

the accolade

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GOING VIRAL

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JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

Omicron has impacted Sunny Hills more than any previous variants of COVID-19. The Accolade looks into how school officials and the community are dealing with this virus.

See Spotlight, pages 8-11.

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HERE FOR THE INTERIM

Cathy Gach sees spring semester principal role as 'cheerleader' for school

NEVYA PATEL

News Editor

Eight.

That's the number of years Sunny Hills last had a vacancy for the top position on campus — principal.



Cathy Gach
Interim Principal

Similar to how former principal Allen Whitten was promoted last month to Student Support Services director in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHS], Judy

Fancher accepted an assistant superintendent's job at the Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District, leaving the start of the spring 2014 semester without any top administrator at the helm.

To find an interim principal nearly a decade ago, the FJUHS called upon Cathy Gach, asking if she was willing to come out of retirement from being the campus leader at Fullerton Union High School, where she had served as the top administrator from 2002-2013.

This time around in 2022, district officials didn't hesitate to call upon Gach's services again since the circumstances are so familiar.

"I got a call from the district [last month], and they were looking for an interim principal, [but] at the time they couldn't tell me for which school," she said. "So I



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MINGLING AND BONDING: Interim principal Cathy Gach engages in a conversation with a group of students, something she does daily, during lunch in the quad on Jan. 21.

had lots of time to think about it.

"We kind of went back and forth, and eventually, I found out it was Sunny Hills, and that sealed it."

Her decision was finalized because of her positive experience with Sunny Hills from the last time she was here, recalling the diversity and the faculty members — making it easier for her to come out of retirement again.

GACH: "CHEERLEADER"

Based on Gach's experiences the last time around, the interim

principal said she's well aware of what her role is for this semester while the FJUHS works toward putting a search committee together to find a replacement for Whitten.

"As an interim principal, I'm not building for the future," she said. "What I'm doing is maintaining what has been done, and there are a lot of day-to-day things that come up where decisions have to be made [and] problems have to be solved."

Gach said she also believes that one of her roles is to encour-

age the SH community, including students, parents and faculty.

"I feel that it's my job to be a part of that positive culture and to do what I can to help people when they need help," she said. "And [I am going] to cheer them on with what they are doing. So that's it — I'm the cheerleader."

One way to demonstrate that approach is to continue Whitten's administrative philosophy in finding opportunities to interact with students and finding the positives in them.

"I am a firm believer about

being out and about during break times," Gach said. "I think it's important when you know somebody wants assistance or just wants to say hi [because] it's nice for them to know that there's somebody nearby."

CAMPUS CULTURE

From her first day as interim principal this semester on Jan. 6, Gach said she immediately noticed the differences Whitten had made on campus compared with when she was last here.

"I think that Mr. Whitten must have been a wonderful principal because he created a positive culture," she said. "There are so many things that I see physically on the campus, like all of the benches and eating areas as well as the jumbtron that weren't here before."

STUDENT INTERACTIONS

Junior Tazia Mohammad is among those who had a chance to meet with Gach.

"I was a little bit hesitant because I didn't know if she would help us, but when I talked to her, I was surprised," said Mohammad of her Jan. 11 appointment to explain to the administrator about an upcoming Saturday off-campus event for Junior Statesmen of America, which the junior serves as a co-president. "She's very energetic ... She has a lot of energy, and she reminded me of our younger teachers."



Find the full story online by scanning this QR code

ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER

Ecology Club collects unwanted fruits to fertilize garden

YEIHN LEE

Staff Reporter

To reduce food waste, the Ecology Club has started a campaign to collect unwanted fruits, which will eventually be turned into compost to fertilize the Sunny Hills agriculture farm's gardens.

"We started the compost project because we wanted to incorporate lessons on how to manage food waste ourselves, not just give it to other people," Eco Club president senior Louis Lee said.

To promote their project, which started at the beginning of this month, some club members brought empty plastic bags outside the cafeteria and the Round-

house during break and lunch and asked if any students wanted to give away their apples or oranges.

Eventually, the items are placed into a blue bin with an orange sticker that says, "Food Scraps," at the back of the campus near the tennis courts.

Then an off-site composting facility called Republic Services collects the unwanted food once a week to turn it into compost, Lee said.

Currently, there are bins placed at the Roundhouse and cafeteria for students to drop off their unwanted fruit.

Eventually, once the Eco Club can purchase its own collection bins, it plans to work with Future Farmers of America students to mix together the fruits and a

carbon source, such as wood or leaves, and leave the mixture to be decomposed by bacteria, the Eco Club president said.

When the fruits decompose, they will release heat, killing off all bacteria and becoming compost, which will be used for the gardens at the agriculture farm, Lee said.

"Our goal is to improve sustainability in our community through recycling and food waste reduction," he said.

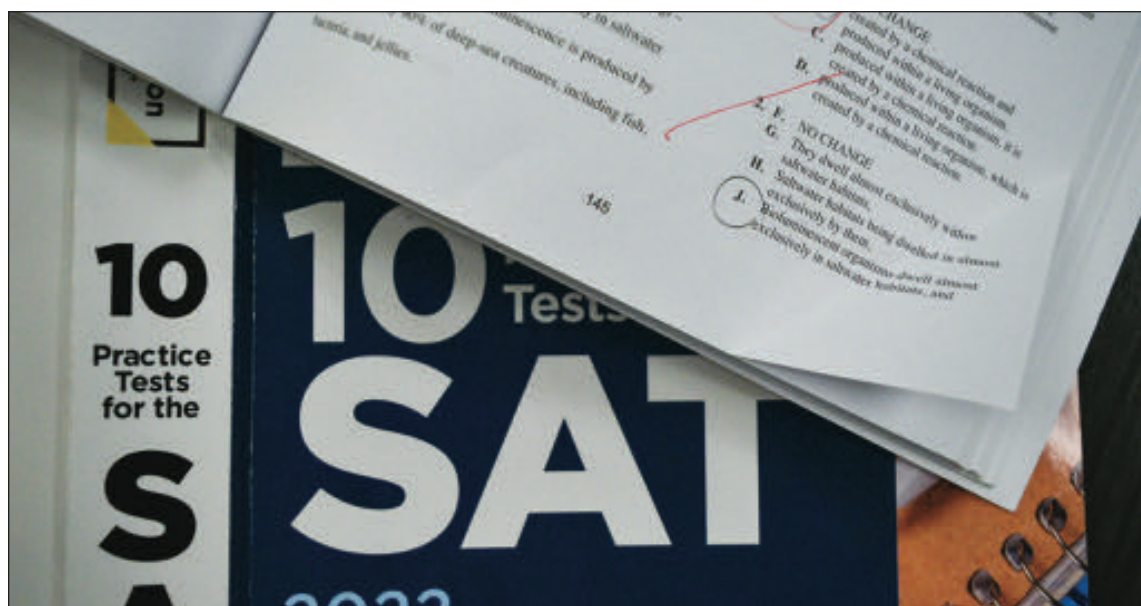
Junior Deyleen Diaz, Eco Club's food waste coordinator, said she's looking forward to see how the project pans out.

"The projects are super fun to be a part of because you get to see the changes that you achieve," Diaz said.



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GOING GREEN: Junior Taylor Ziebell (left) drops her orange into freshman Sean Lee's bag on Jan. 14. The fruits will eventually be turned into compost to fertilize the school's ag farm garden.



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NONE OF THE ABOVE: The University of California announced last November that it would permanently drop the SAT and ACT as an application requirement for students.

Students applaud decision to drop tests for UC admission

JAIMIE CHUN

Copy Editor

Junior Aidan Jung's dream school ranges from UCLA to the University of California, Berkeley.

But when Jung heard about the University of California [UC] system's decision to permanently do away with the SAT or ACT as a college admissions requirement, he knew right away what he wanted to do with his test prep books lying around the house.

"I had prep books from my brother, but I ended up throwing them away because I'm not going to have to worry about it," said Jung, a student in the Advancement Via Individual Determination program.

Jung is among many non-seniors who are applauding how UC schools are revamping their col-

SAT PIVOTS

In response to universities dropping the SAT as an admissions requirement, the College Board on Tuesday announced a new digital SAT to be offered in 2024 with these features:

- two hours instead of three to complete
- shorter reading passages
- calculators allowed for the entire math section

Source: College Board Newroom website
Compiled by Nevya Patel

lege admissions requirements.

Last November, UC officials agreed to drop standardized test scores because they may not judge applicants fairly based on race, in-

come and parent education levels.

This coming March, California State University officials will vote whether to do the same.

College and Career Center guidance technician Genesis Perez said university officials are making the right choice.

"A test score doesn't determine your abilities as a person — it's what you actually do yourself and having an active presence," said Perez, who attended a conference discussing the UC change.

For students like sophomore Isabella Jacobs, the admission update has produced more concern.

"While I think it is great for some students who have focused more on extracurriculars, I feel that students who focused more on test scores and studies will not have a leg up as they once did," Jacobs said.

IB tests come back to in-person format

ALICE SHIN

Managing Editor

For the first time in two years, students in the International Baccalaureate [IB] program will be required to take in-person exams on campus to determine their IB diploma status.

Even though Omicron COVID-19 variant positive cases have increased with a one-day high of 103 since the start of the spring semester, IB coordinator Brian Wall said the plan is still to move forward with the testing.

