

# ORACLE

2200 E. DOROTHY LANE, FULLERTON, CA 92831

## Blasting Off



Troy Model Rocket and Aerospace Club is launching seven model rockets assembled over the course of the school year.

Compiled by Iman Babiker, NEWS EDITOR, article by Jenny Huang, STAFF WRITER, and cartoons by Alicia Yoon, CARTOON



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KALISTA KOLLMANSBERGER



**IMMERSING STUDENTS IN AEROSPACE:** (Left) Various model rocket designs are completed and laid out, ready to launch. (Right) Model Rocket and Areospace Club member Arjun Reddy holds two of the completed model rockets, reflecting the club's excitement for the final launch date. The club expects to hold the launch in late April.

Fostering student interest in engineering, Troy Model Rocket and Aerospace Club plans to launch student-made model rockets in April.

Founded in 2022, the Model Rocket and Aerospace Club is a place for people interested in aerospace engineering to gather and find people with a common passion to work on building and learning about rockets together.

With an interest in aerospace and astronomy, club president Kalista Kollmansberger came up with the idea to build model rockets when founding the club. According to Kollmansberger, participating in Boy Scouts merit badge activities gave her experience in building model rockets.

"[Boy Scouts] has merit badges, which are like specialty

interests." Kollmansberger said. "I did a space exploration one. One part of the space exploration badge was model rockets."

After ordering supplies from Estes Rockets, a company that specializes in model rocket building, Kollmansberger distributed a new rocket part to club members each meeting. Starting with a body tube and fins, the club members assembled their rockets one part at a time, finishing them by adding internal components such as engines and parachutes.

The club plans to launch seven rockets made from balsa wood and cardboard. Each rocket is unique and personalized by the student who built it. According to Kollmansberger, club members had the option to change aspects of their rockets to see

how it would affect the launch.

"I gave them the option to do whatever they wanted," Kollmansberger said. "I [told them], 'this is around what it should be like, but if you want to go outside of that and see what happens when you launch it, then go for it.'"

After experiencing some delays, the club leaders also plan on putting more effort into ensuring a smooth process for future years, Kollmansberger said.

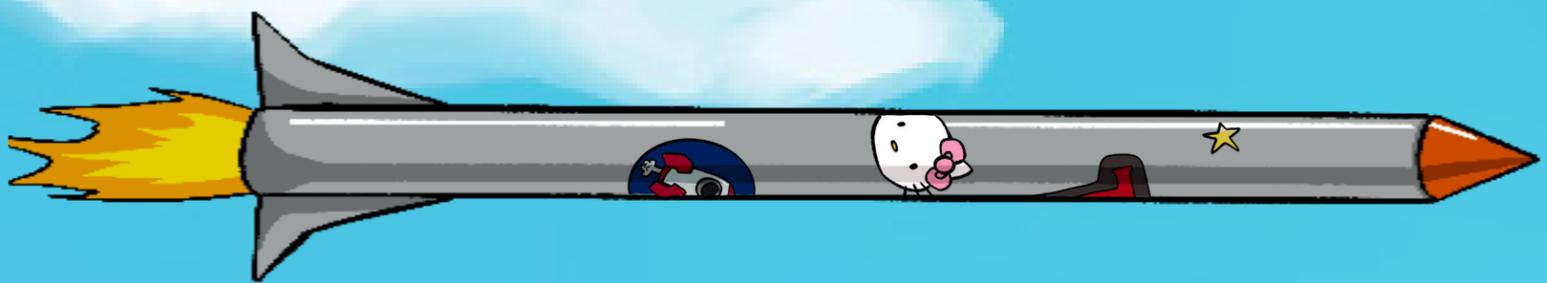
"There have been a few bumps," Kollmansberger said. "I had not slowed down and thought completely about how to teach [building] to people, or what exactly we needed. So there have been a few bumps, but we are almost done."

The club will launch their rockets in a dry lakebed in

Fullerton. The rockets are projected to reach altitudes of 800 to 1100 feet, and the parachutes that club members installed into the rocket bodies will allow them to land safely, so they could be relaunched. After the rockets land, the club will allow members to keep their rockets.

Kollmansberger plans to continue building and launching model rockets in future years. As an aspiring aerospace engineer, what she does in the club is important to her, Kollmansberger said.

"The club is for everyone," Kollmansberger said. "It is for people who have no experience and people who have been doing this all their life. It is open to anyone who wants to learn to build something and hopefully not blow anything up."



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### NEWS

Read about how all three Warrior instrumental groups received unanimous superior ratings at the music festivals.



Page 2

### SPORTS

Explore the journeys of our senior athletes as they make the leap from our fields to university arenas.



Pages 6-7

### ENTERTAINMENT

Read on to discover our favorite plumber's beloved princess' theatrical adventure in "Princess Peach Showtime!"



Page 9

# Ayushi Mehrotra and her team of Warriors host a Crack the Code Hackathon

The hackathon earned sponsorships and partners to motivate students into joining the cybersecurity field.

By Paulina Lee  
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to encourage high school students into joining the cybersecurity field, junior Ayushi Mehrotra hosted a Crack the Code Hackathon at Concordia University Irvine March 23 to 24.

Last May, Mehrotra created non-profit organization Crack the Code with a team of high school students, including 10 Warriors, to plan the event. She co-coordinated the event with junior Soham Dev, delegating assignments to team members in different departments. Mehrotra and Dev worked together to manage logistics, devise challenges for

participants and arrange the venue.

While organizing the hackathon, the team earned the sponsorship of Hack Club, an organization which employs high school students to run hackathons for fellow students. According to Mehrotra, the hackathon was a success thanks to the support from this organization and guidance of professor Joshua Tallman.

"I am proud of my team, who took on a lot of responsibilities to make this hackathon happen," Mehrotra said. "But I am more excited about the next few hackathons."

The hackathon featured two different categories, Cyber in Depth and Cyber in Life. Cyber in Depth required participants to code an application which aimed to fix a cybersecurity issue during the two day event. Participants in the Cyber in Life category focused on pitching their project to a set of judges through live



PHOTO COURTESY OF AYUSHI MEHROTRA

**CAPTIVATING CODERS:** Participants in the Cyber in Life category planned pitches to present live to a panel of judges.

presentations in front of an audience.

Participants competed for prizes in each category centered around educational technology. Some of the winning prizes included Meta Quest 2 VR Headsets, \$10,000 in Amazon Web Services credit, \$200 Arduino kits and a \$300 membership to Scrimba.

The event invited speakers such as William Fisher from Quicksilver Software and Corey White from Cylvatar.ai to discuss their experiences in the cybersecurity field. According to Mehrotra, interacting with the speakers and participants was one of the highlights of the event.

"I loved talking to the participants. They had great ideas that were coming to life in under 24 hours," Mehrotra said. "Some teams asked me a lot of questions, some involving the code itself. I loved personally connecting

to the students and their projects."

