

CENTURION SPOTLIGHT

2020: NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES



For many students, this year is full of academic and social opportunities for achievement, including internships, new jobs, and the chance to vote in the 2020 election! (photo from Google Images)

Ramya Sridhar
Student Activities Editor

For many students, 2019 was a year of excitement and exhilaration. Finally, 2019 has come to an exuberant conclusion. Students, for a while, have been anticipating the end of the year--specifically winter break. "I'm most eager to be able to be with my close friends during breaks once the stressful season of exams dies down," said Ariadne Avila, junior.

Many have used the year 2019 as

an opportunity to thrive and prosper, to reflect on and better one's faults. "I was able to grow as a person this year," stated Alyssa Liauw, Junior. "Though my self-love needs improvement, I'm getting better at accepting what cannot be helped." Still, for those who considered 2019 unsuccessful, 2020 is a new opportunity for merriment and joy.

As 2020 approaches steadfastly, many students are looking at the new year as a chance to fulfill aspirations. To many, this coming year is experimental, a way to figure out new approaches to a fulfilling and

dynamic life. A lot of students have specific, select ambitions. "I'm looking forward to practice-driving" said Samantha Wong, junior. Many had more generalized ambitions--Daniella Sicat, junior, especially had a few admirable ones. "I'm looking forward to a semester of no stress, more fun, and hopefully I get better grades out of it," Sicat stated. Either way, everyone is looking forward to a new year of new possibilities and opportunities.

While the holidays are a time of joy and relaxation, they also carry important messages. New Years,

for example, encourages people to better themselves, to be the best form of themselves they can be. Although most people give up on their resolutions within a month, it's still important to be aware of one's faults and areas of needed improvement. It's important to recuperate from the holiday jollies and take a couple of serious moments to reflect on one's character. This self-reflection and self-improvement are what really show the spirit of New Years.

THANKFUL & GRATEFUL: CYPRESS DANCE SHOW

Isabella Valdez
Entertainment Editor

Despite Thanksgiving being only one day of the year, we should recognize the things that we are thankful for every day, and Cypress' dance show was a reminder of this. On November 21, 2019, Cypress High School's dance program put on an amazing show with the help of Cypress' dance instructor, Kerri Fenton. Fenton appropriately decided the theme would be Thankful and Grateful, eliciting thought-provoking dance pieces centered around giving thanks for students' culture, family, and raising awareness for social issues.

One of the dance pieces that held an important message was "Sisters," in which period one, donned in sparkling, sequin dresses with their respective home countries written on sashes (as if to emulate Miss Universe contestants), danced to represent their culture. This piece resonated especially with Cypress senior, Destani Figueroa, because of "the diversity and representation shown on stage." The large number of cultures represented on stage, and the celebration of heritage was translated beautifully by this number.

