. "It was completely new and I was completely stumped for a whole 2 hours. Eventually we figured it out, but that period of helplessness was very stressful."

Sophia admitted, "As a team we found it hard to communicate sometimes. For example, some of us didn't know what to do while others worked. This could have been solved with [enhanced] communication."

Daniel said, "I encountered frustration during the National Competition when sometimes I would lose some connection, the technology and wifi connection being an issue, or not working or connecting. So, I wasn't able to fully capture those situations with team members."

Brandon admitted that he "found it especially frustrating trying to crunch the numbers for the points because it changed—depending on the amount of coverage." The 17-year-old cadet added, "It was frustrating that, as we were working, the judges changed a few things."

Daniel said, "We need to aggressively move to what we are most comfortable and strong at. It was significant for our team to understand the difficulty and challenges of StellarXplorers."

Colonel Miller described how he became involved with StellarXplorers. "We advertised from the Air Force Association and wanted to teach Buena Park High School about it," he said. Without anything significant changing the road ahead, Colonel Miller will now look ahead to extending this current run of top ten finishes by his groups. He will need more ca

**Continued on Page 9**

# Coyote Senses

## StellarXplorers Soar Again (cont.)

rocket near the end and perfecting last minute changes," said Brandon about what worked this time.

Identifying the most satisfying part of StellarXplorers event for Colonel Miller (and surely most, if not all, of his teams' members) over the last decade came easily, "Just making the National Finals four years in a row," he said, rates high with him.

Brandon agreed. "What remains for me is satisfaction in pride that we were able to be in the top

10 teams in the nation and compete in this competition," he said.

"We had success when we divided our jobs," Sophia revealed. "We gave the person who had the most experience with orbits the orbit analyst position. We gave the person who was better at analyzing the component analyst position, and so on."

"Right now at this moment," said Daniel, "I remain with satisfaction and pride about my team, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic made all the compe-

titions virtual. That was a completely different competition environment, but it turned out that we ended up with a great finish, [earning] 4th place in the StellarXplorers National Finals."

"Now that this is over," said Samuel, "I feel satisfied that our team finished within the top ten places in the nation. I am a little disappointed that we didn't place in the top three, but our hard work was not for naught."

Sophia looked ahead. "I think all of us who will be competing

next year have more confidence about our competing abilities," she said. "I also think that we have definitely improved on our teamwork skills, but there is also room for improvement."

The maturation, the climb, and the string of top ten finishes, now four years and counting, has created another aspect of history at a high level; it has gained further prestige for Buena Park High School.

# Video Game Soundtracks

By: Zach Penn  
Paw Prints Staff Writer

Video games occupy a special place in between the realms of storytelling and freedom of choice. Players can do whatever they want within the confines of the game. Music plays a massive part in the storytelling aspect of video games. Almost every video game presents a soundtrack that aids in telling the story.

Playing sorrowful music over a sad scene makes the purpose of that emotion all the more impactful, while playing over-the-top ridiculous music makes the scene take on a whole different and exciting, even funny, tone. The soundtracks almost single-handedly influence the emotion of the scene.

Many people have memories from specific video games thanks, in large part, to the soundtracks. James Arendt, a 17-year-old senior from Buena Park High School, owns raises his hand to at least one such memory. "There is a moment at the end of the game 'Dark Souls 1' when the boss music starts. Just when you would expect an epic, sweeping-toned orchestral song, a somber piano song begins to play. It gave me chills the first time I heard it."

Many video games take this approach. A case in point: Shadow of the Colossus. Epic orchestral music that makes them feel powerful accompanies every fight the player has had...up to a

point. During that last fight however, a hauntingly sad song plays to make the player question if what they struggle to accomplish lies on the side of good.

However, not all video game songs sound sad. Some video game songs exist to scare players or ratchet up the tension. Mrs. Alicia Archunde, a 3D-Design Visual Arts Teacher at Buena Park High School, remembers, "In Minecraft, there's specific sounds which could be called 'music' when you are in the nether. I don't like it; it sounds scary. There's also scary music or a fast tempo that starts when night starts to fall. That freaks me out, and then I usually start running and screaming all the way to wherever I've misplaced my house," she admitted.

Horror games often use this musical technique. Take 'Five Nights at Freddy's,' for example. The background music of this game evokes a feeling of claustrophobia and forces the player to pay attention or get 'jump' scared.

