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A&E

The Shamrock

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GIVE ME THE GAVEL

ALEXIS LUJAN
Copy Editor

At John F. Kennedy High School, senior Radhika Aggarwal scheduled a mock trial from Saturday to Sunday, December 8 to 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A total of 10 students participated in the event, learning both about public speaking and law.

Radhika decided to not only organize her own trial for her Gold Award, the highest honor someone can earn in Girl Scouts, but to also allow students who are interested in law to participate in a court setting. She put up fliers around the Kennedy campus as well as sent fliers to other high schools in the district, and to her Girl Scout troop. In order to help get others to participate in an event his former student organized, Mr. Travis Tisor offered his students forty points extra credit to attend.

"We are the leaders of the future. We need to learn about the government and how it functions, especially the judicial branch and how courts affect us," Radhika said.

On the first day, the students introduced themselves and played games such as "Two Truths and a Lie" and "Silent Communications." After the games, Radhika presented a slideshow discussing what a mock trial is, what courtroom looks like, and what terminology lawyers use in their cases.

The students were given a



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock*
Senior Radhika Aggarwal gives a speech to the attending students about the importance of being a good and insightful lawyer.

packet which contained information about a fake defendant named Marvin Jones, a teenage boy who has been accused of possessing narcotics by Officer Trooper Ransom. They wrote notes about his case and what he was being accused of. They also analyzed what statements were given by Ransom and Jones, as if they were actual lawyers for his case.

"You need to know the case before you can even attempt to help anyone," Radhika's mother, Arti Aggarwal said.

On Sunday, after looking over

the packet, the students got to choose if they wanted to be attorneys for Ransom or Jones. Before starting the mock trial, a video was presented that explained exactly how a mock trial works. They did a practice mock trial before giving the real one.

"It's good to practice because they can't just go into a case knowing nothing; it's why people go to law school, to get practice," Radhika said.

They had to give opening speeches to the fake case and the mock trial began. During the trial, they pretended to be lawyers and

asked "witnesses" questions in regards to the case. The students who were defending Ransom ultimately won the case.

Students who attended the mock trial not only learned the basics of being a good lawyer, but they also learned how to communicate on a deeper level and connect with their fellow peers.

"I was surprised at how much I enjoyed it. I originally came for the extra credit, but it was fun. I kind of hope it happens again," freshman Pavan Patel said.



School News Brief

Feeling cold or in need of a little snack? The It Gets Better club is having a Mini-Cafe afterschool, tomorrow on Dec. 21.

Donate new or gently used toys to FBLA's Orangewood Toy Drive. All toys are due tomorrow, Dec. 21 in Rm. 905.

Ticket sales for Sadies coming up in January! Theme TBA

Seniors! There will be an ice skating social Jan. 25 from 6-8 PM with Western High School. Listen to the announcements after the break for more info!

If you are still interested in joining a club, Club Rush will begin after break from Jan. 30- Feb. 1.

Help at the Orange County Heart Walk to support T.U.P.E. on Feb.3. Contact Mrs. Banales for more information.

The Shamrock Staff is wishing you a wonderful winter break. See you next year!

NEWTOWN, YOU ARE NOT ALONE

COURTNEY BANKHEAD
Photo Editor

On Friday, Dec. 14, the second-deadliest school shooting occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. Investigators have reported that 20 children, ages six to seven, as well as six staff members, which included the principal, school psychologist, and a first-grade teacher, were killed by the 20 year old homicidal killer, Adam Lanza.

Along with the 26 people Lanza killed at the school, it was reported that he killed his mother before going to the school, as well as killing himself after com-

mitting the crime.

As a result of this tragic event, many schools across the nation are now questioning their own safety and precaution if an event like Sandy Hook were to occur at their school. Kennedy High School Principal Russell Earnest expresses genuine feelings about the killing in terms of initiating some kind of awareness.

"I don't think the few lockdown drills that we do every year are enough for something this serious. When I read about some of the things Sandy Hook had done after the event, from the doorbell

to the new procedures the principal has put in to better the safety of the students, it's almost like physically harder to do here at Kennedy" Earnest said.

Though Earnest feels like the amount of protection that is being taken at Sandy Hook would be too much for Kennedy High School due to the different structure of both schools, Earnest explains that this event is definitely sparking concern in America.

"I'm constantly thinking about safety. But at the same time, I don't want to alarm people with a drill once a week.

However, I hope this event doesn't fade away because it's definitely striking something within the nation" Earnest said.

In support of the Sandy Hook families and victims involved, Kennedy High School ASB informed the student body to wear the school colors, green and white, on Dec. 19. To show that the elementary school is not alone at a time like this, a panoramic picture was taken of all Kennedy High students in green and white, as well as written notes that will be sent to the elementary school.

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A Season for All

CAMRA HOPPER
Staff Reporter

On Dec. 14 and 15 Kennedy High School singers presented “A Season for All” in the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center. That may seem nerve racking, but the singers seemed just as joyous to be there as the audience did.

Opening with “Seasons of Love” from the Broadway musical “RENT”, sung by the entire cast, the singers filled the room with love. It was also a slow and soothing piece, but still powerful at best. Junior Sabrina Jaquez and senior Subin Kim did a great job with their solos which were powerful and heartwarming.

“I was nervous and had to pee until the curtains opened up, I guess it just goes away when I see all the faces,” Sabrina said.

Lyrical Tones then gave a comical relief by singing “Feliz Navidad” with sombreros and ponchos. In addition to their voices, they played maracas to the music.

“I think the class did great and tried their best; it came out good.

I enjoyed it, but I enjoy more the fact that I won’t have to hear it anymore – hearing it too many times during practice makes you start to dislike the song,” junior Lyrical Tones member, Georgina Perez said.

Trebel Effects then did the traditional “12 Princess Days of Christmas,” where they changed up the lyrics of “12 Days of Christmas” to relate it to Walt Disney’s princesses. There were 12 trebel effects ladies representing each Disney princess.

“I was really excited and very happy to sing as Aurora because she’s my favorite Disney princess, it was the highlight of my day,” junior who played Sleeping Beauty, Lauren Spor said.

The Concert Choir and Vocal Motion then changed the traditional holiday spirit by singing songs from Tim Burton’s “The Nightmare Before Christmas.” Junior Brandon Angulo sang and danced around stage being the famous Jack Skeleton.



CAMRA HOPPER/ The Shamrock
Concert Choir posing with Frosting the Snowman at the end of their song.

“It was so much fun being Jack. It was kind of scary too, because you have to be so animated, and theatrical while singing, but overall it was really fun. The Cast did fantastic, and I wouldn’t have changed a thing,” Brandon said.

To end act one, the entire cast sang “Light a Candle,” with sophomore Hannah Kim and senior Monique Rodriguez as soloist. Each member of the cast held a light that portrayed a candle.

The music fit the holiday spirit, as well as stirred deeper emotions making the song a very touching piece.

“I felt very confident and happy. I’ve always wanted to sing that part since my freshman year. So I was really happy and thankful that I got the chance to sing that part of the song. I think this choir show was really strong. Everyone in choir stepped it up and made everything a lot more easier and enjoyable for Mrs. Anderson, Soleil, the parents who helped, and the staff backstage,” Monique said.

In act two Concert Choir sang “Frosty the Snowman.” As the cast danced and sang, Frosty the Snowman, with junior Nathan Trent inside, came out and danced along with them.

“I thought the show went well over all. It was a really fun song to do,” junior Concert Choir member, Kim Tran said.

Harmonic Fusion sang the Christmas classic, “Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer.” Senior Christian Luciani played the part

of the reindeer with a bright red light on his nose while senior Nicolas Bautista sang along in his solo.

“I felt we stepped it up and brought the entire song together nicely. All the effort we put into the song paid off when we were on stage. The entire performance went great, and we all feel like we put on a great show,” senior Tyler Cernak said.

Then to end the show the entire cast sang “O Holy Night,” with senior Eddie Eun as the soloist. A few of the girls dressed in white dresses danced gracefully around the music while holding snowflakes.

The choir had a variety of different melodies to set each mood that the holiday season brings. The coordination of dance moves flowed well together to create a great entertainment. The school, as well as the community, looks forward to another amazing show. Keep up the fantastic work Kennedy singers!



CAMRA HOPPER/ The Shamrock
Choir members gracefully dancing to “O Holy Night” for the final performance.

YES TO “AIR MONEY”

DIANA DOMINGO
News Editor

On Nov. 6, 2012, California passed Proposition 30 which increased sales and income tax. Proposition 30 was passed with 54% of a vote in favor. The proposition was crafted by Governor Jerry Brown and will be in effect for seven years.

“Proposition 30 is only a short term solution to California’s deficit problems. It is solving the problem for this fiscal year but it is not solving the long term budget problems which is government spending. If California’s politicians want to get serious about fixing California’s budget problems, raising taxes is not the

answer but decreasing spending is more of a solution,” AP government and economic teacher, Jeff Howe said.

What Proposition 30 is doing is raising California’s sales tax from 7.25% to 7.5%. It also creates four high-income tax brackets for taxpayers whose income exceeds \$250,000. The money that will be received through these taxes is going to be used to fund California’s elementary schools, community colleges, and universities.

“We need that money because as a senior in high school applying to college is scary especially

with the cost that comes with it,” senior Joanna Urueta said.

This passing has given encouragement for many students to not be so worried about college tuition. If it did not pass, toward the middle of the year, universities would be facing about \$250 million budget cut. The tuition would then be increased about 20.3%.

“I was relieved to know that my tuition would not be going up. My education is important and the last thing I want is to be worrying about how much I need to pay to receive it,” sophomore at Cal State Long Beach Sara Lopez said.

Although the proposition passed, there were also those who were opposed to it.

“I feel that the government is just lying to us to get money and spend it on other things. They taxed California before saying it will go to schools, only to take it away from them,” senior Sarah Arentz said.

Sarah is not the only one that believes that all the revenue collected will not be sent out to California’s schools.

According to The Telescope, “There are stipulations for sending at least a part of that money to schools; the minimum funding for

each K-12 school district is \$200 per student and \$100 per full-time student for each community-college district,” Zach Phelps said.

