



OLIVE DOOLEY



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ETHAN HUDSON



MEGAN BALDWIN



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THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

# Olympian

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## “Devious Licks” trend strikes CVHS

By Corinne Davidson

Vandals have caused thousands of dollars of damage to CVHS bathrooms, forcing school officials to close several of them and restrict access to the others.

Principal Blaine Torpey sent an email to students and parents on Thursday, Sept. 16 about the harmful TikTok trend: “devious licks.”

In September, the “devious

“  
It is really  
unfair to our  
custodial staff.”

Parvin Ahmadi  
Superintendent

licks” trend on TikTok has taken the internet by storm and CVHS students have begun to participate. The trend consists of people stealing things from their schools and generally vandalizing.

CVHS students have been stealing hand sanitizers, toilet paper, soap dispensers, and various other bathroom items.

The school is trying to end the



ETHAN HUDSON

Principal Blaine Torpey guards a 900 hall bathroom.

theft and vandalism but many students are upset by the new bathroom rules and the actions of their peers.

“I am pretty disappointed in the actions. And it is very frustrating to have to wait in a line to get into the bathroom in the first place, and also with the bathrooms not having soap, we are not able to wash our hands which is spreading even more germs, while in this pandemic,” said sophomore Diego Perez.

“I feel terrible about the bathrooms being closed. I want to be able to use the bathroom in peace and wash my hands,

but there is no soap... I feel violated,” said junior Tharen Hilliard.

The lack of materials in the bathrooms annoys the student body. Students want to feel safe and provided for in the bathrooms and the thefts deny them of these necessities.

Some of the bathroom rules include limited capacity inside bathrooms at a time, no backpacks inside, and stricter rules about going during class: one at a time, sign in and out. As a result, teachers have been asked to change their classroom bathroom policies.



ALANI MALIGAYA

Junior Anthony Solis struggles to open a locked bathroom.

“It is really unfair to our custodial staff. We should respect the people there to support us. Everybody is impacted,” said Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi. “The money spent fixing the bathrooms is money we now can’t use to support other programs.”

Teachers reduced in-class bathroom visits in response.

“I have been asked by Mr. Torpey to limit the number of people I let out during class time,” said English teacher Gautam Premnath.

Along with these stricter rules, many of the bathrooms around

CVHS are closed or shielded by a security guard. As more and more bathrooms close, the longer the line grows for the ones that are open. Currently, these rules mostly apply to the boys bathrooms, while the girls bathrooms remain unchanged.

“We have such wonderful students at CVHS, and there are many role models that can remind everyone that we are better than that. We don’t need to jump on the bandwagon when a challenge comes up... In the end, we must remember that it is very few students doing this,” said Ahmadi.

## COVID rules limit school infections

By Ada Chen

Ten students and three staff members at CVHS have tested positive for Covid-19 since school has started. To minimize the increasing cases of the highly spreadable Delta variant, CVHS has implemented many new safety precautions.

State officials require all teachers and school staff in California to receive weekly Covid testing or receive the vaccination, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Aug. 11.

“CVUSD actually adopted this policy ahead of the governor’s mandate and we are glad to see this happening statewide,” said Mark Mladinich, CVHS teacher and teachers union president.

Although there is no longer a

daily health screener required, it is important that students self-check if they have fever (100.0F or higher), cough, sore throat, loss of smell/taste and others. If people show these symptoms, school officials require them to stay home.

Additionally, CVHS requires masking indoors and highly recommends masking outdoors. Social distancing is not as strictly in place as before, but now there are one directional hallways to minimize large crowds or groups. The map of foot traffic and more can be found on the CVHS website.

“If everyone keeps their mask on then I think we should all be fine. I wasn’t really worried about it,” said freshman Hailey Do.

School officials require that lunch

remains outdoors with more spacing around the campus to maximize space between students. Every classroom contains hand sanitizer and wipes for students to wipe their desks if wanted. Cleaning and sanitizing takes place every night. CVHS provides free testing for students and families by appointment and walk-ins at the Center for the Arts.

If people do test positive, they are asked to isolate themselves from contact with students and staff. All CVHS staff are notified when there is potential exposure. People who were in close contact with the person who tested positive must verify if they are vaccinated and get tested. If necessary the student/staff will be quarantined accordingly.



ADA CHEN

To prevent COVID-19 outbreaks, CVHS requires masks, vaccinations, and testing.



Elias and Emon Saleh oppose the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

CORINNE DAVIDSON

## Afghanistan turmoil concerns Castro Valley students

By Corinne Davidson

The U.S. withdrew troops from Afghanistan on Aug 30, resulting in the quick overtaking of the country by the Taliban. Afghanistan has since been engulfed by chaos and people are fighting for their lives in attempt to escape. People worldwide are watching history happen, and many are affected by these events either directly or indirectly through loved ones.

The events taking place in Afghanistan have had widespread effects that have arisen even as far away as Castro Valley.

"The effects hit me even more because my mom left for Afghanistan about three months ago to go visit family, then about a month ago tensions started rising with the Taliban and she wasn't able to leave," said junior Adeeb Rashid.

The Taliban is a militant group which poses a threat to the rights of Afghans. They

often target protesters and journalists through detainment and brutal beatings. The Taliban also punishes those who partake in behavior that they see as "un-Islamic" and force people to participate in wearing Islamic attire and having gendered classrooms. In short, the Taliban is a threat because of their threatening actions and beliefs, and because they support terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda.

"Since the U.S. left, Taliban controlled Afghanistan so fast in a matter of weeks... the only way to solve the problem is if other countries help; the U.S. staying could've helped a lot," said junior Emon Saleh. Because the U.S. left Afghanistan, the Taliban had no trouble swiftly taking over the country.

"The Taliban claims that they want to better the country and help its people, but since it is so corrupt things often don't go that way," Saleh said.

"[The Taliban] is just gonna say things that people want to hear, like, 'Oh, we're going to

help the country, we're going to do this, we're going to make it better,' but honestly they really haven't," said Saleh.

Thousands of people are trying to leave the country and are risking their lives to do so. Many have been severely injured or even killed in their attempts to escape. Same have successfully escaped, like Saleh's family which fled to Turkey and Dubai.

"It makes me really sad because why do civilians have to suffer so much when they haven't done anything? You can't really go outside that much, and if you do you have to be really cautious," said Saleh.

"The only way to feel about what's happening out there is sad," said Rashid.

"All the pictures and videos coming out of Afghanistan of people trying to flee and clinging onto airplanes for a chance to get out was depressing to watch. It felt like the U.S. left Afghanistan without realizing what it meant for the Afghan people," Rashid said.

## Free lunch offered to all California students

By Ethan To

California and CVUSD have begun to provide free school meals for all students this year. Many consider this an impactful move to end food insecurity within the school system and to provide equality for all regardless of financial income. California has been the first state in the nation to make free meals available for all students.

"It is a great initiative to have free meals provided for all students. Many families struggle to put food on the table and children should not have to carry the burden of wondering where their next meal is coming from," said director of child nutrition Sarah Kimiecik.

Due to the rise in the

pandemic this past year, the economic fallout caused child hunger to excel. In the 2019 to 2020 school year, 60 percent of California's students qualified for a free or reduced lunch. However, with the universal lunch program, students no longer need to meet any requirements to receive free lunch.

California has made history mandating free lunches to all students by helping them strive towards growing up healthy. Not only does it get rid of school lunch debt, it also provides relief for many parents who were worried about their children not being able to eat.

"Leftover food is disposed of due to food safety standards. I work really hard on my meal counts so we don't have a lot of waste. For example, if we sell out

of burritos and not lasagna, the next week I will up my burrito count and lower my lasagna count," said CVHS cafeteria manager Raquel Gonzalez.