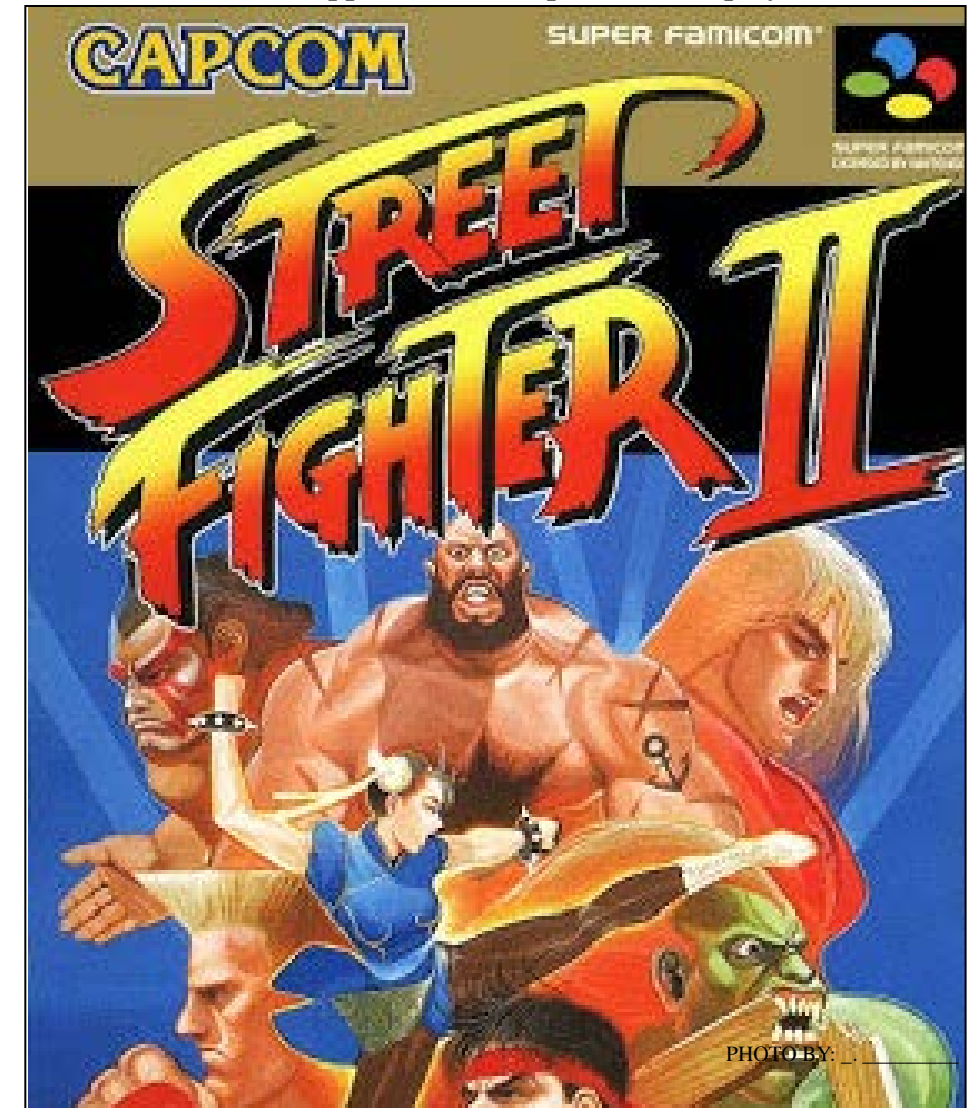
Not every song tries to engender sorrowful or intense feelings, though. For instance, a song from the beginning of 'The Legend of Zelda Ocarina' uses a timing factor. A happy and upbeat song plays there, making the player feel right at home. Pedro Torres, a 17-year-old senior from Buena Park High School, thinks that "Music contributes to a scene because it makes that [experience] more realistic."

Yet, actually overshadowing all these songs as they try to imply sadness, happiness, or

tension, gamers might know the most powerful sound as...a lack of it: silence. Yes, silence just maybe reins as the best way to cause tension during game play. Silence deafens people after all the intense and upbeat music they have heard up to that point in a video game. Mrs. Archunde said, "There are a few movies that halt the score in order to add emphasis, and often tension, to a scene. I think that this is an awesome device." However, game builders should not go overboard in using the 'less is more' strategy when it comes to supplemental

sound. "To not have music whatsoever in a video game/ movie/ play would make it suffer," said Mrs. Archunde. "In my opinion, choosing to not have music at all is to not give the movie/ play/video game the opportunity to reach people in more ways."

Music identifies the emotion someone should feel at any given moment of play, and it almost single-handedly tells the story of video games. Without music, video games would get much less appreciation; with music, they become some of the best experiences a player can have.



Along with storylines, music influences the effectiveness of video games for students.



Not just one; two units of the Buena Park High School team gained honors this year.



# Coyote Travels

## Destination Spotlight: Vietnam

By: Isela Santillanes & Johanna Penaloza  
*Paw Prints Staff Writer*

“Chào buổi sáng [Good morning] Coyotes! This is your captain speaking. During Flight 8833, we will take a journey through the beautiful land of Vietnam. So, sit back and enjoy the view of the different lifestyle that is known for its beautiful culture...and it's coffee. We will now begin our descent into what is the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.”

**“If you’re having an adventure, definitely go there.”**

Vietnam’s history dates back about 20,000 years. This is an ancient people.

Eighteen-year-old Buena Park High School student Khang Nguyen described Vietnam. “It’s an extreme country,” he said, “so, if you’re having an adventure, definitely go there.

According to insightguides.com, Chinese attempts to ‘Sinicise’ (bring Chinese culture to) the people of Giao Chau in the first century AD proved partially successful, but provoked widespread hostility among the Vietnamese.

The Trung sisters, two Viet ladies of noble birth, declared themselves joint queens of an independent Vietnam, and they led the first major Viet resistance against the Chinese in AD 40. In 111 BC, northern forces invaded Nam Viet, resulting in the first

Chinese dominance of Vietnam, which lasted over a thousand years and influenced Vietnamese society in terms of Confucian (philosophical) thought, politics, and the arts.

