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January 24th 2025 | Issue 5 | Volume 75

In Memory of Ford Savela

Mira Costa mourns the loss of senior Ford Savela, who passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025. An integral part of the Costa community, he will be missed dearly by staff and students.

Ford was born on September 28, 2006 to James and Ashley Savela. A Manhattan Beach native, Ford was an alumnus of Grandview Elementary, Manhattan Beach Middle School, and planned to graduate from Mira Costa this June.

Ford was passionate about astronomy and rock climbing, and was the president of the Rock Climbing Club at Costa. He was also an avid member of the eSports team.

Outside of school, Ford worked as a youth coach at Sender One, an indoor rock climbing gym in Westchester. He shared his passion for rock climbing with the next generation, and approached everyone he met with enthusiasm and patience.

Ford's positive influence on his family and friends, as well as everyone he came across at Costa, will be forever remembered. Everyone who knew him agrees that he was an outstanding student and an amazing friend, and his memory will live on in the community.

Ford is survived by his parents and brother Chase, class of 2023 Costa alumnus. Last night, Mira Costa hosted a celebration of life for Ford at the Mira Costa auditorium. Family members, friends, classmates, and teachers gathered to commemorate Ford and his impact on the community.



Ford poses for a photo while at a friend's house. Ford loved bringing the people he loved together and building up his community. *Photo courtesy of Lane Stoddard.*

Costa community remembers Ford

Compiled by Kit Humbarger/Managing Editor

Ford's friends and teachers share stories of Ford and his unforgettable presence.

As we look to navigate our way, let us look to Ford. His truest solution is up. Your problems in life are worthy of your persistence and others are worthy of your attention. Thank you Ford Savela for being our rock. We will always be grateful that we can look up to you.

-Mr. Robertson

Ford had a beautiful soul that wanted everyone to feel loved. He always wanted to see people together, and that's what made him such a vital part of our lives.

-Eric Chu

When I think of Ford , I immediately think of his warm demeanor and genuine personality. He didn't need to be the center of attention, yet was respected by others because of his transparent and gentle personality.

-Mrs. Martinez-Sellan

Ford was like a big brother to all of us. All he wanted was for everyone around him to be happy and was always there to support me during my worst times. He had the most pure heart ever.

-Bora Sepil

Ford is the friendliest person I've ever met. He wasn't afraid to go up to any random person and strike up a conversation. He was just so kind and charming, everyone loved being around him.

-Lane Stoddard

I could tell from the first few interactions I had with Ford that he was a deeply compassionate and sensitive person. His kindness came through almost as a tangible force. My students and I greatly miss his presence, and yet we are grateful for the time he spent among us and the memories we have.

-Ms. Ford

It is uncommon to sense from someone a pure essence of good, and Ford was just that. He was just good.

-Mr. Waserman

Ford was one of my safe people. I knew I could count on him no matter what, and for that I am forever grateful. Thank you Ford for being such a light in my life.

-Cat Kochy

He wasn't just an exceptional student—he was a beacon of hope for the future, someone destined to change the world.

-Mr. Brenan

Ford was surrounded by lots of family and friends because of his free-spirited personality. He was warm, welcoming and sincere to anybody that met him. All we can do now is honor him in the best way by sharing his memories and living a life of how he wanted it to be full of love.

-Mr. Kurz

Ford was one of the most kind and genuine people I knew. He was one of those people that you could talk to about anything. No matter how much time had passed he was always there for others.

-Miranda Johnson



Ford and his brother Chase on a hike near Las Vegas. *Photo courtesy of Lana Torres.*

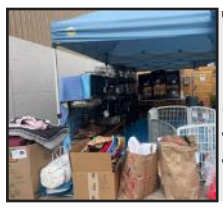


Ford with his friends after a dinner at the Cheesecake Factory in Marina del Rey. *Photo courtesy of Kailey Kim.*

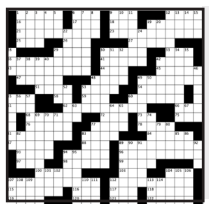
In This Issue: The Highlights of La Vista



Features 6-7
Read about Mrs. Sieker's student-led plays on page 6.



Theme 8-9
Read about how Costa is helping those affected by the LA fires.



Arts 10-13
Flip to page 11 to complete the January crossword!



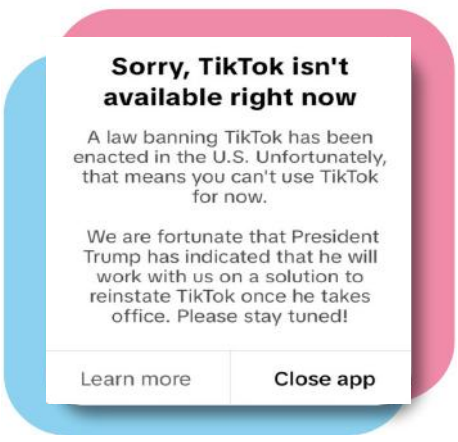
Sports 14-16
Head to page 14 to read about the news boys golf coach!

Tik Tok banned for less than 24 hours in the U.S.

By Natasha Randeniya
Executive News Editor

TikTok Ban Overview:

Since 2020, debate over banning TikTok in the U.S. has raged. On Jan. 18, millions of Americans lost access to the app after a law signed by former President Joe Biden in April took effect. The law required TikTok's Chinese owner, ByteDance, to sell the app to an American buyer, but failure to comply led to the ban.



Users received this message about the TikTok ban on Jan. 18.

Why TikTok Was Banned:

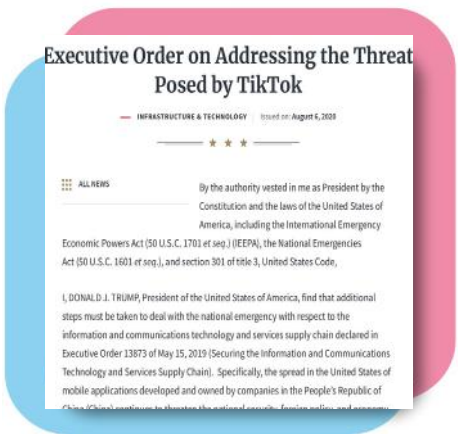
U.S. lawmakers argue that TikTok poses a national security risk because of its Chinese ownership. Concerns include the ability of ByteDance to share user data with the Chinese government or manipulate platform content. The Supreme Court upheld the ban, citing these concerns as valid, though no public evidence of this behavior from TikTok has been released.

TikTok Being Banned:

TikTok went offline in the U.S. on Saturday, Jan. 18, hours before the law banning was set to take effect. This followed the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in support of the law which was passed in April with broad support and signed by President Biden. The law banned U.S. companies from supporting TikTok unless it was sold to a U.S. or non-enemy company.

Trump's Part in the Ban:

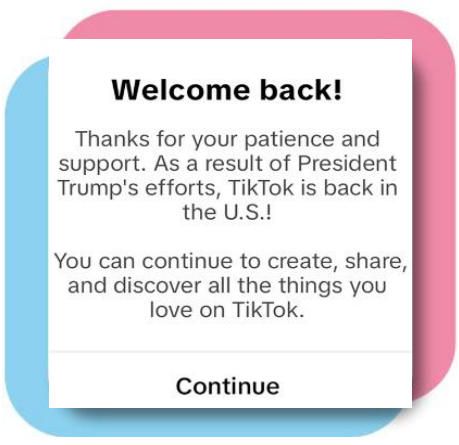
Donald Trump first pushed for a TikTok ban in 2020, but his stance has changed. As he prepared to return to office this year, he proposed delaying the ban to find ways to keep TikTok running under U.S. control. On Jan. 20, Trump signed an order providing TikTok with 75 more days to stay online while ByteDance searches for a U.S. buyer. Trump, who has accumulated nearly 15 million followers on TikTok, said he has a "warm spot" for the app and credited it for helping him connect with young voters.



Trump's order to ban TikTok in 2020.

TikTok's Impact:

TikTok provides income for creators and social media managers who use the platform to reach audiences. The ban left some worried about their income since many major content creators use TikTok as their job and don't have another source of income. TikTok has allowed people to unite and raise awareness about global struggles, allowing individuals to share their stories and receive help they might not have gotten otherwise



TikTok celebrated its return with this notification on Jan. 19.

Whats Next for TikTok:

Due to President Trump's executive order delaying enforcement of the ban, the app will remain accessible for users. TikTok began restoring access in the United States the morning of January 19th and most users were able to use TikTok as if it never left. The app welcomed back American users with a notification thanking Trump for his efforts tow bring the app back in the U.S.

Alternate Platforms:

In TikTok's absence, people tried to turn to alternative platforms. The Chinese app Xiaohongshu, colloquially known as RedNote it. Often described as a blend of Pinterest and Instagram, RedNote's focus on short-term content makes it an alternative.

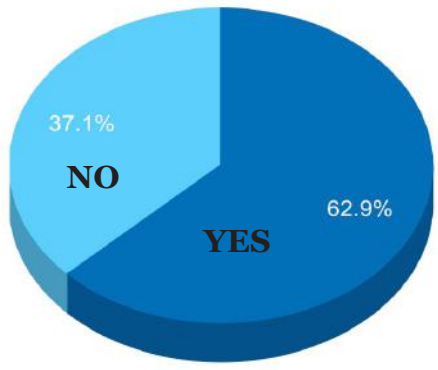
Student Thoughts:

"I never use TikTok to begin with," said senior Seamus O'Neill. "My friends were freaking out when TikTok got banned but I could care less."

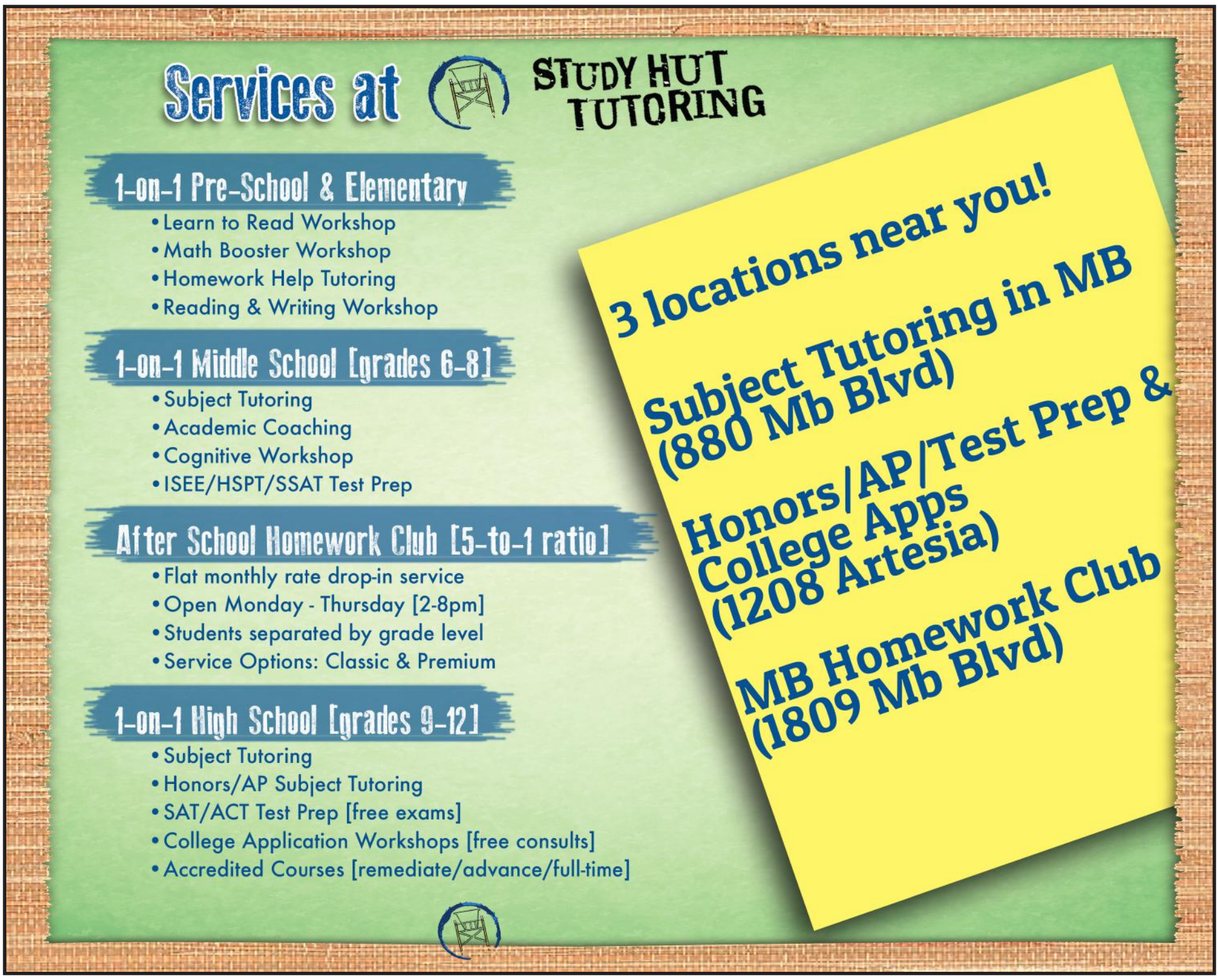
"When TikTok first got banned it was a good oppurtunity to spend less time scrolling on my phone," said junior Alexis Lee.

