

FREE

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La Habra, California

The ScotchTape



Featuring the voice of the students of La Habra High School since 1954!

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Highlanders Celebrate Homecoming!

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Spirit Weeks



Spirit Fills the Halls of LHHS

by Jasper Bateman

The last few weeks have been jam packed for students of La Habra High School! Between the Friday Night Lights, Homecoming dance, plays, and choir performances, students have never been so excited to be at school.

To top off all of

these great activities, the last few weeks have been themed spirit weeks that coincided with Rivalry Week and Homecoming Week. These spirit weeks included break rallies, and of course, dress up days everyday!

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Student Clubs



Club Rush Connects Students' Interests

Students at La Habra High School were once again able to take part in the annual tradition known as Club Rush, where various clubs and organizations that are active on campus have an opportunity to recruit new members for the current school year.

This year marked the first in-person club rush since Fall 2019, and it was clear that students were more than ready to see what kinds of groups they could get involved in at LHHS.

This year's event was spread over two days, which gave students plenty of time

to peruse all of their options and sign-up for anything (and everything) that they found interesting.

On the club-side of things, members saw an excitement to get involved that surpassed their expectations, with many clubs filling out several sign-up sheets.

What follows are some specific spotlights on various clubs on campus: if you would like to have your club featured, please reach out to Mr. Neavez at aneavez@fjuhsd.org!

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Performing Arts

LHHS's New Performing Arts Center

by Courtney Haraguchi



In 2019, La Habra High School opened its brand new Performing Arts Center; now, stage manager and student Caitlyn Konecne takes us around the theater for a tour of everything that goes on both under the lights and behind the curtain.

We start our tour in the Main Theater, heading first into the tech booth. Located behind the audience, the tech booth is something you may not notice at first glance. A long, shallow room, it is home to all the equipment and monitors that

make any production run smoothly. One side of the booth is devoted to lighting, and the other to sound and projections.

Me: When might this be used?

Caitlyn: Lighting is used anytime anything's happening on the stage, to make things look nice and pretty, and the other side is for projections if they have awards ceremonies, or mics and sound for anything they're using music or mics.

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Homecoming King and Queen Crowned at “Spooktacular” Events!

by Noemi Vazquez

One of the aspects of Homecoming that students at LHHS look forward to the most is the nomination of the Homecoming Court and the eventual crowning of the annual King and Queen. The first few weeks leading up to one of the best nights of high school is all about advertising the nominees for the homecoming court.



During this time students nominate each other at every class level. Two weeks before homecoming we get the list of official nominees consisting of a prince and a princess for each Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior class. In addition, the senior class nominates a total of six princesses and six princes.

The underclassmen Homecoming Court included freshmen AJ Holguin and Bayley Delgado, sophomores Bryce Whitley and Savannah Uriostegui, and Juniors Brent Grantham and Danica Spiker.

The 2021 Senior Homecoming Court included Baylie Kakallis, Kayla Tafolla, Nicole Munoz, Sheccid Carrillo, Unique Tellez, and Marissa Gomez running for Queen and Dominic Castrellon, Aaron Valdez, Troy Kaufman, Micheal Orona, Austin Abell, and Ehren Salas running for King.



Traditionally, ASB sets up a Pep Rally the Friday before the Homecoming Dance where the King is formally crowned in front of the entire student body. The pep rally was hosted by Caitlyn Konecne and Lukas Garberg and included dances by our school’s Dance Production team. The Pep Rally culminated with the crowning of Troy Kaufman as the 2021 Homecoming King!

After the rally, Troy explained of the moment he was crowned that “It felt like an eternity standing on the stage beside my friends. As the drumming proceeded to increase in tempo, I felt the stiffness of a circular object be gently placed on top of my head. An instant rush of adrenaline fueled the jumping and hugging as the crowd cheered. It was a cool feeling that I will never forget!”



Later that night was the homecoming football game where the Queen is crowned during a halftime ceremony. This ceremony has every prince and princess escorted to the field by a family member, usually a parent or guardian. ASB also welcomes back the previous year’s King and Queen, 2021 graduates Sirmaj Singleton and Damaris Oakes. In front of all those attending the football game, including parents, relatives, friends, staff, and fellow students, everyone waited in anticipation as the former Queen crowned the new Queen. Damaris walked around the princesses, holding the crown over everyone’s head, but finally placed the crown on top of Sheccid Carrillo. At that moment, everyone began cheering in excitement that she had won.



Sheccid later explained that, “Being nominated for Homecoming court felt exciting, it was always something I wanted to be a part of. The whole process was super fun meeting new people from different friend groups all coming together and getting along so well was so cool! After being crowned Queen I felt so much love from everyone!”



Homecoming Dance a Complete Success!

After a day of celebrating the Homecoming Court, students of La Habra High School dressed up to attend the first in-person formal dance since March 2020!

Students arrived to see the “Haunted Homecoming” theme in full effect - the entrance to the dance was decked out in a spooky manner reminiscent of Knott’s Berry

Homecoming event, especially after a year of not having an official school-district sanctioned event of its kind.