Khang said, “I went to Vietnam about every summer to visit my parents, with each trip each lasting about two months or less. In Vietnam,” Khang added, “you can expect to find a deep history and a diverse culture, as well as exotic, yet delicious, food.” Khang explains what stood out most. “For me, it’s the weather and how lovely it is in Vietnam versus America,” he remembers. “Everyone seems to be on their toes working all day; there’s almost no break at all during the day.

Despite a series of massive fights, the Viets remained under the control of the Chinese for the next nine centuries.

During that time, Ly Bon, a Vietnamese nationalist, led a revolt in 544 that gained a “sort of” independence under the Early Ly Dynasty. However, Chinese armies ended that in 603. The nation became known as An Nam, or ‘Pacified (made peaceful) South,’ by the triumphant Chinese, though the name would end up as just wishful thinking.

Khang shares whether or not he would keep returning to Vietnam, saying, “Yes, I would definitely go back there, not just because of my parents, but also it’s a developing country, and almost every year, the city seems to be shifting into something new that you have yet to discover. This is coming from me, who basically lives in Vietnam for two months every year.

From the 11th century onwards, Vietnam discovered new ways to imitate China, its neighbor whom it had learned to respect as well as



*Beautiful and lively city night scenery lights up the skies in Vietnam.*

fear. However, according to Vietnamtravel.com, vietnamese culture exists as one of the world’s oldest, having evolved for nearly four thousand years. Some people believe that Vietnamese culture remains influenced by Chinese culture, but a study shows that Vietnamese culture has its own distinct characteristics and developed at about the same time with Chinese culture. During the Bronze Age, Vietnam’s culture evolved from ancient Nam Viet, a kingdom of Giao Chi people who shared Han Chinese cultural characteristics, and the ancient Dong Son Culture, which became considered one of the most significant creators of its home-grown culture.

To begin with, Buddhism started to gain popularity as a major religion in Vietnam, even though it adopted the Mahayana branch of Buddhism brought in from China, rather than the Theravada system practiced elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Lord Nguyen Anh defeated his northern rivals in 1802 and founded the Nguyen Dynasty (1802–1945) in the city of Hue. He declared himself Emperor Gia Long. Control moved south from the Red River Delta to the country’s center for the first time in Vietnam’s history.

Some big traditions belonging to Vietnam appear to all have very different meanings. In that country, 54 tribes have their own traditional costumes. The traditional clothing of the Vietnamese people has, itself actually changed dramatically over time. It became largely dictated by the whims and fancies of the region’s rulers. Prior to the Nguyen dynasty, the country’s common people had more freedom in terms of clothes. Then, the authorities had placed restrictions on many of the people’s choice of clothing such as color and type. The ở giao lnh

[in the spirit], the o T Thân [o T Dear], the o cánh [wing], and the áo bà ba [Grandma’s shirt] explain some examples of traditional Vietnamese costumes, the first a four-part dress worn by Vietnamese women, with the second a cross-collared robe worn by Vietnamese men. Peasants in the north and in the south, respectively, wear the last two dress styles, which resemble silk pajamas. The color code of the dresses had changed over time, and only the monarchs could wear golden clothes during the Nguyen dynasty, while purple and red appeared common among the nobles and aristocrats.

### World War II

Despite everything that happened before the 1900’s, the long, drawn out event that happened in the next few years would shape the nation of Vietnam. That had its beginning with Japanese forces occupying Vietnam during World War II. To battle both Japanese occupiers and the French colonial government, political leader Ho Chi Minh founded the Viet Minh, or League for the Independence of Vietnam. He got the idea from Chinese and Soviet communism. When and Japan lost World War II in 1945, that country withdrew its troops from Vietnam, leaving Emperor Bao Dai in charge. Ho’s Viet Minh forces seized control of the northern city of Hanoi and declared the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV). Ho, as president, saw an opportunity to take control.

First, the Vietnamese leadership tried to push away France, which had taken control of the land. After successfully doing that, according to History.com, the now-called “Vietnam War” meant a long, expensive, and divisive conflict that

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# Coyote Travels

## Destination Spotlight: Vietnam

set North Vietnam’s communist government against South Vietnam and its main supporter, the US. The continuing Cold War (a tense, not quite shooting situation) between the United States and the Soviet Union complicated the Vietnam conflict. The Vietnam War claimed the lives of over three million people, with Vietnamese civilians accounting for more than half of those killed. The United States lost over 58,000 lives in that conflict. Even after then-President Richard Nixon ordered the eventual withdrawal of US forces in 1973, opposition to the war in the United States remained, for many young people, hostile. Shortly after the United States government withdrew a great majority of military support, the North Vietnamese, with support from the rebel Viet Cong in the South, emerged as a unified country in 1975.

### War Aftermath

The war left many Vietnam-Americans and Veterans from the US devastated, physically and emotionally scarred, and tired.

Besides the long history of fighting off other nations, the culture of Vietnam has shaped the nation. Following independence from the Chinese in the 10th century, successive Vietnamese imperial dynasties flourished as the nation expanded southward, annexing territories of the Champa and Khmer civilizations, resulting in ethnic differences in modern-day Vietnamese culture.