"I deleted the app and now I can't redownload it, so I am sad," said senior Stella Traylor.

La Vista asked if students would care if TikTok gets Ban?



SURVEY RESULTS: A total of 38 Costa students responded to this survey between Jan. 10 and Jan. 17.

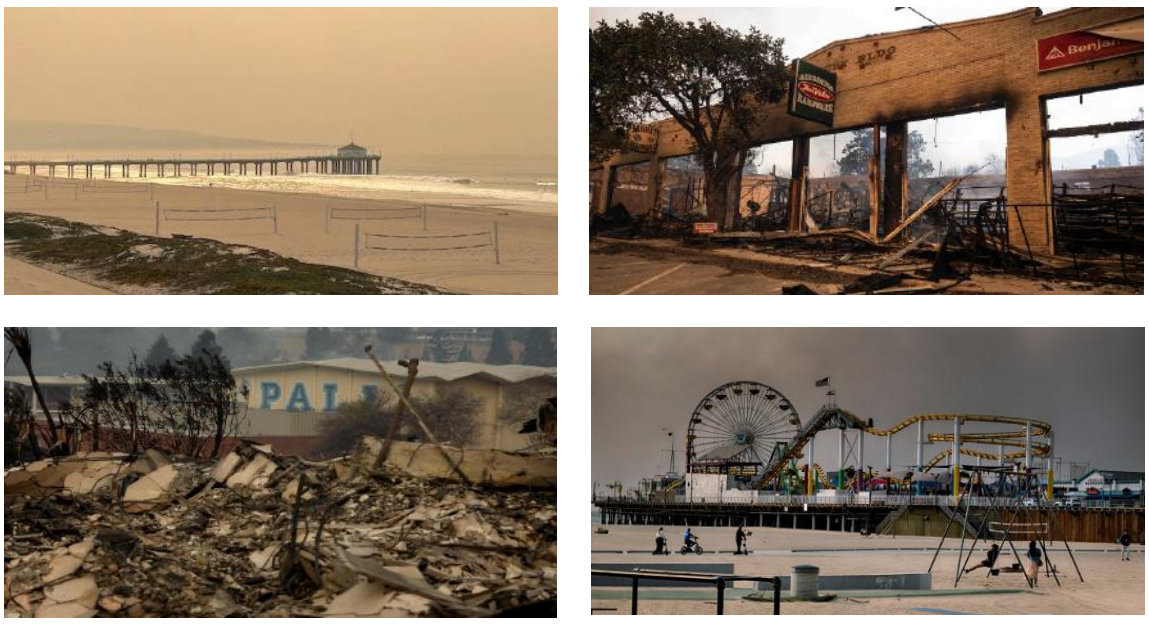


FEB 2025

Events Calendar

01 SAT	WINTER FORMAL
04 TUE	AIDS BENEFIT CONCERT
10-17 WEEKLONG	SKI WEEK
20 THU	BLACK HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY
21 FRI	COSTA GOSPEL CONCERT
27 THU	BLACK HISTORY MONTH POETRY CONTEST





EFFECTS OF THE EMBERS: Smoke and ash was visible from the Manhattan Beach and Santa Monica piers. The Palisades fire destroyed Palisades High, and the Eaton fire took down several buildings including Altadena Hardware in Altadena. *Photos courtesy of MB Confidential, Sarah Reingewirtz, LA Times, Mario Tama (clockwise from top left)*

Frightening wildfires threaten Southern California, largest fires in LA history

By Landen Braunstein
News Editor

Los Angeles County was set ablaze on Jan. 7, as several raging wildfires rapidly spread across the city. The largest reported fires, the Palisades and Eaton fires, are still not completely contained and continue to threaten Southern California residents.

At approximately 10:15 am on Tuesday morning, Pacific Palisades resident Michel Valentine called 911 to report smoke near the site of what is now the Lochman fire. By 12:30 pm just two hours later, evacuation orders were in effect and almost 300 acres of land was in flames.

> **“If I had to describe my experience in one word it would be: terrifying. The schools our kids went to, the grocery stores we shopped at - it’s all gone”**

said Pacific Palisades resident CJ Schellenberg.

The cause of these fires is unknown and currently under investigation. However, the Southern California Edison Company (SCE) is facing legal cases, as evidence suggests the Eaton fire may have ignited due to an issue with the company’s overhead wires. The incessant drought plaguing California throughout the last few years and the 80 mile per hour winds contributed to the strength and force of these fires.

As of Jan. 22 the fires are predicted to cost a staggering $275 billion, making them one of the most expensive disasters in LA and United States history. They have also costed the lives of 27 civilians, 17 of which were killed by the Eaton fires alone. Additionally, 12,000 buildings, homes, and schools, have been burned to the ground.

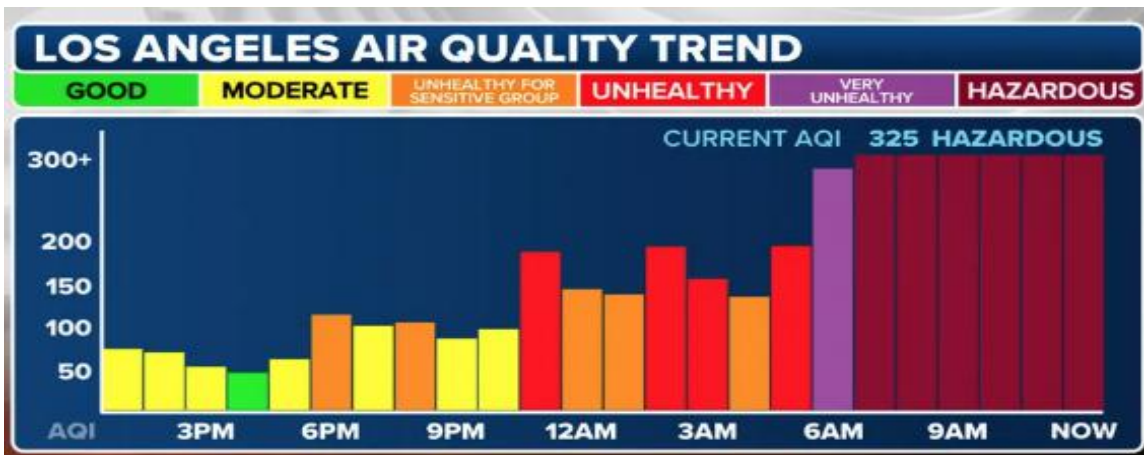
Schellenberg was forced to evacuate his home and community, which was significantly damaged by the fires. He and his family, along with many other evacuees, have been staying in Manhattan Beach and are unsure where they will be living going forward. “What home is there to go back to?” Schellenerg posited.

Manhattan Beach experienced direct impacts of these fires as well, most notably extremely unhealthy air quality throughout the week of Jan. 7. The air quality index in Manhattan Beach peaked at 193 on Tuesday morning, which inflicted harmful side effects on Costa students and staff, particularly those with respiratory issues.

“My wife, as well as my two sons, live with asthma, and the poor air quality has continued to be a challenge,” Schellenberg said. “But the community and people in Manhattan Beach, where we have been temporarily relocated, have been incredibly welcoming. The compassion and warmth that we have experienced from our friends and the community has been truly moving.”

California Governor Gavin Newsom along with Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, are receiving their fair share of backlash and blame from people across the city. President Donald Trump has been pointing fingers at Newsom, accusing him of refusing to sign a water restoration declaration that would have potentially helped to slow the fires. Over 25,000 LA citizens have responded in outrage to Bass’s leadership during these difficult times, as she was in Ghana during the eruption of the fires.

“This fire has completely upended the lives of every member of our community,” Schellenberg said. “Our focus now is to help our loved ones, friends, and neighbors get through the difficult rebuilding years ahead.”



ASHES IN THE AIR: The air quality index in Los Angeles during the initial week of the fires was extremely toxic and unhealthy. It reached 325 in LA County on Jan. 8, but has since lowered to around 30, improving from hazardous to good. *Photo courtesy of FOX Weather*

Mira Costa High School's
LA VISTA

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Mission Statement: LA VISTA is committed to providing only the highest quality reporting while maintaining a strict standard of journalistic integrity and providing its readers with relevant content.

"The Governing Board desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the district's academic, extracurricular, and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, including discriminatory harassment, intimidation, and bullying, targeted at any student by anyone, based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, nationality, ethnic group identification, ethnicity, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics."

Are the new math and science alarms beneficial?

By London Gregory and George Kilroy
Staff Writers

As of Januray 5th, Costa installed new alarms on the gates of the math and science building. The move sparked heavy debate among the students of Mira Costa as to whether these gates are beneficial to students or simply causing more inconvienences. Two La Vista staffers explore the pros and cons of this new feature.

Yes, they are beneficial.



Illustration by Sadie Lee

Like many high schools, Costa has faced challenges with students leaving campus during without authorization. To address this issue the administration recently implemented a simple but effective measure: installing alarms on the schools emergency exits.

One of the primary advantages of having alarms at emergency exits is that it fosters a sense of accountability among students. Knowing that their actions will have immediate noticeable consequences, students are less likely to attempt sneaking out of campus. This change can help reduce the temptation to skip class and encourage students to remain in the learning environment, where they belong. High school is a critical time for developing habits that carry into adulthood, and accountability is one of these essential life skills. By making it harder for students to avoid the responsibilities the school is reinforcing the importance of commitment and integrity.

The primary purpose of an emergency exit is to provide a safe and efficient escape route during a possible crisis. Installing alarms ensures the exits remain reserved for their intended purpose. In addition, emergency exits and and alarms enhance campus security.

Equipping the doors with alarms, the school maintains better control over who is entering and exiting the campus as well as setting a clear boundary: students are trusted to move around campus appropriately, but leaving without permission is not acceptable.

No, they are prolematic.



Illustration by Sadie Lee

New alarm systems installed on the emergency exit doors of the math and science building at Mira Costa have been increasingly frustrating students. Though installed for safety, these alarms go off whenever someone exits, disrupting many students' classes.