Ms. Holly Ryan, a co-advisor for Senior Class, explained how great the night was. “We really didn’t know what to expect as far as turnout,” she began, “but we were so excited to see how many students showed up to have a good time and take part in one



Farm’s annual Halloween Haunt. Although the dance itself was held on the blacktop behind the home side of the stadium instead of the gym (as in previous years), students still had an amazing time mingling with one another, taking pictures, and of course, DANCING!

The dance, which was planned by Senior Class, was a much wel-

come of the traditions of high school!”

Ms. Ryan added that the success of the night was due in large part to the efforts of the senior class members who helped to make sure all parts of homecoming weekend - from the assembly and halftime show, to the dance itself!

Thank you to everyone involved for a night to remember!



Spirit Fills the Halls of La Habra High School!

(continued from front page)

Although every spirit day was one to remember, a few shined above the rest. These select days showed the most creativity and spirit towards La Habra High School.

One of the first themed days was “Babies Vs Boomers”, which tasked students to either dress in the clothes of years past, or of those to come.

“Babies Vs Boomers” day was one to remember simply because of the thought and creativity that students had to show in order to pull off either of these looks.

Another Spirit Day theme was “Soccer Mom Vs Barbeque Dad” day, which asked students to either come to school looking like they’re ready to watch a great game of soccer, or like they’re about to fire up the grill on a sunny weekend afternoon. “Soccer Mom Vs Barbeque Dad” day was one to remember because of how many students participated, and all of the stories that came along with how students were able to pull off these looks through using their parents’ clothes.

Another memorable Spirit Week theme was “Anything but a Backpack” day. This day required students to swap their backpacks used to carry their normal everyday, school luggage, for anything and everything not normal to carry their belongings in.

This day will be one to remember because of the huge participation and

amount of creativity shown, despite even the most unethical ways to carry textbooks being seen.

As spirit days went and were completed, these three days were by far the most fun and creative and showed the most unity as a school through participation.

All that’s left for the students of La Habra High School is to count down the days until they once more get to come to school and celebrate the spirit days everyone has come to know and love.

by Jasper Bateman



Students Show Their Spirit During Rivalry Week Break Rallies

by Cecilia Munoz

Rivalry Week is a week full of spirit and enthusiasm leading up to a football game against La Habra High School’s biggest rival, Sonora. The week, which our school uses as a way to show their spirit and support of our football team, is filled with fun dress up days, rallies, and games.

This year’s rivalry week was both exciting and eventful, starting off the week with the theme “Country vs. Country Club” on Monday. Some students came to school in cowboy hats, others in khakis. At break a game was played by students in the quad to increase spirit. The game was played by two students, and the objective of the game was to grab the cup in between the student and their opponent first, when ASB yelled out “cup”.

On Tuesday, La Habra had the theme of “Baby’s vs. Boomers”. To celebrate this theme, students played a game involving multiple students. One student put on a blue la habra shirt, then faced the other student. The two students put their arms up to each other to form a triangle, and the other players had to lift the shirt off of the first student and successfully get it onto the other student to win.

The theme for Wednesday was “Mathletes vs. Athletes”. This theme was one of the most popular, as many students took this day to show off their favorite sports team. Unfortunately, we did not have a

game during break, as it was a late start day so we did not have a break.

Thursday’s theme for the week was “BBQ Dad vs. Soccer Mom”. Many students showed up with aprons and tongs, while other students took the day to show off their favorite soccer mom vests and hats.

Lastly to finish off rivalry week, Friday’s theme was “Blue vs White”. Seniors and Juniors theme was blue, and Freshman and Sophomore’s theme was white. The theme of “Blue vs White” was intended to show La Habra Highschool’s school spirit, representing our colors proudly.

Friday night was the football game everybody had been anticipating, what rivalry week has been leading up to. La Habra was playing against Sonora, our rival. Students in the student section did what they do best and showed their pride and support for the football team strongly. La Habra beat Sonora, taking the win, and beating them 48-27.



Club Rush Connects Students' Interests

(continued from the front page)



Key Club Continues Community Service

by Noemi Vazquez

Key Club, one of the oldest clubs here at La Habra High School, gives students opportunities to expand their leadership skills by helping others both at our school and in our local community.

This club is led by President Ashley Esquerra, VP of Fundraising Lauren Krynen, and VP of Service Projects Karen Sawouq. The purpose of this club is to provide service, build character, and develop leadership skills.

On Tuesday September 21, 2021 the club held its first event: bracelet and card making for suicide prevention month. Several members got together during lunch and made cards with wonderful heartfelt messages and bracelets that said "U R LOVED". Lisa Noguchi attended the event and said "this is such a sweet idea" when making one of the bracelets.

Key Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month in the lecture hall with the goal of at least one service project a month. You can contact Ashley Esquerra at ashleyesquerra@fjuhsd.org for more information.

The La Habra TCG

by Autumn Rouse

After a year of quarantine students are ready to socialize and strategize at the brand new club: "La Habra Trading CardGames."

The La Habra TCG Club is a new addition to many of our leisurely and inspirational clubs and some might describe as "just as good."