Currently, the federal government pays for all the school meals. By next school year, the state government will reimburse schools for them.

During the 2022-2023 school year, California will invest \$650 million for universal free school nutrition. An extra \$150 million will be used to improve kitchen infrastructure and nutritional training.

"I have never been unable to pay for school lunch, but I have seen some people not be able to buy lunch because their account wasn't working which was sad," said sophomore Vivian Yang. "That's another reason why free school lunch is good."

## New Texas abortion law stirs outrage

By Delenn Block

Texas now passed the strictest abortion ban in the country only allowing the procedure before the six week mark. This is before most women even know they're pregnant.

"The law prevents women from receiving safe abortions and it will just create more unsafe abortions instead of stopping them," senior Katherine Le stated.

Texas also allows private citizens to sue anyone who has had an abortion or helped women get one; they can gain \$10,000. This ban includes no exceptions for cases of rape or incest, but has exceptions for medical emergencies though those are not defined in the law.

"Our creator endowed us with the right to life and yet millions of children lose their right to life every year because of abortion. In Texas, we work to save those lives. And that's exactly what the Texas Legislature did this session," said Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

Texas has no required sex education in school and also has one of the highest rates of teen birth in the nation, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Many women believe that

banning abortions will not stop the practice only make it less accessible and more dangerous and thus will lead to more abortion related deaths.

"I disagree with the law because it's targeting women's reproductive rights and if they limit that they should limit men's too," biology teacher Emily Ledford stated.

Though this bill targets women's reproductive rights, it was a majority of men who decided on passing the law. Abbott made many comments on the bill that some believe show his lack of knowledge of the female reproductive system.

When asked about how the law forces women who become pregnant from rape to give birth, Abbott said "It doesn't require that at all, because obviously it provides at least six weeks for a person to be able to get an abortion."

This six-week countdown, though, begins from the day of the last period not the expected period that would be missed, making it reality that at most a woman may only have a week or two to get an abortion once learning that she's pregnant.

"I don't think that men should be making decisions about what women do with their bodies," senior Lajla Didic stated.

## Newsom defeats recall effort

By Felix Shum

Californians overwhelmingly voted no on the recall against Gov. Gavin Newsom, with 64 percent against the recall and 36 percent for it. The voting period ended on Sept. 14, but mail-in ballots are still arriving for the count.

Newsom celebrated the results, a victory for the Democrats, with a speech on election night.

"We're so much more in common as a state and nation than we give ourselves credit for," said Newsom.

Republican candidate Larry Elder, Newsom's most popular challenger, admitted defeat and acknowledged the failed recall attempt. Elder led the polls with a 47 percent vote as the candidate to replace Newsom if most Californians voted "yes" on the recall.

One tactic that backfired against Elder's campaign was the premature assumption of voter fraud in the recall elec-

tion; specifically, his campaign asserting the claim before any votes were counted.

Democrats are already preparing to support Newsom's reelection campaign in 2022. Although Elder conceded, he has hinted at another campaign.

"We recognize that we lost the battle, but we are certainly going to win the war," said Elder after losing the election. "We're forcing them now to pay attention to the things they should have paid attention to two years ago."

The results of the election have led some to believe it should not have happened in the first place. California tends to remain a liberal state which usually elects Democrats to state offices.

In a poll, CVHS students voted to support Newsom by a similar margin, with 62.8 percent opposing the recall.

"I think it was a waste of time. The conclusion was forgone so it was a shame to go through the process," said CVHS teacher Jason Marlis.



## ‘Shang-Chi’ balances thrilling action, emotional themes



By Jessica Truong

“Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings,” starring Simu Liu, became the first Asian-led movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. During its record breaking Labor Day weekend release, I went to watch it and found myself immersed in a story full of descriptive storytelling, loveable characters, and beautiful culture.

Many of the scenes in the movie were spoken in entirely Mandarin Chinese which accurately depicts what would be going on: characters talking to each other in their own language. Instead of scripting the entire movie in English, these scenes created a sense of authenticity in the work as a whole.

Some may not know actress



ATHENA SY KUZUHARA

and actor Fala Chen and Tony Leung who play as Shang-Chi’s parents, but they are iconic to fans of Hong Kong dramas. Before seeing the movie, I showed the cast to my mom and she was excited to see people she recognized. I believe that it was a great decision to cast them in the movie, because Asian Americans who have grown up watching Hong Kong dramas as one of the only sources of

Asian entertainment can now see their childhood represented in American theaters.

One of my favorite aspects of the movie was the intense martial arts sequences. The movie was able to capture the precision and beauty of the art very well. “Shang-Chi” deals with many hard hitting themes: the importance of family, the heartache of losing a loved one, and the struggle to aim

for a purpose in life. I thought that this movie was able to balance the thrilling action sequences with emotional depth wonderfully.

“Shang-Chi” is another step in the right direction for Asians in movies. The way Asians have been portrayed in media such as movies and comics have often been offensive. The relationship between Asian Americans and Hollywood is tense and many

have lost trust in Hollywood.

The list of transgressions goes on and on: lack of representation, inaccurate representation, yellowface, and portrayal of stereotypes, Emma Stone being cast as a character of Hawaiian and Chinese heritage in “Aloha,” and Scarlett Johansson in “Ghost in the Shell.” Many times, Asian Americans have been let down by their representation in the media. In the comics, Fu Manchu, Shang-Chi’s father, is illustrated heavily with offensive and caricatured features. In comparison, the movie aims to destroy all these images and tear down the stereotypes that plague Asians in Hollywood.

This movie has the ability to change the Hollywood perspective on Asians while also affirming to Asian Americans that they are more than what has been shown. “Shang-Chi” gives me hope that there will continue to be not only successful, but also accurate films in the future starring Asians.

## ‘Cruella’ charms audiences



By Drew Paxman

There is a scene midway through “Cruella” where the title character is having, of all things, a “fashion-concert” where she and several others in her gang are wearing dalmatian-spotted coats. The colors are so vibrant and the music so loud, the cacophony can be heard and seen far away where The Baroness, Cruella’s former boss, views everything. With very little expression on her face, all The Baroness can murmur is, “She killed my dogs.”

This scene is the epitome of “Cruella.” Such a euphoric and loud experience, it’s hard to believe that the banner “Disney” lays above the film’s title.

I would not consider myself a fan of these live-action remakes that Disney has been producing. I wouldn’t call any of these films poorly-made, per se, but they lack a passion and a drive that made the original iterations of those films so unique and beautiful. A “Lion King” with photorealistic imagery and little emotion on characters’ faces will never match the stunning drawings of landscapes and memorable characters that Disney mastered in 1994. They come across as mere cash grabs for Disney, not as the passion



projects that the original films were.

However, “Cruella” isn’t like this. The movie comes across more like a Disneyland rollercoaster that twists your stomach upside down and into knots, than a traditional, safe Disney movie.

Over-the-top performances define “Cruella.” Emma Stone’s charisma and comedic chops make her incredibly memorable as the title villain, but it is her drama that glues the film together. And Emma Thompson perfectly executes The Baroness’ arrogance and struts of power.

Direction by Craig Gillespie enhances the material and its performances. “Cruella” has a very distinct style, reminiscent of both comedies and darker psychological thrillers. The mixture of two distinct styles of film, which usually don’t go together, bodes well for a story like “Cruella” that pairs comedy and drama.

Despite the film’s execution, “Cruella” is far from perfect. The script is all over the place,

often featuring logic-defying scenarios, seen best in the film’s beginning and ending. Without spoiling much, some moments in the film are absolutely absurd from a plot perspective, particularly much of the opening 15 minutes.