Through a form sent to participants, the hackathon received positive feedback from participants and their respective teams. According to Team Cyberstrike, one of the competing teams, the event was a success.

"The organization of this competition was amazing," Team Cyberstrike said. "I can definitely see the effort put into Crack The Code."

According to Mehrotra, she aimed to share her passion for cybersecurity and motivate others to join the field after having a welcoming experience at this hackathon.

"I hope they learned something new about cybersecurity and expanded their coding skills," Mehrotra said. "More importantly, I hope they made some new friends from different places; I know I sure did."



PHOTO COURTESY OF AYUSHI MEHROTRA

# Three Warrior instrumental music groups receive unanimous superior ratings

Their unprecedented achievement is a result of much practice and coordination.

By Salman Waheed  
STAFF WRITER

During the March Warrior Instrumental Music festivals, Wind Symphony, String Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra received unanimous superior ratings.

Wind Symphony and String Orchestra played at the John F. Kennedy High School Band and Orchestra Festival March 5 and March 6. Symphony Orchestra performed at the Whittier Band and Orchestra Festival March 14.

Three judges evaluated the groups as poor, fair, good, excellent or superior, which is the highest and most difficult rating for a group to receive. A unanimous superior evaluation means that all three judges awarded the group a superior rating. For the first time, Troy Wind Symphony, String Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra all received unanimous superior ratings, and now have the opportunity to compete at a regional festival later this school year.

Ratings were given based on several criteria such as sound, intonation, articulation and how well the

musical composition was expressed or played cohesively by the group. After performances ended, students received additional feedback from Warrior Visual and Performing Arts teacher Joseph Castillo.

Students in all three groups prepared for the festivals for six to 10 weeks in advance, practicing individually and in sections. Wind Symphony players practiced festival pieces during second period Band class and Orchestra members rehearsed after school every

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Apart from school practices, students were required to take their instruments home and practice on their own.

According to String and Symphony Orchestra violist Alice Wu, groups put in consistent effort through rigorous practice regimens in preparation for the festivals. Constant repetitive practice was the most concrete method that the Warrior Instrumental Music program used to score highly at the festivals, Wu said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL KIM

**MAGNIFICENT MUSICIANS:** Warrior musicians part of the Wind Symphony performed at their festival led by Visual and Performing Arts teacher Joseph Castillo. They were one of the three groups who received unanimous superior ratings.

"We learned the music pieces and practiced more on the parts of the songs that did not sound good," Wu said. "Once we tackled our weak points in performing the song, we ran through the pieces multiple times before going to the actual festivals."

Each group in the Warrior Instrumental Music Program attends one music festival per year, with the majority of the school year spent practicing for concerts. On the day of events, groups briefly prepared for performances by sight reading their music pieces and running through songs several more times.

According to Wind Symphony French horn section leader Rachel Kim, receiving high ratings at the March festivals helped to give exposure to all the talented and passionate students in Warrior Instrumental Music. The festivals also reflected all the work students put into preparing for the performances, Kim said.

"I think these unanimous ratings that everyone received truly reflected the dedication and hard work students commit to the festival and the Warrior music program as a whole," Kim said. "Our ratings demonstrate how the time we dedicate to practicing, whether that is during our designated class period, in sectionals or individually, aided us in preparing to perform at our best ability."

# French appreciation event Manie Musicale experiences changes due to a security breach

Warrior teacher Will Fritz worked with other Manie Musicale advisory board members to preserve the spirit of the event.

By Samantha Luo  
STAFF WRITER

Manie Musicale, an educational initiative held at Troy and around the world, implemented new security measures this year as a result of a hacking attempt March 9.

Inspired by the NCAA March Madness basketball tournament, Manie Musicale is an annual event that aims to appreciate French language and culture. Students and teachers listen to 16 different songs from a variety of French-speaking countries before filling out brackets in hopes of accurately crowning one song as the champion. The event provides a platform for students to connect with the French-speaking world, promote cultural understanding and

improve their language skills.

This year, Manie Musicale experienced a hacking attempt when the original voting website was compromised by an individual who imported thousands of votes for a specific song. As a result, the Manie Musicale board reverted to Google Forms and teachers began submitting their class votes manually. After new security measures were put in place, independent voting resumed March 25.

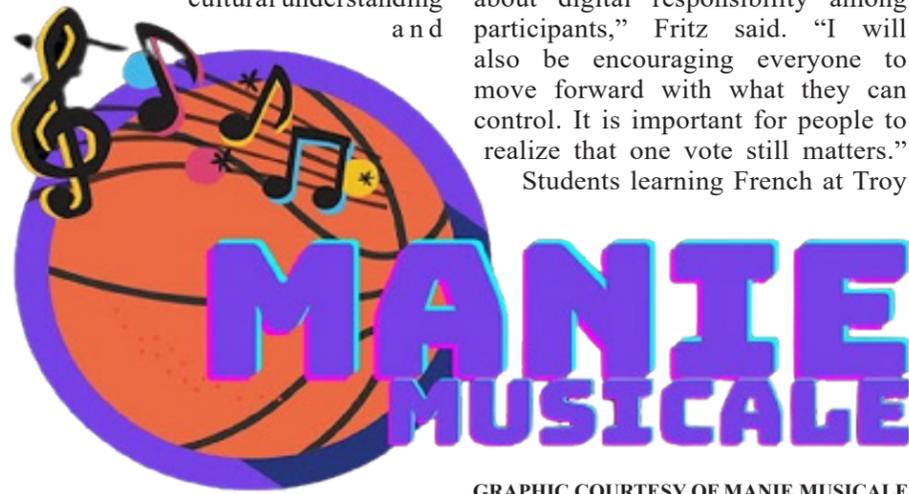
According to Warrior French teacher William Fritz, Manie Musicale will likely incorporate enhanced security measures and protocols to prevent similar incidents in the future. The Manie Musicale board will be vigilant to ensure the event's integrity and make the experience enjoyable for all participants while keeping the spirit and goals unchanged, Fritz said.

"Personally, I will be advocating for and contributing to the implementation of stronger security measures and educational efforts about digital responsibility among participants," Fritz said. "I will also be encouraging everyone to move forward with what they can control. It is important for people to realize that one vote still matters."

Students learning French at Troy



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MANIE MUSICALE



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF MANIE MUSICALE

have participated in Manie Musicale for over a decade. The event has been global since 2017, with the past seven years seeing the contribution and participation of many students from Troy. Manie Musicale's Flipgrid contest has featured multiple Troy students over the past two years.

In 2024, an estimated 675,679 students from 6,210 verified and registered schools across 39 countries participated in Manie Musicale. Safeguarding the community while fostering an environment of trust and respect is essential, Fritz said.

