



Editor-In-Chief  
Isabella Rose

# Pegasus Monthly

The Rancho Solano Preparatory School Student Newspaper  
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Assistant Editor-In-Chief  
Myra Kamal

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## 2020 Vision From the Newly Elected STUGO Officers!

By: Isabella Rose



Your 2019-2020 STUGO officials! Photo by Mrs. Bromfield.

Rancho Solano rang in the new school year, not only with new freshman officers, but with new members filling almost every position! As of the August freshman elections, our new reigning Freshman President is Myra Kamal and Vice President is Lauren Epard. When I asked Myra what she would like to do with her position, she said, “With my position I would love to benefit the Rancho community in multiple ways, whether that be setting up events or helping out students. I am really excited Lauren was elected for VP because I know we work really well together! Lauren and I will work together by collaborating on different ideas and listening to other students’ opinions.”

But not only do we have new representation for the freshman grade, but for many of the officer positions as well. The STUGO officer positions were filled as follows:

Sophomore President Bela Potocnjak, Sophomore Vice President Sean Ryan, Junior President Mehek Sumar, Junior Vice President Wyatt Hammond, Senior President Ossas Xu, Senior Vice President Ludovica Bianchi, Secretary Brynn Bleaman, Treasurer Amelie Clark, Spirit Coordinator Brandon White, and Media Manager Luka Potocnjak.

As a result of a convincing political campaign ran by Ossas Xu last May, he won the senior presidency on a platform to represent the minorities of Rancho, the international students, who don’t have as much of a voice within the school. When I asked Ossas what his main goal was as Upper School President he divulged that, “My main goal is to help the dorm students—there are about 30 of them—integrate more within the school community”. We’re all looking forward to the new perspective and ideas Ossas can provide this year.

When I asked senior Amelie Clark what she would like to do differently as opposed to last year, she stated that “I would like to try and be better organized at planning our events, so that they can be more fun for the entire student body. More specifically, making sure Prom is better and having even more activities this year to unite the student body.”

Newly elected spirit coordinator Brandon White also stated, “My goal this year is to get the student body more involved and active within our school culture. Mostly encouraging people to participate in spirit week and having a bigger following at sports events.”

Within the first month of school, STUGO already has many plans for this school year. When I asked what she’d like to do differently from last year, Mrs. Bromfield stated, “I’m still learning because this is my first year as a sponsor. I would like to see the representatives talking more closely with their classmates to get a consensus of what they want.” In addition, when I asked how she felt about the turnout of the elections for this school year, she stated “I’m pleased with the results, everyone has worked really hard to not only get elected, but to fulfill what is required of them as an officer.”

Based on the sound of the mission articulated by this year’s student government, this is sure to be a year with an overwhelming amount of spirit and class unification!

# International Perspective: Back to School!

By: Yuna Shprecher & Claudia Luo



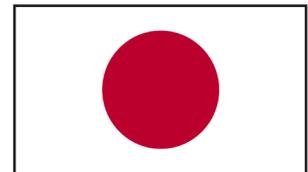
Even though it feels as though we started the new school year only recently, it's been two months since we returned to Rancho, or for some students, first stepped foot on the Rancho campus. Though we started school back in August, students in other countries, or even other states, start at different times. In fact, for some countries, the school year doesn't begin at the end of summer, but during spring or winter.

Traditions for the start of the new school year vary around the world as well. For example, in Vietnam, students celebrate the fresh start with an event "that's like an open ceremony," Rancho senior Patrick Le explains. This usually occurs at the beginning of September. The school plays music and hosts various performances. Patrick elaborates that "Different schools do

different things. Some schools light candles, free birds, or release balloons." The school year is very similar to Arizona's; however, Patrick notes that though students "usually have three months of summer, if you want to join an advanced class, you only have six weeks before you start." Such a path is commonly taken by high schoolers in Vietnam. All the way in England, summer break starts a little later than it does in America. Instead, says Monica Ghuman, a Rancho sophomore who previously lived in England, "most schools begin the summer break on Thursday, July 25. The holiday period then continues for six weeks until Wednesday, September 3."

