



Editor-In-Chief
Isabella Rose

Pegasus

Monthly

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Assistant Editor-In-Chief
Myra Kamal

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Victorious At The Games!

By: Jasmine Signeski & Myra Kamal



Mustangs for the win. Photos by Coach Avenell.

Every year the Middle School students have the opportunity to go on the Games field trip, which is typically the first week of December. This year the Games was held in Florida from December 3rd-6th, 2019.

The Games gives three schools, including Rancho, the opportunity to compete in different sports activities as well as visit and participate in fun activities after the tournament. On Tuesday, the first day, after getting out of the airport, the students went to Disney World for a couple of hours! On Wednesday they went to Lake Mary Preparatory, the school where the com-



Mustangs support one another! Photos by Coach Avenell.

petition was held. Most students participated in at least two sports. Before they went to the Games, practices were held at school for the teams. Some sports that Rancho students participated in included the following: football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, archery, tennis and track. Next, on Wednesday, there were additional games, and for the activity, the students went to a pirate themed park. Memorably, on Friday, the last day of their stay, the Games wrapped up with a couple more matches and Rancho ended up winning the tournament! Rancho needed to win the majority of the games in most fields to win the cup. Ariella Trost, a seventh grader, said, "I participated in soccer, volleyball, flag football, and basketball. My favorite part was Disney and Universal with all my friends!" Flynn Ryan, an eighth grader, also said, "I participated in football, soccer, track, and volleyball." Flynn, who got 2nd place for all the track events, also explained to me, "My favorite part was going to Universal! It was a really fun experience and my first trip to the Games!" Addison Doolittle, in eighth grade, recounted, "We definitely won in basketball because both of our teams got first and sec-

ond. We won in volleyball because we got first and third. In archery we got first and second, and tennis because we got all three. We also won two in track, I'm pretty sure." She also told me her favorite part was "Disney or Universal." On Friday the students had fun at Universal Studios during their last night in Florida. I asked Coach Avenell for her opinion on The Games and she told me, "All of our athletes represented Rancho Solano well on and off the field throughout The Games. We are so proud to be a part of the Rancho family." Overall the Games was a really fun experience for the Middle School students!



2 points for the Mustangs. Photos by Coach Avenell.

International Perspective: New Year's Traditions

By: Yuna Shprecher & Claudia Luo



We've recently entered a new year (and decade!) which brought with it all sorts of unique celebrations around the globe. While Americans often set off fireworks and watch the Times Square Ball Drop, there are many deeply rooted traditions surrounding the occasion in other countries. For example, in Japan, there is the common practice of *oosouji*, during which families engage in major house cleaning to prepare for a fresh start. Junior Shotaro Fujiki also explained that "long soba noodles are eaten for dinner, symbolizing the wish for a long life." In addition, it is common for kids to receive *otoshidama* from older family members, which is a small sum of money in an adorned paper envelope. Sho also mentioned the practice of *hatsumode*, in which people "visit a Buddhist shrine within the first three days of the new year, in order to pray for a prosperous new year."

Meanwhile, New Year's Eve in Spain is known as *Noche Vieja* (Old Night). Starting from 12 pm, people eat twelve grapes, one at each stroke of the clock. "If you completely eat all twelve by the end of the final bell's toll, then you will have good luck, prosperity, and happiness in *el año nuevo* (the new year)," explained Emilie Doule, a Rancho sophomore from Spain. People in large cities often congregate in their main town square, where they "dance until the early hours in the morning." A typical New Year dessert known as *Roscón de los Reyes* is also eaten, which is essentially a large, ring-shaped cake that is decorated with candied fruits. Emilie also mentioned that "there are some surprises hidden inside the cake, and the person who unravels the surprise is crowned as king or queen of the household." Across the world in Brazil, people often focus on the color of

their clothing on New Year's Eve. Each color symbolizes a different wish. Junior Malu Miranda, an international student from Brazil, elaborated on these varying meanings: "The different colors attract different kinds of luck. White, of course, symbolizes peace. Green means good health. Yellow pertains to money. Red attracts passion and romance, and purple denotes inspiration." "We often celebrate New Year's Eve out on the beach," Malu mentioned. The next year's luck can increase if you jump over 7 different waves while making your New Year's wishes, one for each wave.