"I just want to stay positive," Wall said. "I know [Omicron] is bad right now, but I think that things will get better, and I think we're going to be able to hold the tests like the way they're supposed to be."

IB students in the 2019-2020 school year did not have to take the tests — commonly referred to as "external assessments" — after the March 2020 state lockdown closed all campuses in favor of remote learning.

Although the 2020-2021 school year was composed of distance and hybrid learning opportunities for students, IB was expecting students to be able to test again.

But Wall and school officials successfully appealed to skip the external assessments for a second year.

So for the past two years, IB students were only scored through internal assessments, which could be in the form of essays or presentations depending on the instructor — for ex-

ample, an IB art teacher would score a student's submitted portfolio; then, to avoid bias in grading, IB candidates had to undergo a process called moderation, in which IB samples certain students to verify that the score provided by the teacher followed through the criteria correctly, Wall said.

However, this school year, the traditional exam consisting of internal and external assessments, which include essays, structured problems and short-response questions, will determine the overall score and diploma eligibility, according to the IB website.

"You've got to earn at least 24 points of the 45 possible to earn the full diploma," Wall said. "To get that sophomore status in the University of California system and a lot of other schools, you need to earn 30 or more."

IB students were informed of the return of IB tests on campus this school year since the beginning of the fall semester.

While some favor the modification of the IB exam last school year because of the higher average score it yielded, students such as senior Tesneem Hassan still understand that the return of the traditional assessment is a step forward to a life prior to the pandemic.

"Obviously, I enjoyed it more last year when it was just writing [an essay] because we had a lot of time to work on it and finalize it," said Hassan, who will be taking tests for her five IB courses from the end of April through May.

Break, lunch lines getting longer; many cite cutting in front an issue

NEVYA PATEL

News Editor

Since the state provided free on-campus meals starting in 2021-2022 for break and lunch, Sunny Hills students are noticing longer lines to get food — one reason being friends allowing a group of others to cut in front of those who've been waiting.

"You walk in line, and you wait for a few minutes, and then the person in front of you lets one friend cut in front of them, then another, and eventually five people in front of you turn into 20," said junior Remy Kakebeen, who started getting school lunch this year.

Senior Kaitlin Punu, a first-timer getting lunch on campus



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

CUTTERS AGAIN: Junior Remy Kakebeen (left) reacts Wednesday to students going ahead of her at the Roundhouse.

similar to Kakebeen, usually keeps her frustration to herself but took the liberty to voice her opinion once.

"It's unfair and I get mad when people disrespect my

time," Punu said. "Students were cutting, and one of the cafeteria workers came around to tell them to stop. I was annoyed so I yelled, 'Yeah,' at the people who skipped ahead in line."

TO CUT OR NOT TO CUT

Do you cut in line to get your food at the cafeteria or Roundhouse during break or lunch?

62% = No

24% = Depends

13% = Yes

Source: from 76 respondents to The Accolade's online poll

Cafeteria workers also wish the situation were different; they noted the problem mainly occurring at the Roundhouse, which has no railings to direct students to stay in line beyond a certain point.

"What I would really love is someone to monitor the lunch lines," said Christina Dominguez, one of the Roundhouse workers.

Despite no students reporting this problem to administration, interim principal Cathy Gach said she will look into the situation and see if she can provide a solution.

Said Punu, "Once Mrs. Gach looks into the problem, I hope people will start listening to staff members and start respecting other people's time."

RELATED STORY

Head to Head: Is it OK to cut in break or lunch lines?

See Opinion, page 7.

ANGELIC OFFERING: *Student non-profit group raises money through musical shows to donate masks to Sunny Hills*

HANNAH LEE

Copy Editor

Sophomore Chloe Shim watched in disbelief as violent gusts of wind endangered her carefully formulated plans.

Precious sheets of music fluttered across the concert stage, and loudspeakers painfully pierced the audience's ears after being distorted by the breeze.

Alas, the show must go on.

As the co-president of Music Angels Hands, a non-profit organization that utilizes students' musical talents to raise money for donations, Shim holds the responsibility of ensuring that the club's fundraiser events go well.

Even with obstacles like wind, Shim and the other 20 club members — a diverse group consisting of middle and high schoolers attending different schools — persevered and contributed to the success of several in-person and virtual music concerts in front of an audience.

For safety reasons, the club was limited to virtual concerts during the height of the pandemic, resorting to individually filming performances and then editing them together to create one long video.



Image printed with permission from Allen Whitten

HELPING HAND: *Sophomore Chloe Shim (left), freshman Jenna Kim, former principal Allen Whitten and freshman Jayden Kim hold up the 130 masks the club donated Dec. 6, 2021.*

However, since the summer of 2021, Music Angels Hands was able to return to hosting in-person concerts at the center of The Source OC mall in Buena Park, Calif.

"I was first in line, which was definitely nerve-racking, but the most important thing during performances is to create good music for the crowd," said freshman Jenna Kim, a piano-playing club member since last year. "After the

second or third round, you end up feeling accomplished."

With the money collected over a span of several concerts like these, the group donated 130 masks to Sunny Hills on Dec. 6, 2021, to aid the school in COVID-19-related struggles.

"Although it's not the highest amount of masks that our club donated to Sunny Hills, we hope that our small donation would serve to help the students and

staff members with extra supplies during the pandemic," Shim said.

The Dec. 6 donation was only one of many that the organization has made since it was founded in 2021.

Along with Sunny Hills, Music Angels Hands also distributed 700 masks to various schools in Orange County like Laguna Road Elementary, Sunset Lane Elementary, Parks Junior High, Orange County School of the Arts

and Troy High School — campuses that some of the members currently or used to attend.

"The masks went quickly to students and staff, whoever needed them," said former SH principal Allen Whitten, who was involved in the donation process.

The group reached out to Whitten via email to arrange a meeting to pass on the donations.

In addition to donating COVID-19 supplies, the club makes efforts to regularly give to charities as well, such as the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

"I hope that our club is affecting the lives of many children and families of our society for the better," Shim said.

"Our mission statement has always been 'children helping children.'"

In the future, Music Angels Hands hopes to continue utilizing the members' musical talents and passions to host music concerts to raise money and promote the club to expand its reach. The requirements to be a part of the organization is to know how to play an instrument and be, at minimum, a sixth grader.


"The club's key point lies in providing for others, so naturally, I'm glad to contribute to our community," Kim said.

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New College and Career Center tech has mutli-faceted, educational background

SUSIE KIM

Social Media Manager

At Anaheim High School where Genesis Perez graduated in 2007, she recalled the importance of joining her campus' band.

"The teamwork and collaboration I learned from band is important not only as a guidance technician, but also in any position because you're working as a team to achieve,"

Genesis Perez
Guidance Technician

said Perez, who was hired earlier this month as the new College and Career Center guidance technician. "When you are working in education, it might sound cliché, but it takes a village to support students. It involves everyone — your parents, you as the student, teachers, admin, anyone — so that's why it truly takes a village."

Perez takes over the position left vacant last semester when guidance technician Evelyn

Casillas accepted another position in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District.

Like with Casillas, Perez said she will provide college and career exploration workshops for students to be informed about careers and post-secondary options/

She said she will also coordinate and support college and financial application sessions, manage testing and speaker visitors on campus and maintain the College and Career Center tab on the school's online website.

Before focusing on education as a career path, Perez said she pursued a nursing major at California State University, Fullerton [CSUF], receiving a bachelor's degree in sociology and health science.

During her freshman year of college, she conducted various experiments relating to the human body and medicine, drawing her into the field of epidemiology. However, she started questioning her studies as a health science major after experiencing burnout.

"I think what drove me in high school to pursue the medical field

was my health science teacher and the classes itself, like biology and chemistry," Perez said. "But I wanted to do something that I knew I would eventually be more passionate about."

She said she then changed course to pursue a master's degree in educational counseling.

Perez was first introduced to a college access program at CSUF in her first year of college and was able to shadow other experienced mentors.

"I thought that I could see myself doing this with students," she said. "But the program was more of attending conferences, building knowledge and seeing how counselors interact with students so that experience prepared me for my position now."

Perez enjoys spending time with her family and friends and traveling.

"My ultimate goal within the United States is to visit all 50 states," she said.

The College and Career center in Room 2 is open each school day from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Perez's email is gperez@fjuhsd.org.

AVID Senior Standout reflects on her recognition

IRENE SHEEN

Social Media Manager

During her college applications process, senior Andi Elisaldez had one final concern.



Andi Elisaldez

"I had everything ready and done — I just couldn't pay for [the application fees] yet," Elisaldez said.

Because of her family's financial circumstances, she felt pressured to choose from just a select few schools, including those at the University of California and California State University campuses.

"I limited the amount of colleges I applied to because we didn't have the money to pay for things like that, especially because fees are kind of expensive for me," Elisaldez said. "I'm sure other low-income family students can relate to this because we don't have the same opportunities to apply or even attend the schools we want to."

Her worries over finances when it comes to college or university-related fees could be over as she was selected as this school year's Senior Standout as part of the Advancement Via Individual

Determination [AVID] program.

On April 22, Elisaldez will find out during an Orange County AVID awards ceremony how much scholarship money she will get.