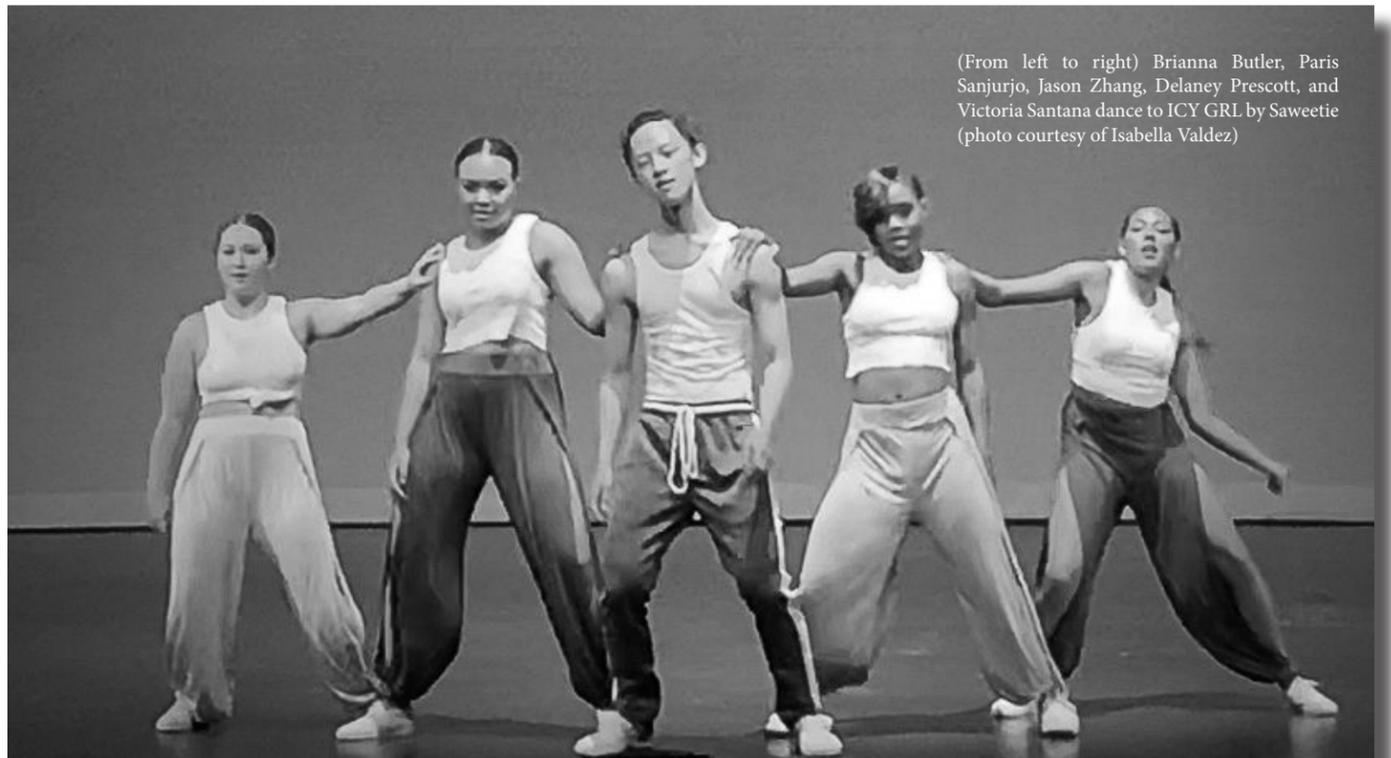
Other notable pieces included

"Thanksgiving," which Fenton specifically enjoyed because of her family's "strong connection" to the Charlie Brown score, and "Recycling." The latter was inspired initially by Fenton's son's song recommendation and a speech made by one of the dance students about being thankful for recycling. This dance commented on the social issue of the wastefulness and raised awareness for the fact that we

should not only be thankful for recycling, but that we should take action to ensure that we continue to progress in this direction to bettering our environment.

Fenton stated that Thankful and Grateful stood out from other shows because of the "focus and tone" throughout the process of putting the show together. The show being around Thanksgiving time meant that the

dance students tried to work together to remind themselves to be appreciative of one another. In sophomore Aaliyah Papa's words, the "dancers felt confident and sure in what [they] were doing" because of the fact that they were all finally comfortable with each other. This positive reminder of what went on behind the scenes of the show made the outcome even more rewarding.



(From left to right) Brianna Butler, Paris Sanjurjo, Jason Zhang, Delaney Prescott, and Victoria Santana dance to ICY GRL by Saweetie (photo courtesy of Isabella Valdez)

SAS SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Nickolas Biolchino
Staff Writer

"Special Olympics is a global movement of people creating a word of inclusion and community, where all people are accepted and welcomed regardless of ability or disability." (SpecialOlympics.org)

On Friday, November 15, the Special Olympics organization hosted a basketball tournament for the Anaheim Union High School District. All schools that have a Special Abilities Students program (SAS) participated. Hope school, three junior highs and four high schools attended. The tournament was held at the Anaheim Sports Center. Each school made teams based on ability and mobility. There were even teams for those in wheelchairs or those who need walkers.

Cypress had two teams in attendance: the Grizzlies and the Cavaliers. Both teams did exceptionally well in their specific levels. The Grizzlies team members were from Cypress' Autism Focus program. They played three different teams from

different schools, "The best part of this tournament was when I scored twenty points to win our final game," said Junior Iverson Bradford.

The Cavaliers were made up of our SH students. They also won all their games! Both teams brought back gold medals. "Sometimes, on

my own, I don't like to play basketball, but being part of a team makes us all winners," said Sophomore Faris Rabahat.



Special Olympics host different sporting tournaments throughout the year for our district. Each event is located at different high school campuses. The most popular event is the Soccer tournament that is held at Hope High School in the spring. "Soccer at Hope is the best! I see all my friends from other schools and we play each other. It is so much fun," said Freshman Eugene Han.

THE MARIAS

LISTEN

-Yolotzin Martinez

Over the last couple of years, the app SoundCloud has bred genres ranging from Bedroom Pop to Mumble Rap, all of which continue to change the music industry. Many popular artists and bands have gotten their start from SoundCloud, and The Marias are no exception. Created in 2016, The Marias are a Los Angeles-based band founded by lead vocalist Maria Zardoya and Producer/Drummer, Josh Conway. Their music mostly consists of love songs that are sung in both English and Spanish, with flavors of Jazz, Psychedelia and Dream pop, but ultimately falling under the psychedelic soul genre.