"I would like to express my gratitude to the entire Manie Musicale community for their support and unity in the face of adversity," Fritz said. "It is a testament to the power of education, music, and community in overcoming challenges and continuing to celebrate our shared cultural heritage. [The incident]

served as a reminder of the importance of our shared values and the collective spirit that defines our community."

Following the incident, a widespread commitment to Manie Musicale and the initiatives it supports emerged around the world. The swift resolution and continued enthusiasm for the event reinforced dedication for cultural exchange and education through music, Fritz said.

"[The incident] also proved that we, as an Advisory Board, are dedicated to making [Manie Musicale] a positive experience for the students and the teachers, no matter what obstacles the world throws at us," Fritz said. "It demonstrated the strength and resolve of our Board, our community and the importance of resilience. Challenges will always arise in any collaborative effort, but our response and our reaction to adversity says more about us than the incident itself."

## ORACLE STAFF

### ◆ EDITORS ◆

**Kira Chen**  
**Mary Kim**  
*chiefs*

**Iman Babiker**  
**Rachel Kang**  
*news*

**Edyn Mai**  
**Brian Woo**  
*opinion*

**Zoey Bahng**  
*lifestyle*

**Kaitlyn Zhang**  
*entertainment*

**Eileen Um**  
*feature*

**Tyler Cordova**  
*sports*

**Lauren Song**  
*photography*

### ◆ STAFF ◆

Kate Berger

Chelsea Englehardt

Helen Fang

Celeste Hollingsworth

Jenny Huang

Kusuma Kothamasu

Paulina Lee

Reagan Li

Samantha Luo

Bianca Naranjo

Shailey Patel

Salman Waheed

Victoria Yang

Alicia Yoon

### ◆ EXECUTIVE STAFF ◆

**Andre Gonzalez**  
*adviser*

**Neya Jakan**  
*management*

**Finley Dalley**  
*publicity*

2200 E. Dorothy Lane  
Fullerton, CA 92831

Phone: (714) 626-4518

Email: oracle.troy@gmail.com

Website: www.troyoracle.com

Instagram: @troyoracle

Facebook: www.facebook.com/  
oracle.troy/

*Troy High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities.*

*The Oracle is a tri-weekly production of the Advanced Journalism class. Signed editorials express the opinions of the staff writer and may not reflect the opinions of the entire Oracle staff. The Oracle reserves the right to edit letters to the editor for content or space.*

# The attempted TikTok ban is an obstruction of American liberties

By Chelsea Engelhardt  
STAFFWRITER



Instead of worrying about the origin country of the owner of TikTok, attention would be better focused on protecting users and safety.

Following the latest trial, the House of Representatives has proposed a bill regulating the country-wide use of the social media app, TikTok. On March 13, the House voted and approved a bill that could allow for TikTok to be banned on government-owned devices. The government is concerned about the app's exposure to personal information because of its Chinese ownership. This is the furthest the United States has gone in controlling its people and their use of technology and media. As the land of the free and the country that has thrived off of its concept of freedom for the people, this

TikTok ban is just another limit of our actual freedom and our rights to our use of technology. Therefore, whether TikTok is harmful to the people or not is irrelevant because no matter what, citizens of the United States have a right to use it regardless. TikTok is not nearly as big of a threat as the U.S. government is portraying it as.

One of the main concerns of TikTok from a politician's perspective is the data collection. TikTok collects data like user engagement, location, contacts, age and phone number all of which are approved by the user or just automatically collected by logging in or signing up for the app. Additionally, TikTok is not the only app that does this. Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram also have very similar collection systems and metadata.

The government does not understand that in the Terms of Service and privacy policies, users agree to lose their rights to privacy. The only thing that distinguishes TikTok from other similar apps is where the information is going.

The overall argument against TikTok's data collection is weak and based on outdated ideologies. The owner of TikTok ByteDance is a company based in China. Politicians in the House use this fact as a way to justify the banning of TikTok with a fear of communists getting American information. According to CNN, the U.S. government is concerned about American national security because of the amount of personal information shared by TikTok and its home country that collects the data. The reality is that our data is already out there in the

world whether it is collected by TikTok, by the country that TikTok is based out of, or even our own country that constantly collects our data. Removing TikTok from American devices will not stop the collection of personal data.

The entitlement that the Biden Administration must feel after demanding ByteDance to sell the fastest-growing app on the planet is bold. Since TikTok's users are only 10% from America, ByteDance would undeniably not sell and would rather lose 10% of their company rather than all of it. Also, some public Wi-Fi associations like universities and businesses have decided to ban TikTok from their Wi-Fi servers and possibly all government-owned devices. Overall, the country-wide TikTok ban has been taken too

“Removing TikTok from American devices will not stop the collection of personal data.”



CARTOONS BY EDYN MAI

# The banning of TikTok is essential to protecting the nation's safety

By Shailey Patel  
STAFFWRITER



The government has the right to exercise its right to protect national security through the ban on TikTok.

On March 13, the House of Representatives voted on the fate of TikTok, arguably one of the most used apps in the United States. In a landslide vote of 352 in favor to 65 opposed, legislation was passed that can ban TikTok in the United States if its Chinese parent company ByteDance fails to sell its stake in the platform within six months. This desire to ban the widely popular social media platform comes from concerns that American sensitive user data, like location information, would be easily accessible by the Chinese government, warranting a national security threat. Although drastic, national and personal security trumps all else, making the TikTok ban a necessity.

It is not plausible to keep TikTok accessible in the United States when the possibility of Chinese access to the information is possible. Although TikTok

CEO Shou Zi Chew has provided Americans with assurances, claiming that “over the last few years we have instead to keep your data safe, and our platform free from outside manipulation,” the words of one man cannot be trusted enough to risk over 170 million American lives. The concern regarding Chinese powers is warranted, given that Chinese national security laws require that organizations cooperate with intelligence gathering. In 2018, China changed its National Intelligence Law, requiring any organization or citizen to support, assist, and cooperate with national intelligence work. This means that ByteDance is legally bound to help with gathering intelligence. These broad laws apply to technology and have a large possibility to regulate them.

Although Chew has emphasized that ByteDance is not owned or controlled by the Chinese government, the fact that it is subject to Chinese laws and regulations makes it a threat. Because ByteDance is a Beijing-based parent company, it is legally required to establish an in-house Communist Party committee made up entirely of employees who are members of the

Communist party. The vice president of ByteDance, Zhang Fuping is the secretary of the communist party committee. Additionally, Beijing has taken on a “Golden Share” initiative, allowing them to be able to embed the Chinese Communist Party within China's most important internet companies. In April 2021, the Chinese government acquired a 1% stake in ByteDance, providing affiliations to the government, and allowing it to be more directly involved in the day-to-day businesses of tech companies.

