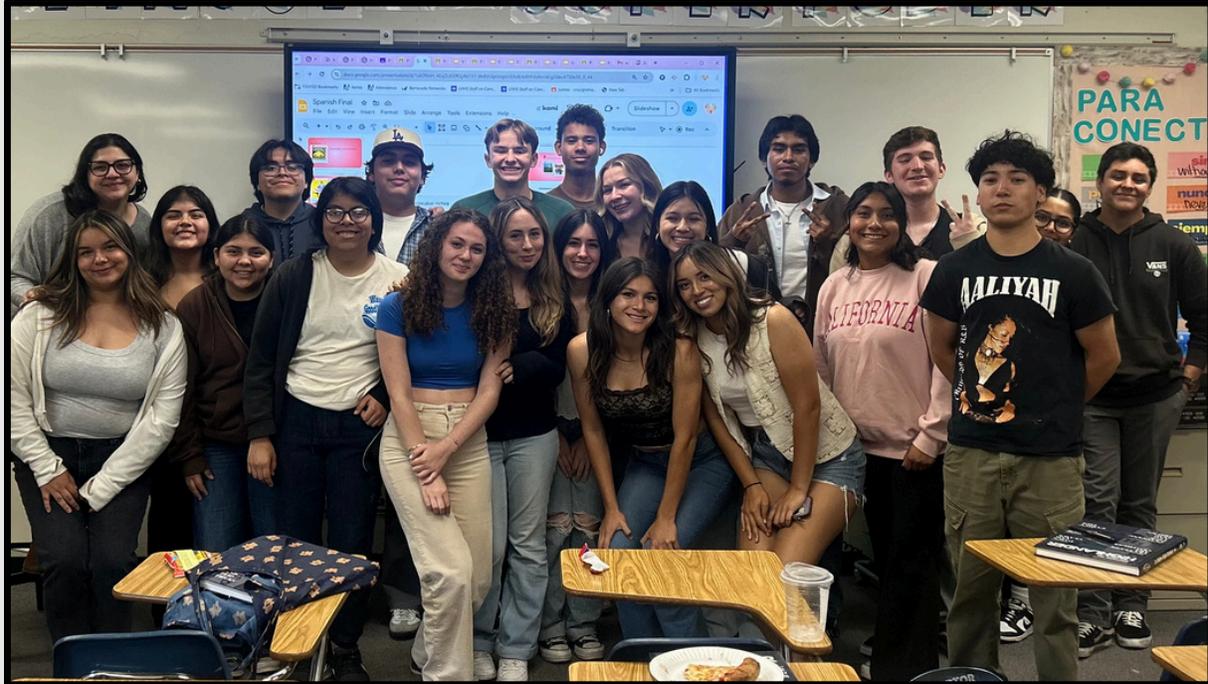


THE SCOTCH TAPE



MRS. CARTON: FROM STUDENT TO MENTOR AT LHHS

Teachers are just a part of the school day for many students, but for Mrs. Carton, it’s more than just a job– it’s a way to inspire students and give back to the high school that inspired her passion for teaching in the first place. *(Story by Mia Soza continues on pages 2-4)*



SENIORS’ FINAL STRETCH *By Liam Howard*

As the final quarter begins, La Habra High School seniors find themselves with a bittersweet realization. It is the last time they will walk the halls, sit in the

classrooms and enjoy the overall experience they had over the last few years. This is a pivotal moment, however: The final stretch.

For some, this realization brings relief.

“I am finally free from this place,” says Senior Javier Reyes, “however, I will miss it.”

For students like Javi, it’s not just about leaving the school but leaving behind the memories and connections made along the way. The laughs shared during the time spent will all... *(continued on page 2)*

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE: MRS. CARTON: FROM STUDENT TO MENTOR AT LHHS

When she attended La Habra High School, Mrs. Carton shared relationships with teachers beyond the classroom. They weren't just educators; they were mentors, and they even attended her wedding, inspiring her to follow in their footsteps.