In contrast to these countries, though there is a summer break in Japan, the school year does not end in May. In fact, summer break is

merely a recess from a school year which starts in April. This break, known as natsuyasumi, begins around the third week of July and lasts until the beginning of September. Shotaro Fujiki, a junior at Rancho, explains that at the beginning of the school year there is an assembly in which "The principal talks about the new school year and introduces the new teachers." Although summer break in Japan only lasts a month, Shotaro notes that students also have "a long vacation called Golden week, from the end of April to the beginning of May." Though school dates and traditions may vary around the world, there is a common sentiment of excitement in preparation for the new school year. We hope this year continues to bring excitement to Rancho students as well!



## Pegasus Monthly

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# Party in the USA- Homecoming 2019!

By: Myra Kamal



International students go American for one night! Photo by Mrs. Bromfield.

The Homecoming dance was a night to remember for the Rancho Upper School! The dance was held on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, and the theme was *Party in the USA*. The dress was, for the first time, casual. The dance began at 7:00 pm and ended at 10:00 pm. Multiple groups of students went to dinner before the dance and then arrived. Students came either in casual clothes or pretty dresses, and some even brought dates from outside of school. This not only allowed students to spend time with their class, but also mingle with former Rancho students who returned that night. Former students really embodied the meaning of a *homecoming*, since the word implies alumni, or former students, can come back and celebrate together. Furthermore, student government worked hard to make the dance possible. That meant coming in early to set up the decorations and staying late to clean up as well. Brynn Bleaman and Bella Potocnjak were in charge of organizing the dance this year. I asked them about the decision to make the dance casual and Brynn told me, "I think making HOCO casual for this year's students worked out really well and for the best." I also asked Brynn about the success of the dance, and she responded, "On behalf of STUGO, I'm so happy the event was such a success!" Over one hundred students attended the event, the largest number ever at an US dance! In preparation for the dance, Bela

also told me that they "went to Party City many, many times."

Not only was it an enjoyable event full of dancing and snacks, but it was memorable also as being the freshman class's first Homecoming and the senior's last. Students also had the opportunity to vote for their Homecoming Court during the dance. The results of the Homecoming Court were announced late that evening with Sharvin Raj and Bella Alfonso winning for ninth grade, PK Tran and Sarah Liley winning for the tenth grade, William Ma and Hailey White winning for the eleventh grade, and Hunter Simpson and Ludovica Bianchi winning for the twelfth grade. I asked Sharvin and Bella how they felt about winning Homecoming King and Queen. Bella said, "I'm really grateful for everyone who voted for me and it was just a really fun event." Sharvin added, "Yeah, I had a lot of fun at HOCO this year!" There were many components of the event that could not have been achieved without the hard work of our students and teachers. Students even volunteered to help student government, whether it was through cleaning up or selling tickets. Senior Hunter Simpson was a wonderful DJ. Teachers also contributed to the event by chaperoning and staying late to help clean up. The event was overall successful and memorable for the high school!



Freshman Court. Photo by Brandon White.



Sophomore Court. Photo by Brandon White.



Junior Court. Photo by Brandon White.



Senior Court. Photo by Brandon White.

## ~Jumping Into Falls Sports

# Events to Get A Kick Out Of: October Soccer Roundup

By: Trevor McKibben



of which went to our team captain, Drake Leier. The overall consensus of the team is that everyone played a very important role in the win, each member playing their part excellently. Of course, for a starting game, there's nothing like an 8-0 win to set expectations high

Friday, September 6th set a new milestone for the varsity soccer team here at Rancho Solano, as our first game began on a warm summer evening. The two teams, our Rancho Solano Mustangs against the Tucson Academy Lynxes, had a fair and easy game, a great start to the soccer season. The game saw the Mustangs score eight goals, four

for the upcoming season, with the "team chemistry at its peak" according to Drake, who believes we are "on track to beat our win record of all time" which is over 3 wins.

During our next game, expectations may not have been as well met. Our Mustangs played against the Snowflake High School Lobos,

three hours northeast in Snowflake, Arizona. The game took quite an opposite turn for the worst compared to the soccer game in Tucson. The Lobos scored eight goals and the Mustangs scored none. The next two games, away at Saint John's and Page, saw the games coming to a close at 0-7 loss in St. John's, and 2-6 loss in Page. This brings up an important point: our team may be smaller than usual, however we "do well with what we have" according to Brandon White, the Mustangs' goalie. As for things we can work on, "better on the runs, move more on the passes, and mark your man" are some ways we can improve when it comes to defending and generally handling the ball.