When all that money is added, there will be a lot of extra money that is not going to be spent on education and schools.

Proposition 30 was passed and whether the revenue will be spent on the state’s schools is still unknown. However, this has given universities and colleges time to work on gaining financial stability.



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock*

Left to Right sophomore Sidney Lacad, sophomore Viri Garcia, sophomore Jessica McIntire, senior Mckinna Meyer, freshman Hanna Norton, freshman Aly Mellon, and senior Ashley Caneso, supporting Kennedy High School.

WE SALUTE YOU

MIRAL PATEL & LENY BIALA
Staff Reporters

The La Palma community salutes the veterans and policemen for their work ethics and altruism through the years.

La Palma Days was held on Nov. 10, 2012, at Central Park. The celebration consisted of a parade, activities, entertainment, and the pageant. La Palma Days was created to unionize the community in the celebration of the city's birth in October 1985.

"It has since evolved in its emphasis to commemorate our community and Nation's Veterans. This event continues to celebrate our heritage and cultural diversity" Community Services Supervisor, Cindy Robinson said.

"We Salute You!" was this year's theme, made in honor of our country's veterans.

"The theme is chosen by our volunteers that serve on the La Palma Days Coordinating Committee. Also, to celebrate the City Police Department's fiftieth anniversary since it was made," Robinson said.

La Palma Days began with the La Palma Pageant which was held on the Sunday Nov. 2, 2012. The new Ambassador, from John F. Kennedy High School is senior Summer Meyer. High school bands, elementary schools, JROTC, La Palma Pageant contestants, and the La Palma Committee strolled in their cars, participating in the parade. Kennedy Band, JROTC, and Color Guard performed at the Parade representing Kennedy. Clubs also volunteered in the festivals to support their club and

community.

"Every year, my organization, key club, volunteers to sponsor a booth. It's always good. This year, we set up a booth to help fund for our annual Key Club convention. For La Palma Days- this year has been year number eight for me. I think it's great. I like the food, that's the best part. Like every year, I've always liked the Chinese food but for this year I also tried the sausages. They were really good." Key Club advisor, Mr. Terence Rollerson said.

As the marching band season comes to an end, the Kennedy Shamrock Regiment performed their second to last marching performance of the year. The Kennedy Shamrock also returns annually to the La

Palma Days parade.

"I loved performing for the community, all my friends were there, it was bitter-sweet because it was my last performance in the La Palma Days Parade," senior Hollie Ferrer said.

The festival was designed with some new activities for all ages. There were giant obstacle courses, paintless paintball, pony rides, family games, and shopping different thing.

La Palma Days was successful with some new innovations, and now the residents are eagerly waiting for the next La Palma Days.

JFK CSF 5V5 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

MIN CHUNG
Staff Reporter

On Nov. 17 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Kennedy's CSF club held a basketball tournament in order to help raise money for the Senior Scholarships they offer in CSF for their honorary life members, and provide volunteer opportunities to the members of the club. The event was located at the Kennedy basketball courts.

The first place winner won 100 dollars, the second place winner won 50 dollars, and third place won free drinks and snacks.

There were a total of five teams that played in the Kennedy's CSF Basketball tournament. The first place team was the

Shinobus and their players were Brandon Paulino, senior Christopher Thompson, senior Jonathan Hammer, senior Kyle Sankui, senior Lordan Javier, and senior Michelle Furuya. The second place team was the Big Booty and their players were junior Sami Hanna, senior Jayden Yen, junior Nicholas Medina, senior Patrick Servin, junior Yonathon Mewail, junior Gregory Palanca, and junior Wesley Friday. The third place team was the Gudos and their players were senior Brian Pham, senior Evans Shao, senior Kevin Lim, senior Matthew Lin, and senior Pete Alagos.

"It was a good opportunity to have fun, hang out with friends as well as get more prizes. More people could have come. So we learned that we need to encourage more participation, but besides that, it was a fun occasion with music and it was an opportunity to have fun," sophomore CSF homework tutor chair, Emily Hsiao said.

Although it was a rainy and cold day, Kennedy's CSF members and participants were able to have an enjoyable and memorable time.

"The JFK CSF 5v5 Basketball Tournament wasn't as successful as I'd liked it to

have been. Only 5 teams came out of the 9 who had signed-up for the tournament. Somehow, people had the mentality that since the weather wasn't too good, they had thought the tournament was cancelled. Thankfully, the 5 teams that had come had a great time playing one another. It was a fun friendly event," senior CSF president, Hamna Khan said.

Now knowing how this tournament had played out, CSF plans on doing another tournament during 2nd semester.



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All of our content is written and produced by our Shamrock Staff and outside Kennedy Reporters. Editorials, columns, and reviews that appear with a byline are solely the opinions of the writer and not those of the entire staff, adviser, or the administration.

The Shamrock is for the JFKHS students and their input is not only welcomed, but also needed. Any and all students at JFKHS are welcome to apply for a position in The Shamrock. The Shamrock will also willingly publish guest writers. Staff members will strive to publish all articles free of error. Any errors found after publication will be corrected.

Our goal is to bring the students, parents, and staff of Kennedy High School, as well as the city and community of La Palma the most current and popular news from our city, state, and country.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns for any story, photo, or column, please feel free to contact us at thejfkshamrock@gmail.com. The Shamrock news room is located in room 106 on 8281 Walker Street La Palma, CA 90623.

FEATURES

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FIESTA AT 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

BRITTNEY MCLENDON
Editor-In-Cheif

For sophomore Esbeyde Sanchez it all began when her parents took her to see a Mariachi show, and after that, she ended up taking an interest in not only the music, but also the Hispanic culture and what it stood for.

A mariachi band is a band that uses many different instruments to perform native Mexican music. Esbeyde not only took an interest in the music but was deeply enthralled in the culture, and decided to participate in the Mariachi Masters Apprentice Program, or MMAP, where she ended up joining the Mariachi Tesoro de San Fernando.

"The MMAP is centered in San Fernando and focuses on Mexican music, but it also teaches youth about Mexican culture. I can play all six instruments, the violin, guitar, viuela, trumpet, and guitarron, however, the harp is my favorite to play. It is the most fun to play, but it is also the hardest," Esbeyde said.

Being taught by Grammy award winning instructors Sergio Alonso, Jesus Guzman, Jimmy Cuellar, and Juan Jimenez, puts a lot of pressure on Esbeyde, but she knows these men have the best experience in this music genre.

"Esbeyde is a very responsible, self-motivated, and dedicated young lady. She is uncommonly mature for her age, and has a strong desire for success. She has a natural talent for music, and has

a strong work ethic which has been the driving force behind her mastery of the harp, violin, trumpet, and voice," MMAP Instructor Sergio Alonso said.

The MMAP has not only been recognized on a local level, but has also on a national level. The program won the National Humanities Award for Youth Programs, and was acknowledged by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. With this great achievement came a once in a life time opportunity to play at the White House. On Nov. 19, 2012, MMAP took their talents to D.C.

"She had the honor and great responsibility of representing not only her family, the City of San Fernando, and Kennedy High School, but also the entire Mexican people at our nation's capitol. Seeing how there were literally hundreds of articles from all over the world covering the event, I think the group did a magnificent job. The staff, administration, and students at Kennedy High School should be very proud of Esbeyde," Alonso said.

Esbeyde takes an interest in different techniques of music and getting to perform the historical aspects of different songs.

"[Performing at the White House] was so exciting, but also a lot of work. We had to send in our luggage and instruments a week before. There were 16 of us actually playing and singing in the band, and three additional chaperones. We got to perform in the East Wing of the White House. The experience was absolutely



COURTESY OF SERGIO ALONSO

Sophomore Esbeyde Sanchez shows off her talents on the violin at Glen Haven Elementary School in Silver Springs, Missouri.

incredible," Esbeyde said.

With all the time she dedicates to the Mariachi Tesoro de San Fernando, it may be surprising that Esbeyde is able to juggle both school and the band, however, she does accomplish everything that she has to do.

"[Handling school and playing in a mariachi band] is not easy. She has to

sacrifice a lot of time from her schedule and every week she has a different schedule that administrates different hours for performances, rehearsals, school, and studying," Esbeyde's father, Lino Sanchez said.

This is just one accomplishment for Esbeyde, however, it is evident that there are going to be many more in the future.

Spirit of the Holidays

DANIEL COOPER
Sports Editor

The winter season has arrived, and has caused a mass amount of excitement at Kennedy High School.

Students packed into the gym Friday just before lunch, on Dec. 7, 2012, to experience the fun at the assembly Kennedy's ASB put together. The members of ASB were looking to spread enthusiasm for the upcoming holidays by hosting a huge winter themed assembly, and they did a fantastic job. The crowd was wild about getting into the spirit of the season, and was happy to participate.

There were many exciting events, including a basketball shootout, choir performances, and even a dance featuring teacher, Mr. Dean Wang. One could see the creativity ASB put into their efforts as there were no dull moments.

"We had to make all the decorations and ornaments. Decorations took about a couple weeks to complete," senior ASB member Jessica Micale said.

It was no small task to pull off, but it was well worth it. The students thoroughly enjoyed watching and participating in this year's winter assembly and it was a great way to help excite the students for the winter sports that are beginning.

"The purpose for the assembly is to kick off the holiday season, and to showcase the winter sports and wish them



MIRAL PATEL/ The Shamrock
Senior Terrence Blum goes up to dunk a basketball in the basketball shootout.

good luck," ASB advisor Mrs. Hilda Vazquez said.

The teams received much affection from the crowd as each sport was called out and cheered on to do an excellent job for the upcoming season.

"It was cool that all the sports teams got to sit together and represent their sport," sophomore Molly Killen said.

Unfortunately there was not enough time for all of the planned events to happen.

"For the most part it went as planned, but we struggled with starting on time, because students were not in the gym as fast as we would have liked and therefore we had to cut some things out," Vazquez said.

The crowd favorite at the assembly was Mr. Wang's performance of Gangnam style.