AVID coordinator and math teacher Jennifer Papageorge said the funding ranges from as low as \$250 to a maximum \$35,000 for every year the student is enrolled in college, covering up to four years.

"I feel honored and proud to be this year's senior standout because I have always felt my hard work, achievements and success have never been highlighted, but receiving this award really means a lot to me," Elisaldez said.

Her AVID teacher from her freshman year, Lindsay Safe, said Elisaldez's work ethic impressed her the most.

"She's going to move mountains because of her ability to focus and be dedicated, and she just has this drive to be successful," Safe said. "She's wise beyond her years, her maturity is above most and whatever she puts her mind to, she's going to be successful."

The AVID Senior Standout award is offered every year at Orange County high schools that runs an AVID program.

Eligibility is based on a set



REBEKAH KIM | theaccolade

DESERVING OF RECOGNITION: Senior Andi Elisaldez (left) and AVID coordinator Jennifer Papageorge show on Wednesday what the AVID Senior Standout Award certificate looks like.

of criteria from the AVID Center, which is part of the Orange County Department of Education. Besides grades, leadership, community service, extracurriculars, the number of Advanced Placement [AP] classes taken, Papageorge said "home life" was added for the first time this school year to the selection requirements, especially because of challenges students have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Papageorge and three other

AVID teachers — Safe, Richard Bailey and Cristian Bueno — and counselor Cindy Moreno interviewed four qualifying applicants before narrowing down to one person, Elisaldez.

"Andi won by a slight margin — slightest of slights," Papageorge said.

One aspect of Elisaldez's resume that put her above her peers was her sports leadership experience.

In her four years on the girls

volleyball team, her coaches have selected her as captain of the frosh-soph squad during her freshman and sophomore years; also as a 10th-grader, she volunteered to be an assistant coach for the junior varsity boys volleyball team.

"I learned how to gain respect from my teammates and how to be a leader by showing them that I'm there to lead them," Elisaldez said. "I made sure everyone was on task and focused."

🌻 SPRING SEMESTER STYLES 🌻



BEADED NECKLACE

Popular in the '70s, beaded necklaces made a comeback in 2020 and are still worn by many girls.

CONVERSE

This casual veteran shoe brand, which has been around since the '80s, is still trending; 29% of 65 polled on *The Accolade* website say they're wearing Converse to school this semester.



According to recent Pinterest, Instagram and TikTok posts, these items are trending among teens. Sunny Hills students can be seen carrying or wearing them, too, this season.



BEANIE

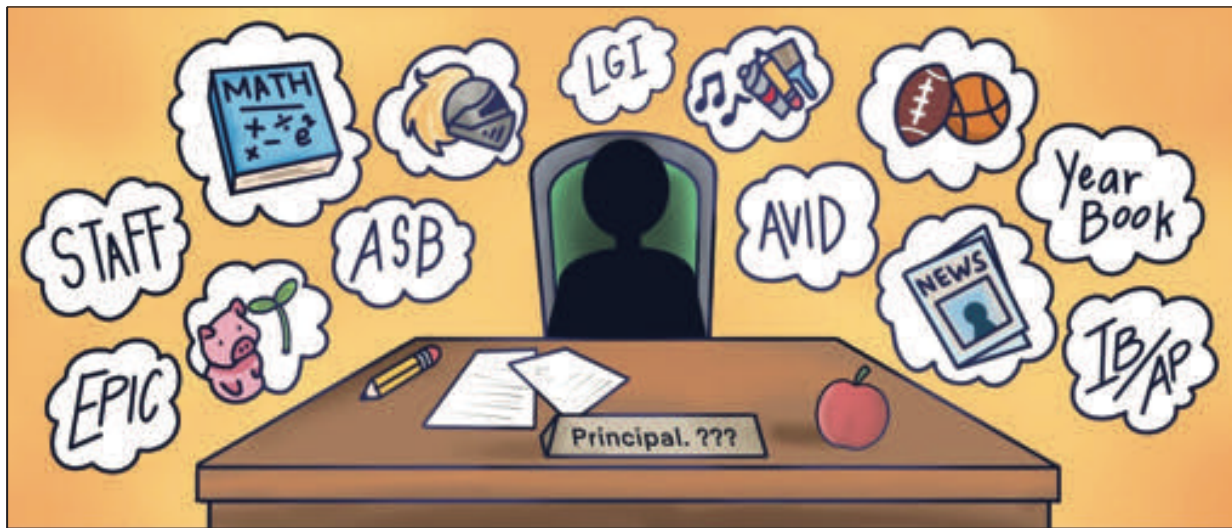
Whether it's a cold day or a bad hair day, beanies keep your head nice and warm.

TOTE BAG

Capable of being paired with any outfit, tote bags are a cute option to throw necessities into when you're on the go.



STAFF EDITORIAL



SAMANTHA GALANG | theaccolade

STUDENTS' PAL: The Accolade shares its views on qualities of new principal

Because the seniors on the editorial board will have graduated by the time the new principal at Sunny Hills will most likely start, we have decided to leave the consensus on what qualities the new campus leader should possess with the juniors, who were unanimous in their descriptions.

Allen Whitten's recent departure as Sunny Hills principal and subsequent promotion to the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHSD] as the newly appointed director of Student Support Services left the challenging task of finding his replacement.

In the seven years that Whitten has served as a leader of this campus, he was known for emphasizing the positive. When he was first hired in 2014, he noticed that students lacked a personal connection with his predecessor.

He quickly changed the distanced relationship within his first year by proving to Lancers that he was worthy of the last three letters of his title that formed the word "pal." During break, lunch, after school or various on and

off-campus activities, Whitten approached students and engaged in conversations with them without making them feel intimidated for speaking to an authority figure.

He launched a campaign to improve school spirit by spending money on putting up "Lancer" or "Sunny Hills" signs throughout campus buildings and hallways.

It's impossible to list the other proactive measures Whitten spearheaded in his nearly decade-long service on this campus. Whitten, of course, will be a hard act to follow.

The search committee of board members should hire the candidate who embodies qualities similar to those of Whitten yet still has more to offer to the student body. Hiring an applicant with prior experience working on a high school campus is an important factor we hope the trustees will consider.

The new principal may have some difficult teacher appointments to make, especially since co-Associated Student Body [ASB] adviser Mike Paris has told his ASB students of

his plan to retire at the end of this semester.

Finally, our new leader should have a vision for journalism media. We hope the selected candidate will support *The Accolade* enough for us to begin new multimedia projects, perhaps a broadcast media program. Branching out from the monthly print issues and online website will require administrative funding, and we trust that our leader will aid us along our journey to expansion.

This much anticipated hire won't have to whiz around campus on an electric one wheel like Whitten did.

As principal, he led as an authority figure and a friend to students and staff — a balance we hope the chosen applicant will maintain.

The Accolade editorial board is made up of the top editors and section editors on the 2021-2022 staff with the guidance of adviser Tommy Li. If you have a question about the board's decision or an issue for the board to discuss and write about, please send an email to theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.

The new year calls for resolutions to improve *The Accolade*

As a sentiment of the new year, I made a 2022 resolution to continue focusing on creating high-quality print work and starting new projects for *The Accolade* during the remainder of my senior year.

To fulfill these promises, the top editors and I, under the guidance of our adviser, decided to cut down on the number of issues we plan on producing within the spring semester.

Near the beginning of August, we expected to print nine; however, during the first five months of school, I found myself — and the rest of the staff — under loads of stress as we jumped from one issue to the next without taking the time to regroup and assess our work.

After printing our first four issues, I realized it takes hours of effort and motivation from the entire staff to put together a print product, far more than I initially thought.

Especially since we advocated for mental health in our third print issue, the top editors and I determined that cutting back on one issue would give our staff enough time during February to revitalize by having our own

Accolade mental wellness days, which are still in the works.

For the sake of creating quality issues and preventing burnout among the staff, we agreed it would be more reasonable to work on four issues this semester — only one less than our original plan.

Our initial plan was to decrease the number of pages some of our issues would have to 12 to lessen the workload. However, this was no longer a possibility after finding out that the printer we use no longer supports 12-page papers; we would have to continue with the standard 16.

While we could aim for five issues, pushing the staff to work without rest these next few months could risk diminishing the quality of work; we, as a staff, want to provide the most accurate material for readers on and off campus, and to do so, we need time.

But that doesn't mean readers of *The Accolade* will miss out on the amount of content we usually produce. In fact, I am proud to announce that we have decided to challenge ourselves further by starting our first podcast — "The Accocast."

This latest medium is another addition to the multimedia content created on our website, and our first three episodes can be found

on the audio streaming company Spotify.

"The Accocast" will inform listeners on a variety of topics — from school happenings to events on a national scale. We hope to bring in levels of fun and seriousness through each episode by covering news, arts and entertainment, sports and more.

Listeners can look forward to meeting different guests through our podcast; for our second episode, for example, we invited Sunny Hills science teacher Jack Adams to share his experience protesting against the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

Some may wonder why we decided to start our podcast when we dropped an issue to prevent burnout. While highly encouraged, participating in its production is not a requirement for the staff.

We don't expect to post a set number of episodes of "The Accocast"; instead, we want to give reporters the opportunity to experiment and try new aspects of journalism through the podcast. Hope you'll tune in and let us know what you think.