Though the specificities of each nation's traditions may vary, there is an underlying hope for good luck and a fresh start within all. Whether people are eating grapes or jumping over ocean waves, everyone looks to the new year with a sense of optimism and excitement, no matter the culture!

Pegasus Monthly



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Your Mary Poppins Cast!

By: Isabella Rose

Rancho Solano is proud to present the next Middle and Upper School Spring musical: *Mary Poppins Jr!* Jane and Michael Banks, the children of affluent parents in England, are receiving a new nanny, but are pleasantly surprised by the arrival of Mary Poppins. The sensible nanny with magical powers embarks on a set of adventures with the kids. Her sunny disposition begins to rub off on the entire family as the classic Disney tale unfolds.

On January 8th and 9th, casting auditions were held, featuring a lot of promising talent from both the Middle and Upper School. Freshman Maxwell Ebner, who will be playing George Banks, said “I had a good experience last time doing *Grease* at Rancho. I definitely plan on reviewing my lines a lot with my brother!” When I asked Millie Thompson her thoughts on being cast as Mary Poppins, she said, “I’m feeling really excited—I think I’ll have a lot of fun because I grew up watching the movies with my two little sisters. I’ve participated



Rancho’s own Mary Poppins and Bert, sophomores Millie Thompson and Ryan Christianson! Photo by Isabella Rose in lots of plays and I’m looking forward to meeting new people and just enjoying the show the most!”

While the cast list features a lot of Upper School talent, many middle schoolers landed leading roles as well. Eighth grader Cece Goldberg and sixth grader Michael Shafron will be playing the adorable Banks children.

This is the first Fine Arts production that will have four performances: Thursday, April 30th from 7-9; Friday, May 1st from 2-4 and an evening matinee from 7-9; and

Cast List	
MARY POPPINS.....	Mildred Thompson
BERT.....	Ryan Christianson
MICHAEL BANKS.....	Michael Shafron
JANE BANKS.....	Cece Goldberg
GEORGE BANKS.....	Max Ebner
WINIFRED BANKS.....	Abby Rachlin
MRS. BRILL.....	Ari Walker
ROBERTSON AY.....	Andrew Ebner
KATIE NANNA.....	Isabella Alfonso
BIRD WOMAN.....	Kate Taylor
MISS SMYTHE.....	Grace Sullivan
CHAIRMAN.....	Riley McDonough
VON HUSSLER.....	Skyler Le
JOHN NORTHBROOK.....	Colin Short
MRS. CORRY.....	Addison Doolittle
MISS ANDREW.....	Sania Sumar
NELEUS.....	Zaarya Alvi
PARK STROLLERS.....	Luisa Swain, Taylor Williams Guerrero, Colin Short, Grace Sullivan, Maddy Bode, Ruby Ghuman
STATUES.....	Claudia Luo, Ellie Kaufman, Yuna Shprecher, Eleni Lowe
HONEYBEES.....	Bella Alfonso, Taylor Williams Guerrero, Alexandra Sheesley, Dalin Angelova, Ava Alfonso, Elle Pohl, Agatha Sligar
CLERKS.....	Sania Sumar, Brielle Sullivan, Eleni Lowe, Addison Doolittle, Alejandro Perdomo, Ruby Ghuman
VAGRANTS, BUSKERS, PASSERSBY.....	Ellie Kaufman, Taylor Williams Guerrero, Elle Pohl, Luisa Swain, Alexandra Sheesley, Maddy Bode, Agatha Sligar, Ava Alfonso
KITE FLYERS.....	Claudia Luo, Ellie Kaufman, Luisa Swain, Alexandra Sheesley, Dalin Angelova, Yuna Shprecher, Colin Short, Riley McDonough, Skyler Le, Elle Pohl, Maddy Bode, Eleni Lowe, Ava Alfonso, Ruby Ghuman
CHIMNEY SWEEPS.....	Zaarya Alvi, Taylor Williams Guerrero, Brielle Sullivan, Kate Taylor, Grace Sullivan, Addison Doolittle, Bella Alfonso
CUSTOMERS.....	Colin Short, Kate Taylor, Grace Sullivan, Riley McDonough, Skyler Le, Claudia Luo, Dalin Angelova, Yuna Shprecher, Alejandro Perdomo
POLICEMAN.....	Alejandro Perdomo
MESSENGER.....	Agatha Sligar

