



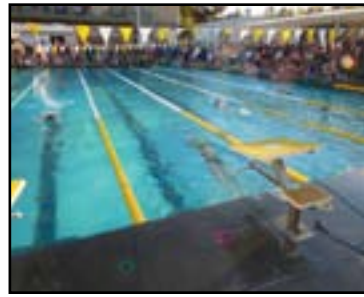
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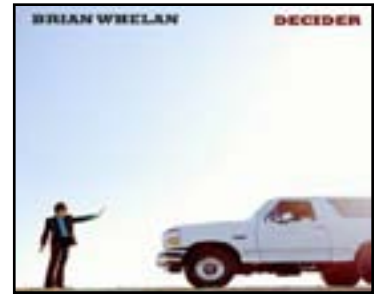
Opinions



Irish Week



Sports



A&E

The Shamrock

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013

MY.HSJ.ORG/SHAMROCKCONNECTION

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 3

"This much we pledge – and more."

CAMRA HOPPER
Staff Reporter

In 1967, Kennedy High School had a quote posted on the overhang that faces Walker St. from John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address which he made on Jan. 20, 1961.

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country," Kennedy said.

On Feb. 11, 2013 that quote was posted in the same spot to replace the old one that was painted over during construction.

This quote was first donated by the 1967 class, the first complete graduating class at Kennedy High School.

"My class was the one that wanted the quote to be posted. We signed petitions and raised money in order to do so. I never knew when ours was taken down, but I'm glad that it's back," 1967 graduate, Larry Hopper said.

The quote was painted over two different times making this the third time it has been painted.

"We brought the quote back because some of us have missed it being there. If it weren't for those who did, I don't think the quote would have been able to be posted again," Principal Russell Earnest said.

Not only is the quote painted at Kennedy, but there are now class mottos from graduating classes painted around the overhang facing the Senior Circle, where the Blarney Stone sits.

"This is one of the ways we're

preparing for the 50th anniversary of Kennedy High School, which will be in 2015. We're also adding the class mottos facing the Senior Circle so that students can stand there and feel the history of the school," ASB adviser, Mrs. Vazquez said.

Thanks to Lloyd Paxton, who posted the quote and mottos, from World Wide Installation, ASB and Earnest, the students of Kennedy can now proudly represent the former president and past students.

"This was Mr. Earnest's idea to repost the quote, along with the mottos. ASB used the past graduating senior classes' left over gift money to help fund the task," Vazquez said.

The quote now looks out onto the street to remind everyone of the great deeds President Kennedy did while in the White House. Kennedy students can now observe the history of their school with pride.



MIN CHUNG/ *The Shamrock*
Kennedy High School has been lightened up with the bright quote at the front of the school.

Welcome to the Seventies

ALEXIS LUJAN
Copy Editor

On Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, John F. Kennedy High School held the Sadie Hawkins dance at Knott's Berry Farm from 8 p.m. to 12 p.m. The theme this year was "Peace, Love, Sadie's," students dressed up in hippie and seventies attire to capture the spirit of the dance.

Students received their tickets and special private party wristbands at the reserved ticket stations in front of the park around 8 p.m. Once inside the park, party attendees went off with friends to go on the rides while the park was still open to the public.

"My friend and I ran straight for Ghost Rider first since we love that ride," senior Raitchell Angeles said.

At 10 p.m., the park was closed

to the public and only students with wristbands were allowed to stay for the rest of the night. Kennedy ASB reserved the rides Xcelerator, Supreme Scream, Wipeout, The Calico Mine Ride, and the Screaming Swing for students to ride for the rest of the night.

"The rides come with a package Knott's gives us every year. We've been getting these rides every year we have had Sadie's at Knott's," junior ASB Treasurer Ibrahim Bharmal said.

While some students continued to go on the rides for the remainder of the night, others were inside the Boardwalk Ballroom. Inside, students could sit down and eat Mexican food and dance on the main floor to the music. Some students took the professional pic-

tures offered, which were open from the start of the dance until 10 p.m., while others took the "marriage/ friendship photos" that were available the entire night.

"We have the marriage photos every year, but this year it was free. Basically, dates can get 'married,' sign a fake certificate, and get a picture taken of them in front of a banner that says 'Just married!' But if people didn't want to get married, they could get their friendship 'certified' instead," Ibrahim said.

The number of attendees was significantly lower than the years prior. Only a rough estimate of about 450 students actually purchased tickets and attended the event.

"We're seeing a decrease every



LENY BIALA/ *The Shamrock*
Sadie's was inside the Boardwalk Ballroom, where guests were greeted with a welcoming sign to the dance.

year. We are reconsidering if this is the appropriate venue for Sadie's," ASB adviser Ms. Vasquez said.

Despite the low numbers, the students had a fun time with friends and their dates. While there were a few complaints about the DJ and about how the professional pictures closed around halfway through the dance, people were there to have fun. It was definitely a great night for many.

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School News Brief

Congratulations class of 2015 on completing the CAHSEE!

Come and enjoy "Painting with Harmony" from the Kennedy Singers on March 22 and March 23, 2013 at Kennedy's Performing Arts Center.

SPRING BREAK: April 1 to April 5, 2013. Have a delightful week!

Irvine Lake Mud Run on April 6, 2013.

CAS Night: Come support IB Seniors as they show their creativity on April 8, 2013 at the Performing Arts Center.

Mr. & Ms. K is on April 12, 2013. Come support your peers and see who your new Mr. and Ms. Kennedy will be at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Open House at Kennedy High School on April 16, 2013, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Want to help save a life? Donate blood on April 17, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Good luck FBLA at the State Conference April 18-21, 2013!

California State University Fullerton will have a Special Games Day on May 3, 2013.

Come volunteer at The AIDS Walk in Orange County on May 4, 2013.

FAHRENHEIT 2013

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief

Hardback books, paperback books, textbooks, and magazines. You can get all of them at bookstores. But what would happen if there were no more book stores?

Barnes & Noble stores have been sprouting around the world for over 90 years. Launched in 1917, the first Barnes & Noble store originated in New York City during the heart of World War I. Now, after 90 years of business, it looks as if Barnes & Noble is headed in a downward spiral, because they are expected to close a third of their stores over the next 10 years.

According to The Christian

Science Monitor, "the largest traditional U.S. bookstore has been facing tough competition from online retailers and discounters that sell books and has been focusing on its Nook tablet, e-book reader, and e-book business for growth," Associated Press said.

It is evident that with modern day society, reading has now become easier and more convenient with new inventions like tablets, readers, and e-books.

"It is not the idea that less people are coming into the store, it is more along the lines that electronic books are really popular. People don't have to walk into

stores anymore, they could just buy it on their phone, computer, or tablet," Anonymous Barnes & Noble employee said.

It seems that in today's world, everything is based on convenience. The bottom line is that to some, e-books are easier to use.

"[Books may not be being bought] because of tablets and new technologies. More and more people are preferring e-books to regular books," sophomore Yash Patel said.

Although there is going to be a substantial amount of stores closing, it seems as if Barnes & Noble is going to



BRITTNEY MCCLENDON/ *The Shamrock*
With more and more bookstores closing, generations to come will not even know what a book is.

be successful in the long run.

"It should be noted that in 2012, Barnes & Noble opened two new prototype stores and in 2013 plans to test several others," Barnes & Noble spokesperson Mary Ellen Keating said.

Although Barnes & Noble

reading the label, and then she found out what it was.

"The other day, I Googled 'brominated vegetable oil.' It was the last time I drank Orange Gatorade," Sarah said.

With her petition, more than 200,000 people signed it in the hopes that the ingredient would be removed. PepsiCo is now taking out the ingredient from Gatorade after hearing the public's reaction.

"While our products are safe, we are making this change be-

cause we know that some consumers have a negative perception of BVO in Gatorade," PepsiCo said in a statement to WebMD.

Brominated vegetable oil is now being replaced by another chemical called sucrose acetate isobutyrate to keep the drink's flavor.

As of now, brominated vegetable oil is still in drinks like Mountain Dew and Fanta, and there is no word of whether or not the ingredient will be removed from these drinks as well.

Start of a Dynasty

ROBERT MOSER
Opinions Editor

On Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, students from all over the district competed in the various competitions of the Academic Decathlon, Acadeca. This year the students of Kennedy High School were led by Mrs. Christie Bettendorf. The students trained and competed in subjects that tested their knowledge and mettle such as Social Science, Literature, Essay, Speech, Math, Interview, Economics, Art, Science, Music, and a Super Quiz Relay. Overall, the group placed first. In the Super Quiz, the group placed third.

In Literature, sophomore Sarah McGarrigle placed fourth, followed by sophomore Savannah Hoag and junior Samuel Cimeni who both placed fifth. This was Savannah Hoag's first academic decathlon.

"I was actually really surprised and happy [to get my medal] because it felt like an accomplishment. I think that we'll be more motivated as a team to win next year because we got first this year in our divi-



COURTESY OF MRS. BETTENDORF
Sophomore Savannah Hoag, sophomore Andrea Rodriguez, junior Dorothy Kim, and junior Ibrahim Bharmal prepare for the 2013 Academic Decathlon.

sion," Savannah said.

In math, senior Justin Kushi placed first, followed by senior Kristine Avena in second, Maria Zhang in third, Tyler Osborne in fourth, and junior Samuel Cimeni in fifth.

Social Science proved to be a winning subject for Kennedy's team this year with seven individual med-

als. Senior Sean Hernandez placed first, followed by seniors Tyler Osborne and Maria Zhang who both took second, sophomore Sarah McGarrigle in fourth, and junior Jacqueline Atwood, senior Gretel Mercado, and junior Samuel Cimeni all placed fifth.

Junior Ibrahim Bharmal placed

first in interview. This was also his first year in Acadeca. Even though it was his first year he proved to be an asset to the team.

"It felt really satisfying, especially because we were all in it together as we studied so much. Because it was my first year in decathlon, I didn't quite know how difficult the competition was, but it didn't matter because our team pulled through as division champions," Ibrahim said.

The team has high hopes for next year as they celebrate their recent victory. The months of hard work paid off in the end for the team.

"I thought it was a fantastic experience because I learned so much about Russia. At the same time, it was great to meet with other members that I wouldn't have met otherwise. Similarly, nothing beats the feeling of satisfaction when you receive a medal after months of hard work," Ibrahim said.

Bustin' in Tustin

SARA TAKETA
Staff Reporter

Throughout the end of 2012 and beginning of 2013, many mass shootings have taken place throughout the nation. Most prominent among the gunmen are Adam Lanza, Christopher Dorner, and now, Ali Syed.

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013 at 4:45 a.m., police officers, responding to a call of a shooting in Ladera Ranch, rushed to a home on Red Leaf Lane, where they found a woman in her 20s dead from multiple gunshot wounds. The suspect was later identified as 20-year-old student Ali Syed, but no motive was clear, as he was not related to the woman. He had no criminal history and was armed with only a shotgun. After fleeing in his parents' black SUV, he allegedly participated in four separate carjackings and shootings in Tustin and Santa Ana before turning the gun on himself.

