

the accolade

VOLUME LXI, ISSUE III // SUNNY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
1801 LANCER WAY, FULLERTON, CA 92833 // FEB. 19, 2021



HANNAH KIM | theaccolade*

BROKEN BOUNDARIES

As the 20th anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month approaches in April, The Accolade investigates the impact of unwanted contact or harassment during the coronavirus pandemic. See pages 2-3.



@sunnyhillsaccolade



@sunnyhillsaccolade



@SunnyHillsAcco



shhsaccolade.com

*Led by *The Accolade's* special sections editor Hannah Kim (center), the rest of the staff joins her in holding out their left hand to show support for victims of sexual assault.

Treating controversial issues in 'fair, ethical manner'

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the content of this article, we strongly encourage you to contact us at theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com. If you wish to report any cases of sexual misconduct, please talk to a trusted adult.

This is a safe school.

As editor-in-chief, I've had the opportunity to speak with our administration frequently, and as a Sunny Hills student, I can attest that sexual misconduct is NOT a rampant problem on campus.



tylerPak
Editor-in-Chief

Nevertheless, it's still a serious issue in our society. In an April 2019 survey, Stop Street Harassment found that 81% of women and 43% of men participating in the study experienced some form of sexual

harassment or assault in their lifetime. Based on these numbers, I think it's fair to say that, statistically, many of my peers will one day have to deal with such misconduct.

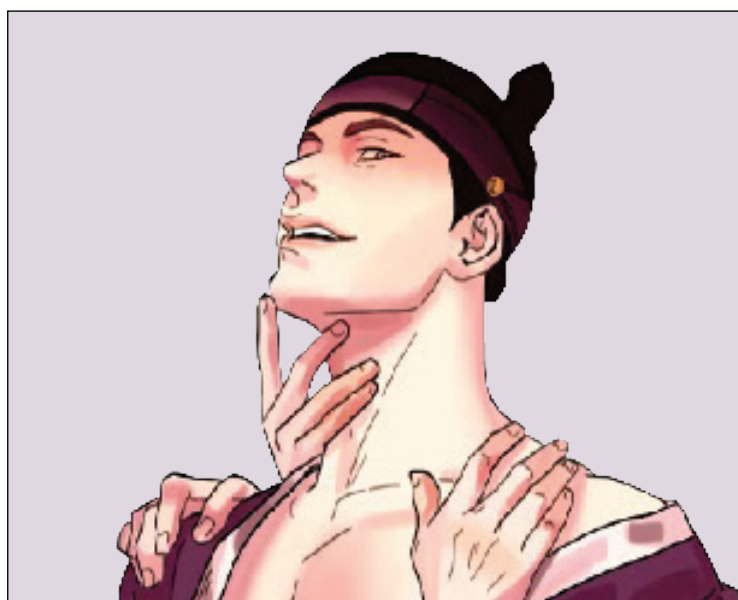
My staff and I also chose this subject matter based on two additional factors: this past summer, the superintendent of the Fullerton Joint Union High School District emailed a notice to all parents and students regarding the "social media conversations regarding negative student experiences in the District ... related to allegations of sexual assault, harassment and other conduct of a sexual nature." Though we waited eight months to report on this topic, we realized that we could tie this in for our first issue of 2021 because Sexual Assault Awareness Month is in less than two months.

My staff and I produce these two special section pages titled "Broken Boundaries" with one goal: to educate our readers about what sexual assault is and how to responsibly report such misconduct.

We could've chosen a "safe" topic to report on such as Valentine's Day, but my staff and I agreed to tackle sexual assault because the district's publications policy gives student journalists the right to decide what goes into our publication so long as we "treat controversial issues in a fair and ethical manner." Additionally, ignoring this would mean failure to abide by another section of the publications policy: "to print news and feature articles dealing with topics of interest to student readers."

Though this is unprecedented, my top editors and I have agreed to include the same message at the beginning of each "Broken Boundaries" article.

I hope when you are done reading these pages, you will agree that we have fulfilled our responsibility to produce content that meets professional standards of journalism.



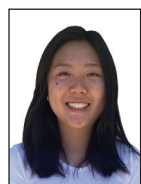
Media overselling illicit content

ERIN LEE | theaccolade

MARKETING INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR: An artist's rendering of the South Korean comic book cover, *Painter of the Night*. The series, which features an artist forced to illustrate erotic scenes, has recently grown in popularity.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the content of this article, we strongly encourage you to contact us at theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com. If you wish to report any cases of sexual misconduct, please talk to a trusted adult.

Internationally renowned South Korean import *Painter of the Night* and 59-time Emmy award winner "Game of Thrones."



rebeccaChoi
Web Managing Editor

Both examples blatantly portray sexual harassment and rape culture. In fact, the key to their success may have been the normalized sexual violence that strangely appeals to various audiences worldwide.

Whether it is creating a plot where a painter is forced to illustrate explicit situations in a historical fiction cartoon, depicting over 50 rape scenes in an acclaimed TV series or releasing songs with obvious misogynistic intent to a



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com/category/special-sections

global fanbase, the entertainment industry glamorizes sexual violence, gathering an immense following for such topics. However, no matter how promising or successful, the media must stop glorifying portrayals of sexual harassment that create an illusion that such obscene acts are acceptable in society.

After some quick research on these media, I came to the conclusion that this type of violent and inappropriate content is exactly the point that has increased its popularity, and that without such depictions, these works would fail economically.

In *Painter of the Night*, the purely historically fictional story set in the Joseon era revolves around the sexually inappropriate situations Baek Na-kyum is caught in when he is forced to paint erotic scenes for noble Yoon Seung-ho, despite Baek's clear reluctance. Although other side plotlines may exist to make for an overall

complexity, the fact that the protagonist is encaged in a sexually violent prison skyrocketed this *manhwa* to the No. 1 spot.

As for "Game of Thrones," the sexual violence combined with the intricate plot caused the show to receive the most Emmys in TV history. The inclusion of such scenes only proves that producers disregard the trauma of real-life victims. Sexual violence may not be the focal point of this series, but it certainly heightened its popularity beyond the typical fantasy story.

It is clear that the absence of such sexual harassment would not have gotten these pieces the notoriety and fame they possess now, which only emphasizes the prevalence and creeping influence of the normalization of sexual violence today. The attention and popularity such content receive only numbs the impact and trauma of sexual assault further and further.

Therefore, I choose to stay away from these influences, and others should as well since that is the only way to prevent the entertainment industry from glamorizing and normalizing sexual trauma.

Center celebrates 20th year of raising awareness about sexual assault issues

HOPE LI

Opinion Editor

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the content of this article, we strongly encourage you to contact us at theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com. If you wish to report any cases of sexual misconduct, please talk to a trusted adult.

October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month features a pink ribbon to remind Americans that this disease is the second leading cause of cancer death in women.

Also in October, AIDS Awareness Month utilizes a red ribbon to draw attention to the more than 30 million people who have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic in 1981.

But not much is known about a teal stripe used to shed light on questionable conduct that has come to the forefront of



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com/category/special-sections

today's front-page news because of the #MeToo movement nearly four years ago.

"Unfortunately, it's not talked about enough, not only in terms of the fact that sexual harassment and assault are prevalent, but that it often impacts people directly," said Laura Palumbo, the communications director for the National Sexual Violence Resource Center [NSVRC], which is recognizing the 20th anniversary of national Sexual Assault Awareness Month [SAAM] in April.

Originally created in 2001 by the NSVRC to educate and raise awareness for sexual misconduct, Sexual Assault Awareness Month will occur virtually like last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The center will offer opportunities to shed light on the issue through its Insta-

gram handle, @nsvrc.

"We'll have an Instagram contest called, 'The 30 Days of SAAM,' which has daily prompts to use your Instagram platform to highlight SAAM and to also raise awareness," Palumbo said.

Upon the mention of the words, "sexual assault," many assume that they're referring to physical violence. But the expression covers a larger scope of misconduct.

Because attempted rape and rape involve attempted or unwanted physical contact, the act falls under sexual assault. Sexual harassment, though, may include sexual assault.

"Often times the words, 'sexual harassment' specifically refer to things like verbal harassment as well as harassment based on someone's gender identity or sexual orientation," she said. "But sexual harassment can certainly include unwanted touch and can escalate to a physical assault in a sexual assault."

SUPERINTENDENT WEIGHS IN

District head responds to students' online sexual assault allegations, petitions for change

NEVYA PATEL

Asst. Business Manager

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the content of this article, we strongly encourage you to contact us at theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com. If you wish to report any cases of sexual misconduct, please talk to a trusted adult.

For many students who checked their school emails during the summer, this announcement from the superintendent of the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHS] did not come as a surprise.

Emailed July 1 at 1:51 p.m. via Aeries communication, FJUHS superintendent Scott Scambray's two-paragraph statement addressed to "Students, Parents/Guardians" on June 30 went straight to the point:

"The Fullerton Joint Union High School District is aware of two petitions circulating and social media conversations regarding negative student experiences in the District, and in particular related to allegations of sexual assault, harassment and other conduct of a sexual nature. The

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians:

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District is aware of two petitions circulating and social media conversations regarding negative student experiences in the District, and in particular related to allegations of sexual assault, harassment, and other conduct of a sexual nature. The District takes all complaints received seriously.

The District is actively reviewing the information posted in the petitions and on social media to take appropriate steps. The District requests that any current and former students who believe they have been subjected to conduct or misconduct of a sexual nature and such conduct relates to school to contact their site principal (see below) to discuss the allegations so the District may move forward with an investigation.

Sincerely,

Scott Scambray, Ed.D.
Superintendent

FORMAL RESPONSE: Superintendent Scott Scambray's digital notice to the community dated June 30, addressing the "negative student experiences in the District."