Overall, the kick off of the soccer season has been a blast for everyone on the team, and many are hopeful for what it has next in store.

## The Spirit of Rancho: Poms!

By: Josh Folz



As the 2019-2020 school year begins, so does the season for the Rancho Solano Pom team! Beginning with a team of five girls three years ago, the Rancho Solano Pom

she said. The Rancho Solano Pom team has practice Monday through Thursday from 3:30 until 5:30. So far, they have performed at two different pep rallies.

team has now evolved to a team of fourteen. One of the Pom team captains, Stella Dillard, shared her thoughts about the new year. "I am very excited about this year. I believe this year the girls will work harder and we will improve greatly!"

Whenever those girls step out onto the gym floor, the student body goes wild! Stella Dillard also described how "The girls just have a newfound sense of joy when they perform. When I watch them, I see a spark in their eyes that cannot be extinguished."

Next month, in early November, the girls have their first competition of the season. As Stella Dillard stated, "I am extremely overwhelmed with joy at the thought of this new and improved team attending the state qualifier competition." As this year progresses, I am sure that every student is very eager to see the rest of the Pom team's breath taking pep rallies, and their amazing cheering at our athletic games.

# Golden State Tourney for Volleyball

By: Myra Kamal & Grace Berry



The US girls' varsity team spent the weekend in California on September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The team flew to California Friday morning and returned to Phoenix Sunday afternoon. They went to Calabasas for the Viewpoint California tournament. Rancho is one of the few schools who come to this major tournament from out of state. The team was placed in the gold bracket, competing with some of the best teams in California. The girls faced a new challenge because the level of California teams in volleyball are especially high when compared to Arizona. In past years, the tournament has taken place in other states, like Florida.

Three stellar teams the varsity played against were the Archers, Calabasas, and Viewpoint. The varsity team won two out of five games, eventually winning fifth place in the tournament. Over the weekend, the varsity girls also had the opportunity to go to different restaurants such as Urban Plates and Lemonade. Furthermore, after the tournament they had fun one evening visiting the popular tourist destination, the Santa Monica Pier, where they took pictures and walked around the market place. Soon after, the girls got the chance to shop and walk around the mall, relaxing after a weekend of hard work. Both captains of the team, Amanda Koath and Lindsey Bel-

grad, really enjoyed the trip! Lindsey told us, "It was a really good opportunity for us to learn and grow as players, as well as become closer as teammates. We had a lot of fun on and off the court and will definitely bring back really good things for the season ahead!" In addition, we wanted to know Amanda's thoughts on the tournament and competitors. She told us, "I think our team did very well in the tournament. Everyone stepped up and we played some really good volleyball together and it made me excited for the rest of the season. We can definitely still work on limiting our errors in our serving and passing, as those are the two most important skills in volleyball. The toughest team we probably played was Quartz Hill. It was our last

game of the tournament, and they were a very big team and one that knew how to score."

Another interesting aspect of the varsity tournament was that some of the JV girls, who were also moved up to varsity, were able to come as well, increasing the number of girls on the team from six to ten. Andia Gargiulo, one of the JV girls, told us her feelings on being part of the varsity tournament and trip when she told us, "It was a great bonding experience for our team and definitely brought us to a higher level." Overall, the opportunity to go to California for the volleyball tournament was a great way for the varsity team to compete against challenging teams and to bond!



Volleyball girls on the Santa Monica pier after an exhausting day of games. Photo by Coach Trigg.

# Juniors Take On the Infamous IBDP!

By: Diallyh Athari



This year holds the largest amount of IB Diploma candidates in Rancho history! Photo by Mr. Garbarino.

As we embark on the new school year, we are faced with many new and exciting ventures and challenges. This year we welcome a new group of high school Juniors to the world of the IB diploma, a rigorous academic program made to instill discipline, worldly knowledge, and well roundedness in each student. With the help of our teachers and advisers, we hope that our group is able to accomplish greatness.