Before the alarms, the emergency exits would be a shortcut for students, mainly while leaving the school. This method was effective in preventing congestion in the halls. The installation of the alarms has been forcing students to take routes that take them longer to reach their destination in addition to limiting exits for all students.

"They are horrible, and so loud and in my opinion, they do absoluetly nothing," said sophomore Clementine Smith. When the alarms ring, blaring sounds inside the building echo through the halls, disrupting student's concentration. This is problematic when students are trying to focus on their schoolwork and theiur are consitent alarms blaring, causing disruption and panic.

According to sophomore Caroline Rackett, "It affects me and my entire class because when it goes off, I beome stressed and get all confused, thinking there's an emergency. "Sometimes in the middle of my work I hear it, and I forget what I was doing."

Another concern is that the alarms could create a false sense of security. The system is designed to stop students from using the exits when unnecessary but in the process, it may cause problems in the case of a real emergency. If an evacuation were to take place, consistent alarms being set off in exit ways could distract admin and security away from the real threat.

Instead of relying on the alarm system, Costa should think of more considerate solutions that would protect the students and take their needs into consideration. For example, adding more security to the doors or an alternate exit that would ease the crowding of the hallways.

While the intention behind the new emergency exit alarms is to enhance safety, they are causing more stress than protection. Classtime is constantly being disrupted, and the alarms don't seem to serve their purpose. The school should consider other ways to improve security that do not interrupt students' everyday life.

> "While the intention behind the new emergency exit alarms is to enhance safety, they are causing more stress than protection."

California firm stance against e-cigarettes benefits youth

By Finley Sellers
Executive Opinion Editor

For centuries, smoking has been a common activity. Whether with a pipe, a cigar, or cigarettes and e-cigarettes, smoking is the number one most addictive habit. To combat this, on Jan. 1st, California banned the retail sale of flavored tobacco products, more commonly known as vapes.

Because the leading drug in e-cigarettes, nicotine, is so addictive, there have been many complaints across the state about this new ban. But what most e-cigarette users do not know is that not only is vaping twice as addictive as a normal cigarette, it's also twice as harmful. According to John Hopkins Medicine reserachers who conducted two seperate studies found that e-cigarette smokers had more negative heart disease risk due to the toxic metals stored in the device that decrease blood flow to the heart.

As of 2024, 5.9% of middle and high school students use e-cigarettes. That's 1.63 million children under the age of 21 illegally inhaling chemicals and toxins into their lungs. Vaping has become such a massive trend in recent years because major e-cigarette corporations have gone above and beyond with their marketing to present their product to the market in ways that are especially eye catching to young audiences.

For example, a minor wanting to purchase nicotine illegally has a choice to inhale tobacco from a cigarette or "Blue Razz Ice" from a GeekBar e-cigarette. The fun flavors, colors, and the light-up features on these e-cigarettes unfortunately make these products much more desirable to younger populations. One vape can contain up to approximately 400 cigarettes and users will finish these devices in only two weeks.

> "People don't realize how damaging it is for your body and how difficult it is to

That equates to rougly 200 cigarettes per week if someone were to finish the device off in a two-week time period. This ban will mitigate the impact of e-cigarettes on youth, which is more prevalent than in non-electronic tobacco products. The use of electricity to charge an e-cigarette remains stored in the vape after it's finished charging and allows the user to inhale battery acid and nicotine simultaneously.

E-cigarettes have been said to not only contain cancer-causing chemicals but also toxic, heavy metals such as nickel, lead, chromium, tin, and aluminium. This is a serious threat to the health of younger people and could lead to complications later in life, just as cigarettes do.

In 2024 alone, the e-cigarette company GeekBar made $76 million solely in online sales. That's excluding all the other in-store purchases which estimates their net product to be over $100 million a year. Such an immense amount of money spent on chemicals infiltrating people's lungs have caused a surge of health concerns all across the country, and rightfully so.

These devices cause life long health issues and become more and more addictive as people continue to use them. This new ban in California causing limited availability of these devices will hopefully serve as a reminder to e-cigarette users across the state how harmful these devices are for their bodies and will hopefully help efforts to quit entirely.

Editor's Note

Seth sends students social support

By Seth I. Pickens
Editor-in-Chief

In the aftermath of the devastating Los Angeles fires, MBUSD has opened its doors to students who have been displaced. It's a school-wide effort with teachers adding extra classes to their schedules to accomodate new students and student ambassadors leading tours around campus.

To our new students, welcome to Costa. You are now a vital part of our community, and we are here to support you. To help ease this transition the district has a range of resources for all students, including student counseling and school psychologists.

In what we can only imagine is going to be a very turbulent time for new students, current students have a unique role. It's important that current Costa students play a part in accomodating new peers by welcoming them with open arms.

To our current Mustangs, it's crucial to be sensitive to the experiences of others. It's almost equally important to be authentically welcoming. Sometimes, in fear of being offensive, we can unintentionally distance ourselves from others, so remember simple acts of kindness can bridge that gap.

History has shown that communities thrive when they come together in times of need. By embracing our new peers, we demonstrate the strength and resilience that defines Costa. It's this unity that will help all of us navigate the challenges ahead and emerge even stronger.

Integrating new students into our community is not just about helping them adjust. It's about redefining what it means to be a part of Costa. When we come together as one, we strengthen our collective identity and create a stronger culture.

True inclusion goes beyond the welcome wagon. It's about empowering everyone to participate fully in the life of the school. Whether it's in student government, clubs, or sports, creating opportunities for new students to engage and lead ensures that they feel valued and integral to our shared success.

Empathy is key, but it must be balanced with genuine inclusion. We can embrace these students as a part of our school family by showing them the same kindness and support we would offer to any friend.

In moments like these, our true character shines through. Let's make sure our new peers know that they are not just guests but an essential part of the Costa family.

In need of a...

Study Session

Student Union (Rm.82)
This is a great place to work on group projects in a casual setting. The entrance by the vending machines.

Library
Come here if you want to lock in, get some peace and quiet, or to check out a chromebook.

Place to Chill

Mrs. Allen's room (Rm.52)
This classroom is open during most breaks and office hours, and hosts many clubs.

College and Career Center
While there are resources here for college counseling, it can also be a relaxed area to spend time with friends.

Tech Assistance

Copy room (Rm.42)
If you need access to a printer or are just having technical difficulties, you can find help here.

Mr. Selmi's room (Rm.112)
As the AP Computer Science teacher, Mr. Selmi is always ready to offer his expertise for new students.

L.A. fires are a wake-up call for what's important

By Noki Lam
Online Managing Editor

The past couple of weeks have been among the most unpredictable and devastating days Los Angeles has seen in decades. This city is the only place that I have ever called home, and to see places that bring back fond memories of my life burning in flames has been an eye-opening experience for me. The surreal nature of the situation has caused me to pay closer attention to the things that we take for granted everyday.

It seems as if our community here in Manhattan Beach has the privilege of being disconnected from all of the chaos that happens across the world. Journalists are always covering the most horrific tragedies overseas but they end up feeling so fictitious and nightmarish because of how distant they are. The L.A. fires, however, are much different.

While I was fortunate enough to not have been directly affected by the fires, the proximity of Manhattan Beach to all of the L.A. fires has revealed how connected we are as a community. Besides the pandemic, smelling smoke and seeing ashes in the air on my way to school was one of the first times I felt like I had been able to see the effects of a crisis that made national headlines.

I have gone online and seen fires across the street from the Palisades Village Mall, where I remember shopping just a month ago. I watched the Rose Bowl turn into an evacuation shelter after just seeing it on TV a week ago. Worst of all, I witnessed family and friends lose their home I never thought that one day, I'd be watching the city I've always called home become full of smoke and ash.

L.A. County officials reported over 10,000 structures have been destroyed so far. The lives of every one of those people who were stripped of their home or business are now completely different than they were just two weeks ago.

> "We cannot control what the future holds, but we can appreciate the present."

I feel that my eyes have been opened by the news in the world that seems too dystopian to be true. We spend most of our life oblivious to the fact that at any given moment, everything could change.

I myself have been shallow enough to feel as if I was invincible in the bubble of our community. Yet the catastrophic events of the fires have burst that bubble, and with it my feeling of invincibility against chaos.

These recent events have forced me to remember that things can change at any moment and to appreciate the consistency of life while we have it. I want to appreciate the beauty in the little things. The feeling of opening the door of my childhood home or walking through downtown Manhattan Beach are pleasures that I have become desensitized to.

The L.A. fires have reminded me just how lucky I am to have those pleasures, and my heart hurts for those who have had similar comforts and familiarities stripped from them.

I've realized I have become engrossed in the monotony of my life. Up until now, I, as well as many people around me, have not thought about how things completely out of our control can change everything we have ever known.

We cannot control what the future holds, but we can appreciate the present. Because of these tragedies, I have made a commitment to live everyday going forward, remembering how lucky I am to do even the most mundane of things in peace each day.

Lucy's Hot Take

By Lucy Hansen
Executive Features Editor

Honors classes are harder than AP classes.

But maybe not for the reasons you think. In my personal opinion, honors classes are for students who excel in a particular subject and think they can handle more than the traditional curriculum. Students take AP classes for the AP tests, and get AP credits. I'm not denying the fact that there are smart students who are interested in a certain subject partaking in AP classes, I'm just saying that most people take AP classes solely for the weight of the label.

More often than not, the people who take honors classes are also more advanced and hardworking, making the environment in honors classes more competitive. In AP classes, you spend the entire year learning things that are catered to passing a specific type of test. There have been too many times we've skipped over a genuinely interesting subject in AP U.S. History just because the College Board doesn't think it's important.

AP classes used to be for especially advanced students who could take college-level classes. Now, they are just a GPA boost and stamp on a transcript. It's not a bad thing, this just comes with the culture of academic validation. Students are so stressed about being academically inclined and getting into "good" colleges that they just do what they think they're supposed to when it comes to school. Who cares if you hate reading and writing? Having AP Language or AP Literature on your transcript is more important, right?

It's this way of thinking and the influx of people taking these classes that contribute to why they're way easier than they should be. Do you want to take a class because you are actually interested in the subject and want to learn as much as you can? Take an honors class.

Love,
Lucy


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CANDID

Kit and Sophia's This or That

By Kit Humbarger
and Sophia Luckey
Managing Editors

Hi again, loyal followers! Kit and Sophia are back and better than ever in the new year. 2025 has not started off the way we all hoped it would, and we are keeping everyone who has been affected in our community and county in our thoughts and prayers. We decided that we would try to bring some lighthearted fun to this issue with the first ever paper game of This or That! Feel free to play along with us and take a much needed break!

Coffee or Tea
Kit: Tea. 100%
Sophia: Coffee all the way, I'm not a Brit.

Movies or TV shows
Kit: TV shows. I can't sit through a 2-hour movie.
Sophia: Movies. I don't have time to sit and finish a whole show.

Cats or Dogs
Kit: Cats. (Please don't tell my dog.)
Sophia: Dogs...(Please don't tell my 3 cats.)

Text or Call
Kit: Text. There's not enough time in the day to sit down and call.
Sophia: Call. I make too many typos to choose text.

Mountains or Beach
Kit: The mountains call my name. I really just love hiking.
Sophia: Beach. Surfing, snorkeling, and boogie-boarding are elite.

STEM or Humanities
Kit: Humanities on top.
Sophia: Never in a million years would I choose STEM over humanities.

Summer or Winter
Kit: Can I say fall? If not, I choose winter.
Sophia: I really wanna say winter, but I have to say summer.

Raising Cane's or Chick-fil-A
Kit: Cane's. Who in their right mind would choose Chick-fil-A?!
Sophia: Chick-fil-A. I will not be taking any further questions.

We hope you enjoyed our game. During these times, it's important to take time for yourself. Stay safe and we'll see you next month.