District takes all complaints received seriously."

It ends with the following plea:

"The District is actively reviewing the information posted in the petitions and on social media to take appropriate steps. The District requests that any current and former students who believe they have been subjected to conduct or misconduct of a sexual nature and such conduct relates to school to

contact their site principal."

Since that statement, no subsequent emails have been sent to provide any updates to students, parents or guardians.

The *Accolade* has reached out to SH school officials to determine if any such investigations had occurred regarding students enrolled on this campus, and after the staff's top editors met with administrators, it was agreed that

SUMMER OF SOLIDARITY: A CHRONOLOGY

- June 25: a female student claiming to be from the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHS] posts the first summer sexual harassment allegation on Instagram; it gained traction within hours.

- Within a few days, many others claiming to be alumni from the FJUHS or students begin sharing their own experiences with sexual misconduct on Instagram.

- June 28: six claiming to be from the FJUHS create a [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition seeking a response from district officials about the sexual assault allegations.

- June 30: superintendent Scott Scambray sends an email response to all FJUHS students, parents and guardians addressing the issue.

involved minors.

Nevertheless, assistant principal Hilda Arredondo — the administrator who usually works with local authorities to investigate allegations concerning what the superintendent had described as "conduct or misconduct of a sexual nature" — offers advice to anyone dealing with sexual harassment or assault or any type of bullying or cyberbullying.

"I would advise students that face any type of harassment to not engage in a verbal [or] written altercation," Arredondo said. "Students should report the incident and not continue communication with the individual."

Many students said they had expected school or district officials to weigh in on the social media buzz.

"I am glad that the district was able to put up a 'face' and act as they care because I think that is a feat in itself," junior Donghyun Kim said. "[Nevertheless], my reaction to the superintendent's email was pretty lukewarm, and I was not all that impressed."



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com/category/special-sections

Social media not best outlet to report sexual misconduct

KATE YANG

Asst. Feature Editor

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the content of this article, we strongly encourage you to contact us at theaccoladeshhs@gmail.com. If you wish to report any cases of sexual misconduct, please talk to a trusted adult.

More than 60% of all sexual assaults — attacks or attempted attacks aimed toward unwanted sexual contact — are not reported to authorities, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics from 2002.

Assistant principal Hilda Arredondo wants to ensure that students know what to do if they ever become a victim of such misconduct.

"I think the fear of reporting it and not knowing who to report it to may contribute to students not knowing what to do," said Arredondo, who investigates such reports and educates students about



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com/category/special-sections

this issue.

Aside from the public service posters plastered inside classrooms and offices on campus, students can find the protocols for how to report incidents of harassment and discrimination under the Safe Schools Policy located in the Sunny Hills Student Handbook, which is available on the school website.

Though the protocol is also posted on the Fullerton Joint Union High School District website, Arredondo urges students who feel they may have been victims to report cases of sexual assault, misconduct, harassment or abuse to any adult or school employee as soon as possible.

"All staff members are mandated reporters and must come to inform an administrator after hearing of an incident from a student," she said. "From there, I work with the Fullerton police's school resource officer to speak

with the student and witnesses and then begin investigating with my admin team and director at the district."

Sophomore Sierra Chavez, who has never had an encounter with sexual misconduct on or off campus, is confident that she knows about the protocols she would follow if anything inappropriate happened to her.

"My parents and I speak very openly and honestly about this subject matter," she said. "Because of that, I'm confident that I would be able to easily overcome the situation with their guidance."

Principal Allen Whitten is aware of the peer pressure that some students may face to remain silent or post their frustrations on social media, but he still encourages all to speak to a trusted adult.

"Our goal is a harassment-free environment where students can enjoy learning and focus on school," he said. "Sunny Hills will continue to do all we can to protect and support our students and address harassment [or assault] claims head on."

STEPS TO TAKE WHEN BOUNDARIES ARE CROSSED

1. REPORT

- by email, phone or the STOPit app
- to any trusted adult
- to the Fullerton Police Department

2. DISCUSS

- Email a written statement of what happened to assistant principal Hilda Arredondo: harredondo@fjuhsd.org.
- Fullerton Police's school resource officer [SRO] determines whether the allegation constitutes an action of sexual misconduct or a crime.

3. GATHER EVIDENCE

- Arredondo or the SRO asks questions to find credible witnesses.
- Investigators collect any kind of communication as evidence.

4. CONSEQUENCES

- Arredondo contacts her supervisors (the principal, district officials) to determine an appropriate consequence.
- If the investigation finds a criminal act occurred, the SRO contacts his sergeant to determine a consequence.

"consent"
n. positive co-operation to an exercise of free will

Giving consent involves acting freely and voluntarily with knowledge of the nature of the act or transaction involved.

Age of consent in California: 18

"sexual misconduct"
n. any unwanted sexual behavior (including harassment and misconduct) occurring without explicit consent

Sources: California Legislative Information website, U.S. Justice Dept. website, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, page 36 of the Sunny Hills High School student handbook, Title IX
Compiled by Hope Li

Superintendent announces plan to retire after six years of service

MICHELLE SHEEN

Copy Editor

After six years of leading the Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHSD] as superintendent, Scott Scambray has announced through an email sent to teachers and parents of students that he will be retiring on June 30.



Scott Scambray

"I'm excited and scared at the same time — it's just going to be a new chapter in my life," Scambray said. "I have been an educator for 36 years and a superintendent for 13 of those years, so I felt it was time to move on to the next phase of my life."

Scambray, who was hired to start his position in the FJUHSD on July 1, 2015, announced his retirement on Jan. 21.

For what Scambray has planned after his last day working for the FJUHSD, he shared the following activities:

"Golf, traveling in the U.S.,



Image printed with permission from Scott Scambray

NEW TECHNOLOGY: FJUHSD superintendent Scott Scambray (right) watches as students receive their chromebooks in the Sunny Hills Lyceum on Jan. 5, 2017. Scambray spearheaded the district's transition to provide each student with a device to serve as an electronic textbook.

traveling to Boston to watch my [youngest] daughter play volleyball in college."

Before his six years at the FJUHSD, Scambray started his career in Fresno as a math teacher at Hoover High School and football and basketball coach at Bullard High School for nine years. He also took on the roles

as assistant principal at Rancho Verde High School, principal at Moreno Valley High School and assistant superintendent at the Val Verde Unified School District, all of which are located in Moreno Valley.

Finally, he became superintendent at the Merced Union High School District in Central Cali-

fornia before getting hired to lead the FJUHSD.

Scambray brought about changes to the district that students, teachers and administrators agree have been beneficial.

Scambray's most notable action as the district's leader was when he proposed that the FJUHSD introduce chromebooks

to students and teachers. The first FJUHSD campus to start implementing a 1-to-1 ratio of chromebooks to students was Buena Park High School in September 2016 with Sunny Hills following in January of the following year.

"He stepped up and said we could do it, and we found the money, and I think because of that, we were a lot better positioned than a lot of high school districts when the [corona]virus hit," FJUHSD board president Marilyn Buchi said.

Advanced Placement Chemistry teacher Andrew Colomac agreed that the plan to give each student a device to use at school and at home was the superintendent's most significant contribution.

"It was almost like he was seeing into the future because he was the one responsible for pushing chromebooks to all the schools," Colomac said. "Because of that, he really paved the way for us to survive during the pandemic."

Sunny Hills senior Jenna Beining, who is halfway through her term as the student board

Retiring >> Page 6

Art teacher, IB coordinator earns Yale Educator Award

DIVYA BHARADWAJ

Staff Reporter

It was a month into the 2020-2021 school year — one that started with Sunny Hills students learning from home again like March when the COVID-19 pandemic first broke out.

Art teacher and International Baccalaureate [IB] coordinator Brian Wall recalls getting a text message from one of his former IB students, Cecilia Lee, who's in her first year at Yale University.

"Cecilia ... asked if I got something from Yale," Wall said. "I thought she was contacting me that [Yale] needed some information about her."

What Wall eventually found out from opening and reading an email dated Sept. 1 was not something that Lee needed from him, but what the Yale freshman has given back to her IB counselor.

"Congratulations! We are pleased to announce that you have been selected as a recipient of the 2020 Yale Educator Award," the Yale admissions email read. "This award, sponsored by the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions, recognizes teachers and counselors from around the world who inspire and support their students to

perform at high levels and to achieve excellence."

Wall does not believe that what he does is driven by awards and finds that his interactions with students every day bring him fulfillment.

"Being able to serve as a guide and mentor through high school and play a part in laying the foundation for students' futures beyond high school is a responsibility I look forward to and take pride in," Wall said.

Lee, a 2020 graduate and a molecular, cellular and developmental biology major, said she first learned of the opportunity to nominate Wall upon receiving her letter of acceptance to the Ivy League school.

Because of the working relationship she had with Wall, Lee said she was able to enjoy high school despite all of the struggles she faced, such as with her classes, her college applications and IB Council.

"He is a very kind and empathetic person," she said. "I used to be much more cynical and unhappy until I got to know Mr. Wall and his genuine passion for students' growth and success."

For the 2020-2021 school year, 317 people were nominated to receive Yale's award, according to Yale's admissions



AALIYAH MAGANA | theaccolade

IVY LEAGUE RECOGNITION: International Baccalaureate coordinator Brian Wall holds up the 2020 Yale Educator Award outside of his classroom.

website. But only a quarter — 57 teachers and 24 counselors — got the engraved clear plaque.

Principal Allen Whitten said he was notified of Wall's achievement from an email sent by the Yale Admissions Office in September.