For access to *The Accocast* on Spotify, scan the QR code

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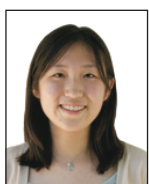
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2006 CSPA Silver Crown



Michelle Sheen
Editor-in-Chief

HEAD TO HEAD

WOULD YOU CUT IN LINE TO GET FOOD?

A Lancer ‘acts wisely’; so getting ahead without having to wait violates social norms

I grew antsy as the first five minutes of break passed. My stomach growled, and the line to get food from the Roundhouse remained stagnant.

Just as the cafeteria staff came into view, a girl abruptly shoved past my friends and me to join her group waiting at the front of the line.



Dominique Chang
Asst. Business Manager

Any student who has purchased food from the Roundhouse or the cafeteria this school year — the first in which campus meals can be picked up for free during break and lunch — can surely relate to my experience.

What’s worse was this happened to me the first time I ever picked up a meal from school. I had been standing there when that girl chose to join her friends in line ahead of me — no waiting required for her like the five minutes I had to endure.

I felt disrespected and annoyed because break lasts only 18 minutes — I had been waiting for more than one-fourth of the time.

For students to cut any line and gain a little extra time while others have been waiting a longer amount in the back shows just how selfish and greedy some can be.

Break and lunch are sacred and exciting periods of the school day for students; we’re let out of the classroom and can finally fuel our body with much-needed food, rest and socialization with friends.

So those cutting in line violate proper etiquette; they should patiently wait their turn. These manners should be kept, not only while at school, but off campus and in the “real world” as well.

As a senior, I have seen how Sun-

ny Hills emphasizes the importance of safety. However, perhaps the recent development of line cutting originates from the underclassmen — many of whom have never stepped foot on our campus until this school year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although arguments with those who choose not to wait in line could develop, I chose not to pick an oral dispute with that girl who did me wrong because I don’t think it’s worth my while to do so. Others who witnessed the same faux pas had the same maturity level as I had demonstrated.

So it should be everyone’s duty to act with respect and care for others. The school’s mission statement sign in every classroom says it best: “A Lancer ... acts wisely.”



For the full story online, scan the QR code

It’s a dog-eat-dog world out there, and that’s why I have no beef about what I do

OK, I know, I know.

According to a recent *Accolade* online poll of 76 respondents, 62% agreed that “cutting [in a food line] is against my moral judgment.”

Another 24% agreed that this recurring practice during break and lunch occurs based on how students feel one day over the next.



Alex Lee
Staff Reporter

In the minority lies people like me — only 13% had the “survival of the fittest” mentality of taking advantage of getting meals faster through friends’ help in the food line outside the cafeteria or Roundhouse.

Although swooping in the middle of a line tends to be universally known as a disservice, I see it as using my resources. My friends are just saving a spot for me because I’m not able to get there as fast as they can.

As an athlete, food fuels my performance. At the beginning of the school year, I would go into two-hour practices on an empty stomach, and I noticed it was affecting my endurance and motivation on the field.

Waiting in line like mostly everyone else consumes too much of my precious time, especially when I have to be out on the soccer field passing the ball within 30 minutes of my last class ending.

So that’s what prompted me to make some changes by finding a way to speed up my meal gathering.

Typically, no one says anything when I push my way through the beginning of the never-ending line.

Sometimes, I would get the occasional shouts like, “Get in the back of the line,” or “You came later; go to the back.”

I have learned to tune them out.

Though some may argue that it’s wrong of me to take advantage of my fellow peers, in this cutthroat society, some individuals are bound to have a slight edge over others.

Some students, especially those who have PE, are allowed to leave their third or fifth periods earlier to start waiting in line before break or lunch starts.

Is that fair? Shouldn’t school officials require all teachers to release students *after* the bell rings?

Some have classes closer to the cafeteria or Roundhouse than others. They will have some type of an advantage too. Is that fair?

Should school officials designate a rotation of certain classrooms being allowed to get food to level the playing field?

Everyone has the ability to cut, so why be so petty about it? After all, it’s a dog-eat-dog world.



AUDREY SEO | theaccolade

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?: Students wait in line Jan. 12 at the Roundhouse during lunch. Go to shhsaccolade.com to take our online poll about line cutting.

Letters to the editor

Reader responses to the Nov. 19 “What are you doing in my class?” Feature article:

I think that Blake Talbot did a great job highlighting the importance of substitute teachers and what happens when we don’t have any.

I think that this is a very relevant problem. In fact, because of the lack of substitutes, our class had to sit in the Performing Arts Center building today.

— Lucas Saab, freshman

Because I myself have noticed the sudden appearance of other Sunny Hills teachers in my classes as substitutes, the article stood out to me.

Although the article wasn’t complicated, it still gave me information that I wanted to know. I found it to be very helpful.”

— Kiheon Kim, freshman

Reader response to other sections in the Nov. 19 issue:

In Justin Pak’s News article “Eco-friendly solar panels to be installed,” I think it’s very cool that Sunny Hills is making efforts to be environmentally friendly.

I also like the idea of charging ports and extra shade.

These additions could add more convenience to the campus. I suspect that many students will fight over these areas.

— Julia Winters, freshman

After hearing about the Minute of Hope fundraiser exceeding its goal of \$1,000 in the News article by Pricilla Escobedo, “Minute of Hope exceeds ASB expectations, break over \$1,600,” I felt proud to have contributed to the cause.

It was inspiring to hear that the funds went toward helping the homeless and the

less unfortunate families in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District.

The Associated Student Body did an amazing job exceeding the goal of the fundraiser expectations.

— Aaron Akram, freshman

From this issue, Kate Yang and Irene Sheen’s Opinion stories, “Real deal or fake stake?” best suited me.

I enjoyed these satirical stories that incorporated amusing puns. For students like me, it’s difficult to finish long stories, but these pieces added the ideal amount of humor.

— Justin Park, sophomore

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

The staff reserves the right to edit.

For the record

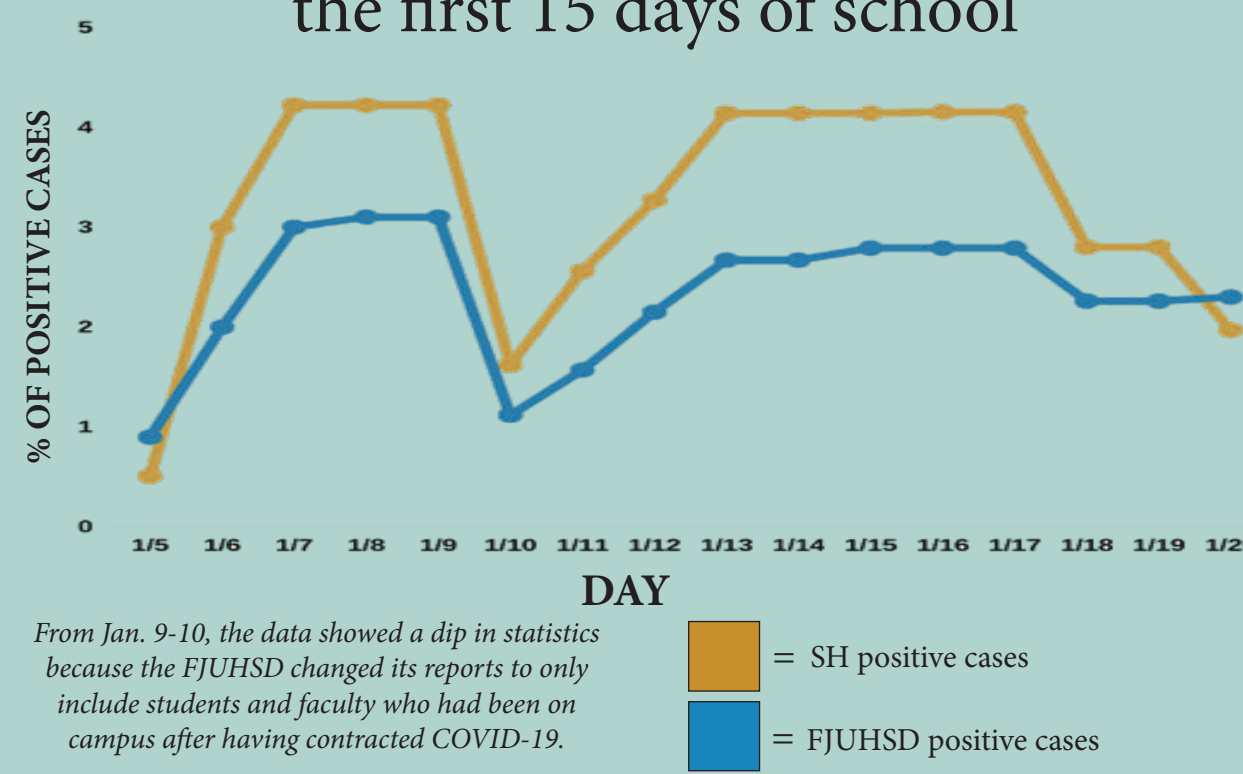
The *Accolade* regrets the following errors from the Nov. 19 issue:

On page 4, two News articles — “Minute of Hope exceeds ASB expectations, breaks over \$1600” and “Sunny Hills culture clubs verified to perform in second semester shows” — abruptly ended. The full versions are available on our website.