However, the darker, less boldly written moments in “Cruella” don’t always pair well with this. A quiet, melancholy scene where Cruella and one of her henchmen, Jasper, is juxtaposed by the film’s grand ending. This isn’t necessarily a bad thing, as the over-the-top performances and direction pair well with the loud moments, but they don’t pair well with the quiet moments of the film, making the story feel inconsistent.

Overall, “Cruella” has the passion and spirit that needs to be more present in modern Disney films, combined with great acting and refined direction. It is not perfect, but “Cruella” is full of spirit, just like the main character and the company that created her.



## ‘Loki’ show wows Marvel fans



By Leland Tsai

In a battle for control of the sacred timeline, one trying to destroy it and one trying to preserve it, two Lokis fight hand to hand in what could be one of the biggest turns of events in the TVA.

Before reaching the threshold, female Loki, a.k.a. Sylvie, thought that the TVA was corrupt and wanted to end them for the harm and trauma they have caused her. Male Loki’s intentions on the other hand, the God of Mischief, were unclear, but we could assume that he wanted control of the TVA based on his past.

“Well, you never trusted me, did you? What was the point? Can’t you see? This is bigger than our experience,” Loki stated.

Although the first season of “Loki” was only six episodes, it received great reviews and high

praises, regarded as the best MCU series by many critics. A second season of Loki is currently in the works.

As Loki enters a new world, the possible outcomes or events that could occur in the new season are endless. We have no idea what has happened to Loki or Sylvie, and their fates remain unknown. The worst must be assumed, but many have speculated a great return of Loki. However, we must wait until the new season comes out to find the real truth behind all of the drama.

I personally enjoyed the show a lot because of the suspense. The Lokis encountered many difficulties during their journey torid of the Time Keeper, keeping us viewers on edge the whole time.

I thoroughly enjoyed all of the plot and the scenes gave off a sense of pressure and intensity. Through some of the intense moments, my heart started to beat a little faster and I was a little nervous for the outcome. I was sucked into the show and I can’t wait for the next season!

# ‘He’s all that’ is not all that



By Alani Maligaya

Netflix’s new movie “He’s All That,” is a gender-flipped remake of the late-90s iconic movie “She’s All That.” Similar to the original, this movie portrays what the typical high schooler’s life revolves around—drama and prom.

After popular influencer, Padgett Sawyer, was humiliated online, she became desperate to fix her reputation and social media platform. Her solution was to transform somebody “unpopular” into somebody fit to be prom king. This turned into a bet with Sawyer’s friends, in which they got to choose the potential boy. Sawyer had until prom night to give antisocial Cameron Kweiler a full makeover.

For starters, the casting was not great. Of all the actors that could have played the main role, directors chose someone with little-to-no experience in acting. Addison Rae may be a superstar on TikTok, but in the world of acting, she isn’t someone I would give that title to. Some parts in the movie were

supposed to be emotional but were not fully executed because of her lack of acting skills. I just can’t take her seriously, knowing she makes 60-second dancing videos in real life.

There was no chemistry between the main characters. In one particular scene, they started to laugh really hard as they tumbled over each other. The laughs seemed so fake and so forced. I’m assuming the directors wanted the audience to find that cute, but personally, I cringed. It was expected for Sawyer and Kweiler to end up together, so I think it would have been less boring if it happened slowly. For instance, they could have even hated each other at first.

I found myself more invested in the relationship of Quinn and Nisha, the best friends of the main characters. It’s always great seeing a movie include a lesbian couple, especially when they’re far more interesting than the rest of the characters. Their bond seemed more genuine and made me say “aw” a lot in my head.

Overall, I think this movie is good enough to be watched once. It doesn’t come close to being better than the original though, which is always the case for movies.

# Game away with ‘Guilty Gear Strive’



By Ethan Hudson

“Guilty Gear Strive” is the newest entry in the longstanding fighting game franchise. Arc System Works has released its most polished product yet. Taking what they learned from “Dragon Ball Fighter Z” and “Guilty Gear Xrd,” Arc has honed the skill of 3d animation past any other developer. Strive effortlessly imitates the look and feel of the limited animation of anime while still using 3d models. The character models and backgrounds are gorgeous and a genuine leap forward for how video game characters can be designed.

The developers at Arc System Works are seasoned creators of fighting games. The “Guilty Gear” series has existed since 1998 and they’ve made a number of other unrelated fighting games like the “BlazBlue” series with their own sets of unique characters.

As developers focused on almost entirely the mechanics of fighting games, you can expect their most polished product yet with “Guilty Gear



Strive.” The series is difficult for most people to pick up with its reputation for overly complex gameplay that’s not worth the effort it would take to play.

But no more. Having a low-skill floor and high-skill ceiling allows for both casual and competitive play. The game has many deep and complex mechanics that make high-level play so amazing. At the same time, the easy-to-pick-up characters with unique fighting styles make this one of the most promising games of 2021, and with more content being added the value of this product can only go up.

The completely over-the-top nature of this game is one of its biggest selling points. Boasting likable characters with some of the most imaginative designs I’ve seen in a video game, such

as a sci-fi katana wielding vampire, or a teenage pirate captain who fights alongside ocean creatures. The story can be hard to comprehend going in as this is the seventh game in the series but the charismatic characters are able to carry you all the way through the narrative.

Of the fighting games I’ve played, “Guilty Gear Strive” has easily the best and most painless netcode. It’s easy to find a match against someone on your level. Fighting games are notorious for poor connection online but Arc has put in the work to make it much more accessible than any other fighting game. If you want to support a game and studio that makes games with passion, then “Guilty Gear Strive” and Arc System Works are worth the support.

# Take a mind trip with ‘Solar Power’



By Maya Wong

Lorde’s latest album “Solar Power” is a psychedelic journey through her mind. Her masterful use of harmonies and lyricism make it one of the best and most sonically-cohesive albums of 2021. “Solar Power” is an ode to nature and life. Some of the songs are nostalgic, whereas others look towards the future: one doomed by our ever-worsening climate crisis.

The album’s highlight track, “Fallen Fruit,” perfectly captures the solemn, yet chaotic sentiments of global warming. Whimsical instrumentals backed by a strumming guitar create an aura of earthiness with mystique. Lorde alludes our dying planet to the Garden of Eden, painting a picture of a heaven-like place that in reality is a facade. She tells of how past generations have abused our resources, leaving the people of today to clean up their messes.

“Through the halls of splendor where the apple trees all grew / You’ll leave us dancing on the fallen fruit,” sings Lorde.

“Stoned at the Nail Salon” is



a slow ballad full of nostalgia. Lorde reflects on her youth, exuding solipsism: acting as if only her mind exists as the world revolves around her. She describes growing older and assimilating into society, yet feeling a sort of dissociation from her body as she drifts through life.

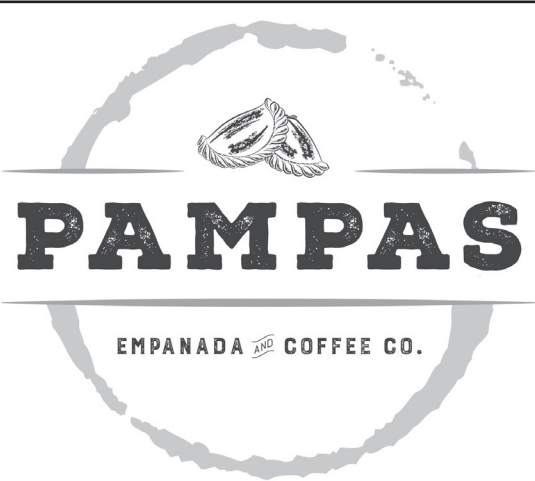
“I love this life that I have... But I wonder sometimes what I’m missing,” ponders Lorde.