Deuces - Kit & Sophia

Sieker brings teaching literature to life with live theater

By Lucy Hansen
Executive Features Editor

English teacher Diana Sieker has taught at Costa since 2005. From the start, she's brought her English class to life with auditions, live performances, props, and costumes. From *Oedipus the King* to *Rhinoceros,* Sieker's classes help students explore the dynamic and exciting aspects of literature.

Currently, Sieker's classes are studying Shakespeare. While her freshman English classes are studying *Romeo and Juliet*, seniors in her AP Literature classes are reading *Hamlet*. According to Sieker, this unit of study is always fun for the kids, and memorable for her.

"One year I had a freshman student get so into his role as fiery Tybalt from *Romeo and Juliet* that he completely broke my fake sword during an onstage sword fight," said Sieker. "My AP Lit students were on deck to perform the big duel in *Hamlet*, and I didn't know how the show would go on if I was down a sword. I hunted around my house for replacement props and remembered I had Star Wars lightsabers that could light up and play sound effects. The lightsaber duel between Hamlet and Laertes ended up being amazing, so I kept those props going."

Adding fun elements like this is a staple for Sieker's class. Sieker believes it's important to hold auditions to maintain a good "onstage energy." However, she does encourage her students to add their own flair and take some risks.

"My mantra is 'Let's get weird,'" said Sieker. "Humans tend to spend a lot of time and energy trying to be normal. The magic of theater is that it gives people permission to halt normal operating procedures and to try something unexpected or extraordinary."

According to Sieker, this method has been beneficial and well-received by her students. She said that this approach enables a deeper understanding of the plot, characters, and themes than simply reading the plays independently. She has received a lot of positive comments like this from Costa principal, Dr. Jennifer Huynh.

"It was so fun to watch the students explore different accents and re-enactments." said Huynh. "I had so much fun and I know the kids did as well. They certainly channeled the [characters] well. Thanks for making learning fun for the students. My face was hurting from all the laughter."

Teachers aren't the only ones who love this method of teaching, the students love it as well. Sieker explained how the feedback she's received from students over the past 12 years has shown her that these plays are both entertaining and engaging when taught this way.

"Performing a play gives students the opportunity to learn the roles from inside the actual story," said senior AP Literature student Cory Kluthe. "We interact with the story in a deeper manner."

According to Sieker, academically, the benefits are unmatched. She explained how holding auditions and assigning roles helps immensely because when she's explaining or reviewing a specific portion of the play to the class, she can refer to events and people that students can easily remember.

"This is especially helpful for more challenging plays like Shakespearean works where there are many characters and plot details to keep straight," said Sieker. "For example, when my English 9 students perform *Oedipus the King*, I wrap the performers in togas and have a handful of actors speak in unison as the chorus."

Sieker said that she was initially inspired to start this tradition when she started teaching because she was a theater kid in her youth. According to Sieker, theater was one of the most positive and transformative experiences of her life, because she grew up kind of shy. When she sees this quality in her own students, she never ignores it.

> "Humans tend to spend a lot of time and energy trying to be normal."

"I have empathy for students on the more reserved side, and I aim to avoid forcing anyone to act out entire roles from entire plays in front of their peers," said Sieker. "I also do lots of icebreakers and bonding activities in an attempt to get students as comfortable as possible, with the intention of encouraging the more reticent students to come out of their shells a bit."

For the students who choose to perform, Sieker hopes that they benefit from having an outlet to be creative and a chance to take risks and be vulnerable. For the audience members, she hopes that they benefit from honing their listening skills and audience etiquette, as well as appreciating the value of live performances.

"I hope students see that literature can be communal, dynamic, and exciting," said Seiker. "While reading literature independently is an invaluable experience, certain works of literature—especially poetry and theater—can be absolutely transformative when read or performed aloud. I hope we never lose the ancient technology of live performances of the written word because I think it is essential to humanity."



ACTION: AP Literature students (from right to left) Aaron Henschel, Brendan Jorenby, Taylor Hauck, and Ayusha Rajesh participating in the play Rhinoceros. *Photo courtesy: Diana Sieker*

Costa students foster bunnies displaced in LA fires

By Riya Kalra
Online Editor

As the California wildfires sweep through Los Angeles, countless animals have been displaced, requiring urgent care and shelter. Among the most vulnerable are rabbits, many of which are rescued from fire zones and brought to overcrowded shelters. Fostering offers a crucial solution, providing these animals with safe, loving homes while shelters work to manage the surge.

Senior and La Vista editor, Kelsey Mcavin, has recently joined the effort. Fostering two rabbits from the Mar Vista Bunny World Foundation she is excited to help the animals in need and feels that fostering rabbits is a rewarding way to contribute.

"I've wanted bunnies my whole life," said Mcavin. "So my mom and I thought it would be a good idea to help save some bunnies rescued in the LA fires."

Organizations like the Bunny World Foundation and the Los Angeles Rabbit Foundation in Playa del Rey are on the front lines of this crisis, rescuing animals and advocating for their safety. Michelle Kelly, director of the LA Rabbit Foundation, stresses the importance of protecting pets during the fires.

"Keeping doors and windows shut improves air quality," said Kelly. "[It] is critical for animals with sensitive respiratory systems like rabbits."

Kelly's organization is actively seeking foster homes to move rabbits out of shelters and into more secure environments. She highlights the importance of maintaining a safe, healthy space for pets during this challenging time. In her experience, fostering makes a significant difference, not only for the rabbits but also for the larger rescue effort.

"Even fostering one rabbit makes a huge impact—it not only provides them with a safe area but also creates space in shelters for other rescues," Kelly said.

Many people who have fostered rabbits themselves attest to the life changing impact of opening your home to animals in need. According to many animal hosts, like freshman Katelyn Mcginley, the experience not only provides a safe space for the rabbits but also offers a unique opportunity to connect with and care for these gentle creatures, when so many others didn't make it.

"I know people who lost their pets in the fire," said Mcginley. "Being able to save and take care of the rabbits means a lot to me."

With the ongoing wildfires displacing families and pets alike, fostering is a compassionate way to contribute and help ensure that no rabbit is left behind.

If you're interested in fostering, both the Bunny World Foundation and the LA Rabbit Foundation offer support and guidance to ensure a smooth process. By stepping up during this critical time, you can save lives and make a meaningful difference for animals affected by the fires.

For inquiries, visit:
larabbits.org
larabbitsfoundation



BUNNY BEST FRIENDS: Bunnies Brioche and Ciabatta are being hosted by Riya and Raveena Kalra. *Photo by Riya Kalra*

La Vista Goes Behind The Scenes

The magic behind "Ice Gala" Winter Formal

By Katie Anderson
Features Editor

At Costa's annual Winter Formal dance on Feb 1, students will be greeted with a curated playlist, intricate decorations, and thoughtfully picked foods and activities. Behind the scenes of this event, hours of hard work that goes into every step. Let's pull back the curtain and uncover the process of Costa's upcoming Winter dance.

Planning the dance begins with deciding the theme. Months before the dance, ASB hosted a brainstorming and voting session. Soon after, the majority of ASB members voted on the theme "Ice Gala." Every decision from that point on was based on bringing the "Ice Gala" idea to life. This year, senior Emerson Ferrand and sophomores Madison Young, Sadie Kaplan, and Taylor Stepczyk, are responsible for running the winter formal as members of the entertainment committee.

"The ASB Entertainment committee helps to come up with possible ideas." Kaplan said. "After we narrow it down to three themes [Winter Wonderland, Ice Palace, and Ice Gala] everyone in ASB votes on the best idea."

The ASB entertainment team works with with ASB Advisor Lisa Claypoole to organize activities and vendors for the dance.

"A few weeks ago, Ms. Claypoole, me, and a few others went to the hotel where we are holding Winter Formal to make sure the venues and the hotel are good, and that there is enough room for the food and certain activities." Stepczyk said. "My role is making sure everything is running smoothly, setting up, and staying a little later after to make sure everything is set up correctly."

Winter Formal promises many activities for every student to be able to enjoy. From photo booths, to charicature artists, to karaoke, the committee meticulously chooses and plans each step.

"To plan what activities our dance will include, we have to estimate the amount of money we will have to fund the dance based on the amount of tickets sold." Ferrand said. "From there we start reaching out to the people in charge of these party activities."

Once every detail is planned and perfected, ASB shifts gears to advertising the event. Students make posters and hang them around the school, and create social media content, to promote information about the event.

"People will experience dancing with their friends, taking fun pictures in the Photo Booth area, enjoying good food, and singing along to karaoke songs." Kaplan said.

Make sure to stop by ASB's "Ice Gala" Winter Formal on Feb 1 from 7-11p.m. at the Renaissance Los Angeles Airport Hotel. Tickets to attend can be bought at the student store for $74.

"ASB is looking forward to seeing everyone there!" Kaplan said.



THE BRAINS BEHIND THE OPERATION: Costa ASB's Entertainment committee from left to right; Emerson Ferrand, Madison Young, Sadie Kaplan, and Taylor Stepcyk.
Photo by Katie Anderson / La Vista

Faynsod hosts Senior Assassin game

By Emily Pfaff
Staff Writer

Seniors are getting their goggles ready as Costa's Senior Assassin tradition begins next month. Senior Assassin is a competitive, but friendly, game where seniors partner up, are assigned a target, and spray them with water guns until only one team is standing, earning a money prize for the winning team.

Senior and ASB president, Issac Faynsod, is in charge of managing the games. According to Faynsod, he organizes the rules, sign-up form, and Instagram account.

"It has typically been tradition for the ASB president to take on the role every year," Faynsod said. "With all of my college apps in, I find myself twitching to do something constantly."

Faynsod informed Costa seniors about the game through the 2025 Costa Senior Assassin Instagram account. Students can enter the game through a simple google form and $5 payment in cash to Faynsod.



"Signing up was super easy and the account is very well organized by Isaac," senior Jaxon Stroyke said. "I cannot wait to create memories and just have a great time with my friends."

Around 400 seniors participate in the Senior Assassin tradition, and the competition typically lasts until the end of the school year. The final winner for 2024's senior assassin was determined in June of this past year.

"A total of 189 teams have entered so far, though I am expecting over 200 teams to enter before the starting date," said Faynsod.



Players record each water gun elimination on video and post them on the Instagram for all to enjoy. All teams must also share their locations with all players on Snapchat, so players can see where their targets are throughout the day.

"I think it's a great idea that we can all use Snapchat to see the players' locations," senior Abby Slusser said. "I think it makes the game even more fun and competitive."

Many Costa students think very highly of the game and the competitive aspects that come with it. It is something that bonds all seniors closer to each other.

"[Senior Assassin] strengthens friendships among the senior class until your friend inevitably turns on you and "assassinates" you, said Faynsod."

According to Faynsod, the Senior Assassin targets will be sent to all players over the ski week and will officially begin on Feb 18.

"I am so excited to start Senior Assassin," senior Lauren Becker said. "I have been looking forward to it since I was a freshman when I saw seniors running with their goggles and water guns. I think its going to be an amazing experience and I'm so happy that Costa does this."

Illustrations by Lucy Hansen



KEEPING COSTA CLEAN: Staff member Daniel Banuelos has worked at Costa for around 1 year and enjoys making an impact around Costa. *Photo by Kit Humbarger / La Vista*

Staff Spotlight: Daniel Banuelos

By Kit Humbarger
Managing Editor

Daniel Banuelos has been working as a custodian at Costa since February 2024. Before coming to Costa, Banuelos worked as a custodian at Redondo Union High. He currently works two full-time jobs, one as a Physical Education teacher at Notre Dame Academy, and the other as a custodian here at Costa. He cleans the 40s and 50s classrooms, as well as the East and West locker halls.