There are two club presidents, both senior students, Lukas Monroy and Jared Guzman. The advisor to the club is a math teacher, Mr. Gonzales.

Club meetings are normally held on Wednesdays and it is not mandatory to attend them unless stated otherwise. They're normally during lunch after histep in Mr. Gonzales' classroom, room 101 around the end of the main hall.

This club has a wide selection of card games to choose from, all just as fun as the last: Yu-Gi-Oh, Magic the Gathering, Pokemon, etc.. The games allow students to come together easily and have thrilling experiences. Most of the card games require strategy and smarts, allowing students to learn something new and make snappier but still smart decisions.

To participate in these Trading Card Games club contact one of the presidents or email the advisor at mgonzales@fjuhsd.org.

GSA Club Spotlight!

by Isabella Garcia

La Habra's GSA Club (Gender Sexuality Alliance) has had no trouble keeping its popularity amongst students with over 100 members signing up at Club Rush.

Created and run by the co-presidents Evan Taylor and Karen Sawouq, GSA intends to provide a safe environment for students in the LGBTQ+ community as well as their allies.

Not only is it the club's goal to provide such a socially safe and accepting community for its members, but the plans extend out into learning the possible ways of advocating for the LGBTQ+ community on a broader spectrum.

The club will be holding plenty of teamwork and leadership activities for the members to take part in on campus during the school year with regular meeting dates being on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. On top of that, attendance for events going on within the county will be recommended by the club for members to show even more of their support.

"Our club is pridelful to broadcast the different flags in this community," says Karen, "As well as to spread love around our school."

Students can join the club all year round and are able to do so by contacting either of the club co-presidents by email.



National Honors Society is Here to Make a Change!

by Jasper Bateman

For students looking to make a difference and honor LHHS through academics and service products, NHS is the club to be in!

Led by Senior Tyler Porter, president of NHS, this group of dedicated and passionate students is ready to make a difference! NHS hopes to set and conquer new boundaries through their community oriented service projects.

"I am so excited to be the President of NHS for the 2021-2022 school year!" says Tyler, "We are excited to implement new projects and a new mindset to the

NHS community at La Habra High School." The club will meet monthly to discuss and plan these projects. These projects consist of things such as beach cleanups, restaurant fundraisers, and dress up spirit weeks for LHHS students!

The group has also helped in the fight against the pandemic over this past school year. Tessia Carty, a second year member, had this to say on that topic, "I am greatly appreciative of the time that I have spent with this group. One of my favorite projects was when we got involved with an organization during quarantine that made

masks for those in need. We all got together and learned how to use sewing machines and ended up producing hundreds of masks to donate."

As we keep an eye on NHS on and off campus, we can be sure of one thing, their strive and desire to make a difference will forever be unmatched! If anyone would like to get involved in NHS or is interested in making a difference you can contact Senior President of the club Tyler Porter at his school email at 900021417@fjuhsd.org.

Club Rush Connects Students' Interests

(continued from the front page)



SHPE Students Make Their Mark at LHHS

by Courtney Haraguchi

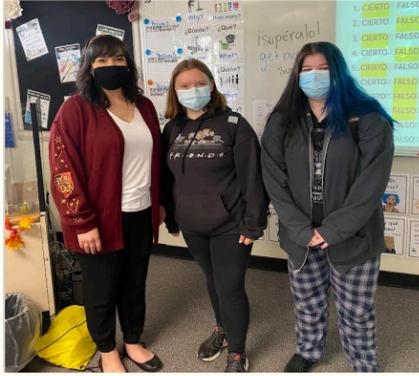
SHPE, or the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, is a national organization with chapters all across the United States. The purpose of the organization is to provide resources and college networking opportunities to high school students, particularly those of Hispanic descent, who are interested in engineering. Here at La Habra High School, SHPE's junior chapter is led by a group of dedicated and hardworking students.

President Ariana Abel, vice-president Barbara Lozano, and secretary Celeste Rangel work with Mr. Kelso to organize the club. They meet in room 142 every Thursday after Histep, during lunch.

One of their proclaimed goals for the year is to have events that include middle school students to get them involved and help stir up interest in the engineering field. Additionally, later in the fall they plan to host virtual meetings with college students and professors so high school students can ask questions about college applications and experience.

Club president Ariana Abel shared her thoughts on the club, and why it's so important: "Even though anyone can join the club it [is]... very empowering and inspiring to be part of a club that especially supports Hispanics and other minorities in accessing resources that they otherwise may not have been able to get."

Come learn about SHPE Thursdays at lunch, or email any of the board members for more information. New members are always welcome!



Harry Potter Club Brings Magic to Luncheon Activities

by Cecilia Munoz

The Harry Potter club has made its triumphant return to La Habra High School in order to give students an opportunity to come together to discuss and experience the ever-expanding exciting world of witchcraft and wizardry.

This club is both a club for Harry Potter lovers and students that want to learn more about the Harry Potter series. This is the club's second year after taking a year off due to the pandemic.

Club president Regan Doderro explains that, "So far we've had a lot of students join who aren't actually super into Harry Potter, but are thinking about wanting to. So, our club is going to be a club where people who already like it can join, and also people who don't, so they can talk together and really just bond over the shared interest".