"Seeing the positive impact they had on me, I wanted to do the same for my students. I wanted to show young people how to be proud of their culture."

Outside the classroom, she follows Dodgers baseball very closely.

"If I wasn't teaching, I'd have loved to work in sports media— maybe even be the Spanish commentator for the Dodgers."

Mrs. Carton even considered law school, only to be held back by self-doubt and timidity. Now, she encourages her students to believe in themselves and step outside their comfort zone, something she wishes she could've done sooner.



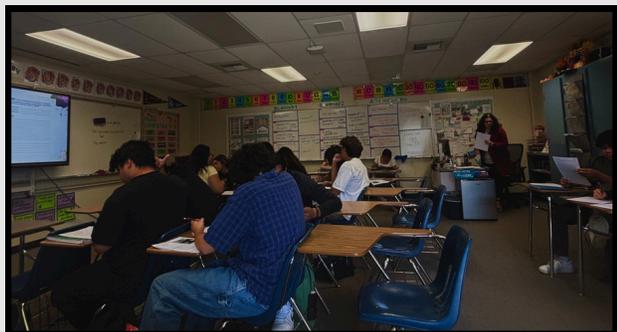
But the classroom isn't the only place she offers support for students.

"I want my students to feel like they can talk to me if they need someone to talk to", encouraged Mrs. Carton. "It's important to me that they know I care about what's going on, not just their grades."

Mrs. Carton knows how hard it can be for students to manage their school work and personal goals, but she pushes students to believe it's possible.

"Things can seem overwhelming", she said. "But you just have to take things one at a time and be proactive—they can always ask us for help if they need it."

Mrs. Carton's journey shows the power of mentorship and the lasting impact that teachers can have on their students in all aspects of life, not just the classroom.



FROM THE FRONT PAGE: SENIORS' FINAL STRETCH

By Liam Howard

(continued from the front page) ...become part of a greater story. A feeling of being ready to move forward while knowing these past years will hold a special place in their hearts for years.

Others, like Issac Galvan, feel more eager to leave. "I am very happy knowing that in a couple of months, I get to leave this place and never come back," he says.

Then, for students like Issac looking towards the future, the thought of freedom is exciting. The feeling of a new chapter in their lives feels rejuvenating, and the routine of waking up early and seeing friends will linger in their minds as they go through their final months of high school.

Jason Vargas, on the other hand, expressed a sense of closure, saying, "After years of slaving away, I get to be free from this place. I will not miss it."

No matter their approach, the seniors all have one thing in common: This semester marks the end of an era. It is a time to celebrate the friendships, lessons, and memories that have defined their high school journey. From the late-night study sessions to FNL games, the moments that once felt ordinary will soon become cherished stories to tell.

So, to the Class of 2025: savor these fleeting moments. Whether you're counting down the days or wishing for time to slow down, remember that these experiences will stay with you forever. The halls may soon become just a memory, but the impact of your high school years will echo for a lifetime.



MY EXPERIENCE IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS AS A FOREIGN STUDENT

By Gabriel Gambol

I've been living in America for a portion of my life at this point, but over this year and a half, I can confidently say that school here is so much better than in Italy, the place where I used to live with my family.

I remember my first thoughts when moving to America and thinking how different or similar was it gonna be to the schools I used to not only go, but also from movies that i've seen during my childhood that show their schools, and it always got me curious on how familiar they would have been to what I have been shown in the past as a kid.

My first impressions of the schools were the first time here, a long time ago, back in the summer of 2023, and it was so much different than I was expecting at the time when I was in 8th grade, back at Rancho Starbuck Intermediate School.

I was actually surprised by a lot more than what I expected because the school was not a big school with massive hallways and multiple lockers, but it was rather an open one, with just a couple of lockers around the school. After a while, I did realize that different states also meant having different school buildings, and in my case, it was the first time I saw a California school, which did actually surprise me a lot.