Banuelos is passionate about teaching and enjoys instructing physical education to fourth through eighth graders at Notre Dame Academy. He loves watching students grow over the years and helping them with odd requests around campus. One of his favorite memories was looking for a student's Invisalign that was dropped in the trash can.

"It's not on our schedule, but we're glad to help and just bring a smile to that student's face," said Banuelos.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Compiled By Kiera Delmonte/Executive Theme Editor, McKinlee Rainey/Theme Editor, Riley Campion/Theme Editor



COSTA GIVES BACK

This Sunday, Costa will host the Costa Cares Fundraiser, a school-wide event aimed to support victims of the Palisades and Eaton Fire. With many students from Palisades now attending Costa, the school feels a strong sense of responsibility to help those who have been displaced.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on campus and will feature a variety of activities, with many student groups participating to raise funds. ASB, Link Crew, Model United Nations (MUN),La Vista, sports teams, and other clubs will each have their own booth.

"This fundraiser is an opportunity for us to really come together as a community and support those who suffered from the fires," said senior and Link Leader Ivy Olynick. "We encourage everyone to contribute, whether by hosting an activity booth or just attending the event in general."

Booths will feature everything from handmade crafts and food sales to wellness activities such as rock painting and friendship bracelet making. All proceeds will be donated to help those impacted by the fires.

"We really just want to create a safe and uplifting space for students and the community to give back," said senior MUN member Henry Michael. "Knowing we can help make a difference for those displaced from the fires is what truly motivates us throughout this whole process."

Students and faculty have been making flyers and social media posts to spread the word about the fundraiser.

"This is more than just a fundraiser—it's about supporting one another in challenging times," said ASB President Isaac Faynsod.



Illustration by Riley Campion/La Vista

Wildfire Relief Fund

Palisades Pets Fund

Palisades Fire Fund

In recent weeks, wildfires that ravaged the Los Angeles area have left an indelible mark on countless families, homes, and communities. Among the hardest-hit areas was Pacific Palisades, where families lost their homes and the local schools were forced to close due to the damage. Yet, amid this devastation, a sense of hope and community has emerged, with Costa stepping up to offer support and a fresh start to those who lost so much.

One of the most inspiring stories emerging from this difficult time has been the arrival of new students from the Palisades at Costa. 110 students have enrolled.

According to Junior Kyle Mcknight, "The students and teachers have been very understanding of the situation, which has made our transition a lot easier," junior Kyle Mcknight shared.

For many families in the Pacific Palisades, the fires not only meant the loss of their homes but also the devastation of their community spaces, including the local highschool. Palisades Charter High School, where many of the displaced students have been enrolled, was severely damaged by the flames, leaving students with nowhere to go.

"We are still adjusting to the new schedule here at Costa. At Pali we had a block schedule which is very different from having each class everyday," said Mcknight.

Costa has opened its doors to these students, providing a sense of stability and continuity in a time of uncertainty. While moving to a new school during such difficult circumstances is never easy, the transition has been met with understanding, kindness, and a strong sense of community from both students and staff at Mira Costa.

"Åll the students here have so far been really welcoming and no one has done anything to make us feel uncomfortable," said junior Josh Rubin.

As they continue to settle into their new school, the students from the Palisades are beginning to rebuild their lives, one day at a time. They have shown incredible strength and are finding new opportunities to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

NEW FACES AT COSTA



GUIDANCE: Costa's Link Crew students welcome former Palisades students with a tour on their first day at their new campus. *Photo by Riley Campion/La Vista*



DONATE TODAY: The Lovejoy foundation shows their support during the fires by gathering many donations for the animals affected. *Photo by Kiera DelMonte/La Vista*

SUPPORTING ANIMALS

As the Los Angeles fires continue to spread, Costa students, parents, and staff have stepped up to give endangered animals a home. Many pets have been separated from their families and wildlife continues to flee from the fires.

A number of local organizations, including the Lovejoy Foundation and Los Angeles Animal Services offer fostering animals, donating essential food and supplies, or volunteering to assist these animals. Many Costa families have been actively working together to ensure that displaced animals have the resources they need and injured animals can get the health care they need.

"My family decided to foster an animal because there are currently so many animals in need and we wanted to give back to the communities that are going through a lot right now," said Sophomore Layla Mazry.

Countless animals were injured during this natural disaster, and the donations from the community have made a significant impact in helping these animals' health and safety. Other families have contributed by donating food and supplies to help keep these animals in good condition.

"We have been giving back in as many ways as we can lately, and one of these ways was donating canned food to the Los Angeles Animal Services," said sophomore Annabel Krikorian. "So many pets and wild animals have been abandoned due to the fires, so it was really important that we made sure we gave back to the animals too."





RESCUE PETS: Puppies without homes at Lovejoy Foundation interact with their new donations. P*hoto by Kiera DelMonte/La Vista*

Disney: where dreams no longer come true

By Kelsey Mcavin
Executive Arts Editor

Disney is known for magical storytelling and imaginative worlds. In recent years, the company has shifted away from creating original stories and has increasingly relied on remakes and live action adaptations of its animated classics. While these adaptations are still magical and extremely popular among Disney fans, it raises the main question: Why is Disney so boring now?

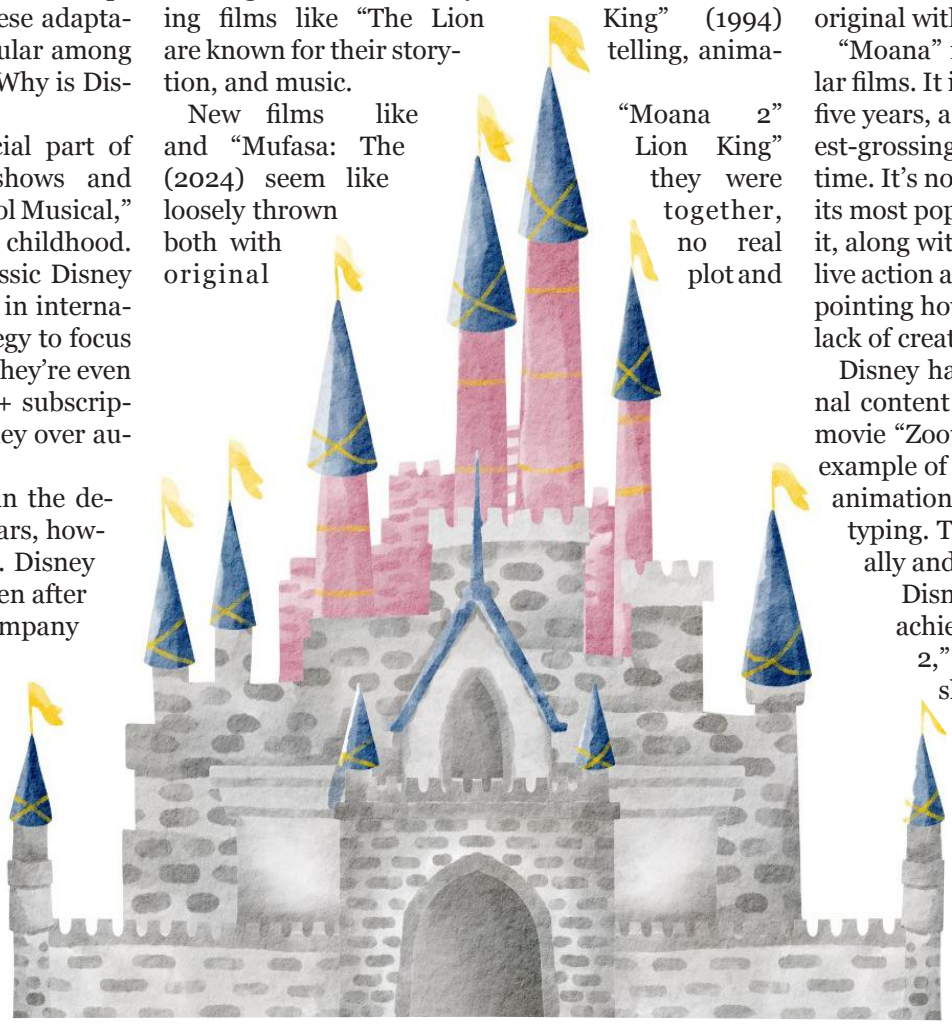
For many people, Disney was a crucial part of their childhood. Disney Channel original shows and movies like "Liv and Maddie," "High School Musical," and "Camp Rock" define many peoples childhood. Flash forward to today, the magic of classic Disney is fading. Disney Channel has shut down in international markets as a part of Disney's strategy to focus on Disney+, Disney's streaming service. They're even raising the price of purchasing a Disney+ subscription, further proving their desire for money over audience enjoyment.

COVID-19 undoubtedly played a role in the decline of box office sales in the past five years, however the pandemic is not solely to blame. Disney struggled to gain widespread attention even after the restrictions were lifted, causing the company to turn to live action remakes of their original classics.

Disney's reliance on remakes and sequels ultimately is a result of their cash-grab mentality. Remakes continue to dominate Disney's releases, from "The Little Mermaid" live action remake produced in 2023, to the upcoming "Moana" live action currently in production. Both movies have already faced backlash, as there is severe controversy surrounding the company's willingness to produce content that is unoriginal but profitable, rather than creating new original classics. The company clearly prioritizes profit over creativity, and this trend will lead to a loss of audiences.

Every remake or live action adaptation is a soulless replica with little to no value. The stories don't need to be retold in the first place, especially when the originals can be easily streamed. Groundbreaking films like "The Lion King" (1994) are known for their storytelling, animation, and music.

New films like "Moana 2" and "Mufasa: The Lion King" (2024) seem like they were loosely thrown together, both with no real original plot and fewredeem ing songs.



Graphic made on Canva

Disney has been involved in several lawsuits against people such as Scarlett Johansson, Emma Stone, and the entire state of Florida for violating rights, contracts, and multiple copyright allegations. Animator Buck Woodwall is suing Disney for $10 billion, claiming the new film "Moana 2" was copied from the decade- old original without the writer's consent.

"Moana" is easily one of Disney's most popular films. It is the mosstreamed movie of the past five years, and joined the Top 10 list of the highest-grossing domestic animated movies of all time. It's no surprise that Disney is taking one of its most popular movies and creating a sequel to it, along with being in the process of creating its live action adaptation. It's disgraceful and disappointing how money-hungry Disney is and their lack of creativity.

Disney has proven they can create new original content that can still earn money, with the movie "Zootopia" (2016). "Zootopia" is a prime example of a unique storyline with phenomenal animation, that ties in social issues like stereotyping. The film grossed over $1 billion globally and received praise worldwide.

Disney again took advantage of this achievement and announced "Zootopia 2," to be released in Nov. 2025. Fans should have low expectations for this movie because if it's anything like the most recent Disney films, it will be nothing short of disappointing.

Disney's success ultimately depends on whether or not they can recapture the magic it once held. Until they step it up, audiences will be returning to the classics to gain a nostalgic reminder of a time when Disney truly felt magical.

SZA successfully makes her acting debut in "Just One of Them Days"

By Kelsey Mcavin
Executive Arts Editor

"One of Them Days," a new comedy staring Grammy-award winner SZA and actress Keke Palmer, hit theatres on Jan. 17. The film follows the journey of a hard-working waitress named Dreux, played by Palmer, and a carefree artist named Alyssa, played by SZA.

The two broke girls are down on their luck and must scrape together money to avoid being evicted. This becomes the least of their worries as they later face two near-death situations.

The plot is predictable, but that's one of the most important characteristics of a comedic film. Being predictable gives the viewer comfort in knowing what will happen next, so they can sit back and enjoy the humor without being on the edge of their seat.