Another fear regarding Chinese participation in ByteDance is that it opens up American TikTok users to the possibility of misinformation. According to a report released on March 11 by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, China may attempt

to influence American political views through its ability to regulate content recommendations. This concern is of greater importance this year, as it could be a platform that influences the presidential election through online influence and misinformation campaigns. Although no concrete examples have been publicly provided showing the misinformation that has been

spread, other social media companies, including Meta, have reported that foreign adversaries like China are using their platforms for influence campaigns.

While this ban on TikTok will constitute a big change for many of its users, it is necessary to ensure American safety. The threat the Chinese government poses to American citizens is one much too large to ignore. Safety and national security should be considered above all else, justifying the ban of TikTok on American devices. The need for national security trumps all desires to keep a social media platform in the app store.



# Students should be more selective when taking AP classes and tests

By Victoria Yang  
STAFFWRITER

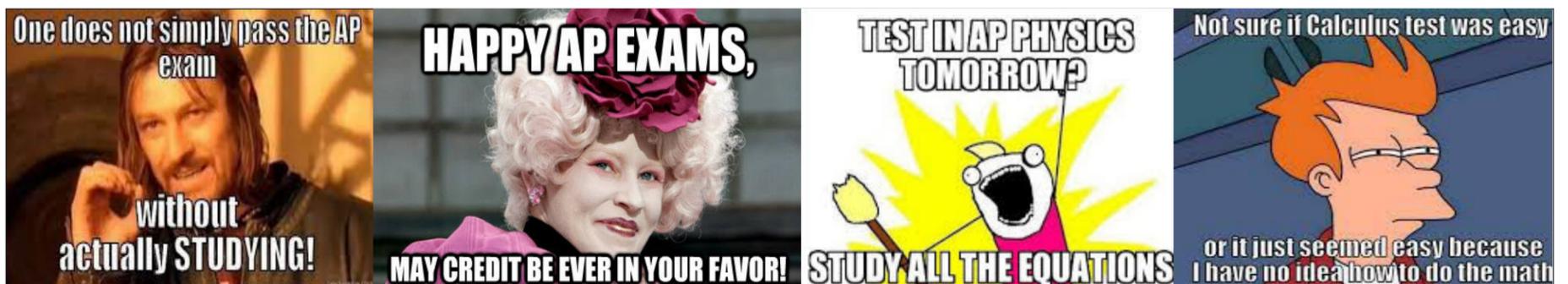


Advanced Placement classes are an opportunity for high school students to challenge themselves with college level courses and potentially earn college credits. At Troy High School, 26 Advanced Placement courses are offered, even more than the 24 Honors courses available. In 2023, 3401 exams were given to 1456 students, begging the question: were they all worth it? Turns out, AP scores will not make or break your college applications, nor will all of them count for college credit. At some private institutions, their curriculums differ from College Board so much they refuse to redeem credit for those exams. Taking AP classes and exams should be informed and calculated decisions made by students and their families after concluding they will be truly beneficial,

not as a blind conformity to the pressure. While AP classes and exams in appropriate fields can demonstrate rigor of course loads, they do not necessarily grant college credits. By performing well on AP classes and exams fitting to their aspirations, students can demonstrate that they are more likely to succeed in college. “It also shows you’re not afraid to challenge yourself, and your grade in the class may boost your GPA, even if you don’t pass the exam,” wrote Forbes. By taking a class that is more in depth than traditional high school courses, students are given the chance to demonstrate that they are willing to learn more about the subject. However, good exam results may not necessarily correspond to college credits. Colleges sometimes only accept scores of 5, or they altogether ignore certain AP courses. For example, at UC Berkeley’s College of Engineering, only scores of 5 on Physics C exams grant Physics credit. Ultimately, taking AP exams for the prom-

ise of college credit is overly hopeful and students may find their AP scores rejected. Additionally, stacking AP classes just for college admissions is ineffective and can have drawbacks. Admission officers take APs into consideration within the context of the school and subjects. “There could be students with big AP numbers who have never taken an advanced class in multiple core areas,” said Jeannine Lalonde, University of Virginia Associate Dean of Admission. While students may think they found a shortcut to more AP scores by taking lighter subjects, colleges are also aware of that fact. Furthermore, taking harder AP classes but getting bad grades on them or not passing the AP exam will lower GPA. In that sense, it could be a disadvantage instead of improvement to college applications. Ultimately, students should not be stacking AP classes and exams that are not challenging and relevant, nor should they be taking those they are not equipped to handle.

The decision to take an AP class does not necessarily correlate to being able to afford the exam. For students who are struggling financially, taking standardized tests can be a burden. In the United States, US Territories and Canada, each exam costs \$98. Many families cannot afford to spend multiple hundreds of dollars each year, especially those with more than one child. Fee waivers are available, but often go through a hasslesome process and those families may not even be aware that they are qualified for financial assistance. Ultimately, the right course load varies from student to student. Committing to a college level rigor class, especially at a school like Troy, requires self awareness and logical thinking. While taking these classes and exams certainly have their values, especially for top level colleges, the decision should be made based on the needs of the student. Advanced placement is not the must-do of Troy High School.



IMAGES COURTESY OF QUICKMEME.COM

## mark my words

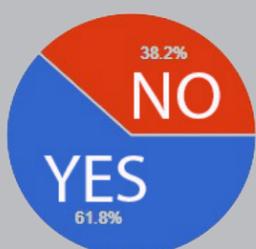
Warriors speak out on campus issues

Read Troy High school warriors’ takes on Prom ticketing and thoughts on the overall venue.

90 bucks for a ticket was already extreme, but to just have that sale for a day before jacking the price way up is ridiculous.  
- anonymous junior

[for prom tickets] You have to wait in one long line for your entire break or lunch period, preventing you from going to the bathroom or eating.  
-Ruth Downum, senior

Are you attending or plan to attend prom?



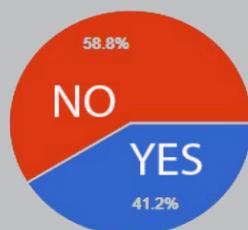
As long as the prom is well made the first week price is fine, however if the venue is poor than the tickets will have been a scam.  
- Joseph Bueler, senior

Do you think the Prom purchasing process is efficient?



I understand when they are expensive because the dance is held at a really nice venue and there is nice food provided and there are activities. However, this year it doesn’t seem very reasonable. Sure the venue is okay, it definitely isn’t terrible, but it could totally have been way better. And only snacks are being provided, there isn’t going to be nice food, which is annoying because the ticket prices are so expensive.  
- anonymous senior

Do you think prom ticket prices are reasonable?