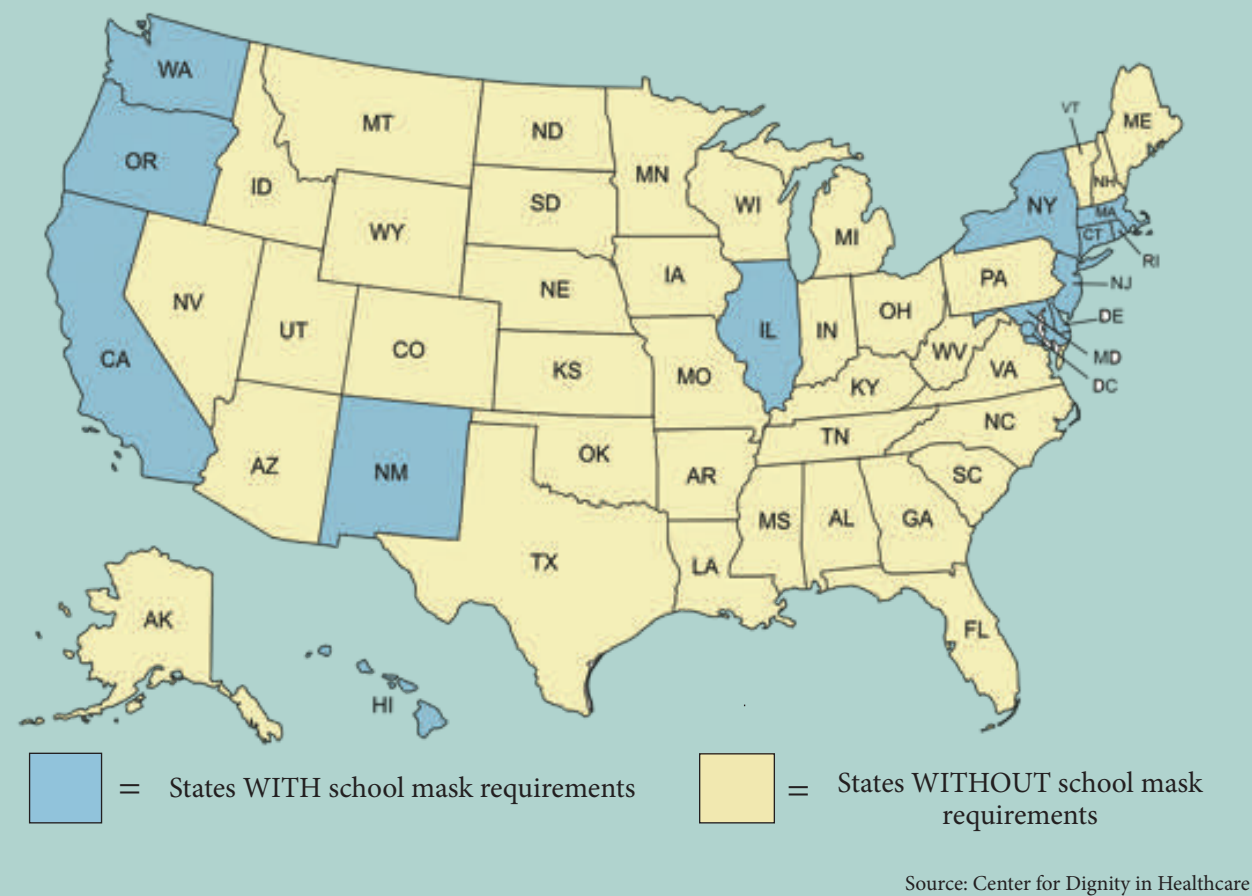
Also, in the “Sunny Hills culture clubs” News story, the Korean Culture Night date should have been March 19.

In a page 13 photo caption for an Arts and Entertainment story, “My adventures in Wonderland as Alice,” the person in the middle wearing the Queen of Hearts costume should have been identified as junior Delaney Jackson.

COVID-19 positive cases over the first 15 days of school



TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK AT SCHOOLS



GOING VIRAL: Omicron variant prompts changes in traditional events

MICHELLE SHEEN

Editor-in-Chief

With the emergence of the highly-contagious Omicron variant in 2021, a surge in COVID-19 cases forced several school events to be temporarily postponed or halted altogether in an attempt to lower transmission rates.

“We are very hopeful to continue to have these activities, but if things change, know that we will try to do the best we can,” assistant principal Hilda Arredondo said.

Below are some on-campus and off-campus activities that have been postponed or canceled altogether because of COVID-19.

OPEN HOUSE

Though the school originally planned to host Open House in person Jan. 6, interim principal Cathy Gach mentioned in her Jan. 14 newsletter that it will be happening online through a virtual showcase under the “News” section of the school website.

“With Open House postponed, we wanted to do something that would showcase all of the great programs we have here at Sunny Hills to incoming 8th graders and their families,” assistant principal Melissa Stinson said.

Since Jan. 19, the virtual showcase — which contains compiled information about each department in the form of slideshows or digital brochures — is available for prospective students to access before enrolling from Jan. 10-28, Stinson said.

For the Associated Student Body [ASB], its cancellation meant the annual tradition of guiding students through the campus would not be happening again. Instead, the ASB will be guiding these students through a campus tour video.

“It was quite a bummer since we knew when it got canceled, we couldn’t feature a lot of groups that are special to Sunny Hills,” ASB president Aimee Kwon said. “That in-person effect makes the school feel much more alive.”

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Club members of the Sunny Hills Red Cross Club planned their first blood drive of the school year for Jan. 14.

In accordance with Arredondo’s email and under the instruction of Red Cross club adviser Robert Bradburn, president senior Rachel Lee decided to push it to April.

Despite the cabinet’s efforts, this became the second failed attempt at holding the drive; the club’s first attempt took place in October 2021, but it was canceled because the SH administration did not approve the event.

“My cabinet and I had been working extremely hard for many weeks, so we were definitely upset about the news,” Lee said. “I know for a lot of club members, this was their first blood drive, so many of them were also disappointed that they wouldn’t be able to volunteer or donate.”

The precautionary measures for this event also account for the organization’s current shortage of blood.

An L.A. Times article posted Jan. 12 said “the combination of the relentless pandemic and an unusual flu season has exacerbated the preexisting shortage” of blood the Red Cross normally receives.

In the article, the organization said donations from students — who usually account for 25% of donors — fell by 60% because of the current surge in COVID-19 cases.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD SOLVI

Those who are a part of the SH Science Olympiad team would have competed Jan. 16 at Clark High School for the annual Science Olympiad Las Vegas Invitational [SOLVI].

Those who did not feel comfortable because of COVID-19 had the option of competing through the Science Olympiad’s online website, the SH Science Olympiad team co-captain Dahee Kim said.

But on Jan. 12, four days prior to this field trip, the captains received news of the cancellation of the in-person competition, Science Olympiad adviser Alexander Hua said.

“I know these kids were really looking forward to being able to travel and [compete] in one of these competitions in person, ... so it was pretty devastating,” said Hua, whose club had already prepared by booking hotel rooms and seeking the FJUHS’s approval for the field trip.

The Clark High School District moved the live event to a virtual one because of staff shortages caused by the pandemic, Hua said.

Of the team members, co-captain junior Magdalene Kho felt disappointed that they were notable to go in person.

“My co-captain and I really felt bad about it, especially since we hyped it up for a lot of teammates since that would have been their first in-person competition,” said Kho, whose last SOLVI happened her freshman year in March 2020.

Usually lasting the entire day, members would take tests on different science topics — such as biology, chemistry and physics — and participate in various live events from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Kho said.

Though the team will not be able to compete in person, the organizers sent out an email notifying all contestants that they were eligible to partake through the online option.

Many of the SH team members participated in the virtual Jan. 15 SOLVI, including the two captains.

“Competing online this year wasn’t a huge letdown since we got used to the format last year, but I was really frustrated and sad about our team not going to go in person to compete [since] that is what makes Science Olympiad so fun for me,” Kim said.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

The International Food Fair [IFF] assembly in the gym normally takes place in February and gives cultural clubs across campus the opportunity to put on traditional performances and any other club on campus to raise funds by selling foods of different backgrounds.

In the 2020-2021 school year, the school canceled IFF for the first time in school history because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Originally scheduled for Feb. 10, the Associated Student Body [ASB] shifted the date forward to sometime in March or April upon receiving an email from Arredondo before auditions for the assembly happened, said ASB member senior Savannah Thul, who is in charge of planning the event.

“We haven’t canceled anything yet because IFF is a tradition that we want to keep going, and we’re really excited to have it,” said Thul, who is the ASB assembly commissioner.

“I’m very optimistic about it right now.”

Like many other clubs, the last time the Korean Culture Club [KCC] participated in the IFF was in 2020, the year the pandemic struck.

“We had in mind that IFF could be postponed [because of the coronavirus], but it’s really sad to hear that we might not be able to perform,” said Lim, whose club held a meeting to discuss changes of plans for the fair because of its delay.

“We’re still hoping that we can perform this year even if it is pushed back.”

The KCC presidents decided to continue practicing for their performances, even with some members absent because of the virus.