PLEASE INITIAL NEXT TO YOUR NAME TO INDICATE ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR ROLE(S)
First cast meeting is
WEDNESDAY JAN. 22, 3-15 - 5-15 p.m. in room 108

lastly, Saturday May 2nd from 11-1. Come support your MS and US actors and actresses, along with your pit orchestra and tech crew members!

Dare to Dance?

By: Josh Folz



Dancers strike a pose! Photos by Mrs. Gamez.

As the end of the first semester approached, so did the annual winter dance concert! This year, the performance took place on December 12th in the Attitude is Free Center. Each piece presented in the concert was choreographed by Ms. Gamez, the dance teacher and Pom

coach. As a student, once you progress far enough into the program there are also some choreographic opportunities presented to you. The Middle School and Upper School dance classes begin prepping for the dance concert in early fall, choreographing around a specific theme. This year’s theme was “Dare to Dance.” Stella Dillard, a dance student, said: “The name Dare to Dance highlights how, for some students, it can be more challenging to show your true self to the world, but

sometimes you have to just let go and Dare to Dance!” December 2019 was the second annual winter dance concert, which featured more student involvement than the previous year. The concert as a whole is usually an hour long and ends with a finale that is choreographed by Ms. Gamez.

Bella Alfonso, a freshman, said: “Starting high school was very difficult, and I was nervous and hesitant. The theme “dare to dance” means a lot to me because this year I am really trying to put myself out there and be more outgoing. Not only does the theme represent me, but dancing with my amazing friends represents me too.” The next dance event is the spring dance concert, which will be held in May.

Applause for Advanced Acting Class

By: Trevor McKibben

Life is full of surprises, and many are particularly sweet ones. On December 3rd, the Advanced Theatre class put on something very special for the second grade students at the RSPS Greenway Campus. The acting class, as the name suggests, put on a performance for the kids there. They showcased their rendition of “Detective Ike LaRue: Letters from the Investigation”. The story itself is adopted from a book of the same name, written by Mark Teague. All of the second grade students studied the book and knew the story. Hayley White and Olivia Cormanny, the writers of the play, took the story and re-wrote it for the purposes of performance. The play tells the story of Ike LaRue, a detective, that’s a dog, who’s been suspected of a crime. Two neighboring cats that belong to the cat lady, Mrs. Hibbins, have gone missing, and Detective LaRue is accused. He goes on to solve the case and figure out what really happened to the two cats who were kidnapped from their home.

The cast consisted of all of the students in the advanced acting class. Brynn Bleaman and Karina Velez directed the play, and Sania Sumar acted as outreach coordinator (making sure everything was organized, presenting the play and interacting with the audience). Kate Taylor, Claudia Luo, and Noah Haberman handled the costumes, while Bela Potocnjak, Stella Ebner and Ari Walker took care of the props. Josh Folz acted as the stage director, making sure everything was going well and on time, as well as providing



Photos by Trevor McKibben

moral support. The second graders seemed to have a blast watching the play, laughing at all sorts of hilarity written in. When asked, two of the second graders said they thought the play was “really funny,” and that their favorite character was Ike LaRue because of all the crazy things he did. Mr. Zale added in that this kind of experience is “the reason he loves teaching this class.” Clearly it was a fun and exciting experience for involved, and we can’t wait to see what the advanced theatre class will produce for us next.

Striking Season for US Girls Soccer

By: Amelie Clark



The girls started off their season strong with a win for their first game on December 9th against Horizon Honors. The winning goal was made by Maddie Liley during the second half. The girls were also playing one person down during that game and even had nine girls at one point (the girls are used to playing down), however, they were still able to push through to secure a win.

