

SPECIAL COVID-19 ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

the accolade

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ONE YEAR LATER

Twelve months after our campus closed down, school traditions like homecoming are resuming (see *News*, page 2), students share their stories overcoming COVID-19 (see *Feature*, page 6), our editorial board grades fallout of the lockdown (see *Opinion*, page 10), theaters that closed down last March are working toward re-opening (see *A&E*, page 12) and yes, Friday Night Lights aka football is back (see *Sports*, page 15); we also take a look at the good, bad and ugly of this pandemic (see pages 8-9)

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ONLINE STUDENTS: Faculty members like English teacher Suzanne Boxdorfer must find ways to instruct the many who choose to learn from home via Zoom. A local college professor suggests tossing out tests and instead grading students based on their portfolio of work.

Professor questions value of teens' distance learning

ANTHONY KEEM

Staff Reporter

As the one-year anniversary of online distance education approached today, publications such as the *New York Times* cite the alarming statistic of students being nearly one year behind the expected curriculum — with Sunny Hills students being no exception.

Everything from a lack of preparation for teachers to mental health issues perpetuated by a constant online presence is to

blame, said Acosta Rodolfo, a professor of educational leadership at nearby California State University, Fullerton.

"I've been teaching online for six years, and I've done a lot of work to make sure students get the necessary support on my end," Rodolfo said. "Unfortunately, I don't think that a lot of teachers have had the adequate training to be successful online."

Furthermore, the restrictions of the curriculum that were necessary for school in person should no longer apply to learn-

ing online, he said.

"For example, tests — tests should go out the window this year, and instead it would be better for students to create portfolios just like for any graduate program," he said.

In addition to the issue of training and irrelevant educational standards, Rodolfo identified a widening economic and technological disparity as a driving force behind the academic setbacks in students.

Students like junior Darshil

Education >> Page 4

Hybrid learning 2.0 still not catching steam with students still choosing to stay at home

YEIHN LEE

Staff Reporter

Among the 2,300 students enrolled at Sunny Hills, only 600, or 26%, have decided to return to campus for live classroom instruction — many choosing to remain at home over coming back to campus under the hybrid learning 2.0 model.

Principal Allen Whitten said he completely understands decisions from students and their parents.

"Some families are still concerned about COVID-19, or they have vulnerable family members in the household they need to protect," Whitten said. "Some students just feel it is easier and have become comfortable with their routine, and change is not always easy."

When hybrid learning first started last semester, the campus saw much more students return to receive in-person instruction — 1,357, or 56% of total students, a 30% drop compared with this semester's students on campus.

Nevertheless, such a steep drop did not hinder sophomore Ryan Axe from sticking with Cohort A because he felt the need to socialize with others.

"To be honest, I came back because I needed to be around people and socialize physically, and staying home just increased anxiety," Axe said.

Furthermore, senior Aman-

da Chung, who is in Cohort A, also opted for hybrid learning because she thought going to her classes in person would help her with her studies more.

"I thought going to school would help with my ability to stay focused because I was easily distracted at home," Chung said.

On the other hand, a majority of the students chose to stay at home, taking classes through Zoom.

"My parents and I decided that it was a safer choice staying home, just in case I come into any contact with the virus," junior Diya Desai said.

Sophomore Jaden Han also chose Cohort C for the well-being of himself and his family.

"My parents wanted me to stay home because they thought it was safer," Han said. "I prefer going to school, but staying home doesn't bother me much."

Looking back at the great times the students had when first returning to school, Whitten said he hopes more students will change their minds and give the hybrid learning model a shot.

"Some students are nervous about coming back to school and interacting with people in person again, and to these students especially, I encourage them to take the plunge and get back into a new routine of attending in person," he said. "I encourage anyone who is able to return to campus and take that baby step back to normal life."

PTSA finds another Anaheim venue for Grad Nite

ALICE SHIN

Asst. News Editor

With the Fullerton Joint Union High School District giving each of its campuses the green light to hold a live graduation ceremony for seniors in May — though with limited audience capacity — the Sunny Hills Parent Teacher Student Association [PTSA] has also figured out a way for 12th-graders to celebrate at a Grad Nite.

The PTSA has reached a deal with Camelot Golf and Country in Anaheim to host the May 26 overnight event.

"We wanted to come up with a Grad Nite event that did not have to be canceled," PTSA Grad Nite committee chairwoman Nivie Jhawar said.

The event will take place from 10 p.m.-4 a.m., and the venue will offer the unlimited use of mini golf, bumper boats, laser tag, arcade games, go karts, a DJ, dance area, cartoonists and a digital photo booth, Jhawar said.



Image printed with permission from Tara Desai

PARTY TIME: The Class of 2019 celebrates Grad Nite at Disneyland. After Disney Resorts canceled it because of the coronavirus pandemic, the PTSA has since contracted with a miniature golf park in Anaheim for the May 26 event.

Upon confirmation from Disney Resorts last semester that Disneyland would for a second year cancel Grad Nite festivities because of the coronavirus pandemic,

the Grad Nite Committee first reviewed many different options from other schools and PTSA meetings.

"[PTSA members] were impressed

with the information they received [from Camelot because] the location is nearby, and there are numerous activities to keep our seniors busy," Jhawar said.

Tickets for the event will cost \$85 until March 31, \$100 until April 30 and \$115 starting from May 1, according to the PTSA website.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the event will be outdoors the entire night, and the PTSA will also ensure that students follow COVID-19 safety precautions.

Senior Nivi Parekh plans on attending.

"I am upset [that it's not at Disneyland], but I do understand that this is way safer," Parekh said.

Senior Ralph Alarcon also said the Camelot venue is worth attending despite the limitations and risks to it.

"With everything that has happened in the past year, any sort of place where multiple people can have fun and have social interaction is something I believe people would look forward to," Alarcon said.

Senior nixes plan for beach Senior Sunrise after social media furor over safety concerns

MINJEONG KIM

Staff Reporter

Organizers of an alternative, non-school-sponsored Senior Sunrise to be held as a drive-in activity off campus this month have canceled the event following social media backlash questioning its safety during a pandemic.

Prior to the coronavirus crisis that hit last March, the Associated Student Body [ASB] had annually held in the fall semester Senior Sunrise, which provided the graduating class an opportunity to watch a movie in the school's quad before zero period.

Because of the Orange County Department of Education's safety plan released last March that prohibited the Senior Sunrise from happening, ASB senior class president Emma Suh along with two others in the Senior Class Cabinet initially proposed a drive-in movie event on the roof of a downtown Brea parking structure.

Because the process required approval from the person in charge of the Brea Plaza Shopping Center and risked the possibility of getting forced out by the police who always guard the location, Suh said she decided to move the location to Huntington Beach.



theaccolade file photo

EARLY MORNING LAUGHS: The Class of 2014 reacts to a scene from a movie shown in the quad during the traditional Senior Sunrise, which will not be held this year because of COVID-19 health and safety issues.

"It is very hard because if we hold this event, some will be upset because the school will be allowing us to gather in a large group, but if we hold it non-school

affiliated, some will be mad because there are no advisers, [so] it's sort of a lose-lose," she said.

Despite Suh's efforts to allow students

to have an event in which they can interact with each other in a safe way, the idea faced criticism and hostility on social media from her peers.

Students reposted a screenshot of a post from an anonymous student on their Instagram stories, which included phrases such as, "Do not go to the senior sunrise event. ... It is not safe."

Senior class secretary Kathryn Aurelio was among the most vocal in being opposed to the non-school-sponsored event.

"No matter how many extraneous rules and restrictions we would place, it's very likely students would break these rules or that the Huntington Beach-goers who are anti-maskers would endanger the student body," Aurelio said.

Senior Jacob Brooks had a different take on Suh's scrapped beach proposal.

"I think most people were planning on wearing masks and social distancing, so I don't see any problem with it," Brooks said.

Suh is still not giving up hopes for a senior gathering.

"I don't really want to talk about what people have been saying on social media," she said. "But since we have canceled this Senior Sunrise, we're looking into a school-hosted one, possibly."

International Week Assembly, Food Fair go virtual next week

KATE YANG

Asst. Feature Editor

Street tacos, *samosas* and Black Forest cake — the basic starter pack of authentic meals for students at the International Food Fair [IFF] to begin their day celebrating and learning about new cultures.

However, they will be unable to experience such delicacies this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Associated Student Body [ASB] and Parent Teacher Student Association [PTSA] aim to hold IFF festivities entirely online for all students on March 17 along with a Virtual International Food Fair beginning for students March 15.

"A live IFF event, whether that be food fair or assembly, would not be allowed under the [COVID-19 safety and health] restrictions," ASB co-adviser Mike Paris said.

Seven of the eight culture clubs — Bayanihan, Chinese, Indian, Korean, Latin, Mana and Vietnamese — will be participating in this year's online IFF, Paris said.

The IFF assembly will resemble the online Club Rush held earlier in the school year with two Google Slides pages designated for each group to include information and links of their choosing.

"We asked them to highlight their culture in a manner of their choice," Paris

said. "These clubs did an absolutely tremendous job with what they created."

The ASB plans to produce a 15-20 minutes video in which viewers follow a tour of the various links on the Google Slides; the video will be posted on the school website and on all ASB social media platforms by 7 on St. Patrick's Day morning.

Unlike several of the other groups, Chinese Club members said they decided to take a creative approach to this year's IFF by filming an entirely new performance.

"Even though there is more work involved, our club decided that recording new content was better so that new club members could also participate," Chinese Club vice president junior Elizabeth Liu said. "We only have four years of high school, and we wanted to make the best out of this event."

While normally responsible for running all food booths during the extended one-hour lunch, the PTSA decided instead to go about a different way of giving students a taste of each culture.

Throughout next week starting from March 15, SH staff, students and their families will be given the opportunity to select local restaurants to dine in or take out at as a way of participating in this year's canceled live IFF, PTSA president Nivi Jhavar said.

"Unfortunately, the clubs are not direct-



theaccolade file photo

BOBA TIME: Chinese Club members sell drinks during a 2018 International Food Fair. The yearly event will be canceled this year because of the pandemic.

ly involved in this weeklong event," Jhavar said. "We tried to find a way to have clubs involved but felt it would be best to do things differently this year."

Five restaurant chains will be participating in the March 15-19 "Dining Out Event."

The PTSA has created a digital flyer containing the full schedule of restaurant choices, dates and information on how to support the event, which was included in principal Allen Whitten's weekly digital newsletter emailed to all students, staff and parents.