"It is hard to pick the best part, but I would have to go with the final number with the Gingerbread man, Mr. Wang, and all the students getting their groove on" Vazquez said.

It was definitely a team effort to put this together; students, teachers, and administrators alike all had their fun, and in the end, everyone was able to enjoy a great assembly.

ORGANIZATIONS IN NEED OF HELP:

DANIEL COOPER
Sports Editor

•ABC 7 & Firefighters Spark of Love Toy Drive Fund - Drop off a new, unused toy or sports equipment during the month of December, to any local fire station, and the toys will be donated to underprivileged children in the local area.

•Harvesting Hope - Donate non-perishable food items to your nearest Stater Bros. during the month of December, to help local food banks and self help organizations.

•The Salvation Army - Donate money to the red kettle each time you hear the bell ringing as you do your daily shopping, volunteers will be located outside of numerous retail stores throughout the country. Money donated is used for dinners, clothing, and toys for families in need.

•Wigs for Kids - Donate at least 12 inches of hair from Dec. 19 to Dec. 23 to the Honda Center in Anaheim, California to help children with hair loss. The hair will be made into wigs and hairpieces.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

*Miss La Palma,
 Summer Meyer*

COURTNEY BANKHEAD
 Photo Editor



COURTNEY BANKHEAD/ *The Shamrock*

Q: *Why did you initially want to participate in the pageant?*
A: I thought that I could represent the community well and I wanted to be come more involved in the community. Also, I wanted to be given the opportunity to give back to the community in which I grew up in.

Q: *You got a perfect score on your speech. When you were on stage, what was it that made you feel comfortable?*
A: At first, right before I picked up the microphone I was so nervous. But as soon as I started speaking, it just came natural and I felt comfortable because it was passion, I don't know, it just came to me and I felt like I knew it so it just came to me, and I didn't want to hold back anything because of the practice that I put forth for those three minutes.

Q: *Why did you choose bullying as the subject of your speech?*
 Well, I was inspired by a video of Amanda Todd, a teenager that committed suicide due to bullying. I myself was also bullied as a child, when I went to elementary school. So I know it's out there, it's around us, and know it's happening today because these kids are being harassed daily and people are committing suicide. It's not only a community problem, but a real world-wide problem that I wanted to bring awareness to in La Palma. This definitely has been a passion of mine for a while to advocate, even prior to the pageant.

Q: *And finally, the big moment, when they announced you as La Palma's next Ambassador, what was going through your head?*
A: I felt like I was dreaming! I even started crying! I've never been that excited in my life, I was shaking and it was just such a surreal moment. I am so thankful to be Miss La Palma; it was a defining moment in my life, and probably the biggest accomplishment in my life so far.

Q: *What was it like, the entire pageant process?*
 At the very first meeting, I thought it was going to be a long process and to go there every Sunday to the meetings, but it moved very quickly. Everything was so fast-paced, but it was a very rewarding process. It helped expand your networking skills, because you had to go to all of these events and meet new people. We actually had to go to meet the mayor, officers of La Palma PD, and so much more! And they were all so nice. When we went to the opening of the local Beacon Day school, they presented us with flowers and welcomed us. Everything we went to was rewarding in a way, in every aspect.

T.U.P.E.

MIKAYLA KHRAMOV
 Features Editor

Since California voters approved Proposition 99 in 1988, taxes on tobacco products have funded tobacco-use prevention programs in public schools statewide. Each year since, Orange County Department of Education has sponsored TUPE programs in schools across districts within Orange County. According to the OCDE website, "The purpose of the TUPE program is to reduce youth tobacco use by helping young people make healthy tobacco-related decisions through tobacco-specific research-validated educational instruction and activities that build knowledge as well as social skills and youth development assets."

TUPE, which stands for Tobacco-Use Prevention Education, is supported and promoted by law enforcement agencies, health care groups, dedicated teachers, and caring young people who are inspired to spread the word that tobacco is bad for you.

At Kennedy, Mrs. Hatcher devoted over ten years of service to the research, implementation and development of JFK's TUPE program. Though her efforts seemed tireless, it was time for her to pass the torch to new TUPE leadership this year. Stepping up to the task to become Kennedy High School's new dedicated TUPE advisers are Mrs. Bañales and Mrs. Villaseñor. They are relying on different clubs on campus to help promote awareness. Current supports include NHS, CSF, Habitat for Humanity, and French Club.

Tobacco-Use Prevention Education is

mandatory by law on every school campus. It is usually the health teachers who are in charge of running the program. Mr. Sabala and Mrs. Hatcher will continue to teach TND, a Project Towards No Drug Abuse, a 12-day session about the effects of tobacco use. This is important education, but it is limited to the time frame of 12 days. Likewise, Red Ribbon Week lasts only a week.

As TUPE co-advisers Mrs. Banales and Mrs. Villaseñor expect to work hard to infuse a year-long campus focus on fighting tobacco use. They see the emphasis of this program being the yearlong aspect which offers continual support and training from August through June. TUPE delivers prevention curriculum, provides youth development activities, tobacco-use cessation classes and intervention services throughout the school year.

In order for Kennedy's TUPE program

to be a success, our student body must embrace this opportunity to gain awareness and seek ways to get involved.

There are many ways to get involved and be creative with raising awareness. Kennedy students are encouraged to participate in the different events that will be made available and accessible to them this year. The Great American Smokeout is one such event held annually which encourages young people to avoid tobacco and live healthy.

Service clubs on campus, like FBLA, NHS, Make-a-Wish, and all others are encouraged to get their members involved in raising awareness for TUPE. Please respond to this call for action. It could be as simple as signing up or joining in one of the many events on campus and in our community that are being promoted by TUPE. Get involved today.



COURTESY OF MRS. BANALES
 (Left to Right) Vivian Hernandez, Lawrenne Cobarrubia, Sean Evans, Weisheng Wu, and Riley Summers help decorate La Palma Central Park for the "Rock n' Road", Red Ribbon Week Kick-off event on Oct. 20, 2012.

**Éireann go Brách
 (Ireland Forever)**

ROBERT MOSER
 Opinions Editor

Today, the United Kingdom consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Before 1921, the last year of the war for independence, all of Ireland was under British rule. Even before the open fighting, however, Ireland has expressed and advocated for independence from the British.

In 1845, the potato famine struck Ireland. The potato, being one of the main sources of food in Ireland, had diminished across the island, leaving Irish families in despair. The British government had quartered troops in Ireland at the time, and of course, they were fed well, despite the famine and Irish people living off empty stomachs.

Mr. Patrick Campbell is a native born to Ireland. Though he did not live through the war, he grew up with the evidence of it all around him. From learning about it at school, or hearing elders talk about it, Campbell learned of his country's war for independence.

"Ireland is completely separate from Great Britain. It is its own island and they have their own culture. Also, the Irish are predominantly Catholic whereas the British are predominantly Protestant. The Irish just wanted freedom and their own land,"

Campbell said.

In 1916, during the week of Easter, an uprising ensued by the Irish Republican Army, IRA, called the Easter Rebellion. Though the rebellion was crushed by the end of the week, the conflict provided great motivation for the rest of Ireland to join in on the cause. In 1919, the war for Irish independence began, a conflict between those Irish residents wanting home rule, and the British.

The war went on for two years before both sides agreed on a ceasefire in July of 1921. Both sides met and worked out agreements. On December 6, 1921, the Anglo-Irish treaty was signed. The treaty gave the establishment of an Irish Free State as a self-governing dominion within the British Commonwealth Nations. Northern Ireland had the right to opt out of the Irish Free State, and so they did, rejoining the British.

"I don't support violence, but sometimes that's the only thing that works," Campbell said with a melancholy tone.

Independence is something very prominent in Irish history, as it is in our own history. We fought the British as well for our independence.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE
The Proclamation of Irish Independence, signed in 1916, demanding independence for all of Ireland.

FEATURES

EMERALD CHAIN

VICTORIA MANCINI
Staff Reporter

Emerald Chain is a Kennedy High tradition. It is an academic honor. It consists of the top 20 male and female students in their junior class based on cumulative grade point average.

Seniors Aarti Kumar, Phoebe Lee, James Kim, Jafar Essayli, Sarah Kim, Jaques Lowe, Sohee (Jackie) Ahn, Dong Ho(Eddie) Eun, Christy Kim, Matthew

Lin, Seun Eun You, Liang-Chun Wang, Alyssa Sanchez, John So, Nikita Mainaly, Keith Choison, Erica Sugimoto, Chang (Charley) Baik, Chai Won Lim, and Rahul Natarajan are all of the members in their year's Emerald Chain.

To be in Emerald Chain, you need to be one of the top twenty guys and girls in terms of GPA. You also have to have at-

tended Kennedy since your sophomore year.

"We all preceded the graduating seniors at last year's graduating ceremony. We received gold medallions and wore white robes. We also had to help out with last year's Senior Awards 'Night'" Aarti said.

Books With Ms. Buck



LENY BIALA/*The Shamrock Staff*
New Library Technician, Ms. Buck.

Q: *What do you like to do with your spare time?*

A: One of my goals is to read all the New berry Award Winners. So far I have read thirty. Another thing that I do is I keep a journal full of quotes that I've collected from the books I've read. I'd usually share my book of quotes with the students and they're always excited to see it. That book is so precious to me because I've had it for such a long time. I don't know if I'm ready to share my book with the high school students here, it's precious to me.

Q: *What are three adjectives that you would describe yourself as?*

A: I'm energetic; I have a lot of energy. I'm very organized. I enjoy people and I love being around people- so I'm friendly.

Q: *What is some advice you would give to students?*

A: Advice I would give to students is to make the time to read. The more you read; the more you learn to enjoy it. Because I wasn't really much of a reader, but when I decided by myself to start reading- I just seemed to enjoy it more and more, and you enjoy the versatility in your reading- the different genres. Try different authors, I know the series books are really popular now, but I would always tell my kids to find an author that you like, read a couple of books by them, and then experience another author. Just be versatile and really read because reading really is amazing. It just keeps your imagination and your mind exercised and active.