The playful “Mood Ring” takes a satirical stab at the wellness culture that currently pervades the wealthy. Lorde assumes the persona of a rich girl who has been brainwashed by Pinterest and Twitter threads, participating in holistic activities like burning incense and rubbing crystals to create a mask of perfection. She compares a mood ring to her true

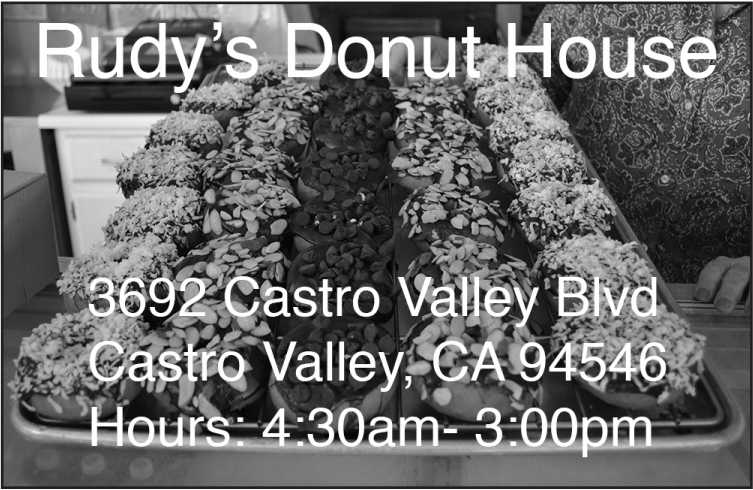
feelings: the mood ring determines how she feels, and she believes it.

Producer Jack Antonoff did a stellar job of giving all of the album’s songs a similar vibe, despite using various instruments and methods. He integrated recordings of cicadas and ocean waves into his instrumentals, furthering the element of nature on “Solar Power.”

Lorde’s third album impresses just as much as her previous two. Her gentle falsetto is starkly different from her usual deep timbre, but this change in vocal style does not take away from “Solar Power’s” greatness. The music is a calming trip to an alternate utopian universe, where youth and climate stability are restored. Give this album a listen: it will be worth your while.



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# ‘Amazing Grace’ conquers Half Dome

By Megan Baldwin

CVHS junior Grace Fesmire conquered Yosemite’s Half Dome on July 21. After training for the past year, Fesmire and her family spent 16 hours hiking and climbing, making it to the top and back down again.

“I think my favorite part was getting to the top. It was like ‘wow, I actually did this.’ It was really windy up there and I thought I would blow over, but it was an accomplishment,” said Fesmire.

Fesmire completed the climb with her mom, aunt, and grandpa. They trained for a year, doing different exercises to build stamina for the hike. Before climbing Half Dome, Fesmire had completed smaller hikes to prepare. In addition to completing different trailheads every week to get ready, she had also climbed Mission Peak in Fremont.

Half Dome is located in Yosemite National Park, and has a height of 8,839 feet. The total round trip hike is 16.3 miles, and climbs more than 4,000 feet. With Half Dome being such a well-known part of Yosemite, there are many people who hope that they’ll be able to climb it.

Fesmire’s family had the



**Grace Fesmire enjoys her victory atop Yosemite National Park’s Half Dome.**

idea to climb Half Dome about a year ago, and they entered the lottery to be able to climb it. They were surprised that they were picked so quickly, and were excited to have the opportunity.

On July 21, Fesmire and her family left their RV at 4 a.m., and walked to the trailhead, where they began their climb.

The scariest part of the hike for Fesmire was the cables

which help climbers ascend the last and steepest part of the climb. “It’s the last part, and a lot of people stop before then and say, ‘okay this is enough and go back.’”

The day that they completed the hike, there were a lot of people there, which made the cables even scarier for Fesmire. She described the wood slats that were in place on that part of the climb, and how the climbers

would have to wait for each other before continuing.

There are climbers going up and down at the same time during that part of the hike, so Fesmire would have to move up to another wood slat, and then wait a few minutes so someone else would be able to get down. “For me, that was the scariest because when you’re waiting, you’re basically on your tippy toes on this wood slat and

relying on it, and just because you’re so high up and want to get to the top,” said Fesmire.

Fesmire stayed motivated during the climb because she wanted to be able to say that she had climbed Half Dome. After working hard for the past year to get ready for the climb, Fesmire and her family couldn’t give up, and they pushed through the climb to be able to finish it.

# Trojans on America’s Got Talent

By Leah Janaway

Grace and Jaden Otani, two CVHS students, performed on “America’s Got Talent” (AGT) with their team Chapkidz Dance. They made it to the second round of semifinals, which aired on Sept. 7.

“Watching back the videos of our performances, I am so proud of myself and my teammates,” said Grace, a junior. “Dancing at the Dolby Theater on AGT was like a dream. All of our hard work and practicing day and night really paid off.”

The group’s fiery Spanish-themed acts consisted of hip-hop choreography set to high-energy music. They received approval from all of the AGT judges, including Simon Cowell, who praised them highly for their initial audition and for all of their performances since. Their



**Jaden and Grace Otani celebrate their television appearance.**

audition broadcasted on Aug. 24 now has over 997,000 views on YouTube.

“The best part of the show was getting a standing ovation from all four judges and hearing all of their positive feedback,” recalled Grace.

Experiencing the behind-

“Being a male dancer isn’t always the easiest. Some people don’t consider it a real sport.”

Jaden Otani  
Freshman

the-scenes of AGT was fascinating for Jaden, a freshman. “Hours of filming goes into a five-minute segment,” he said. “It was fun to film at different locations and dance on cool sets.”

In order to prepare for their performances, Grace

and Jaden had to put in hours upon hours of work every week, and sometimes they weren’t entirely supported by the people around them.

“Being a male dancer isn’t always the easiest,” said Jaden. “Some people don’t consider it a real sport.”

The 35 performers’ ages range from 12 to 18, and they are aptly named Chapkidz after their dance studio, Chapkis, located in Fairfield. The studio was created by world-renowned dancer and choreographer Greg Chapkis when he decided to direct some of his talent into creating his own dance stars.

“Dancing with the Chapkis Dance family has been a huge honor,” Grace said. “I have made friendships that will last a lifetime.”



## CVHS sports “almost” back to normal



OLIVE DOOLEY

Senior quarterback Lucas Chauvin runs the football against Granada High School.

### CVHS teams and athletes adapting to COVID guidelines

By Ali Nosseir

Those who participated in CVHS athletics last year know that the season was shortened; North Coast Section (NCS) playoffs didn't occur, Covid-19 regulations and frequent tests were required to play, and strict rules surrounding spectators were regularly enforced. Many student-athletes and parents may wonder how sports will function and what to expect upon participating in this Covid stricken, yet post-quarantine, environment.

“As of right now, we are using the same Covid protocols as last year,” said Athletic Director Christopher Fortenberry. This entails weekly Covid tests for every athlete and masks are required unless otherwise stated.

The safety and welfare of those attending and participating in school athletics is the number

one priority for CVHS staff.

Despite these regulations that were carried on from last year, athletes should expect a few positive differences this year.

“The plan is to have a normal, full season,” said Fortenberry when inquired about whether athletes should expect full seasons or not.

Contrary to last year, the rule surrounding spectators has drastically changed. “There

This rule also applies to indoor sports.

Furthermore, the most significant tournament surrounding Bay Area school sports is taking place this year, after missing out last year.

“I'm really excited that NCS is coming back this year because it serves as a motivating factor for all sports teams. It also provides more games in the season where players can improve and experience even higher levels of competition,” said CVHS soccer star Michael Karapetyan.