Despite having been formed in 2016, The Marias released their first single, "I Don't Know You" in

late 2017, followed by their October release of the single, "Déjate Llevar." The year of 2017 was busy for them, because at the end of the year they released their first EP Super Clean Vol. 1. Less than a year later, they released their most current EP Super Clean Vol. 2. Those two EP gave audiences songs like, "Carino" and "Only in My Dreams" that will leave listeners in a blissful state.

As of right now there are no plans for albums, probably due to the tour that they are currently in. However they released a single in early November of 2019 known as "Out for the Night" which fans have responded positively to.

You will not be disappointed if you listen to The Marias, Maria's angelic vocals are the epitome of heaven on earth--their music is smooth and calming, with upbeat sounds, that will leave you with a warm fuzzy feeling.

The Marias at a Theater in CDMX, México City, MX (photo from The Marias-Facebook)



FROZEN 2

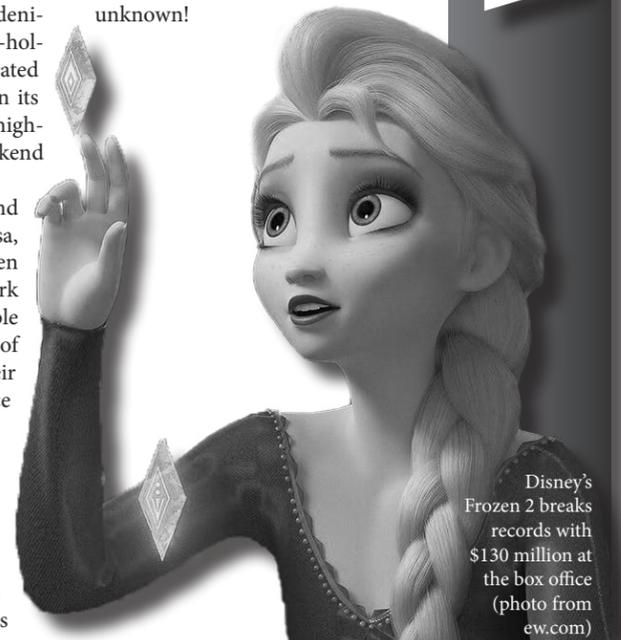
-Ji Min An

After six years, Disney finally released *Frozen 2*, the animated sequel to the ever popular, *Frozen*, on November 22, 2019. In 2013, *Frozen* became a global sensation, as the enchanting fantasy film captivated the hearts of both children and adults. But could the sequel surpass its megahit original? Fans of *Frozen* had differing views on the new movie. Film reviewers were impressed with *Frozen 2*, and agreed that the darker and more mature elements made the story more powerful. Other critics were disappointed, and mentioned that *Frozen* deserved a better sequel. Nonetheless, *Frozen 2* is an undeniable success. Over the five-day-holiday weekend, the sequel generated a record-setting \$130 million in its box office debut, becoming the highest-grossing Thanksgiving weekend film in history.

Directed by Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck, *Frozen 2* follows Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, Olaf, and Sven who leave Arendelle to embark on a "dangerous but remarkable journey" to find the origin of Elsa's powers, and save their kingdom after a mysterious voice calls out to Elsa.

The animation is sophisticated and highlights complicated themes in ways that children will understand, while also being insightful for adults. The audience is able to empathize with the characters

who experience loss, change, and hope. The film also adds in a couple hilarious moments to relieve tension, including a charismatic recap of the first movie. *Frozen 2* has an amazing soundtrack with powerful solos. "Into the Unknown" is probably the catchiest song, yet seems like the movie's attempt at a second, "Let It Go." However, Elsa's second solo song in the film truly steals the show. Sung at a pivotal moment in the plot, "Show Yourself" is a much more impactful song with more descriptive lyrics. Overall, *Frozen 2* is visually stunning, mesmerizing and completely breathtaking at certain key moments. This winter season, go on an adventure and follow the "secret" voice into the unknown!



Disney's *Frozen 2* breaks records with \$130 million at the box office (photo from ew.com)

WATCH

THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR

READ

-Nguyen Pham

The Sun Is Also a Star is a book and also a film by New York Bestselling author Nicola Yoon. It's a love story that is hopeful and grounded. The gorgeous story captures New York in a uniquely modern light that feels timeless. But it's the onscreen love between Daniel and Natasha that really drives the story.

It's a story about what it's

like to be an immigrant in the United States in today's close-minded climate, as it follows two immigrant families through the eyes of their children.