Winter Snow Angels

PAUL MARTIN
Staff Reporter

As football season comes to an end and the marching band ceases to storm the field at halftime, stands are left bare and dismal; the otherwise quiet whisper of night is no longer pierced by thudding drums and screaming horns; an almost maddening sense of emptiness shrouds the Shamrock Regiment. Yet something stirs beneath the dullness, a something that is built on unwavering dedication and fire-like spirit. Out of the deafening silence that is the end of marching season, rises the persistently prideful group known as Winter Guard.

From the start of Thanksgiving break to the final knell of the 15th of June, the Shamrock Regiment's Colorguard shall continue to display their finely-tuned dance routines, utilizing a wide combination of jazz, ballet, and many other styles of dance; trading in a worn down football field for a brightly lit auditorium stage.

"We are have this new show with new uniforms and new music", Senior Caitlin Shields said.

To ensure top-notch performances, the girls practice diligently from three to five every Wednesday after school, paired with



PAUL MARTIN / *The Shamrock Staff*
Guard Captains McKinna Meyers, Chelsey Castaneda, and Caitlin Shields gather for a family photo.

their daily class rehearsals, intense Winter Camp designed to establish final roles and specific duties, as well as the constant individual practicing required of each member. The Guard takes the stage under the leadership of director Corkie Keys, accompanied by her tightly-knit staff of assistant directors, as well as their student body Guard Captains: McKinna Meyers, Caitlin Shields, and Chelsey Castaneda.

"It's like a big family group; we all try to support each other." McKinna said.

All dance enthusiasts, as well as anyone who holds an interest in similar fields such as cheer or gymnastics, are urged to come and watch as Kennedy's own Winter Guard dominates the competition with their winning spirit and sweat-breaking dedication.

The Natural Drinks of Today

CAMRA HOPPER
Staff Reporter

Tea and coffee have always been a part of our lives. Tea has been used throughout the centuries for remedies and enjoyment., but recently coffee has become a major part of our daily routines, even if we don't need that extra boost to wake up.

De-caffeinated coffee is available to coffee drinkers who prefer the taste over the adrenaline. Caffeine is considered a mild drug because of how it makes your heart perform at a higher level in order to make you feel awake. Coffee is not considered a great addition to your body, or your heart.

"I drink both coffee and tea. I like the taste as well as the aroma coffee brings. I enjoy tea because it's mild compared to coffee, as well as offers health benefits," Teavana worker said.

Tea is used to help your body in many ways. Drinking Rooibos Tea may support the immune system, provide relief from upset stomachs, as well as being caffeine



COURTESY OF TEAVANA
A picture of the Kamiya Papaya Oolong tea, as well as what goes into it.

free. Oolong Tea promotes healthy metabolism, as well as healthy skin and teeth.

"My preference depends on if I want something light or creamy. With tea I drink natural green tea base, decaf. I don't drink caffeine because I'm naturally an excitable person. Which is why I drink decaf coffee, always with creamer," English teacher Mrs. Zinn said.

If you are the kind of person that just

wants a little bit of caffeine for those tiring days, White Tea has only 1% of caffeine, or if you're exhausted and need a high dose of caffeine there's Black Tea containing 20% or Maté Tea containing 100%; both help you get your vitamins and minerals.

"I can't decide which I like more. Coffee is an energy booster and it smells great, while tea is relaxing, specially why listening to music. That's the life," junior Cindy

Viveros said.

Coffee is mainly used to get up in the morning on those days when all you want to do is sleep, but you are not getting any vitamins or minerals when doing so. Also, there isn't much you can add to coffee, but milk, without making it full of sugar and unwanted calories.

"Coffee or tea is a hard decision I've been drinking tea ever since I was little, it's comforting to me. I also like coffee because it wakes me up with that extra push," junior Saray Canty said.

Tea can be mixed with several other teas to help create the perfect blend for you. Whether you prefer the regular Green Tea, such as Golden Jade from China, or Kamiya Papaya Oolong from the Pacific that features sweet papayas, pineapple, and golden apples, you are still getting the important nutrients the body and taste buds desires.

OPINIONS



What Happened to the Cupcake?



COURTNEY BANKHEAD
Photo Editor

Customers are confused, as well as the owner. Hostess announced its bankruptcy on Nov. 16 of this year after a worker's strike, but there seems to be underlying reasons that the company has yet to recognize.



According to Examiner.com, "Hostess seems to have had financial issues with the company since 2004 when production of the "Twinkie" and "Ding Dongs" decreased. In addition to decreasing demand, Hostess has also struggled because it is burdened with over \$860 million in debt with just \$1 billion in assets."

On top of that, the New York Post states that ultimately Hostess filed bankruptcy against themselves after the workers strike of the bakers' union in retaliation of the pay cuts that occurred.

"The move...will likely result in the loss of 18,300 jobs at its 36 bakeries and more than 550 distribution centers around the country," New York Post said.

Ironically, just a few months before, CEO executives received tripled pay raises. So why is the company trying to cover that up? There are far more layers that have contributed to this company's decline; one shouldn't be acknowledged less or more

than the other. So poor management, a heap of debt and just less business of the "Twinkie" all seem to be fallible reasons of Hostess' decline.

Fellow customers are concerned, scared, but more so worried about the abrupt news of Hostess' bankruptcy. What will happen to their fatty food and why has this occurred all of a sudden? Senior Keana Romines reminisces on the good times she shared with her favorite Hostess snacks.

"I will definitely miss those little chocolate donettes I would sometimes eat as breakfast and the Ding-Dongs," Romines said.

But it is okay Ho-Ho lovers, according to Huffington Post, the cupcake isn't going anywhere.

"When Hostess announced plans to liquidate, fans of the baked-goods company feared the fate of the Twinkie. But lovers of the cream-filled sponge cake, fret not: Twinkies may survive thanks to the owner of Pabst Brewing Co. [beer-brewing company]."

"Twinkies" are still alive, just not under the famous "Hostess" name anymore. Hostess plans to sell their recipes away to this beer-brewing company that plans to keep the famous "Twinkie" flame alive.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Although Hostess' products may be saved by Pabst Brewing Co., customers are leaving shelves empty at stores as if the product will be gone forever.

FIGHTING THE LINES OF BLACK FRIDAY

MIN CHUNG
Staff Reporter

Over crowded stores and over crowded streets? Black Friday shopping has just begun.



Drawn towards the special promotions and discounts, numerous holiday shoppers were opening their wallets and waited for hours in the endless lines of Black Friday on Nov. 25, 2012. However, the common question that arose to many Black Friday shoppers was "Is Black Friday really worth the wait?"

Attracting customers with their earlier opening hours, the spending mania continued to unravel and shoppers began to go frantic as they hunt for the best bargains. In the midst of the shoppers, they are only concerned with the benefit of themselves and the greed for buying more items for a cheaper price.

"I don't think that it's worth waiting in line on Black Friday unless I'm buying electronics, because clothing, toys, and random little trinkets are cheaper other



MIN JU CHUNG/ The Shamrock

The Black Friday shoppers at Walmart are fighting for the best deals of electronics.

times of the year," sophomore Amy Mu said.

The Thanksgiving feast was replaced for the endless lines of Black Friday just to

be able to save a measly few dollars. Many are forgetting what the meaning of Thanksgiving is—a day to be thankful. Yet, Black Friday fanaticism shows how people are

rather wanted to buy more items for themselves.

"During Black Friday, people get hurt because their only concern is about the sales," sophomore Helen Kim said.

Through just one single morning, there have been endless and occurring incidents reported such as trampling deaths and fighting consumers. The Black Friday craze caused the death of a Walmart employee, who was trampled to death by stampeding customers who were frantically rushing into the store in 2008. The store employees were not able to control this stampede, so consequently they had to call the police officers for help. There have been other incidents reported such as fights, gun threats, as well as stabbing.

"I don't think the prices are really low, and we can always shop online on Cyber Monday," sophomore Amy Dinh said.

The purpose of Black Friday was to be able to buy gifts for a cheaper price for family and friends, and to be able to think of others. However, it is shown as a hectic and uncontrollable Friday.

Fire and Ice

DANIEL COOPER & MIKAYLA KHRAMOV
Sports Editor & Features Editor

Winter break is a time when families try to get together and experience the spirit of the season for a variety of reasons. Here in Southern California, there are options for celebrating in any kind of weather. People can go to the mountains for the chilling snow or stay for the warm California sun.

At Kennedy High School, the students do not get to enjoy snowy holidays at home in La Palma, California. If snow is what is desired, then a student would have to travel a great distance to experience a frosty winter. This is Orange County, where weather is prone to a simple variance between warm, sunny days and an occasional rain drop all through the holiday season.

It is unfortunate that the people of La Palma miss out on the joy that snowy weather can bring. When most people think of winter they picture a snowy landscape, a winter wonderland with horse-drawn sleighs and silver bells ringing, frosty snowmen, and children singing, let it snow let it snow let it snow.

If you've ever wondered why this white Christmas scene is idealized and celebrated as the per-

fect holiday tradition, take this senior's opinion for instance:

"Snow is a lot of fun, you can make snowmen, snow angels, you can go sledding, and you can throw snowballs at people. Nothing is fun when it's hot outside," senior John Peterson said.

There are some, however, who do enjoy the sunny weather on winter break. Take, for instance, senior Patrick McGuire's perspective:

"I live in California, and the best thing we can get is sunny. It is more pleasant than cold, and it makes everything look nice. Being used to the sun in Southern California has gotten me to feel comfortable in the heat," Patrick said.

When asked why he preferred the lack of snow, Patrick explained that the snow is, "cold and it's wet, sometimes it just isn't very comfortable, especially for your feet."

The heat and rain is what most Southern Californians are accustomed to, but it may be fulfilling for people to experience another type of weather over break. The snow can bring invigorating times, and often can leave memo-



Snow Miser and Heat Miser from the holiday classic film, "The Year Without a Santa Claus."

ries to last a lifetime. Whether ruled by sun or snow, with temperatures high or low, the most important part of winter vacation is being with family. If the sun cannot be avoided, it should be embraced. Make the most of this holiday season by enjoying each

other because there is still much fun to be had even on a warm winter break.