"As he exited the [a stolen] vehicle, he took the shotgun, put it to his head and killed himself," Tustin Police Chief Scott Jordan said in an ABC News Conference.

Syed had been a student at Saddleback College since the fall of 2010, and was currently enrolled in one computer maintenance and repair class this semester. Though he seemed to be a perfectly normal young man, something triggered a resentment which caused him to open fire at several vehicles and innocent bystanders.

"We're living in a divided country full of stress, hard times, and no political leadership. Nothing unifies us together morally, and this is because there is no education that teaches this generation about ethics



COURTESY OF GOOGLE
Crime rates in the United States have seemed to increase after another shooting.

and helps them distinguish between right and wrong. The youth engages in vulgarity without learning why they can't take out their aggression on others and how to prevent it in the first place. Their actions are based solely on their current feelings – things that should be set aside and replaced with rational thinking and judgment. I'm sorry about the lives that were lost, but it doesn't surprise me," history teacher Steven Cini said.

Syed was a quiet yet good student with no history of mental illness or illegal drug use. However, police described him as a "video-game playing loner," who was also

unemployed and living with his parents. "He couldn't control his feelings or problems, so he committed the spontaneous, aggressive, and cruel act of killing innocent people with no motive. The community is now scared and more strict with security. This event shows how dangerous the world is and how there is no way to protect yourself from these kinds of incidents," freshman Rochelle Lee said.

After investigating five different crime scenes, the Tustin and Santa Ana Police Departments concluded that Syed killed a total of four people and injured several others. The investigation is ongoing, but there

are no further suspects. "As the number of shootings increases, more people feel that they'll be able to commit crimes and get away with them. This incident has dramatically affected the community, and I think there is going to be an increase in laws and regulations in order to prevent an event like this from happening again in the future," sophomore Shivani Patel said.

As another shooting incident is added to the recently growing list, Americans are becoming concerned and anxious as they fear the next.

Lost in the Shuffle

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief

Rebels, the Mississippi River, cotton, the Confederacy, and the mockingbird are all associated with the state of Mississippi. Something missing on the list would be the thirteenth amendment, because up until Feb 7, 2013, the ratification of the amendment did not exist.

In 1865, the thirteenth amendment was added to the Constitution, however it was not officially ratified by Mississippi officials until 148 years later. The official ratification was due to one Mississippian, Ranjan Batra, who saw the movie *Lincoln*,

and was interested in learning more about his state's addition of the amendment.

According to WFMY News, "He learned that the amendment was ratified after three-fourths of the states backed it in December 1865. The four remaining states all eventually ratified the amendment -- except for Mississippi. Mississippi voted to ratify the amendment in 1995 but failed to make it official by notifying the U.S. Archivist," WFMY said.

Batra did not have many connections to Mississippi political figures; however, he

contacted a friend, Ken Sullivan, who he knew would ignite the situation.

"My father [Sullivan's father] was in Mississippi as a young man in his early twenties, when the first Freedom Riders came into Jackson. And he saw them arrested and put on buses. And I've heard these stories and I've heard the struggles. And people need to know that it happened, but they need to know that Mississippi has moved forward so much," Sullivan said, as reported on npr.org.

After the amendment was ratified to the

Constitution, there was a key step that Mississippi missed in order to get the amendment formally passed.

According to New America Media, "The last paragraph of the resolution, the 1995 state resolution, called upon the secretary of state to send a copy to the Office of the Federal Register. Why the copy was never sent remains unknown," the Clarion-Ledger said.

Now, nearly 150 years later, the state of Mississippi can have closure on the ratification of the thirteenth amendment.

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.



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Two Consecutive Years!

ARVIND SANDHU & JOHN SO
Outside Reporters

Mr. Alvarez is an extraordinary teacher who loves his career. For the 2012-2013 school year, he was awarded the title "Teacher of the Year," this being the second time he has won it. Mr. Alvarez is not only a Spanish Teacher, but he is also the basketball coach, the badminton coach, and the coordinator for WASC at Kennedy High School.

Ever since Alvarez has been in high school, he has wanted to become a teacher. Since he had a great high school experience himself, and he loves coaching, he knew becoming a teacher would be a great career for him. He wanted to do the same that his teachers did for him when he was a student.

"I had a great experience in high school and my teachers were great. They impacted my life in positive way," Alvarez said.

Mr. Gallegos, a Spanish teacher and also a close friend and colleague, had many positive words to say regarding Alvarez.

"He is an extraordinary teacher, conscientious, helps every single student, and as a colleague, he is always helpful with the rest of us. He is a hard worker, puts in long hours, and he is also a fantastic coach. Overall, he doesn't allow a student to think less of himself," Gallegos said.

Along with receiving the "Teacher of the Year" award, he was also surprised by the super-



CAMRA HOPPER/ The Shamrock
AUHSD, superintendent, as well as Kennedy High School's administration surprise Mr. Alvarez during his first period class to congratulate him on his second year of Teacher of the Year.

intendent Elizabeth Novak, Principal Russell Earnest, assistant principal Ms. Ray, and other colleagues. He received balloons, flowers, a district plaque, his name on the marquee, and a banner.

"It was definitely a great feeling when it happened. I think I was more embarrassed than anything else. Overall it was a great

experience," Alvarez said.

"Mr. Alvarez is a great teacher because he is well organized, he has good lessons, he is very creative and energetic in the classroom and cares about students," Ray said.

Alvarez feels very lucky to be a teacher at Kennedy.

"The students here at Kennedy are amazing. I think that that's the

main reason I enjoy coming to work everyday, the students are just great kids," Alvarez said.

Alvarez has also been nominated to represent the Anaheim Union High School District for "Teacher of the Year" at the county level. It is a pleasure to know that a teacher like Alvarez will be representing Kennedy High School.

March Students of the Month

Phoebe Lee

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief



BRITTNEY MCCLENDON/ The Shamrock

Q: *What is the key to success?*

A: I think the key to success is motivation. If you're motivated to do something, you'll do whatever it takes to succeed. Of course, it helps to be detailed and have a good time management skills too.

Q: *What does it mean to you to get student of the month?*

A: I feel honored being a student of the month. This recognition encourages me to keep working hard because I know that my efforts are not going to waste.

Q: *What is your best achievement in high school?*

A: I think my best achievement in high school is not necessarily a specific achievement that I feel the most proud of, but rather the fact that I made the effort to do everything to the best of my ability throughout high school.

Jafar Essayli

DIANA DOMINGO
News Editor



MIRAL PATEL/ The Shamrock

Q: *What is the key to success?*

A: The key to success is to be well-rounded by paying close attention to both academics and activities.

Q: *What does it mean to you to get student of the month?*

A: I thought that it was a big accomplishment considering that only twenty people are chosen out of the entire senior class.

Q: *What is your best achievement in high school?*

A: I never expected myself to be this involved by joining clubs and activities in school and outside of school.

KENNEDY LEARNS TO FLY

LENY BIALA & MIKAYLA KHRAMOV
Staff Reporter & Features Editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, the John F. Kennedy High School Instrumental Music Department performed in their pop-culture concert, "Air & Space". The concert began at 7 p.m. with the Freshman Band, leading into Concert Band, then Symphonic Winds, and closing with the Jazz Band. Taking place at the District Amphitheater at Kennedy's grounds, the concert featured an array of musical pieces fitting the theme of aerial exploration and flight.

"I played trumpet in jazz band and the freshman band. My favorite song was 'Skylark' because it's a ballad. 'How High the Moon' was another highlight of the evening because it was fast," freshman Fred Dungore said.

Students in band inputted their ideas to come up with "Air & Space" as their concert theme. The songs selected included John William's Fantasy of Flight featuring signature songs from "Star Wars," "E.T.," and "Harry Potter," the jazz classic, "Fly Me to the Moon," and also a tribute to the U.S. Air Force with "Missing Man." "Missing Man" concluded

with a brief moment of silence, and then a solo performance of "TAPS" by senior Patrick McGuire. There were also several soloists featured in different songs. During "Missing Man" four trumpeters played atop the amphitheater balcony.

"The theme was developed by the students. Senior Jordan Cain suggested it last year and then two other students suggested specific pieces. In prepping for the concert and looking for music to play, I'll look at a couple of websites with published music and I would start looking for key words that fit into our theme. That's how I picked the rest of the music, I found the songs while researching pieces to fit the theme," Kennedy band instructor Joshua Parsons said.

During Symphonic Wind's performance, event organizers held raffle drawings for a chance to come up on stage and conduct the band to the Air Force theme song. Cali Watson, 7 year old sister of band members seniors Tiera and Daishae' Anderson, won the raffle and was invited to come up to the stage.

"I was a little scared, but it was fun," Watson said.

Throughout the evening, family, friends, and band fans, were entirely captivated by Kennedy's performance. There was laughter, grand applause, and respectful silence.

"When you think about the preparation and how hard everyone has been working, specifically in regards to the band...the professionalism that our students demonstrate - it's so awe-inspiring. And this is only one example of the great things our students are doing. What I find really rewarding is that our students really appreciate the opportunities. That makes me, as your superintendent, want to work harder. When creating an environment where students can be successful - this is a reward in itself," District Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Novack said.

The John F. Kennedy High School Instrumental Music Department's production of "Air & Space" was a complete success that demonstrated the integrity Kennedy students have here on campus.



LENY BIALA/ The Shamrock
Daishae' Anderson backs up the band and holds the piece together by keeping the tempo on par along with the other percussionists.