At the start, I struggled a lot trying to figure out everything in the school, like, for example, where I had to go for each individual class, because in Italian schools, I just stayed in one singular classroom for the whole day, so that was new for me. Making friends and talking with others was also hard; not only did my English sound a little bit different, but also because I was much more shy compared to right now.

It was definitely a weird and hard experience, but it was definitely a way I learned to be more confident and open about myself with new people, even when I was now living in a country that I barely knew and didn't know as much.

Now that I am in high school, I realize how much I have changed over this time, and it impresses me a lot. I now have many more friends who care about me. I changed a lot about myself, but I still overall have my original traits from my past, and I'm proud of that.



SIMON SCHOLARSHIP: EMPOWERING DREAMS AND SHAPING FUTURES

By Evelyn Garcia

Imagine a world in which financial barriers don't stand in the way of a student's dreams. This vision is becoming a reality through the Simon Scholarship, which is able to provide life-changing opportunities to those who obtain it. With the help of this incredible program, many students have been able to follow the path of higher education and find the doors to their future that they might have thought were closed.

The Simon Scholarship has made a significant impact on the lives of many students.

"The Simon scholarship gives me motivation to always keep up my work," says Jaylene Vargas, a first-generation student and recipient of the award. "It taught me how to manage my time and balance my social life with my academic life."

Jaylene loves the benefits that the scholarship has given to her and the fact that the Simon Scholarship also taught her how to communicate with people and go outside her bubble.

For many students, the Simon Scholarship represents a beacon of hope.

Magaly Avila, a high school sophomore applying for the scholarship, shared her aspirations: "I applied for Simon scholars in hopes to not only help my future and see where I want to go, but to help lessen the amount I need to pay for a college or university." Magaly also hopes to work on social skills and connections if she were to receive the scholarship.

The Simon Scholarship is more than just financial aid; it's a support system that empowers students to pursue their dreams. By providing both financial assistance and mentorship, the Simon Scholarship opens doors to a brighter future for countless deserving students.



PROM THEME SATISFIES STUDENTS

By Kiki Huizar

As we know, prom is the most anticipated event for seniors and juniors. The school has had great prom themes and venues in the past, except for last year's mission-impossible theme. Hopefully, this year's theme will be much different.

For a while now, ASB has been dropping hints about the theme. The first hint was a leg and apple emoji, and the second hint was a shark and lake emoji.

"I think the prom theme is going to be Shark Tales because of the shark and lake emojis," said senior David Castro after reviewing the clues.

Since all the hints ASB has given out were related to sharks and water, Cindy Jaramillo says, "I think the prom theme is gonna be something to do with summer, the beach, or the sea."

On February 13, during break, the junior ASB class finally revealed the prom theme for the class of 2025. The theme was The Golden Ages.

For those who don't know what the Golden Ages are,

it's the Roaring 20's, feathers, peals, black and gold. The location for the prom is going to be at the Natural History Museum in L.A., about an hour away from La Habra.

Seniors were satisfied with the theme and thought ASB did a good job with the location, too. Some people, including myself thought prom would have been better if it was a Great Gasty theme instead of The Golden Ages, but it's almost the same thing.

Prom will be on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at the Natural History Museum in L.A., and will start at 7 pm and end at 11 pm. The tickets are \$110 with ASB and \$120 without, the ticket prices will go up and the last day to buy tickets will be March 28, 2025.



HAVE FUN AT PROM!

ASB PRESENTS A MASQUEURADE BALL

By Cecilia Munoz

ASB hosted Winter Formal, with the theme 'Masquerade Ball,' for the first time in a decade, delivering a memorable night of dancing and camaraderie for students who attended.

As with previous dance events, ASB utilized the gym and Senior Park so students could have plenty of places to mingle, chat, and, of course, dance. Food and drinks were provided, as well as a choice of purchasing Joe's Italian ice for \$5.

Although a new dance being introduced should bring excitement and anticipation, many students were hesitant about the thought of Winter Formal replacing Sadies. After asking multiple students of LHHS varying throughout grade, most responses were the same: "I'm not going".