Khang reported, “A big contrast comes at night, even though it’s still lively and everyone still seems to be on their feet. Instead of working, they’d go out with friends or family and eat delicious food and talk about their days. Unlike dinner in America, where you either get to spend your time mostly with your family, the people in Vietnam also often have dinner with multiples of their neighbors, and some might even bring foods over like a potluck. [Plus,] dinner can be anywhere. People sometimes bring dinner to the beach at night and watch the beautiful scenery of the night ocean. To put it simply, it’s a country of community and kinship.”

Apart from the history, the food reflects a lot of the culture. Vietnamese cuisine ensures flavorful and nutritious selections as it gains popularity around the world. The Vietnamese menu has a lot of variety, but it can easily divide into three main categories based on their location: the north, south, and central parts of the Vietnamese world. “Not only does that one place change so much in one year,” said Khang, “the taste of good food in

every different region of the country also differs based on its local ingredients as well as its history.”

A wide variety of noodles and noodle soups, as well as a wide variety of spring rolls, remain popular. It appears preferable to use less oil and more fresh vegetables.

### Celebrating the Dead

“One thing that I find interesting about the culture,” said Khang, “is the way of celebrating the dead. Many cultures have significant patterns of remembering and even honoring ancestors, and the Vietnamese people join that group. “Although everyone does weep and express their pain,” said Khang of the passing of relatives, “they also consume it in laughter, as they would gather neighbors and relatives to come and have a feast. [They mourn] as if they’re celebrating with the dead, rather than continuing to weep. And though some may say that they’re trying to forget it through laughter and celebration, I believe otherwise. Even after the person’s death, each and every year, people continue to celebrate on their day of death for the next five years or so, and continue to burn incense everyday and give offering every holiday, such as new year,” he said.

The Vietnamese people celebrate in a more likely happy time. “The Vietnamese also love their New Year celebrations!” said Khang. “Add the lunar new year. They also recognize Teacher’s Day, Father’s Day, and Mother’s Day. The memorial of soldiers is very close to their heart because everyone lives in a small community, and so they understand the importance of almost every aspect of life,” said Khang. “This

can also be seen in many students’ writing, as they are amongst some of the most popular topics in [Vietnamese] literature--to write about someone whom you appreciate.”

Vietnam holds many festivals, with a few emerging as the country’s most popular. These include: 1 -TET Nguyen Dan – TET holidays all over the country, Hung King Holidays in March 10th (lunar calendar)- Phu Tho province, Saint Giong Festival celebrated in March outside Hanoi in Soc Son district, Ka Te Festival which takes place in Champa community in Ninh Thuan Province, Perfume pagoda festival which leads outside Hanoi, Dong Da Festival in Hanoi, Cau Ngu Festival in Hue in December, Hội đua voi, meaning elephant racing in Don village in Dak Lak province, Ba Chua Xu Festival in Chau Doc city, an Giang province in April and the Cam Muong Festival, in Lai Chau province.

Now, about communication. Khang said, “The Vietnamese language is extremely difficult if you don’t speak languages that have similar structures. A lot of words are made of two [separate ones]. They combine words to make [a single third] one that either has similar meaning between the two--or a completely different definition. The language, itself has six different tones; changing the tone for each vowel can completely change the words or makes no sense at all. Each region also sometimes uses a different dialect and accent to speak a word. It might come out completely different if you don’t speak the language as a native and, even the natives of different regions can

have a hard time understanding each other. Amongst the south-east Asian countries, Vietnamese language derived from westerners’ influences. Their slightly different alphabet illustrates this phenomenon.

Khang revealed a fact that might surprise some American students. “Although Vietnam remains a poor country,” he said, “it has an impressive 97.3% of literacy level.”

**“You can really hear nature and see stars in the rural areas.”**

Senior Coyote student Anh Nguyen expressed her experience living in Vietnam. “I was born in Vietnam and I also just recently visited Vietnam as well,” she said, “so I can definitely speak on my experience living there. The environment living there feels very hot and extremely humid, and very green, because of frequent rain,” she reported. “You’ll likely be awakened by a chicken in the more rural areas at 6:00 a.m. You can really hear nature and see stars in the rural areas. Definitely hire a tour guide if you visit, since many of them know the secret spots.”

However, in the cities, said Anh, “[It feels] very crowded. [The] air is not the best. Motorcycles are the main transportation vehicle.”

[The] food is incredible and, in my opinion, better than the Vietnamese food here [in America]. Ev

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*Colorful buildings in Vietnam give off a different vibe in the alley during the day while bustling with busy people living their lives.*



# Coyote Lifestyles

## Destination Spotlight: Vietnam

everyone is pretty friendly,” she said.

Saigon [named Ho Chi Minh City after the communist takeover in 1975] is like the New York City of America since, at night, shop lights are even brighter and it is super festive all the time. “Evenings are pretty calm,” said Anh, “since shops usually take breaks then. Afternoon naps are really common, especially for adults. Overall, I 100% recommend Vietnam if you want to travel somewhere and eat good food, bathe at the beach, and look at really historical french buildings and cathedrals.”

Anh went on to explain the culture in Vietnam, saying, “Bargaining is a must [when shopping].