Participating families and staff must provide the information from the digital flyer at the time of purchase in order for the school to receive credit for those food items; the PTSA will donate all proceeds

from this event to covering Grad Nite costs for students unable to purchase their own ticket.

"PTSA has always hosted the drink booth, and traditionally the proceeds from our booth have also gone toward Grad Nite scholarships," Jhavar said.

Whitten said he hopes students will take the time to celebrate the amount of cultural diversity here and continue the legacy of participating in this spring semester tradition.

"IFF is one of our coolest and most unique traditions, and I'm hoping students will make sure to tune in," he said. "The ASB and PTSA did a great job of helping IFF survive the pandemic, and I can't wait to return next year to our regular, full-on assembly and food fair."

Teachers, students obtain COVID-19 vaccines

ESTHER OH

Staff Reporter

Despite having to return to campus to teach last semester for two months and this spring since the middle of February, Sunny Hills instructors are beginning to feel more at ease to come to work as they are the next group allowed to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

"I feel lucky and blessed to live at a time and in a place where our science, intelligence and infrastructure can create such a thing in little time," said English teacher Suzanne Boxdorfer, who recently received the first of her two Pfizer vaccination shots. "I never felt uncomfortable coming to campus as I was always masked and followed recommended guidelines, but I am optimistic and excited about traveling — something I love to do and did often prior to March 2020."

Math teacher Mariam Tan signed up to receive her shot as soon as she was able to earlier this month and received her first dose of the Moderna treatment on the first day available to Orange County teachers.

"I think the best thing I can do for myself and everyone else is to continue wearing a mask and taking now-normal precautions in terms of cleanliness and general COVID-19 safety," Tan said.

California has been following



Image printed with permission from Jason Li

SAFE AND SOUND: Dr. Jason Li, husband of Class of 2007 alumna Joann Kim, gets his second Pfizer vaccination shot Jan. 10. Li only experienced mild side effects after that last dose.

the vaccination timeline created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It recommended giving COVID-19 vaccines in three phases: healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents, frontline essential workers and people 75 years and older, then people 65-74 years old and 16-64 years old with underlying medical conditions.

While the vaccine's availability to the general public is still unknown, experts estimate that the doses will be accessible in late spring or early summer. President

Joe Biden in a speech Thursday told the country he's pushing for an earlier timeline to the point that the country can celebrate the Fourth of July with loved ones.

The Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine has been authorized for ages 16 and older, while Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's vaccines have been authorized for ages 18 and up.

One of the doctors to receive two doses of the Pfizer-BioNT shot in the first phase was the husband of Class of 2007 alumna Joann Kim, who was also the ed-

itor-in-chief of *The Accolade* her senior year.

When the shots were being given in the early stages, some expressed concern over side effects.

"I did not experience any side effects on the first vaccine dose, but on the second dose, I had a mild headache that improved with Tylenol use," said Kim's husband, Jason Li, who works at the Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center and Keck Hospital of USC. "The headache only lasted for one day, and I returned

to my baseline condition."

Despite the side effects, these vaccines are considered safe for everyone. Side effects include flu-like symptoms of mild fever, chills, headache, tiredness and weakness, but overall, each person's immune system will respond differently, Li said.

The news of the vaccine's quick availability caused Sunny Hills students to be excited with some already getting their injections.

Junior Isaiah Esguerra was able to obtain the Pfizer dose for himself by working at McDonald's, which counts as being an essential worker.

"I feel good after receiving my first dose. However, just because I have been vaccinated does not mean I should disregard the safety of others," Esguerra said. "I do feel more confident going out, but only for outdoor dining with my family and going to school since I am in Cohort A."

Although freshmen who are 15 years old and under have to wait almost a year longer before receiving their vaccine, they don't seem particularly anxious.

"I feel more protected and relieved that the vaccine will be available for younger people like me in the next year," freshman Daniel Yun said. "I'll continue to take the necessary precautions to prevent myself from getting exposed to the virus."

Homecoming dance canceled, but seniors can vie for court

HANNA OLTMAN

Entertainment Editor

Since COVID-19 put a halt to customary school events, the Associated Student Body [ASB] has decided to organize a non-traditional homecoming scheduled for April 9, though no plans for a prom is in sight.

"Having senior events would boost the Class of 2021's spirit," said Kathryn Aurelio, the ASB's senior class treasurer and activities commissioner. "However, we cannot prioritize instant gratification with the larger national issue at hand — the coronavirus."

Traditionally, homecoming events take place in either September or October, while the prom dance with the coronation of the king is in April or May.

"We would hope that we can do some form of [prom and homecoming], but it's not up to us or the administrators; it's up



theaccolade file photo

ROYALTY: Girls from the homecoming court enter the Buena Park stadium during halftime of the 2017 football game. Despite the pandemic, the Class of 2021 will have a court.

to the governor," ASB co-adviser David Fenstermaker said.

In the meantime, what the ASB is allowed to put together is the homecoming court nomination and selection process along with the coronation of the 2020-2021 homecoming queen at the April 9 football game against

Fullerton Union High School at Buena Park High School's stadium.

"I'm happy that we still get to do this, especially when it's one of the few opportunities left to get involved this year," said senior Meagan Kimbrell, who is running for homecoming queen.

FROM PAGE 2

EDUCATION

Sheth is no stranger to home internet problems and frequently deals with the struggle of being kicked out of Zoom sessions.

"I live in an area that is fairly geopolitically stable, but I still have issues with bad internet," Sheth said. "I've also had friends who literally cannot finish assignments because their internet keeps crashing with no fault of their own."

While Sheth has, for the most part, adapted to online learning, he recognizes that mental problems which arise from distance learning largely contribute to why students fall behind.

"I was surprised to find there was more work than when distance learning first started so I began to fall behind with some of my classes," he said.

Rodolfo said a lack of motivation is a common issue that plagues students in online learning along with a host of other symptoms such as stress and anxiety induced from constantly being online.

With a barrage of emails, notifications and updates from the school, sophomore Remy Garcia-Kakebeen feels overwhelmed by what seems to be an endless stream of information from her classes.

"Between classes and clubs, things are often posted cross-platform and things become difficult to manage," Garcia-Kakebeen said. "I'm constantly asking myself what someone posted here or there — who, what, why and where — it's really a hassle."

Reflecting on a year of online distance learning, Rodolfo proposes now is the time to make radical changes to education to better supplement the weaknesses of digital education.

"In terms of policy solutions — one, we should get rid of tests; two, we can provide training for teachers to be creative with online formats," he said. "We don't allow teachers to be as creative as they can with their online situation, and we change the way students learn by integrating subjects people don't like to talk about like race, class, social justice and connecting with each other's human identities."

Dull quarantine lifestyle prompts hair dyeing fad

CHARIS LEE

Feature Editor

Before the March 2020 lockdown, senior Estefanni Espinoza would get her naturally brown hair dyed at a local beauty salon for about \$120.

But once the state mandated that all such shops remain closed to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, Espinoza had to either let her hair color remain untouched or take matters into her own hands.

She opted for the latter.

"I dyed [my hair] a total of [six] times, and the first time was back in [December]," said Espinoza, who had gone from a brunette to blonde just before the coronavirus crisis first hit last March. "I was bored and looking to try and change up my hair a bit."

As the pandemic brought upon a period of stagnancy and struggle, students like Espinoza found ways to cope by switching up their hair color, varying from subtle to dramatic hairstyles.

"I felt happy because I was

COLOR ME ...

Of the 33% of women who dyed their hair at home during the pandemic:

- 85% to cover up gray hairs
- 44% to make a change
- 32% bored and looking for something to do

Sources: *Salon Today*, Garnier

looking for a way to change my appearance a little," the senior said. "My parents liked it [too], and they were surprised it came out looking nice, especially since I did it myself."

That's exactly what prompted sophomore Sophia Chun to change her hair color four times last year — purple and pink in February and blue in October — and once last month, violet/silver.

"My hair was getting boring, and I had my natural hair for the longest time, so I decided to change it up," Chun said.

The trend is not limited to just girls.

Senior Emiliano Zavala, who has naturally black hair, spent \$10 on blond hair dye over the summer.

"I was bored so I dyed it. Plus, since we were stuck in quarantine, I figured I'd do it at home," Zavala said. "My family and friends thought it was pretty funny."

He also found it easy to follow the product's hair coloring instructions. And after it was over, it didn't do too much to shake up his self-image.

"It wasn't too big of a change [for me]; it was just whatever," Zavala said. "Maybe I will consider doing it again later on."

If he were to try it again, the senior will have lots of catching up to do to reach how many times junior Violet Kim has colored her hair.

Kim said she began dyeing her hair, which was around once every three weeks throughout the



Image printed with permission from Estefanni Espinoza

NEW HAIR COLOR; WHO 'DIS?: Senior Estefanni Espinoza shows her fifth look with brown hair and bleached strands.

quarantine.

"I saw a lot of people [on social media] with unique hair like bleached strips or [dyed] red, so I really wanted to try everything," Kim said.

Since the circumstances of the pandemic are outside of students' control, dyeing hair seems to be a safe, productive and fun means of

copied; Kim said this is the best time for students to add some color to their life.

"I think students who are hesitant to dye their hair during this time should just do it," she said. "Hair is temporary and grows back so if students don't want to have colored hair when they're older, they should just do it now."

One-year anniversary of COVID-19 sparks nostalgia

KRISHNA THAKER

Staff Reporter

With today marking the first anniversary of the lockdown that forced public schools statewide to close for live instruction, junior Ashley Hoang reflects on the earlier moments of distance learning.

She recalls several Google Classroom notifications for her classes with similar postings:

"Hey students, we will not be Zooming today. Please take notes on the video I posted and submit the worksheet by 11:59 p.m."

A message like that is rare now as she's still Zooming in from home with the 2020-2021 school year almost over with 10 weeks left.

"I liked being able to work at my own pace. My chemistry class specifically would not have calls every day, which gave me more time to actually get stuff done," Hoang said. "We are getting more work now but are not granted the same leniency as teachers are becoming more strict."

The junior is not alone in her assessment; though hundreds and thousands of deaths were reported because of the coronavirus, academics took a back seat — something that many students relish.