Prior to the dance, the ASB president shared that they had an estimate of around 500 ticket sales. After winter formal concluded, ASB confirmed the dance instead had an attendance of around

200-250 people.

This number of attendance is low compared to previous dances such as Homecoming or Prom, which usually have an attendance level of over 500. Though attendance levels may have been low, everybody that attended winter formal reported having a great time and enjoyed the introduction of a new dance.

Although attendance levels were not as high as expected, ASB and Mr Fritter were equally grateful for all of those that came to the first winter formal for La Habra High School in over 10 years.





ANNUAL NJROTC MILITARY INSPECTION

by Jack Lee

NJROTC Cadets conducted the Annual Military Inspection (AMI) on February 19th in the school football stadium. Cadets were inspected by the Area 21 Manager of the Navy early in the morning, with the official inspection beginning in the afternoon.

The company ordered 0-4 platoons, which correspond to the students in each NJROTC class period, to “fall in,” which simply means to get into standing formation based on the platoon assignments.

Awards and promotions such as ranks and ribbons were given out to recognize outstanding cadets who showed they went above all.

Then, our weekly inspection was done, which involves a commanding officer standing in front of the group to inspect uniforms and test knowledge of military information like general orders or regulations.

Tom Garcia then observed the platoons perform an in-place drill, where cadets would follow in-place orders such as the left-face, about-face, and hand salute.

“AMI was very scary, I lowkey screwed up on my personal inspection because I never got a haircut,” said sophomore NS2 Richard Mendes. “However, AMI itself was fun, but I didn’t go home immediately after because I needed to give an award for armory.”

Afterward, the company marched in formation around the football field while a recording of the National Anthem played in the background.

When the company put cadets back in their starting positions, cadets were dismissed in the same way every NJROTC class dismissed, which was by yelling the creed “Better, Stronger, Safer, Can do!” and falling out of position.



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‘SQUID GAME’ MAKES MASSIVE COMEBACK AFTER 3-YEAR HIATUS

by Gabriel Gambol

Squid Game season two has been in the works for more than three years, and the results have been incredible overall.

Hwan Dong-Hyuk, the creator, writer, and director of Squid Game, spent more than 100 billion South Korean Won on season two, which in US dollars is about 84 million dollars. This far exceeded the budget of 31 billion South Korean Won, about 21.4 million US dollars, that were used in the first season.

Each episode of season two was about four times the cost of every episode in season one, which was from 3 billion South Korean Won, 2.4 million US dollars, to 14 billion South Korean Won, 14 million US dollars.

The amount of money that both seasons made may look little, but it is significantly different, because as the first season made 1.2 trillion South Korean Won, about 900 million US dollars, the second season made about 1.5 trillion South Korean Won, which is about 1 billion US dollars.

Even though the audience had to wait three years for the new season, there were many reasons for why, as Hwan Dong-Hyuk had to hire many actors and had to maintain a large crew, took a much longer time building the season two sets, as they were much more larger than season one, and the filming took 1 year because of the large group of actors that had to be in almost every episode.



“I think the new games in the new season were better than last season, especially Mingle and the roundabout game,” said freshman Angel Lopez, “and the new season was by far interesting, had a lot of different focal points, very enjoyable characters and nice cinematography. I think they had to spend at least 500 million to produce the sets and the costumes.”



TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTS PROMISED IMMIGRATION POLICIES

by Kayla Walsh

Protests have spread across the country after President Trump issued several executive orders that drastically changed the immigration policy in the United States. These changes have already begun to impact immigrant communities across the country.

One of the most controversial aspects of the new policy is the administration’s decision to use the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to conduct mass deportations of immigrants accused of gang affiliation, bypassing traditional court hearings. This move has raised concerns for many communities.

Protections against deportation for over 300,000 Venezuelans residing in the U.S. have been revoked. Individuals who previously relied on Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or other relief measures will now face deportation, leaving many families in uncertainty and fear.