Natasha is a daughter of Jamaican immigrants whose family is about to be deported the next day after an ICE raid. Daniel is the son of Korean immigrants who's ready for an interview that might help him secure a spot into a prestigious university. Natasha's a pragmatist with a head for science who's fascinated by astronomy. Daniel's a romantic with a heart for poetry who'd rather become anything but a doctor.

After they get to chatting, they realize how different they are. Daniel bets Natasha that he can make her fall in love with him by the end of the day, but she's a ticking clock of her own.

The Sun is Also a Star main characters, Natasha and Daniel (photo courtesy of HBO)



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

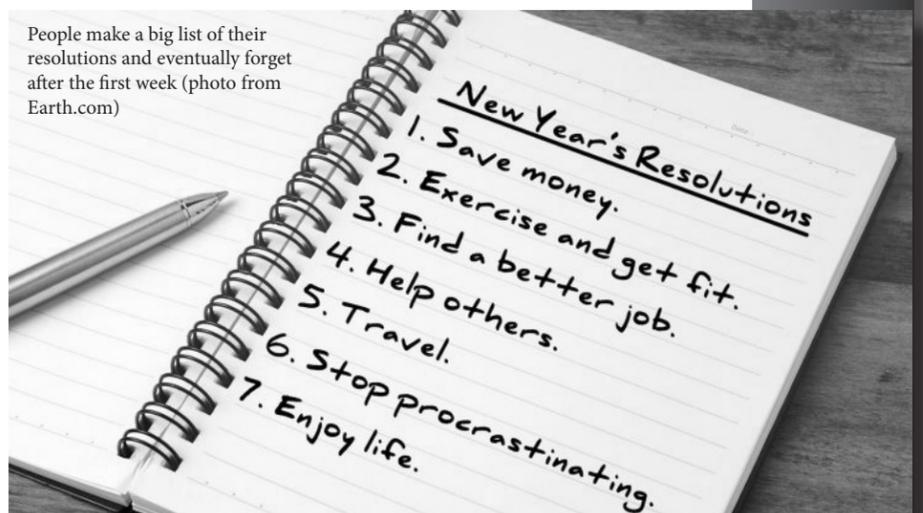
-Armen Gamil

Every new year when the ball drops in Times Square, New York, many people set goals or resolutions to improve. New Year's resolutions are meant to help us be better at life and reach the goals that we set, but as every new year goes by we are becoming lazier. Have we been slacking off on our New Year's resolutions?

It's that time of year when people make their New Year's resolutions, 93% of people set them, according to the American Psychological Association. The most common resolutions are related to losing weight, eating healthier, exercising regularly and saving money. However, research shows that 45% of people fail to keep

their resolutions by February, and only 19% keep them for two years. Lack of willpower or self-control is the top-cited reason for not following through. How can we stick to our resolutions year-round and the years to come?

The solution that is most effective is to write down your resolutions and put them somewhere you remember like your locker or your bedroom door. "Studies show that we are likely to remember by writing down information than just looking at information," stated Mrs. Fawley, Government teacher at Cypress High School, "I always tell my students to write down notes to remember what I teach before every test that I give." Get your pencils and paper and write down your resolutions. Centurions; let's make this the best year of the decade.



People make a big list of their resolutions and eventually forget after the first week (photo from Earth.com)

- New Year's Resolutions**
1. Save money.
 2. Exercise and get fit.
 3. Find a better job.
 4. Help others.
 5. Travel.
 6. Stop procrastinating.
 7. Enjoy life.

DO

CHS STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN THE ROSE PARADE HONOR BAND

Sherald Mitz
Front Page Editor

The Rose Parade is an iconic tradition to mark the start of the Rose Bowl Game that happens annually every January 1st since the 1890s. The parade consists of 44 floats and 20 marching bands. Out of the 935 volunteers our very own Samantha Clock, a Junior at Cypress High, auditioned into the top group Wind Symphony and was selected for the District Honor Band. Samantha's skills with the trumpet and her "marchability" were recognized by her interviewers earning her a position in the Rose Parade.

The process of being accepted into the parade, besides Mr. Quirion needing to sign an application form, is completely student driven. Being accepted into the parade had left her starstruck she had stated that being in the Rose Parade was "... an accomplishment and the experience of a lifetime." and "It became real, something you might not be able to experience again. Very surreal." Her time in the parade was much more advanced than at school playing the Eagle Squadron March and many Disney tunes.



Samantha Clock (second from left) standing among her Rose Parade peers (photo courtesy of Samantha Clock)

Being in the Rose Parade is a lot of work with the combined service of 935 volunteers totals to around 80,000 hours of work. On top of that the marching bands have to march down a 5 ½ mile

trek down Colorado Blvd while playing and performing during the whole televised event.