Regardless of all the Covid restrictions enacted to protect all athletes and spectators, school sports this 2021-2022 school year will be reminiscent of sports pre-quarantine.

For many students, sports act as the epitome of the high school experience. The social aspect and the ability to demonstrate your athletic ability is extremely appealing to most athletes.

“I'm excited to see all my haters stunned by the new and improved me this year,” said track athlete Nico Guevara-Longree.

“The plan is to have a normal, full season.”

Christopher Fortenberry

*Athletics Director*

will be no Covid related limit on spectators for outdoor facilities. However, at times, capacity may be reduced to allow for safety measures,” the school announced on Aug. 20.

## Trojan sweep the Jets in tennis

By Ethan To

The girls tennis team swept the Jets, Encinal High School, in an intense match on Sept. 21. Although the weather was hot and reached a scorching temperature of up to 80 degrees, the ladies persevered, winning with a score of 7-0.

The Trojans played four singles matches and three doubles matches. The singles players consisted of Marissa Chan, Justine Fong, Nicole Dong and Ngoc Nguyen. The doubles matches included Chelsey Lu, Aneet Mangat, Emily Lee, Faith George, Tasha Schauer and Christina Fielder.

Singles player Chan won both of her sets, putting in analytical tactics into her victory.

“I noticed my opponent struggled with short balls and slices so I tried to play to that. During warm up, I tried to test her forehand and backhand to see which was weaker. Making sure to stay hydrated was also important,” said Chan.

Doubles players Lu and Mangat also won both of their sets against their opponents.

“My partner and I communicated a lot and I focused on aiming my shots in different places each time to practice. I felt pretty good after winning today's match but there's always things to improve



ETHAN TO

Sophomore Emily Lee gears up to return the ball against the Bishop O'Dowd Dragons.

on. I made sure to take care of myself before playing so that I did my best,” said Mangat.

Sophomore Fong also played singles. Close calls determined many of her sets. The game went on for long, but despite that Fong pushed through. “It

was so hot, so my motivation was that if I win fast, I can get off the court faster,” said Fong.

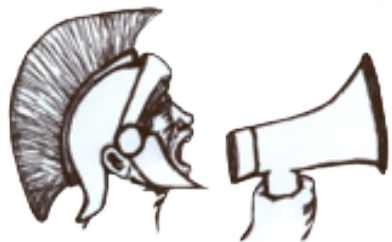
With the conclusion of their home game against Encinal, the Trojans achieved their second win of the season, with a league record of 2-2.

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# Masks and vaccine mandates: needed for safety

## Editorial:

Despite the Delta variant causing a fourth COVID-19 spike, schools are back in session with one caveat: masks are mandatory at all times on campus regardless of vaccination status. This comes after a series of mandates from Governor Gavin Newsom, which also requires all school staff to be fully vaccinated or get tested weekly.

These mandates have been extremely controversial among some students, parents, and staff. However, we at *The Olympian* feel safer at school with these new restrictions; and we fully support mask and vaccine mandates to ensure both the safety of our school and community as a whole.

Although masks are uncomfortable and make hearing others more difficult, they are essential in stopping the spread of Covid. Especially with the more aggressive Delta variant, all students and staff should wear masks on campus to protect not only themselves, but others as well. Some students may live with those who are at higher risk, and may accidentally bring home the virus to their families. A simple



AMANDA WONG

task like wearing a mask can save lives and give students and staff a sense of security. And hey, there are also some cool mask designs!

As staff may see more than 150 students on a daily basis, it is important that staff get vaccinated. An infected staff member could expose hundreds of students to the virus. The vaccine

will add a layer of protection for staff members and also protect students and anyone they contact.

Although the vaccine does not guarantee full immunity to Covid, it has been proven to reduce severe cases and slow the spread of the virus. Most serious cases today are among the unvaccinated. We understand that many staff

members may have personal or religious objections to the vaccine, however daily testing can serve as an alternative to ensure the safety of our campus. By having teachers vaccinated, we can inspire the rest of the community to get vaccinated as well.

Now that the Pfizer vaccine gained full approval from the

FDA, *The Olympian* would like to see a vaccine mandate for students as well. Many schools, such as Culver City Unified and the CSU/UC systems, have already mandated students to get the Covid vaccine in order to attend live classes. Other types of vaccines, such as chicken pox and measles, are already required to attend schools; and the Covid vaccine should be added to that list.

The vaccine has been proven safe, with over 190 million people in the U.S. having received a dose of the vaccine with little to no side effects. A vaccine mandate can slow the spread among students, and protect those under the age of 12 who cannot be vaccinated. Many parents may be upset over a student vaccine mandate. However we feel one would be necessary to keep our schools safe.

*The Olympian* supports these measures for the health and safety of the school community. After 18 months of online schooling, we're ready to come back in person. However, we believe that proper safety measures be taken to ease students, staff and parents anxieties. Together, we can do our part in helping our community.

## Our bodies, our choice: abortion is a woman's right



By Delaney Rasmussen  
STAFF WRITER

Why? Why is it 2021 and women are still rapidly losing rights to their bodies? Why is one of the strictest laws in the country about what women can or cannot do? We have been fighting and fighting for years and right when our voices are becoming heard, Texas passes the most aggressive abortion law in the country. Why?

This is the question I have been asking myself through these last couple months as the infamous Texas law was getting closer and closer to being finalized. Finally, women are starting to be heard and seen as real people and citizens of

the country, or so I thought. Weren't we making progress? The first woman, Kamala Harris, was just sworn into office as Vice President, taking a stand for women's rights. What happened?

A new law just went into effect in Texas that bans abortion after six weeks, just after a fetal heartbeat can be detected. Most pregnancy symptoms don't even become noticeable until six weeks or later. Not only that, if a woman gets an abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, anyone involved can be sued, and if the claimant wins the case they are granted

\$10,000. That means the Uber driver that drove her to the clinic, the receptionist at the clinic, anyone she texted about getting an abortion, etc. can get sued.

This law makes no exception for rape or incest. If a woman gets raped, there is a low probability that the first thing she is going to do is buy a pregnancy test, especially if no symptoms are showing. Now she is forced to keep this child, a reminder of one of the worst moments of her life. In addition, just because she got raped, she now has to go through nine dreadful months of

pregnancy and then give birth to the baby, which not all mothers live through. I don't have to say that this is unfair, it's painfully obvious. Even if she gets raped by a family member and the baby has a high probability of being born with a few problems, she still has to give birth and raise her rapist's child.

In a federal lawsuit challenging this new law, a coalition of abortion providers and reproductive rights groups said this law "places a bounty on people who provide or aid abortions, inviting random strangers to sue them."

Our bodies, our choice.

## PHOTO Opinions What do you think about a vaccine mandate?



“ I think it's very reasonable and necessary because it's saving people's lives and keeping people healthy. ”

Jamie Xie  
senior



“ I think it's awesome that people are getting vaccinated and it's making everyone feel safe. ”

Zean Ylaya  
junior



“ It's a step towards normalcy and helping to keep everybody safe, but at the same time it's threatening people's freedom. ”

Quentin Hansen  
sophomore



“ I'm definitely for the decisions and it's something that I think will help bring down the cases and bring us back to normal. ”

Ian Hsu  
freshman



“ I'm all for safety. If everyone was vaccinated, it would make our events easier to run because it's one less hurdle. ”

Tommy Maloney  
staff

# Transitioning back to in-person school



By Kai Liebowitz

Trojans returned to campus full-time on Aug. 10, 2021. For many, this was an experience filled with joy, excitement, and utter angst. Having not attended in-person classes for over a year, I felt like a freshman coming to campus again despite the fact that I am a junior. That, coupled with the fear of COVID-19 in the air was stressful. But, the thought of seeing my friends and not having to sit in front of a computer all day far outweighed this worry.