"It's no surprise to me that he was recognized as an exceptional Yale Educator," he said. "He is one of those awesome teachers that makes a huge impact in a lot of kids' lives, and it's really nice to see him

being recognized for that."

Though receiving such acclaim from an Ivy League admissions program is an honor, Wall said he plans to maintain his focus on his instruction and his students.

"I am passionate about art and feel so fortunate that I get to share it every day," Wall said. "Sunny Hills really is a dream place to work -- we have the best students and parents, I work with amazing colleagues that I look up to, and we are supported at the school and district level."

Majority of students opt for taking AP tests online

YEIHN LEE

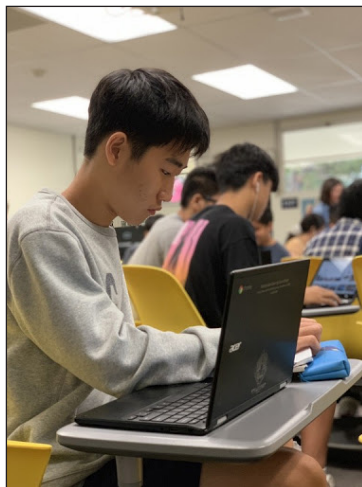
Staff Reporter

Upon finding out that College Board will offer students online and on-campus testing options for the 2021 Advanced Placement [AP] exams in May, many students are leaning toward taking them from home.

"As a freshman who's only experienced taking an AP class online, I feel as if giving the choice to those taking AP classes of whether or not to take the exams at home or on campus would be appropriate for our situation," said freshman Denise Gabrielle Bravo, who is enrolled in AP Human Geography. "With everything online this year, learning has not been as efficient or intensive as before, causing distance learning to be more lenient, so it is pretty reasonable that we are given this choice."

College Board's website, for example, mentions that the AP English Language and Composition exam will be offered on paper in early May and as a digital exam in late May and early June.

Junior Daniel Vargas, who currently takes AP Biology and AP English Language and Composition, applauds College Board's decision to make adjustments once again to how it traditionally gives out its exams.



ANDREW NGO | theaccolade

JOT IT DOWN: Then-junior Yeadam Kim takes notes in his IB English Higher Level class on Sept. 24, 2019.

"I do like that College Board is giving the option," said Vargas, who prefers that Sunny Hills makes it mandatory for all who have paid for the tests to take them at home.

Assistant principal Sarah Murrietta said school officials are working on finalizing an email that will review what College Board has already announced.

No date has been determined as of Friday for when parents need to inform school officials about their decision for what type of format parents would prefer, Murrietta said.

AP English Language and

Composition teacher Randy Oudega disagreed with Vargas' perspective.

"Some schools are making the decision and all students are doing the same thing, and some school students get to make a choice," Oudega said. "I think either way we're going to make sure you're prepared and make sure you're going to succeed."

AP Biology teacher Kelly Kim also agrees with College Board's options given what's happening with the coronavirus pandemic.

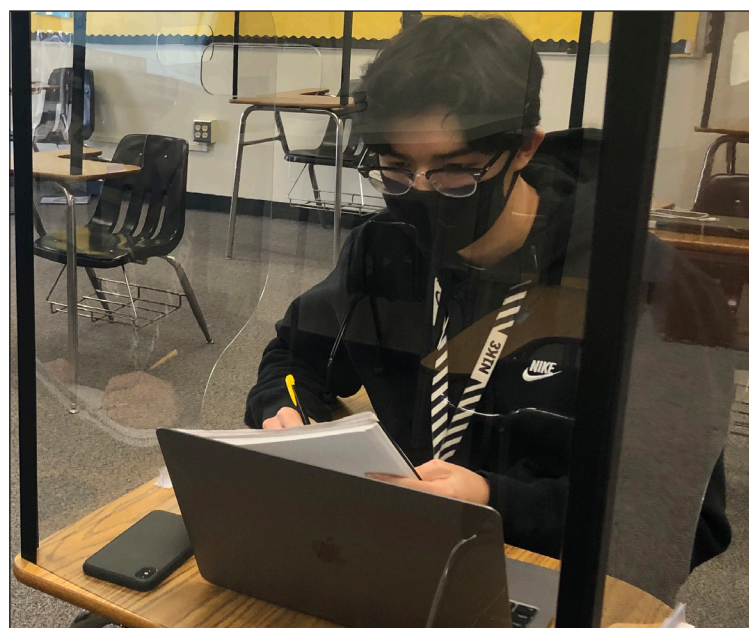
"Things are very different right now in many ways, so if students feel safer taking it at home, then I think it's great that they are giving that option," Kim said.

Freshman Aaron Sagum, who is enrolled in AP Human Geography, already decided to take the exam on campus.

"I'm actually glad that there is an option to actually take the test on campus because I have heard a lot of horror stories about connection issues affecting those taking the test, so I was happy to hear that," Sagum said.

According to the email Kim said she received from College Board on Dec. 18 that "2021 AP Exams will cover the full scope of course content and skills."

Sophomore Robyn Shin, who is in an AP Psychology class, took the AP Human Geography exam



HANNAH KIM | theaccolade

CLASS IS IN SESSION: Senior Caleb Wong (above) works on math homework for his fourth period AP Calculus BC class on Thursday, Cohort A's first day back for in-person learning. On the same day, social science teacher Robert Bradburn (below) teaches his AP Human Geography class with four students attending in-person. Many of these students will have to decide which format they would like to take the AP exams they've signed up for: an online or paper and pencil version.



GRACE JOHNSON | theaccolade

online in May.

"I think [the test format] is relatively fair," Shin said. "Last year, no one expected a pandem-

ic to occur, so it wouldn't have been fair, but we've known it for a while now, so I think it is justified."

Dance teacher, guidance technician voted employee of the year

LAUREN JUNG

Asst. Copy Editor

Principal Allen Whitten held a ceremony at the quad Thursday during break in honor of the 2020-2021 employees of the year — dance teacher and Dance Production coach Leiana Volen and guidance technician Evelyn Casillas.

"Our staff has selected an outstanding teacher, coach and Lancer — the extremely talented, caring and devoted dance teacher, Dance Production coach and cheer adviser, Leiana Volen," Whitten announced at the podium with Volen to his left, sitting on top of the giant-sized "H" in the quad and remaining six feet away to abide by the campus' COVID-19 health and safety protocol.

The principal then continued by reading out loud some of the statements made about Volen from those who nominated her (the employees of the year nominations are anonymous).

"She is an exceptional role model to her dancers, super organized, leads a top performing and award-winning program, develops quality lessons, supports the entire Sunny Hills community and is a caring and



HANNAH KIM | theaccolade

CONGRATULATIONS: Keeping with the campus' health and safety protocol of remaining six feet apart, principal Allen Whitten (center) leads a ceremony Thursday during break announcing Sunny Hills' employees of the year.

supportive colleague," he said in front of a group of 20-30 students, teachers and staff.

Before recognizing Volen, Whitten introduced the classified — or office/custodial — employee of the year, Casillas, who was seated six feet away to his right on top of the giant "S."

"Evelyn is a great representative of Sunny Hills and the Fullerton Joint Union

High School District. Her devotion to what she does is never-ending," he said in reading out loud the nomination comments about her. "She goes out of her way for students and parents."

"Many parents ask for Evelyn by name, and she makes a point of building trust with families from the moment they meet."

Whitten organized the nearly two-min-

ute ceremony the same week that the school returned to live classroom instruction with around 300 students coming to campus. Besides giving each of the award-winners a bouquet of yellow flowers.

Before Thursday, Whitten had prepared a small, surprise event Jan. 29 for Volen and Casillas inside the gym with a Sunny Hills-labeled backdrop to present them with their awards and give each flowers and a chance to have their photos taken.

"It was pretty sad because we didn't get to meet together as a faculty, but I really appreciated the gesture," Volen said. "It was very sweet."

The process for nominations and selections stayed the same as faculty and staff were notified via email that they could nominate any faculty member and staff.

"I felt so excited, proud and honored just to know that my colleagues felt like I should be the one to be selected for the award this year," Volen said. "I felt very honored and so special."

Casillas said she also felt a sense of validation from receiving the honor.

Employee awards >> Page 6

Senior class president organizes off-campus Senior Sunrise event

ANTHONY KEEM

Staff Reporter

With the first traditional senior event of the 2020-2021 school year — Senior Sunrise — getting the ax because of the coronavirus pandemic, some students are working on a free, alternative non-Sunny Hills sponsored gathering to be held off-campus next month before the start of classes.

Traditionally, the fall semester get together — organized by the Associated Student Body's [ASB] senior class cabinet and its senior class adviser, English teacher Christina Zubko — gives 12th-graders the opportunity to come to the school's quad early in the morning before zero period around 5 a.m.

"Our school is taking direction from the Orange County Department of Education and their safety plan, and now our school can't do [Senior Sunrise] on campus," said Zubko, who is aware of students' attempts to hold a similar event off-campus on their own.

Because of this information Zubko received in March, four seniors who also happen to be in the ASB senior class cabinet are spearheading the organization of



theaccolade file photo

ENJOYING THE SHOW: Class of 2014 students react to the movie they were watching in the Sunny Hills quad during the Oct. 3 Senior Sunrise. The Class of 2021 will be the first since then to not be able to have one because of the coronavirus pandemic. Some seniors, however, are working on organizing an off-campus gathering in Brea that's not school sponsored in March.

an independent drive-in get-together on the roof of a downtown Brea parking structure at 375 West Birch St. on an undecided Friday in March, said Emma Suh, who's also the ASB's senior class president.

The senior said school officials have allowed for her and her ASB members to unofficially host and

advertise the event so long as it is clarified that the Sunny Hills administration has no affiliation with it.