"Last year it seemed like school was a bit more chill, but some of us had to study for AP [Advanced Placement] exams and

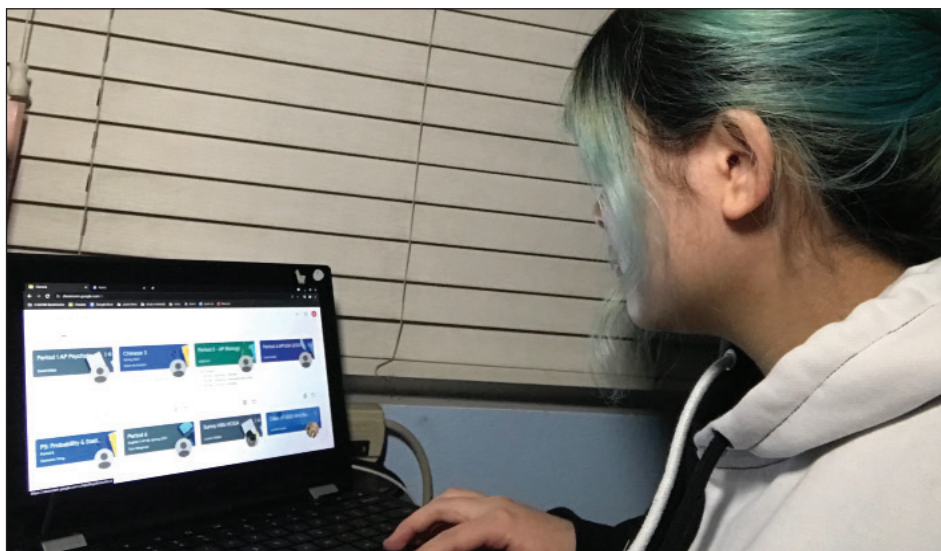


Image printed with permission from Ashley Hoang

THE GOOD OL' DAYS: Junior Ashley Hoang reminisces about pre-COVID-19 times as she scans her Google Classroom dashboard for announcements.

finals, so the thought of studying for exams makes me think of last year's quarantine," junior Jamie Suh said. "I specifically miss how school was a bit easier. ... It felt like a huge summer break to me."

Now, because of Gov. Gavin Newsom's mandate before the start of the 2020-2021 school year, distance learning closely imitates in-person classes — Zooming for the whole period, getting regular assignments and taking exams.

"With being online 24/7, I miss the freedom of having to choose when to wake up [and] do my assignments as long

as I turn them in by the due date and over all the free time without the occasional Zoom meets every hour," freshman Denise Bravo said.

Others feel that it was not the coursework that was easier, but the way teachers taught their classes.

"Last year was much easier than this year's online learning because it had just started," freshman Thomas Kim said. "Now, it is much more complex, and the teachers know how to keep an eye on the students."

Besides the slower academic pace last

year, several students also turned to following creative food trends, watching binge-worthy Netflix shows and resorting to digital games like Animal Crossing or Among Us.

"I remember a lot of songs and food trending at the beginning of last March, and since March 2021 has approached, it feels nostalgic," Suh said. "The memorable trends included the whipped coffee trend drink, watching shows such as Outer Banks, playing Among Us, getting LED lights, cutting my own hair and Chloe Ting workouts."

When the pandemic began, students were also faced with spending a lot of extra time with their families since they had to abide by the state-mandated lockdowns.

While many Sunny Hills students have opted to remain at home to learn instead of coming to campus for hybrid learning instruction, they have also noticed their time with loved ones has been cut short again since the academic rigor has picked up again.

"I especially miss just the simple things like having lunch with them ... and now I learned to never take those simple things for granted," Kim said.

Over the span of a year, life during the pandemic changed drastically. But despite the sudden changes, society has adapted to the challenges and restrictions that come with life during a pandemic.



Compiled by Charis Lee and Hope Li

OVERCOMERS: Four Sunny Hills students share their stories of how they contracted COVID-19 throughout the year since the March quarantine.

CORONAVIRUS TESTIMONIES

COVID-19 took their time away — some lost the chance to celebrate their birthdays; others the winter holiday season — but they all can attest to the severity of the disease, and that their youthful stamina is what it'll take to get rid of its symptoms

HOPE LI*Opinion Editor*

It was only a month into the lockdown that started last March when senior Marcus Llajaruna went for a run and started experiencing muscle weakness, a coronavirus symptom.

It was worse for junior Kelly Pich, who spent her 16th birthday celebration last July quarantined in Reno, Nev., with nine relatives after her COVID-19 test came back positive.

If that didn't take the cake, then sophomore Cole Sass and freshman Arum Han's bout with the disease occurred during winter break.

As of today, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this virus has killed more than 530,000 nationwide; another 29 million have tested positive for contracting the disease.

One year into the coronavirus pandemic, Sunny Hills students have found it more comfortable to share their experiences contracting and then overcoming COVID-19.

Though they kept their condition low key when they first started experiencing symptoms, they now want to share their stories in hopes of bringing comfort to other teenagers who have or haven't contracted the virus.

"I feel more comfortable talking about it because I feel like a lot of people have also [gotten sick], so I don't feel as alone," Pich said. "Although my experience was not bad, I still know others who've passed away and are dealing with COVID aftermath. ... Everyone's body reacts differently."

NEVER BEEN TESTED POSITIVE, BUT THE SYMPTOMS WERE THERE

For Llajaruna, his bout with the coronavirus started a month after Sunny Hills first moved to distance learning. The senior recalls his 84-year-old grandfather, who lives in the same Fullerton home with five others, decided to go out and buy food from Northgate Market, all the while wearing a mask.

"After a couple days, he was all sick, and that's how we found out [he had COVID-19]," he said. "[He got tested on May 1], and he had it, so he was with us the whole time."

Although Llajaruna and his sister ended up having coronavirus-specific symptoms, they didn't get tested per their doctor's recommendation not to waste a COVID-19 exam — perhaps others would need the testing more than them. But because his symptoms were obvious, he still felt fearful for his situation.

"I told my friends, and they're all scared for me because COVID was still very new, and we didn't know what was gonna happen," he said about using his phone to text and FaceTime his friends. "I was super scared, and what was going through my mind was to prepare myself for what could have happened if my grandparents could have passed."

But other than his friends, Llajaruna said he initially didn't tell anyone else he had the virus.

"I decided it wasn't worth telling everyone I had COVID, and I didn't want to bring all that attention on myself," he said.

For Llajaruna, his first week of having the coronavirus brought only one day of

tastelessness when his dad brought him a bowl of *arroz chaufa*, a Peruvian fried rice dish with salt, shrimp and onions. His father wasn't infected with the virus because he doesn't live with Llajaruna.

“I was just trying to prepare myself for what would happen in the future, if we survive it or if we don't.”

— senior
Marcus Llajaruna

"I tried the food, and actually I couldn't taste anything. It was very bland; it was very plain," said the senior, whose first symptoms were muscle weakness and difficulty breathing. "I was just scared because of all these symptoms adding up, and I felt it could get worse from there, like eventually I'm not going to be able to breathe."

The worst his family experienced was when they witnessed his grandfather collapsing in the shower, he said.

"We took him to the emergency room and checked for the concussion and every-

thing," Llajaruna said. "He got tested right after that, and he came back with a little walking stick because he couldn't walk anymore for that time; he was very weak."

Meanwhile, he remained optimistic, mentally preparing himself for what could happen next.

"I was just trying to prepare myself for what would happen in the future, if we survive it or if we don't, [telling myself] 'OK, just try to enjoy this time, at least this quarantine because you never know what's going to happen.'"

Eventually, the coronavirus did not kill any of his family members.

Llajaruna now attends school in person on Mondays and Thursdays, just like he did last semester.

"I'm comfortable with my son Marcus going to school because we've already been through COVID once, and it wasn't as bad as we thought it was going to be," said Lilia Meza, Llajaruna's mother. "Also, since his grandparents and myself are soon to get vaccinated, COVID shouldn't be a risk anymore to our family."

SWEET 16 NOT SO MUCH FOR JUNIOR AND HER FAMILY

On July 24, the day Pich arrived at a Reno, Nev., rental house to celebrate her 16th birthday with her family, she received her positive COVID-19 test results.

The virus spread to six of the nine people living there near Lake Tahoe, including Pich, her father, brother and cousins.

With the two-story house, the family could quarantine the infected upstairs,

Despite coronavirus pandemic protocols, couples find creative ways to stay together

DOMINIQUE CHANG

Staff Reporter

Candle-lit dinners at a restaurant, rendezvous at a favorite campus spot or evenings at the local movie theater.

Such typical dates for young couples seem so foreign since the coronavirus crisis occurred a year ago, forcing state leaders to shut down in-door dining, live classroom instruction and the moviegoing experience.

But that doesn't mean Sunny Hills students are giving up on the boyfriend-girlfriend relationships they've established before the pandemic hit. In fact, some couples have remained even more vigilant to stick together during a time when most of the past year they had to spend apart while in quarantine.

"It was definitely a challenge since we didn't get to see each other as much as we used to," said junior Andre Sagum, who has been dating junior Alexis Boyer for almost two years. "There were times where I wanted to see her, but that wouldn't be safe."

Because neither could see each other on campus because of distance learning, Sagum and Boyer have found different ways of communication that helped get them through these tough times.

"Our communication is strong, and there's apps like FaceTime to keep in touch, but not being able to see each other in person for a while was difficult," said Boyer, who is currently still learning from home. "We started hanging out when school started and found ways to be safe and hang out



FIRST DATE: Freshman Paloma Wizikowski (left) and junior Christian Bolle share a moment at the Knott's Berry Farm Festival on Sept. 26, 2020.

like doing things outdoors, like going to the park."

Seniors Emma Suh and Steven Cortez weren't as fortunate as Sagum and Boyer to be a veteran couple.

"It was a little difficult to maintain a good relationship when quarantine hit since we were still a newer couple that had just gotten together a few months before, and we were just getting into the rhythm of

things," Cortez said.

Because their relationship formed in the midst of their junior years — a time considered the most challenging academically for students — the two had to make some sacrifices when it came to their studies.

"We tried to FaceTime as much as we could, but we were both really fixated on finishing our junior year with good grades so our time was really limited," Suh said.

"But we talked to each other any time we had."

It wasn't until Dec. 2, 2020, that Cortez and Suh were finally able to meet in person while following COVID-19 health and safety protocols. They would occasionally go for a run at the park or walk Suh's dog when they were able to meet.

These outings kept them healthy physically and emotionally as a couple.

Teen romance has also sprouted during the coronavirus pandemic.

When Sunny Hills started the 2020-2021 school year in distance learning, freshman Paloma Wizikowski said she noticed a familiar face during her fifth period German 1 Zoom session in August.

Junior Christian Bolle was a boy Wizikowski had followed on Instagram.

The two had originally added each other on Instagram because they both went to Sunny Hills. When they noticed they were in the same German 1 class, Bolle ended up messaging Wizikowski.

"It was pretty normal when he messaged me," she said. "We started off as friends so I was not expecting this at all."