PRINCE vs. Princess

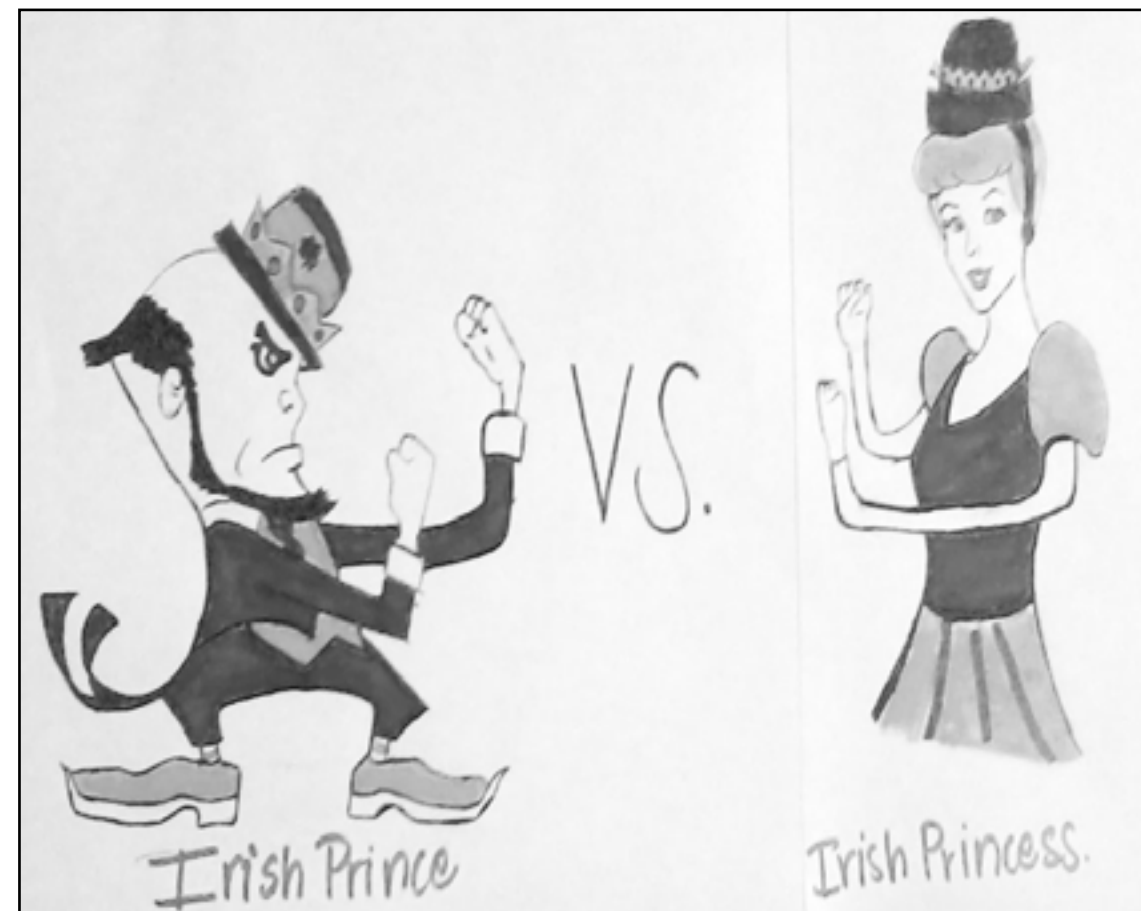
MIRAL PATEL
Staff Reporter

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, Kennedy ASB organized a Spirit celebration by having "Irish Week" that lasted from Mar. 11, 2013 to Mar. 15, 2013, with the theme of Boys v. Girls, (Prince v. Princess).

"This is the last assembly of the year and we have had a lot of unique assembly ideas, so we decided to combine them all together. The result is a very entertaining Disney-themed battle of the sexes that all leads up to a big Irish finish," senior ASB Spirit Commissioner Alisha Conover said.

The first day was "Cinderella v. Prince Charming", girls wore pink and boys wore blue. The second day was "Rapunzel v. Flynn Ryder", with a crazy hair frenzy. Wednesday was "Tiana vs. Prince Naveen" where everyone was encouraged to wear Mardi Gras attire. On Thursday, it was "Belle vs. Beast", where everyone was in animal print. And the last day was "Irish princess vs. Irish prince", where boys wore gold and girls wore green.

"We had the days planned with



MIRAL PATEL/ The Shamrock
To celebrate St Patrick's Day, ASB planned a unique theme of Prince vs. Princess for Irish Week.

Disney movie characters and their specialty in the movies," Alisha said.

To make this week more fun, ASB had games planned during lunch at the stage. The games were formatted between the boys and the girls, rather than the classes. The last day of the Irish Week, ASB organized an assembly to end the celebration for St. Patrick's Day.

"The games at lunch are going to correlate to the spirit days and will be a competition to see who rules the school, boys or girls. Since this is our last assembly we decided to change the look of the gym and incorporate great performances and special surprises," Alisha said.

Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in Ireland, and is celebrated across the globe. March 17 marks the anniversary of St. Patrick's death. Kennedy's mascot is the Fighting Irishman, which fits perfect for the theme.

"Irish Week shows how much spirit our school has and how enthusiastic we are. This also shows the pride of our school and pride of being an Irish," junior Alisha Prasad said.

WE WON'T STAND

COURTNEY BANKHEAD
Photo Editor



MIRAL PATEL/ The Shamrock
Senior Lauren Rodriguez



CAMRA HOPPER/ The Shamrock
Junior Ariel Martinez



CAMRA HOPPER/ The Shamrock
English Teacher Mrs. Zinn

How can people hate so much to the point where they want to hurt others? Characters Unite, the USA television network's public service program, was created to bring awareness to social injustices such as racism, religious harassment, and any cultural divides that are prevalent throughout our society. And now, Kennedy High School is joining the movement.

This movement is sweeping across the campus. Administration, students, and staff are participating in the evolution of change and voicing their concerns with these issues that are striking the cause.

"I won't stand for meanness. We need to be for each other; especially within Kennedy. We need to be together, because it's all about kindness," counselor Ms. Chung said.

"I won't stand for intoler-

ance because intolerant people have the potential to negatively impact the situation," teacher Ms. Helton said.

"I won't stand for conformity, because it creates an unrealistic idea of how one should be. Everyone should be able to be themselves and embrace individuality," junior Cindy Viveros said.

Accepting someone as who they are, not who they were meant to be. We all have the same hopes and dreams; there is so much more that unites us than divides us. Kennedy High School won't stand for intolerance and hate. We will be the difference. Together as one, we will end the discrimination, the hate, the intolerance. We won't stand for that, but we will stand for acceptance.



LENY BIALA/ The Shamrock
Senior Matthew Batacan



DANIEL COOPER/ The Shamrock
History Teacher Mr. Cornforth



CAMRA HOPPER/ The Shamrock
Junior Cindy Viveros

YEAR OF THE SNAKE

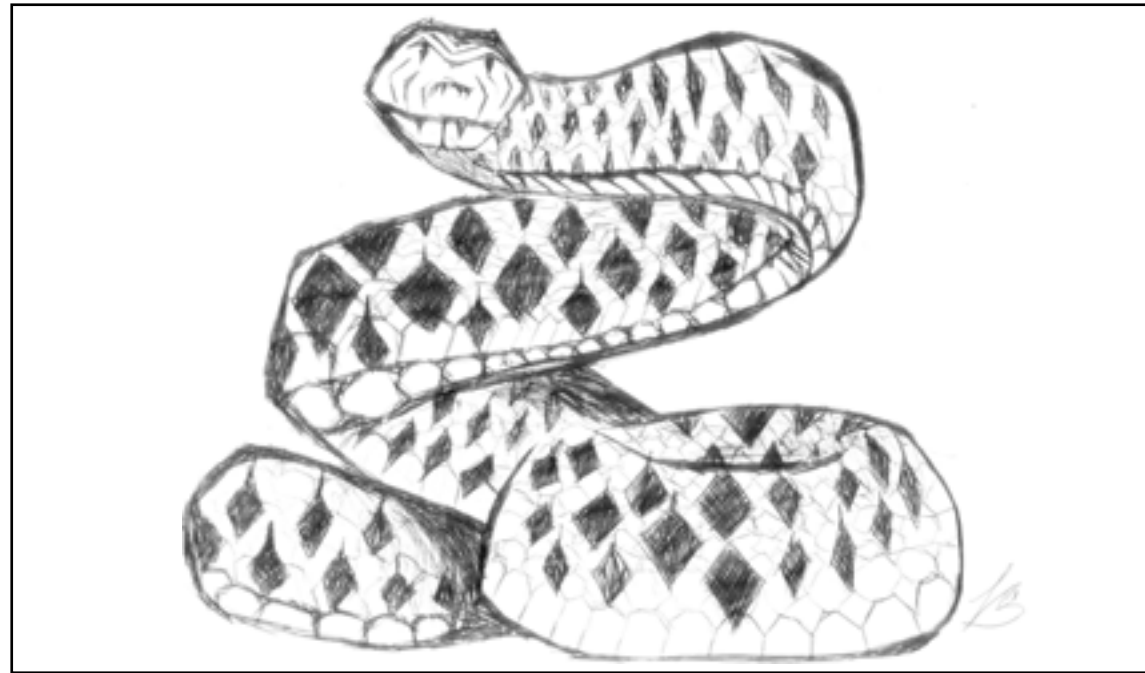
CAMRA HOPPER
Staff Reporter

The Chinese zodiac is filled with mythology and legends that relate to the Chinese New Year, recently known as the Spring Festival. Their calendar has always followed the lunar-solar calendar, causing the date to change every year. Then the Western calendar was created in 1912 to celebrate Jan. 1 being the beginning of the New Year, but most kept tradition. Chinese New Year is a time for family to get together and renew bonds, in a similar manner as their ancestors once did many years ago.

For every Chinese New Year there is an animal that symbolizes that year. The 12 animals that rotate are a rat, buffalo (ox), tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

Legend says that the animals were picked by Buddha, a young adult who searched for a greater understanding of life and enlightenment. He held a race for the animals and said that the first 12 to cross the river would be on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. In the order that they won was the placement they were placed in on the calendar.

For 2013, the Chinese New Year began on Sunday, Feb. 10 with the animal being the snake, the sixth on the list, and it won't be back until 2025. This specific year is the black snake, it finds



LENY BIALA/ The Shamrock

The zodiac animal for the Chinese New Year of 2013 is the Snake. Learn about your zodiac animal here.

difficulty in letting their guard down, even when it is necessary. People born under the year of the snake are most intuitive while being sneaky, symbolizing wisdom. They tend to enjoy working alone, causing them much stress, but prefer to live the simple life.

The zodiac animal of 1994 is the dog. People within that year are considered to be honest, faithful, and sincere. Although the dog isn't much of a socialist among friends, it is the one that would listen and always be there for

them, no matter what, because of its reliability. Due to these personality traits of the dog some career choices that suit them would be a captain of industry, a priest, an educator, a critic, or a doctor.

The zodiac animal of 1995 is the pig. Even though the pig made it last, its one full of diligence, sympathy, and generosity. Pigs tend to want to do everything right, making them a friend of great morals to have at your side. Even though they might not ask for help, they will never deny the

chance to help someone in need. They will also talk until there are no longer any topics to discuss, because all has been said already.

The zodiac animal of 1996 is the rat that took the first position on the calendar. Those under this year tend to be versatile, resourceful, and witty. Their imaginations tend to soar, but maintain a strong observation as well as curiosity. Even with their curiosity they lack courage, making them a poor choice as leaders. A rat will be kind to those it chooses

to be, but will also be impolite to others.

The zodiac animal of 1997 is the buffalo or ox. The ox is the hardest and persistent worker of the zodiac, which helps them get the task at hand done even if it takes a long period of time. They will seem a bit calm and quiet, but when angered, they are fierce. The memory of an ox is one of the best, because they are very observant of everything and everyone around them. The ox is also creative and intelligent.