So far, Suh said she has contacted property owners around Brea's parking structure as the prime location where she plans to bring a video projector to show a movie.

"It won't be the same as having a giant jumbotron, but at least it'll be something," she said. "It's a good chance to talk to each other."

Despite this being a non-school-sponsored event, Suh said COVID-19-related health and safety precautions would be enforced such as temperature checks

with handheld infrared thermometers, mask requirements, social distancing regulations and recommendations that students stay in their cars.

ASB co-adviser Mike Paris, who found out about Suh's plans in September, did not disapprove of the senior class president's actions.

"The most important part of this would be that people understand it is not a school event," Paris said.

Some seniors say they're willing to convince their parents to allow them to attend a rooftop gathering.

"Even though it would be an event where everyone is in their cars, it's still a way to socialize with others in a safe way," senior Ray Hong said.

Other seniors are more reluctant about asking for their parents' permission to attend.

"The idea sounds nice, but isn't the pandemic still a thing?" asked senior Jessica Garcia, who only found out about Suh's plans for the first time through *The Accolade*. "I'm indifferent about [attending], but my parents are pretty worried about catching the virus, so they might not allow it."

FROM PAGE 5

EMPLOYEE AWARDS

"I was a little surprised at first in a good way, and I was happy to be recognized during this really weird time we're going through as someone who people can rely on and trust," she said.

Junior David Burn, said she exhibits a good balance between pushing her students and letting them know she's there for them in any circumstance.

"Mrs. Volen has the special ability to make true connections with her students that I don't see often with teachers," Burn said.

Casillas, who has been with the Fullerton Joint Union High School District for 21 years and at Sunny Hills for seven, said she treats those around her with kindness and love, she said.

"Sunny Hills is my second home, and I look at a lot of the families and students like they're my own," she said.

Her openness and availability mean Casillas has also been part of many students' high school



Image printed with permission from Allen Whitten

CELEBRATION TIME: Dance teacher Leiana Volen (left) and guidance technician Evelyn Casillas hold bouquets inside the Sunny Hills gym where principal Allen Whitten surprised them on Jan. 29 with the announcement that each has received the most votes from faculty and staff for employee of the year.

experiences even though she doesn't hold a teaching credential.

Junior Marian Abawi said she contacted Casillas at the beginning of the semester because she felt confused about how college tours would work this year, given the COVID-19-related circumstances.

"She was super nice and responded very quickly with all the

information I needed," Abawi said.

After the event at the gym, Whitten sent an email to the staff on the same day, announcing the winners of these awards and sharing the pictures taken at the backdrop.

"These two embody the Lancer spirit of going above and beyond for our community and are truly great Lancers," Whitten

FROM PAGE 4

RETIRING

member, had fond thoughts of Scambray.

"In his five years here, he transformed our district and improved our high school experience in so many ways," Beijing said.

So while many people in the FJUHS will miss Scambray, the school board hopes to find a leader who will fulfill the superintendent position as Scambray had.

Superintendent candidate interviews will be scheduled for May with the hope that the new district head will start his or her term on July 1, Buchi said.

Many students are familiar with the superintendent because his three daughters either have graduated from or still attend an FJUHS high school (the first two have graduated from Sunny Hills, while the youngest had attended Sunny Hills the first two years before transferring as a junior to Sonora, where she will be graduating in May).

Victoria Scambray could not

be reached for comment, but those who knew her while she attended Sunny Hills noticed that she was discreet about her being related to the superintendent.

"At first I didn't know she was the superintendent's daughter," senior Riley Godfrey said. "She didn't usually tell anyone, but it seemed like everyone already knew. ... She was a pretty good friend."

While last year's in-person graduation at all FJUHS campuses got canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, Scambray is hopeful that he'll be able to celebrate his last daughter's graduation from Sonora.

"I have not given up on the idea of having in-person graduations," he said. "COVID [positive] numbers are declining so there is still the possibility."

Like the students, teachers and administrators, Scambray said he will miss being superintendent but would like to offer this farewell message:

"There are so many great things that go on every day and on every campus here in the district," he said. "Keep up the good work."

STAFF EDITORIAL



ALIYAH AHMAD | theaccolade

TO RUN OR NOT TO RUN?: Several athletes in the cross country program chose not to show up to the first meet of the season Feb. 3, citing COVID-19 health and safety concerns. But Sunny Hills had enough for the boys varsity level to complete, defeating Buena Park High School.

Real wins lie in our athletes' health

The *Accolade* editorial board unanimously agreed to respect a player's decision to not participate in a sports event because of COVID-19 concerns.

With over three months left before the end of the 2020-2021 school year, we had our first sporting event Feb. 3 as the California Interscholastic Federation worked with state health officials to allow boys and girls cross country runners to begin their season, which normally begins in the fall semester.

While we're glad our boys varsity team defeated the Coyotes, it's disheartening that all other levels of competition had to forfeit because we couldn't field enough runners.

Cross country head coach Jacob Holloway said many of his athletes opted out of competing because of COVID-19 concerns; as of Feb. 3, Orange County had 258,000 positive cases and 3,617 COVID-19-related deaths.

With these statistics challenging normalcy

and posing hazardous threats to our health, the Editorial Board unanimously supported players' coronavirus-related decisions to stay home Feb. 3, rather than competing for the sake of commitment.

Commitment to a high school sport — while respectable — no longer has merit if a student athlete's life is at risk after contracting COVID-19 from a sports meet.

Athletes especially should be cautious of a virus infamous for attacking the respiratory system. If a player tested positive for the coronavirus after participating in a sports event in the name of commitment, not only would they suffer as they recover, but may have long-lasting lung damage that will adversely affect their athletic performance in the future.

It'd also be hypocritical of us to criticize those who stayed home since only five of our 44 *Accolade* staffers chose to return to campus when hybrid learning started again Tuesday.

Even if more sports events returned, the possibility of teams lacking players for games creates a grim, post-apocalyptic feel at mimicking normalcy where none exists.

While some board members felt hopeful for the future of athletic events amid COVID-19, the majority expressed indifference and numbness from the dragged on pandemic.

Although many of us see the end-of-the-semester finish line ahead, our school spirit has definitely taken a hit, and we find ourselves limping, not joyfully sprinting, toward the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

The Accolade editorial board is made up of the top editors and section editors on 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.

COVID-19 vaccine worth a shot for me

After a customary Friday night dinner with my aunt, who has been a nurse practitioner for over five years, my family members gathered around her living room and began talking.

"I'm getting the vaccine on Tuesday," my aunt began.

My younger, eighth-grade brother and I made eye contact with each other and glanced back at her.

Everyone seemed to share the same sentiment — we were all nervous and anxious for her as she would be the first one in our family to take the vaccine.

However, my aunt, Sarita Shivakoti, was confident in the chemists at Moderna, the company which manufactured the two injections of the vaccine she would take starting Dec. 29.

Although the Federal Drug Administration approved the inoculation on Dec. 18, my head filled with worried thoughts:

What if she has a sudden allergic reaction?

I heard some people on the

news got COVID-19 after being vaccinated — what if she'll get the virus too?

What if she gets the virus, then passes it to others?

Of course, we had all gotten vaccines before from the tetanus vaccine required by the California immunization laws for students to receive before attending public schools to our annual flu shot.

But this time around, the situation seemed different.

It wasn't just a cold; it was a virus that had killed over 443,000 and plagued over 26.4 million Americans, according to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] as of Feb. 2.

After her first injection, my family went back to her house for yet another Friday night



kristimaAryal
Sports Editor

dinner.

I scanned her body for any symptoms and luckily didn't see any signs of fatigue, fever or chills — all side effects listed by the CDC.

While she shared later on that she experienced some mild chills and soreness around her left arm, where she received her first shot, she said that it did not hinder her work in any major form.

All my family's doubts seemed to roll away.

The California government website states that the plan is to vaccinate all counties by the summer and, hopefully, we will all be waiting in line to take the vaccine when the time comes.

After seeing my aunt's first-hand experience with the new vaccine, I suggest that those currently eligible to take it for the health of not only themselves but for their family and the people in their country.

Knowing my aunt's experience with the vaccine, I'm confident enough to give it a shot too.



Image printed with permission from Sarita Shivakoti

MY SHOT: Nurse practitioner Sarita Shivakoti prepares to inject an eligible patient with Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine Jan. 24 at Soka University in Aliso Viejo.

the accolade

Editor-in-Chief
Tyler Pak

Managing Editor
Elijah Jhee

Web Editor-in-Chief
Andrew Ngo

Web Managing Editors
Annie Bang
Rebecca Choi

Special Sections Editor
Hannah Kim

News Editor
Aaliyah Magana

Assistant News Editor
Alice Shin

Opinion Editor
Hope Li

Feature Editor
Charis Lee

Assistant Feature Editor
Kate Yang

Entertainment Editor
Hanna Oltman

Sports Editor
Kristima Aryal

Assistant Sports Editor
Grace Johnson

Copy Editor
Michelle Sheen

Assistant Copy Editor
Lauren Jung

Business Manager
Umbert Caseres

Assistant Business Managers
Daniel Kong
Nevya Patel

Photo Editor
Brianna Zafra

Graphics Editor
Erin Lee

Online Graphics Editor
Karen Lee

Page Editors
Krishna Thaker

Staff Reporters
Divya Bharadwaj
Dominique Chang
Hanna Jung
Anthony Keem
Minjeong Kim
Alice Lee
Henry Lee
Yeihn Lee
Esther Oh
Andrew Park
Sydney Tallant
Krishna Thaker
Rachel Yun
Rida Zar

Illustrators
Jacqueline Chang
Ngan Dang
Andrew (JungHyun) Lee

Photographers
Aliyah Ahmad
Kristel Laceste
Audrey Seo

Web Videographer
Sylvester Seo

Social Media Managers
Isaac Choi
Gianne Veluz

Adviser
Tommy Li

Unless specifically stated, advertisements in *The Accolade* are inserted by commercial ventures solely for informational purposes and not by Sunny Hills High School. *The Accolade* will not print advertisements that violate school regulations or U.S. laws.