In somewhat of a contrast to American social norms, “[An] age system hierarchy is very prevalent,” according to Anh. “People often ask for your age before they even ask for your name. Serving as an extra hostess when guests come is also expected.” Speaking of service, she said a person does not need to give tips as gratitude for help. Houses in Vietnam often

have their gates and doors open since it is pretty safe in the daytime.”

Just as one can find in many large, diverse populations, Buena Park High School can boast a number of language and culture clubs. The Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) has joined the bunch in Coyote Country.

Anh spoke of The Vietnamese Student Association. “We mainly focus on spreading small information about the Vietnamese culture, [such as] ‘what is Vietnamese New Year’ through our social media since [because of the restrictions of the pandemic] we couldn’t really do anything big this year. I’m not sure if other VSA clubs do this but, from time to time, we make restaurant recommendations on our social media so that more people are informed on where to try our cultural food. I feel like we definitely played a part in helping out the community through the pandemic by sharing small information like that,” said Anh.

“Hello; this is your captain speaking once again. We have

landed in Vietnam and hope that you enjoyed the recounting of these stories and facts during your time aboard flight 8833. We also

hope you will enjoy your time in the food-loving country, and that you come to appreciate all it has to offer. Tạm biệt! (Bye)



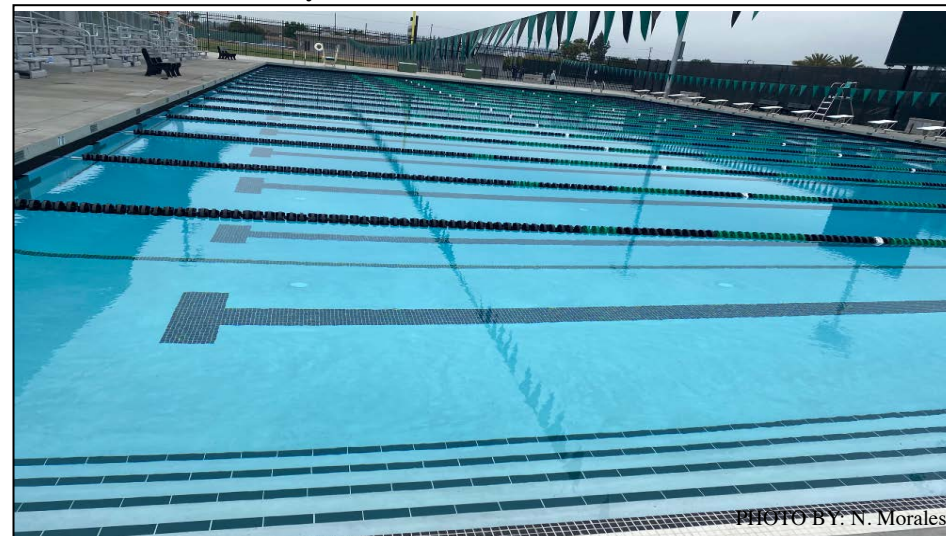
Many people put Ha Long Bay on their bucket list for its breathtaking natural wonders.

# Summer Plans Involve Re-Entry

By: David Gonzalez  
Paw Prints Staff Writer

Last year, due to restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, no one could do much besides hunker down at home. The usual summer destinations had all closed. Mostly everyone just stayed indoors all summer. With the Covid tragedy numbers dropping, restrictions have loosened ever so slightly, and places have started to reopen again, just in time for summer. So, still with an eye towards sensible safety and precautions, what do Buena Park High School students have planned for summer break?

Symone Taylor, a 14-year-old Coyote freshman, shared her summer expectations, listing such activities as, “Swimming, cross country, and traveling to see friends and family. She shared



Few will swim in the Olympics, but will take a few jumps into pools this summer.

what she would like to do after over a year of Covid-induced lock down. “I would like to give my friends and family hugs there” during those travels.

Four other Buena Park High School freshmen, all 14 years of age, joined in on the conversation.

Giselle Mendoza shared her thoughts about the summer, saying, “My plans include attending summer school, Associated Student Body (A.S.B.) summer workshops and, I hope, going on some sort of road trip.”

Carloz Mendez stated, “My plans for this summer are to go to the beach a lot and to hang out with friends.”

Stephanie Aceves, a fellow Coyote, mentioned that he will “do summer school.” He also said he hopes to go to Mexico to visit his grandmother. Cristian Agredano shared his designs, saying, “My plans are to go out with my friends.” He stated

that he hopes they won’t have to wear masks during that time.

Carlos shared his additional wants by saying, “Activities that I would like to do are to skate with friends and to go swimming.”

Giselle added, “The activities that I would like to do this summer are learn how to swim and go to the beach during sunset.”

Stephanie agreed in part, saying, “I would like to hang out with friends, go to the beach and just have fun.”

As far as any travel Cristian stated a short run, saying, “I would like to go to amusement parks over the summer.”

Carlos revealed where he would like to go during his vacation, saying, “I would like to go to Arizona for summer vacation because I have family over there and I haven’t seen them since before quarantine.”

Symone would like to go to Hawaii. Giselle wants to go to San Diego and Hawaii during summer time off.

Stephanie has one destination in mind for her travels, identifying “just Mexico” as her place to go.