The zodiac animal of 1998 is the tiger. People under this year are known to be great leaders because they are noble and fearless. They are also unpredictable and tense causing them to be in a hurry most of the time. They also have a large ego and love to find adventures, and together that usually causes them to end up in difficult situations.

Each animal in the Chinese zodiac has their own story that helps present how they made it across the river in the race. Each is very unique in their own way by the specific personality traits that blend together to create the perfect description to the fit the animal as well as the person born under that year.

Kennedy High Goes Pro

VICTORIA MANCINI
Staff Reporter

In the 2012-2013 NFL season, Kennedy High School alumni, Eddie Pleasant became a NFL starter for the Houston Texans.

Eddie Pleasant is 24 years old and was in the graduating class of 2006-2007 at Kennedy High School. He received all-Orange Country player of the year, and all-state defensive player of the year during his senior year. At the University of Oregon, Eddie started on the Ducks' football team and became a key player. He was named the team's most inspirational player his senior season. Right after graduating from the University of Oregon, Eddie was drafted by the Houston Texans. Eddie tried out for the team doing multiple drills, and he proved his abilities to his new coaches. He had a 4.63 in the 40-yard dash, 33.5-inch in the vertical jump and 22 bench-press reps of

225 pounds at the NFL Scouting Combine.

"I felt like it was a process I was going through my whole life, ever since I started playing football; so it wasn't really anything new to me but to just actually get use to the speed of the game and show my new coaches abilities to play at the NFL level," Eddie said.

Eddie was an undrafted free agent until he signed with the Houston Texans on May 14, 2012. Within months, he was signed by the Texans from the practice squad to the active roster on Dec. 21, 2012, taking the number 35. He played as safety in his first "I couldn't believe that I was really about to take my first snap in an NFL game. I was trying hard to just not mess up and to make sure I did my job and not anybody else's job," Eddie said.

The constant traveling was not

an issue for Eddie.

"It was just NFL game during the 2012 NFL season.

like college, so I was already used to it. All we did was go to a hotel the night before our game and have meetings, wake up in the morning and eat breakfast, go to the stadium and play, then go fly back to Houston right after the game" Eddie said

Due to the Pleasant family's extreme athleticism, Eddie's little brother Eli, who also graduated from Kennedy High School in 2012, has the same goal as Eddie, to play in the NFL.

"It makes me feel good knowing that I have a brother that worked so hard to get to the NFL and made it. I wasn't worried about him at all because I know what he is capable of and the fact that when he has a goal he will do whatever it takes to reach that goal," Eli said.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Kennedy graduate Eddie Pleasant started his rookie year in the NFL in the 2012-2013 season.

Eddie is looking forward to another NFL season with the Houston Texans. He is continuing to work hard and is proving to be an asset to the team.

"You just have to keep working hard, there are going to be some ups and downs, but just stay on the grind," Eddie said.

EQUAL RIGHTS IN BOY SCOUTS

SUK CHUNG
Layout Editor

Freedom of speech.
Freedom of association.
Freedom of assembly.
Freedom of religion.
Freedom of gay movement?



Recently, Boy Scouts have considered lifting the ban on gay rights. The organization, which was founded in 1910, has decided to leave the proposal up to the openly gay scout leaders and members. Although many are angry towards the lifting of the ban on gay rights, everyone should have the same opportunity and equal rights.

In 2000, the ban on gays in the Boy Scouts organization was upheld by a 5-4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. However, in 2012, President Obama believes that the ban should be lifted because everyone has access to the same liberty and opportunity. As humans, people must empathize with the gays and lesbians if they want to join any organization.

According to Boy Scouts to *Continue Excluding Gay People*, "The Boy Scouts of America is one of the last cultural institutions to have discrimination as part of their policy," Erik Eckholm said.

Americans must consider the fact that the United States was founded on the idea of freedom. People, who believe in religious freedom, freedom of speech, and freedom of thought, must understand that everyone has rights, and they must be alarmed by the attacks on gay rights created by Boy Scouts.

"Gay males and scout leaders should be



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Boy Scouts of America have been around since 1910, and they learn the basic fundamentals of how to thrive, learn, and survive.

able to enroll in Boy Scouts because they should not be treated differently," junior Grace Ji said.

Many people and children, who are openly gay, choose to sign up for the gay rights because they want to be able to learn the righteous concepts and depths of mankind. To develop a sense of pride, honor, and strength, boys who are openly gay, enroll in Boy Scouts in order to feel accepted and benevolent. Although many people are

for the lifting of the ban on gay rights, others, such as Family Research Council, do not want the ban to be lifted. They feel that openly gay Boy Scout leaders would teach them how to be weak and cowards. However, gay males learn the same values similarly to any other male in the organization.

According to "The Boy Scouts' small step on gay rights," "The national organization's current policy is akin to the military's defunct "don't ask, don't tell" policy,

barring membership "to individuals who are open or avowed homosexuals or who engage in behavior that would become a distraction to the mission of the group," The Editorial board said.

Gays have the right to become members of the organization because they have the same opportunity and equality as everyone. Like Thomas Jefferson said, "The majority, oppressing an individual, is guilty of a crime."

MINIMUM NOT SO LOW

DIANA DOMINGO
News Editor

Along with the many proposals and reforms President Obama has made in his new term in presidency, his interest in raising minimum wage has been initiated.



In his State of the Union Address, Barack Obama has presented the idea that minimum wage should be raised from \$7.25 to \$9 by 2015. The reason behind this reform is that labor unions have made their voices heard because they believe it will not only help the poor, but all the workers in the country. Despite the joy in this change, it is not forgotten that Obama said he would raise minimum wage to \$9.50 during his first term.

"His proposal now, in effect, is 50 cents and four years behind his earlier proposal, leaving some advocates with a mixture of enthusiasm and worry," Dave Jamieson said as reported on Huffingtonpost.

Obama has received a positive feel from a majority of the labor union because they believe it will affect them all positively. However, the outcome of this raise is not assured to be a positive turn for the country.



DIANA DOMINGO/ The Shamrock

Junior Christine Munar frowns at the thought of minimum wage being \$9.

"It seems like a good idea but many people will be cut down their hours because the owners will not want to pay all the workers. Some may even be fired if there are too

many workers the companies and/or factories need to pay," senior Vihang Patel said.

The workers are all expecting their jobs to stay the same, besides the fact that their

pay will be raised. They are not thoroughly thinking about the situation because although they will be paid more, they are not making their amount of hours working and schedules to be the same. Other than looking only at the workers' side, it must also be considered how it will affect the owners.

"Hotels themselves, argued the measure would amount to unjust government interference in the private sector and force some of the hotels to eliminate jobs, hike room rates and, potentially, shutter their doors," Wesley Lowery, reporter of the LA Times said.

They were correct when they made this assumption. Hours were cut down, workers were fired, and rooms were closed. The labor unions that pushed Obama to make this decision were not aware of how much this can have a negative affect on the country. The problem is that it would not only affect a certain group, like hotels, but the country as a whole. Minimum wage is set to be raised by 2015, giving the country about two years to rethink this reform.

IRISH WEEK



LEPRECHAUNS AND A POT OF GOLD

MIN CHUNG
Staff Reporter

As many are familiar with the story behind the famous legend of St. Patrick's Day, the history of this holiday dates back to over 1000 years ago in Europe. March 17 is commemorated to Saint Patrick, who was considered to be a patron saint of Ireland. He was kidnapped from Roman Britain and brought as a slave to Ireland. He later escaped, but went back and brought Christianity to the people in Ireland. His death, which is believed to be March 17, 261 A.D., has been congenital to the Irish culture.

"It is important because it marks the date of the Christianization of Ireland because from the moment St. Patrick went to Ireland, he brought great change to the culture and religion of his new home," sophomore Emily Hsiao said.

The famous shamrock which is associated with St. Patrick's Day, was used by Saint Patrick to help him describe the Holy Trinity to Christians. The Blarney Stone is located at the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. It is known to bring whoever kisses the stone the magic of being able to speak in eloquence.

"St. Patrick's day represents the time when Irish immigrants came to America. I think it is important to the school since that is related to our mascot," sophomore Joshua Kim said.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of many backgrounds with parades, fireworks, and shows held across the world. Many people, including Kennedy students wear green in support of their mascot, the fighting Irish, and their spirit towards St. Patrick's Day.

"Considering we are the fighting Irish and the celebration of St. Patrick's Day is a huge thing in Ireland, I think we should get the day off in honor of our school mascot," sophomore Jake Katsumata said.

In commemoration and celebration of Saint Patrick, be sure to wear green to not get pinched. Wearing green was believed to help keep you invisible from the leprechauns. As many say, "a pot of gold can be found at the end of the rainbow."

Monday
Cinderella v. Prince
Charming:
Pink & Blue



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Juniors Zeal Nadasia and Jeanel Suarez show their school spirit by dressing up in pink.*



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Sophomore Parag Suva provides the tunes for the Monday lunch activity.*

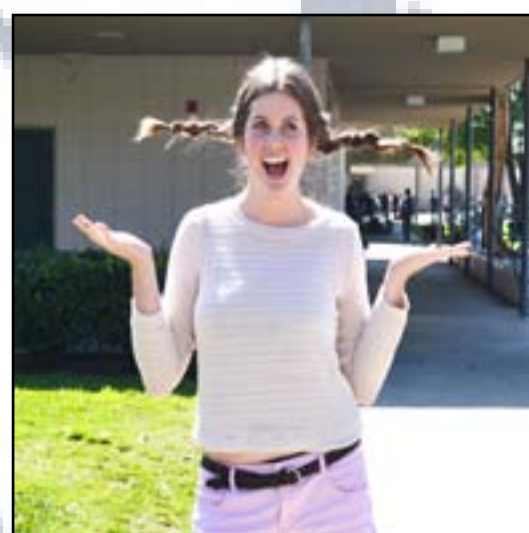


MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Students Emily Harbin and Jesus Flores show no hard feelings during Girls vs. Boys week.*

Tuesday
Rapunzel v.
Flynn Rider:
Crazy Hair Day



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock AP Government and Economics teacher Mr. Johnson grows an afro to support crazy hair day.*



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Junior Sarah Anderson pulls off her best Pippi Longstocking on Crazy Hair Day.*



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Seniors Sarah Arentz, Joanna Urueta, and Katie To show off their wackiest hairstyles.*

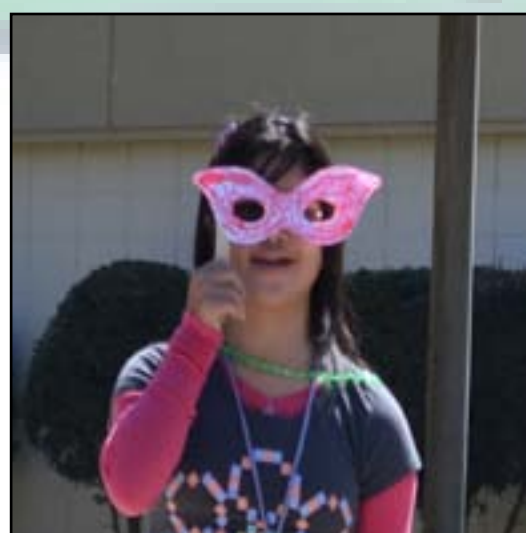
Wednesday
Tiana v. Prince
Naveen:
Mardi Gras



COURTESY OF JENNIFER NGUYEN
Senior Joanna Urueta represents Mardi Gras perfectly with a Mardi Gras mask and purple boa.