The Accolade is produced by the Advanced Journalism class of Sunny Hills High School (714) 626-4225 Copyright 2021

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this issue was created as a PDF file posted on the school website, sunnyhills.net, and *The Accolade's* online news website, shhsaccolade.com.

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.

HEAD TO HEAD

LICENSING ISSUES

Inspired by Olivia Rodrigo's "Drivers License" song, Accolade staffers Alice (Lee) and Alice (Shin) debate over the merits of when's the best time to legally drive — a common American teenage rite of passage

JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

I have the drive to drive

*I got my driver's license last week
Just like we always talked about
'Cause you were so excited for me
To finally drive up to your house*

"Drivers License," singer Olivia Rodrigo's debut Jan. 8 single, brought much attention to the reputed love triangle the song refers to.

I first found the song as I was browsing through my Apple Music recommended playlist soon after the track was released. Later, I heard from my friends that Rodrigo apparently referred to her ex-boyfriend, Joshua Bassett, and his rumored relationship with Sabrina Carpenter, in the lyrics.

However, I found myself thinking about my own driver's license, and although I haven't gotten it yet, I'm excited to earn the privilege this summer.

At first, my dad was worried about me driving at 17 years old, but earning the privilege to drive will remove one of my greatest inconveniences of needing a ride to go to places, so I proceeded to persuade him and succeeded in doing so.

Since I am under 18 years old and need a certificate to take a permit test, I first took an online driver's education course for a month. Then, after some

delays from the pandemic, I took my permit test on July 14 and thankfully passed. When I started my first driving lesson on July 21, I saw that my habits behind the wheel surprisingly reflected my conservative personality, such as not running yellow signals.

After more driving practice, I plan on taking the license test during the summer.

Unfortunately, I can't drive other people besides my family members for at least six months after I get my license. Although I'm tempted to do so, I would prefer not to because if an accident happened, I would have to take responsibility for the consequences; though they were sad when I told them, they understood and agreed with my decision for safety reasons.

Perhaps I should direct my gal pals to watch some YouTube videos featuring the kinds of car crashes that I watched while getting ready to take my permit test.



aliceShin
Asst. News Editor



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com/category/opinion

Yellow light means wait

*Red lights, stop signs
I still see your face in
the white cars, front yards
Can't drive past the
places we used to go to*

These lyrics from Olivia Rodrigo's new hit single, "Drivers License," which currently ranks No.

1 on the Billboard Chart as of the second week of February 2020, reminds me of my current decision to wait until I'm 18 to obtain my permit and driver's license.

During a mundane car ride home last October, my younger brother — a freshman at Sunny Hills — asked my mom, "Can Alice get her driver's license yet? Her 16th birthday is tomorrow."

"She is not allowed to get her license because she needs to prioritize her SAT score, her college application and the five Advanced Placement tests in May," my mom explained.

At first, her unreasonable argument frustrated me because she only thought of my academics above everything else.

Just thinking about doing activities with my own car felt sweet and tempting; however, after a couple hours of mulling over my mom's points, I agreed with

my mom about the need to prioritize my academics.

While obtaining my license can be done at any age after 16, writing college applications and preparing for my AP exams and the SAT will most likely raise my chances of getting into my dream school, Boston College, located in bustling Chestnut Hill, Mass., with other colleges near.

Although a college education doesn't guarantee success, studying at a higher institution of learning increases the chances dramatically.

"On average, a college graduate with a bachelor's degree will earn roughly 66% more than someone with only a high school diploma," learningmind.com said.

In the future, when I eventually earn my license, I'll start small with my first car, such as my dad's current vehicle, a 2021 Toyota Camry.

But 15 years later, I hope to save enough money from the successful career I would have attained to purchase my first electric car — the latest version of the Tesla Model X.



For the full story, go to shhsaccolade.com/category/opinion

Letters to the editor

Reader response to the Dec. 14 special section recapping the election:

Krishna Thaker's article, "Get rid of the Electoral College," was informative and laid out arguments efficiently.

It did a great job at making people aware of the problems that we have in the voting system and presented many examples of past failures that were caused because of it.

Additionally, I enjoyed that the story was able to point out alternatives to the Electoral College. Revealing the problems in our current system was enlightening, but to learn that we have ways to improve it inspired me to see a brighter future, especially in our current political situation.

— Amber Lee, freshman

The article written by Daniel Kong was heartbreaking since he was so assiduous

for David Ryu's election campaign, but in the end, Ryu lost the reelection. He devoted his entire summer to Ryu's campaign.

I don't think his experience would've been a "waste of summer" since the writer has an interest in politics and involved himself in a very practical experience to gain more experience and knowledge about it.

I liked how he involved emotions to heighten suspense for readers and further interest us to read more. In the end, he shared his passion for politics and said he didn't regret his decision.

— Chirag Agarwal, sophomore

Reader response to other sections in the Dec. 14 issue:

For Katie Lee's article, "Grad Nite canceled again at Disneyland," I agree with senior Amaya Mitchell about the safety of

the students and potentially their families.

Just like PTSA Grad Nite committee chairwoman Nivie Jhavar said though, "A lot can change by May 2021."

Although I'm a freshman, I sympathize with our seniors because my sister had to graduate during this time. In all, I hope all the seniors can stay optimistic and look for a Grad Nite that satisfies all graduates.

— Brian Lemus, freshman

As a first-year student I can sadly say that I agree with Hannah Lee's article, "COVID-19 makes first year of high school more difficult."

Through this whole coronavirus disaster, online school is more stressful than I thought it'd be. Especially just starting high school, I didn't know what to expect since middle school was easier, and online

school makes it more difficult to cope with.

I definitely have more time to do homework during passing periods and after school since I don't have to actually go to other classes, but my small room has too many temptations and distractions, and it's hard to focus compared to a classroom.

But despite the seemingly negative qualities of online school, I still hope to learn something important from it and work hard; this article helped me realize that I'm not the only one struggling and I feel more motivated to keep trying my best until things slowly go back to normal.

— Chloe Kim, freshman

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.

Site tech retires middle of year

KATE YANG

Staff Reporter

For the two years she's spent co-advising the Sunny Hills eSports team, Sonya Joyce has always reminded her team members to play with respect, dedication and confidence.

"Win or lose, she gave us so much positivity and reminded us how important it was to stay humble," said senior top-laner Erik Lee, who has known Joyce for one year.

Through a Discord message sent out on Jan. 12, Joyce, who worked as the school's site technician for three years since August 2017, announced to her eSports students that as of Jan. 22, she will retire from her campus job, meaning she will also no longer volunteer as the eSports team co-adviser.

Besides that post, Joyce offered *The Accolade* this additional statement: "My answer as to why I am leaving is because there have been a few factors that have aris-

SITE TECH'S TENURE

- August 2017: hired as site technician
- February 2018: voted employee of the year
- April 2019: co-adviser of school's League of Legends national championship team
- Jan. 22, 2021: last day as school's site technician

en that have forced me to reassess my responsibilities and ability to continue to hold my position at Sunny Hills."

Even after such recognition, Joyce tackled the challenge of co-advising the eSports team in 2019 when the program barely began.

With computer science teacher Myra Deister as her co-adviser,



theaccolade file photo

INCREDIBLE FEAT: In her first year working on campus as a site tech, Sonya Joyce (left) is named 2017-2018's employee of the year, accepting flowers from the previous year's winner.

Joyce was a guiding hand to the SH team toward bringing home a California Interscholastic Federation [CIF] Championship Cup in the 2020 fall season and a North America Scholastic Esports Federation League of Legends high school championship April 2019.

"Her enthusiasm is contagious," Deister said. "She made advising the team so much easier, and I will always cherish the

memories we made celebrating wins for each of the teams."

Only six months after her initial employment in the 2017-2018 school year, Joyce was so responsive to the staff's technology needs that she earned the most votes for classified employee of the year.

"I think everyone on campus could agree she was the perfect nominee," principal Allen Whitten said. "She has built person-

al relationships with every staff member on this campus and supports them on such a high level with issues beyond just their technological needs."

Joyce hopes that the next person to fill her role will remember to work with a positive attitude.

"For the next lucky site technician, put the teachers and students first, because their needs are why we are here," she said.

Freshman takes on youth editor role for *Observer*

DIVYA BHARADWAJ

Staff Reporter

When she wrote her first "Letters to the Editor" response nearly seven years ago to her local newspaper — the 43-year-old *Fullerton Observer* —

about a story on babysitters, freshman Francine Vudoti had no idea that her opinions would lead to her first foray into the world of journalism.



Francine Vudoti

The Observer's editor at the time, Sharon Kennedy, liked what she saw in Vudoti's words so much that she offered Vudoti a volunteer position as a kid columnist.

"This is a rare opportunity for me to serve our community through my writing so I value my role as a columnist," said the freshman, whose only journalism training has come from her personal experience on the job though she's beginning to learn about the craft from her current editor.

Once she familiarized herself with the local newspaper — published twice a month and distributed at various shops and stores — Vudoti created a youth section for writers by pitching her mission in the fall of 2018 to the now-retired Kennedy, who loved the idea.