PAGING DR. LI

Jason Li, a third-year resident at the University of Southern California and husband of Class of 2007 alumna Joann Kim, shares his views on the COVID-19 pandemic and its variants.

Q: How dangerous is Omicron vs. Delta vs. COVID-19 1.0?

A: What makes this strain of COVID-19 so dangerous is that one, it spreads much faster than previous strains. Two, its symptoms are much more extreme than those of the flu virus.

Q: Are teens more likely to catch Omicron variants than other age groups?

A: Teens are not more likely to catch in a medical sense; however, teenagers can be more social than other age groups — going to packed schools every day and hanging out with friends. This is why it’s so important that teens get vaccinated and follow safety procedures.

Q: Will masking alone protect me from catching Omicron? Or are there other precautions we should be taking?

A: Masking definitely helps because COVID-19 is a respiratory-driven virus. It’s also important to remember that the farther you stay away from crowds, the less likely you are to be infected.



For the full Q & A with Jason Li, scan this QR code to listen to the podcast.

CANCELED EVENTS >> Page 10

March 11, 2020

The World Health Organization [WHO] declares that the spread of COVID-19 is a pandemic.

March 14, 2020

U.S. states begin issuing the lockdown of public places to prevent the spread of the virus. Sunny Hills is one of these that goes into lockdown, according to a March 16, 2020 news article from *The Accolade*.

Dec. 11, 2020

The Food and Drugs Administration issues the first-ever COVID-19 vaccine: Pfizer-BioNTech one.

June 1, 2021

The Delta variant, which was first reported in India, becomes the dominant COVID-19 variant in the U.S.

Nov. 24, 2022

South Africa reports a case of the Omicron variant for the first time to the WHO.

Jan. 15, 2022

The Los Angeles United School District implements the requirement of students wearing non-cloth masks starting Monday.

Jan. 20, 2022

Senate Bill 866 proposed for kids in California older than 12 years to receive a COVID-19 vaccine without parents’ permission.

FROM PAGE 8

CANCELED EVENTS

Though the Filipino culture club — also known as Bayanihan Club — stopped practices for a couple of weeks over an increase in Omicron cases, co-president senior Jonah Alagao remains hopeful that his group will be able to flaunt its skills with the traditional *tinikling* and *sakuting* dances.

“Some members missed having practices, and some appreciated having some time off of practice,” said Alagao, who had been practicing one to two times a week in the quad since late September.

“I think that everyone just wanted to be safe more than anything, and pausing practice for a while was the best way to do that.”

“When we heard that it would be postponed, I was a little bit bummed out but still hopeful because I think it’s still possible that we’ll have an IFF.”

CIF-SS WINTER SPORTS

Along with the FJUHSD’s spectator limit for indoor sports games decreasing from 1,000 to 500, the CIF-SS extended the basketball, soccer and girls water polo season to allow teams to fit in games, according to a Jan. 12 update on the website.

The final league games have been shifted to Feb. 6 for girls and boys basketball, girls and boys soccer and girls water polo.

Playoff entries for these sports must be submitted by 6 p.m. on the final league game

days, according to the update on the CIF-SS website.

For Sunny Hills, the change in plans — for the most part — proved to be advantageous because it allotted winter sports more time to submit playoff entries, athletic director Paul Jones said.

“They were understanding of the fact that students are going to inevitably miss some games because of COVID,” Jones said.

Though the CIF-SS extended the winter sports seasons, the organization held off on postponing or canceling championship/playoff games because facilities had already been booked prior to the spread of the Omicron variant, Jones said.

“We started the school year OK, and we thought things were going to go back to normal, and then, surprise, there’s a new variant,” Jones said.

“I hope that the spring sports [season] goes as smoothly as the fall sports. We can start to move past COVID, hopefully.”

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Orange County spiked with 18,639 new cases on Monday. Despite this, Kwon hopes normalcy will return to Sunny Hills.

“Since we just had a huge spike of the new variant, I don’t really see the situation improving soon, but since California is especially good with containment and mandates, I’m sure we’ll get it under control,” Kwon said. “It’s already been affecting us a lot, from our events and teaching schedules. We’re still trying to bring some normality to the school year through assemblies and other events.”

Steps for your COVID-19 Status



Feeling Great!

- Keep your mask on indoors
- Sanitize well
- Adhere to social distancing guidelines
- Complete the Daily Symptom Check Qualtrics survey before arriving on campus
- Check for low exposure emails from the school



Oh no, I was exposed!

- Stay in School
- Should (Recommended) get tested for COVID-19 with at least one diagnostic test obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure
- Exposed students who participate in testing may continue to take part in all aspects of K-12 schooling, including sports and extracurricular activities, unless they test positive for COVID-19 or develop symptoms



Achoo! I tested positive!

- Stay home for at least 5 days
- Isolation can end after Day 5 if:
 - ♦ Symptoms are NOT present or improving AND
 - ♦ At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medication AND
 - ♦ Negative test on Day 5 AND
 - ♦ Parents complete Student Negative Test Attestation
- If not testing, a 10-Day isolation is required
- If fever is present, isolate until fever resolves

JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

Source: FJUHSD COVID-19 Guidelines updated Jan. 18
Compiled by Kate Yang

Universities shut down in light of Omicron surges

How many California colleges shut down in January?

- 11 Cal State Campuses
- 9 UC Campuses
- 8 Private Colleges

Source: L.A. Times

JAIMIE CHUN

Copy Editor

Sporting furry red, plaid pajama pants and an overfit hoodie, Sunny Hills Class of 2021 alumna Anika Madan is ready for her first period class at the University of California, Irvine.

Not exactly the college life she dreamed of, Madan instead takes two steps from her bed, scrolling and clicking her way into her virtual class.

“At college, I would still go to the library, sit outside in Aldrich Park, go to my job, so I had a lot of change scenery,” said Madan, who went through distance learning since her junior year at Sunny Hills High School.

UC Irvine is only one of the UC schools that have decided to go online to start off the spring

semester, an announcement that followed a recent surge of Omicron variant cases.

“When I first heard the news, I was relieved,” Madan said. “The number of cases at UCI were really high at the time, and I didn’t feel safe being back on campus.”

Despite understanding the reasons behind the decision, SH alumni, who went through nearly two years of distance learning in high school and then half a year of normalcy in their freshman year of university before having to revert back to what they experienced as juniors in March 2020, find it difficult to overlook the drawbacks of distance learning.

“Some challenges are being able to keep myself focused during Zoom classes, which I’m sure everyone knows by now, it can be very hard,” said Sunny

Hills Class of 2021 alumna Meagan Kimbrell, who is attending UCLA. “Being able to find places in my area where I can really just sit down and work without getting distracted by my family or dogs is challenging.”

Though most universities initially stated that online instruction will only last for the first week of the month, UCs, private schools and California State Universities decided to extend distance learning to Jan. 31.

“I was disappointed because I was hoping to finally be in person full-time,” said SH Class of 2020 alumnus Vishnu Kharva, who currently attends the University of California, Riverside. “I wanted to be able to interact with professors and other students on campus.”

Despite experiencing in-per-

son learning up to his second half of his senior year in high school, he equally finds that the distance learning lifestyle lacks the excitement of college that he experienced during the fall semester and when he first entered UC Riverside.

Though Kimbrell and Kharva are yet to have stayed on campus, Madan said she is hesitant to return to her dormitory when in-person instruction resumes on Jan. 31.

“I live with three other people and then our bathroom connects with another four girls, so I share spaces with seven other people at a time,” Madan said.

“While I trust my roommates, I don’t know where they go and who they interact with so the scare of getting COVID-19 is always there.”

Catching infectious Omicron variant just makes me feel ‘positively’ terrible

“The media is feeding you lies to keep you scared.”

“People your age have such a small chance of getting it, and even if you do, it’ll be mild at worst.”



Krishna Thaker
Special Sections
Editor

Almost two full years after the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns first began rolling through the nation, our understanding of what this illness is and how it affects us has changed dramatically.

However, since March 2020, one message, delivered by numerous institutions including the Center For Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], remains constant: children and teenagers are less likely develop serious illnesses as a result of COVID-19.

Yet, on the day before the start of the new year — as I finally realized how truly physically and mentally detrimental this virus can be for us students — staring at the positive PCR COVID-19 result on my phone jolted my state of mind.

Earlier that morning, a friend who I had recently hung out with informed me that she had just tested positive for COVID-19. Though I initially felt certain that I could not be infected, my parents took me to get tested at my primary care hospital.

The hours following the moment I received my positive test result were defined by an innate sense of fear: fear for my own health, which I knew would quickly deteriorate as the 100 degree fever and strep throat hit me, and for my grades, which inevitably would suffer as a result of missing the first week of the new semester.



SAMANTHA GALANG | theaccolade

My concerns were far from unique as many of my closest friends found themselves in the same position as me — forced to deal with the realities of testing positive.

Over the course of the next week from Dec. 30 to Jan. 6, I completely isolated myself from my family; I did not leave my room, no matter the reason and spent a total of 168 hours alone. Most days, I lacked the energy to leave my bed anything more than to use the restroom and take my antibiotics.

During this time, I had little else to do but mindlessly scroll through my phone in hopes that it would distract me from the fact that I had not eaten solid food in days, my symptoms making it incredibly painful

to do so.