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Seniors A.J. Franks, Brad Allan, and Brandon Criss wear their best Mardi Gras attire.*



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Student Alovele Malate masks herself during the Mardi Gras game.*

Thursday
Belle v.
The Beast:
Animal Print



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Freshmen Maria Unana and Tatiana Gray support Belle and The Beast for Animal Print Day.*



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Junior Destiny Farina and Sophomore Colette Lovetere show their love for cheetah print.*

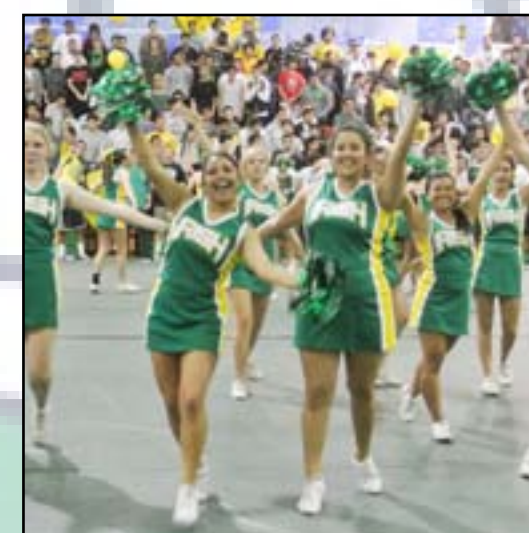


MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock ASB Advisers Mrs. Vazquez and Mrs. Anderson think of a witty way to represent Animal Print Day.*

Friday
Irish Princess v.
Irish Prince:
Gold & Green



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Seniors Katherine Moran and Jacqueline Camacho show pride on the last day of Irish Week.*



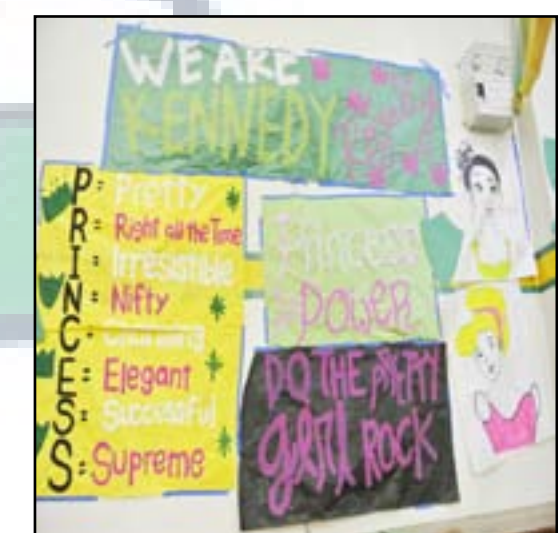
COURTNEY BANKHEAD/ *The Shamrock Kennedy cheer performs to pump up the crowd.*



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock Kennedy's school mascots senior Megan Giovannetti and senior Monique Rodriguez proudly represent the school.*



COURTNEY BANKHEAD/ *The Shamrock Kennedy's varsity girls basketball team flaunts their victory banner.*



COURTNEY BANKHEAD/ *The Shamrock ASB put up posters around the gym to bring out Kennedy school spirit.*



COURTNEY BANKHEAD/ *The Shamrock Kennedy students show their "K's" as they sing the Alma Maters.*

Assault on Gun Control

BRITTNEY MCCLENDON
Editor-In-Chief

Since 1982, there have been approximately 60 mass murders in the United States, some with motives unknown. Did the gun do it?



For many years, gun control has been a controversial topic within the United States. The issue with gun control is usually addressed in times of drastic, cataclysmic events. It is the liberals' point of view. That stricter gun laws should be enforced in order to prevent these events from happening.

Aurora, Clackamas, Sandy Hook, and many others have all been victims of gun violence. It has been said that each shooter's motives were unknown. However, each gunman had something in common: all three were suspected of having a mental illness.

"Not everything is a direct cause. But any psychologist will tell you that a variety of factors lead to someone killing one person or 20," CNN Contributor Roland Martin said, as reported on CNN Opinion.

When looking at past events, guns have been in the wrong person's hands, such as criminals or people with mental illnesses. While sitting in a room with a gun on a table, it is virtually impossible for the gun to go off. There has always been someone behind the trigger. Guns are not the driving force behind violence. Stricter laws should not be enforced because of the actions of the perpetrator.

Though guns are usually the weapon of choice, any type of weapon could be used. Mass murder would be harder with just knives, but why make it harder when it shouldn't even be happening in the first place? We may tend to forget about the unnamed victims of gun violence, the victims that get lost in the media or don't even get



BRITTNEY MCCLENDON/ *The Shamrock*
It is not the gun that does the killing, it is the person behind the gun.

mentioned at all. It takes mass murders or high profile shootings for people to start talking about gun control, but in actuality, there are thousands of victims who get no attention.

"Guns don't kill people, people kill people," Anonymous Riverside Sheriff said.

If liberals believe that stricter laws will decrease the number of shootings, they may be right, but it is about prevention. Limiting the amount of guns will not stop events like Sandy Hook and Aurora from happening. Why try to decrease the number of shootings when we can try to prevent them from hap-

pening in the first place? Not prevent them by taking certain guns away, but by focusing on other factors. The government should try to prevent them by having more accessible mental health programs, stronger security, and the right for the legal citizen to continue to bear arms.

"I don't think the rights of the legal citizen to bear arms should be taken away. If that right is taken away, there will be more violent assaults on the unarmed, legal citizen. The criminals do not follow the law. The reduced sentences that are bargained for the criminals give them more rights than the victims of the crimes. The only way to prevent the violence is to allow the legal citizen the right to protect themselves from the criminals that have the illegal guns. I have yet to meet a criminal that used a gun that was registered in their name," Anonymous Riverside Sheriff said.

All in all, guns provide protection. Whether a bad guy or a good guy, you are protected by the gun. It should be the right of every law abiding citizen to protect themselves from intruders who are trying to incite harm.

"Allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons deters violent crimes. . . . [W]hen state concealed handgun laws went into effect in a county, murders fell by 8.5 percent, and rapes and aggravated assaults fell by 5 and 7 percent," economist John Lott and David Mustard said, as reported on NRA-ILA.

There are gun collectors all around the country that collect guns that the government is trying to ban. It's not the gun collectors' fault that mass shootings are happening, but their right to bear certain arms is being infringed upon. If the government chooses to ban assault weapons, who's to say they won't eventually ban all weapons. Assault rifle or not, a gun is a gun.

Have Seniors Lost Their Charm?

COURTNEY BANKHEAD
Photo Editor

At Kennedy High School, something seems to be missing. That sense of the seniors being the "big guys on campus" is losing its appeal.



Every year, there is a feeling of intimidation that radiates off of the seniors onto the freshmen and all lower classes, but this year, it isn't happening. Has the senior class lost their ability to rise to the top of Kennedy's graduating classes or is another class taking over?

"I think for sure the seniors are the 'big kids on campus.' Just the fact that seniors are the oldest and they are about to get on with their lives puts the spotlight on them," senior Jake Wagner said.

However, many seniors this year are focused and involved in many clubs, activities, and even sports although there may

seem to be an internal bond within those sectors, overall there is no whole connection. Few participate in class socials, and students are scattered into cliques. Although that occurs with every class, the 2013 graduating class seems to be at a great divide in terms of being closer, and it affects them as the model class due to their tenure at Kennedy High School.

"I think that the senior class is too scattered and divided to really hold the cliché 'big kids on campus kind of vibe,'" senior Matthew Xa said.

"No I do not think the seniors are the 'big kids on campus' because people at our school intertwine with each other. Lots of seniors hang out with juniors and even the lower grades," junior Kelsey Dimas said.

This is where the junior class of 2014 comes in. A lot of them take over in sports, and now they are taking over at school. A

close-knit class that is starting to understand their responsibility as seniors next year, these students are now becoming aware of how to act like seniors, all big and bad, and seem to be showing off their ability to be perceived as seniors even though the school year has yet to conclude.

"I think that the 2014 and 2015 classes are a bit "bigger" because we are statistically better at sports, and that's what most people base their rankings off of," junior Charlie Reeves said.

As for the underclassmen, the same goes for the freshman class, as it was reported that in the summertime, an extremely high number of students attended the pep rally that kicked off the new school year. Sophomores seem to be doing their own thing, much like the seniors.

"I think some of the seniors are the 'big kids on campus' but there are kids in

lower classes that are far more superior to some seniors. [However] I would not want to change my class, I'm perfectly fine with the class I'm in...although I am already eager for senior year, but what high school student isn't?" sophomore Aaron Benvenuti said.

"In general, [seniors] don't try to intimidate the lower classmen much and it always seems like we don't hear much from the seniors, so in a way I don't see them as the big kids. I feel like our school is pretty much mutual," freshman Hayley Schenk said.

Overall, like past years when most knew the seniors were the top of the top, this year that role has been confused and there seems to be a forefront set as to who has taken that lead. Freshmen? Sophomores? Juniors? Seniors? It's indefinite.

THE DOMINATING LADY IRISH

MIRAL PATEL
Staff Reporter

This season of girls basketball brought joy to the school. It was the first time in the school's history that the Kennedy girls basketball team won Empire League. They took the number one spot from Yorba Linda after the last two years.

During league, they were undefeated, with 12 wins and 0 losses, and overall record of 21 wins and 7 losses.

"I think the season went awesome, it surpassed my expectations. We achieved our number one goal of winning league, and had another 21 win season. I've never had a team play with so much passion," coach Roland Preciado said.

The team was successful because of their hard work and communication with each other. Their teamwork and effort was always the highlight of their games.

"I think they are awesome. They play some of the best defense I've ever seen. They are truly fun to watch," senior Brad Allan said.

During the season, Preciado liked all the games, but there were two that stood out to him.

"I would have to say when we beat 'The School Down the Street' at their place. That is a hard place to play. I would also have to say Senior Night when we beat Yorba Linda and clinched the school's first league title. That was a special night," Preciado said.