After their first date at the Knott's Berry Farm Festival Sept. 26, the two have had many other outings like eating at an outdoor restaurant, grabbing lunch after school or at the mall.

Like with more established boyfriend-girlfriend relationships, these two have learned the value of the "C" word.

"Communication is key, and when you don't have that, it's hard to know if something is wrong with your other half," Bolle said.

FROM PAGE 6

COVID-19 STUDENTS

while the healthy ones stayed downstairs, she said.

Her dad explained it as if they became jail inmates, Pich said, since a healthy family member from downstairs would deliver food and drinks to their doors every day.

Once the person left, the doors upstairs opened — revealing hands that immediately grabbed the victuals — then closed right away.

After she returned home and tested negative on Aug. 20, Pich hasn't regained the sense of smell she had before.

"In the beginning, everything started to taste like garlic. It sounds crazy, but that's the best way I could describe it; the air smells like garlic or like burnt wood all the time," she said. "Even lotions or things I used to love the scent of before I had COVID, they smell weird to me now."

HO, HO, HO, ENDED UP MORE LIKE NO, NO, NO FOR TWO UNDER-CLASSMEN

Han, who got the virus after her father did from work, spent Christmas Day quar-

antined with her parents.

"We had a small church gathering on Christmas Day, so I was really sad to miss

“

Now more than ever, I think the coronavirus is a lot more serious than back then when all I had to do was wear a mask. Stay safe ... take preventative measures.

— freshman Arum Han

”

that, but I knew it was best to stay at home," she said. "So I spent Christmas with my family, and even for that I was grateful."

Now, three months after Han tested negative on Jan. 7, Han, like Pich, hasn't fully recovered. She said she lost her sense of

smell and the depth behind the food she eats, including *kimchi*, a traditional Korean dish of fermented vegetables.

"I still remember that bitter and strong flavor, but now when I eat *kimchi*, it's just slightly tangy in my mouth," said Han, whose parents have fully recovered.

But she didn't express any anger toward the virus that took her fullness of taste and smell.

"Right now, I am kind of sad that I can't taste the things that I love to eat, but if it were to affect me forever, I'm not very fazed by it now because I've been [without smell or taste] for well over two months," Han said.

Sass, who contracted the virus in early January because his mom went to buy food for a family Christmas dinner, also lost both senses, but these symptoms only lasted two to three days, he said.

"It was the trippiest symptom; you could down an onion, and you couldn't feel a thing," Sass said. "It was crazy."

To his peers, Han gave a warning and an encouragement:

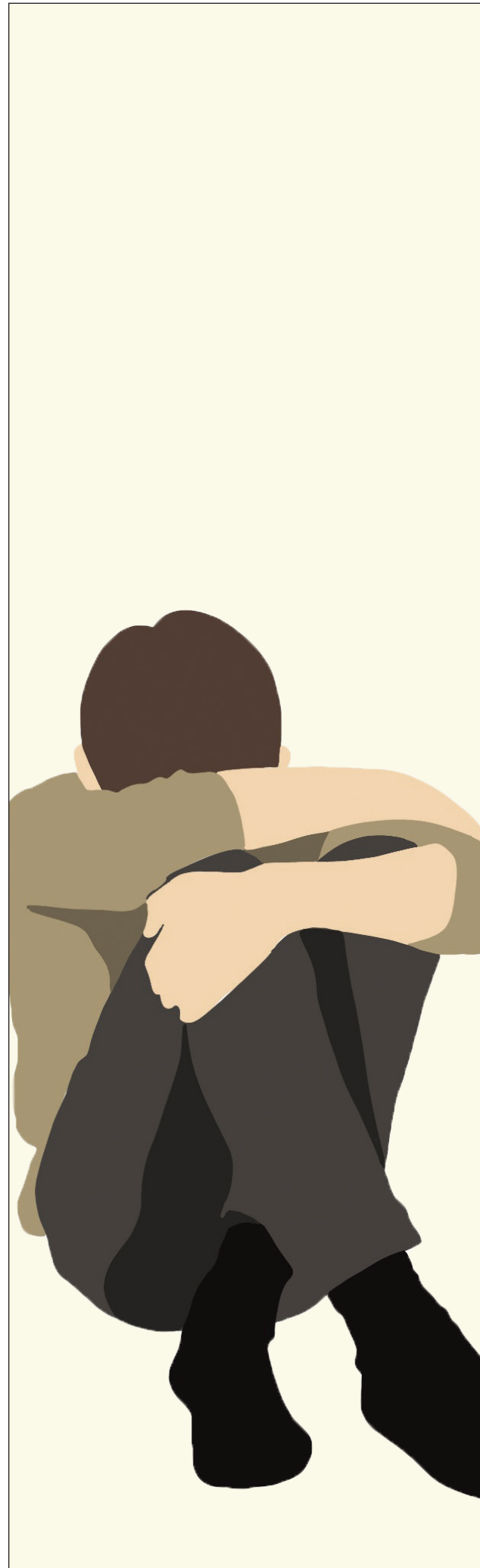
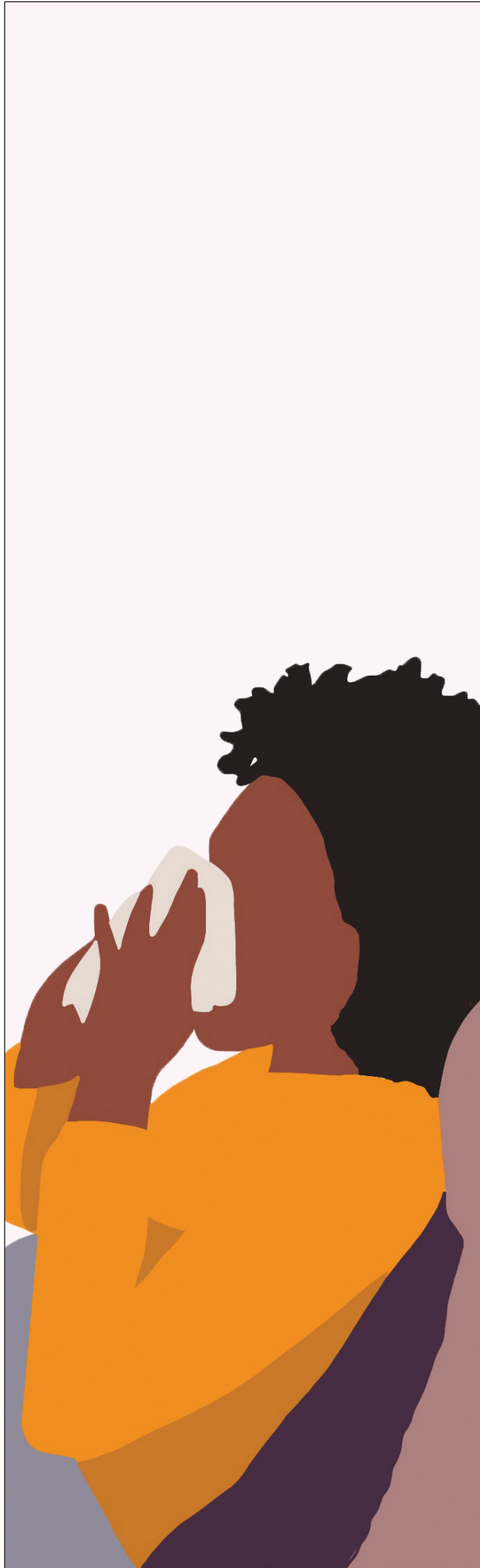
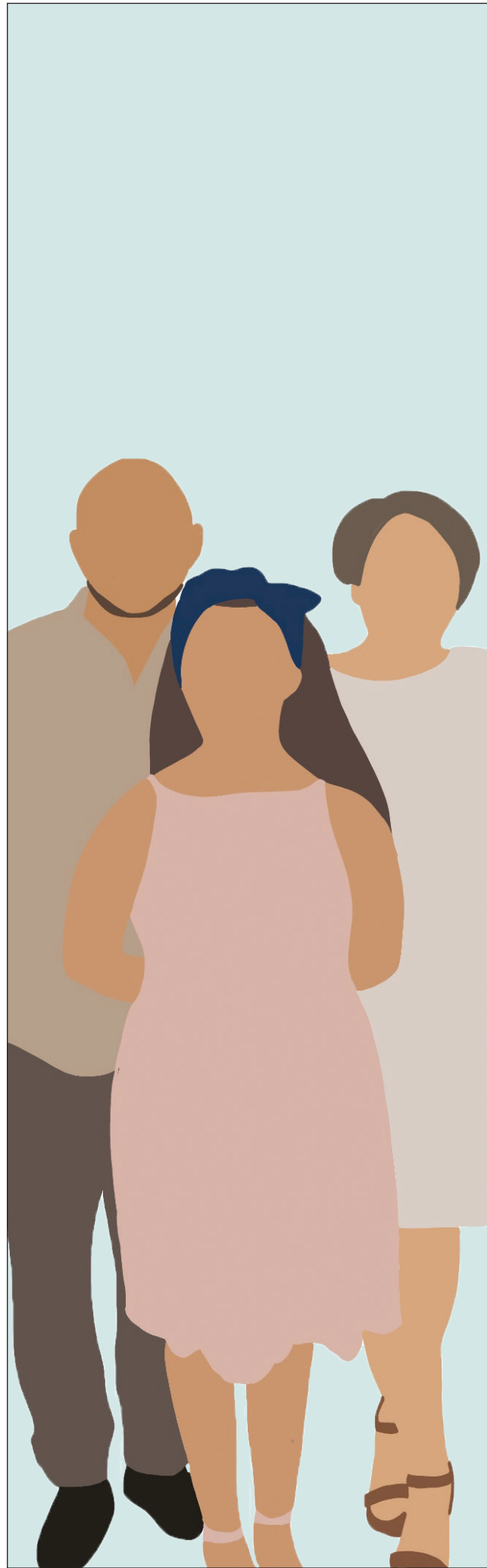
"Now more than ever, I think the coronavirus is a lot more serious than back then when all I had to do was wear a mask," she said. "Stay safe, and even if it's not likely for you to get coronavirus, still take preventative measures for others."



Image printed with permission from Kelly Pich
ICING ON THE CAKE: Junior Kelly Pich had COVID-19 when she celebrated her 16th birthday on July 25, 2020.