The Harry Potter Club has several ideas and activities for what to do, and although none of them are set in stone, there are some fun activities in the works.

For example, the club might have one minute challenges against houses, they might sort students into their houses, or even watch the movies while doing various activities.

As you can tell, exciting things are to come for the La Habra Harry Potter Club. If you're interested in joining, the meetings are on Thursday after histep, in room 50 with Mrs Flores as the club advisor. We hope to see you there!

What do we do?

The Heritage Humanities Club is a co-curricular student organization to enhance the Heritage experience through field trips and community service activities.

Past Field Trips & Events:

- Catalina Island
- Beach Cleanups
- Mt. San Jacinto State Park
- Tahquitz Indian Canyons
- The Getty
- The Bowers Museum
- Griffith Observatory
- Chinatown
- Olvera Street
- Little Tokyo
- Peterson Automotive Museum
- Japanese American Nat'l Museum

Heritage Club is Back

by Larissa Samano

After more than 18 months of no club activity, Heritage Club is back in business bringing community service opportunities and fun field trip plans that will be further discussed and planned with direct student input!

Established by Heritage advisor Mr. Char, this club looks to enhance the "Heritage Experience" through field trips and community service activities.

The club is student-organized but is looking for new leaders! This year's officers will be elected after the first general meeting held in Mr. Chars classroom during lunch after HiSTEP. Mr. Char said, "Trips are either cultural, historic, or scientific in nature. Past trips have included Catalina, The Chinese-American Museum in Chinatown, The Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo, The Getty, The Bowers Museum, The Griffith Observatory, and college campus tours."

They meet every other Wednesday in room 65 but don't forget the only requirement is to be a heritage student! They would love to see students become more involved in the program and joining is a great way to start. For any students interested please contact Mr. Char @echar@fjuhsd.org.



Be Included in the Inclusion Club!

by Nicole Worthington

The Inclusion Club is the place you want to be if you want to make new friends who share common interests or if you are just looking for a place to have a great time while enjoying the company of other students of La Habra High School!

The club is currently run by President Amy Delgado and Junior Representative Angelica Corrales, both having the duty of making this club the best it can possibly be!

The purpose of the Inclusion Club is to bring people together that have things in common and enjoy the same interests.

Their goal for this year is to make everyone feel like they have a place to belong to, along with gathering students with various backgrounds.

"This club is something I'm proud to be part of," says Representative Angelica Corrales, "I am excited to make new friends and witness other people make these connections as well!"

President Amy Delgado explains that she never wants to see someone alone and bored. "If I can make them laugh," she continues, "whether that means making a mom

joke or asking them who their celebrity crush is. I will always do just that! So that's why I created Inclusion Club so people can have a place to go to where they can make friends and have a good laugh!"

Both Amy and Angelica say that ALL ARE WELCOME and can't wait to meet YOU soon!!!

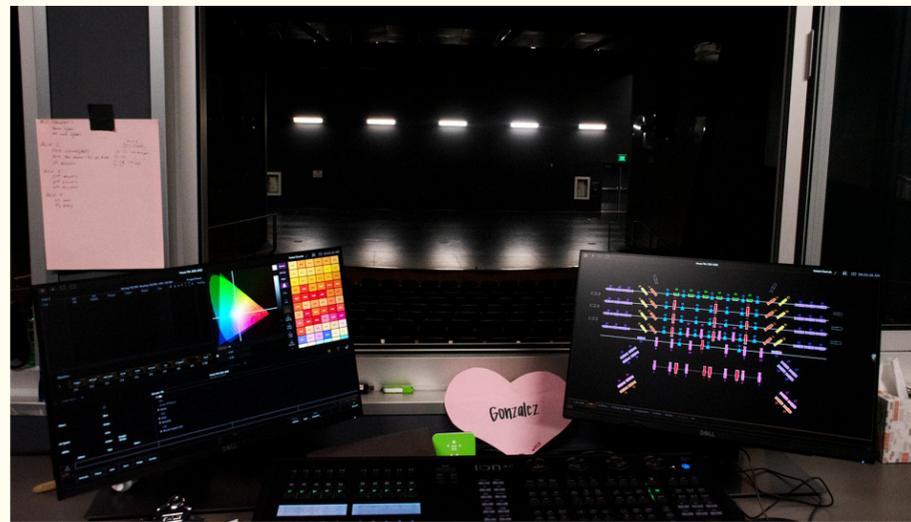
Inclusion Club meets every 1st Tuesday and last Friday of each month in Mrs Ho's classroom, located in room 134 during lunch after high step.

LHHS's New Performing Arts Center: A Behind the Scenes Look with Caitlyn Konecne (Part 1)

(continued from the front page)

by Courtney Haraguchi

Leaving the tech booth below, we climb the narrow ladder up to the spot room. It's a bit of a tight squeeze, but soon we find ourselves in a small, bright space with a birdseye view of the audience and stage. The two spotlights that take up most of the room are each as tall as me and powerful enough to fully illuminate a performer on the dark stage. A series of levers make each one easy for a single crew member to turn, reaching the far corners of the stage. You might wonder, how does a spotlight operator know when and what to do?