I asked Junior Maddie Liley how

it felt to score the winning goal and the first goal of the season, “It felt good to score the first goal of the season because it was a very close game and I knew we could win.” I also asked if she is excited for this season, “I am very excited for the season. I am excited to lead the team and help other players continue to improve.”

For the second game, many players who had never played before and were not even part of the team joined because anyone that could help was needed since many of our players had left early for the break.

Senior Lindsey Belgrad, one of the girls that helped out said, “I totally enjoyed it and it was definitely a memorable experience for me because I have never played soccer

before. I was nervous because I didn’t really know anything about the game or where to stand on the field, but everyone was helping each other out and it ended up being really fun and I will probably end up playing again when they need me!”

I asked sophomore Ellie Kaufman how she thinks the season has been going and if she has enjoyed it. She responded, “I think that soccer has been fun so far, especially with this being my first time playing. It has been a challenge but I really like it,” Monica Ghuman then added, “Yeah, it’s really fun because we get to work as a team and everyone is really supportive of each other.”

The team is already up for improvement from last year and it seems like the girls are setting up for a great season!

Space Corner: SpaceX Vs. Boeing

By: Ryan Christianson



Boeing and SpaceX are both currently competing for rockets to send astronauts to the International Space Station. Boeing has their Starliner Capsule on top of their Atlas V rocket, and SpaceX has their Dragon capsule on their Falcon 9 rocket. Either way, this will be the first time since 2012 that Americans will go up to space in American rockets on American soil. The most obvious improvement is that NASA can now stop relying on the Russians who are charging them much more than what a single Falcon 9 launch costs- around 65 million- and Boeing is offering their own system.

While NASA's Falcon 9 is cheaper than Boeing's Atlas V, Boeing is a much more stable and tested company than SpaceX. Boeing's rocket itself, the Atlas V, has been flying since 2002 with only one failure of the lower stage engine, but that mission still managed to be a success. Boeing has also been partners with NASA since the beginning, working with them during the Apollo. SpaceX is a lot more recent, and both parties have had some shortcomings in their capsules (SpaceX had theirs blow up during an ejection test due to a fuel leak in the escape system, and Boeing had the same design and had less of an issue). While the problem went to a valve SpaceX was using, this made NASA more unsure. And during Starliner's launch to the space station, a computer error threw it into a higher orbit so while it never docked, Starliner ran all its tests and landed safely, and as Boeing stated, the crew would not have

been in danger during the entirety of that mission, even with the error. Boeing's being in the news recently also means this grant from NASA would really help them out, so who will be the first to send a man to space? Within a few months, we can answer that question. But for now, we can admire a new, economically driven space race. I asked some of the Upper School students if they were excited about this new, private company ran space race. Senior Amelie Clark said "I think that it's great that there seems to be a new space race because that competition creates some of the best technological advancements. It has also been a long time since we have made big advancements in space." Freshman Myra Kamal said "Yes, it seems like a great step in the right direction and further exploration in space would be amazing!"



Lights Up At The US Theater Showcase

By: Claudia Luo



Photos by Mr. Zale

To be one of the students in the Advanced Acting class, and to have the chance to perform, is definitely a great opportunity and honor. Advanced Acting teacher, Mr. Brandon Zale, organized a showcase performed by the theatre students. It took place in the Art Commons on Tuesday night, December 10th. The tickets were free to all. The showcase was made up of independent comic scenes performed by two or three students. The scenes were a part of the final grade for the students, who had been working on it for two months

bring the characters to life through our performance. We spent time interpreting the meaning behind each line to be able to comprehend the intention of each character" Olivia Cormany, a junior at RS, explained during the interview. "I love the scenes which Mr. Zale assigned to us. The role I got is a high school girl who acts just like me! This makes it so easy for me to stay in character the whole time! We also had the opportunity to add a comic element to the scene to make it more fun," said freshman Sania Sumar during our interview.

in class. Everyone performed with passion and effort.