COVID-19: The good, the bad and the ugly

One year later, how has the coronavirus pandemic with the subsequent state-mandated lockdowns affected teenagers? The Accolade talks to a host of students while reviewing recent studies



KAREN LEE | theaccolade

THE THREE SIDES OF THE PANDEMIC: A family grows closer during quarantine (left), a woman covers her mouth as she sneezes into a tissue and a man struggling to cope with the changes that came with quarantine sits with his head buried in his knees.

ELIJAH JHEE & HANNAH KIM

Managing Editor & Special Sections Editor

Some students viewed the announcement with suspicion, as if receiving an early spring break was too good to be true — these students wanted answers, not days off. Others went home that day brimming with excitement, planning to spend their two weeks playing basketball with friends or shopping at the mall with their peers.

But two weeks grew into one month. One month turned into the rest of the semester. Excitement quickly became distress. Fewer students showed up to basketball courts for Friday night games. Shop-a-holics noticed their favorite stores closing down with each passing day. And what was originally supposed to be a two-week vacation had deteriorated into a year of global economic and social deceleration.

The Accolade takes a look at the impact of the coronavirus pandemic one year later, spotlighting any type of “good” that has come from it, followed by the “bad” and finally, culminating with the “ugly.”

THE GOOD

In a year filled with fear and confusion, it can be easy to emphasize how the pandemic has spoiled this year.

While most students might associate distance learning with disengaged Zoom sessions filled with muted microphones and black cameras, senior Kathryn Aurelio found the transition to virtual learning beneficial for her socialization in student organizations such as the Junior State of America and the Conservatory of Fine Arts because she found online presentations more comfortable than in-person ones.

“Previous insecurities of speaking up and talking louder than others to get your point across have dissipated as I can easily unmute from the comfort of my own screen,” Aurelio said. “I’m confident that when we’re back in person, I can transfer these skills accumulated during quarantine.”

For junior Patrick Jimenez, quarantine has sparked his creativity, inspiring him to participate in an innovation challenge hosted by FIRST Robotics in which he created a board game titled, “Muve It,” to submit to a panel of judges.

“Making a prototype for my board game was definitely the most interesting thing I did this year,” Jimenez said. “Creating a new game from scratch was really engaging, and seeing my finished product was amazing because it made me realize how much I could accomplish despite the restrictions of COVID-19.”

Along with the benefits to his mental cre-

ativity, he appreciates the social benefits of quarantine and how it has brought him closer to his family members.

“Whether it be Christmas or birthdays, we’ve spent the last year together under the same roof,” Jimenez said. “Normally, school and work meant that we saw each other less, so quarantine has definitely allowed us to spend more time together.”

The junior is also excited for the future as COVID-19 vaccines are gradually given to people.

“I’m sure that everyone has changed and matured a lot since quarantine had started,” Jimenez said. “After almost a year, I can’t wait to see all my friends out of quarantine once it’s safe enough.”

“I never expected the death count to get that high, especially when people are taking precautions and with the vaccines out today.

— senior Alena Ruedas

THE BAD

As of March 6, the coronavirus has killed 511,074 nationwide with 56,555 deaths in California alone.

If Sunny Hills students got this statistic one year ago, most would associate the number as the mortality rate of an apocalyptic thriller movie or a tragic flu only discussed in their world history textbooks.

“I never expected the death count to get that high, especially when people are taking precautions and with the vaccines out today,” senior Alena Ruedas said. “I don’t feel like a lot of people understand how consequential COVID-19 actually is, and it frustrates me that some people don’t take it seriously.”

Ruedas’s feelings toward the coronavirus exemplifies a vast majority of the student population’s initial reactions toward the im-

pact.

In terms of academics at Sunny Hills, the coronavirus crisis hurt incoming freshmen the most. Unlike previous classes of students before them, they were not allowed to take any summer school classes like health.

They also could not pick up a chrome-book in the summer, having to wait until a week before the fall semester started before school officials would check out a device to them.

And when the 2020-2021 school year started Aug. 11, many who had never used the Google Suite of apps like Google Classroom and Zoom in middle school had to navigate their way through finding each of their new teachers’ digital classes and figuring out on their own how to access and submit assignments digitally.

“I had a lot of things that I needed to learn and adjust to, which put a heavy burden on me,” freshman Ashley Kim said. “I also became more anxious and worried because I got distracted by my phone easily at home.”

THE UGLY

Though the deaths caused by the coronavirus could be viewed as the worst of what the past year has brought about, it is more so the lingering effects of depression and mental illness among teenagers that can cause more pain and suffering than just the loss of loved ones.

The Northeast region of the country, for example, saw a more than 330% increase in intentional self-harm claim lines reported by teenagers ages 13-18, according to a 2020 study by FAIR Health, a national non-profit organization dedicated to bringing transparency to healthcare costs and health insurance information.

The study compared cases in August 2019 and August 2020, the 330% increase being based on how many cases were reported the previous year.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on mental health, particularly on that of young people,” FAIR Health president Robin Gelburd said in addressing the study.

In addition to this statistic, overdoses increased by 95%, claims for generalized anxiety disorder increased by 94% in April 2020, and claims for major depressive disorder increased by 84%. The study showed that the age group 19-22 showed similar but less pronounced mental health trends.

“I know that there are a lot of people suffering due to the pandemic,” said Kim, who personally knows some people who have struggled with maintaining their mental well-being during quarantine. “It really breaks my heart that people are thinking to harm them-

selves due to the difficult situation.”

Senior Christian Alemana was more surprised by the 330% statistic for the Northeast region of the country but doubts whether the numbers are similar for Southern California.

“I can’t recall anyone who experienced suicidal thoughts, but I don’t know what’s going through people’s minds,” Alemana said. “It definitely feels straining to stay quarantined for an extended period of time, so I can at least assume that a majority of people would feel the same way as I do.”

Even teachers acknowledge that quarantine and students’ choice to learn from home have negatively affected teenagers’ mental health — showing the “ugly” part of the pandemic.

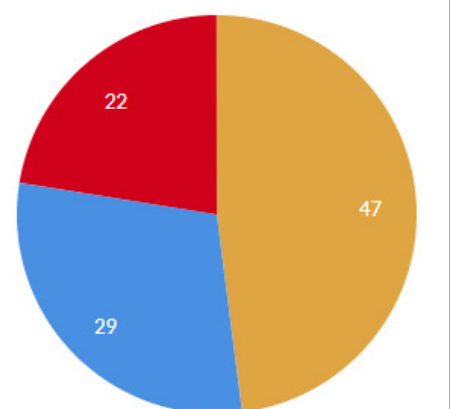
“I think that there are professional services that can help, but I think the first step is to be around people again and force that even if it’s uncomfortable,” English teacher Suzanne Boxdorfer said. “Other than that, you can talk to one of your teachers with whom you can connect with; they can help you reach out to a professional for help.”

TEMPERATURE CHECK

The Accolade online polled students about the following:

A year after the coronavirus lockdown, are you ...*

- optimistic that things will get back to normal?
- indifferent?
- pessimistic that things will get worse before they get better?



*From nearly 100 responses
Compiled by Hannah Kim

STAFF EDITORIAL

Time to grade coronavirus crisis

One year ago March 13, all Sunny Hills students went home as usual after the last bell rang, but most never came back and will likely finish the rest of the school year from home.

Since then, many things have changed for better or worse as students became accustomed to “Zoom” schooling in their own rooms.

Reflecting on the past year since COVID-19, *The Accolade’s* editorial board discussed its emotions experiencing a global pandemic and distance learning, as well as suggestions and advice for the district and teachers regarding this new norm. Like the end of a school semester, the editorial board gave a grade for the SH administration, the online learning structure and students’ overall mental health:

● SH administration = B

First, we agreed the district and administration deserve praise for handling such a sudden shift effectively. They provided ample communication to students and parents regarding the current situation, active board meeting decisions and more. Because of this transparency, families could make well-informed decisions on whether to send their children back to school when hybrid learning began last November for the first semester and later last month during the second semester.

However, the editorial board felt they lacked in preserving traditional student life and op-



ANDREW (JUNGHYUN) LEE | theaccolade

portunities we’d usually have on campus. For example, many iconic school events were blown over with little effort to revive them, lowering the student experience.

● Online learning structure = C

With the new student support period, students can connect with teachers outside of class. Students who need extra help can regain the quality of education online schooling may lack.

But the greatest downside of Zoom classes stems from the fact that teachers and the administration may overlook the sheer effort it takes to sit before a computer screen from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with only a 15-minute break between periods three and four.

Yes, “passing periods” have increased from five to eight min-

utes, but that’s still a far cry from the 30-minute lunches in a regular bell schedule. Returning to screens after school to complete homework assignments and study for tests can get very tiring, very fast. Also, stress can accumulate from circumstances beyond students’ control, like spotty internet connections and physical eye strain from screen time.

● Students’ mental health = D

Our struggles for motivation have become extremely difficult, especially with virtually no social interaction and school spirit activities. Some teachers only assign recorded videos of notes for students to watch during the period, and pay little attention to interacting with students or creating opportunities for them to do

so among their peers (before the school year started, California Gov. Gavin Newsom mandated that teachers should keep their students actively engaged).

Sure, instructors can assume we’ll turn cameras on to talk in Zoom breakout rooms, but in our shoes; why would we want to let strangers see our personal space, let alone talk to each other like we would in a live classroom? Nevertheless, they do so in the name of “student engagement.”

We acknowledge that this year hasn’t all been Zoom and gloom. Like many adults, we’ve experienced positive personal changes. Students devoted more time to hobbies and relationships with family and friends. Without commutes to campus, students had more time to spend doing the things they love with people who matter. For some, it even served as a period of personal growth.

Nevertheless, this year was not one we expected, but it served as a learning experience and time of maturity. Whether spending more time with family or attending classes in pajamas, this year truly was one to remember.

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 theaccoladshhs@gmail.com.

Ob-la-di ob-la-da, pandemic life goes on

I remember it like it was yesterday — Friday the 13th, 2020.



tylerPak
Editor-in-Chief

As I left my Period 5 *Accolade* class March 13, I remember hearing the excited cheers permeate through the halls during lunch. Some classmates

happily gathered and took photos together while others nervously discussed the future.

For a 16-year-old struggling with junior year, the idea of no school seemed a gift from God himself for me to recuperate and finish the second semester strong. However, anxiety lingered in the back of my mind — I was terrified of the unknown.

Nevertheless, as news editor at the time, I spent the day working

with fellow staffers to gather information and publish the breaking news: school was closed until further notice.

A year ago, all my troubles seemed so far away, but now, 365 days later, it looks as though they’re here to stay. I’m sure if we knew what was to come, no one would’ve celebrated.