"I wanted other kids to have the same opportunity of getting their voices heard, gaining experience and developing interest in writing," she said. "I spoke to the editor about it, and I got the approval to launch



SHE'S GOT ISSUES: Freshman Francine Vudoti has racked up her collection of articles as the youth editor for the Fullerton Observer newspaper.

the youth page, which I named, 'Young Observers,' and I believe I am in the process of achieving this mission."

As the youth page editor, Vudoti decides which stories will be published in the paper and reports to the *Observer's* chief editor.

"We use Google Classroom to facilitate sharing of information such as article deadlines, guides for monthly themes, events to cover, special assignments and article submissions," she said.

Since her initial involvement with the newspaper as a third-grader, Vudoti has amassed a variety of articles about trends, pets, book reviews, comic strips, events and national holidays.

Sunny Hills principal Allen Whitten said he has never met Vudoti in person but has granted either Zoom or email interview requests from her.

"She's done some really outstanding articles for the *Observer*," Whitten said. "Everything I've read that she's done has been really well-done; in fact, I even included one of them in our school newsletter."

Like Whitten, Vudoti's World History teacher, Mike Paris, remains impressed with his student's work.

"She is an outstanding writer for someone of any age, let alone a freshman in high school," Paris said. "She is a top-notch student in every area."

More than a month into the 2020-2021 school year, Vudoti was not shy to send an email to all the teachers introducing her role for the *Observer*.

"I am conducting a survey on how teachers feel about the impending school reopening to in-person classes," she wrote in the Sept. 25 email. "In the previous issues, the students have shared their votes on learning options. Hope you could share your voice, too."

One of Vudoti's fellow teen *Observer* writers has nothing but praise for Vudoti.

"I never thought someone that young could write for a newspaper and on top of that take charge of a whole section for younger writers," said sophomore Alexandria Kim, a fellow teen *Observer* reporter. "It was pretty inspiring and pushed me to write for the paper myself."

Vudoti hopes to contribute to the *Observer* after high school as a mentor to the young journalists who'll come after her.

But does she plan on taking her journalism experience to the next level, like to *The Accolade*, *Orange County Register* or the *Los Angeles Times*?

"Right now, my plans do not involve a career in journalism because I want to explore the computer science pathway, but it can be a side gig or volunteer work," Vudoti said.

And that's fine with her parents.

"My husband and I are happy that she has to do some community service to gain writing experience and acquire leadership skills," said her mother, Fran.

Compiled by Charis Lee

Students optimize online platforms, outdoor hangouts to maintain contact with friends

CHARIS LEE

Feature Editor

Zoom movie nights, picnics six feet apart, and socially distanced shopping at outdoor malls. Such activities are now the hallmarks of pandemic-proof hangouts as students find creative ways to meet with friends in safe, coronavirus-friendly environments.

Since the pandemic began in March of 2020, the prolonged quarantine challenged students to adapt their hangout methods to follow social distancing guidelines and other precautionary measures.

ESCAPE GLOOM WITH ZOOM

Junior Jessie Park uses FaceTime and Discord frequently to catch up with her friends and tries to enjoy the time spent with them despite the hangouts through mostly virtual communication.

"Not being able to see my friends in real life definitely sucked and [was] unfortunate, but that did not stop me from communicating with them," Park said.

One particular online activity Park enjoyed was a spontaneous stuffed animal photoshoot through FaceTime that took place on Nov. 6.

"My friends and I were chilling and one of them noticed my stuffed animals so I showed them all of mine," Park said. "They proceeded to pull out their stuffed



Image printed with permission from Jessie Park

DIGITAL HANGOUT: Junior Jessie Park (left) and her online friends whom she met through TikTok chat on FaceTime on Nov. 6 and have a mini photoshoot with their plushies.

animals, and it turned into a mini photoshoot. It sounds silly but in the moment, we were having so much fun and laughing."

NO NITPICKS WITH PICNICS

Like Park, senior Rebecca Worrell also chooses safer alternatives by hosting Zoom calls and meeting her friends for outdoor picnics.

"I met with my two [close] friends at the park for my birthday," Worrell said. "We were naturally social distancing and [kept] our masks [on] when we weren't eating."

Worrell makes sure not to meet

with many people in one setting and always has hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes on hand.

"I felt safe hanging out with my friends [because] I really only see two [or] three people outside of my family during quarantine," Worrell said. "One of them works in a clinic and the other has family in the medical field, so they both get tested frequently."

Worrell's parents were also eased knowing that her friends are cautious around one another.

"My parents don't mind me going out as long as I follow COVID preventative procedures and wear

a mask," Worrell said.

FUN IN THE SUN

As for outdoor shopping malls and activities, junior Brandon Parra practices pandemic-proof hangouts through outdoor sports and social distancing in public places.

"[My friends and I] went to The Source [OC], where we ate lots of food while keeping a safe distance," Parra said. "We ate outside on the big stairs at The Source."

Though slightly more difficult to maintain, friendships seem to persist past the masks, six-foot distance, and prolonged time away

from one another.

"It wasn't that hard to communicate, if you couldn't hear someone you just asked them to repeat their question," Parra said. "We stayed at least six feet away from each other at all times."

TAKE A HIKE

Freshman Arum Han also chose outdoor festivities and hiked on various trails during quarantine over the summer.

"It was pretty difficult to hike with masks the whole time since it was so hot, but at the same time, I was just relieved to go outside," Han said.

Unable to see her friends for five months after the quarantine began in March last year, Han was relieved to see her peers and spend time with them.

"Right after COVID hit I didn't really get a chance to FaceTime them or call them, but after we adjusted a little more, I called my friends for the first time in like five months," she said. "It was the longest period of time I hadn't spoken or seen any of my school friends."

Han hopes to see her friends again soon and would want to spend a whole day at the beach once lockdown restrictions and coronavirus bans are lifted.

"When COVID cases die down, I would like to hang out with my friends again, but in the meantime, I want to be safe by using Zoom or talking online," Han said.

Fluffy friends ease quarantine blues

ANTHONY KEEM

Staff Reporter

After a month of anticipation and careful planning, freshman Kristina Cho would finally see her quest for a quarantine companion come to an end.

For Cho, adopting a two-month-old Maltese puppy helped to keep her company during the difficult moments over the past year.

"It's been a bit difficult since there's a lot of work in caring for my puppy and managing work at school," Cho said. "I really haven't been seeing people in person much, but she's keeping me busy and taking my mind off stress."

Despite the new responsibilities, Cho believes that her dog has been beneficial to her mental well-being and that quarantine was the right time to adopt a pet.

Licensed therapist Susan Chung said that having pets pro-

vides the much-needed comfort of connecting with another being, something that has contributed to the trend of pet adoptions.

"During this time, everyone is struggling in one way or another, so having a pet can allow people who have become isolated to develop a nurturing relationship with it," Chung said.

She also said that pets can reduce symptoms of anxiety, depression and stress, all of which are elevated during times of isolation — a theory that science teacher David Kim took to the test when he adopted a then nine-month-old mixed-breed dog in September.

"[Getting a pet] was a way to help my son get some interaction that wasn't online," Kim said. "He transferred from Beachwood Middle School to Parks [Junior High], so he doesn't really know anybody and having that in-person interaction with a pet was

helpful for him."

Though Kim's sleep often gets cut short because of barking in the middle of the night, he still is grateful for his dog because it brought his family closer together.

"My younger son usually just stays in his room but now he's downstairs with the dog, which allows us to converse back and forth about his interests and my interests and to just play video games together," Kim said. "My dog really brought the family together."

Chung believes that if students are up for the challenge of taking care of a pet, there is no better time than quarantine to adopt an animal.

"Just having something to take care of can greatly reduce feelings of stagnation," Chung said. "The responsibility of a pet can keep an anxious mind busy during this time of crisis."

**WANT A NICE
SMILE
FOR YOUR VIRTUAL
DATE?**

Call us today, before it's too late!

LOS CERRITOS DENTAL PRACTICE

18510 GRIDLEY RD.
ARTESIA, CA, 90701
562-403-3355

WWW.LOSCERRITOSDENTAL.COM



NIGHT OUT AT THE BIG APPLE: Upon bringing his girlfriend to a cookie bakery during a school trip to New York, Peter Kavinsky (left) discusses the future of his relationship with Lara Jean in the final installment of “To All the Boys.”

Image printed with permission from Netflix

Last of ‘To All the Boys’ trilogy goes nowhere with simple plot

HANNA OLTMAN

Entertainment Editor

Three years ago, Netflix’s “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” rocketed into the mainstream media, creating one of the largest teen romcom franchises.

The movie adaptation of the book series by Korean-American author Jenny Han had it all: the saturated colors, cheesy high school romance and original central plot. Since then, the streaming service has released back-to-back adaptations of Han’s second and third novels with the last film version of the trilogy, “To All the Boys: Always and Forever,” released two days before Valentine’s Day.

Over the course of the past two movies, viewers had watched as the female protagonist, Lara Jean Covey (Lana Condor, “To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You”) wrote love letters, became entangled in dramatic love triangles and committed to a serious relationship with Peter Kavinsky (Noah Centineo, “To All the Boys: P.S. I Still

Love You”). But now, the two have more serious concerns — which college each will end up at.

While Lara Jean and Peter are still “totally relationship goals,” (according to their friends), their future together turns rocky when Peter receives a scholarship to Stanford, and Lara Jean gets denied a shot to attend the West Coast version of an Ivy League university.

Of course the nearly two-hour film wouldn’t be a romcom without the usual teen movie trappings — aesthetic montages, over-the-top prom-posals and sappy dialogue. But surprisingly, this time around, we get to watch and listen in on a few more meaningful conversations among the young couple.

For instance, Lara Jean’s rejection from Stanford forces her to consider what she wants for her own future. Beyond being with Peter, she has to decide what she wants to do for herself, even if that means worrying if a long-distance relationship with Peter would work out.