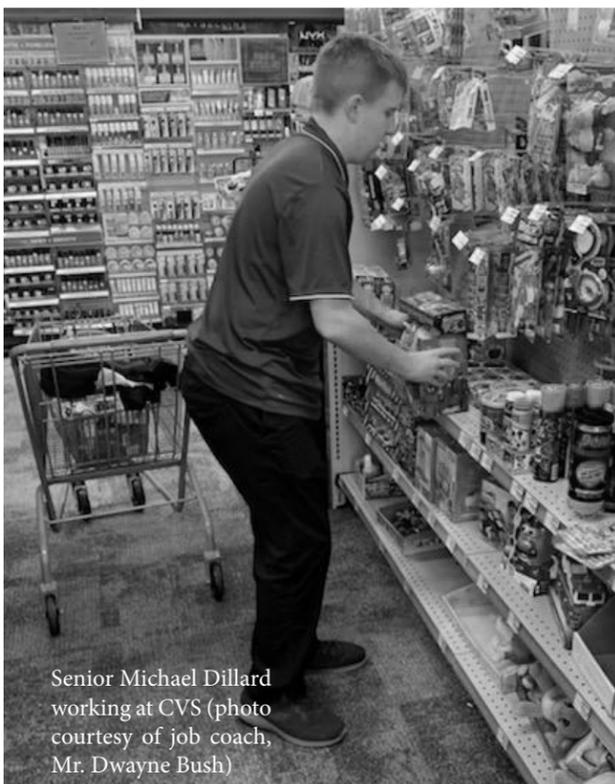
WORKABILITY

Audrey Sims
Distribution Chief

"Workability is a state funded program that provides per-employment skills, training and services for youth (12-22 years) in special education making the transition from school to work." (cde.ca.gov)

Here at Cypress, there are multiple levels of special education students with varying disabilities. All of them are eligible to participate in the workability program. Students go for a few hours a week during their school day. They walk to and from school. There are several businesses in our community that participate in this program. Along with school credit, these student workers are getting a paycheck that is being issued quarterly. Students attend their jobs with a job coach. The job coach is there to give any support or guidance needed to complete the tasks given by business supervisors.

"Workability teaches me how to be ready for when I graduate from Cypress and have to go to work on my own," says Michael Dillard.



Senior Michael Dillard working at CVS (photo courtesy of job coach, Mr. Dwayne Bush)

Michael currently works at CVS, where he stocks shelves, does some light cleaning and helps wherever he is needed. He will graduate from high school this year with the skills he will need to find a job. He hopes to get a job at Coach's Corner where he will work the prize counter.

The workability program not only offers hands on training to those who might not have had an opportunity to have a job, it also builds confidence. In the bigger picture, this program offers a great opportunity to the students on campus and helps to motivate the youth of today.

UPCOMING SENIOR EVENTS



Winter Formal is coming soon! (photo from Google Images)

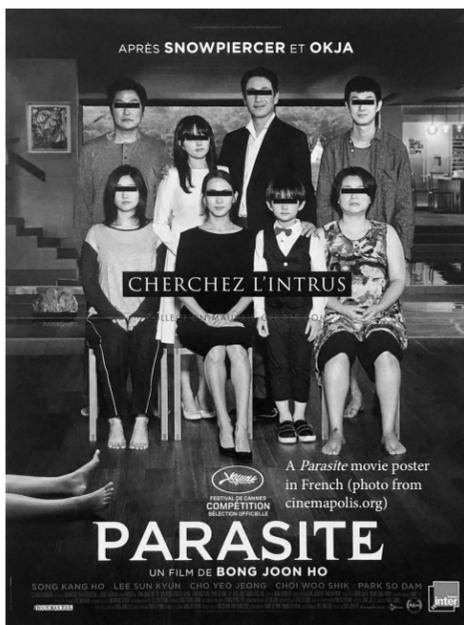
Eman Sharkasi
Opinion Editor

Back from break we are all wondering, what is there to look forward to now, especially for our seniors who are counting the days until graduation? The year is new and we're half way through the school year, but there are plenty of events coming up. February 7th, we have our winter rally which then will be followed by Winter Formal on Saturday, February 8th, with the theme of Dancing in the Moon-

light. A time warp into a different era, Medieval Times is on March 3rd, then on March 23rd we start Spring Break! Near the end of the school year we have Skyzone, an indoor trampoline park located in Los Angeles, on April 8th. Finally, Prom is April 25th, though we still don't know the theme, the event is always the best! For our seniors we have Senior Festival on May 18th. Lastly, graduation is on May 22nd, followed by Grad Nite that same day.