As a senior, I’ve missed out on experiencing traditional 12th-grade events and seeing friends and teachers in person. I’ve come to accept that I likely will not return to in-person class for the rest of my high school career.

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District made in-person classes available to students with hybrid learning, but my parents and I don’t feel it’s safe for me to return yet because one of my parents has underlying health issues but doesn’t meet the requirements to get vaccinated.

Personally, being stuck at home every day was difficult. I’ve struggled with the dreaded “Zoom fatigue,” lacking motivation to log on to my seven Zoom classes. Many of my favorite activities, like playing basketball, involve substantial amounts of physical interaction. Rarely doing those things took a toll on my physical and mental health.

But like many others, I’ve picked up new hobbies. Two years ago, I’d spend free time at Independence Park in Fullerton competing in relaxed games of pick-up basketball. But now, watching shows like Disney Plus’s “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series” has allowed me to bond with my little sister and learn guitar and piano.

This interest in music also gave me a newfound appreciation for The Beatles (as you might’ve noticed from reading this col-

umn).

So, 365 days later. I’ve listed so many positives; have these made my quarantine worth it? No, but in the words of one of the last two surviving Beatles, Sir Paul McCartney, I’ve tried to take a sad song and make it better.



TYLER PAK | theaccolade

HEY DUDE: Senior Tyler Pak gains new appreciation for The Beatles in lockdown.

the accolade

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The Accolade welcomes signed letters to the editor with full name and grade level emailed to theaccoladshhs@gmail.com. The staff reserves the right to edit.

HEAD TO HEAD

NEW NORMAL?

In response to The Accolade's call for guest columnists, two students debate whether the district should require all to return to campus next school year; take our online poll and tell us what you think: shhsaccolade.com/category/opinion/

In-person will help freshmen

When I attended Sunny Hills' Open House assembly in January 2020, I thought my freshman year would be one to remember. It has been a memorable one, but not in the way that I imagined.

I imagined football games, pep rallies, meeting new people from other schools and being made fun of by the upper-classmen. Instead, I didn't get to attend in-person school until Nov. 2, 2020.

Because I've lost the iconic freshman experience, among other factors, I'm adamant that all students should be required to attend in-person classes with the continued requirements of masks, distancing and regular disinfection.

Since Dec. 26, 2020, the seven-day average of infections has decreased from Dec. 26, 2020's count of roughly 3,896 to about 186 cases as of March 11, according to COVID Act Now's website. And with three vaccines approved by the U.S Food and Drug Administration, teachers are on track to getting vaccinated, paving a clear path for safely reopening schools as the spread of the virus becomes less of a concern.

Following the everyday routine of attending classes in person twice a week in Cohort A and returning home at 2 p.m. on those days gave me a sense of normalcy. The in-class environment and the flow of class periods one after another allowed

me to focus on my learning.

But for teachers, many adjusted their lesson plans to accommodate for on-line learning. Because it's so easy for students to cheat, some educators have even stopped giving tests. With online learning, students can't receive a proper education like they would ordinarily.

Despite being able to physically attend classes in Cohort A, I still feel I'm not getting a proper education or returning to a sense of normalcy. I'm bound to feel this way, since I only attend school in-person twice a week with three other students in my classes who I can't even interact with comfortably.

Before high school, I was excited to make new friends from my classes since I didn't know most of the students.

But for the first few months of freshman year, it was difficult to communicate through Zoom breakout rooms and meetings. Fortunately, when I attended in-person classes, I met a few other students and made a couple friends. But since I only attend school two days a week, it's hard to maintain solid connections.

Because of today's unprecedented nature, I haven't received the high school experience I expected. But if students are required to return to school in the 2021-2022 school year, I hope I can remember my freshman year as one of the most challenging, unpredictable years yet.



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

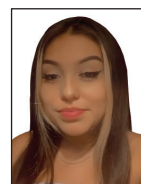


HOPE LI | theaccolade

"NORMAL": Advanced Placement Psychology teacher Greg Abbott speaks to his Cohort B students Friday while the rest of his class Zooms in.

Let's stick with Zoom sessions

My experience during the pandemic was hard ever since it started. I started losing myself.



joannaCarbajal
Guest Columnist

It was becoming harder to focus since the pandemic was new and was stressing many families and my peers, but then I realized the school work was getting easier.

I tried hard to keep my grades up and luckily, I did.

My experience was interesting because since the pandemic was new to everyone, I ended up getting used to it, though I still had a little trouble focusing.

When the fall semester started, I was actually liking distance learning. I attended online classes, and by November,

some students returned to school.

I personally think online classes are easier because all I have to do is pay attention in the Zoom platform and do the work. But why I find it easier is because I can get ahead at doing my assignments and finish them on time. That's the strategy I developed for online classes.

Also, I focus more in class because I feel like I get distracted by random stuff going on out of class and just anywhere in general.

I can tailor my study hours to fit into my everyday schedule.

When you are not required to be in class at a certain time or for a certain period of time, my study time can reflect on my own needs rather than accommodate a school's schedule. I am in between wanting to go back to school and staying in online classes.

At least now, I'm not as lost.

Letters to the editor

Reader response to the Feb. 19 special section addressing sexual harassment:

Rebecca Choi's article, "Media over-selling illicit content," was very well written, and the points used fit the subject.

Although I don't believe the popularity stems from the illicit content in them, everything else she wrote was true.

— Thomas Dew, junior

All the articles written for the special section titled, "Broken Boundaries," effectively shed light on sexual harassment, but Kate Yang's story titled, "Social media not best outlet to report sexual misconduct," especially caught my attention.

I agree that any incidents should be reported to an adult rather than posted on social media. It's an effort to raise awareness, but not an effort to resolve the misconduct.

In preparation of being put into this situation, students should take their time to

read this article. Although it may seem unlikely, sexual assault is unpredictable, and it's truly important to know how to react.

I also wanted to compliment the infographic on the right as a constructive method to summarize the article and compile all the necessary information.

— Susie Kim, freshman

Kate Yang's article, "Social media not best outlet to report sexual misconduct," emphasizes the commitment of the school to eliminate harassment.

The school supplies various tips for students to follow for a safer environment if it happens for one to be a victim. It definitely takes a lot of courage to report a case of harassment, but that step should be done.

The procedures the school is taking helps students. Sexual misconduct must end for the greater good.

—Omar Mettwely, senior

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

Andrew Park's Arts & Entertainment story, " 'Minari' film has helped me appreciate my ethnic identity," successfully expressed his emotions and thoughts to provide a clear overview.

After reading his perspective, I am inspired to watch the film myself to understand my ethnic identity as well.

Relating to Park's situation was a key factor that drew me into reading his article.

Like Park, I was born in South Korea and spent my early childhood there. In America, I wasn't able to appreciate my ethnic identity as well, since everyone's ethnic identity was so different from mine.

— Alex Lee, freshman

Grace Johnson's article about volleyball player senior Joseph Pak is inspiring, that an accountable leader like Pak is with us.

I admire Pak's perseverance and determination in fighting for what he loves. I am fascinated and delighted to witness his influence on spreading of the volleyball spirit. Admittedly, he is the pride of Sunny Hills and a model for students.

Unfortunately, Pak and other seniors cannot participate in championships because of the pandemic. It is heartbreaking to hear that they could not end their four years of high school life strongly.

As a frosh/soph volleyball player, I also felt upset when the CIF canceled all championships due to COVID-19. Anyhow, we are lucky that our school still provides practice twice a week.

— Sophia Qin, 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.

No lights, no camera, no action

MICHELLE SHEEN

Copy Editor

Breathing in the savory aroma of buttery popcorn, the audience sits down with hands full of snacks and cold beverages. The lights dim, illuminating the room with the sights and sounds of the film being projected.

This is how the standard movie theater experience begins.

However, this familiar viewing practice changed forever with the start of the first lockdown on March 13, 2020, which eventually led to movie theaters closures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Nearly a year later by March 3, COVID-19 has infected 29.3 million people in the United States, killing 531,000. During that time period, Hollywood halted its production schedules, and studios continually pushed back blockbuster movie release dates.

Disney's "Mulan," for example, had its March 27, 2020, release delayed three times following its March 9, 2020, premiere before finally being released Sept. 4. Those in charge of the Happiest Movie Studio on Earth decided to break with precedent and released its \$200 million production of "Mulan" direct to its Disney Plus home video platform at a cost of \$29.99 and is now free for subscribers to watch as of Dec. 4.

AMC Entertainment, the largest movie theater chain in the world, lost \$4.59 billion and dropped 77% in full-year revenue

Fallout from COVID-19 pandemic has led to suspension of blockbuster movie releases, end of film going as social activity among teens



JACQUELINE CHANG | theaccolade

BACK ON THE BIG SCREENS: An artist's rendering of a closed movie theater during the mandatory coronavirus lockdown. Theaters are finally scheduled to reopen at limited capacity during the coming weeks.

in 2020, according to a March 10 *Los Angeles Times* article.

Not only has the pandemic affected movie theater businesses, but it has also altered many others' dependence on the cinematic experience as a source of entertainment.

Sophomore Jacqueline Woo said she has missed the moments when the movie theater became the focal point of her and

her friends' social gathering.

"I remember [when] I went with my friend to watch 'Frozen 2,' and then at the end, we stayed to watch the credits, and it was just the two of us in the movie theater so it was really peaceful," Woo said. "It's a good memory that I can't really relive because of COVID."

Likewise, sophomore Harshika Saravanan hopes to go back to the theaters as soon

CURTAIN CALL

With positive COVID-19 case numbers declining in Southern California, movie theaters are opening up again on the following dates:

- Cinemark in Long Beach, March 14
- Select AMC Theatres, March 15

Source: Deadline.com

as possible.

"I just miss sitting and watching in the dark room, hearing the sound of the music, eating popcorn and being on the edge of your seat while watching a movie," said Saravanan, who frequented theaters at least a few times a month before the pandemic started. "I definitely watch fewer movies now [since theaters are closed]."

Avid moviegoer junior Zachary Tan turned to the drive-in theater alternative, although Tan found his Sept. 27 visit to watch "La-La-Land" with his two friends underwhelming.

"It was really cold at night, and I could hear other people in cars talking," he said.



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

District art show goes virtual for 2020-2021

KRISHNA THAKER

Staff Reporter

After last year's cancellation of the annual district art show because of the coronavirus pandemic, officials have decided to make sure the same thing doesn't happen this school year despite COVID-19 still not going away.

Anyone interested in viewing the variety of student-produced paintings, drawings, three-dimensional designs or photography can do so by going to the following link: www.fjuhsdvapa.com/2021-

district-art-show, according to a March 12 news release from the Fullerton Joint Union High School District.