One of the most important aspects to succeeding in the diploma is unity amongst the grade. Dr. Spencer constantly reminds us that “The knowledge of a class is greater than the knowledge of an individual.” This statement could not be more true, having the opportunity to work closely with your peers makes embarking on the diploma far more manageable. Luckily, this year our juniors have an advantage. Our sense of community has helped propel us into starting the new task, and hopefully will allow us to succeed for the many months to come. Mr. Garbarino, the IB Coordinator, says “As a class the juniors have an honest, deep connection

that exists prominently. Although there are smaller groups within the class, this connection is truly strong. The juniors fundamentally like and respect each other, and that’s crucial to all of their success.” As our year progresses and we begin working on our Extended Essays, better known as the infamous EE, we will be assisted greatly by a new Advisor and EE Coordinator, Mrs. McCarty. “ My role is to work with the full diploma students, from the very beginning of the Extended Essay process. This means choosing a topic, finding scholarly sources, and beginning the process of writing the rough and final drafts. I make sure students are meeting deadlines, and are learning how to write a university-level research paper from beginning to end. The best part is hearing about the students’ research during the Silver Tray Ceremony, which is also something that I coordinate.” Mrs. McCarty takes great pride in helping her students succeed while working on the EE while also coordinating the beautiful ceremony to be held in November.

Although we have only very recently began working towards this goal, our students are already beginning to get a feel for what it means to be a full IB diploma student here at Rancho Solano. Maddie Liley, a current junior says, “Overall, the workload has been more than I was expecting, but it’s manageable. It’s going to take time to get used to everything, but it will always be slightly challenging.” This year we have a total of 14 juniors intending to graduate as a part of the full diploma program, some of which have recently moved from other countries. New junior Baraka Kasule, who recently moved from Saudi Arabia, feels that “It’s a very interactive program, and it will take some time to get used to it.” Although the diploma can be a lot at first, it can benefit you greatly. Current IB Junior Logan DeSaye says “I feel like the IB diploma is going to be extremely beneficial to me, and will prepare me for college in a way that other schools can’t. I feel like it will get me through a lot in the future, and other schools can’t really guarantee that.” The diploma can assist you through high school and, more importantly, can make the college work load seem less daunting. We hope that this year all of our juniors are able to succeed and feel confident in their ability to complete the diploma.



# Editorial: The Amazon is on Fire

## —Now What?

By: Amelie Clark

During the month of August, the Amazon rainforest in the heart of Brazil experienced an immense amount of fires. The Amazon is the largest rainforest in the world. The Amazon is a crucial part of the Earth's health as it accounts for 10% of the world's biodiversity as well as providing 20% of the world's oxygen. According to the INPE (Brazil's space agency), 80,000 fires have broken out in the rainforest in the year of 2019, about an 80% increase in just the amount of fires from 2018. The fires the Amazon has experienced have also been more intense than in recent years. Some of the fires are claimed to be caused by dry weather and extreme heat, however, the Amazon is quite humid, so it is actually more difficult to catch on fire than a dry bushland. It is more likely that they are human-lit fires caused by loggers and ranchers who want to clear the land to use (and apparently these businesses are supported by the government). Many are blaming the president, Jair Bolsonaro, for encouraging businesses to burn the rainforest-- to have more room for cattle/agriculture as well as space for developing businesses-- in order to boost the economy.

If the Amazon continues to burn at its alarming rate without any intervention, it could lead to many serious global consequences. The Amazon is a large absorber for the world's carbon dioxide output: it contains 90 to 140 billion metric tons of carbon, according to the World Wildlife Fund. This means that the Amazon actually has a large impact when it comes to global warming, as it acts as a regulator for large amounts of carbon dioxide. So if all of the carbon dioxide that the Amazon absorbs, stops being absorbed, it could severely speed up the effects of global warming.