Summary: Have you ever wondered why winter weather plays such an important part of the holiday season? Why might a white Christmas be preferred

over a sunny So Cal celebration? Whatever your plans for this winter break, enjoy your time off no matter what the weatherman forecasts.

Shamrock Recipe for Holiday Happiness

Classic Gingerbread Cookies

PBS FOODS

Ingredients:

- 1 package Jello-O butterscotch pudding mix
- 3/4 cup margarine
- 1 egg
- 3/4- cup packed brown sugar
- 2-1/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon

Directions:

1. Cream pudding mix with margarine and sugar.
2. Add egg and blend well.
3. Combine flour, baking soda, ginger and cinnamon;



Courtesy of PBS Foods

- blend into pudding mixture.
4. Chill dough until firm, about 10 minutes.
5. Roll out on floured board about 1/4- inch thick and cut with cookie cutters.
6. Place on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes.
7. Remove from oven and cool on wire rack.

BUYING THE "MEANING" OF CHRISTMAS

SUK CHUNG
Layout Editor

Where is Scrooge, the protagonist of Dickens's A Christmas Carol, when you need him?

Christmas is celebrated on Dec. 25 as an annual and worldly commemorated holiday, and is also remembered for Jesus Christ. People know what Christmas is; however, people have been taking advantage of jolly, old Saint Nicholas. People do not know the true value and meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is far away, but shoppers in winter coats, beanies, scarves, and boots shuffle around a shopping mall to think about the things they must buy for their children or relatives. Although giving and receiving presents is a Christmas tradition, it is important to know why people are receiving and giving gifts. People have a propensity to believe that

Christmas is all about receiving presents.

"Christmas is valuable because Jesus was born on that date," sophomore Soomin Na said.

In certain nationalities and ethnicities, Christmas is celebrated differently. However, the true meaning of Christmas does not change. Even though people celebrate Christmas divergently, they know that it is important to give back to Christmas. People should volunteer and help the homeless people who do not have anybody or anything during the holidays to show their appreciation.

"For my family, it does not lose meaning because we are all together during the holidays. Since we are Christians, we go to service during Christmas Eve. In addition, I have a family that

cares for me and are willing to give presents during Christmas," junior Grace Ji said.

Drinking eggnog, people are reunited during the holidays, and they converse about certain events that occurred in their life. Giving and receiving presents is not as important as being with the family during the holidays.

"It's not all about getting presents. It's about spending quality time with your family," junior Sarah Anderson said.

Christmas is not all about plasma TVs, PlayStations, iPods, and Xbox 360s. It is about spending time with family members and donating service to the community during the holidays. Scrooge might have given us helpful hints after all.



Holiday Fun Wordsearch

c d r g y h s g b g y o c s h
 k h j l r f a s c t d h v a m
 i w r g k a j k m d r u w n r
 n t s i z x i o k i r d k t w
 a h l n s n t d s u l a d a s
 r l a u u t n t f y n v d c t
 a w c u o h m e n o r a h l n
 k t p z v a d a v l e g h a e
 l y y l s m d r s n r r y u s
 l e g n a w o n s t b e u s e
 v f w w o i k o r m r z f y r
 l c b z q q h a w g u e r n p
 v t f y j u e c e a v j e z y
 g v s s n o d r d i c d v k v
 i h u k u r o r t v l i y z x

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|-------------|
| Christmas | Kinara | Snow angel |
| Christmas tree | Kwanzaa | Santa Claus |
| Dradle | Menorah | |
| Hanukkah | Presents | |

Clubs Getting Involved

Home for the Holidays with

FBLA

What better way to get into the holiday spirit than to give to the less fortunate.

FBLA is hosting the Orangewood Toy Drive. Students are encouraged to donate toys, books, clothing, and any other desirable items in new or good condition. Items will be collected in Mr. Gasinski's room, room 905 until Friday Dec. 21, 2012.

FBLA will be delivering all of the items to Orangewood, and with this, they will sure put a smile on everyone's faces.

Give the Gift of Giving

Kennedy hosted a Giving Tree here on campus in our library! From Wednesday, Dec. 12 to Wednesday, Dec. 19, students and staff members took a shamrock off of the tree with a specific item on it. They then placed this item, unwrapped, beneath the tree last week for it to be given to a student and their family on campus. We encouraged you all to participate and to promote this to your students! Give the gift of giving this holiday season - the Irish Way.

Holiday Band Concert

As the holiday season approaches, many are eager to get into the spirit, and what better way to do that, than with some holiday music. On Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012, during first and second period, Kennedy High School band performed for those who attended. For those who were interested, teachers signed-up in the mail room all last week. Beginning about 5 minutes after each period started, students were encouraged to come and enjoy holiday music.

GIVE A GRAM

Culinary Arts club recognized the student body and the holiday season by selling Holiday grams which started on Dec. 12 and ended Dec. 19. Students were able to send grams to friends to wish them well over the holidays. To make it a little more festive, students were able to send treats with the grams.



Home For The Holidays



"To me the holiday season is spending time with your family and friends. We play Christmas games, make food for the homeless shelter, and open gifts."
- freshman Jusleen Bhatti

"The holiday season is a time of joy and happiness for all families to spend time together. It is a time to enjoy, since it only comes once a year. The holiday season is special for everyone since it brings back many memories. The joy of opening presents is very special to me."
- sophomore Oliver Blanco

A Year Without Santa Claus



Courtesy of Google

WHITE CHRISTMAS



Courtesy of Google

How the Grinch Stole Christmas



Courtesy of Google

"The holiday season means coming together with those you love the most and spend time with your family. It means appreciating what you have and being grateful."
- junior Asia Scott

"It means I can spend time with my family that I don't see everyday. It means no school! The holiday season also means that I can spend time with everyone I love."
- senior Miracle Poirer

The Shamrock wishes you a Happy Holiday with these classic Christmas movies.

OPINIONS

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS SCREAMS PERSONAL FOUL

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief

America's game is on the verge of being taken away by bureaucrats and local politicians. Former New Hampshire doctor and current School Board member, Paul Butler, proposes that the game of football should be banned at a local high school in Dover, New Hampshire. The game of football is a contact sport, where speed and strength are the dominating factors. Football players, young and old, are all taught to play hard, hit hard, and leave everything on the field. It may be dangerous; however, it is a game that teaches character, unity, and discipline. These are traits that are also important off the field in this competitive world.



Football has been around for nearly a hundred years. From long sleeve wool sweaters and leather hats, to polycarbonate shell helmets and breakaway jerseys, football is one of the most evolved sports. It has now become a tradition in America to head down to the field on a Friday night and enjoy a high school football game.

To some, like Dr. Paul Butler, football has become enemy number one, due to injuries and long lasting trauma.

According to an article on WHDH, "Football, unlike hockey, unlike lacrosse -- both of which are violent games -- football is the one where the head gets repeatedly banged," Dr. Paul Butler said.

At a very young age, players are taught to tackle shoulder first and wrap the de-



BRITTNEY MCCLENDON/ *The Shamrock*
The goalpost would stand alone if high school football were to be banned.

fender with their arms. Proper training and tackling techniques are used to minimize the possibility of head injuries. Football players are not taught to use their head as a battering ram, since it is illegal and unethical. Butler proposes that football should be banned because the head is repeatedly hit, but there are many other sports like rugby, BMX riding, and Mixed Martial Arts that pose bigger threats to the head.

With today's technology, football is safer than it was many years ago. Advancements in design and the way football gear is used,

has reduced the number of injuries that occur each football season.

"In the state of Louisiana we would expect there to be 1 catastrophic neck injury every 14 years," supervisor of injury epidemiology with the Louisiana State Office of Public Health, Injury Research and Prevention Section David W. Lawrence said.

When playing a contact sport, players know the risk that they are taking. Butler wants to ban football, but is only looking at it from a doctor's point of view. Football is a way for young men to participate in a

sport that teaches them how to work as a team to accomplish a common goal. Football on Friday nights may be that one thing that players look forward to, and it is not fair that one man is looking to take it away from them.

When you are playing a contact sport, injuries are bound to happen. It is not the hard hits or the continuous tackling that is causing these injuries, but the nature of the sport. Accidents are inevitable.

So pick up the yellow flag let them play, first and ten for high school football.

A SHOUT FOR WORDS

SUK CHUNG
Layout Editor

The problems in the world of poverty, shelter, hunger, diseases, deaths, deconstruction, over-population, and wars have only one solution: education.



Education is the process of acquiring vital knowledge, developing moral and ethical reasoning and judgment, and preparing for the benevolent construction of society. In addition, lack of education has been an issue for countries around the world, including the United States. Even though education has been a controversial issue in the United States, there are other countries that do not let many people have an education.

Many women, especially girls in poor countries, fight for their education and rebel against the government, only to arouse and cause anger. These government suppress women's education, allowing the male population to be more dominant and superior. Women are killed for fighting for what they believe in. There are even women who have been brutally and se-



COURTESY OF GOOGLE
Malala Yousafzai is considered to be one of the greatest heroes in Pakistan, fighting for education rights and reforms for women.

verely tortured when they are seen reading a novel or writing.

Fourteen-year-old Malala Yousafzai is recovering in one of U.K.'s hospital after she was shot in the head by a Taliban as-

sailant. Yousafzai, who is considered to be one of the greatest heroes in Pakistan, wanted women to have rights and privileges to have an education. Although she knew that rebelling against the government

is sacrificial, Yousafzai has been fighting to change Pakistan for what she believes is the best.

Although students in the United States have the privilege of having an education, they do not truly appreciate the large value in education. Furthermore, students do not feel the need to do homework because it is too hard. Students, who loathe and appall education, should listen to the cries of illiterate and hungry children; there are people who would be grateful if they are offered any food or water.

People, who can make a difference in the world, do not acknowledge or help those who believe that education is the single, critical element that would solve our world problems. Thousands of kids are starving, illiterate, and dying each day because they have no one else to rely on. People should value their education highly because, one day, our problems will slowly diminish and make our future brighter.