The final score for the game against Cypress on Jan. 7, 2013



MIRAL PATEL/ *The Shamrock*
From left to right: Seniors Michelle Furuya, Aikane Higa, and Erica Sugimoto try to score a point for the Irish.

was 44-40 Kennedy; the highest scorer was sophomore Kylie Masumiya, who put up 16 points. The game against Yorba Linda on Feb. 5, 2013 was senior night for the Lady Irish, with a final score of 47-37, Kennedy; the highest scorers for the night were senior Aikane Higa and senior Michelle Furuya, who both scored 10 points.

The star of the season was Aikane, always having the high score in most of the games. This season she had total of 322 points

and 86 assists. She is the one who always leads and encourages the team.

"Aikane Higa was our do everything player. She would facilitate scoring for teammates and she would also defend the other team's best player on many occasions. Aikane's teammates allowed her to do what she does best because they trusted her," Preciado said.

A coach is the one who leads the team and teaches them tricks to play against the opponent. Even if everyone thinks that the team is

not going to win, there is always one person who supports and is always encouraging the team.

"Thank you coach for past four years. You have been amazing coach, who guided us throughout the season and without him, the league win wouldn't be possible," Aikane said.

Some of this year's outstanding players will be leaving since they are seniors. The fans and the team are going to miss them.

"I hope you take away some great life lessons from our season.

You can come back one day and see the banner on the wall and tell your kids, 'I was part of that team who won the first league title.' And lastly, I love you and thank you [seniors]," Preciado said.

The seniors are all ready to leave and give next year's season to the underclassmen.

"The season was outstanding with you [underclassmen] guys. Keep up the hard work and good luck for next year. Seniors will miss you," Aikane said.

Spring Sports Schedule

March 19

-Boys' Tennis @ Western- 3p.m.
-Badminton @ Cypress- 3:15p.m.
-Softball vs Valencia- 3:15 p.m.
-Swim vs. Arbor View- 3:15 p.m.
-Boys' Golf @ Valencia- 3:30 p.m.
-Boys' Volleyball vs. Cypress- 4:30p.m.

20

-Boys' Golf @ Yorba Linda- 2:30 p.m.
-Baseball @ Pacifica- 3:15 p.m.

21

-Boys' Golf @ Yorba Linda- 2:30p.m.
-Boys' Tennis vs. Yorba Linda- 3p.m.
-Badminton vs Loara- 3:15p.m.
-Softball @ Pacifica- 3:15p.m.
-Swim vs. Cerritos- 3:15 p.m.

22

-Baseball vs. Pacifica- 3:15p.m.

26

-Boys' Tennis @ Tustin- 3p.m.
-Baseball vs. Cypress- 3:15p.m.
-Softball vs Cypress- 3:15p.m.
-Swim @ Western- 3:15p.m.
-Boys' Golf @ Cypress- 3:45p.m.
-Boys' Volleyball @ Western- 4:30p.m.

27

-Track @ Western- 3p.m.
-Badminton @ Marina- 3:15p.m.

28

-Boys' Golf vs. Tustin- 3p.m.
-Boys' Tennis @ Valencia- 3p.m.
-Baseball @ Cypress- 3:15p.m.
-Boys' Volleyball vs. Yorba Linda- 4:30p.m.

30

-Baseball in Lions' Tournament- 10a.m.

April 1

-Baseball in Lions' Tournament- 10a.m.

2

-Baseball in Lions' Tournament- 10a.m.

3

-Baseball in Lions' Tournament- 10a.m.
-Varsity Softball in Michelle Carew Classic

4

-Varsity Softball in Michelle Carew Classic

5

-Varsity Softball in Michelle Carew Classic

6

-Varsity Softball in Michelle Carew Classic

8

-Badminton @ Gahr- 3:15p.m.

9

-Boys' Golf vs. Western- 2:30p.m.
-Boys' Tennis vs. Pacifica- 3p.m.
-Softball @ Western- 3:15p.m.
-Swim vs. Valencia- 3:15p.m.

10

-Boys' Golf @ Savanna- 2:30 p.m.
-Track vs. Valencia- 3p.m.
-Badminton @ Westminster- 3:15p.m.
-Baseball vs. Valencia- 3:15p.m.

11

-Boys' Golf vs. Valencia- 2:30p.m.
-Boys' Tennis @ Cypress- 3p.m.
-Softball vs Yorba Linda- 3:15p.m.

12

-Baseball @ Valencia- 3:15p.m.

13

-JV Swim in Costa Mesa Invitational- 8am

15

-Boys' Volleyball @ Tustin- 4:30p.m.

16

-Boys' Golf vs. Yorba Linda- 2:30p.m.
-Badminton @ Cerritos- 3:15p.m.

17

-Track vs. Yorba Linda- 3p.m.
-Boys' Volleyball @ Valencia- 4:30p.m.

Start of a New Badminton Season

MIN CHUNG
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, Kennedy's JV and varsity badminton team went up against Marina High School from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Kennedy's large gym. Coached by Mr. Alvarez, the badminton team strived to win every point and match against the opposing school. Although the teams were not fully determined, both the JV and varsity team were confident, and their continuous hard work and dedication paid off.

"Well, this was our first game this season and a lot of new players were still trying out, so JV did not win this time, but varsity won by a landslide. I look forward to improving my skills and developing new or stronger relationships with all of the people on the team," JV player, junior Gabby Lin said.

Being the first game of the season, the coach, parents, and friends came to cheer on the team by giving them support and shouting their names each time they scored a point. Even when the players were tired and exhausted, they portrayed determination and conspired to start the season with a good beginning.



MIN CHUNG/ The Shamrock
Junior Heather Huynh prepares to hit the birdie back to Magnolia.

"I expect varsity to win league and CIF this year because we were second in league last year," varsity player, junior Joy Chi said.

Although Kennedy's JV badminton team lost with a score of 13-2, the varsity badminton team

won by a landslide with the score of 16-5. Kennedy's badminton team vigorously fought until the last match, and gave it their all with good sportsmanship and teamwork.

"Although we [JV] lost, I look forward to improving my bad-

minton skills," J.V. player, sophomore Amy Dinh said.

During the first home game, the badminton team demonstrated a strong beginning to the season and maintained their Fighting Irish spirit.

"Varsity played well, we beat

Marina pretty easily, however, JV struggled. [I look forward to] just spending time with a lot of the returners, and watching them get better because they work really hard," Alvarez said.

Mind Over Matter

CAMRA HOPPER
Staff Reporter

Kennedy High School's swim team had their first meet of the season at Canyon High School on Friday, March 1, 2013. This was the only meet that will have had three different levels; boys and girls frosh/soph, boys and girls JV, and boys and girls Varsity. Usually, there are only two levels being JV and Varsity. The reason for this is because each school had a large amount of swimmers on their team.

Kennedy, being in the third division, went up against Canyon, who is in the first division this year. After two weeks of practice, Kennedy's swim team showed that there is still some work that needs to be done.

"We need to work on pretty much everything as a team, as swimmers. They need to have confidence in each other and in themselves. Pretty much just the whole mentality needs to change," JV Coach Ashley Arambula said.

The Kennedy swimmers need to take heart in what their coach is telling them, and practice to work

better as a team.

"It's hard because in the past we've always had a very strong swim team, with strong mentalities, but this year we're not as strong as we were. Now the lower people that didn't have to work as hard, have to step up," Arambula said.

Despite the loss, Kennedy swimmers continue to cherish their team bonds and choose to strive for the best illustrating how their mentalities will get even stronger over time.

"I think what made me join again this year was feeling healthy about doing a sport, but mostly the bond you create with your teammates and the feeling of unity in our school," junior JV swimmer Georgina Perez said.

Of course swim is not only about the mentality, but also about the physical aspect that is driven by the eternal thought of success. Swimmers must push their body to its full extent to beat the others, and the swimmers do not mind as long as they place.



CAMRA HOPPER/ The Shamrock
Varsity boys jumping off of the blocks to begin their 500 meter race.

"Swimming the 100 meter free-style was difficult at first, my muscles cramped up due to the sudden change of temperature, but luckily after 50 meters my body was use

to it and I was able to place fifth. I was proud of myself, I wasn't last," sophomore JV swimmer Ricardo Gonzalez said.

Kennedy's swim team still has

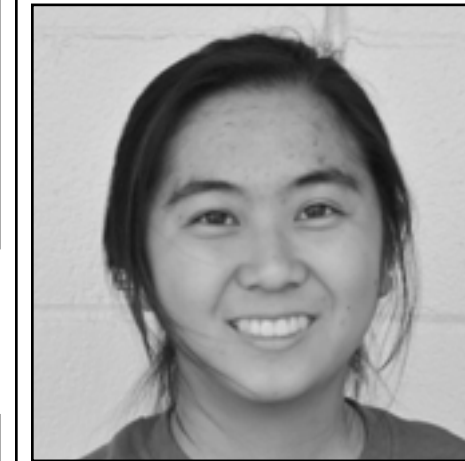
a lot to work on, but that will not stop them from trying. With today's loss their hearts are still strong and their minds will overcome the matter and push on to CIF.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH: FEBRUARY

CAMRA HOPPER
Staff Reporter



VICTORIA MANCINI/ The Shamrock
Senior Brian Bernales waits for the ball at the plate during practice while seniors Blake Covell and Luke Schultz wait for their turn.



VICTORIA MANCINI/ The Shamrock
Senior
Erica Sugimoto

Q: What sport are you being recognized for?
A: Basketball

Q: Who or what motivates you to do your best?
A: My team mates, I don't want to let them down, along with my family.

Q: How do you keep up with academics and sports?
A: It's really hard, but I do my best to plan ahead since games take a while, and so do practices. Hard work pays off.

Q: What's your favorite memory while playing basketball?
A: This year was winning empire league undefeated. This is a first for Kennedy girls, as well as the four seniors that have been on the team all four years.

Q: What are your plans for the future?
A: Well, not basketball, just college at some university. I'm not quite sure where I want to go yet.



DANIEL COOPER/ The Shamrock
Senior
Terrence Blum

Q: What sport are you being recognized for?
A: Basketball

Q: Who or what motivates you to do your best?
A: My parents, they're always telling me to work hard in everything I do.

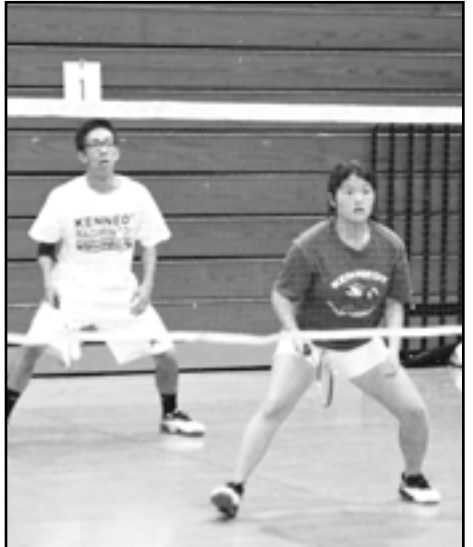
Q: How do you keep up with academics and sports?
A: I study when I can, but it's still very difficult sometimes.