Now, I am the first to admit that I was incredibly privileged in that I had a room to myself in which I could quarantine. Not everyone can confidently say the same: a reality that makes testing positive for COVID-19 that much more horrifying.

This uptick in cases among the student population is a rapidly increasing problem with the United States having a record-high 64% increase in the number of cases among children in just the last week of December alone, according to data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the CDC, while teens are less likely to die from this disease, research proves that younger people are

not exempt from being infected with this illness, a fact that must warrant increased vigilance and safety measures.

In addition to all the terrible aspects of testing positive for COVID-19, the transition to returning back to school is incredibly difficult.

Having missed the entire first week of the semester, I felt myself drowning in makeup assignments and lecture notes upon my return.

The first few days after I returned were especially hellish, as I had to juggle my makeup work and homework assignments.

So in the end, one takeaway for my fellow classmates is this: COVID-19 is a blight you do not want to deal with — take the proper precautions.

Omicron leads to absence spike in new semester

GRACE MIN

Staff Reporter

Empty seats in many classrooms upon the start of the spring semester were among the most noticeable consequences of the Omicron variant at Sunny Hills.

According to attendance records provided by assistant principal Melissa Stinson, 579 students were absent the first three days of the spring semester from Jan. 3-5; absences for the first three days of the fall semester from Aug. 16-18 reached 118 — a nearly 400% difference.

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District’s COVID-19 dashboard also reflected the high districtwide absenteeism with 108 reported to have tested positive for Omicron or COVID-19 on Jan. 5; positive cases continued to increase to as many as 120 on Jan. 25.

While the high absenteeism would normally be a concern for school officials, that has changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our priority is to make sure everyone is safe on campus,” assistant principal of Student Affairs and site COVID-19 administrator Hilda Arredondo said.

Junior Leanne Yu was among those who remained healthy and made it to their classes since the first day of the spring semester.

“Personally, [the number of absences] didn’t affect the learning aspect of my classes, but it definitely felt weird since my class was so empty,” Yu said. “It especially felt empty during break because a lot of my friends were absent the first week back to school.”

Just like the students, teachers found themselves having to adapt and accommodate the large number of missing students in each of their classes; most relied on Google Classroom to forward daily lesson plans and assignments to those who couldn’t make it to school.

“I’m not worried about the number of absences — I’m worried about the duration of absences,” science teacher Chris Peoples said. “A student missing a day of school

here and there is not insurmountable.

“But when a student misses anywhere between four and 10 days, it gives me a serious problem because they miss a lot of course content, which makes it very difficult for me to catch them up.”

Peoples said he utilizes Google Classroom and online physics lab simulations to help absent students keep up with his ongoing lesson plans.

“The problem [with turning in late work] is that students have lost the benefit of doing the assignment up front to begin with, and a lot of kids who are at home are not sick all the days they are absent,” he said.

“They’re just under a quarantine condition, so it’s just a matter that they need to make the effort to get their work done.”

The duration of absences that Peoples addressed stems from a district email about the COVID-19 quarantine protocol that urges students to get tested five days after exposure if they are in close contact with someone who tested positive and to isolate

Absences on first three days of spring semester

Jan. 3 241

Jan. 4 166

Jan. 5 172

Source: assistant principal Melissa Stinson

if they develop any symptoms or test positive themselves.

Symptoms range from fever or chills, runny nose or body aches; for more information about COVID-19 symptoms, visit the Centers for Disease and Control [CDC] website.

‘Betty White: A Celebration’

The documentary film keeps viewers entertained about actress’s Hollywood career

MICHELLE SHEEN

Editor-in-Chief

“The world looks different now. She was great at defying expectation. She managed to grow very old and somehow, not old enough. We’ll miss you, Betty. Now you know the secret,” actor Ryan Reynolds said in a Dec. 31, 2021 tweet (@vancityreynolds).

Following suit, others — both stars and fans — flooded the social media platform with thousands of messages from across the nation mourning Hollywood legend Betty White’s death and making toasts to her extraordinary life.

Many of these tweets play in a slideshow as the introduction to the special documentary movie “Betty White: A Celebration,” highlighting White’s witty and loving qualities.

The movie released in theaters Jan. 17, her would-be 100th birthday. White passed away less than a



Image printed with permission from Fathom Events

LOTS OF LAUGHS: Mary Tyler Moore (left) and Betty White share a funny moment from a 1970 TV sitcom episode, which was among the clips in a documentary celebrating White’s life.

month before its screening on Dec. 31, 2021 from a stroke on Christmas day.

Filmmakers Steve Boettcher and Michael Trinklein, both of

whom had worked with White in the past, released the film as a way to honor her life and career.

Tear-jerking yet comedic at times, the 100-minute long movie

will warm the heart of anyone who enters the theater.

As audience members leave the theater, they will be sure to take with them new knowledge of

White’s works in the industry and how her presence shaped Hollywood as we know it today.

The film leads viewers through the different stages of her life and career — from the first television series she ever participated in to the 1961 game show “Password,” where she met her late husband Allen Ludden to her endeavors in making it into mainstream media in her 80s.

By highlighting her almost seven decades of television career, the producers gave viewers a sense of White’s versatility and genius in the industry.

Though this film won’t evoke the same excitement as epic movies like “Avengers: Endgame,” frequent — or not-so-frequent — moviegoers can expect to laugh at unexpected moments, cry at White’s pure outlook on the world and look into the life of a pioneer in American television.

UPCOMING VIDEO GAMES

“POKEMON LEGENDS: ARCEUS”

Release date:
Today



“OLLIOLLI WORLD”

Release date:
Feb. 8

“HORIZON FORBIDDEN WEST”

Release date:
Feb. 18



“ELDEN RING”

Release date:
Feb. 22

JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

Are you a gamer? The Accolade wants you to share your Player One experiences as a video game reviewer. If interested, email us at theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com.

Source: Los Angeles Times
Compiled by Andrew Park

‘Book of Boba Fett’ fails to reach level of Star Wars films

ANTHONY KEEM

Staff Reporter

In the original Star Wars trilogy, four short lines of dialogue from bounty hunter Boba Fett would unexpectedly solidify his place as a pop culture icon before Fett would presumably die in the jaws of a Sarlacc, a sand-dwelling whirlpool of teeth.

Now streaming on Disney+, “The Book of Boba Fett,” directed by Jon Favreau (“The Mandalorian”), follows the bounty hunter (Temuera Morrison, “Mosley”) as he fights for power on the desert planet Tatooine.

The first three episodes so far consist of Fett struggling to maintain his power with flashbacks of he survived on Tatooine with a desert tribe called the Tusken Raiders.

Unfortunately, the pilot, “Stranger in a Strange Land,” does not deliver in regards to capturing the audience’s attention.

Marked by its slow pace and rather dull script, the reintroduction of Fett’s character falls short in exuding any sort of charisma or intrigue, failing to make audiences receptive



Image printed with permission from Walt Disney Studios

CHALLENGED: Boba Fett (Temuera Morrison, “Mosley”) and Fennec Shand (Ming-Na Wen, “Pearl”) step out of a tavern before facing an ambush.

to his character.

But by the second episode, “The Tribes of Tatooine,” the series picks up and re-deems its potential with its heavy action and storytelling.

It features the former bounty hunter integrating into the Tusken Raider tribe as he learns how to live with the desert natives.

Fett’s reminiscing on the past mirrors his present day conflicts in theme as he must overcome the challenge of establishing dominion over his new territory, just as he did in the wastelands of Tatooine.

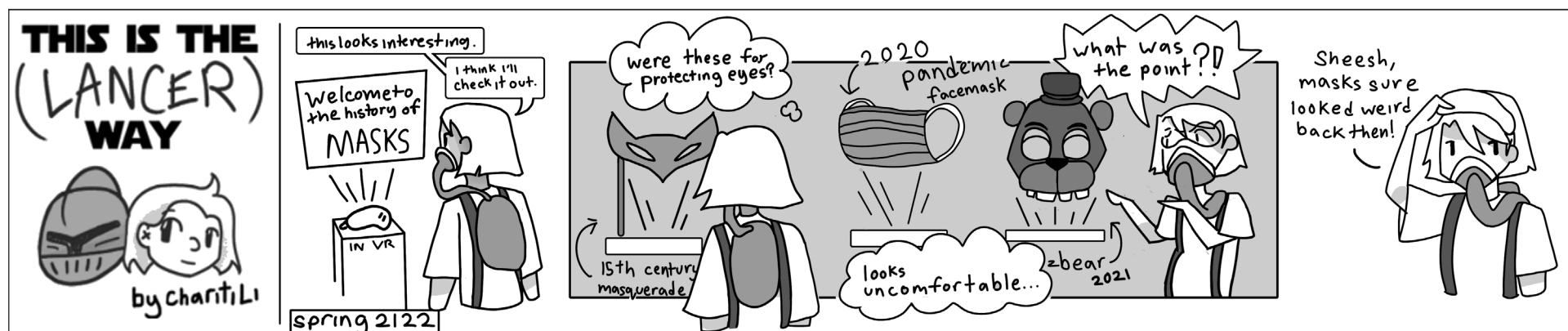
“The Streets of Mos Espa” unfortunately reverts back to the disappointing precedent

set by the first episode.

His reaction to the strewn corpses of his murdered tribe without a single tear shed almost seems to remove his humanity.