Palmer and SZA have undeniable chemistry on screen, and SZA's performance leaves the audience with no doubt that her acting career will succeed. It's evident she was made for acting, and her bubbly personality was a major contribution to the success of the film. The two are a dynamic duo who are just overall likable characters that will leave viewers smiling while walking out of the theaters.

Palmer is without a doubt the heart of the movie. She delivers a performance that is equal parts hilarious and relatable as she brings a balance of sass and sincerity to her character. She contributes to the film's emotional depth, highlighting the phenomenal work of Syreeta Singleton, the writer of the film. Singleton worked with Lawrence Lamot, the director, to weave together humor into serious topics.

What truly sets "One of Them Days" apart from every other comedy is its message. The film's conflict of living paycheck to paycheck and feeling like everything is going wrong is relatable. It's impossible for the audience not to be drawn into the friendship of Dreux and Alyssa asthe way they portray the ups and downs of friendships.

The film hit $11.6 million dollars in it's opening weekend, a major achievement for a film led by two women making their acting debut. With outstanding performances, a flawless script, and a blend of humor and heart, this film definitely is a must-watch.



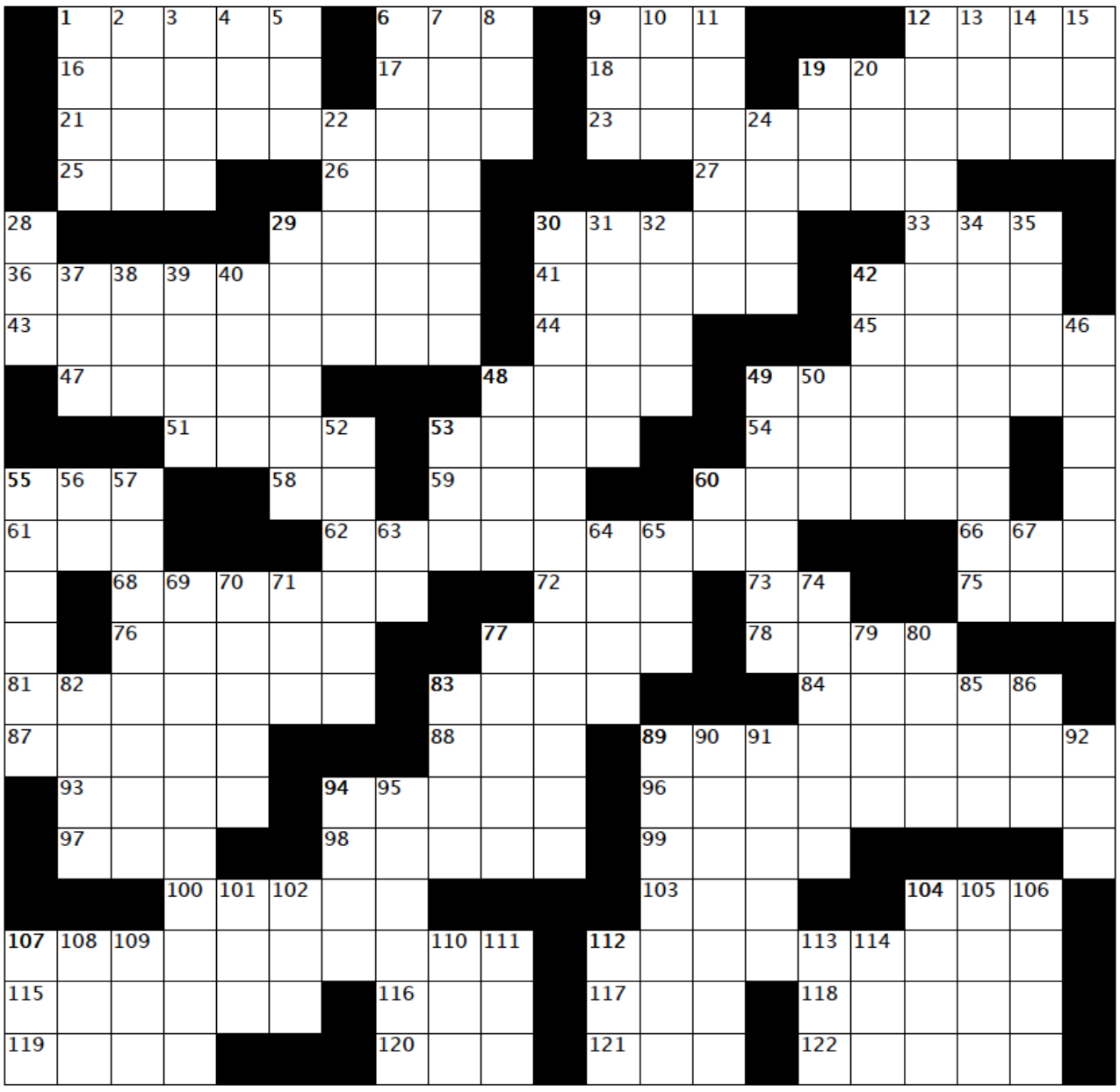
BAD DAY GETS WORSE: Alyssa, played by SZA, gets drenched in blood while trying to donate blood for money in "Just One of Them Days" *Photo by Kelsey Mcavin/La Vista*



Costa Crossword

Created by Rachel Khoddam and Veronica Escopete

Solutions can be found at lavistamchs.com



ACROSS

1. Chinese New Year Animal for 2025
6. units on a British speedometer
9. famously had a dream
12. high-level programming language
16. New York or Los Angeles newspapers
17. brand that often makes makeup dupes
18. home and car insurance company
19. Nikki that hosted the Golden Globes
21. golgi in biology
23. describes waves of attack
25. dorm monitors
26. what did the fish say when it ran into the wall?
27. setting in The Princess and the Frog
29. sunfish, in other words
30. homosapien, in other words
33. what you plug an electric guitar in to
36. carrier for a Scrub Daddy?
41. McDonald's is known for its golden _____s
42. Greek god of war
43. From Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven": 'quoth the raven _____
44. Wilbur or Napoleon, for example
45. garment worn by ancient greeks
47. space to relax in your backyard
48. places to relax or get a massage
49. what may happen to silver in water
51. mix
53. Woody or Buzz Lightyear
54. to omit a sound while speaking
55. I do not like green eggs and ham said ___ I-am.
58. note after do
59. diner owner in show "Two Broke Girls"
60. dough filled with cream or custard
61. what high school couples should not do
62. shrub with a hazy look
66. Electromagnetic field (abbr)
68. synonym for grinned
72. past tense of is
73. AP Spanish teacher, initials
75. Scandinavian Airlines
76. Martha Stewart's ____ _ la Meuniere
77. Asian bird from the starling family
78. Shamu species
81. (hottest) resigning prime minister
83. member from gang in Ketterdam (Six of Crows)
84. sound
87. PST or EDT for two
88. ___ de Armas
89. will light up your street
93. "put a little ____ under the pillow for the ___ man"
94. no one wants to be left here
96. Rachel has this with the Lorax
97. how long until you get here?
98. confirmation or hindsight ____ (+s)
99. "What did you __ __ to the Halloween party?"
100. _____istan
103. famous kids store Toys
104. 22nd letter in the Greek alphabet
107. document created by unmod groups in MUN
112. treated by exposure to the sun's rays
115. a little flower
116. gun rights advocacy group
117. Aladdin's royal alias
118. conscious of
119. "I'll do whatever she ____"
120. Olaf actor Josh
121. sings "No Scrubs"
122. iconic granny from The Lorax

DOWN

1. might give one to a restaurant on Yelp
2. National Institute of Pension Administrators (abbr)
3. speakers
4. ___nu Reeves
5. Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (abbr)
6. ketamine in a medical sense
7. a bird's feathers collectively
8. health and family services (abbr)
9. ___ Zedong, Former Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party
10. Local area network (abbr)
11. a fortress, most commonly the citadel or fortified quarter of a city in Morocco
12. Jaguarundi- medium sized wild cat native to the Americas (hint: begins with more common big cat)
13. fire residue
14. pet doctor
15. advanced record system (abbr)
19. Chappell Roan or Elton John for example
20. Nilotic ethnic group native to western Kenya and the Mara Region
22. popular dish in the Philippines
24. "Stay in your ____!"
28. International Suppliers Network (abbr)
29. Educated by Tara Westover or Becoming by Michelle Obama, for example
30. what you might say on January 1st
31. former baseball pitcher Julio for the Dodgers
32. MultiCultural and Gender Studies (abbr)
34. inner ear disease that can cause a person to get dizzy and have trouble hearing.
35. greek letter that looks like a trident (plural)
37. talk given by coaches before a game
38. female reproductive cells
39. in basketball and tennis but not golf or baseball
40. perseverance
42. comes as left and right in the heart
46. NFL team with the best record this season or Taylor Swift's favorite team
48. what you need to do to dry beans before cooking them
49. Philomena Cunk's favorite Belgium _____ anthem "Pump Up the Jam"
50. every
52. "network" in French
53. however, in text
55. classic cocktail, aperol _____
56. commercial
57. kg or lb for example
60. Él __ increíble!
63. degree that doctors need
64. big ____ theory
65. 'MERICA!
67. Pa's partner
69. rule enforcers on Discord
70. "he is" en français
71. famous Michele that allegedly can't read
74. eat 12 under the table on New Years for good luck
77. strands duplicated from DNA with instructions to make proteins
79. holder for tea or water
80. from one to two in spanish, "de uno _ ___"
82. went on a motorcycle
83. often collected in science courses
85. International Statistical Institute (abbr)
86. occult secret society and hermetic magical organization (abbr)
89. what one might call a Yule cake
90. suffering from abulia
91. small shrubby African tree with compound leaves and small fragrant green flowers.
92. Social Networking Service (abbr)
94. small amount
95. enjoying
101. type of beer
102. stick out
104. Catherine The Great or Nicholas II
105. sculpture with a head and (maybe) a torso above a plain
106. lightbulb may represent
107. Real Flight Simulator (abbr)
108. reading, writing, speaking, listening are part of
109. milk substitute
110. possible homophone to aura
111. breakdown of NADH in cellular respiration
112. test taken by juniors
113. darted
114. Income Withholding Order (abbr)

Mac Miller's final act in: *Balloonerism*

By Caden Lim
Arts Editor

Released on Jan. 17, *Balloonerism* is Mac Miller's second posthumous album since his death in Sep. 2018. It captures the final years of his creative journey and showcases his growth as an artist. The project is a testament to the lasting influence of his music. *Balloonerism* overflows with thoughtful lyrics and themes, which reminds us why Mac Miller remains one of the most unique and impactful voices in contemporary music.

Malcolm James McCormick, more popularly known as Mac Miller, was a talented musician known for his relaxed style and poetic lyrics. He first found fame as a teenager with his mixtape K.I.D.S. before developing a richer sound in albums such as Swimming and GO:OD AM. Miller tragically passed away in 2018 at just 26 years old from an accidental drug overdose, leaving behind a body of work that has had a profound impression in the industry.

Balloonerism explores Miller's personal hardships touching on themes like self-doubt, hope, and the search for peace. Miller recorded the album in 2014, around the same time his mixtape Faces was released. The album shifts between heavy, emotional moments and hints of lightheartedness, creating a balance that mirrors the highs and lows of life. Through it all, Miller's honesty and openness make the album a relatable experience that listeners can individually connect with.

Balloonerism blends elements of jazz, soul, and hip-hop, highlighting the overall versatility of Miller's music. Songs in the album such as "Funny Papers" and "Rick's Piano" showcase his experimental abilities combining smooth melodies with playful, offbeat sounds, while "Excelsior" represents his more raw side with lots of emotion and storytelling. The project has a unique energy that keeps fans hooked from beginning to end.