Caitlyn: *On the stands are comms--we'll see those all throughout the building--the comms help to communicate all throughout the theater without announcing it or having to yell. There's a talk button, you have a microphone, you can hear what everyone's saying.*

Stepping out of the tech booth, we enter the Main Theater. Though I've been in here many times before, it never fails to amaze me. Seats pan out before us, filling the room in a sea of blue and grey. Though it is almost two years old,



the theater still holds its refreshing new carpet smell. The theater can seat six hundred and twenty people, each with a clear view of the large proscenium-style stage.

Taking a moment to look up instead of forward, we can see multiple catwalks spanning the expanse above

us. Additionally, there are rows and rows of lights to illuminate the stage in a bright and natural way. I notice that the grey walls are made up of overlapping, arrow shaped panels.

Me: *Are these panels on the walls specifically designed for the best sound?*

Caitlyn: *It kinda helps to collect it so it doesn't reverberate or echo.*

What the audience sees stops here, but we take the actor's point of view and climb the steps onto the stage. From here, I can see just how

expansive the audience is and the beauty of the room. The stage is composed of black Masonite that extends all the way into the wings.

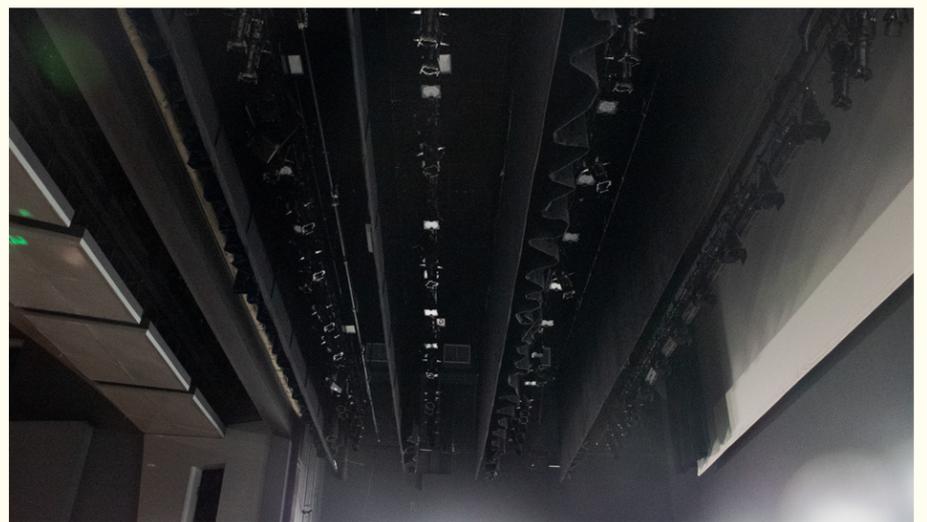
Normally, curtains would be down to hide the backstage areas,



but right now they are all stored away and the stage is empty. It's extremely deep and wide, and every little sound echoes. Walking over to a wall of pulleys and levers, Caitlyn explains how the curtains and flying set pieces work.

Caitlyn: *This is the rigging, so during the show you can see there's the main curtain that can come down, we can bring all these electrical light panels down, and then in the back there's the cyclorama which will come down, and then the side curtains and the big curtain.*

All the curtains are stored in the



fly space, an area above the stage where things can be lifted or lowered as scenes require. The side curtains create entrances and exits as well as hidden wings for actors to prepare as well as store props and set pieces. The cyclorama, or back curtain, usually acts as a backdrop to represent a wall or the sky. All these and more can be controlled from the wings, either manually or electrically.

Next Caitlyn takes us into the

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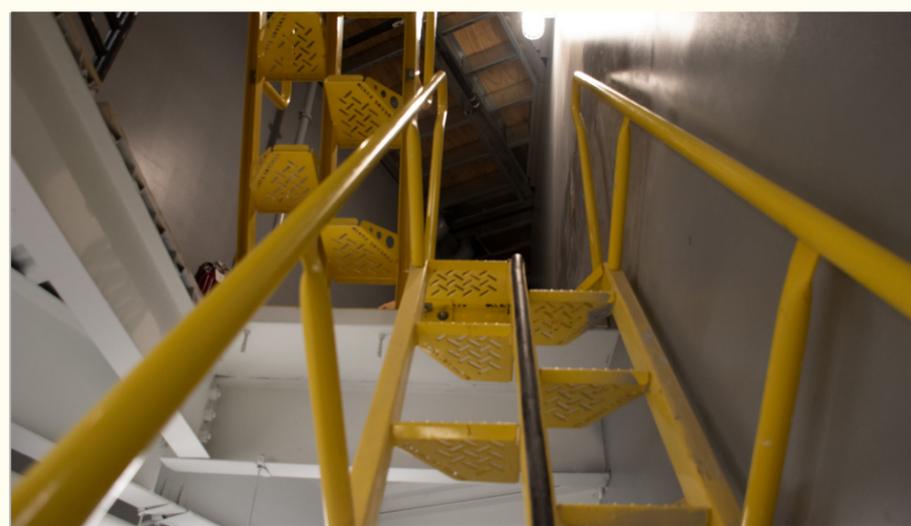
inner workings of the theater: the backstage of the backstage, if you will. Behind a door off stage left is a place I, as a performer, have never seen. Two pairs of narrow metal



stairs stretch away from us, one up and the other down. We head first to the orchestra pit. It's dark and cramped under the stage, but with phone flashlights we can just make out the supports holding up the stage.