PARASITE INVADES THE WORLD OF CINEMA

Dassel Jheong
Assistant Editor



On the screen, a rich man complains about the strange “poor” smell in his car. The man driving, who lives in the Korean ghettos, looks down and self-consciously pulls his shirt to his nose. Looking around, one can notice members of the audience lifting their own shirts as well. This is the power of a great film like *Parasite*.

Director Bong Joon-Ho has released his newest Korean language film to explosive reviews and buzz. No other South Korean film has penetrated the film world quite like *Parasite*, being the first Korean movie to win the Palme D’Or at the Cannes Film Festival, Best Foreign International Film at the Golden Globes, and grabbing a nomination for Best Picture with the Oscars. Moreover, *Parasite* has become one of the highest rated films on review-aggregating sites

like Rotten Tomatoes (99%) and Metacritic (96%). Moviegoers and critics alike praise *Parasite* as “one of the best films of the decade.” (Awards Circuit)

In short, *Parasite* is a dense and revelatory tale about the horrors of class divide. An impoverished family barely standing on their feet finds a source of income by entangling their paths with an extremely wealthy family. It’s a comedy, thriller, and mystery all packed into one.

Although the story is set in Korea, its themes of financial hardship and survival apply universally and for American audiences. Dave Kim, a senior at Cypress High, explained that the film has “a lot of allusions to the American Dream.” Bong’s portrayal of class struggle and socio-economic disparity is a strong depiction of our ravaged world today. The film does not give any clear answers about these problems, which is reminiscent of the controversy surrounding the issues of taxation, wealth gap, elitism, social mobility, socio-economic structural violence, climate change, and the complex reality of poverty.

Parasite has made history in bringing Korean cinema to the forefront. More often than not, Asian cinema has generally been ignored in film media such as the Oscars. Western filmmakers are invariably influenced by Asian films such as Spike Lee (*BlacKkKlansman*, *Malcolm X*), who remade the Korean masterpiece *Oldboy* or George Lucas, who was inspired during the making of *Star Wars* after seeing the innovative techniques used in Japan’s *Hidden Fortress*. Today, game-changing Asian films are still being made. However, people are not as easily exposed to these poignant films, and another wonderful side of cinema is lost for the general public.

In his Golden Globes speech, Bong Joon-Ho stated, “Once you overcome the one-inch tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films... I think we use only just one language. The cinema.”

The lesson: Invest in cultures. Depart from what’s comfortable and easy. Watch movies made in Korea, and India, and Japan, and Mexico, and Italy. These films have so much valuable meaning and significance that everyone and anyone can take from.

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NEW ON YOUR UP NEXT LIST...

Joaquín Jaimes-Alvarez
Photo Editor

There are so many streaming service options that the list seems endless: Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime Video. It seems like every day there are new streaming services to check out, new shows to watch, and the bills just get bigger! We don’t want to deal with the high price tags that come with these services, yet culturally, we still have that fear of not knowing what our friends are talking about, not knowing what the new trends are, or what the hashtags mean. In order to keep up with our pop culture-oriented society, we subscribe to streaming services until the bills come back to haunt us, and then remember that we forgot to cancel that free trial from a month ago.

There are two new players on the streaming scene, both by market giants, both offering

original and exclusive content: Apple TV+ and Disney+. Launched on November 1st, and available across most of its devices, Apple TV+ seems promising for Apple, at \$4.99, when compared to its competition. Apple TV+ launched with ten shows available at launch, and according to Apple’s September 2019 Keynote, there will be more shows added over time.

Disney+ also seems like a promising competitor against other streaming giants such as Netflix, with a similar starting price as Apple TV+, at \$6.99, and offers an upgrade for \$12.99 which adds Hulu and ESPN+. Earlier in the summer, Disney decided to pull a large amount of its content—mostly made by Walt Disney Studios, MARVEL and PIXAR—leaving some content

from subsidiaries, companies that are owned by Disney, inside of Netflix’s catalog. This includes shows which Disney and Netflix co-produced, such as Marvel’s ‘The Defenders’ and ‘Daredevil,’ shows that will continue to be available on Netflix, according to a report by CNET.

Some students at Cypress are already enjoying these new streaming platforms, and in the case of Disney+, some students are going old-school, rewatching favorite shows from when they were younger.

“I like that they have [the] original and new shows and movies because sometimes I want to watch an older movie,” Senior Kayleigh Pritchard said about Disney+. “I enjoy watching ‘Wizards of Waverly Place’ right now... I enjoy this show because it reminds me of my childhood and what I grew up watching,” she added.



Established streaming services face new competition from Disney and Apple (collage by Joaquín Jaimes-Alvarez, logos from various brand websites)

NEW SCHOOL HOURS: SHOULD SCHOOLS START LATER?