THE START OF SOMETHING GOOD

ROBERT MOSER
Opinions Editor

In the beginning of the scrimmage game on Nov. 14 against Cerritos High School, home of the Dons, the young women of the varsity Fighting Irish soccer team were struggling as the Cerritos Dons scored their first goal, putting the Irish down 1-0. The girls valiantly played on; however Cerritos scored yet another goal.

By the end of the first half, sophomore Mary Dynda had scored the first goal for the Irish, bringing the score to 2-1. Following the first half, Kennedy stepped onto the field with renewed vigor, stepping up their defense while their offense bombarded the Cerritos, hoping to score another goal.

Through force, tenacity and skill, and some help from Mary, who assisted senior captain Bianca Aguirre, the Fighting Irish scored a goal, making it a tied game. Several attempts were made on the Irish goal, all of which were blocked by junior Kaitlyn Jenkins.

"It was a hard-fought game, but I was proud of my team's never-give-up attitude," Bianca said.

By the end of the game, freshman Skye Whitebear scored the third and final goal for the Irish, giving the girls their second win



COURTESY OF JIM DYNDA

Sophomore Irene Jimenez sets up to kick the ball up the field to her fellow Lady Irish

over the Cerritos.

The Irish look forward to playing the rest of the season and celebrating many victories.

Our first couple pre-season

games were unfortunate. But

now we've finally pulled another win and I think we all got a good taste of it and I'm pretty sure I can

speak for every one when I say that it feels great. It is the start of something good," Bianca said.

Fifth Today, First Tomorrow

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief

Heading into their fourth Downey tournament game, the Kennedy girls basketball team attained an impressive win over Sunny Hills High School on Nov. 29, 2012, at Downey High School. By clinching a 48-35 win over the Lancers, they finished fifth in the tournament.

The Fighting Irish played with solid teamwork, and an unstoppable defense, leading them to the undeniable win. Senior Aikane Higa led the team with 14 points, senior Michelle Furuya scored 10 points, and sophomore Kylie Masumiya had eight points. This all proved to be too much for the Sunny Hills Lancers. With the Lady Irish's quick pace scoring and tight defense, the Lancers could not keep up.

"Pre-season games are very important. They give you instant feedback on what we need to work on heading to league. I try to schedule a tough pre-season to better prepare us for league play," girls basketball coach Roland Preciado said.

Having won 21 games and



BRITTNEY MCCLENDON/ The Shamrock

Kennedy's defense seemed to be successful as junior Ashley Mar reaches for the ball.

only losing seven during the 2011-2012 season, it may be difficult having a season like the previous one, especially after losing some of their size

under the basket.

"Similarities from last year are that we play hard, pressure the ball all over the court, and rely on our defense to dictate

the tempo. The big difference is our lack of size. Last year we had some size, this year we are not very big, but with the addition of sophomore Jordan

Adamson, and with her development, it should ease some pressure," Preciado said.

The Lady Irish took control in the very beginning with an 11-4 lead going into the second quarter. They never once let up, and ended up going into halftime with an eight point lead. The Lady Irish's offense and defense proved unstoppable with constant contribution. Junior Ashley Mar had five points and 10 rebounds, senior Erica Sugimoto, freshman Kaitlin Matsuguma, and junior Aenah Ramones all put two points on the board.

"We did very well. We started to execute our plays on offense and played very aggressive on defense. Everyone contributed to the win; it was a team effort," senior Erica Sugimoto said.

After all was said and done, the Lady Irish pulled out with a satisfying 48-35 victory, now having an overall pre-season record of three wins and one loss.

Athletes of the Month: November

KARINNA URIBE
A & E Editor



Junior
Alec Mamrot

Q: What sport are you being recognized for?

A: Cross Country

Q: Who or what motivates you to do your best and why?

A: An Olympic wrestler named Jordan Burroughs because the drive he has toward success is inspirational.

Q: How do you keep up with academics and sports?

A: My parents always push me to be a student athlete, and not just an athlete. I appreciate their support with everything.

Q: What is your favorite sports memory?

A: My favorite memory would be when I placed 4th at League Finals and ran a 15:55 3-mile race because it showed that all my time and effort paid off. And next year, the goal is to be league champion.

Q: What are your plans after high school?

A: I'd love to continue running because it's a great way to stay in shape and I simply love doing it. Hopefully, I can get the chance to run in a college because that would be amazing.



Senior
Brooke Montgomery

Q: What sport are you being recognized for?

A: Cross Country

Q: Who or what motivates you to do your best in sports and why?

A: I always set a goal for myself and for my team at the beginning of the season. Working hard to reach that goal keeps me motivated. I know what my team and I can accomplish, and together we work for what we truly want.

Q: How do you keep up with academics and sports?

A: I'm a hard working person so as long as I have good time management and keep my priorities straight, I can accomplish both academics and sports.

Q: What is your favorite sports memory?

A: My favorite memory in cross country was winning the League title, it was just an amazing way to end my last season of cross country at Kennedy.

Q: What are your plans after high school?

A: I plan to attend college next year and continue my running career.



Zach Minott

Q: What sport are you being recognized for?

A: Water Polo

Q: Who or what motivates you to do your best in sports and why?

A: What motivates me the most to play the sport is my dream to play Division 1 in college (hopefully UCLA) and become the absolute best I can possibly be.

Q: How do you keep up with academics and sports?

A: I keep up with my academics and sports by managing my time well and getting all my homework done quickly before practice. If not, I will stay up as long as possible after practice to finish my work.

Q: What is your favorite sports memory?

A: My favorite memory has to be playing in the Junior Olympics with my club water polo team, International Water Polo Club, at Stanford University this past summer.

Q: Do you plan to continue with sports after high school?

A: I most definitely plan to continue playing sports into college once I graduate from high school. Even as a sophomore, I am already looking into being scouted and recognized by college sports coaches and scouts.

DECEMBER GAMES

21

- Girls Water Polo @ Costa Mesa High School
- Boys Soccer @ Kennedy
- Boys Basketball @ Anaheim

22

- Girls Water Polo @ Costa Mesa High School
- Girls Wrestling @ Los Angeles Convention Center
- Wrestling Tournament @ Kennedy

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- Boys Basketball Tournament @ Katella
- Boys Frosh Basketball Tournament @ El Modena High School
- Boys JV Basketball @ Kennedy

27

- Boys Basketball Tournament @ Katella
- Boys Frosh Basketball Tournament @ El Modena High School
- Boys JV Basketball @ Kennedy

28

- Girls Wrestling @ South Hills High School
- Boys Wrestling Tournament @ Tustin High School
- Boys Basketball Tournament @ Katella
- Boys Frosh Basketball Tournament @ El Modena High School
- Boys JV Basketball @ Kennedy
- Boys Soccer @ Oxford

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- Girls Wrestling @ South Hills High School
- Boys Wrestling Tournament @ Tustin High School
- Boys Basketball Tournament @ Katella
- Boys Frosh Basketball Tournament @ El Modena High School
- Boys JV Basketball Tournament @ Kennedy

Leading to Victory

CAMARA HOPPER
Staff Reporter

On Sat. Dec. 1 Kennedy High School's wrestling team salvaged wins against a variety of other teams at our very own Kennedy. The team was able to place first within the tournament.

The leaders of the team did a great job and continued to lead them to victory. Senior Aaron Raber, senior Kyle Calderon, sophomore Shea Spradly, and junior Martin Miramontes won ei-

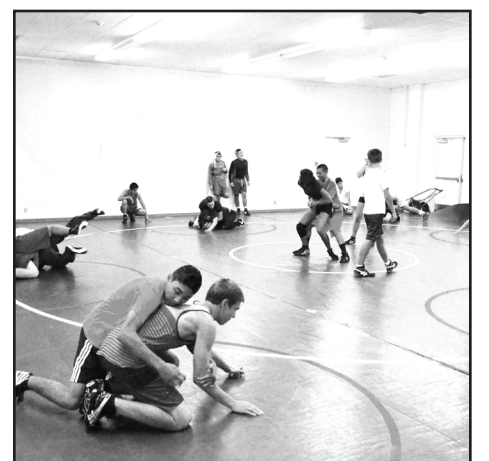
ther won all of their matches or most them.

"My matches were a little challenging but I managed to get through them since I just focused on keeping full control," Martin said.

Although Martin's matches were challenging at times he won four of the five he wrestled. Keeping a steady mind and focus on the goal of winning a major part of wrestling. One would

have to try and predict what their opponent was going to do, as well as find their weaknesses.

Even though the wrestlers had some close calls they were able to make it to the top and succeed. This was the second match of the season our wrestlers have shown that with practice almost every day, hard work does pay off.



CAMARA HOPPER/The Shamrock
The Kennedy wrestling team practicing in order to beat their opponents

SLAM DUNK

DANIEL COOPER
Sports Editor

Big win over the Anaheim Colonists for the Kennedy varsity boys basketball team in the Loara tournament.

The fighting Irish played on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Anaheim High School, and won with a score of 55-39 in a riveting, and exciting game. The guys played through a tough game, but were able to hold onto their lead as they begin to pull away in the second quarter.

The game was won by the entire team; the 55 points contributed by senior Terrence Blum's 14 points, senior Christopher Thompson's 14 points, senior Alex Chung's 10 points, junior Jared Conely's seven points, senior Ryan Priddy's four points, senior James Yoon four points, and senior Corey Richards two points, drove the team to victory.

The Colonists did their best to keep up, but once the second



DANIEL COOPER/ *The Shamrock*

Senior Ryan Priddy presses down the court to get the ball to his teammates.

half of the game came around, there was no stopping Kennedy.

"I thought we played ok, we

could have won by more if we stepped up our effort in the first half, we picked it up in the sec-

ond half, that's where we got the win," Terrence said.

The guys played really well

throughout the game, but exceptionally well in the second half, if they would have played at that caliber for the whole game, they could have wiped the floor with the other team.

"We started off slow, but we picked things up in the second half. We need to get better at being ready to play from the very start," Ryan said.