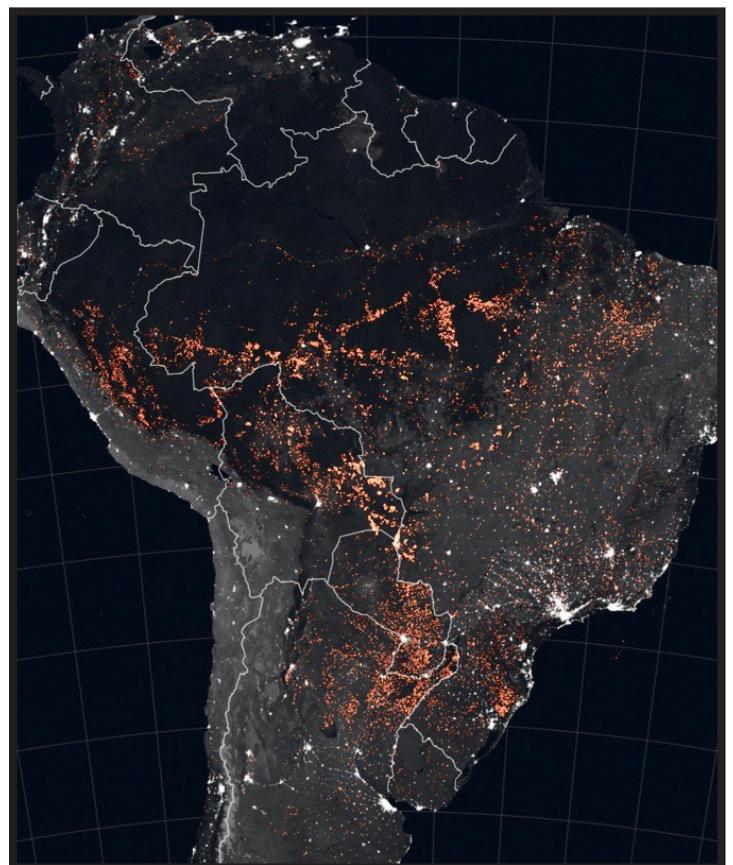
I interviewed a few members of

the student body, particularly those from Brazil, to see how they felt about the Amazon rainforest burning. I first asked Lucas Velasco, a senior, what he thinks and if he would blame the government for the fires. He responded, "I think the Amazon fires are clearly bad. I also think they are partially caused by the government because they don't act to protect the rainforest. However, I think it's mainly a problem of education because people in Brazil don't really talk about the Amazon (it's talked about more in America than Brazil) or think about protecting it, and the government doesn't either. There is a lot of miseducation and fake news surrounding it." I then asked him what he thinks it could mean if the Amazon were to be completely destroyed, for Brazil, and the entire world: "Brazil would lose a lot of native people and tribes because they're concentrated in the Amazon, and the economy is based on the Amazon. Also the climate would change; it would affect so many things." Senior Rafaella Rocha-Correia said that the rainforest is "the lungs of the world so I think it should concern not only people in Brazil, but all over the world."

When I asked her about the government's involvement, she replied, "It's truly upsetting that a country with so much potential is under the rule of such idiotic people." Junior Maria Siqueira said, "It's a big issue and so sad that

the government is not doing anything about it, the rainforest is one of the biggest forests in the world." I then asked senior Igor Generoso about the Amazon fires and the effects it has had. He replied, "The fires in the Amazon are as detrimental to the environment as they are for politics. This can be seen from the awakening of sustainable parties in Europe, and the public they bring to their cause. Many politicians are using the situation to promote themselves and they don't actually defend the cause. They are simply attacking Brazil to gain popularity."

Overall, the burning of the Amazon rainforest could be detrimental to the health of the earth if actions to stop the fires are not taken. The Amazon fires are an issue that affects not only Brazil, but all of us, and should motivate us towards action.



Satellite view of the raging forest fires in the Amazon.

# Hardships at Homecoming?

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](mailto:Pegasus@ranchosolano.com) Diallah will answer one to two questions per month.

Dear Diallah,

The Homecoming dance was super fun. I had a great time with my friends, but I have a bit of a problem. The guy I really like didn't notice me, and we didn't really get the chance to talk. He was distracted with all of his friends, and was far away from me. How can I spontaneously start up a conversation with him? How can I get him to talk to me?

Signed,  
Sleepless in Scottsdale

Dear Sleepless in Scottsdale,

I'm glad you had a good time at the dance! If you feel like he doesn't notice you, find a way to make yourself stand out. Don't be afraid to initiate the conversation. Ask him about his weekend, ask him what his dog's name is, ask him about global warming... just get him talking and see where it goes. If you try all that, and he still doesn't want to talk to you, do yourself a favor and move on. Don't get hung up on people. Take some time to focus on yourself. Him rejecting you may be a blessing in disguise... maybe.

xoxo,  
Diallah.