CVHS went virtual on March 13, 2020. Covid numbers had begun to climb and public schools were shut down fast. For many, this was thought to be a three-



ZOE DORADO

week break from regular school. I remember feeling excited about doing school at home. I would get to spend time with my family and have more free time. Then, after a few weeks, I would return to school and finish up my freshman

year. What could go wrong? After about a month of this new thing called “distance learning,” many (including myself) realized that we were mistaken. Our quality and quantity of education had reached an all-time low.

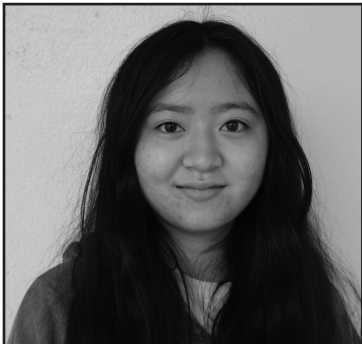
The initial excitement had worn off and I was beginning to worry about what was to come. Increasing numbers showed that we would not be back in school for a long time. At no point, however, did I realize what a dramatic and

long-lasting effect Covid would have on the student body.

Then, after over a year of decomposing behind a screen and watching our teachers desperately try to get us as much education as possible, we were asked to return. The first day of school seemed nostalgic. It was almost as if we were returning to our elementary school after not visiting for years. There also seemed to be a massive amount of people on the campus. The unfamiliarity to large groups after social distancing and then the sudden amount of people around me was jarring.

Now one month into school, we have had 37 cases of Covid in our district, eight of those from CVHS. Vaccinated students are somewhat protected from the virus, but there is no guarantee of safety. Students still come every day to see their friends and continue their education. We cannot replace the massive amount of education that we lost, but we can work hard to keep learning and growing as students.

## Why I don't feel loyal to my country



By Athena Sy Kuzuhara

I don't pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Although I feel a sense of privilege to be a U.S. citizen, to me, the U.S. is merely the place I was born. Nowadays, I do not feel proud to be an American.

When I was in elementary school, I used to think that the U.S. was the best country in the world. I would dance around the house singing “The Star-Spangled Banner.” I believed in the power of democracy and the strength of the U.S.. I believed that no matter what, the U.S. was the best place to live. After all, everyone is equal in the U.S..

No one is equal in the U.S. The U.S. was never built as an equal country. The founding fathers preached the word “equality” while enslaving other human beings. The Black community is still affected by slavery today in the form of racism and poverty.

It's not like the founding fathers did not understand how morally wrong slavery was. Thomas Jefferson's anti-slavery clause that described slavery as a “cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people” was intentionally removed from the Declaration of Independence.

There were about 40,000 deaths from guns just in 2019.

I have lost faith in America's ability to reason. How can we support something that takes 40,000 American lives from the U.S.? It does not make sense to own an assault rifle that can kill ten people in 30 seconds. America's gun laws need a drastic change.

I no longer believe in the American dream. I am a second generation American; my grandparents and mother immigrated from Asia. They were able to achieve their American dream and build a family, earn stable income, and buy a house.

The U.S. has one of the worst social mobility and poverty rates out of first-world countries.

My grandparents were lucky. I am not saying that they did not work hard; they faced poverty, long work hours and physically difficult jobs. However, they were educated. Both my grandparents led fairly privileged lives in the Philippines. That gave them a closer advantage in obtaining the American Dream.

What does that mean about unprivileged people? To put it simply, social mobility is almost impossible.

I want the U.S. to be a country I can be proud of. However, without change, I do not think it is possible. The U.S. will continue to be a country that I almost resent.

I think that one way we can change the U.S. is through voting. Luckily, voting turnout has increased over the past few years, opening up the potential for change. However, it is still not enough. It is a right and privilege to vote and perhaps the only way for change.

## Marijuana should be legal in sports



By Jenna Nosseir

Athletes have been banned from using marijuana, the illegal drug that causes highs. It's been ingrained into our heads from a young age that marijuana is bad for us and we should never have it, so, of course everyone feels pressured to stay away from marijuana. However, why should it be banned for athletes of age if it has no effect on your performance?

About a month ago, when Sha'Carri Richardson tested positive for marijuana resulting in her omission from the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, it made me start thinking more deeply about the situation occurring.

Richardson claimed that using marijuana was a coping mechanism after discovering her biological mother has unfortunately passed away. Is it our responsibility to judge how she copes with her tragedies?

I decided to do some research to figure out if marijuana affected your performance in sports. In short, there is yet to be any sufficient evidence that marijuana can enhance your performance. Many articles I researched all say the same thing: marijuana doesn't affect your performance and many athletes only take it for pain management.

If anything, marijuana may actually impair your performance. If you ask your mom why you shouldn't take marijuana, all moms will say

the same thing: marijuana ruins your lungs. They are not wrong. Not only does it damage your lungs, it impairs your motor function, increases your chances of getting a heart attack, and increases your chances of chronic depression by almost 50 percent.

If athletes still want to follow through with the decision to take marijuana even after understanding all the pros and cons, that is their decision. Nonetheless, if it doesn't have the ability to enhance your performance, I see no reason why you should be suspended from playing if you test positive for this drug in your system.

Many have even been protesting the ban of marijuana in sports insisting that it helps them sleep at night without any

soreness or pain.

There are a variety of different treatments and other legal drugs you can take that will give the same effect as marijuana. Take Tylenol or Advil for instance. They're both legal drugs known to relieve pain that many athletes take regularly. Why should marijuana be any different? Although marijuana may have worse side effects, it also is a better pain reliever. Some doctors may even prescribe you marijuana as a pain reliever.

In the end, marijuana will not give you an advantage in your physical performance thus, there should be no punishment for smoking marijuana. It may be a good idea to try and talk some sense into them but all in all it's their decision.



### THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL Olympian

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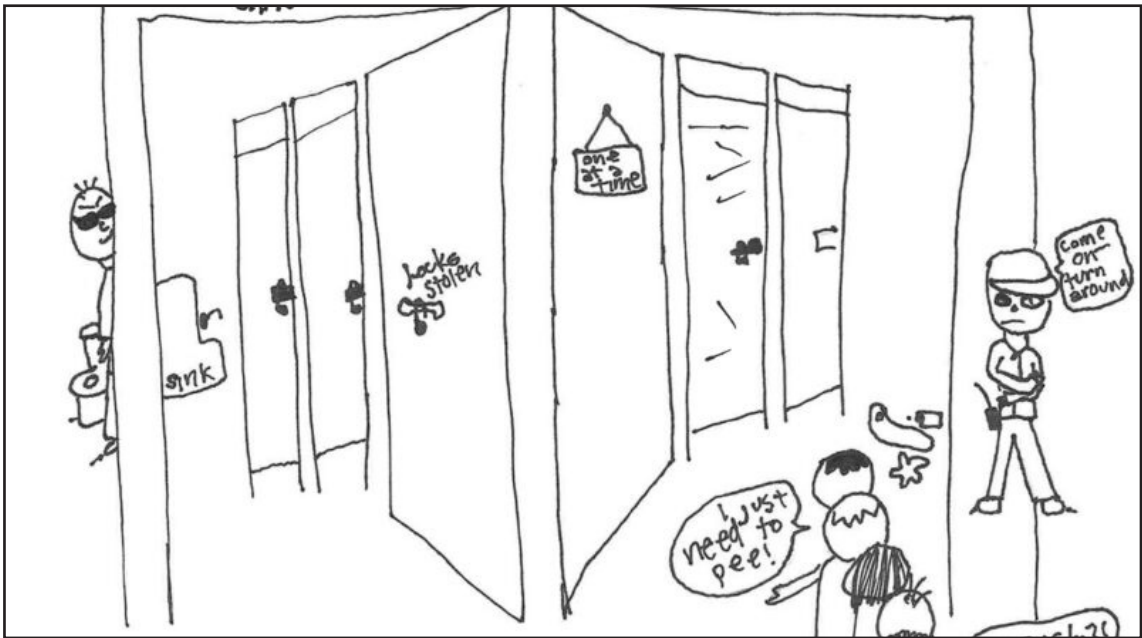
# Don't tax teens who can't vote