Cristian agreed on the place. “I would like to go to Mexico for the summer,” he said. Giselle shared, “Something that I would like to do after [more than a year] of Covid restrictions is go to a concert.”

Carlos would like to, “Go to Knott’s and go on all the rides.”

Giselle states her belief about the next two months this year, saying, “This summer will be different from the past [one] because more places

are opening up, which means we will get somewhat of a more normal summer.” She added, “[Compared to] the past [months] of isolation, now we can do more stuff but, of course, you must follow all guidelines to stay safe.”

Stephanie shared, “I think that it will be different now that the vaccine is out.”

Symone stated, “The Knott’s Berry Farm wet rides won’t be open. Also, not a lot of places are gonna be open [yet].”

Carlos said, “I think this summer will be way different because Covid is slowly going away and more people will be out and doing activities. There will be more places open and more activities to do.”

However, Cristian stated, “I think this summer people are going to be more cautious. I think summer might be different.”

To lighten up the mood, Carlos recommends where to go this summer, by saying, “I recommend renting out a beach house for a weekend, because it’s so convenient and very fun.”

Meanwhile, Stephanie suggests, “Definitely Laughlin, Nevada.”

Cristian also recommends Nevada, but a different venue there. “Go to Las Vegas,” he said.

Lastly, Giselle shared, “A place that I would recommend others to go to for a vacation would be San Diego; there’s a lot of fun and different places to visit, and things to do there.”

Are Buena Park High School students excited for the summer? What are you most looking forward to?

# Coyote Succession

## Junior Takeover Happens Now!

By: Aaron Robbins  
Paw Prints Staff Writer

At Buena Park High School some junior students indicated their plans for next year. They officially become seniors upon completion of certain schoolwork after the end of May.

Cindy Gallegos, a 17-year-old Coyote junior said, “My upcoming plans for senior year are to spend as much time as I can with my friends and family.”

Hazel Nunez, a fellow Buena Park High School junior stated, “For the upcoming school year I want to plan fun activities but for myself.”

Another current junior, Sahary Gonzalez, also 17 years old, explained, “My plans for the upcoming school year is to plan fun activities for everyone on campus who want to have fun.” Sahary then added, “Also, I want to make an environment where staff and students feel safe.”

Juan Ambriz, a 16-year-old Coyote junior stated, “I definitely plan on looking for a job this upcoming year and to just try to enjoy my senior year.”

Cindy added, “I want to get out of my comfort zone.”

Hazel elaborated on her vision, saying, “I would also try to interact more with all types of classes and organizations at our school.”

Newness seems to often develop in students a bunch of butterflies. Sahary explained, “I feel nervous but, at the same time, I am excited—because I want to have a senior experience.”

Cindy also came clean about an upcoming climb, saying, “As a junior, I think keeping the right mindset [next year] is gonna be most challenging because I’ll think about graduating.”



A world beyond the rail: Juniors begin to “realize the reality” as they become seniors.

Looking ahead even further, what plans do these soon-to-be ‘top dogs’ on campus have for post-high school day?

Juan confirmed, “I’m for sure traveling to England after high school, getting a job, and still deciding if I want to go to college or not.”

Cindy then said, “After high school I plan on continuing to go to school. After high school I’m not sure where, but I plan on working with children.”

Sahary has not only next year planned but has expectations beyond even those months. She explained, “What I plan on doing after high school is going to college and majoring in American Sign Language (ASL) or becoming an elementary grades teacher.” She added, “I plan to live on the East Coast or stay in Orange County and teach others this amazing language and teach kids to never lose hope in achieving their dreams.”

However, back to next year, advance nervousness about senior year came out from more than one current junior. Sahary admitted, “I am nervous about applying to colleges,” while Juan didn’t own up to excitement exactly, just that he felt glad about graduating next year.

### Becoming Seniors

Cindy revealed, “My feelings towards becoming a senior are very mixed.” The junior then confirmed, “When I was told it goes by so fast, I didn’t believe it does, but I am very excited to start something new.”

Hazel confessed, “I am feeling very nervous about becoming a senior, because I don’t necessarily know what college I want to go to.” Hazel then explained that activity cures much anxiety adding, “So I’m working on searching for my perfect school.”

Sahary shared how she feels about next year, explaining,



Pride, responsibility, maturation and happiness mark the moment a junior steps up.

“Most of all I’m sad, because I don’t want to say goodbye to the good memories I made at Buena Park High School and the teachers who have been there for me.”

Juan then expressed his take on the future, saying, “It definitely felt like junior went by really fast, even though just in high school, in general, there were times where the year went really slow.”

Cindy agrees with Sahary’s and Hazel’s statements, and even Juan’s, to a degree. She shared, “I do feel the years have gone by very fast.” Cindy revealed, “My sophomore year seems to be a blur all of a sudden.”

Hazel agreed with the perception, saying, “Yes, at times, I feel as if I’m still a freshman going to new classes.”

Sahary agrees. “Yes, as a junior, I do feel like high school went by quickly, because there are some days when I feel I am a freshman—but then I realize I am a junior.” Don’t look now, Sahary; in just a few days: You become a senior.

Cindy conceded, “When I look back, I just can’t imagine that I started high school three years ago.”