Me: How does this work with a live orchestra?

Caitlyn: There's scaffolding on there that can come off and then the pit can fall down so that you can actually have an orchestra in here, so you'd lose the front part of the stage, and then there's a monitor down here and comms, so that the orchestra members can see what's happening onstage and the conductor can hear calls.



Now we climb two flights of the narrow yellow steps. It's clear there isn't an inch of room to spare, even back here. Everything has a purpose and the layout of the building is very intentional.

At the top level, there are some extra audience seats stacked against the wall and spotlight alcoves every few meters. The huge lights are mounted on the wall and

peek out of slits in the cement. From our vantage point, we can see the expanse of the stage and some of the seats.

Caitlyn: This is something that you wouldn't really see from the audience, but it's something you can admire from the stage.

Me: Do you ever need to come up here to adjust these lights?

Caitlyn: Those lights, sometimes they need to be refocused, but for the most part it's all controlled from the board, so you won't need to redo anything with that.

Following the passage the opposite way, away from the stage, we come upon the first of two catwalks. It's a dark, narrow bridge through the air, lined with lights and hung on both sides with lighting equipment. When I step onto it, the metal squeaks a little, but I can tell



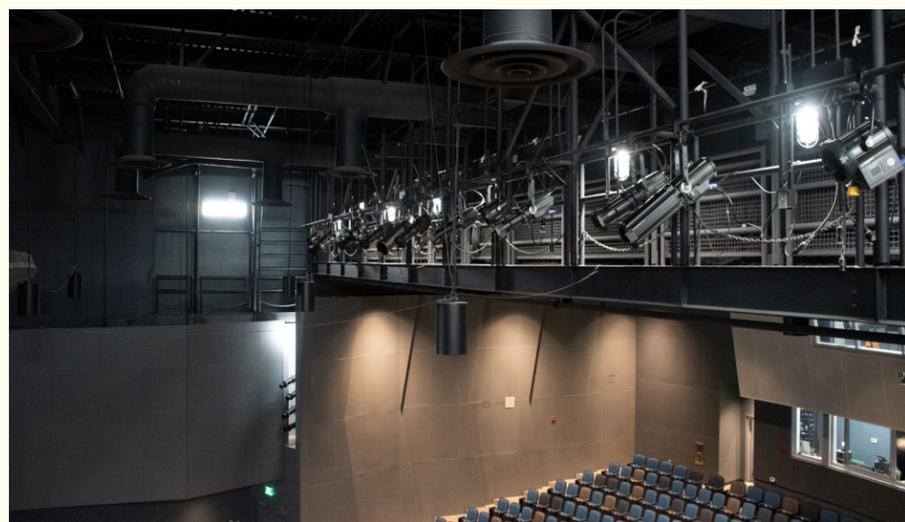
it's secure from all the supports. Everything in this room is detailed and planned down to the smallest beam, so I feel completely safe suspended over 25 feet above the audience. This catwalk is practically over

the stage, so it's hard to get a clear view.

Once we cross to the other side, though, I can see the whole audience down below me. There are lighting vestibules identical to those on stage

left, but these can only be accessed by travelling the way we've just come. Even though it's more of the same thing, I brave the upper catwalk, the highest place you can be in the theater.

There is a short ladder of metal rungs connecting the walkways, (a little difficult to climb with a camera around my neck), but eventually I make it up and stand to survey the view in front of me. This is the most breathtaking view I've seen yet; the whole stage pans out in front of me and the audience runs under my feet all the way back to the tech booth. It's amazing to see the whole room from this high up when I've only ever seen it standing on the ground. From up here with my bird's eye view, I feel small and can truly appreciate the beauty of this theater.



A Note From the Staff Advisor

by Alfonso Neavez

I can hardly believe that we are just a few days away from our annual Fall Break. It feels like just yesterday that we were all caught up in the excitement of the start of another school year. This year has certainly presented its challenges to our campus (and to school's all across the nation) as we grapple with the ongoing pandemic while we try to resume a "normal" feeling of life.

Although I certainly had some concerns about how everything would play out, I have been SO impressed by the resiliency and tenacity of our students and staff as we have worked hard to achieve our goals this semester. I know things haven't always been easy, but I ask you this: when has anything worth doing ever been purely easy?

I am proud of how, even with everything going on in the world around us, our students have figured out a way to expand school spirit both during the school day and during sporting events.

I am proud of how involved students are and I am particularly proud at how excited everyone was (and is) about the clubs we offer on our campus, and what opportunities there could be with just being involved (I mean, have you been to a Karaoke Club meeting?! Those students leave that club meeting beaming with JOY!).