Nguyen Pham
Staff Writer

Last year Jerry Brown, the former California Governor, rejected a bill that proposed starting middle school and high school hours later to give teens more time to sleep. However, this year, the Government is working to bring the bill back. “That bill would fallout in June 2022, for the school years 2022 to 2023, making California the first state in the country to order a later start time for middle and high school students.” (edsources.org)

The bill banned middle and high schools from having a start time later than 8:30am. Also Senate Anthony Portantino, a representative of San Fernando Valley, agreed to amendments in May that stated that Middle Schools would start at 8 am and High Schools at 8:30 am, to give districts more flexibility with scheduling buses. The schools will be expected to prepare for this school-hour reformation until 2022, where it will then be put into effect in the year 2022-2023.

There were a great many students with thoughts on this upcoming change. Freshman Jordan Vu, commented, “It’s

very good for sleeping, but it’s going to affect how school structuring might work, like after school activities. It may also affect the sleep you can get at home.”

Many other students who were surveyed had one of two opinions. One approved of the bill as a good idea, with consideration to the fact that one may get more sleep and be allowed to wake up later. The other opinion condemned the bill, stating it was not a good idea because some parents are used to the present school hours and dropping off their children would become a task harder than it should be. Additionally, since school hours are being pushed back, students would have to stay up later to finish their homework. This plan would soon backfire, as stu-

dents will simply shift their unhealthy sleeping schedule by a few hours and continue to stay up late.

Research shows that “teenagers are receiving about seven to seven and a quarter hours of sleep, when they should be receiving nine to nine and a half hours of sleep,” (nationalwidechildrens.org) With the new school hours, the government is hoping for students to receive more sleep for the approaching school day. However, research

shows that while they will receive more sleep the first year, they will adjust to their new schedule and continue their original sleeping schedule.

To conclude, there appears to be many benefits to this bill on first glance, but there might be more negative effects than positive. Still, it’s important to remember the importance of sleep in these fruitful years of development in an adolescent’s life.



The New School Hours for 2022-2023
(photo from today.com)

HOW THE JUSTICE SYSTEM HAS FAILED CHILDREN OF ABUSE

YeJi Jong
Opinion Editor

We’ve witnessed young children share their stories of abuse, vividly describing the pain and sufferings they’ve encountered. Everyone, including alleged abusers, has a right to a trial, through our Constitutional rights; it works against the victims, rather than working with them. So where does the problem stem from?

Some people believe the faults come from family courts. The lawyer’s job is to cross-examine a witness. However, asking yes or no questions routinely can cause the witness’s ability to remember to falter. Victims’ of sexual abuse may be required to state the time, date, location, and the articles of clothing. These tactics are difficult for children, as abuse can increase difficulty to differentiate occasions.

Furthermore, critical court decisions are based less on legal principles. As the system becomes more incompetent and overwhelmed, corrupt officials make dangerous decisions leading to the children being in dangerous hands of potential predators. The abuser is often given unrestricted visita-

tion rights, if not full possession of the child. Child protection becomes only a custody question and battle.

But the problem isn’t just the courts, it’s also the services that are supposed to be preventing these situations. The recent National Incidence Survey III conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services found that 72% of all reports received by Child Protective Services (2,160,000 reports of abuse or neglect) were never investigated. Records show that almost half of all children who were confirmed as abused or neglected did not receive

any follow-up assistance. An estimated 1,299 children died from abuse or neglect. 42% of the children who died had been previously reported to Child Protective Services as being in danger, yet they were ignored.

This points out a major issue with children’s rights. They have no rights, for children cannot speak for themselves. They are denied access to justice and equal protection under the law. “These preventable child deaths are also caused by a consequence of a social service delivery system that prioritizes preserving the family and

rehabilitation of the offender rather than the protection of the child.” (Justice for Children)

“For example, Ciara Jobes, 15, was whipped and starved to death in December 2002 while in the care of a guardian, who has been charged with murder. Jobes’ death came after the juvenile courts and Department of Social Services failed to check the mental-health history of her guardian, Satrina Roberts, although she had been receiving federal disability aid for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.” (The Baltimore Sun)

“Travon Morris, 5, died in February from burns that he suffered when his mother, Sheila Avery, forced him into a tub of scalding water. Prosecutors in that case, in which Avery was sentenced to 20 years in prison, complained in court that the system returned the boy from a safe foster home to an abusive, troubled parent and provided little follow-up care.” (The Baltimore Sun)

So what are we doing for these children? Why are we allowing these abusers to continue neglecting and harming children? Why is the system not being reformed? Why are we ignoring the children and denying justice for them? How many more children must we fail until we fix this broken system?