Hazel, agreeing with Cindy, shared, “The years have gone by too quickly.” Hazel then admitted, “I wish I enjoyed them more.”

Sahary voiced her opinion, saying, “I used to not believe when people would say, ‘These four years go by fast,’ but, trust me, it’s true.”

Hazel thinks she knows the cause for feeling the speed with which the years have passed, saying, “[They] have gone quite quickly with the new friends I’ve made and classes I’ve taken.”

Juan opened up, stating, “I guess, yes, high school has been easy...for me, at least. Freshman year was my hardest,” he said, “because I took classes that weren’t necessary for me. However after freshman year it has been easy.”

Hazel differed there, saying, “My entire life I have struggled with learning at a faster place, with sub-

jects I don’t quickly understand so, no; high school has not been easy.”

Sahary shared her feelings about the experience. “I think high school was easy physically doing work because I had HOWL also known as Student Support and I would ask for help.” However, the almost-senior stated, “Yes, I for sure had some challenges this year because I was not used to this format of school.”

Cindy added, “My biggest challenge this year would have to be procrastination with being home. High school hasn’t been easy, especially this year with challenges I think we’ve all faced.” Cindy said this year “really put [students] to the test to see if [they] could handle it.”

Juan agreed with that worry, confirming a legacy partially connected to the Covid experience, “Keeping my grades up will be challenging as a senior,” he said, “because I don’t really have much motivation left.”

Hazel said, “I have had many challenges this year such as time management and having to manage so many classes throughout the day.”

**“The biggest challenge this year was being motivated and trying my best to keep my grades up.”**

Juan, opening up once more, states, “The biggest challenge this year was being motivated and trying my best to keep my grades up. They weren’t the best but not the worst.”

Hazel furthermore explained, “In this year total, I have eight classes so it was a bit difficult trying to manage it all.”

Sahary mentioned, “Mentally wise, [this past year] was hard because sometimes I felt like giving up. Some days I would join class

**Continued on Page 14**



# Coyote Succession

## Junior Takeover Happens (cont.)

and not understand a thing, but I would keep my head held up high.”

Cindy elaborated on that. “I would find myself getting easily distracted. So, I really had to work on that throughout the school year.”

Sahary said, “I would be mentally tired.”

As for challenges they believe they will encounter as the older students on campus, the group had some ideas.

Hazel shared, “Currently as a junior my classes are difficult enough without having to worry about a low score on a test or homework having an affect on my grade point average (G.P.A.)”

Sahary revealed, “The task I think will be the most challenging for me as a senior will be college apps and filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (F.A.F.S.A.)”

Hazel says, “The most challenging I feel I will face as a senior that I will have to uphold for myself will be learning how to grow into an adult after high school.”

Sahary expressed thoroughly adding, “Seeing my sibling and friends go through the process has made me kind of nervous because they would be stressing out also, to not get senioritis.”

Cindy said, “My advice to incoming freshmen is ‘don’t be afraid to try new things and branch out.’”

Hazel shared, “What I know for sure I want to go for a four-year college; I would actually like to go into

the psychology field. I am leaning towards being a school psychologist.”

Cindy shared her experiences, saying, “Joining ASB was something very out of my comfort zone but it helped me meet so many people and find things I’m interested in.”

Hazel said, “Some advice I would give incoming freshmen is not to let yourself slip.”

Sahary shares, “I learned that it is okay to ask for help and that your teachers are there to help.”

Cindy said, “So you never know what might happen if you join a new sport club.”

Hazel elaborated on her previous statement, by saying, “Despite freshman year being new, keep your grades up, it really does look bad in the future when they’re low grades.”

Juan wanted to give freshmen some words of encouragement. “My advice is to never be afraid to be yourself, join clubs/ organizations/ programs that you want, and never be afraid.”

Hazel added, “I would also advise incoming freshmen to have fun.” She explained how she will do this for herself. “When I say this, I’m leaning towards being involved in extracurricular activities such as cheer, dance, soccer, basketball, football, ASB, link crew and all other types of fun organizations. She added, “I am currently a co-captain of the varsity cheer team. I am also on the executive cabinet of our Associated

Student Body (A.S.B.) program and a five-year Advancement Via Individual Determination (A.V.I.D.) student, so I can honestly say that these programs are so much fun!” Hazel detailed her reasoning for participating in all these activities. “They helped me throughout my highschool years,” she said. Her hope resided in the upcoming class. “It would be amazing if more incoming freshmen were involved as well!”

Sahary offered, “Advice that I’d give to an incoming freshman is to be capable of achieving many



Hazel Nunez has earned senior status and has prepared to “take over” school leadership.

# Language Clubs in Coyote Country

By: Anndrea Herrera  
Paw Prints Staff Writer

The club members also “bring great ideas on how to promote and engage other students to participate and learn about the Latino community,” she said. People say the clubs offer a great way share more about culture and learn about it, at the same time.



Madame Mann near her post of classroom 92, one of the Coyote “French Rooms.”

They report the fun and education offered, and illustrate its opportunity to get to know other cultures.