Each guest feature on this release adds a special touch and amplifies the authentic vibe that Miller so commonly displays. SZA's collaboration on "DJ's Chord Organ" adds a soulful touch that fits perfectly with the laid-back feel of the track. Artists Thundercat and Taylor Graves also bring their own distinctive sounds that help produce a unique flow that runs through the entire album. The collaboration of such remarkable musicians in *Balloonerism* inevitably leads to a masterpiece that is nothing short of successful.



Illustrated by Sadie Lee

Balloonerism was announced last year, though unofficial versions had been circulating online for years. Miller's family understood how important this album was to Miler and decided to release the official version. The 14-track album dropped two days before what would have been Miller's birthday, and on the fifth anniversary of his 2020 album Circles, which was released two years after his passing.

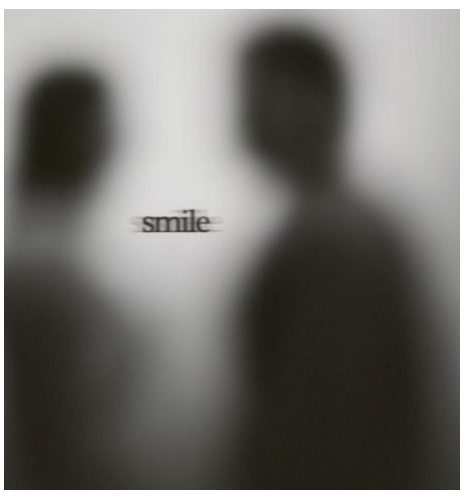
Posthumous albums can often raise questions about releasing an artist's unfinished work, but Miller's family and collaborators displayed lots of respect and care toward Miller's legacy with the release of *Balloonerism*. The album is a bittersweet reflection of the music that he left behind as it further displays the depth of his work and the untapped potential.

Miller's reach extends far beyond his career as a rapper; he was an artist who evolved constantly and created sophisticated worlds for listeners to escape into. His songs resonated not just because of their sound, but because of the vulnerability and honesty he shared through them. With *Balloonerism*, his music continues to speak to us on a deeper level, offering a final chapter that leaves us reflecting on his life and the impact he had on the world.

Balloonerism is a big part in the last phase of Miller's career. It is a monumental piece and a reminder of how gifted he is. Even after passing, his music still speaks to all people and addresses genuine challenges that many people can relate to. This release proves that Miller's influence is everlasting, and it leaves fans with a collection of songs that will continue to inspire them for years to come.

Balloonerism is available for streaming on Spotify, Apple Music, and Pandora.

"Smile" emotionally depicts relationship hardships



SAY CHEESE: Morgan Wallen's new single "Smile" highlights his versatility as an artist through his lyrics. *Photo courtesy of Google.*

By Kylie Woodward
Staff Writer

Morgan Wallen's surprise single "Smile" dropped on Dec. 31 , providing an insightful examination of the hardships of relationships.

Jointly written by Rocky Block, John Byron, and Luis Witkiewitz, the new song explores the bittersweet feeling of seeing your partner's joy when the relationship starts to wither. This feeling is expressed in the chorus through the lyrics: "It was good to see you smile." The lyrics show that even though the relationship is not what it used to be, it was good while it lasted and worth having.

"Smile" maintains a consistent tone and sound throughout the entire song, conveying Wallen's sadness. This strays from his usual emotional songs that typically feature an upbeat sound with depressing lyrics.

The music video, directed by Justin Clough, depicts Wallen performing on a talk show on New Years Eve. This just so happens to be the same day that the song was released. This touch makes the song more personal and timely, making the lyrics and message feel authentic to listeners who may have been in a similar relationship.

"Smile" has received praise from critics for its rich narrative and emotional depth. The song explores the facade of a picture perfect relationship that many artists have to hide behind for public eye, shedding light on Wallen's ability to represent different dynamics in his music to relate to all listeners.

"Smile" connects with listeners' emotional sides. As a result, it has found success, reaching high positions on the charts all across the globe, notably in the countries Australia, New Zealand, Norway, and Sweden.

"Smile" is a tribute to Wallen's beautiful lyricism, providing a thoughtful and reflective contribution to his repertoire that depicts complex topics in a way that is easier to digest. Its raw honesty and emotional depth make it a standout, showcasing Wallen's ability to blend vulnerability with reliability.

"Smile" can be streamed on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, Pandora, SoundCloud, Youtube Music, LiveOne, SirusXM, Tidal, Qobuzz, and Deezer.

G3 launches his musical career with "Tweaker"

By Wyatt Davis
Staff Writer

LiAngelo Ball, the middle child of the famous Ball Brothers, recently released a new single titled "Tweaker." Debuting on Jan. 3, the track instantly gained popularity, with its nostalgic 2000's catchy chorus and beat, "Tweaker" has quickly become one of the top songs of 2025.

While Ball is better known for his basketball career, he's creating a name for himself in the music world as G3. His father, LaVar Ball, also created a show called "Ball in the Family," a reality series that brought the family into the spotlight and offered an inside look at the lives of Lonzo, LiAngelo, and LaMelo Ball.

The swerve in Ball's career to music has come as a surprise to many, but his combination of effortless flow and catchy lyrics has made him a huge hit in the sports community. "Tweaker" has become an anthem over the last couple weeks, as many major professional sports teams have been playing the song in locker rooms across the country to celebrate wins. Viral videos on Instagram, TikTok, and other social media platforms are gaining heavy popularity and continue to boost the song.

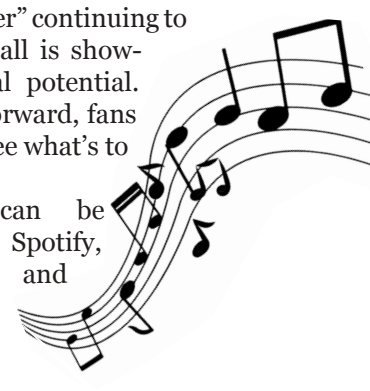
NBA All-Star Baron Davis weighed in on the song during an appearance on the The Draymond Green Show, praising G3 for the song and its unique vibe. The catchy hook, "I might swerve, bend that corner, woah-oah," has even earned respect from many of G3's peers and other artists. Other rappers like Lil Yachty and T-Pain have posted pictures and videos sharing their excitement over the song and talking about its nostalgic vibe. The song has fans and other rappers remencising on the past and the early 2000's hip-hop scene.

"Tweaker" stands out not just for its catchy beat, but also for Ball's smooth flow and strong vocal presence. The hook—"I might swerve, bend that corner, woah-oah"—is instantly memorable and easy to get stuck in your head. Lyrically, the song gives off a carefree vibe, encouraging listeners to be relaxed and live in the moment. Ball's nonchalant delivery fits perfectly with the upbeat rhythm, making the track feel fun and laid-back. Even though he is new to the music industry, it's clear that Ball has a natural ability to make catchy lyrics and connect with his fans.

The momentum continues to build for Ball as he was recently announced as a performer for the Rolling Loud California opening day lineup. Ball will share the stage with top rappers like A$AP Rocky, YG, and BossMan Dlow, performing at the music festival at Hollywood Park Grounds in March.

With "Tweaker" continuing to make waves, Ball is showing his musical potential. As G3 moves forward, fans are excited to see what's to come in 2025.

"Tweaker" can be streamed on Spotify, Apple Music, and Sound Cloud.



Out with the old, in with the new

Downtown Manhattan Beach introduces new clothing stores and restaurants this December

Strand Section

By Kelsey Mcavin/Executive Arts Editor



Strand Section boutique in downtown Manhattan Beach produces stylish clothing made with recycled and organic material, promoting environmental sustainability. Strand section is a beautiful female-owned boutique created by Alissa Schiraldi. This boutique is an amazing addition to Manhattan Beach community, offering unique clothes, candles, jewelry, and accessories. Schiraldi has her own clothing line that can be bought at the boutique, as well as a variety of trendy brands such as AG Jeans, Local Beach, and L Space. Strand Section is open from 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM every day of the week.

The Hive

By Charlotte Levy/Editor-In-Chief



The Hive is a new health-centered restaurant located just a walk up from the beach, providing accessible yet nutritious food on-the-go. The menu features a solid variety of food including smoothies, protein bowls, wraps, toasts, and other breakfast staples while maintaining fresh flavor, balanced macros, and ethically sourced animal products. The food is a bit pricey, but the extra cost is worth it for customers who value organic ingredients. The Hive is open from 7 AM to 7 PM on Highland Avenue in Manhattan Beach. For more information, visit hivehealthyeats.com.

Los Angeles MBI Vintage

By Sophia Luckey/Managing Editor



Los Angeles MBI Vintage opened in downtown Manhattan. MBI Vintage offers a curated collection of vintage clothing with a focus on Pro Sports and college styles, many of which are bedazzled by the owner Mike Israeli. The store offers a variety of clothing, ranging from T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and jerseys. The store is inclusive for prices, offering more expensive vintage items along with affordable clothing that is just as appealing. The new shop is open from 12 PM to 6 PM Monday-Friday, 11 AM to 6 PM on Saturdays, and 11 AM to 5 PM on Sundays. For more information, visit mbivintage.com.

Beloved Beach Cities businesses stand no chance to large businesses

By Kelsey Mcavin
Executive Arts Editor

The Beach Cities are losing local businesses as online platforms like Amazon and larger businesses drive out small, local businesses that have been cherished for decades.

With the closures of beloved restaurants in the Beach Cities such as Lemonade, Pitfire Pizza, and Mother's Market in El Segundo, it's only a matter of time before more of the local restaurants shut down due to raised rent and competition from online stores.

Local businesses and stores are the backbone of Manhattan Beach. With many of them being owned and operated by families or Manhattan Beach locals, they create a sense of community and provide more than just goods and services. Beloved restaurants like Fusion Sushi are now being forced to rebrand because they too cannot keep up with the rising competition and rent of the city. It's impossible for these smaller businesses and restaurants to stay afloat, meanwhile bigger chains are able to push out these independent businesses because they can afford the high costs.

Pitfire Pizza, which has been a staple of the Manhattan Beach community since 2013, and is getting replaced by Great White, a cafe featuring a all types of food. While still delicious, their prices are slightly higher and lack the nostalgic and comforting feel of Pitfire.

A small, health focused grocery store located in El Segundo, Mother's Market, is being replaced with the complete opposite: Erewhon, a modern grocery store with ridiculously high prices. Many residents are beyond excited for this new addition, as the closest Erewhon is a twenty minute drive, but others are devastated at the loss of their local grocery store being replaced with a bland chain store built for the elite.

Along with the increasing rent, the growing dominance of online stores has made it even harder for businesses other than restaurants to stay open. Amazon and other delivery websites offer convenience, allowing people to shop from their homes and have their items delivered right to their door. This is devastating for stores, even chains, that rely on their customers. This is evident in the closure of bookstores like Barnes and Noble because they can't compete with the prices and selection of Amazon. Along with this, Party City and Hallmark are shutting down because party decorations and favors can be easily ordered for cheaper with a click of a button.

These closures aren't just inconvenient, they're changing the entire feel of the city. Rather than remaining as a small beach community, Manhattan Beach is turning into just another city with chain businesses. Without its local stores and restaurants, the city loses its unique identity. Instead of being able to be welcomed into a restaurant like family, customers are seen as just another transaction to these corporations.

The closures don't just affect business owners, but also the employees. When a local restaurant that has been in business for decades closes, the employees who have worked there forever lose their jobs. From servers to retail workers, countless individuals rely on these businesses to support both themselves and their families. This leaves workers to struggle to find a new job in an already highly competitive market. The loss of these workers further weakens the sense of community, as familiar faces contribute to the personal and welcoming feeling of the businesses. Without these businesses and the workers, Manhattan Beach is going to lose its feeling of family and community.