My friend turns 18 the day of prom and I am going to her birthday party instead and hanging out with her.  
- Kenith Thangasamy, senior

I’m not planning to attend Prom because I’m pretty sure it’s only available to seniors and juniors and I’d rather save the prom experience for my last year at Troy since it would be more memorable that way.  
- anonymous sophomore

The process of purchasing prom tickets, an anticipated rite of passage for high school students, often turns into an arduous ordeal, laden with frustration and disappointment. What should be a simple transaction transforms into a labyrinth of bureaucratic hurdles, financial strain, and social pressure, leaving a bitter taste in the mouths of eager attendees. Firstly, the financial burden weighs heavily on students and their families. For many, the cost of prom tickets represents a significant portion of their already stretched budgets. Coupled with the expenses of attire, transportation, and other miscellaneous costs, the ticket price becomes a daunting obstacle. The realization that a single night of festivities could incur such a financial strain adds an unwelcome layer of stress to an otherwise celebratory occasion. Furthermore, the process of acquiring tickets is often marred by logistical nightmares. Long queues snake through the school corridors as students wait impatiently for their turn to purchase tickets. Administrative delays and technical glitches exacerbate the frustration, prolonging the agony of the waiting game.  
- Eric Hong, senior

# War-Wii-or Sports Commits



Warriors Level Up! Our senior athletes kick, hoop and run their way to university commitments. Join us in cheering on these some of these all-stars as they power-up for their next big play!



Compiled by Tyler Cordova, **SPORTS EDITOR**, article by Finley Dalley, **PUBLICITY**, and Kusuma Kothamasu, **STAFF WRITER**, graphics courtesy of Nintendo, Johns Hopkins University, University of Arizona, Caltech, Canva and ChatGPT



Anne Hiraki began competitively running at a local running club when she was in fifth grade. Once she entered high school, she decided to continue running with the Warriors, and has not looked back since.

"There's definitely been ups and downs, but it's always been such a consistent activity for me," Hiraki said. "It's always been a source of peace."

As running is an extremely mental sport, Hiraki thanks it for teaching her the importance of resilience. She learned to embrace discomfort and push herself as far as she can go, which are skills she now applies to her daily life, and has improved her work ethic.

Hiraki acknowledges her favorite memory on Troy's Cross Country team to be the team huddle before League Finals: the inspirational quotes, the friendship, and the overall inspiring environment. She made the incredible choice to commit to John Hopkins to run D3 while majoring in molecular sub-bio. While remembering her visit to the university, Hiraki recalls the kindness of the team and coaches which led her to see herself continuing her passion for running while prioritizing her academic success.

"It was a perfect fit for me," Hiraki said. "J.H.U. was one of my top schools as I saw myself on this team, being with these girls, and running for the next four years with them."



In January of 2023, varsity girls soccer captain, Zoe Mendiola, committed to playing collegiate soccer at the University of Arizona. Mendiola started playing soccer on a whim when she was seven, not knowing that she would go on to play for the next 10 years. The 10 years she has spent on the field has helped her become the strongest version of herself, teaching her valuable life lessons such as how to be a leader and the importance of teamwork. In her years playing competitive soccer, Mendiola regards her favorite memory playing soccer to date having been playing with her club team, Slammers ECNL, in Seattle for soccer playoffs.

"That was really fun because it was out of California," Mendiola said. "There was high competition, the weather was good, and we ended up going to Virginia for the final playoffs."

When Mendiola visited the University of Arizona, she fell in love with the environment. The campus, the team, and the coaches were all incredibly welcoming and made her feel like she was meant to spend the next four years there.

"On my visit, I went to a basketball game. It was [the University of Arizona] against UCLA and we ended up winning," Mendiola said. "The spirit and the vibe was so nice, I pictured myself there for the next four years. It was really exciting."



## Caltech

As the chilly air calmed, the final kick was the deciding factor between a loss or a win. As the Warriors scored the final goal, Brendan Lee created a fond memory—winning the Troy Invitational for the first time in Troy history.

Lee's love for soccer blossomed at the age of four, when his sister's coach would allow him to play with the team. After indulging in various sports, Lee realized that he could not continue to play all of them.

"At that point, I chose soccer," Lee said. "Playing soccer has taught me the importance of being a productive and supportive team player. Soccer requires communication and collaboration to be effective as a team."

His constant performance in the presence of the Caltech coach at tournaments, showcases, and camps paved the way for the coach to stay in contact with Lee throughout the recruitment and commitment processes.

Managing the stress of academics simultaneously with soccer, Lee overcame a tough part of his athletic career in an aspiration to continue his journey with Caltech's soccer team. Giving Lee the opportunity to be surrounded by a tight-knit community shared by professors and students, he believes Caltech is the perfect fit for him due to its incredible academic and research syllabi.

"I look forward to continuing playing, and love exploring new academic challenges and opportunities," Lee commented.



## Dartmouth

The clock was ticking fast, louder than ever, with only three minutes left of the game. After a long, intense game, Annika Jiwani scored a three-pointer, and with the help of her teammates, won the game. Strongly disliking basketball when she was younger, Jiwani grew to love the sport when a friend convinced her to join a club.

"Basketball has taught me that there are no shortcuts in life," Jiwani said. "You have to work hard for everything you want to be successful at... it just taught me to be a more resilient person."

Shortly after transferring to Troy in time for her junior year, Jiwani tore her ACL. Being injured during the prime time for recruitment, Jiwani lost all her recruitment offers, including those from Ivy Leagues and WCC schools.

"Rebuilding and working hard after that, trying to get back—the injury was probably the most difficult thing that happened to me," Jiwani commented.

Following a successful recovery, she was recruited by Dartmouth. In pursuit of her academic goals, Jiwani believes the university is the perfect fit for her due to its supportive coaches and team, education, and research opportunities.

"I'm most excited to play at a D1 college, and be a part of a really fun team," Jiwani said. "I'm also excited to try and break their records, and create history at Dartmouth."



# Spotify Sirens

Hit after hit is being released on Spotify recently!. Read more on Oracle's opinion of the musical muse takeover.

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Celeste Hollingsworth and Bianca Naranjo, STAFF WRITERS, graphics courtesy of Netflix and Nickelodeon



## Tyla

32,980,033 monthly listeners

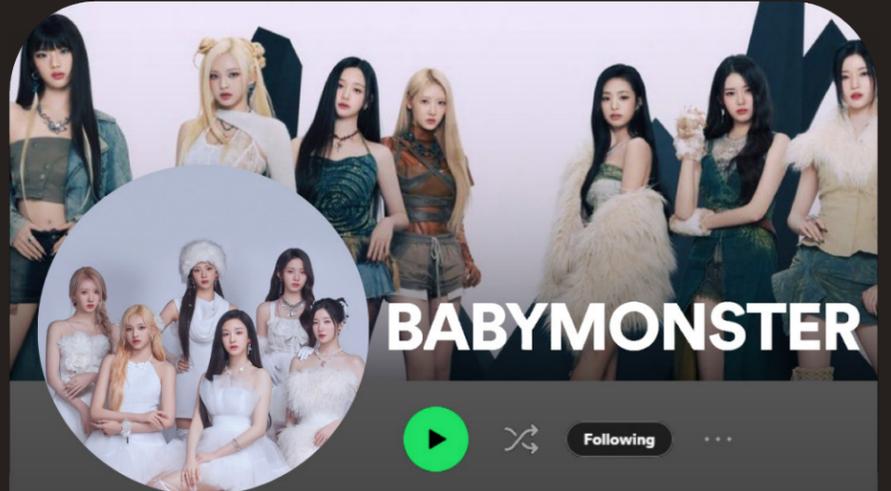


Following



Rising star Tyla's studio album, "TYLA," is the sensational debut fans have been thirsting for since the release of lead single "Water" back in July 2023. Released on March 22, 2024, "TYLA" perfectly encapsulates Tyla's identity as a South African music artist through hypnotizing instrumentals and an intoxicating voice oozing with emotion. The album blends R&B with amapiano, a South African subgenre of house music, transcending generic genres to create a unique, versatile sound that is solely Tyla.