The online viewing experience for the 35th year of the show was made available Friday and will continue through April 13.

Of the 20 Sunny Hills students who entered their work for judging by college art professors, eight earned recognition, such as first place drawing, third place photography and first place painting.

Seniors Mayerly Mejia's drawing, "Natural Beauty," and

Arianne Rose Sisk's painting, "Beautiful Pt. 1," were awarded first place in their respective categories.

Junior Sharon Choi's painting, "Self Portrait," senior Nathan Chapero's photography submission, "Shadow Box," and sophomore Hannah Yaros' drawing, "Into the Vast Depths," placed third in their respective fields.

RELATED FEATURE

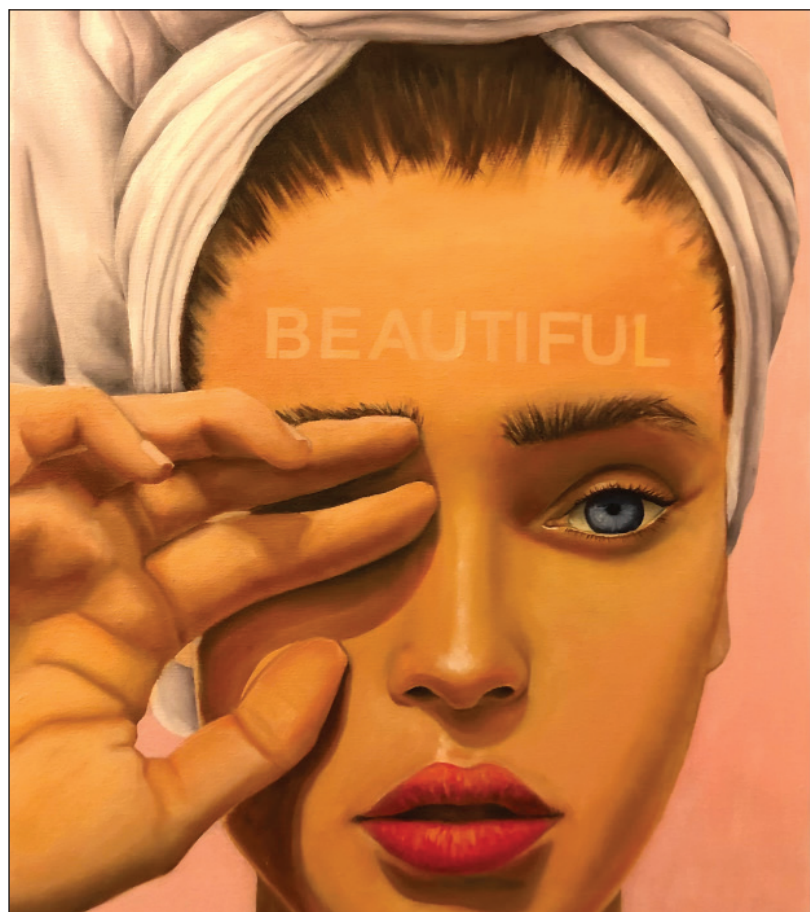
The artist's eye: Check out some of the entries from SH students. See **Entertainment**, page 13.



SPLIT: Junior Phoebe Park's oil painting depicting her version of disassociation is among those that can be viewed virtually until April 13 as part of the 35th annual district art show.



Art work still thrives despite pandemic



“BEAUTIFUL PT. 1”: “We are in a society where social media creates a standard impossible to replicate. But regardless, the unattainable standard is still sought out, and girls are convinced their natural beauty is not beauty at all. I hope young girls understand that their appearances are art and deserve to be recognized.” — Arianne Rose Sisk, 12



“INTO THE VAST DEPTHS”: Media used, graphite. The artist, sophomore Hannah Yaros, could not be reached for comment to explain her art work.



“WARMTH”: “I wanted my art to portray the main factors that drive my stress and anxiety away. This piece is ... the exact feeling I get from my family.” — Elizabeth Liu, 11

Sunny Hills art and photography students did not let COVID-19 stifle their creativity when they competed in the 35th annual Fullerton Joint Union High School District Education Foundation Art Show.

The following are a few of the images available for online viewing until April 13.

The Accolade also interviewed the artists/photographers behind each piece to explain their motivations or messages behind their work — completed while many were either learning from home or coming to school twice a week.



“SHADOW BOX”: “My intent was to show two people boxing, and I figured that placing them in a box would look even better. The line in the middle represents a line of division between the two sides.” — Nathan Chapero, 12



“SELF PORTRAIT”: “The prompt for this piece was to do a self-portrait using oil paint to create an interesting, semi realistic still life painting.” — Sharon Choi, 11



“NATURAL BEAUTY”: Media used, colored pencil. The artist, senior Mayerly Mejia, could not be reached for comment to explain her art work.



For the full art exhibition, go to <https://www.fjuhsdvapa.com/2021-district-art-show>



Image printed with permission from Brenda Houlihan

NOT PLAYIN' AROUND: Brenda Houlihan (right) is pictured with other SH athletes' parents who hold up signs Jan. 16 on the streets of Los Alamitos to advocate for their children to resume playing their respective sports in California.

Athletes join movement that brought back school sports

HENRY LEE

Staff Reporter

Junior Dylan Lawson couldn't sit on the sidelines anymore. It was worse than being a bench warmer.

At the end of January, Lawson -- who plays wide receiver and linebacker on the Lancers football team -- and his mother joined the "LetThemPlayCA" movement, holding signs and campaigning for the return of California high school sports in the streets of Los Alamitos.

The mother and son also wrote letters along with 10,200 others voicing their pleas to Gov. Gavin Newsom to work with state health officials to provide guidelines so that the California Interscholastic Federation can signal the start of the 2020-

2021 high school sports season.

"California was the last of the 50 states to suit up their athletes, and that is a very sad legacy to have," Houlihan said. "However, LetThemPlayCA showed our state how the work of a group of parents and coaches who have one goal can all work together to mobilize an amazing accomplishment."

LetThemPlayCA stems from a movement that started by a parent of a football player and a football coach from San Diego County; it went as far as filing a lawsuit against Newsom to force him to ease COVID-19-related restrictions against several counties in California as positive coronavirus case numbers began to dip significantly.

"There's been other states that have al-

lowed high school sports back in action, and the state of California had not at the time," first-year athletic director Paul Jones said. "The genesis of the movement can be seen how other states were more proactive where they were faster in allowing high school sports to return."

Although athletes and parents could have participated on their own, none of the coaches here or Sunny Hills programs attended protests or rallies, Jones said.

"People were really upset [about the lack of high school sports], and they put the LetThemPlayCA movement together, and I feel like they put a lot of pressure on the state of California to give kids the opportunity to play," he said. "I do feel like the movement definitely expedited the process of giving kids an opportunity to play."

With no minors allowed to watch matches, SH to live stream sports

KRISTIMA ARYAL

Sports Editor

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUHS] contracted with a livestreaming service company for an unspecified amount of money so each campus can provide a link for fans to watch certain athletic events like football or soccer, school officials said.

District officials made the decision to pay for the service after it was decided that athletes can only invite two adults 18 and over to watch FJUHS teams on the field, in the pool or on the courts, which excludes a majority of students from being able to support their peers.

Indiana-based National Federation High School [NFHS] Network, will provide each FJUHS campus two Pixellot systems, fully automated cameras that in-

clude auto tracking, principal Allen Whitten said.

"At the latest, my goal is to have everything up and running within three weeks to catch the later half of the football season, soccer and other sports," said Whitten, who proposed this network and another option for district officials to consider.

The principal said the deal with NFHS will also benefit the school's athletes.

"It's amazing to have any additional exposure for our athletes to college coaches," Whitten said.

In the meantime, Sunny Hills athletics would have to rely on streaming services of schools Lancers compete against, like what happened in Friday's home football game against Fountain Valley.

The Accolade sports staff will also provide live play-by-play Instagram (@sunnyhillsaccolade) and Twitter (@Ac-

coladeSports) coverage for all upcoming Sunny Hills football games.

Athletic director Paul Jones said he's looking forward to seeing those games livestreamed, since his former campus where he worked in the same position, Orange Lutheran High School, used the service to broadcast football, volleyball, soccer and lacrosse games.

"The cameras are really cool," Jones said. "We won't need any manpower on the cameras because it's all [artificial intelligence], and anyone can either join the link or just type up Sunny Hills [on the website]; it's great."

The principal is looking for creative ways to take advantage of what the network has to offer.

"Hoping we can figure out a few more elements like a scoreboard and commentators before we start up," Whitten said.

Me, get injured? Don't fall for that type of thinking



rachelYun
Staff Reporter

When I was a freshman, my teammates and I were cheering on our No. 1 doubles team, then-freshman Carolyn Tran and then-senior Madison Uy, who were taking on a pair from Troy at the Freeway

League finals.

Tran and Uy had taken the first set but lost the second, and while they had a lead in the tiebreaker set, we noticed Uy starting to bend over on the ground, putting her hand onto her stomach.

Eventually, Uy was unable to return to the court, prompting our coach to declare a forfeit.

This incident stuck in my mind because it was the first time I had seen one of my teammates suffer so much pain.

I thought to myself: *This could never happen to me. I am well-trained and would never over exert myself to the point of risking my health.*

But more than two years later Feb. 18, my thoughts of infallibility shattered.

It was our third practice, and I was rallying with my former doubles teammate, junior Carolyn Tran, on the Sunny Hills courts. She sliced her return, forcing me to pick up my left foot.

Little did I know that my left foot ended up rolling, causing me to fall, pushing the weight of my body on top of my foot.

I noticed a swelling the size of my palm. Immediately, I was scared and then the pain hit me, and I started crying.

My aunt arrived 20 minutes later to take me (and the crutches that the medical trainer gave me) to St. Jude's urgent care clinic, where a doctor took X-rays, which were negative, and recommended that I ice and elevate the swollen foot for a few days and use crutches to walk.

Though I am now sidelined at home and am unable to cheer my teammates, this experience has given me a chance to reflect on how much the coronavirus pandemic has affected athletes' physical conditioning.

I can see now that I was quite vulnerable toward getting hurt. The last time I rallied was three months ago when I practiced at another court with Tran.

According to footankleinstitute.com, stretching exercises can dramatically reduce the number of people who injure their ankles and feet during physical activity. They can also help to strengthen the joints and muscles, further helping individuals to avoid injury.

All in all, I blame no one but myself for getting hurt.