In direct response to these drastic changes, protests have boomed in several major cities. Demonstrators, including local residents, students, and many members of different communities, have taken to the streets demanding an immediate reversal of the policies. On many campuses, including our own, rallies have been started, with participants of these rallies chanting for justice and urging lawmakers to reinstate fair humane practices.

Members of our school community have voiced their concerns about the impact of these new policies on their families and friends. Students and faculty are worried about the border implications for immigrant rights. As the debate concludes, it is clear that this is a huge problem that will exist as long as Donald Trump is in office.



THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS: DYNASTY OR JUST LUCK

by Liam Howard

For several seasons, the Kansas City Chiefs have dominated the AFC, consistently proving themselves as the team to beat. Led by superstar quarterback Patrick Mahomes and tight end Travis Kelce, the Chiefs have built a winning culture comparable to that of the 2000s New England Patriots. However, after their latest Super Bowl performance, some are beginning to question whether their dominance is built on skill or luck.

One common argument in favor of the Chiefs' success is their astounding coaching staff. When asking senior Liam Fuller his opinion, he said, "I think the Chiefs are very capable of getting the 3 peat against the Eagles by simply out-coaching them when it matters like they have done time and time again in the playoffs." But even with the Chief's incredible coaching staff, they were outclassed in every way this past Sunday.

But with rivals like the Buffalo Bills, Cincinnati Bengals, and their recent Super Bowl opponent, the Philadelphia Eagles, one would think the Kansas City Chiefs are a monster of a team, right?



On February 9th, the Chiefs faced the Eagles, and Mahomes had a disappointing performance. He threw two interceptions, was sacked six times, and struggled to generate momentum against a relentless Eagles. For a team that consistently reached the AFC Championship game and won multiple conference titles, it was just a disappointing outcome by the Chiefs.

"They wouldn't be here without the refs and luck," says senior William Kim. "Every big game they had always had a dumb call giving them the edge to win."

This sentiment has been echoed by many NFL fans who believe that officiating has played a significant role in the six of the Chiefs. However, during the Super Bowl, the referees made a clear effort to call a fair game, and without too many controversial calls to aid them, the Chiefs were blown out.

Whether or not officiating has influenced their success,



the Chiefs' loss has given critics more fuel. With the final score being 40-22, some now argue that the Chiefs are not as dominant as they appear. Their number one ranked defense failed to show up and Mahoney started to choke under pressure.

"They're just constantly shoved in your face trying to make you like them," says Fuller.

Whether you think the Kansas City Chiefs established a new NFL dynasty or simply benefited from lucky referee calls, their dominance in the AFC and the playoffs are not to be ignored. But after this Super Bowl loss, their debate over their true greatness continues.





THE SEASON THAT GOT AWAY: BIGGEST NFL DISAPPOINTMENTS OF 2024

by Mia Soza

Nobody had a worse late 2024 than Bengals, Jets, and 49ers fans. From a disastrous season for a Madden-cover-running back to a Hall-of-Fame-worthy quarterback, it's safe to say that these three teams were the biggest letdowns of the 2024 NFL season.

Unfortunately for Bengals fans, hopes of knocking Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs out of the race in the AFC Championship have officially come to an end. But there's no one more frustrated than Joe Burrow.

Burrow didn't hold back his exasperation even after a mid-December win against the Tennessee Titans, with cameras catching him uttering "It's embarrassing" from the sideline.

"I was just frustrated with the day we had on offense," he told reporters post-game. "It was too sloppy. We had too many penalties. Too many procedural penalties. I had too many turnovers. It was just a frustrating day on offense."

"Sloppy" sums up the Bengals' season perfectly—largely due to Zac Taylor's defense.

According to CBS Sports, their loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers marked the sixth loss where they've allowed over 25 points and the fourth where they've allowed at least 33, and that was still with 5 games left in the season (finishing 9-8).