With another win under their belt, the team is ready to compete to win league this season.

"The team keeps getting better as the season goes on, it's a tough league, but I think we will be ready to compete," Coach Jose Alvarez said.

The fighting Irish will continue to practice hard, and go out and defeat any who wish to challenge them on the court, look for a trend of wins as this team is likely to go all the way.

ROUGH WATERS

DANIEL COOPER
Sports Editor

The Kennedy varsity girls water polo team squared off with the Rebels on Thursday, Dec. 13, in Kennedy's very own pool.

The girls unfortunately came out on the losing end, with a final score of 16-3 Savannah. The team fought their way to the end, and kept on pushing until the game was over; they never gave up and did not allow the other team to gain an easy win over them.

The three goals were scored by senior Briann Buchan, junior Emily Allen, and junior

Athena Azpeitia. Even though the girls could only muster three goals, they still worked very hard to stay in the game.

"I feel like the team worked hard, but it wasn't the outcome we expected," Briann said.

This game is an even bigger reason to practice hard; they can learn from their mistakes and push past the loss.

"We didn't work together, we need to work more at practice," sophomore Channon Owens said.

The team was missing two

of their players in the game, which could have been a contributing factor to the way the game played out in the end.

"I feel the game went as well as it could have missing two varsity players. Hopefully flu season will be over soon so we can come together as a team. I know next game will be much better," Coach Kim Datin said.

The team remains optimistic for the rest of the season, one small loss will not keep them back, and they plan to dominate in their future



VICTORIA MANCINI/ *The Shamrock*

Sophomore Channon Owens winds up to take a shot at Savannah's goal.

games.

"I feel that our varsity team is the team to beat this year. When the girls come together they are fierce, opponents and I look forward to this season," Datin said.

The girls can now focus

in on what exactly they need to prepare for in their next match, they will be ready to defeat any who try to defeat them, and will not falter in the future.

Kennedy Strikes Back

ALEXIS LUJAN
Copy Editor

On Friday at John F. Kennedy High School, Dec. 14, 2012, the Irish boys' varsity soccer team crushed Fullerton 5 to 3. Scoring three goals in the first half and two in the second, the Irish dominated most of the game and led themselves to a straight victory.

During the first half, the Irish dominated the game and took complete control of the field. Ten minutes into the first game, senior Jesus Ibarra the Irish's first goal of the game. He scored again later in the middle of the first half with an assist from senior Jordan Hunter.



ALEXIS LUJAN/ *The Shamrock*

Sophomore Mustafah Jama jumps to get the ball from Fullerton.

Though the defense remained strong, Fullerton fought back and

scored one goal toward the end of the first half. In order to secure

the Irish's lead, Jesus scored another goal and gave the Irish back their two point deficit.

"We did really well the first half. We only made one major mistake; it was a lack of communication between the goalie and our sweeper," senior Brandon Criss.

When the second half began, the Irish lost a bit of their dominating touch. Fullerton scored twice on goalkeeper junior Jonathan Garcia. However, they fought back when Jordan scored on a free kick, the ball ricocheting off the poles and into the goal. Then, with an assist from junior

Khalid Elashi, Jesus scored another goal, ending the game in 5 to 3.

"We really pulled it off in the second half. We did good and, yeah, we made some mistakes, but I felt that everyone, especially Jesus, did really great," said senior Mario Cruz.

Though some mistakes were made, the team looks to improve and get better as the season goes on, hoping to beat more teams and get to the top.

"I felt good that we beat Fullerton, because we lost to Fullerton before with 1 to 2, so it felt really good when we beat them 5 to 3," senior Devan Lal said.

Humanitarian Relief with the Red Cross

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief

A new addition to the clubs at Kennedy High School is the Red Cross club. They focus on improving the community and helping others in times of need. The Red Cross club proves to be beneficial to the city of La Palma.

Taking it one step further, many of the board members have gotten the opportunity to attend monthly meetings at the Red Cross Organization, located in Santa Ana. It is encouraged that members attend these meetings to further their knowledge on the community.

“Currently, there are a lot of dedicated members, we are trying to attract more members as we will soon be starting to volunteer at events,” senior Co-Vice President Sounale Mehta said.

There is a constant encouragement for new students to join the Red Cross Club. It is evident that the club does so much more than just volunteer.

“People should join because it is a great opportunity to learn disaster relief skills. It is not only an interaction with your community but a way to meet new people,” Mehta said.

Some of the skills that can be acquired in the club are CPR and how to provide relief during disasters like tsunamis and earthquakes. The club makes sure to interact with other Red Cross clubs across Orange County to help as many people as possible.

As a freshman, lower class representative Bhavisha Taylor is looking to continue the success of the club, and it is clear that even as a freshman, this club has made a big impact on her.

“I have put in extra time and effort to see what the president has been doing and the effort she has been putting in this year, especially since this is a new club. We both want it to be successful and continue throughout the years. I will learn from the mistakes that are made this year and improve from them,” Taylor said.

When speaking about the Red Cross, it already has such a great reputation in the community, and for it to be a part of Kennedy is a great asset to many students.

“The Red Cross club should have been at Kennedy a long time ago. The Red Cross in general does so much for the world,



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock*
(Left to right) freshman Bhavisha Taylor, senior Dharmisha Taylor, and senior Ghorashka Tukhi discuss upcoming Red Cross events.

and now for it to be centered here in La Palma is even better. The club is a great way to get involved with not only the community but also worldwide,” senior Red Cross club member Manjit Kaur said.

Because this was not a club last year, people who were interested had to find an adviser and hope that this club would begin its success at Kennedy.

“Mr. Cornforth and I are advisers and I wanted to advise because the students who started

the club were enthusiastic about it and the Red Cross is a global helping organization,” Spanish teacher Mr. Gallegos said.

The Red Cross proves to be a valuable club to join and is always accepting new members. Everyone should get the opportunity to feel like a humanitarian, and people can do that just by joining the Red Cross club.

RESET

VICTORIA MANCINI
Staff Reporter



VICTORIA MANCINI/ *The Shamrock*
President of RESET, senior Katie To

President of RESET, senior Katie To

Q: What does RESET stand for? Is it an acronym?

A: RESET just allows teens to reset their life and recreate something different with their talents.

Q: What does RESET do?

A: We set up performances to allow teens in our high school show what they got to their peers.

Q: Who came up with the club?

A: Joanne Le started the club, but she graduated two years ago. Although we do not have a lot of people in the club, we are hoping that it will expand.

Q: Who is the club adviser?

A: Our adviser is Mr. Hoaganson

Dreams Realized Once Again

KARINNA URIBE
A & E Editor

They are here to help. They are here to make a difference. They are here to give back to the community. The members of the Habitat for Humanity club, or HFH club, are on a mission to lend a hand to those in need. The club, which made its debut at Kennedy High School this year, is derived from Habitat for Humanity International—an organization founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller which provides housing to low-income families.

The club, founded by juniors Christine Munar, Gabrielle Lin, and Devarshi Patel provides a chance for students to get more involved with helping their communities prosper. Mr. Hoang, the club advisor, also wants to help the students achieve their goal to make a difference locally.

“Habitat for Humanity [club] is important to Kennedy because it gives students opportunities to help out the com-



COURTESY OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CLUB
Habitat for Humanity club members from left to right (standing) : junior Brian DuCharme, junior Gabrielle Lin, junior Christine Munar, senior Phoebe Lee, junior Danny Eun, and sitting (on left) junior Patricia Tillah volunteer at HFH's ReStore Decoration Workshop.

munity,” Hoang said.

HFH club members volunteer at several events, in which they gain a different number of

points for each event. By the end of the year, the club members should reach a certain amount of points after attend-

ing events. For example, those who helped make snowman posters to decorate classrooms at Kennedy received one to

two points, and members can gain three points if they volunteer at the upcoming Orange County Heart Walk on Feb. 3, 2013.

“The [idea behind] the points system is to get members involved in their community. The amount of points they receive depends on how long the volunteer event lasts and what they have to do,” junior Co-President Christine Munar said.

Not only will students make an impact in another person's life by helping them out during tough times, but also they, too, will realize a change within themselves once they value the importance of giving back.

“Habitat for Humanity club helps me develop the qualities necessary in order to become a better leader, student, and person overall,” junior Co-President Gabrielle Lin said.

HFH Club is definitely vital to Kennedy High School because it helps both people who are giving back and people receiving the help.

ENTERTAINMENT 15

Breaking Dawn Part 2 Breaks the Charts

SARA TAKETA
Staff Reporter

The promise of forever seems impossible to a mere mortal, but anything can happen when you're a vampire.

Based on the best-selling novel by Stephanie Meyer, *Breaking Dawn Part 2* is a continuation of the *Twilight Saga's* *Breaking Dawn Part 1* directed by Bill Condon and screen written by Melissa Rosenberg. Released on Nov. 16, the movie, featuring Kristen Stewart as Bella Swan, Robert Pattinson as Edward Cullen, and Taylor Lautner as Jacob Black, successfully arouses the genuine interest of viewers while remaining unpredictable.

Beginning right where the prequel left off, *Breaking Dawn Part 2* leaves its audience awestricken by Bella's transformation into a beautiful, empowered immortal. The actors are excellent in maintaining their signature personalities, often having viewers smiling or laughing at their charming humor.

The movie focuses on Renesmee, Edward and Bella's half-human, half-vampire child. Their miracle daughter sparks the interest of the Volturi clan, who falsely assume that their strict vampire rules have been

broken. As they head to Forks to demolish the Cullens, the family begins to strategize. Hoping to gather enough vampires to stall the Volturi and persuade them to listen, the Cullens bring in their supportive friends from all over the world.

Breaking Dawn Part 2 incorporates stunning action sequences which have viewers on the edge of their seats, occasionally shocked into silence. Though rated PG-13 for violence, sexual content, mild language, and some alcohol/drug use, the adventure-drama-fantasy film is 115 minutes of action, humor, and romance which truly satisfy die-hard *Twilight* fans.