Tyla does not abandon her roots with the debut, as many songs on the album share the same beat that inspired Grammy-winning "Water," such as "Truth or Dare" and "Breathe Me." Despite sharing a similar beat, Tyla is able to create key distinctions between each song in the album, showcasing her versatility and expertise as a rising artist. "Breathe Me" and "Truth or Dare" cater more to the R&B genre through the songs' fluid vocals, while "Water" is the best representation of true amapiano. "TYLA" explores the ideas of love and heartache, shown through lyrics "Never thought you'd be my first heartbreak" and "But my heart wants more/You give me butterflies." Tyla's willingness to experiment with different genres while remaining devoted to her amapiano origins is undoubtedly the reason for her international success.



## BABYMONSTER



Following



Babymonster could have hit high with their debut album, but fans have found them falling flat with formula. South Korean K-pop girl group Babymonster released their debut EP titled "BabyMons7er" on April 1, 2024. The music video released for their first single "Batter Up" quickly became the most-viewed debut in the first twenty-four hours of K-pop's history, but still missed the mark. The agency YG Entertainment, which has debuted 2NE1 and BLACKPINK in addition to Babymonster, has been frequently called out for over-used sounds and writing. "Batter Up" follows this formula of overly-formulaic music with vague lyrics and the same synthesized melodies that YG has been rolling out repeatedly.

Tracks like "Sheesh" and "Monsters" emphasize this glaring repetition further, with both tracks sounding like carbon copies of past BLACKPINK hits. The vocals and choreography of the group are relatively disciplined, but it is evident that YG has failed to meet their potential by confining them to the tired structures of the agency's other music. Babymonster deserves their chance to be unique rather than attempting to emulate the style of past successes like BLACKPINK. Overall, this album proves that a lack of variation is a plague of the Kpop industry with its repetition of uninspired, uninteresting and unsung music.

## Beyonce

77.5M monthly listeners



Following



Beyoncé may be going down south for her first country album, "Cowboy Carter," but that has not stopped her streams from going up and up! "Cowboy Carter" was released on March 29, 2024 to vast critical acclaim. Beyoncé is no stranger to reaching new records as a musician in pop, hip-hop and R&B, and this new domain of country music has only continued her success. The album notably includes fifteen featured musicians, including icon Dolly Parton, a sweet surprise for classic country lovers.

"AMERICAN REQUIEM" starts the album with fierce vocals and an even fiercer message pertaining to her role in country music as a black woman born in Houston, Texas. Despite her strong ties to country music, her background has been brushed aside due to her race, as illustrated with lyrics like "and the rejection came, said 'I wasn't country 'nough.'" She refutes this criticism through the album, celebrating her love for the country with tracks like "OH LOUISIANA," incorporating lyrics with references to southern American culture. Not only does she reclaim her personal connection to the south, but she also welcomes the black southern community to empathize with her experience, finding a connection within the exclusion they have felt together. The album switches between cryptic guitar strums with "DAUGHTER" to melancholic blues with "ALLIGATOR TEARS." In "Cowboy Carter," Beyoncé reaches far to gather sounds of the country and weaves them together into an intricate portrait of her southern experience.

# PRINCESS PEACH SHOWTIME!

Princess Peach is not just a supporting character to Mario anymore! Read more on Oracle's opinion on her comeback "Princess Peach Showtime!"

Compiled by Kaitlyn Zhang, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, article by Kaitlyn Zhang, graphics courtesy of Nintendo

Princess Peach takes center stage and transforms from supporting character to the star in Nintendo's newest video game, "Princess Peach: Showtime!" Released March 22, iconic Peach is given the spotlight rightfully once again since her first debut in 2005. Despite the seemingly simplistic gameplay, Peach performs her encore with nostalgia and a feminine touch to the mystical reverie of Nintendo.

Peach is just another regular patron of the Sparkle Theater; however, when evil witch Grape and her Sour Bunch crash the show, Peach takes on a magical girl transformation reminiscent of Sailor Moon to transform into the leading role meant to save the show. Accompanied by the theater's guardian, Stella, a magical talking ribbon, and the costume department, Peach acquires unique powers on her journey to save the theater.

Despite Peach's captivating show presence, a few audience members are sure to drift asleep after 8 hours of lackluster gameplay. Showtime! Is simply a feel-good rendition of more difficult Nintendo games; with simple mechanical controls and only introductory-level challenges, each performance technique can be easily mastered with minimal time, making for a seemingly short experience. The most difficult

aspect of the game is hidden in the requirement to discover secret, shining sparkles to progress to the next level, yet even then, the lack of complexity leaves Peach's personal adventure feeling flat and forgettable. Although each costume change attempts to bring a new style of gameplay, Peach never leaves the stage, and the storyline becomes increasingly mundane. Even with the diverse cast of villains, Peach's one chance in the spotlight is only pillow fighting compared to typical Nintendo villains.