On the bright side, Joe Burrow had a historic season, finishing 90.4 overall and 89.3 in passing grades, which put him at second in the league—his defense just never seemed to show up.



For Aaron Rodgers and the Jets, it was the complete opposite.

Rodgers put up one of the worst performances of his career after coming back from an Achilles tear, filled with overthrows and interceptions to the point that opposing teams can't help but feel bad.

"I think he's an older guy, doesn't want to take big hits like that anymore," said Seattle's defensive end Leonard Williams after returning an interception for a 92-yard



touchdown in week 12. "So, sometimes if you feel the guy coming full speed at him, he's going to chuck it and duck."

The Jets finished with a discouraging record of 5-12, forcing them to make some tough decisions regarding the quarterback position for 2025. For Rodgers, this could unfortunately mean the end of his long career.

While most people likely wouldn't have predicted this kind of season for the Bengals and Jets, the most surprising disappointment is the 49ers after a victorious year of making it to the Super Bowl.

But quarterbacks and defenses weren't the main reason for their 6-11 record— injuries were their biggest opponent by far.

The 49ers had zero snaps with star running-back Christian McCaffrey and receiver Brandon Aiyuk, two of their top touchdown scorers in 2023.

As if that wasn't enough, linebacker Dre Greenlaw also missed the entire season due to an Achilles tear in the Super Bowl in addition to shortened seasons for Trent Williams, Talanoa Hufanga, and Javon Hargrave.

If there's one good thing coming out of this season for the 49ers, it's motivation for next season.

"I think we are all pissed off in the right ways," said Christian McCaffrey. "I think it's a good place to be."

With a long off-season ahead, these teams have a lot to think about if they want a shot at redemption in 2025.





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WELCOMING THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE

by Miranda Jones

As we begin the Year of the Snake, millions of people across the world will celebrate the Lunar New Year. This is celebrated with cultural performances, lavish feasts, and much more. The Spring Festival, which lasts over 15 days, is the most notable and popular holiday in China to celebrate the Chinese New Year. It symbolizes family togetherness, new beginnings, and prosperity in the upcoming year.

In the Chinese zodiac, the Snake represents transformation, wisdom, and strategy. Unlike the Year of the Snake, the Snake resembles intelligence, patience, and important decisions. Many astrologers predict that the year 2025 will be a year of careful planning, reflection, and opportunities, which will make it an interesting and possibly exciting time for politics, businesses, and personal growth.

One of the most fascinating and exciting aspects of the Spring Festival is the annual Chunyun, which is the world's biggest human migration. Chunyun is a period of travel with heavy traffic in primarily China for the Spring Festival and Lunar New Year. Millions of people travel across the globe to visit and reunite with their families. This fills train stations, airports, and highways, which has started to become a notable feature of this holiday.

The New Year's Eve reunion dinner is by far the most important meal of the year for families celebrating Chinese New Year. Families eat fish, dumplings, spring rolls, and glutinous rice cakes. These dishes all symbolize certain things: Fish symbolizes surplus and prosperity, dumplings represent wealth and fortune, spring rolls represent gold bars as well as wealth, and glutinous rice cakes represent growth and big achievements.

The nearby temple, called Hsi Lai Temple in Hacienda Heights, is known for one of the largest Lunar New Year celebrations in the city of La Habra. Hsi Lai Temple has a lot to offer when it comes to activities and events to welcome the Lunar New Year.

For the Year of the Snake, Hsi Lai Temple hosted the Peace Lantern Festival, which went from January 29th to February 12th. This festival includes Chanting for Compassion, which is a prayer service dedicated to the victims of the wildfires in California, as well as a Light Offering Dharma Service, which is a spiritual ceremony where light is offered as a symbol of enlightenment and wisdom.

As the year of the Snake unravels, celebrations around the world, including those at the Hsi Lai Temple, emphasize the deep cultural significance of the Lunar New Year. From lantern festivals, family reunions, feasts, and prayer services, the Lunar New Year serves as a holiday of renewal, connection, and reflection.