However, for anyone who has missed out on the previous movies from the *Twilight Saga*, it will be difficult to catch on to the story. The film provides a sense of closure for viewers who have followed the series since the release of *Twilight* in 2008.

Capturing the audience in its fantasy world of love, magic, and emotion, *Breaking Dawn Part 2* does not contain a single dull moment. After four years and five movies, the *Twilight Saga* is brought to a memorable, satisfying conclusion.

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Racing to the Top

DANIEL COOPER
Sports Editor

The brand new game, *Forza Horizon*, released on Oct. 23, is a racing game that provides the thrills and fun of driving all packed into a little disk.

Turn 10 Studios has been creating *Forza* games since 2005, starting with *Forza Motorsport*, and going on with *Forza Motorsport two*, *three*, *four*, and finally the latest release, *Forza Horizon*, all exclusive to Xbox. Prior to this new game, Turn 10 placed most of their focus onto realistic driving in their first four games, but this formula, is tweaked slightly in the new game.

Throughout the game, players receive different colored wristbands, marking your progress in the story, and at each level you must gain enough points by racing across the open *Horizon* world, and beat the boss driver to move on to the next band. Each band that players get to is progressively

harder to beat every time, as the cars get a little faster and a little bit harder to handle.

In the previous *Forza* games, Turn 10 was known for their racing simulation features, this new game takes a step away from the old ways, but still maintains the feeling of real driving abilities. For instance, the cars drive with the correct speeds and abilities as they would in the real world, but then, a player is suddenly able to throw the car into an emergency brake drift while going 200 miles per hour, which is essentially a death wish in most circumstances of the real world. The game is also unrealistic in the fact that if a player crashes into a wall or another car, they will simply flip or spin around a few times and be able to drive off as if nothing happened at all.

Horizon allows players to drive the cars of their dreams, giving them access to the top



DANIEL COOPER/The Shamrock

Turn 10 Studios provides a thrilling driving experience with their new release of *Forza Horizon*.

cars of the biggest brand names in the world of cars. Aston Martin, Audi, Chevy, Ferrari, and even Ford are just a few car brands a player can choose from, there are so many different car selections and customizations; it is a truly fun experience to be able to virtually own the cars that people dream to have.

The story of the game is a bit

dry and repetitive, but it is interesting because even with the simplicity of the story, players are still pulled in to keep driving further and further into the game. Although there is not much variation in the story, it is gripping, because players have the will to get to that next wristband that is just out of their reach. It is a simple, yet very effective formula that keeps

people interested as they drive their way to the top.

Forza Horizon is a great step forward for the racing games in the gaming universe; it provides the fun of exciting racing, while keeping the realism of driving a real car, and the excitement of some of the best cars on the planet. For all car fans, racing fans, and gamers, this is a game that will not disappoint.

16 ENTERTAINMENT

Gleeks Are Back In Season

DIANA DOMINGO
News Editor

Gleeks are able to show their enjoyment as *Glee* is back for season four. Season four of *Glee* first aired on Sept. 13, 2012 and has continued to be shown on FOX Thursdays at 9 p.m.

All of the main characters have returned although not all will be present in all episodes. The first episode, "The New Rachel," Rachel has moved to New York so that she can attend the New York Academy of the Dramatic Arts. The distance makes her miss her family and friends but she finds comfort in a classmate named Brody Weston. Also, it has become difficult for her because her dance instructor, Cassandra July, has been tough by criticizing her dancing and personality overall.

Meanwhile, back in Lima, Kurt helps Will find members to join the glee club. He realizes that he does not belong at the school anymore, and moves to New York with Rachel, hoping that New York will offer more to him. Which sure enough, in a later episode he is given the chance to work at Vogue. Since



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Like the sign demonstrates, the fourth season of *Glee* is shown in different places as glee club graduates part their way for college and new cast member take their place at home.

Rachel has left the school, Blaine, Brittany, Tina and Wade compete to take her place. A new character named Marley Rose auditions to be a member of the club and is accepted. It is seen that she will be a talented contribution to the team.

In the episode "The Break-Up," many hearts are broken on and off the screen. Finn is back from the army as he realizes that it is not the place for him. When arriving to New York, he

catches Rachel with her new friend Brody having dinner and he begins to question their relationship. Not only is that relationship on the line, but so is Blaine and Kurt's and Will and Emma's. Blaine confesses to Kurt that he has cheated on him, causing them to break up. Will and Emma have a disagreement because Will has gotten the opportunity to work in Washington D.C. and Emma is not willing to leave Lima.

At the same time, Santana and Brittany break up because of the distance between them. The episode ends with their performance of "The Scientist," which brings them all together on stage despite their problems.

After that emotional episode, the mood of the show is revived with the production of *Grease*. *Glee* club puts on the show through the help of Finn whom returns to McKinley High School to take over

Will's role. Finn is in search of another addition to the club and finds Ryder Lynn on the football field, where he was found.

McKinley graduates; Santana, Kurt and Rachel return to Lima to see and help out with the show but the situation is awkward because of the status of each of their relationships.

Sectionals and Thanksgiving have finally arrived and Finn recruits the alumni to mentor the kids, to help them win the competition. Marley feels the pressure of sectionals and experiences eating disorders. Meanwhile Kurt and Rachel stay in New York away from their family and friends. Although Kurt calls Blaine to forgive him, their relationship is not put together yet. Rachel is fine without Finn and even becomes closer to Brody. Now whether their relationship will grow or she will return to Finn, we have yet to see.

One of the last aired episodes, which aired on Nov. 29, ends with Marley fainting at the end of their performance of "Gangnam Style" at sectionals.

WRECK-IT RALPH GETS THE HIGH SCORE

ALEXIS LUJAN
Copy Editor

Movie-goers, old school gamers, and new age gamers will all enjoy Disney's latest animated film, *Wreck-It Ralph*, which hit theaters Nov. 2, 2012. With stellar animation and a unique and enticing plot, *Wreck-It Ralph* combines both humor and cartoon action to make it a movie that people from all ages will be able to enjoy.

Set in the video game universe, Ralph (voiced by John C. Reilly) is the villain for the arcade game "Fix-It Felix, Jr.," where Felix (voiced by Jack McBrayer) and the others characters of the game are celebrating their 30th anniversary of being plugged-in at the arcade. Tired of being treated like an outcast and being the bad guy, Ralph sets out to earn a medal in another arcade game titled "Hero's Duty;" he believes that if he earns a medal, everyone will see him as a hero. He sneaks into the game called "Hero's Duty." After being yelled at by character Sergeant Tamora Jean Calhoun (voiced by Jane Lynch), things do not go according to plan and he ends up in a racing game

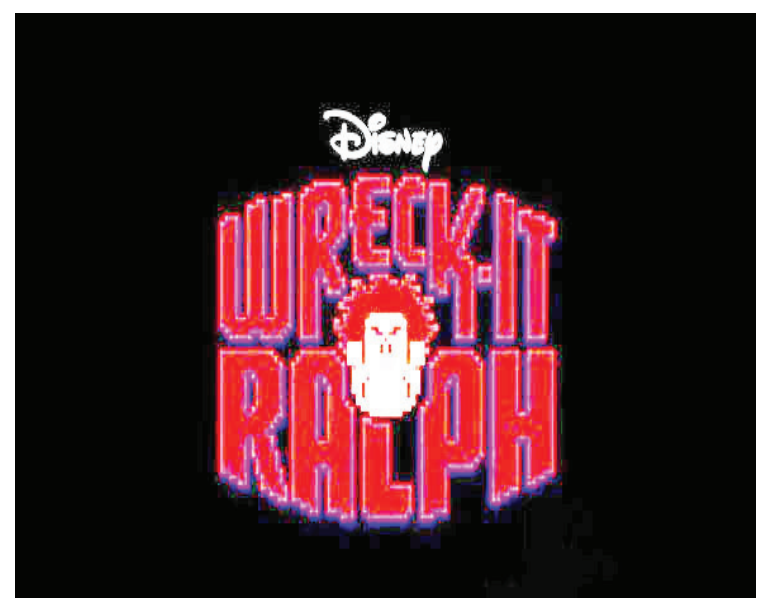
called "Sugar Rush," where he meets Vanellope von Schweetz (voiced by Sarah Silverman), a glitch and an outcast who wants to have a chance to become a playable character in her game. He reluctantly agrees to help her, unaware of a problem he unintentionally started.

The characters in the film were more than just two dimensional cartoons, which is how audiences view the characters when they play video games. The animators embodied each character, making the villain Ralph more than just a villain without redeeming qualities and making Vanellope more than just one of the sixteen playable avatars of "Sugar Rush." Each character had their own personality, having good and bad qualities that help and hinder them throughout the film. Their programmed pasts also play a role in their characters, such as Sergeant Calhoun, who is claimed to have one of the most tragic back stories which makes her as firm as she is. It is almost as if they are no longer just video game characters, but actual peo-

ple with in depth personalities and human attributes.

Like arcades in real life, there are both old games and new games in the arcade, which creates a contrast between older and newer animation. When characters from different generations of video games are standing next to each other in the film, the audience sees the stark difference between them, like with Sergeant Calhoun to Felix as she is from a game with high-definition 3D graphics and he is from a game with pixelated 2D designs. The film's animators paid great attention to how different characters would look next to each other, which added to the quirkiness of the movie.

The video game references are ones both old and new gamers will understand, which adds to the film's humor. Gamers will love how there are references to Pac-man, Sonic, and Super Mario Brothers, creating more of a realism to the idea of an arcade universe. While most of it is just for audience enjoyment, the film's developer truly paid attention to the details of this arcade



ALEXIS LUJAN/The Shamrock

With a twist of the bad guy wanting to be good, *Wreck-It Ralph* both delivers and entertains both young and old, gamers and moviegoers.

world that they created, making it more enjoyable for the audience.

Wreck-It Ralph is an entertaining movie, focusing more on the villain rather than the hero. While other films have portrayed concepts similar to the bad guy

going good, none of them put it into an arcade-world setting like this movie. It is witty with a great story line, something that children, teenagers, and even adults can all enjoy.