I hope that my peers don't make the same mistake of thinking that they're never going to get hurt, especially since like me, some may have not stayed as physically fit as they used to because of the COVID-19-related lockdown.

I can walk now and hope that I will be able to return to the school tennis courts soon — without falling again.

Football trounces Barons 56-14

ANDREW NGO

Web Editor-in-Chief

They waited.

And waited.

And finally, their patience paid off in a big way. A big, big way — as in Friday's 56-14 drubbing of the visiting Fountain Valley Barons (0-1) in the Lancers' return to the gridiron after 15 months away.

"I was just so excited to play [and] so excited for our kids," football head coach Peter Karavedas said after the game. "It was a great night, super weird because it's March football, but I'm just super proud of our kids."

Karavedas has a reason to be proud — five different Lancers (1-0) reached the end zone en route to a six-score victory over the Barons. But the scoring outpour didn't begin until the second half when Fountain Valley was behind only by a touchdown, 21-14.

"We settled down and started making plays, and once that happened, we were doing a great job," he said.

Karavedas and offensive coordinator David Wilde's scheme for the offense was similar to the heavy rush-oriented offense of years past, even with junior Max Spero — the Lancers' newest quarterback — at the helm of the offensive unit.

"We pound the football, we run the ball, but we want our quarterback to make plays for us when we need them," Karavedas said. "Max did everything we wanted."

Spero still has higher expectations.

"There is no better way to start your career out than with a 56-14 win, so I feel really good about that," he said. "I think that the score could have been higher, but at the end of the day, a win's a win."

Besides the offensive outpour in the second half, the Lancer defense also dom-



ALIYAH AHMAD | theaccolade

HUDDLE UP: SH football players kneel after the March 12 game against Fountain Valley while listening to head coach Peter Karavedas' postgame speech.

inated, shutting out the Barons the rest of the night when the Lancers took the field in the third quarter.

"Probably when we were about two to three touchdowns up, we started feeling that emotion that 'we got this,'" said running back and linebacker senior Vincent Silva, who opened the scoring for the Lancers in the first quarter. "But as the lead gets up to five scores, the scoreboard says it all."

Running back and defensive back senior Brandon Roberts led the way for the Lancers stat-wise with four touchdowns, including a 61-yard scamper during the fourth quarter.

"I'm just feeling appreciative of my offensive line because we wouldn't be here without them," Roberts said. "We love to run, and that's what we showed today."

Wide receiver and defensive back junior Dylan Lawson put an exclamation point on the victory with an acrobatic tipped pass that he caught for a 61-yard pick-six.

"It was just crazy, I didn't really know what to think," Lawson said. "I just picked the ball off and took it for a touchdown."

"We just demolished today and played a great game all around."

The work isn't done for the Lancers quite yet though — they will take on Buena Park in a home game March 19 at 7 p.m.

NEW FOOTBALL COMMITS



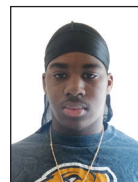
Kenneth Lathrum

Q: What will you miss about the Sunny Hills football program?

A: I'll miss my teammates who I've played with these past four years. I appreciate the coaching staff and the culture.

Q: Why did you choose Benedictine College?

A: They have a good engineering program, and the football program has a winning culture.



David Harris

Q: Before you leave for Doane University, what's your favorite memory at Sunny Hills?

A: I'm hoping my favorite memory is yet to be made. My goal for the last four years was to beat La Habra and if we can, that'll be my favorite memory.

Q: What are you looking forward to in college?

A: I look forward to making new friends and figuring out what I want to do for the rest of my life.

Compiled by Kristima Aryal

Pep Squad allowed at football games

LAUREN JUNG

Asst. Copy Editor

They don't compete in the Freeway League, but just like the student athletes they encourage on the field or in the court of play, the members of the newly formed Sunny Hills Pep Squad have been eager to get back in the swing ... or the tumbling of things.

"It's the best news we've gotten all year long," cheer captain senior Aileen Roque said about the squad's debut at Friday's 7 p.m. home football game against Fountain Valley High School at Buena Park High School Stadium.

They are limited in terms of what tricks they can do because they can't stunt or perform anything that involves physical contact to follow COVID-19 health

and safety protocols, but song captain senior Arianne Rose Sisk finds these precautions are necessary and lower the anxiety regarding the coronavirus.

Now, only the anticipation and expectations of the crowd — not the germs they may carry — worry her.

"I'm nervous [because] there's always the perpetual expectation for performers to be perfect, but I know we practice frequently and work incredibly hard, so we will keep going no matter what," Sisk said. "There's bound to be mistakes our first time, and that's OK because we know to shake it off and keep our heads up."

At all sporting events, each person on Pep Squad can bring only two family members older than 18 to watch the performances, which is the same policy for

student athletes.

"I'm excited to cheer in front of an audience because just merely seeing us on a video cannot capture the depth and enthusiasm quite as well as in person," Sisk said.

News of cheering at the games came as a surprise to the team because nobody knew what was going to happen during the last few months of practicing, but head coach Leiana Volen said she feels proud of her students for how much they've learned even with such an abnormal year and circumstances.

"It's going to be different, but they're going to do great and enjoy it, which is what this is all about — to have fun, get to celebrate their school and hopefully bring some smiles to our community's faces," Volen said.



CHARIS LEE | theaccolade

WORKIN' IT: Senior Leala Jung (right) shakes her Lancer gold pom poms in front of the gym during Pep Squad practice Thursday in preparation for the next day's football game.

With sports returning, fans to be limited

ANDREW PARK

Staff Reporter

With the exception of last year's homecoming football game, junior Nathan Kim has sat on the bleachers to watch every other gridiron contest — including the ones on the road.

"I loved seeing the bright Friday night lights with [other] Lancers up on the bleachers cheering for the SH football team beneath them," Kim said. "I love the enthusiasm that the crowd gave off."

But this year, Kim — along with his peers who are under 18 — will not have the opportunity to attend these events after a March 2 email from superintendent Scott Scambray outlined spectator restrictions for the reopening of high school sports.

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District [FJUUSD] announced that only two household members 18 years or older can be in the stands to watch.

"Limited number of observers to ensure physical distance reduce potential crowding and maintain indoor and outdoor capacity limits," Scambray wrote in the email. "Spectators/Observers must maintain at least 6 feet from non-household members."

Some students, coaches and parents do not find the limited spectators as a big concern for them.

But that's not the case with the athletes.

Junior Kayla McCuen, who started her girls water polo season March 3, said she will miss the home pool advantage of the crowd noise, especially when the Lady



KRISTEL LACESTE | theaccolade

LANCER PRIDE: Despite the new guidelines limiting spectators at games, the Lancers' March 8 boys water polo contest against Sonora still had some fans.

Lancers score.

"Whenever I make a good play, it's always nice to hear the crowd roar," McCuen said.

However, the Lady Lancer said she appreciates that her mother, Kelly McCuen, has been able to attend all of her games.

"I had actually been working the snack shack for her games in the past, so I would usually make it to her games," the mother

said. "I'm grateful that we are at a point where our athletes are able to play again."

Alongside acknowledging the importance of social distancing even in games, the parent finds it difficult to maintain the six feet distance rule during a sporting event, especially on a pool deck.

"The people in the stands are usually spread out, but some parents gather with each other," she said.

SPECTATOR RULES FOR SH SPORTING EVENTS



Only two 18 or older household members per athlete



Masks must be worn by all spectators throughout the event



Spectators must maintain a six-foot distance at all times.

Compiled by Kristima Aryal

Head football coach Peter Karavedas, whose team opened its season with a 56-14 victory on Friday, said whether the bleachers are packed with Lancers or not is not as big of a deal as being able to compete on the field again.

"For the longest time, we didn't think we were going to have a season, so I am not in a position to complain about anything," Karavedas said.

To compensate for students who are restricted from attending a competition, the FJUUSD announced a new live streaming service for athletic events like football or soccer.

But for Kim, that's still not going to be the same.

"To me, the friends, thrill and live audience is what made the experience," he said. "Not being able to attend these games was a loss for me. I had fun during those games, but I know that they are taking safety precautions and keeping us safe."

Put me in, coach; I'm ready to play even if stands aren't fully packed

Ten of my girls water polo teammates, including myself, sat in a large circle in the Sunny Hills parking lot outside the campus' Aquatic Center.



Kristima Aryal
Sports Editor

Coming out of a grueling practice, dripping wet, we still found solace on the asphalt as we cracked jokes and enjoyed each other's company.

Recalling our favorite memories, I felt our team chemistry strengthen.

As we munched down on the pizza provided by one of my teammates' parents, we kept each other motivated despite the pandemic's stripping our chance at the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section [CIF-SS] playoffs.

We were heartbroken that we would never get the chance to bring home a CIF title home this season for our Lancer family.

So when we finally heard the news

on Feb. 3 that we would indeed play a season, my team knew that we had to continue our dominant legacy in the Freeway League going into the 2020-2021 season.

For over four years, the team has remained on the top of the league standings.

Before the announcement, many of us had a pessimistic point of view and already accepted that our 2020-2021 season would not come to fruition, so none of the members of the girls water polo team even participated in the "Let Them Play" movement.

While the campaign stemmed from athletes' and parents' frustrations over the coronavirus-related restrictions, limiting contact practice and competitions, originally, I agreed with the district and CIF's guidelines.

I understood that the precautions taken were there to protect the student body and coaches.

Nevertheless, I'm truly grateful for the parents and students who fought for high school athletes across California. Without them, I would have lost the opportunity to play even a condensed season with the

graduating seniors this year.

After finishing two of the three weeks of our Freeway League season, my team's motivation has yet to falter. During practice, we still find moments to laugh. We also continue focusing on crafting our defensive and offensive skills, keeping in mind our toughest competitor, Troy.

And on Friday, when the buzzer went off marking the end of the game against Troy, I made eye contact with my teammate, senior Riley Godfrey.

Tears welled up in our eyes because we kept our four-year streak and completed our promise of keeping the girls' water polo program undefeated.

Though I cannot continue my pre-coronavirus freshman and sophomore memories of singing in the locker room with my teammates and having competitive team bondings at the bowling alley, I'm glad I still get to enjoy the little things with my water polo family.

We may not have a chance to win a CIF-SS title this year, but I have no doubt in my mind that next year, we will finish what we started.

CURRENT GIRLS & BOYS SPORTS RECORDS



Boys soccer: 1-0

Girls soccer: 0-0



Boys tennis: 3-1

Girls tennis: 2-1



Boys water polo: 3-4

Girls water polo: 6-0



Boys cross country: 1-5

Girls cross country: 2-5

Compiled by Kristima Aryal