I am proud of the work students are putting in to get caught up and push past their educational goals. Although I only teach a small percentage of our overall population, I can see that being here, being on campus, and being together is exactly what our students needed.

In short, I am proud to be a highlander. March 2020 changed everything, and I will be the first to admit that my mindset about the status of education in our country was not always the best since then. However, seeing everything that we have done since August has restored my faith in the power we have when we come together in the spirit of collaboration.

Over the past few months, the Journalism class has worked hard to get re-acclimated to reporting on the goings-on of our campus. After some setbacks with our website and online production programs, we are proud of what we present to you with this first official issue, and we look forward to producing more student-centered content for you once a month for the remainder of the school year.

I leave you with the photos to the right - from our annual Patriots' Day Remembrance Event held on September 11, 2021. NJROTC and Marching Band did a fantastic job with the event!

GO HIGHLANDERS!



Lady Highlander Volleyball Team Shines on Senior Night

by Bella Garcia



On Thursday, October 7, La Habra High School girl's Varsity Volleyball team took to their home court one last time against rivals, Sonora High School, to celebrate their annual senior night.

Before the rivalry game started, a ceremony was held in front of those in the stands who stood by to commemorate the hard work and dedication of the five senior players. The girls, Camille Castillo, Teresa Christian, Bella Lutfi, Skye Robinson, and Larissa Samano, all walked out with their families while a review consisting of their high school and athletic achievements, a list of thanks, their favorite high school memory, and a quote of their choosing was read aloud. By the end of the ceremony each team-member's grind and heart was made clear.

Photo Courtesy of Luna Ink Photography

But the passionate energy in the room didn't fizz out there. When the girls stepped out on the court at the start of the first set, the stands in the gym were rattling like never before. Excited to see the girls show out like we know they can, the student section cheered them on from beginning to end. With that kind of support, the girls did not disappoint!

With Principal "Coach" Eeles on the sideline assisting head coach, Adrienne Spears, and assistant coach, Jen Church, the team made their defeat look leisurely as they took the win over the Sonora Raiders in just three sets. The Lady Highlanders hadn't even allowed the opposing team to score over 15 points in the first two sets with scores

of 25-10 in the first set and 25-11 in the second. Though the final set was close at 25-22, our Lady Highlanders persistence aided them in coming out on top.

Reminiscing on the game, senior Larissa Samano says, "I'm really happy with the performance of both teams and about the fact we were able to play our rivals on senior night. We played the best volleyball we could and it was fun being able to win our last home game like that."

That sentiment was shared amongst not only the girls on the team, but those in the stands. Seeing the heart they put into the game against our rivals inclined everybody there to be invested in the success of the team that night.

Amanda Kalpakoff, a sophomore who plays outside hitter on the team said, "It was special. Everyone was excited, happy, and it was fun because we had a big student section because it was our rivalry game and we won! We crushed Sonora!"

And there is no better way to put it than how Amanda did. Our Lady Highlanders crushed Sonora on their final home game this season. Not only was the hard work of the senior players recognized by all during their senior night ceremony, but long after they left it all on the court it was obvious.

The Lady Highlanders closed out the regular season a week later against Troy and then went on to the first round of playoffs. The season, as a whole, ended after a 5 set back and forth battle with University High School in Irvine in which our girls fell short just a point in the end.

The fight and commitment portrayed by the varsity volleyball team every game this season has not gone unnoticed. Throughout the season the girls were recognized for their achievements on the morning announcements and by peers until the end of the season, and even now. To continue showing support in the future you can follow the program on instagram @lhsgirlsvolleyball.



Photo Courtesy of Luna Ink Photography

Varsity Football Starts League Off Strong

by Larissa Samano



(editor's note): The following article was reported during the first week of league play, which took play on Friday, October 1, 2021. Since then, the Highlanders went on to win the Freeway League Championship and made it to the CIF-SS Quarterfinals. We would like to congratulate the Varsity football team on another great season!



La Habra varsity football had their first league game away and blew Sunny Hills High School out of the water at Buena Park Stadium last Friday night with a final score of 41-14.

Prior to league beginning, La Habra hadn't won a game and this brought up speculations on how the league season would turn out. Fortunately, the boys struck back putting all those uncertain thoughts to rest. Senior co-captain and starting right tackle Ben Fitchett explained, "We stopped shooting ourselves in the foot, we started limiting our mistakes, and we were able to come through with a big win."

With seeing this game alone, it is clear they are still looking like the dominant program everyone knows them to be in the league. They found their rhythm and are working in perfect unison to only move forward from here.

Right away in the beginning of the first quarter, they scored the first touchdown of the game to be the first on the scoreboard. They continued to run the game with a first half shutout 21-0 and it was not until the middle of the third quarter the Lancers were able to score on a quick drive.

Sunny hills continued to battle their way through the game, but it was still not enough to hold La Habra off. Junior linebacker Gabe Medel added, "I think our offense and defense finally got it together and it felt good to win after so many close games." Although they struggled through preseason, the team didn't let that define what their league season would look like.

As the varsity football team continues to improve their game, and stay on top in league, they have the #1 OC student section to cheer them on for Friday night lights. Now they look to go undefeated once again to win the freeway league championship.