By Jennifer Mi

It is no news that many teenagers are employed outside of school, whether that be every day, or only on the weekends. As a 16-year-old high school student, my peers and I can be caught at our jobs at the pool, the cafe, or the grocery. When receiving our paychecks, a good chunk is always noticed to be missing. The dreaded income tax. It is utterly disappointing when receiving a paycheck that makes you think, "Where's the rest?" While minors (age 15-17) get taxes taken out of their income, they have absolutely zero say in our government, as they are not eligible to vote until the age of 18. This is an example of taxation without representation. Similar to American colonists in the 1700s, minors are considered to be represented by politicians and their duty to serve for the best interest of the public, but we have no ability to participate in elections. This dilemma is what makes the taxes taken from teenagers feel a little silly at times. When speaking with my friends who are also employed part time

workers, I hear many complaints regarding how much money they've lost to taxes. The many remarks of "it's so stupid," and "this sucks," really got me thinking about how and why we get taxed. Although my position as ASB School Board Representative actually does allow me to vote in policies passed at CVUSD school board meetings, that is just one position among thousands of students who do not share this same privilege. And while local government is important, obviously I still cannot vote in state or national elections, or anything unrelated to the school district. I would get income taxes taken either way, no matter what type of position I held in the community. For most employed minors, the income taxes taken are not reflected in the governmental action they are able to take. Some make a point that minors still make use of public services that their taxes go to, such as public education. While this is entirely true, the point is that minors do not get to vote on who creates or approves of these public services or policies which they live under. Even unemployed adults have the right to vote, just due to their age. I am not claiming that it is entirely good or entirely bad that teenagers get taxed, but rather the undeniable fact that we do. In my opinion, there is not nearly enough conversation around this topic, and I would like to know how others with jobs think about the hundreds or thousands of dollars they could have had in their bank account.



REBECCA IRELAND

# A personal profanity



By Zoe Dorado

*Editor's note: Zoe Dorado, Alameda County's youth poet laureate, penned this creative response to the recent bathroom vandalism that struck CVHS and other campuses.*

These walls talk back, you know.  
Hook-eyed to everything

pulled from your throat:  
The plumbing I mean.  
  
This is muscle memory.  
This is the line we wait in.  
Akin to every fraction of small-talk  
Like this is a fractal expanding out the door.  
  
You, globetrotter through every cataclysmic episode  
And still I find myself right back to you.  
  
You, lingering of unflushed bowls and Mary Jane  
Paper towels towered and layered across tiles  
Like a cape  
Like this, too, is a type of ceremony.  
And you, quiet and forgiving.  
  
But oh jettison of hand soap

and light switch  
The picture of such in the urinal  
  
To confess or be confessed  
And still cleave through accountability like a missed call.  
  
There is no  
There. I fixed it.  
You hold too much of us to be tricked into a poem  
Or a devious lick  
Or a promise going forward —  
  
Money meant for this not that  
Ebb and flow of the influx through you  
What leaves and comes back  
Because I gotta jet on out of here  
So I left you with what I gathered in my hands:  
An offering  
On the floor.

# How COVID-19 changed school



By Sam Scott

From being constantly indoors to seeing thousands every day, COVID-19 greatly altered the high school experience through many changes over the past year and a half, as a balance between education and safety protocols must be kept. These massive changes range from new faces at school, a difference in homework loads, and possibly the most memorable change, masks. Now that school has reopened for many students, the social aspect of these changes has been one of the most enjoyable. For the past year and a half, classes were taken online, and a lot of the time teachers could not even see your face during class. More than that, students would not be able to interact, let alone talk with each other, leaving little room for old friendships to continue, or new ones to bloom. Although this may have made school a little more simple and less social-oriented, it was almost depressing how isolated it felt being away from all the other

students constantly. Now that in-person school has begun once again, it feels extremely refreshing to be in a real classroom, with real people. Another substantial change that Covid caused in the school setting involves the homework load and overall difficulty of classes. I believe this to be the very worst aspect in schools reopening after such a long time online, due to how much of a negative impact it has already had around stress. During online school, I, as well as many others, had very little homework to complete, while the classes appeared easier than before. However ironic this was, being that a higher grade of school was easier than the last, it did in fact worsen the return to in-person school. In other words, the homework load and class-strain on students quickly picked up again, contrasting greatly in comparison to online. One last change in the reopening of school revolves around masks. Although they may feel unnecessary, they are crucial to keeping us safe. Regardless of how little we notice the masks anymore, I am happy nearly all students wear masks to protect themselves and those around them. Before school reopened, I believed that few students would wear the masks, but while in school, I have yet to see many without one. Through masks, we can lessen the spread of Covid.



By Melissa Boussaroque

The majority of sports have always been separated by gender; there is a boys team and a girls team. However, I don't believe that there is a need for separation. Getting rid of the gender divide would decrease the marginalization of students on the transgender or non-binary spectrum. Additionally, doing so would provide a team with more diverse abilities. There are certain physical or biological advantages within each biological sex. While this may seem like just a way for misogynists to prove that males are superior, it also proves that a co-ed team would be more advantageous. If sports teams weren't separated, the team would reap the benefits of both genders. However, having a different biological sex doesn't automatically give you a leg up; some people are just naturally made for sports. If we were to integrate the teams, everyone

would try out for the same team and be picked based on their own physical abilities. Making it onto a team would be determined by capability. This would make the team better because you have all of the best athletes, rather than some of the best athletes from one gender. Keeping the teams separated is starting to prove to be difficult when it comes to transgender students. While Castro Valley

“ Having a different biological sex doesn't automatically give you a leg up; some people are just naturally made for sports. ”

is a fairly accepting community, the rules for trans students in school sports vary from state to state. A lot of people tend to become angry when transgender students are on the team that doesn't correspond with their biological sex. For

example, some people wouldn't want a transgender student who identifies as female playing on the girls team. They think that since she is biologically a male, that she is giving the team an unfair advantage. This might result in athletes feeling pressured to play on the team of their biological sex, which would make them extremely uncomfortable. Leaving a gender divide can also be harmful to students on the non-binary spectrum. Non-binary students don't feel as if they fit in to the binary genders of male and female. When trying out for a sport, they would feel conflicted as to which team to try out for. They might feel like they need to try out for the team that matches their biological sex, or they might be too scared to try out at all. If there was no division between teams, non-binary students could try out for a team without having to do something that makes them uncomfortable. While the gender binary is still very prominent in our current society, there has been progress in evolving our views. However, it is not something that we should keep in our schools, especially not in sports. Aside from relieving discomfort from students who don't identify as cisgender, it would just make the teams better.

# Masks required in all California schools

By Deleenn Block

California schools require masks for all students and staff indoors regardless of vaccination status in the new school year. Not all are happy with these new regulations. Two parent groups have sued over the mandates. One of the groups named Let Them Breathe believes the mask mandates are not based on scientific evidence and harm students' education.