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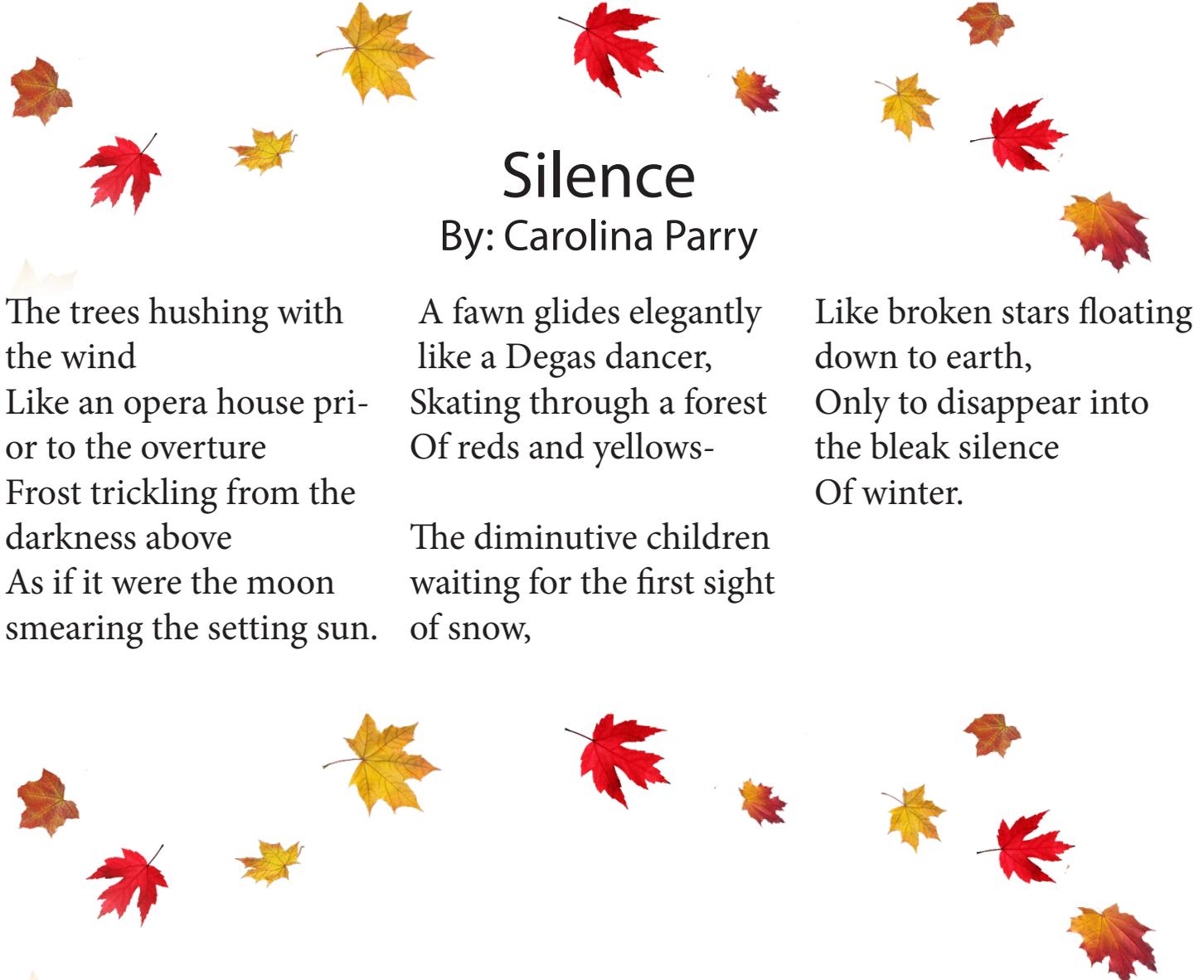
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## Poetry Corner

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### Silence

By: Carolina Parry

The trees hushing with  
the wind  
Like an opera house prior  
to the overture  
Frost trickling from the  
darkness above  
As if it were the moon  
smearing the setting sun.

A fawn glides elegantly  
like a Degas dancer,  
Skating through a forest  
Of reds and yellows-

The diminutive children  
waiting for the first sight  
of snow,

Like broken stars floating  
down to earth,  
Only to disappear into  
the bleak silence  
Of winter.