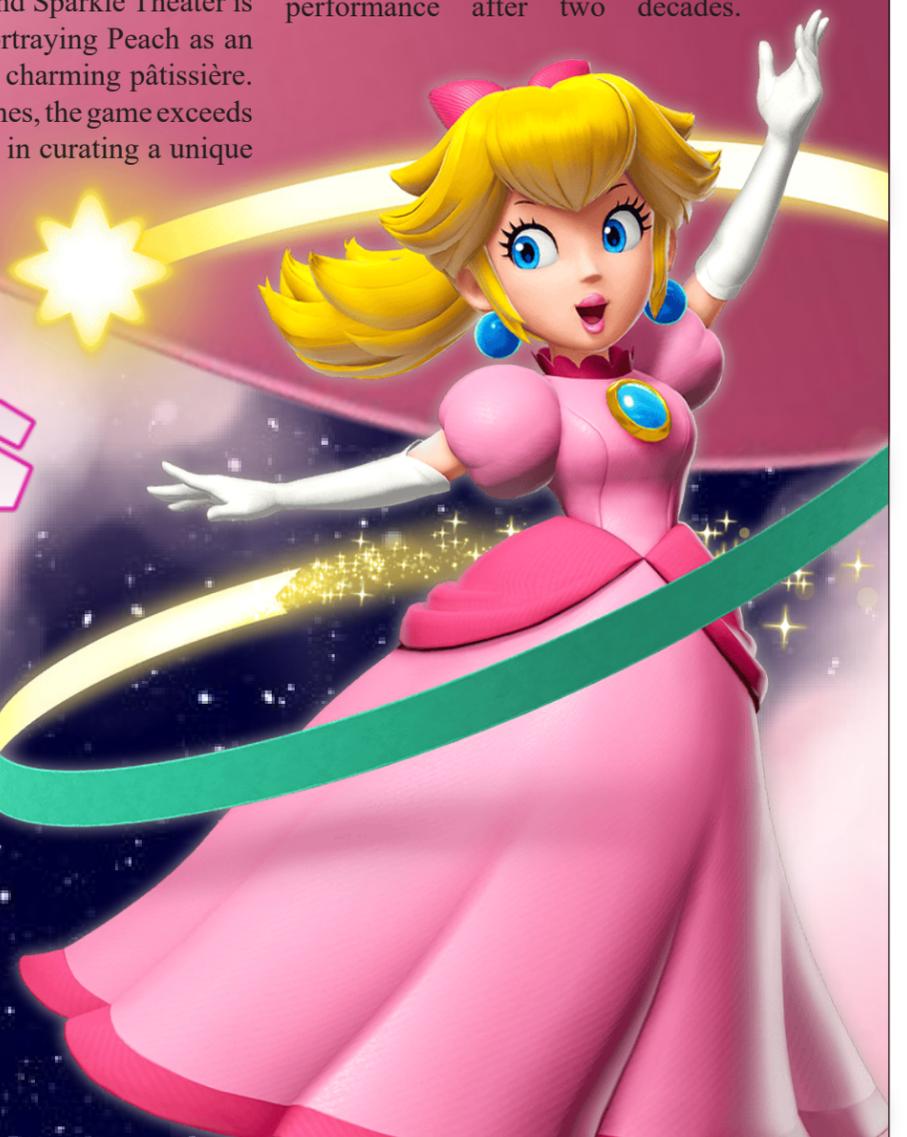
Even in its incredibly simplistic gameplay, Nintendo is still able to craft an experience reminiscent of childhood. Traversing through the different plays held at the Sparkle Theater, the player plays as Peach's unique personas, each perfect for fighting a unique boss. Figure Skater Peach stuns with elegant routines and spins, and in a blink of an eye, she is ready to pack a punch as Kung Fu Peach. The costume department behind Sparkle Theater is impeccable, perfect at portraying Peach as an enchanting mermaid or a charming pâtissière. Through 10 unique costumes, the game exceeds expectations in curating a unique

experience for each new persona, each a play told in three acts. As she traverses the stage fighting enemies, her playstyle reflects many popular gaming genres, whether she embraces her inner "Cooking Mama!" in her pâtissière form to tackling seashell rhythms in her mermaid form. The spotlight never unfocuses from Peach, highlighting her against the handbuilt play backdrops. With a touch of puppet strings, stage rotations and smooth scene changes, Nintendo perfectly encapsulates the magic of the theater as Peach attempts to defeat Grape at the end of her nostalgic journey.

Peach's theatrical escapade is jam packed with bursts of character, pizzazz and childhood fun. Although underwhelming, "Princess Peach Showtime!" is a wonderful first performance after two decades.

## Peach Powers

"Moon Prism Power, Make Up!" A nostalgic magical girl transformation tagline is completely resurrected in "Princess Peach: Showtime!" The gameplay succeeds in fully taking advantage of diverse game techniques, a unique change from the typical platformer Super Mario games. Here are just a few of her costume changes!



# spring puzzles

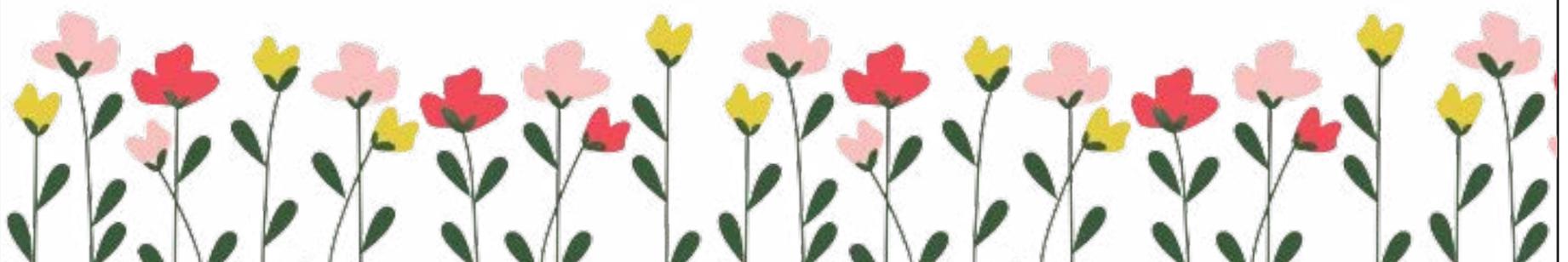
Compiled by Mary Kim and Kira Chen, EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, graphics by Canva

S O J E C U R Q J X N L W U X Q W Y S S  
 R S Z J S U U Y F G I F G N F X V C N C  
 E G G R H S X I D X A B L O S S O M Y Q  
 W I A F Y Q H C E L R R W Y J T T T B W  
 O T N Z H X H G Z K O Z D Q M B V G A U  
 L F C W T D T Q B P H F N E G Q Z R E J  
 F O S U W P N N S U N S H I N E M M E R  
 L Y F X O J U C P K U U O T N E E R G R  
 C T M M R E W Y E H Z G L B R V E A W E  
 G O M O G T N J F M G Q J D N I R M Y T  
 N L U B T S I Q Z F R O G V E R B F X S  
 A N D Q P R X O B W N B K J G G H E F A  
 S L B R U C Z S P L W N M Q K F L U R E  
 D Q G K R C M B G X Q U M K D F U Y I W  
 G H L D F K D N Z N W V Y Y J U Y F Y Y  
 H B H N X K T U Y O L E D Q C B D E K K  
 H X J F C U G E B F W E U G N W M D H G  
 Q K R Q Y H S E B X P L K F N F V I R Y  
 G J W G K H H C M I Y G K Q F T S H Q V  
 J Z K M K D Q U U C K X F B F T S T T V

BLOSSOM  
 SUNSHINE  
 WARMER  
 EASTER

RAIN  
 GREEN  
 GARDEN

FLOWERS  
 REBIRTH  
 GROWTH



# P-art of Her

Junior Erica Tsai is a work of art. Read about her charitable art events below!