Ultimately, this series finally unmasks the mystery behind the almost silent bounty hunter found in the original trilogy to reveal a man struggling to overcome his past and his current environment.

More than four decades have passed since Fett’s first appearance in “The Empire Strikes Back,” which left fans wondering who exactly the mysterious bounty hunter was. With the “Book of Boba Fett,” they might find nothing but disappointment.



What are you most looking forward to at college?



“Living in a pretty location at Monterey County while playing softball.”
- Jessica Kim, 12



“Experiencing an athletic college life and how I’ll be growing up as an adult.”
- Jasmyn Morales, 12



“I’m excited to bond with the team and play together because the girls were so kind when I visited.”
- Jackie Perales, 12

‘UNIVERSITY’ BATTED IN

3 softball seniors commit to play for Cal State Monterey Bay

MINJEONG KIM

Co-Feature Editor

Senior Jackie Perales released a satisfied sigh of relief after verbally committing to California State University, Monterey Bay [CSUMB], a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II school, for softball last fall.

“It felt like a fever dream, and I remembered all the years of softball I’ve played and all the games and practices I’ve been to, just so they can build up to that surreal moment,” said Perales, who plays outfield.

But Perales isn’t the only Lancer making her way to CSUMB. Her friends whom she’s been teammates with for four years — seniors third baseman Jasmyn Morales and catcher Jessica Kim — committed in late August 2020 and December 2021, respectively.

“In the next few years that we spend together at college, I think [our friendship] will grow, and we’ll understand each other like a family even when there are ups and downs,” Kim said.

In July 2020, the CSUMB head softball coach contacted Perales after watching her games through a streaming platform called Athletes Go Live. Since then, she has maintained close contact with CSUMB coach Andrea Kenney and has constantly sent videos of her performance through email, inviting her to major games.

“I wasn’t guaranteed any money for scholarships if I were to commit to other schools such as University of California,



MINJEONG KIM AND SAMANTHA GALANG | theaccolade

FUTURE OTTERS: An artistic rendering of Jackie Perales (left), Jessica Kim and Jasmyn Morales with their varsity jacket of their future college. The Lady Lancers will begin their Freeway League season March 29 against La Habra.

San Diego, and University of California, Santa Barbara, so I stuck with Monterey,” Perales said. “It was all very worth it in the end as I’m also having [Jasmyn and Jessica] to talk and lean my shoulders on.”

In addition to playing softball, Kim has contributed to Sunny Hills’ athletic legacy as a four-year varsity starter for the girls basketball team.

“I had another option, which was Scripps College at Claremont, but I chose to go to Monterey because it was more affordable, and I knew people who were going there,” said Kim, who committed to CSUMB on Dec. 8, 2021, after receiving her recruitment in November.

Unlike the two seniors who were recruited by CSUMB in their senior year, Morales said coaches there expressed interest in her in eighth grade.

“I’m excited that two of my best friends are going with me because I’ll still have family up there with me,” she said.

SoCal Athletics softball coach Dan Weekes, coach of the three athletes’ club where they all play on travel teams together, said the offer his three athletes received was expected by their high performance.

“These three players are expected to make an immediate impact within the softball program,” Weekes said. “Sky is the limit for these three players.”

Omicron forces limit to indoor sports spectators

KATE YANG

Web Managing Editor

Victory chants from the student section echoed across the gym floor. Students dressed in white spirit wear spilled out from the bleachers as the buzzer signaled the end of the fourth quarter — Sunny Hills reigned victorious over Troy High School.

Guard junior Sean Cal jumped from the bench, into the arms of his fellow teammates and soon joined the hundreds of students who cheered him on for the game’s entirety.

“[The fans] make me play better because I just have something to prove to my friends and peers in the stands,” Cal said.

With the Omicron variant causing a surge in positive COVID-19 cases, the Sunny Hills athletic department enforced a state-mandated spectator limit restricting the amount of attendees from 1,000-500 for all indoor winter sports events beginning Jan. 15 while continuing with previous mask and testing regu-

lations.

“Providing kids with the opportunity to experience the atmosphere of a fun and exciting game as long as it keeps them safe and healthy is what we prioritize,” athletic director Paul Jones said. “These are games, times and experiences that students will never get back, so we just need to be smart about handling it.”

Similar to the 2020-2021 protocol — five guests per player — players, coaches, cheerleaders and dancers from both participating schools will now be allowed two guests for each game.

The Jan. 14 girls and boys basketball games against Sonora High School marked the last event with the existing 1,000 fan limit, yet center senior Laila Ahmad does not hold any major concerns over how the reduced audience will affect her team’s performance.

“Having a crowd is not going to make us shoot 100% of our shots,” Ahmad said. “[Our team] plays for ourselves and each other and having people watch us is just a bonus.”

In fact, she agrees with the state’s decision to prioritize the health and safety of players and students, especially as the Omicron variant has swept across the county with high positive cases.

“The rule is not too bad in my opinion, and I personally do not mind it that much,” she said. “I think everyone’s health is more important, because if we stay healthy, we can keep playing, which is what I would rather have than a crowd.”

The spectator limit will remain until the school receives direction from the Orange County Department of Public Health to increase the numbers back to 1,000, Jones said.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has yet to wane, Jones encourages all athletes to prioritize their health and safety.

“Just be smart about wearing your mask and interacting with people. ... Sometimes nobody wants to be that one person wearing their mask because it might not be considered cool at the time, but it might cost you something else,” he said.



KRISTEL LACESTE | theaccolade

KEEP BALLIN’: Point guard junior Chad Nguyen dribbles the ball in front of a sparse crowd as a result of the indoor audience limit at a home game against Buena Park on Wednesday.



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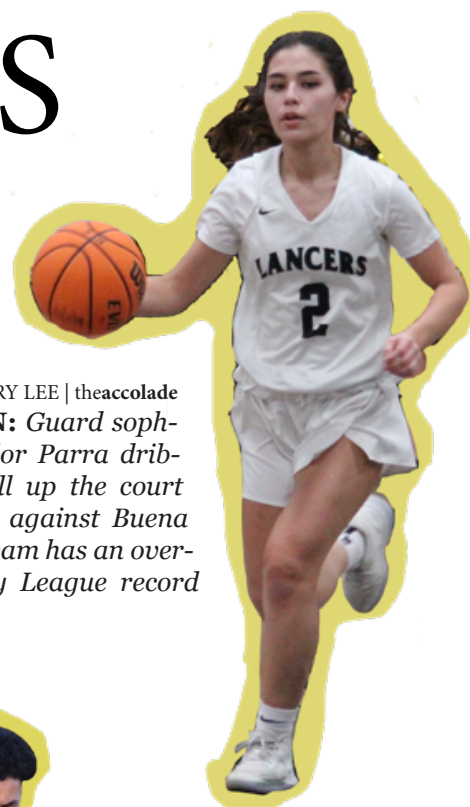
WINTER SPORTS CELEBRATIONS



Image printed with permission from Tiffany Burnside

UPFIELD:

Forward junior Cheyenne Dohan kicks a soccer ball to her teammate Dec. 9 during a non-league match against Costa Mesa High School. The Lady Lancers are ranked fourth in the Freeway League.



HENRY LEE | theaccolade

GET OPEN: Guard sophomore Taylor Parra dribbles the ball up the court Wednesday against Buena Park. The team has an overall Freeway League record of 4-2.



HENRY LEE | theaccolade

PINNED: Wrestler sophomore Christian Yun grapples a Sonora opponent during a Jan. 19 duel meet. Both the boys and girls teams will attend Freeway League Finals Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. at Sonora High School.

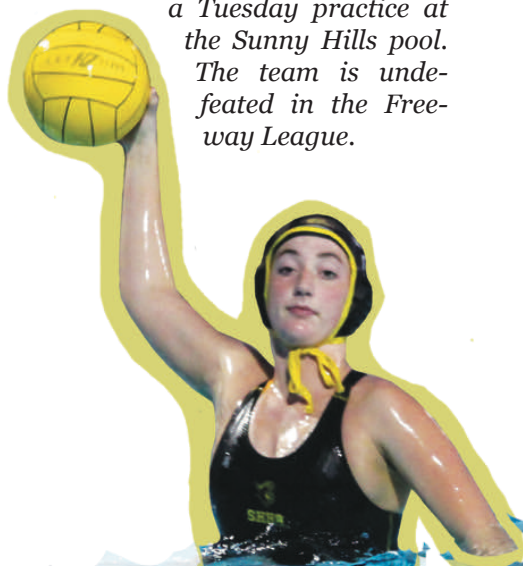


GRACE JOHNSON | theaccolade

FREE KICK: Center back senior Anthony Noria passes the ball during a Jan. 12 home game against Troy. The Lancers remain undefeated as of Thursday.



HENRY LEE | theaccolade
READY TO GO: Utility player junior Sofia Smith prepares to pass to her teammate in a Tuesday practice at the Sunny Hills pool. The team is undefeated in the Freeway League.



HENRY LEE | theaccolade

REFUSE TO LOSE: Boys basketball cheers on its teammates after captain senior Dylan Lawson made a point in the final quarter of the game against Buena Park on Wednesday. Currently, the Lancers have a 5-1 record and are in second place in the Freeway League.



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