New Teachers on Campus!

As each school year comes to an end, districts across the country work to fill any new vacancies due to teacher retirements and/or changes in enrollment numbers.

This year, La Habra High School was able to hire on several new teachers who bring with them a range of expertise in several different subjects. Beyond this expertise, these teachers also help to expand

the mission and vision of LHHS by establishing positive working relationships with their students, as well as getting involved in several extra-curricular activities (like being a club advisor or a coach of a sports team).

We are always so lucky to get new teachers who are excited to become part of the Highlander Family and we are doubly-excited to present

FOUR profiles for you to read about below.

We offer a sincerest welcome to these new teachers and we wish them best as they acclimate to our campus and become part of what makes the educational experience at LHHS so great!



Mrs. Megan Bowers Joins the English Department!

by Joy Sweet

Have you taught anywhere else before? If so, where?

Yes. Whittier Christian, Sonora, and Hope International University.

Where did you attend college?

I attended Cal State Fullerton and UC Irvine.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I always liked school, and I was always good at school. I felt comfortable there. I had great teachers in high school that made me want to teach high school.

Why did you choose the grade(s) and subject(s) that you teach?

I actually started as a math major, because I had great math teachers, and so I thought I would want to be a math teacher. I realized I did not actually like the subject. At the same time, I was taking that required English class for freshman comp and I really liked it, so now I'm an English teacher!

What's the wildest experience you've had in your class?

There was a time when I was working at Whittier Christian where a squirrel got electrocuted right outside my classroom. It climbed down into the transformer and we heard it 'pop'.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I like being with my family. We like going outside and playing. I am a baker, and I have a cake business that I do in my spare time. I also like running and reading.



Mr. Mario Rizo, Science Teacher Extraordinaire!

by Joy Sweet

Have you taught anywhere else before? If so, where?

Yes. I subbed here in FJUHSD, and I coach-subbed for La Habra for a long time, but that was back in 2005. But, I taught 13 years at Schurr High School in Montebello.

Where did you attend college?

Two years at Cal Poly Pomona, then I transferred to Cal State Fullerton, got my Bachelor's. And then, I did my credential at Cal State Fullerton. Then, I just finished my Master's at Cal State Fullerton.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I just like interacting with people, and I figured if I liked interacting with people, why don't I try to help people.

Why did you choose the grade(s) and subject(s) that you teach?

Science was always my favorite subject. I think in high school you have that opportunity to get a little bit deeper into science.

What's the wildest experience you've had in your class?

Probably a girl burning her hair. Someone else passed out from talking about blood in forensics.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I like to cook a lot. I like to exercise and go to the gym. I like to watch basketball, specifically I'm a huge Laker's fan. Playing with my little ones.

Anything else you'd like to add that could help Highlanders get to know you better?

I just love being creative and putting on productions. When I taught at Schurr High School, I started my own forensic science program. We used to do a big end of the year trial. Things like that.

Ms. Tania Herrera Expands Spanish Expertise in the Foreign Language Department!

by Joy Sweet



Have you taught anywhere else before? If so, where?

Yes, this is actually my second year of teaching. Before here, I was teaching at a middle school in West Covina.

Where did you attend college?

After I graduated high school, I transferred to a community college. Once I got my AA in Spanish, I did transfer to Cal State Long Beach, and that's where I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in Spanish as well as my teaching credentials.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I decided to be a teacher because I wanted to make an impact on the student's lives. I feel, especially being a high school teacher, it is very important to be a part of the most formative years of the students' lives.

Why did you choose the grade(s) and subject(s) that you teach?

Well, I love Spanish. Spanish is my first language, and being bilingual is very important, especially being in California.

What's the wildest experience you've had in your class?

Honestly, it is my second year of teaching. My first year teaching, it was just distance learning. So, I haven't really had any experiences with something 'wild' happening to me.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love spending time with my puppy, Ollie. I love being out in nature, just enjoying the day, walking, going on hikes, kayaking.

Anything else you'd like to add that could help Highlanders get to know you better?

I'm very, very excited to be here at La Habra. Ever since I came here for my training, everyone has been very, very welcoming, from the staff to the students. I feel like I'm at home.

Ms. Lauren Vargas Brings Energy to La Habra High School!

by Kylee Nelson



Have you taught anywhere, besides La Habra? If so, where?

Yes, I taught at the Arbor in Fullerton and a charter school called the Compass.

Where'd you go to college?

I went to UC Santa Cruz and got my Undergraduate degree, as well as my Bachelor's. Then, I got my master's in teaching at USC.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

My dad was a teacher for 40 years. Teaching is also very important to my grandparents.

Why did you choose the grade and subject you teach?

I believe English Language Arts is a way to the soul and builds confidence.

What's the wildest experience you've had in your class?

When I worked at the Arbor in Fullerton the toilets overflowed and there was sewage everywhere. Everyone had to go home. All the kids were freaking out, it was worse than Covid.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love hanging out with my dogs and especially my nephew.

Anything else you'd like to add to help the highlanders get to know you better?

I am a total goofball and I love laughing.