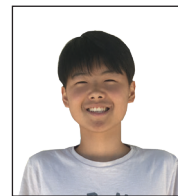
On top of that, the movie takes a deeper look at cultural identity when, during a family trip to Seoul, Lara Jean addresses her Korean-American heritage and explains how disconnected she feels from her culture. Despite being half Korean, she does not speak the language, and she explains how disheartening it feels to not understand the people around her while visiting Seoul.

For many viewers, this scene accurately reflects their own cultural identity struggles, and it makes Lara Jean’s character all the more relatable.

However, the movie doesn’t exceed any expectations in the slightest. The overall plot is fairly simple and somewhat thin with a predictable ending and monotonous character interactions.

It definitely won’t be the best film of the year, and it certainly doesn’t top the first movie, but if someone is in the mood to watch something cute and straightforward, “To All the Boys: Always and Forever” will not disappoint.

‘Minari’ film has helped me appreciate my ethnic identity



andrewPark
Staff Reporter

Growing up in America while being raised by South Korean immigrant parents was never easy.

When watching American or Korean culture on television, I found myself feeling connect-

ed to both sides, but at the same time, not relating to either of them, and was difficult to accept my cultural identity.

Despite being born in America, I spent my early childhood in South Korea until the age of 5, when my entire family moved again to permanently live here.

One recent film in particular — “Minari,” the semi-autobiographical film by Korean American filmmaker Lee Isaac Chung (“I Have Seen My Last Born”) — hit close to home. Based on the director’s childhood experiences, the movie tells the story of a Korean immigrant family settling in Arkansas to start a farm in the 1980s.

The nearly two-hour long film is mainly viewed from the perspective of the 7-year-old son, David (Alan Kim), who represents Chung himself.

Like the young protagonist, I struggled with adjusting to the new environment of Southern California and unintentionally making efforts to become culturally more American. Perhaps because at a young age I thought that I had to categorize myself as either American or Korean instead of appreciating both sides of my ethnicity.

Never before have I felt so represented or understood by an on-screen performance. For the first time in an American movie, I saw people who experienced the same struggles my family did.

Most importantly, “Minari” (Korean for a vegetable uniquely grown in South Korea that’s also a common staple for Korean-American immigrants) has infused my desire to pursue a college major in filmmaking. It digs up my Korean cultural roots and helps me find my identity in this American way of life. Go watch it for yourself.



Netflix's 'Fate: The Winx Saga' disappoints

ANNIE BANG

Web Managing Editor

Serving as the ultimate disappointment for Winx Club fans, the newest addition to the Winx franchise does more damage than good in the world of magic and fairies.

In a flopped attempt to revamp the iconic children's show "Winx Club," "Fate: The Winx Saga" fails to live up to the 2004 original, resulting in a cringeworthy rendition of the fantastical drama series.

Released on Jan. 22, the Netflix-based show consists of one season with six, hour-long episodes following Bloom (Abigail Cowen, "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina"), a 16-year-old girl who enters a new world after recently discovering her identity as a fire fairy. Upon entering Alfea, the school for fairies, Bloom and her roommates face a series of trials regarding friendships, romance and monsters called the "Burned Ones" that threaten their existence.

Though Bloom enters Alfea as a complete newcomer to a world of magic after living her entire life on Earth, her blatant ignorance toward the advice given to her by those more knowledgeable acts as the main catalyst to most of the conflict in the series. The protagonist's fallibility makes it difficult for the audience to watch as Bloom gets herself stuck in self-induced problems.

Prior to its debut, the show received backlash because of the whitewashing within the cast. While the original Winx Club showcased a variety of skin tones and ethnicities ranging from Asian, Hispanic and Black characters, the live action version disappointed with a dominantly white



Image printed with permission from Netflix

MODERN MAGIC: *The Winx Club* fairies — Musa (left), Stella, Bloom, Aisha and Terra — walk through the gates of Alfea, a magic school for fairies, after returning from a trip to Earth. The Netflix series was released Jan. 22.

cast.

Not only did the lack of diversity create a cast of characters foreign from the original series, but those behind the show failed to consider the potential contributions they could have made to the predominantly white film industry. As unfamiliar characters greeted returning viewers, another case of unfortunate whitewashing was added to the industry.

Another perceived fault of the show surrounds the lack of "fashionable" clothing from the characters. The original Winx series' attention to the clothing choices made the show known for trendy and stylish outfits. The live action fails to achieve this

with its duller and archaic outfits; most of Bloom's outfits were red, a boring attempt at reiterating her identity as a fire fairy.

Despite its flaws, the series does accomplish transitioning the Winx franchise to accommodate young adults. With vices like drug use on clear display along with violent scenes, the (TV-MA) series clearly distinguishes the show as one fit for a mature audience.

However, the mature scenes do little to advance the plot, serving as an unnecessary B plot to a show about fairies fighting off monsters. Instead, the reboot pushes for a cliché, teenage angst version of the original.

Had the show gone by a separate name or franchise, the public's reactions would have been much more tamed; since much of the criticisms stemmed from the failure to reach the expectations of the original show, the plot and characters would have benefited without the comparisons.

Ultimately, though the show attempted at rebranding the franchise with a more mature aesthetic, its faults came primarily from disappointing Winx Club fans with a mediocre cast and failed expectations. With its shoddy shot at a real-life remake, perhaps "Fate: The Winx Saga" should have stayed in the drafts rather than ruining the valued childhoods of many.

Rodrigo's No. 1 song, 'Drivers License,' revs up SH students' emotions, past heartbreaks

HANNA JUNG

Staff Reporter

For most teens, having a license comes with the freedom to drive around with friends and make great high school memories. For 18-year-old Olivia Rodrigo, it turned out to be much more.

Actress and singer-songwriter Rodrigo released her debut single "Drivers License" on Jan. 8, and just 72 hours later, it broke the Spotify record for most streams in a single day at 15.17 million streams.

"I think it's so inspirational as a person of color," sophomore Camille Janice said. "Many of her idols have started to [notice] her work (artists such as Lorde, Cardi B. and Taylor Swift), and I think that's so cool."

One of the main factors that contributed to the song's success was the controversy regarding the alleged love triangle between Rodrigo, her "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series" co-star Joshua Bassett and Disney Channel child star, Sabrina Carpenter.

"I'm so invested with the drama and the Easter eggs dropped in the song," soph-



KAREN LEE | theaccolade

TUNE IN: An artist's rendering of Olivia Rodrigo in a scene from her music video based on her song, "Drivers License," which has set streaming records.

omore Jacky Woo said. "The song itself is really good and almost relatable, but it makes it a lot more meaningful since [her followers] got to witness the whole situation on social media."

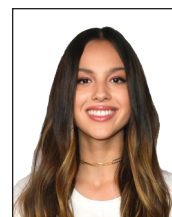
The music video of the hit single features the singer driving in her car by herself,

passing through a suburban neighborhood. The relatable lyrics then transitions into an effervescent emotion-racking bridge.



For the full story, go to <https://shh-saccolade.com/category/ae/>

DRIVING UP THE DRAMA



Olivia Rodrigo

In her "Drivers License" smash hit, Rodrigo laments the end of a relationship, she had with actor Joshua Bassett.

Joshua Bassett

The 20-year-old actor, rumored to be dating actress Sabrina Carpenter, is assumed to be the person behind Rodrigo's heartbreak.



Sabrina Carpenter

It's presumed that this 21-year-old former Disney Channel star is the "blonde girl" who's "so much older" in Rodrigo's song.

CIF cancels all championships for fall sports

Athletes, coaches disheartened by decision to ax playoffs

RACHEL YUN

Staff Reporter

Right-side Senior wing Rebecca Hodge walked into her Golden West club volleyball practice.

But before getting into her warmups, her coach, Lauryn Win, gathered the team and announced that the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section [CIF-SS] would be canceling their playoffs.

"When I heard the decision I was pretty disappointed, but I've pretty much anticipated it happening," Hodge said. "I was still shocked because I've played club volleyball and worked really hard so I could perform my best at the playoffs."

The senior's volleyball team along with the Sunny Hills' football, girls and boys water polo and girls and boys cross country teams will not have a chance to vie for a championship, after a Jan. 20 update from CIF-SS removing playoffs for the "fall" sports.

The original decision comes after all Southern California counties consistently remained in the purple "widespread" tier.

"CIF is not the bad guy actually — CIF is trying to get us to play," football head coach Peter Karavedas said. "This is life; things happen beyond your control and you can't dwell on things you can't change."

The CIF-SS released multiple extensions upon the "fall" sports' end dates to allow for local district-wide league schedules to form.

"The additional week now available



ANDREW NGO | theaccolade

JUMP TO IT: While social distancing, senior defensive-back Brandon Roberts conditions along the soccer field during a June 23, 2020, practice. His teammates will not have a chance to defend their CIF-SS Division 8 title this year.

during the "fall" sports season will be useful to our schools in the effort to have a regular season," CIF-SS commissioner of athletics Rob Wigod wrote in a Jan. 20 press release.

For many athletes, the cancellation of the playoffs did not come as a surprise.




"I'm just disappointed — it's unfortunate that our team couldn't have another chance to prove that our success isn't just a one year thing but winning is part of our culture," said football linebacker senior Kevin Hu, who first learned about the can-

cellation from his coach. "Our team was motivated knowing that there is still someone to beat."

Disheartened for their seniors, some coaches are planning to hold a special online event for their graduating athletes.

"I was disappointed for the senior runners, but we're holding a Zoom celebration to recognize all members, and seniors will receive unique gifts," head cross country coach Jacob Holloway said. "The overall goal of developing resilient student-athletes is still very much in play."