Compiled by Eileen Um, **FEATURE EDITOR**, article by Helen Fang, **STAFF WRITER**, photos courtesy of Erica Tsai

Intricate art pieces gleam on their pedestals amid the streams of fascinated attendees. Weaving in and out of the displays with experienced grace, junior Erica Tsai guides the flow of visitors, illuminating the qualities of each piece in her LA Art Show booth. Since she was a child, Tsai finds creative refuge in her art, infusing empty pages with splashes of joy and shades of inspiration. From creating pieces to managing art shows, Tsai's successful exhibitions are the final masterpieces after months of preparation and years of commitment.

The first traces of Tsai's artistic journey began when she was four years old. After joining her first art class with friends, Tsai unlocked a world of unimaginable depth at her fingertips. Hoping to bring beauty into the lives of others, Tsai began hosting art exhibitions to support charitable causes. As a freshman amid the COVID pandemic, Tsai joined Hello Art World, a nonprofit organization that blends art with projects for social good. Tsai designed masks for employees at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as well as Andy Warhol-inspired soup cans adorned with uplifting messages for the organization's program, "Art Can Share Love." A portion of the proceeds from Hello Art World's cans, plates and merchandise are donated to the American Heart Association. Now attending art studio CM Cubed Art, Tsai challenges herself to imagine a potential piece from different perspectives. Tsai associates the evocative essence of art to a Chinese term called 三观. Translating directly into "three

perspectives," the concept describes how an individual's worldview, ethics, and philosophy shape who they are. By imbuing her art with her ideas and emotions, Tsai discovered how art can be a conduit for connection.

"Art lets you share ideas that you can't usually because it's not just visual," Tsai said. "It can also attack your sense of touch and your feelings. Everything becomes a lot more interesting when you just look at it from another angle."

Upon returning to an in-person setting, Tsai began expanding her projects to larger-scale events. Beginning in April 2023, Tsai and her peers began preparing for their Art Can Share Love charity art festival in September. Tsai developed crucial leadership skills as she delegated tasks to various teams, including setup, catering and budgeting and helped refine artist statements for the art auction. After months of collaboration, their charity event raised \$11,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital from ticket sales and the art auction. Although it was a grueling process behind the scenes, Tsai felt proud of the team's contribution to such a heartwarming cause, a journey she recognizes could not have been possible without the guidance of her art teacher. Building off their resounding success, Tsai started planning for the LA Art Show a year in advance. With a spark of inspiration, Tsai and other young artists ranging from 11-17 years old decided on an interactive supermarket exhibition. To honor their cultural roots, Hello Art World gave out oranges to celebrate

Lunar New Year and showcased their personal perspectives of LA through hand-drawn porcelain plates. Tsai and her peers captured local LA landmarks like In-N-Out and Pink's Hot Dogs in a total of 71 hand-drawn plates. Art Share L.A., an organization committed to supporting and featuring local artists, noticed their unique plates and allowed Hello Art World to display them in the exhibit, Voice of L.A., from March 9 until April 27 of 2025.

"As first generation immigrants, we wanted to show our perspectives and give a new outlook on LA" Tsai said. "LA has so many different cultures combined, so we wanted to show it through a fresh pair of eyes."

Looking to the future, Tsai will host an art panel and lecture on April 20 with two other art students and a retired Getty Museum director. The event is open to the public and highlights the process and intention behind their iconic porcelain plates. Despite the long hours spent on her art events, Tsai finds solace and fulfillment in pursuing her passion. Planning to continue her fundraising and exhibition efforts into college, Tsai envisions the rest of her life to be filled with art. Currently, Tsai is assembling her AP art portfolio and working on lifelike pieces. Through all her artistic endeavors, Tsai has learned to be accepting of both herself and her work.

"Don't judge your art since art can be anything," Tsai said. "Everyone has their own kind of art and at the end of the day, what people think is talent is really just experience."



Tsai's porcelain piece is inspired by a gratified warehouse she spotted while driving on the 60 and 101 highway. Through delicate wisps of white and bold streaks of blue, Tsai's design immortalizes a moment of beauty amid LA's constantly changing landscape.



# BUSSIN' BREA

Brea is out with the old, and in with the new—get excited for the upcoming opening of three exciting new restaurants: Din Tai Fung, Shake Shack and Cava. From fancy, upscale Asian delicacies to casual American staples, read about Brea's refreshing makeover.

Compiled by Zoey Bahng, LIFESTYLE EDITOR, article by Celeste Hollingsworth, STAFF WRITER, photos courtesy of Din Tai Fung and Instagram



## DIN TAI FUNG 鼎泰豐



If there is one restaurant that has been the craze amongst Gen-Z, it is Din Tai Fung. This upscale Taiwanese restaurant, located in the South Coast Plaza, has loyal patrons and eager first timers flocking in from all over Orange County. Even more than just the amazing food and glamorous scene, the staff's welcoming energy elevates the experience as a whole. Din Tai Fung's most popular menu items include the Kurobuta Pork Xiao Long Bao, Shrimp and Kurobuta Pork Spicy Wontons and the cucumber salad. The spicy Wontons are iconic for good reason, creating a flavor explosion in every bite. Din Tai Fung's spicy flavors are strong enough to appease spice lovers, but also mild enough to welcome those tentative about spicy food. Just as customers start to think their meal cannot get any better, it gets better: the Chocolate and Mochi Xiao Long Bao melts in your mouth with a delicate balance of sweet and salty, perfectly concluding the delicious meal.

## CAVA



Another restaurant coming to Downtown Brea is Cava, a fresh new take on fast-casual restaurants. Cava first gained momentum on social media as fanatics branded it as the "Mediterranean Chipotle." This title is thanks to Cava's familiar build-your-own option which is packed with fresh produce, refreshing flavors and bold seasonings. Other options include the Greek Salad bowl and the Spicy Chicken and Avocado Wrap. The Anaheim Hills location offers diverse seating areas both indoors and outdoors, the perfect atmosphere for a casual lunch date with friends or a quick solo meal to-go. The large portions allow for delicious leftovers for the next day's lunch, making the 12 to 16 dollars a reasonable price.



## SHAKESHACK

While Shake Shack seems like just another burger-and-friends place to most, the iconic menu sets it apart from other fast-food chains. Shake Shack breaks the stereotype with their one-of-a-kind 'Shroom Burger'; the crisp-fried Portobello mushroom that replaces the meat patty is an invigorating vegetarian option that steps out of the box with its light, rich taste. Continuing with its unique approach, Shake Shack offers specialty milkshake flavors such as Maple Snickerdoodle Shake and Frozen Hot Chocolate Shake. Expanding from their iconic Irvine Spectrum location, Shake Shack is guaranteed to shake things up in the Brea food scene.