Learning and joining clubs can prove beneficial, especially after high school. Kenneth Reyes, a Buena Park High School senior, tells why they chose Latino Club, and explains why he sees it as beneficial for college. While association with a language club will help a student as early as in the college application process, Kenneth also said, “Even though I felt as if I was already pretty knowledgeable in my culture, I recognize that there is a lot more to [the] Latino [world] than just one specific country.” While going through the college application process, Kenneth and other language club members will also learn more about Latino culture through a focus upon it, a ‘two birds with one stone’ move.

Traveling to different countries in which the population uses a language other than English, especially Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and many more, tourists might feel lost without the working knowledge of Spanish. Anahi Bentiez, Latino Club member, used her high school opportunity by joining the Latino Club to gain even more knowledge on how to speak Spanish. She said, “I can come across people who speak nothing but Spanish and feel confident in my language to the point where I can hold a long conversation.” When it comes to learning and then using second languages, confidence remains the main key. One doesn’t want to come off as nervous and halting while speaking, nor does the speaker want the wrong words to slip out. Challenges abound when it comes

to learning a new language. No one said it anything about an ease of learning, but ‘difficult’ can qualify as simply an attitude approach. David Gonzalez, a freshman at Buena Park High School, shared what he called ‘difficult’ when it came to learning Spanish. He identified ‘memorizing and repeating’ as one challenge, along with pronouncing some words. The challenge, attitude-oriented or having roots in actual organic phenomena, can frustrate a learner. “No matter how many times I practice, it’s difficult to remember, said David.” Facing, and overcoming, these challenges will prove worthwhile in the end. Finally mastering that new language will satisfy most learners. Students will find they can apply to more job opportunities, and can help non-English speakers. Second-language learners will most likely become quite proud of themselves, having faced the challenges and having overcome them. The French and the Spanish language clubs can help. For information on joining the clubs in preparation for next year, do contact mmann@fjuhsd.org or ideleon@fjuhsd.org To register for a language course, immediately contact the counselor associated with the student’s last name.

# Coyote Humanity

## What Happened to Hawaiians...

By: Nichola Soleta  
Paw Prints Staff Writer

With COVID-19 cases apparently dropping to its lowest point in a while and a majority of the population finding itself vaccinated before the summer, many have begun to book flights and plan their usual vacations. Many people crave a taste of normality after this rollercoaster of a year, but maybe they should reconsider.

Mainlander and foreign travel to the state of Hawaii has routinely exploited native Hawaiians in the name of colonial and economic interest. Tourism to Hawaii ultimately poses a threat to the islands’ natives and their culture. The “aloha spirit” many so eagerly want to experience this summer could become really a slap in the face to what Hawaii can possibly offer at this moment.

When COVID-19 broke-out, Hawaii shut down entirely, only granting travel deemed necessary. The state collectively owns only 561 ventilators, in comparison to its population of 1.46 million across all islands and being isolated in the Pacific Ocean meant that the state suffered (and still suffers) from a lack of resources to fight COVID-19. With that said, Native Hawaiians have twice the likelihood of becoming hospitalized or

dying from COVID-19. The unfathomable ratio of Hawaii’s resources to their population showed throughout the pandemic. Many islanders found themselves stuck on the mainland during the pandemic because they feared that they would spread the virus to their vulnerable families. Many small businesses shut down because Natives found themselves locked inside or trying to lend a hand at their overflowing hospitals. The entire city of Honolulu went dark; not a single hotel room had any lights on. The rainbow state went through a storm this past year, a storm that has not yet fully passed.

Once cases began simmering down, the state began welcoming travelers. Hawaiian officials imposed a mandatory fourteen-day quarantine in October of 2020 to those traveling to the islands of Hawaii—one which authorities have now lifted as long as the passenger has registered a negative COVID-19 test seventy-two hours prior to the flight to the state. This mandated quarantine discouraged those attempting to vacation on the islands, but welcomed families that had found themselves stuck on the mainland for months. The islands rebuilt their community and “ohana” during the months following October. In January of this year, many tourists began visiting the islands because the weather reached a perfect temperature. Oahu, the most touristy island, had a Covid positivity



The iconic scene of Hawaiian surfers enjoying the waves possibly hides a troubling truth.

rate of 0.9% in January, which eventually reached 7% in March due to the influx of Spring Break vacationers-- proving that those traveling to the state posed at least part of the problem.

Many travelers fail to follow the basic CDC guidelines that authorities strictly imposed on the islands. Even with a nationwide mask mandate, tourists argued against the necessity of mask wearing during their vacations. Despite the new announcement that fully vaccinated individuals can go into public without their face covering, the state of Hawaii continues to mandate masks-- yet many people will still argue against that rule.

Despite the islands’ economic wealth--generated from mainland and foreign travel, visiting Hawaii this summer will hurt the island more than it’ll heal it. The money people will

spend flying, booking a hotel, and planning festivities on the island will not amount to the damage they will do to vulnerable natives still suffering the consequences of reckless travelers from months ago. I say, “Cancel your flight. Cancel your hotel reservations. Cancel the idea that the state of Hawaii can remain a paradise because of its convenience to many tourists.

That vacation can wait.

**DISCLAIMER: A single writer contributed the above editorial. The writer has lived in Hawaii for the past few months during the Covid-19 pandemic. The writer’s views do not necessarily reflect that of any other persons or institutions unless they specifically identify themselves as agreeing to those opinions and perspectives.**