"We've been trying to fully interpret each character from the descriptions of the script and so to

The show started around 6:00pm, and the audience seats were filled with parents and teachers. Some students also bought real food and drinks as props to enhance the reality on stage.

The first scene was titled "Fables for Friends", performed by Claudia Luo, Sania Sumar and Ari Walker. The second was from "Steel Magnolias", performed by Kate Taylor and Karina Velez. The third scene was called "Boat", performed by Hayley White and Olivia Cormany. The fourth scene was titled "Baggage", performed by Stella Ebner and Izabela Potocnjak. The fifth one was called "Prisoner of Second Avenue", performed by Noah Haberman and Hayley White. The last scene was from "The Odd Couple", performed by Olivia Cormany and Brynn Bleaman.

The audience was amused by our humorous performances. The showcase ended with loud applause and sincere approval.

Unstoppable US Boys Varsity Basketball

By: Grace Berry



The Rancho Solano Varsity Boys Basketball team began their season on November 4, 2019, and since the start of the season the boys have shown tremendous growth. Currently, the boys have an impressive 9-10 overall record and in the 2A conference they are 2-0. In addition to participating in the Sunnyslope Hoopsgiving Tournament over Thanksgiving break and the Vista Mesa Tournament over winter break, the team recently traveled to Dallas, Texas to play two of the top ranked teams in the state. The weekend trip was rather short, lasting

from January 2nd to January 4th. The team first took on John Paul II High School on Friday, and after a tough game, lost to their opponent. Although the boys were defeated, their competition was intense, as John Paul II High School is ranked #20 for varsity boys basketball in the country. During their down time they were even able to relax at the Trigg Household and get a few pointers from Coach Trigg's father about what comprises good leadership skills. They listened to the valuable talk about leadership before heading off to their next game against Prestonwood Christian Academy. Once again, the competition was fierce, as Prestonwood Christian has won 6 of the last 8 private school Texas state championships for men's basketball. The game was extremely close, and in the end Rancho Solano only ended up losing by a mere 4 points, a truly noteworthy accomplishment. After being asked about how he believes the Texas trip went for the team, senior James Dienes commented, "I am really proud of the team and all we have been able to accomplish on the court this year." When asked about the team goals for the remainder of the season, he

noted that "we have a good shot at advancing far in the state tournament, and I am excited to see where the year takes us." Sophomore Michael Dienes explained "the trip was a lot of fun and we grew a lot as a team by playing such tough competition." We wish the boys the best of luck on their season and hope to see them in the state tournament! Go Mustangs!



Layup by #12 Tyson Legner.



Senior Jackson Seagrave at a tournament.

Editorial: Australia In Flames!

By: Amelie Clark



really sad though because Australia is such an amazing place and so beautiful.”

Finally, I asked junior Luka Potocnjak about the fires: “What I do know is that it’s going to take over a century to get rid of the smoke

and all of the carbon dioxide. It’s a terrible event but hopefully, much like a phoenix, something may rise from the ashes.”

The only silver lining of this situation is that the Australian fires have brought even more awareness to the issue of global warming and there have been many people coming together in efforts to help and make donations.

The wild bush fires have resulted in over 1 billion animal deaths!

First, fires in California, then fires in Brazil, and now fires in Australia. There have been some of the worst fires the world has ever seen in the past year. The bush fires began in the South East of Australia where New South Wales has been hit the hardest. Now 26 million acres of land have burned and 28 people have died. Over 100,000 people have left their homes in evacuation zones, most people taking shelter near the coast on beaches. It was also estimated by the University of Sydney that 500 million animals have died and many more are being affected. Some of the animals native to Australia (such as koalas, kangaroos, and wallabies) are being pushed towards extinction since the majority of their populations live in Australia; either their food sources are gone or they died in the fire, so they might only be seen in zoos. The fires came as a result of record breaking temperatures and severe drought. Temperatures have reached up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, and what makes this even worse is the fact that Australia has just started their summer season. They are only through the first month and the fires have been going on for several months. However, it has also been suspected that people may have started the fires. Twenty-four people have been charged by the police for inten-

tionally starting the bush fires and, since November, 193 people have had legal action taken against them.