SEASON END DATES FOR FALL SPORTS

	Girls volleyball Saturday, March 27
	Girls/boys cross country Saturday, March 27
	Girls/boys water polo Saturday, March 27
	Football Saturday, April 17

Source: California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section
Compiled by Kristima Aryal

Even in the midst of an uncertain season, athletic director Paul Jones is remaining optimistic.

"I'm hopeful that the students will have the opportunity to play because it doesn't feel like a high school year without sports and being the athletic director, it's been tough," Jones said.

Many SH athletics are staying motivated despite the cancellation and practicing after school while still respecting the social distancing protocols.

"I'm still going to give it my all at each practice; with a sport sometime you just have to keep your goals small," water polo goalie junior Mary Rovira said. "Underpromise but overachieve."

Cross country becomes first to start in 2020-2021

HENRY LEE

Staff Reporter

After months of delays and changes to statewide high school sports competition, cross country became the first at Sunny Hills to organize a California Interscholastic Federation-sanctioned athletic event Feb. 3 with the only eligible team of boys defeating Buena Park High School.

"It's been a tough year for sure — we had to shut a lot of practices," boys and girls cross country head coach Jacob Holloway said after the two-hour meet that started at 3 p.m. "I hope that competition provides a spark of motivation for some who were lacking."

The first Freeway League meet comes four days after a Jan. 30 cross country contest between two Riverside schools in what is reported to have been the first CIF-sanctioned athletic event in Southern California since the COVID-19 pandemic started last March, according to an Orange County Register article.

Although the meet was open to all levels of cross country runners, Holloway said his girls varsity runners and boys frosh/soph and girls frosh/soph, which also make up the junior varsity squad, had to forfeit

STATS & WHAT'S NEXT

Boys: SH 44, Troy 19 (loss)
season record 1-1
Girls: SH 50, Troy 15 (forfeit loss)
season record: 0-2



Up next: SH vs. Fullerton
2/24 at home

Compiled by Kristima Aryal

to Buena Park because each Lancer group lacked the seven required runners.

Nevertheless, one girl and four boys in frosh/soph were still allowed to race against Buena Park runners, though the Lancers' scores were not counted.

"It is more of a roll of the dice this year because we don't know who is necessarily running for each team, and it might change week to week," said Holloway, who took full reins of the sport this season a year after he was hired to work with the JV cross country squad.

Despite not being able to field a full team at the other levels, the head coach maintained an optimistic attitude.



ALIYAH AHMAD | theaccolade

FINAL STRETCH: Juniors Noah Flores (left) and Zachary Gomez race toward the finish line during the Feb. 3 cross country home meet against Buena Park High School, the first sporting event of the 2020-2021 school year.

"The reality is we did not have enough people to actually compete," Holloway said. "But I am very satisfied with the results."

No outside spectators, such as family and students, were permitted.

The meet also took place at the Sunny Hills track and softball field, which hasn't occurred since the mid-1990s, according to Sunny Hills alumni Facebook posts.

Holloway said he had to switch venues because public parks are not allowing event registrations. The three-mile route

— cleared by Freeway League officials — consisted of six laps around the SH track and softball field, he said.

The Lancers will next face off against Fullerton on Feb. 24 from 3-5 p.m. at home.

RELATED STORY

Staff Editorial: Athletes sitting out over COVID-19 worries is the right thing to do. See Opinion, page 7.



Game Ball



Pak reflects on starting boys v-ball team

GRACE JOHNSON

Asst. Sports Editor

Senior Joseph Pak will never forget April 28, 2019.

After campaigning since his freshman year for the Sunny Hills athletic department to offer the first-ever boys volleyball team in school history, Pak was told that day that there would be a boys volleyball program the following school year.

Driving home after practice, Pak had a huge smile on his face. A Lancers boys volleyball team, which he had worked so hard for, had finally come to fruition.

"I was crazy excited, in disbelief, filled with anticipation for what was to come," the outside hitter said. "I am just so thankful to God and the people around that contributed to the process."

Pak's passion for this sport started after watching the anime "Haikyu!!" and as an eighth-grader, he took inspiration from the main character, Shoyo Hinata, a bright high school volleyball player, and from there, began to realize his interest in volleyball.

"I think that volleyball is a super underplayed sport in the U.S. and for Hinata he never had a chance to play before high school, and that motivated me," Pak said.

So when Pak arrived at Sunny Hills, his first goal was to persuade school officials to approve

a boys volleyball team on campus.

"Joseph contacted me on many occasions as the president of the boys volleyball club and was very professional and respectful in his approach," principal Allen Whitten said.

But he soon hit a roadblock when Whitten informed him that a team would be unlikely.

"Forming a team is a complicated process," Whitten said in a 2017 *Accolade* feature on Pak's club. "I had a number of people come up to me to form CIF teams. Even the very well-funded with full support from parents and the [Anaheim] Ducks organization hockey team were told 'No.'"

Instead of doing nothing, Pak carried over a volleyball club he formed in 8th grade to high school and arranged matches against the volleyball club at Troy High School.

"Joseph and his whole family got involved by talking to other schools," senior libero and former club member Ethan Lim said. "His enthusiasm was a real eye-opener for me."

Late in Pak's sophomore year, former athletic director Jon Cafrey surprised Pak with the news that his team would become a reality.

"It felt so surreal — this team gave us a new motivation to continue playing," he said.

Joseph has not only proved



Image printed with permission from Joshua Pak

SPIKE: Senior Joseph Pak (left) keeps his eyes on the ball in the Sunny Hills gym during the boys volleyball game against Crean Lutheran High School, which ended in a 1-3 loss. Pak (right) gears up to serve the ball during the Feb. 25, 2020 game.

his own passion but has inspired many others.

"One day he asked me if I wanted to come and play with him, and I couldn't stop," opposite hitter senior Jason Thompson said. "He is a natural leader and really understands his teammates."

Former boys volleyball coach and science teacher Jack Adams recalls Pak's dedication.

"You can 100% count on him. There was not even a question of who I would make team captain: it was going to be Joseph," Adams said.

Although the inaugural season was slated to begin on April 1, 2020, the rising cases of COVID-19 prompted the cancellation of the remainder of the season leaving the team to finish 5-6.

"I felt a little mad about the season getting canceled," Pak said. "But I realized being sad was not going to fix the problem so I prayed and changed my mindset."

Though his time at Sunny Hills will come to a close in 15 weeks, Pak intends to continue playing volleyball competitively.

"I could see myself being a

part of a coaching staff," he said. "This season, I want to hone my skills and play competitively in a league."

But one thing is clear: Despite the uncertainty of a second boys volleyball season on campus, Adams said school officials should recognize Pak's dedication.

"Literally, we would never have a volleyball team if he did not come to this school," he said. "I will push for Joseph's face to be on the Sunny Hills gym wall because it was him and his family that got boys volleyball to be a sport here."

Updated rules allow for sports to return

Nearly six months after football and water polo seasons were initially supposed to start, the California Department of Public Health updated its youth sports guidelines to allow seasons to compete in counties with a daily case rate below 14 per 100,000 residents.

"We are now prepared to enter another phase of this journey we have been on for almost a year," California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section commissioner Rob Wigod wrote in a Feb. 19 press release.

Previously, teams could not begin full-contact practices until counties reached the orange "moderate" tier,

which required a daily case rate of seven per 100,000. As of Feb. 19, Orange County has a daily case rate of 20.7 cases per 100,000 people, according to the Orange County Health Care Agency.

Athletes and coaches will also be required to be regularly tested every week.

"They would be sending testing resources free of charge to all schools," CIF State commissioner Ron Nocetti said in an *Orange County Register* article. "If they couldn't provide equal access to all kids, that wouldn't be fair."

— Andrew Ngo,
Web Editor-in-chief

New addition to boys, girls golf

HENRY LEE

Staff Reporter

He's the Associated Student Body co-adviser and a tenured social science teacher who was the 2016-2017 teacher of the year.

This school year, David Fenstermaker is throwing his hat — or clubs — back into the coaching ring, filling in as the assistant coach for the boys and girls golf programs.

"Coach [Scott] Enrico asked me if I could help out last semester with the lower level boys team," Fenstermaker said. "They already have a really good coaching staff with coach Enrico and coach [Ron] Newton, and I am going to help wherever they need me."



David Fenstermaker

Fenstermaker said he plans to remain in his capacity as an assistant coach as long as Enrico needs and wants him to.

"I just needed to come in and shore up the lower level and help out with some additional coaching and coverage," he said. "I may run some practices or help with some girls matches on supervision or scheduling."

Although he knows adding another school responsibility won't be easy, Fenstermaker believes that he can manage the job thanks to his already lengthy coaching resume, which includes football, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, track and field and golf after his first coaching job at Valencia High School in 1992.

"He helps kids with their swings, putting and course management," said Enrico, who's been friends with Fenstermaker since 2001.

"He's a great teacher, and that really shows in his coaching."

Several Lancer golfers have

already noticed his impact on the team.

"I think he is managing all of these tasks with a well-planned schedule in his mind," junior varsity golfer freshman Prysilla Ahn said.

"He knows [his priorities] when doing all of these activities."

Ahn said Fenstermaker assists in the driving range practices on Wednesdays, and she sees how interactive the new assistant coach has been.

"His efforts will help us because our practices are orderly and time-mannered," she said. "If he wasn't there, we would be confused on how to practice in a COVID-safe way."

Fenstermaker sees the Lancer golfers being capable of competing at a high level.

"The golf program at Sunny Hills has been an exceptional one going back over 30 years," he said. "I think the program is positioned to be very competitive in the [Freeway] League and in CIF."