Q: What's your favorite memory while playing basketball?
A: During pre-season when I was MVP for leading the team whenever I could and also when I was leading the score board.

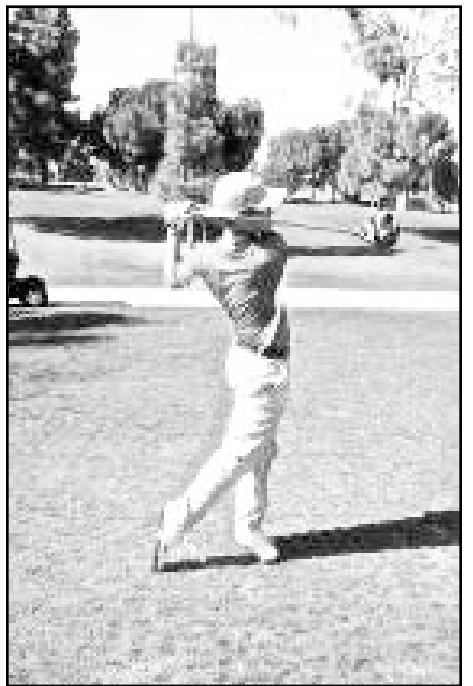
Q: What are your plans for the future?
A: College basketball. I already have lots of offers, but I'm still not sure where I want to go.



VICTORIA MANCINI/ The Shamrock
Senior Taylor Jerrick follows through on her swing to hit the ball.



VICTORIA MANCINI/ The Shamrock
Senior Robert Esparza and junior Joy Chi wait to return Cerritos' serve.



COURTESY OF PAVAN PATEL
Sophomore Christian Le follows through on his stroke.



DANIEL COOPER/ The Shamrock
Senior Steven Gutierrez practices jump serving the ball.



VICTORIA MANCINI/ The Shamrock
Senior Roy Kim goes to hit the ball back to his teammate during warm up.



DANIEL COOPER/ The Shamrock
Senior Chloe Kim does butterfly down the lane during practice.



VICTORIA MANCINI/ The Shamrock
Track and Field stretches before their long practice.

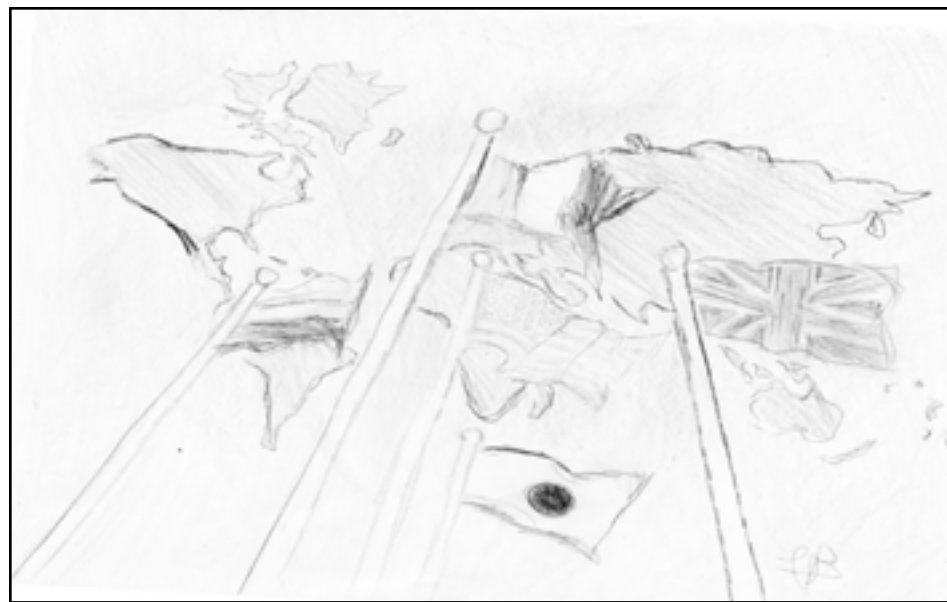


DANIEL COOPER/ The Shamrock
Sophomore Zach Minott swims free style during practice.

ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL WEEK IS ALMOST HERE

ADITI MAYER
Outside Reporter



LENY BIALA/ The Shamrock

From April 15-19, there will be a different cultural performance each day during lunch.

International Club and ASB have joined forces to present students with an opportunity to learn about different cultures -- International Week.

International Week is set to be the week of April 15-19, in which each day at lunch there will be a different cultural performance on the stage-- singing, dancing, and so much more.

On that Friday, there will be a fashion show at lunch that will showcase various cultures in a beautiful fashion show, and you will see everything from saris to kimonos, and anything in between.

That Friday night, ASB and International Club will come together to bring you an International Night. The school will be transformed--each classroom will represent a country in which you can visit, and will contain everything from food to crafts from that country.

This amazing event, however, can only be done with your participation. Anyone who is interested in showcasing their culture by performing and/or partaking in the fashion show must contact International Club at their email: jfkinternationalclub@gmail.com.

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A Knight of Chivalry

VICTORIA MANCINI
Staff Reporter

Monday, March 4, 2013, Kennedy seniors showed off their Irish pride by sporting their senior shirts at Medieval Times.

Every year, Kennedy seniors are represented by the Green Knight from the Eastern land of Leon. It was no different this year, when the seniors started to cheer in their green crowns and wave their green flags at dinner.

"Medieval Times was a great way to get the senior class to show some school spirit and to show some support for the senior class. Not only was the food great, but the environment, participation, and interaction between

the performers and the audience were memorable and exciting," senior Reeza Manrique said.

There were six schools from the Anaheim Union High School District, at Medieval Times, and each school chanted for their knight. You could hear the stadium rumble as "Sentinels, Black and White," "Cypress," "Red," and the infamous "Green Machine," rang out.

"It was so much fun! Go green machine," senior Tanya Garcia said.

The stadium was filled with seniors yelling and laughing. Many students were able to sit with their friends in rows while enjoying the food, tomato soup with a slice of bread, chicken, meat squares, and an apple passtry for dinner as they watched the show.

"That was probably the best



COURTNEY BANKHEAD/ The Shamrock

Kennedy seniors had a great time enjoying delicious food, spending time with friends, and watching an entertaining show.

event ever! I'm so happy that I could see everyone there. It was so fun and we even won. Our Green Knight was a beast," senior Olivia Gabehart said.

Some students were speechless at the end of the show and in awe that the Green Knight won. In the years past, the Green Knight has lost, so it was a shock when the Green Knight took down the Red Knight in the final duel.

"It was... awesome," senior Jordan Cain said.

This was the senior's seventh event this school year, and the seniors are excited to see what is coming up next. However, they are hoping for the year to slow down so that they are able to fully appreciate the events that are taking place.

"I really liked how it was a district wide event, I was able to

see some friends who I haven't been able to see in a long time," senior Caitlin Shields said.

Overall, the senior's night at Medieval Times was a successful fun-filled night as the seniors came together to enjoy their evening and supported their triumphant Knight.

ENTERTAINMENT 15

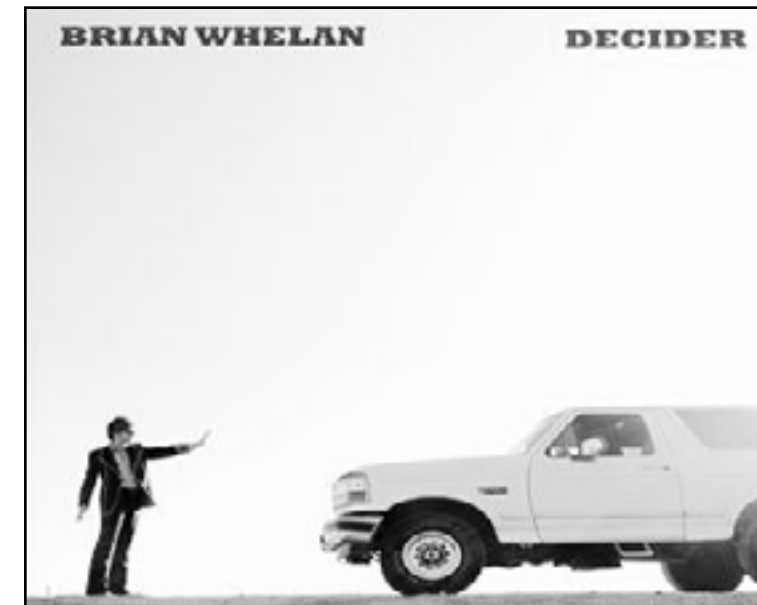
It's Delightful, It's De-Lovely, It's Decider.

MIKAYLA KHRAMOV
Features Editor

It's hard folk and rock and roll. It's that feeling you get when you are on the road, roll down the windows, and turn up the stereo. That free-spirit sensation--that's what you get when you put in Brian Whelan's Decider.

Whelan is currently touring in country star Dwight Yoakam's band, playing keyboard, rhythm guitar, accordion, and anything else Dwight hands him. With Dwight, he has performed on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno, "Jimmy Kimmel Live," and "Late Show with David Letterman." This multi-instrumentalist has performed with many other talented musical artists, but now, it's Whelan's turn to take the spotlight.

The album will win you over at the start with the title track. "Decider" packs a powerful punch. But it also takes you back to a neo-classic sound of Plimsouls meets Wilco, some



COURTESY OF BRIAN WHELAN

Whelan's easygoing voice in Decider will keep fans waiting for more.

Zeppelin, and a certain Nick Lowe influence.

One of the most refreshing songs is "Everything." It's a song of gratitude, appreciation, and confidence. Whelan sings,

"There's so much that I got, just some lucky breaks I caught." He transmits a humble yet powerful message about loving what you have with his light, easygoing voice.

"Everything" was written with my friend Ross Flournoy - he had that first verse and chorus and I wrote the rest. It's basically a positive message, because I do feel like I have a great life," Whelan said.

If you are thinking about that special someone, check out "Brand New Love Song." With female vocal accompaniment, it's got love, it's got heartbreak, it's got cool, "...And the only saving grace is that it rhymes." But if you have a taste for bass, turn up "Who's Fooling Who." It's almost unreal how silky the beat sounds. This combo of twang and crash will rattle your head sets.

"Who's Fooling Who" was definitely inspired by Yoakam, musically speaking. The lyric is just a plain old-fashioned breakup story," Whelan said.

For a real rock jolt, check out "Mojave High." It's a countrified Chuck Berry-style jam.

And before you can cool down, Whelan jumps into "Sharp Teeth," a highly energetic, but oh-so-clearly catchy tune. The acoustic guitar and tambourine add rootsy juice to this clever and quick-spiced percussion concoction. Every song, every melody is a breath of fresh air, but it is his voice that truly sets him apart from artists of today--a voice like smooth glass, like cool rain.