When I asked senior Hunter Simpson about the fires and if he has any family or anyone he knows still there being affected, he said, “Most of my grandparents came here, but my family that lived in Melbourne evacuated to Brisbane. My grandparents have been constantly following the news and know a lot of people that lost their homes.” I also asked him how he felt about the fires, “It’s really sad and an unfortunate event that’s going on with so many animals dying.”

I then asked freshman Myra Kamal about the fires and if she thinks the situation has been worsened by global warming. She responded, “The Australian wildfires have been really tragic to just read about in the news and hear about. It’s definitely a sign that we need to pay attention to global warming and climate change and I feel that we, as people, need to try harder to save our planet.”

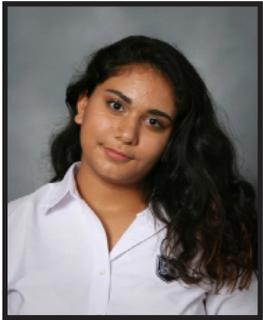
Afterwards, I asked sophomore Avni Jain how she felt about the situation. She said “I have some cousins in Australia and when I read about the fires. It kind of scared me and I called them up to make sure they were okay. It’s



Firefighters take koalas out of burning forests.

WW3 in 2020?

DEAR DIALLAH



Diallah Athari

In a rough situation? Not sure what to do? Send your requests for advice to “Dear Diallah” by email at Pegasus@ranchosolano.com. Diallah will answer one to two questions per month.

Dear Diallah,

Hey Diallah, I'm really worried about what has been happening with Iran. I've been watching the news lately and it's been scaring me a lot. Since I've been keeping track of the news, things seem to have only be getting worse, and I don't know what I'd do. I don't know what's going to happen. What would I do if war broke out? Will I be okay? Will we be okay? I'm not too far off from 18. What if I got DRAFTED?

*Signed
Worried About War*

Dear Worried About War,

I am glad you are expressing concern, but I want you to know that this is completely absurd. You should absolutely be worried about the state of your country (as a CIVILIAN). However, as a country we have a perfectly capable military force, and if push came to shove, the projected average age for the draft would be 26. If I could offer you any advice in this situation, it would be to read about what is happening and try not to stress. There are many things to worry about, and I am not saying that this isn't important, but the idea of getting drafted should not be your main concern.

Sincerely,
Diallah

Alumni Spotlight on Cat Dang!

By: Yuna Shprecher



This January, Pegasus Monthly had the opportunity to interview Rancho Solano alumna Tuong (Cat) Dang, class of 2019. Cat is currently a freshman at the University of California, Davis, a well-regarded public university in the rural city of Davis, California. Cat was interested in UC Davis primarily due to

their strength in bioscience, though this semester, she explained, she is “switching to neurobiology,” primarily because she’ll “graduate with more options and opportunities later.” Being honest about how college life has been so far, Cat admits, “If I’m honest, I don’t like college as much as I expected.” In fact, she is currently considering transferring schools, probably to “another school in the UC system,” after her sophomore year. The large undergraduate population, as well as the location of the school, is a large factor in this decision. She also notes that “it always smells faintly of cow manure— especially at night.”

She does, however, believe that her time as an IB Diploma student helped ease the adjustment into university coursework. For example, she notes that her “IB English annotation skills have definitely helped” her while analyzing poetry and prose in class efficiently. In addition, she only had to take one prerequisite English class, whereas many of her friends “have to take

three basic English courses.”

Though she’s made plenty of new friends at UC Davis, she’s also homesick for her home country, Vietnam. When asked why this feeling is more pronounced than before, she said, “Even though I studied abroad in Arizona for the last three years, I was still around my sister, cousins, and aunts. At college, there’s much more of an emphasis on independence.” Cat also acknowledges that she misses the “small, friendly community” that comprises Rancho. She made sure to mention a few current and past Rancho students specifically, saying, “I definitely miss my close friends, like Wendy, Sho and Amber!” She recommends that Rancho students, especially those in their senior year, make as many great high school memories as possible. “Don’t take for granted the time and friends you have now!”