Let Them Breathe claims to be a "group of caring parents concerned about the effects of facial coverings on children's mental, physical, and social health." The members call themselves "pro-science, pro-safety, and pro-smiles."

The group's website is a place where anti-mask people and parents express their concerns and issues with the

mask mandates. The most common argument is that masks have a major negative impact on their children's learning and they should be a choice. Many parents even stated that they would send their sick children to school without informing the school to avoid the restrictions.

However, most CVHS students and staff seem to support the mask requirements.

"Masks don't have an effect on my learning very much but it does cause a little bit of difficulty when communicating with teachers, but I think it's important that they are required as they keep everyone safe," said senior Amaya Davis.

"Masks should be required because they help keep students, staff and their families safe," senior Breanna Ly stated.



CVHS students wear masks at school.

DELENN BLOCK

As the Delta variant cases rise it's more important that students wear their masks and get vaccinated if possible. The mask requirements are working, California is not seeing as large an increase in cases compared to states with no mask requirements, like Texas and Florida.

"Masks should be required especially because of the Delta variant," said AP Art History teacher Jo Sutton. "Of course we have to make some adjustments with the masks, especially because it can be difficult to hear, but everyone's health is more important and we can easily work around those small issues."

# Administration removes APUSH entrance exam

By Olive Dooley

CVHS has slowly eliminated AP entrance exams as a requirement for the classes at CVHS. The most recent class to see a change is AP U.S. History (APUSH), as administration decided to remove the multiple choice test portion of the entrance process.

In 2020, the school removed the APUSH written part of the entrance process and now the rest of the test has been removed. The change

has brought mixed feelings from various staff members on campus.

"Although APUSH is a good option for some students, it is very different from the regular US History class. I think an entrance process is very beneficial because it gives students the opportunity to learn more about the class, understand the expectations and make the best decision regarding whether or not the class will be an appropriate fit," said Sarah Burke, social studies teacher and

department chair.

Other staff members believe that the entrance exam is just another barrier that may deter students from taking the more advanced courses.

"There has to be some screening in some places, but there can be places where it can be more open, we just need to find the right support for students," said Allison Zuckerbrow from the College and Career Center.

Zuckerbrow proposed that access to these classes should not have to be limited and

CVHS should keep them open to all students who are willing to try them out. She recognized that these classes are more difficult than regular classes and that the CVHS staff should create resources and support systems to help students succeed. She suggested a bridge class that would prepare the students to take the class and after school tutoring sessions so students could get the help that they need.

There is of course always the argument that the entrance

test will help the students to know what to expect as they enter the course.

"I think the entrance exam was accurate because others that I know who dropped out of APUSH were qualified for the course, but they prioritized other classes," said senior Marissa Chan.

Two years ago, CVHS removed entrance exams for Honors American Literature (HAMLit) and AP English Literature (APEL), opening the classes to all students who wished to take the courses.

## Welcoming new staff



Julie Young  
speech therapist

"I'm excited to be at CVHS and look forward to helping my students communicate to the best of their ability!"

### Go Trojans!



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# Daffy Duckers snatch dodgeball tournament win

By Ali Nosseir

Run! Catch! Dodge! Throw! Thirteen student-made dodgeball teams competed for the well-renowned and highly desired dodgeball trophy, the Golden Plunger. Throughout the third week of September, student and parent spectators witnessed many unexpected upsets, glory, defeat, fame, and much more.

Six freshmen boys and girls formed a team called the Daffy Duckers. This group, inexperienced compared to the other teams, demonstrated immense courage and coordination. In the championship game, they faced the Mermaids, a team of seniors composed of three varsity water polo boys and three varsity water polo girls.

Despite being the underdogs in pretty much every game of the tournament, the Daffy Duckers managed to defeat the Mermaids despite all odds: size difference, level of experience, and strength deficit.

"It feels awesome," said Daffy Ducker Ian Hsu. "Going into the tournament, we had no thought of actually winning it all, just to have fun instead. But soon enough, we were playing for the

championship. Being a team of underclassmen made the win feel that much better. I had some great teammates and wouldn't have been able to do it without them!"

Although placing second, runners-up, the Mermaids, were still delighted to have participated in this riveting tournament.

"Yeah I loved it," said Travis Orem, a player for the Mermaids. "It was a super fun way to really get closer with my water polo team and have a fun time doing it. It was a great thing to look forward to and experience with my friends."

Directly preceding the championship game played during lunch on Friday, Sept. 17, an intense match was played between two senior teams, Los Cojones and the Untouchaballs. Through an unexpected turn of events, the Untouchaballs managed to secure a third place finish.

"Obviously we would've liked to win the whole tournament but under the circumstances I think getting third was a great result considering my one versus four clutch to win our last game" said Untouchaballs member Michael Karapetyan.

Amidst rough and difficult times for many, this dodgeball tournament provided spectators



Tyler Morgan prepares to throw at an opponent.

MEGAN BALDWIN

with a week's worth of entertainment throughout the lunch period.

For those who avidly observed and followed the fall dodgeball tournament and developed a desire to compete in it, the leadership class will be hosting a spring dodgeball tournament.

The winner of the spring tournament will face the champions of the fall tournament, the Daffy Duckers, in the ultimate championship match, which is bound to be an invigorating match between the two most skillful dodgeball teams at this school.

"Absolutely I'm excited," said senior Jonah Pitcher when inquired about the tournament next semester. "It's a great opportunity to just have fun with my friends," said Pitcher, who competed in this semester's tournament yet wishes to redeem himself next semester.

# CVHS welcomes new staff members



**Kevin Cho**  
computer science  
teacher

"I got into education because the world is changing and students need to learn how to code in order to participate in this tech-driven world."



**Esmeralda Corona-Pantoja**  
math teacher

"CVHS is a supportive and lovely community. The students are wonderful and it is an honor to be a part of their educational journey. I look forward to working with you all."



**Keanu Dasalla**  
college & career  
technician

"I was inspired to get into education by my mom, who teaches at the Castro Valley Adult School. I wanted to be able to have a positive impact on students' lives the same way she does."



**Alec Dufurrena**  
academics teacher

"I got into education because I had a few teachers who helped me when I was having a hard time in school. I like the CVHS emphasis on the Trojan STAND values to build community."



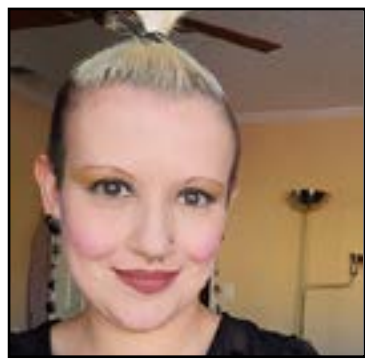
**Erika Harris**  
English teacher

"I love how everyone is so welcoming here at CVHS. I grew up in the East Bay and have always heard about how great this school is. It truly is great!"



**Keita Hasegawa**  
music teacher

"Whether it is working with the students in Band or Orchestra, I have taught most of these students in some capacity in the past. It feels great being back with these students and I feel right at home at CVHS."



**Mattie Peracca**  
college & career  
technician

"I have taught piano for years and really wanted to get into public education. This position was my top choice, and I'm so honored to be helping the amazing students at CVHS!"



**Gautam Premnath**  
English teacher

"I taught my first college English class 30 years ago, and teaching is the only way I've ever made a living. I'm so excited to be starting this new chapter of my career at CVHS!"



**Robert Puno**  
special education  
teacher

"This is my 19th year teaching, and I feel so lucky to arrive at CVHS! The students here are amazing and the teachers and staff are absolutely the best and the brightest."



**Byron Thompson**  
marketing teacher

"The interactions I have are definitely the best part of CVHS. It feels great to have an impact on my students' lives."