You can buy Brian Whelan's Decider on iTunes or order it on Amazon.com. You'll be glad you did. It will make an epic addition to your music collection.

Whelan was recently interviewed by Moheak Radio. You can also read more about him and Decider on Whenyou-awake.com, Buzzbands.com, and at his website, Brianwhel-anmusic.com.

A NIGHT OF LIVING BOREDOM

ALEXIS LUJAN
Copy Editor

On Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, the 85th annual Academy Awards ceremony was held in Hollywood, California at the Dolby Theater, honoring the performances and work of the industry's best actors and films.

Host Seth MacFarlane, creator of the popular animated sitcom Family Guy, had mixed reviews for his performance. Some believed him to be too vulgar and his act to be incredibly juvenile. However, he is the creator of "Family Guy," which is known for its crude and sometimes childish humor. It should have been expected for his jokes to be a bit on the dark comedy side. Still, he didn't give as great of a performance and it was a little on the dull side.

Everyone had their expectations for the winners on Sunday night. People knew that Anne Hathaway would win the award for Best Supporting Actress for her remarkable performance in Les Miserables, and Argo would win Best Picture for its amazing capture of the frightening event of the fake film crew infiltrating Iran to save a group of American hostages. Like Anne Hathaway and Argo, Daniel Day-Lewis also won for Best Actor as expected for his fantastic role as



MIRAL PATEL/ The Shamrock

The night should have been more focused on the big winners such as Daniel Day-Lewis, Ang Lee, Jennifer Lawrence, and Argo--not the skits.

President Lincoln in Lincoln.

But there were some surprises among the wins during the night. Many believed that Steven Spielberg's Lincoln would take home the award for Best Director and Robert De Niro would take home the award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance Silver Linings Playbook. However, Ang Lee, the director of Life of Pi, stole the award from

Spielberg; it was well-deserved though, considering the overall beauty between man and beast in Life of Pi. De Niro's award was stolen by Christoph Waltz for his lively performance in Django Unchained.

Despite these wins, there wasn't enough focus on the actual awards. The Oscars have gone from honoring people to making it into a fun circus. Even the

dedication segment of the show, where they honor those who died the year before who worked in show business, was cut short and missing a number of those who passed away, such as Andy Griffin, in order to make room for more skits.

Though there were some fun bits with the different award presenters, the night wasn't as great as it could have been. The night

seemed to have as much energy as Kristen Stewart had when she presented the award for Best Production Design. The skits were too long and lacking in energy, taking away the honors being given to the winners of the night.

The Oscars need to be more focused on the nominees and the winners, not the skits and the host.

ENTERTAINMENT 16

Warm Bodies, Not so Hot

COURTNEY BANKHEAD
Photo Editor

Wake up zombies, this film is not that great. “Warm Bodies,” released Feb. 1, 2013 with direction and screenplay by Jonathan Levine, did not live up to its expectation of a post-apocalyptic romantic comedy.

A complete spin-off of the classic Shakespeare “Romeo and Juliet,” the main character and zombie “R” (Nicholas Hoult) falls in love with “Julie” (Teresa Palmer) one day as the zombies go to the quarantined land of safe humans to feast. Instead of eating her brains, R saves her by taking her back to his zombieland. After a few days of keeping her on his side of town, Julie insists that she must go home, where her Father (General Grigio, played by John Malkovich) dictates the day-to-day life of the few remaining, sane citizens. Through this quest of getting to know the lively Julie, as well as Julie becoming accustomed to the ways of zombies, the star-crossed lovers from two completely different worlds, fall more and more in love with each

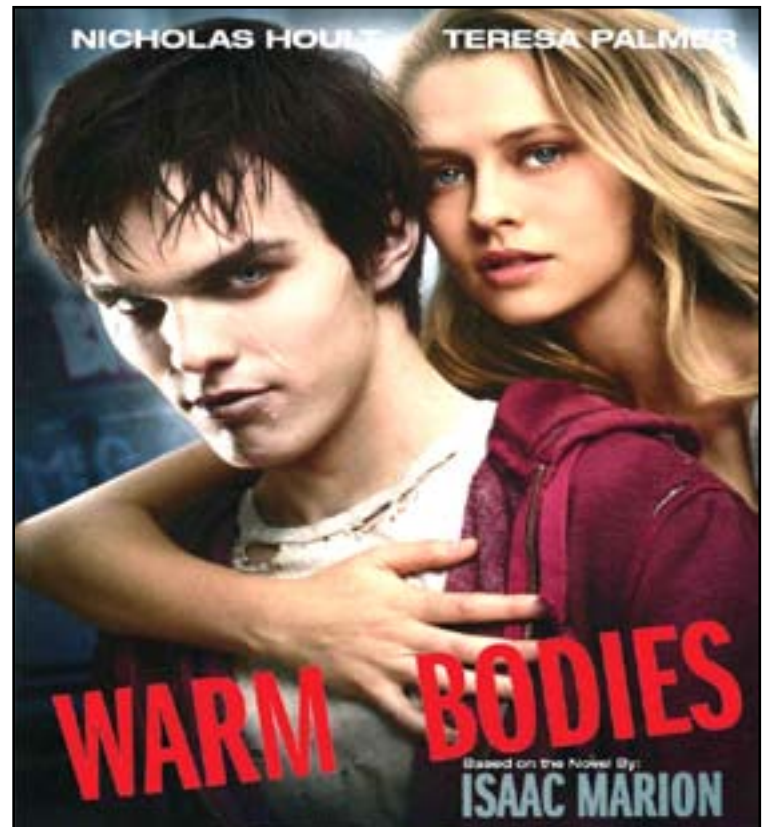
other in this dystopian film.

Nicholas Hoult (“R”) definitely took some time learning the ways of how to live, breathe, and eat like a zombie. With muffled groans as his way of communicating with Julie, he surely takes the gold as best interactive zombie, because his best friend “M” was exactly the opposite. “M,” played by Rob Corddry, is the bestfriend of “R” who helps return Julie back to her homeland. Corddry does an absolute horrid job of even attempting the voice or walk of a zombie. Talking completely like a human, and walking like one too, certainly ruined the entire approach of the other completely decrepit and inhumane zombies, which questions his acting, appealing definitely more to the other world of unaffected humans. Teresa Palmer (Julie) does an above-average job of starring in this film as the girl who turns away from her own world to understand the other destruction of the other, as well as the romantic notions of falling in

love with the zombie who ate her ex-boyfriends’ brains, accepting him as he is and for what he wants to be, alive again.

Although not living up to the acting expectations, the zombies and setting did look good. Make-up was key in this film, and the zombies looked distraught, destroyed, and abandoned, which did the movie just in that aspect. Despite it being obvious at some moments that the green screen was used to display a dystopian world, the two worlds were complete opposites, which was good. Viewing the zombie world as a post-apocalyptic airport in which the zombies dwelled, everything was out of order, broken, dull, and desolate. However, the world in which Julie lived in with the other quarantined humans was completely surrounded by military, with living structures reflecting that of a big shelter.

Overall, the movie deserves an A for effort, although not living up to the expectation of a dystopian, romantic comedy that many



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

“R” clenches on tight to the sense of humanity that “Julie” captures him with, thawing his cold heart into something more alive.

thought would accomplish. Ripping off Shakespeare’s epic love story and watering it down with zombies did not do the movie

justice. Wait until this movie hits the dollar theater, because it’s not worth \$10.

RUN OR DYE

SARA TAKETA
Staff Reporter

Athletes all around the world enjoy participating in races to raise money for organizations, hospitals, or sometimes just to have fun. But then there is Run or Dye, “the world’s most colorful 5k,” according to www.active.com.

Run or Dye took place on South Figueroa Street by the Los Angeles Coliseum, on Saturday, March 9 from 9 a.m. to approximately 12 p.m. However, volunteers in official “Run or Dye Crew” t-shirts were there from 7 a.m., to help with check-in, until 1 p.m., to help with cleaning up. In addition, many people over 18 volunteered to be Color Captains, and arrived at 6:15 a.m. in order to receive instruction and training for their role of supervising the volunteers in the Color Courses. The marathon is a part of an enormous color festival and is located in the “Dye Zone” at Exposition Park. Kennedy High School’s National Honor Society (NHS) offered the event as a volunteer opportunity for members.

“I helped run the check-in table by distributing the participants’ t-shirts and goodie bags. It took an extremely long time and was very disorganized. There was an assembly line of volunteers that



SARA TAKETA/ The Shamrock

The very first Color Course runners encountered was orange, and they laughed with enthusiasm as volunteers pelted them with dye.

were supposed to be putting together goodie bags, but instead, they were messing around, not completing their job, and then minutes later, there would be a mob of participants and no bags ready to hand out. Since I was the one passing out everything, the participants took their anger out on me for not getting what they were promised. The entire check-in process and distribution of supplies was chaotic; there were over 8,000 people and the staff of the

event were not prepared for such a large number, so there was no efficiency in anything they did. I love volunteering, but it is awful when you get punished for poor planning on the event’s staff’s behalf when all you want to do is help,” senior NHS member Courtney Hansen said.

At 9 a.m. sharp, the starting gun sounded and the first group of runners sprinted through an enormous cloud of orange. All throughout the race, there were

different color courses set up, which were multiple areas of different lengths in which volunteers threw colored dye at the participants. Together, all of the Color Courses added up to 5 kilometers. The dye never stopped coming, and runners wore their colors proudly as they laughed with excitement and joy. When the race finished, the Color Festival started, in which participants took pictures, danced, ate, and had fun while a DJ blasted music.

“Unlike other races, Run or Dye does not record the fastest time or the youngest age to cross the finish line. From toddlers to grandparents and everyone in between, it is an event that is solely about promoting fun and fitness. Run or Dye is headed all over the country, but this is the first year that we’ve taken the Color Festival outside of Utah. It’s a lot of fun whether you are a participant or a volunteer. Everyone is happy; it doesn’t matter who you are because everyone is the same, covered in color,” Run or Dye volunteer coordinator Melanie Hansen said.

NHS officers and members attended the event in the hopes of earning service hours while having fun. Run or Dye will also take

place in other parts of the nation, so that other runners and volunteers can get the chance to be a part of such a unique event.

“Run or Dye was probably my favorite volunteer event that I’ve attended all year. NHS members had a blast squirting and throwing various dyes at the runners. They and other volunteers were laughing and having a good time, and were coated in color from head to toe by the end of the race. Events like this one definitely take the ease off of school pressures and put a smile on my face, and I plan on volunteering for Run or Dye again, when it comes to Orange County this November,” NHS junior representative Lauren Spor said.

Run or Dye was a great way to get involved with neighboring communities while spending time with friends and meeting new people. National Honor Society was one of many other volunteering organizations that decided to put themselves out there in order to have a good time while helping Run or Dye coordinators manage the creative event.