TAKEOVER: Businesses including Hallmark, Party City, and Pitfire Pizza are shutting down for larger businesses due to increased rent and competition. *Photos by Kelsey Mcavin/La Vista*

New boys golf coach introduced

By Noki Lam
Online Managing Editor
and Roman Uriostegui
Staff Writer

Boys golf introduced Alton Woodward as their new head coach, who recently started at the beginning of the semester. Woodward, who is both Costa alum and the father of a current Costa student, replaced the team's former Coach, Tom Cox, who is currently on administrative leave.

Previously, Coach Woodward helped collegiate level teams. Woodward brings decades of experience in the golfing world to the program and believes that his background in the game will translate well to the high school level.

"I've worked with CSUN, Pepperdine, USC, and more as an outside golf professional and equipment specialist," Woodward said. "I myself competed on the mini tour circuit, and am currently a 2.7 index. I am always working on my game to become a better golfer all around, and I believe that I can bring that same mindset to the team."

According to Woodward, he has a passion for helping other players improve their game. He hopes to have the chance to see growth throughout the team during his time coaching this season.

"My inspiration for coaching comes from watching the growth of individuals and teams that offered myself the opportunity to guide them on their athletic journeys," Woodward said. "It is a very rewarding feeling."

The teams' new coach has quickly become a favorite among many of the players. According to junior Eric DaCosta, the teams' culture has changed for the better since the arrival of Coach Woodward.

"Our team already seems a lot more connected." DaCosta said. "We are all having a lot of fun and I believe our team chemistry has improved because we are all a lot closer as a team now."

For Woodward, his decision to step in as the program's leader on the course comes down to more than just the game of golf. He feels that his role as Costa's golf coach is a way for him to help the community.

"Being an alumni of MCHS and lifelong member of the community, one of the best things that I can do is give back," Woodward said. "I believe this is my way to help the youth golf community grow and become a strong asset to the school and our students' futures."



LEADER: Coach Woodward brings collegiate experience to Costa. Woodward looks forward to coaching the boys to success. *Photo by Kylie Woodward/La Vista*



HARD WORK: The cheer team warms up outside prior to their performance of their Traditional Routine. The team is ready to build off their success. *Photo by Jenna Brodkin/ La Vista*

Cheer showcases their National Routine

By Eric Brodkin
Sports Editor

The Costa cheer team showcased their National routine at Downey High School on Jan. 18.

"This showcase was extremely important to us," senior and captain Kaylie Fenton said. "This was our first time back on the mat since regionals in November, so we were excited to showcase all that we have worked on since then."

According to Fenton, the showcase had no official rankings, but the team did receive feedback from a collegiate cheerleader and received positive and constructive criticism.

"We were looking forward to getting feedback from an experienced cheerleader because it's always helpful to get extra opinions," Fenton said. "Also, without the pressure of a competition, I feel as if the showcase served as an opportunity to get all the nerves out."

The team showcased two routines, they have a varsity game day routine and a varsity traditional routine. According to senior and captain Gabby Coelho, the team has made significant changes since the last time they competed in order to strengthen their routine.

"I definitely felt all the nerves during the showcase just because of the new changes we recently made, but everyone executed them almost perfectly," Coelho said. "I'm really proud of my team for the hard work we all continue to put in everyday.

The Mustangs will compete in the CIF Southern Section Championship tomorrow at Martin Luther King High School and in the CIF State Championship on Feb. 1 here at Costa.

"We are extremely excited for these upcoming competitions and to see how our scores and routines have improved since the Regional's competition," Zagross said. "We continue to grind and prepare for our Nationals Competition in Orlando, Florida on Feb. 5-10. This team has come so far and I'm so excited to see all we accomplish in these upcoming weeks."

Mustang Athletes of the Week



Cheer

FRESHMAN SUMMER APIRIAN

"I can't wait to go to Florida with my favorite girls and showcase everything we have been working on."



Girls Rugby

SOPHOMORE GEORGIA FLUKER

"Getting to play with all our seniors is what I'm most looking forward too because we are all so close."



Boys Soccer

JUNIOR MATTEO CRISERA

"I'm very excited for the CIF playoffs because we are definitely looking to win it this year"



Boys Basketball

SENIOR BRYSON BRYKER

"I'm most looking forward to continue to bond with my team and play Redondo again at their place. "

Boys lacrosse put up a tough fight at pre-season tournament

By Jenna Brodkin
Executive Sports Editor

Costa boys lacrosse traveled to Palm Desert this past weekend for Sandstorm, the biggest lacrosse tournament in the country hosting 534 teams both girls and boys from around the world.

The Mustangs struggled due to a difficult bracket. They ended with a record of 1-3-1. According to senior and midfielder Dylan Fenton, the tournament both helped the team bond and see growth from their first practices in the fall.

"Even though we struggled during the tournament, it was valuable practice for the season," Fenton said. "This was our first time playing together as a full team, and there were definitely positives to take away from the weekend."

The Mustangs started off with a 9-2 loss to Mater Dei. Costa was able to keep up with the Monarchs for the first half, but were unable to capitalize on offense for the rest of the game. Following their loss, they faced another tough opponent, Pinnacle, and were defeated 6-8.

"The two losses to start off the tournament were very tough for us," junior and defenseman Christian Hackley said.



TEAMWORK: The boys lacrosse team pose together after a long weekend of tough fought battles. Although the Mustangs struggled in the tournament, it prepared them for the season ahead. *Photo courtesy of Chris Fenton*

"It sucks to start off a tournament 0-2 but we couldn't let it affect us and we just had to move on and keep grinding."

Costa's final game on Saturday faced off against Corona Del Mar, a team that they have struggled against in recent years. In their last year in the regular season, the Sea Kings dominated the Mustangs with a 17-3 win. However, the Mustangs showed up ready and remained controlled the majority of the game. The Mustangs built a 7-4 lead before the Sea Kings started their push on offense. Corona Del Mar was able to score three goals in the last minutes of the game to tie the Mustangs with a final score of 7-7. According to Fenton, this game meant a lot to the team because of last season's defeat.

"We were disappointed by the result because we were playing well and had the lead for most of the game," Fenton said. "It always sucks to tie, but that game showed that we have the ability to compete with top tier teams."

Costa kicked off Sunday with a game against Westlake, another team that has given the Mustangs trouble in the past. However, the Mustangs managed to defeat the Warriors 5-4 after a game-winning goal by Hackley. The Mustangs ended their weekend playing against a gritty team from Colorado, Team Dinoco. Costa struggled to keep up with their initial offensive successes and lost the game 4-8.

"Throughout the tournament, there were a lot of highs and lows but I think we grew as a team," Hackley said. "This was our first time together so it was good to see some success.

The Mustangs have another chance to prepare for the season as they play at the Airstation Shootout in Irvine tomorrow. According to Hackley, the tournament was a great way to see what the team needed to work on.

"We played good competition so that we could be battle tested before we start the long season," Hackley said. "Now we can use what we saw at the tournament and make sure the mistakes get fixed."



SPORTS RECAP

Winter sports start tough Bay League matchups

Boys Basketball

Wyatt Davis
Staff Writer

The Mustangs bounced back from their loss last Friday against Redondo, defeating Da Vinci 58-40 in a blowout win on Tuesday. Costa was led by senior guard Jacob De Armas and improved to 20-2 and 4-1 in Bay League.

The Mustangs previously defeated the Wolves early in the season with a score of 61-49. Costa had a slow start to the rematch, struggling to pull ahead in the first half, with a lack of energy and urgency from the team.



CALM: Senior guard Jacob De Armas prepares for a free throw shot during the game against Redondo. Although the Mustangs lost, they bounced back with a win against Da Vinci 58-40. *Photo courtesy of @miracostabball*

"We struggled to get going at the beginning of the game and it affected us," De Armas said. "We started with no energy but it began to build leading into the second half".

Junior forward Jayden Kainsinger agreed with De Armas. According to Kainsinger, the close score in the first half was due to poor execution on both sides of the ball. The Mustangs were able to pull ahead once they began to get into a rhythm and step up in big moments.

"Our energy and execution wasn't as good as it normally was early in the game," Kainsinger said. "A big part of the momentum shift was due to the production from junior guard Sheamus McGerr off the bench. He always stays ready and it shows."

The Mustangs are currently sitting second in the Bay League only behind rival Redondo. The Mustangs will clash with Palos Verdes Sea Kings in a Bay League outing tonight, where they hope to improve their rank of 16th in the state. The Sea Kings will travel to Costa for the rematch at 7 PM. Costa hopes to improve their record and defeat PV for a second time this year.

Girls Soccer

Riley Campion
Staff Writer

Costa girls soccer played West Torrance High School on Tuesday for Senior Night. The Mustangs came out victorious with a 3-0 win, marking yet another strong performance this season.

The Mustangs kicked off the game with an early goal from senior forward Bianca Bottene, who scored just four minutes into the game.

"Playing Senior Night added a lot more emotion to the game," sophomore forward Hayley Kase said. "We knew we had to make this game special for the seniors, and our performance reflected that."

Just a few minutes after the first goal, senior forward Tandia Gendron snuck the ball in after recieving a cross pass from senior midfielder Mckenna Cooper.

"The connection for that play was great," Gendron said. "Mckenna's pass was perfect and I'm glad I could finish it to help the team."

As the first half progressed, Costa pressed. Costa's defense remained solid, allowing no goals to be scored on West's end. Heading into half-time with a 2-0 lead, Costa's focus remained steady.

"Our defense really helped hold it down in the first half," senior defender Abby Slusser said. "It gave our offense the confidence to keep attacking and creating chances."



ATTACK: Senior midfielder Mckenna Cooper runs down the field with the ball looing to score. Cooper helped the Mustangs defeat West 3-0. *Photo courtesy of @miracostagirlssoccer*

In the second half, Costa sealed the deal. Cooper scored a bottom left shot off of a cross pass from senior Katherine Sarnoff. Today the team will face Palos Verdes at 3:00pm.

"We lost to PV earlier so we hope to carry some of the momentum from senior night and come out victorious," Gendron said. "We are extremely excited to build off the success of our previous wins."

Boys Soccer

Eric Brodkin
Sports Editor

Boys soccer continues their success this season, with a 14-game win streak. The Mustangs are in the middle of their Bay League games and are still undefeated.

On Jan. 17, the Mustangs took on Redondo in a big rivalry matchup. However, Costa was able to shut the Seahawks out in a 3-0 victory. An impressive showing from junior goalie Cole Kubitz with four saves helped the Mustangs seal the win. According to senior and defenseman Randy Hess, it was important for them to control the game at all times.

"We really focused on controlling the midfield leading up to the game," Hess said. "It completely shut them down. So midfielders Ben Heins and Derek Salguero played perfectly in the defense midfield role."

Following their rivalry win, the Mustangs took on South on Tuesday in another Bay League matchup. Costa played South a week prior and came out on top. Similarly, the Mustangs shut them out 2-0 and moved to 4-0 in Bay League play. According to Hess, having played them just a week before helped their game plan.

"After playing them a week earlier we figured out how one dimensional their strategy was," Hess said. "So planning around that found us success with our size advantage and overall technical ability."

With these two big wins, they improved to 18-1 on the season. Costa takes on Bay League rivals Palos Verdes at home tonight at 6:30 PM for Senior Night. According to Hess, it is important to work together as a team for the rest of the season.

"Just playing as a unit more than anything is what is going to create success for us," Hess said. "We win games when we can commit and play for each other. When you put in the work for the guy standing next to you then you can beat any team."



WINNING STREAK: Junior goalie Cole Kubitz takes a free kick against Bay League rival Redondo Union. Kubitz had four saves and contributed to Costa's 3-0 shutout. *Photo courtesy of @miracostaboyssoccer*