Fine art America symbolizes children of abuse being silenced (photo from fineartamerica.com)

BOYS BASKETBALL STARTS A NEW SEASON

Luis Ortiz
Sports Editor

As the days get colder the gyms get louder with students cheering and buzzers blaring. Cypress Boys basketball season has started with a 72-54 win over the Griffins from Los Alamitos High. Although they don't have an Empire League match until the seventh of January they will be participating in several preseason tournaments and games to prepare. Junior, Shane Gurnell states that in order to be successful this season they'll need to "execute the plays and be a well conditioned team." The Centurions want to repeat their recent successes of back-to-back



The Basketball team filming their player intros for CTV (photo courtesy of Luis Ortiz)

Empire League championships but also have the hunger to improve on their CIF quarter final exit courtesy of Notre Dame High. "For this season I expect our team to go 10-0 in league, that's basically our goal," the point guard, Christian Chai, stated. This year the squad has been promoted to division one after last season's triumph and Junior, Kody Papke believes that there is extra pressure in being a D1 athlete. "Every time I play with my friends they say, "You're D1 you should make that every time," the guard announces. As the years progress, the team wants to create a dynasty that will last years and be a part of Cypress history. So make sure to come out and support the boys!

GIRLS WATER POLO MAKES A SPLASH

Denise Eppinger
Copy Editor

Our Girls Water Polo teams have just started their new season for winter sports. On December 4th, the Freshman Girls Water Polo team had its first game against Buena Park and lost 1-18 but they have high hopes for their next game.

When asked why she joined the team and how her experience so far on the Frosh Water Polo Team has been, Kaila Ruiz, stated, "I joined water polo because I've been doing swim team for the past few years, and I've seen the boys play Water Polo and always thought it looked fun. So

far this season practice with Coach Stone has always been really fun." She also stated that she's made so many new friends because of water polo.

On December 4th, the JV team and Varsity team also played against Buena Park High School. Varsity lost 10-14 but JV dominated and won 17-5. Arielle Kayekjian, a freshman on the JV team stated, "My favorite thing about Water Polo is getting to meet new people and learning how to be disciplined and it's just fun, and a good experience altogether."

Last year, the girls qualified for CIF but unfortunately didn't make it past the second round.



Gina Celentano shoots ball into goal to score another point for Cypress (photo courtesy of Denise Eppinger)

A PROMISING WINTER OF WRESTLING

Zac Milam
Social Media Manager

It's that time of the year, wrestling is officially back in season. There have been multiple matches, and the players couldn't be more excited. Senior and team captain, Makayla Ybarra, who is ranked second in 137 lbs. in the southern section, is "super excited that the season is back." She is looking forward to seeing how this season is going to go, especially since the girls wrestling varsity team is ranked fifth in Southern California. "We had a lot of girls come out this year and expecting only good things," she said.

"It feels great" that wrestling season is back, said Senior, Jacob

Vasquez, of the boys varsity wrestling team. "We are finally going to be able to put all the training we've been doing since the end of last season into action." They're hungry for wins this season and they have a strong lineup that is ready to wrestle.

Additionally, Charlie Speer is ranked second in 170 lbs., and Ashley Maya is ranked second in 143 lbs., both in the Southern Section. Jakob Edwards is a returning CIF placer. Ultimately, both the boys and girls wrestling teams are ready to wrestle again after a long break.

They are very hopeful and optimistic.



Cypress Girls Wrestling wins (photo courtesy of Girls Wrestling Team)

A FOOTBALL TEAM TO REMEMBER

Jacob Fisk
Sports Editor

Cypress Football has had one of its best seasons for football in school history, reaching the CIF Final for the first time since 2007. However the Centurions were short of winning the title after a heartbreaking finish.

On November 29, the Cypress Centurions took on the Temecula Valley Golden Bears for the CIF-SS Division 7 Championship. The Centurions looked to win their second CIF Title in school history, while the Golden Bears made their first CIF Football Final appearance in 28 years (1991).

At the start of the game, Cypress stopped the first Golden Bears drive and forced Temecula Valley to punt. However, the Centurions fumbled the ball on the first play of the drive, which led to a Bears touchdown for an early 7-0 deficit with 9:15 left to go in the first quarter.

Late in the quarter, Cypress tied the game with 0:22 left in the first quarter as Senior running back Isaac Hurtado got the Centurions on the board with a six-yard rushing touchdown.

When the second quarter started, Temecula Valley got a 43-yard gain to get to the Centurion 20-yard-line. The Golden Bears took a risk on 4th and 1 and found a lane on the right side for an 11-yard touchdown with 6:43 left to go in the second quarter.

Cypress still had the chance to tie the game up before half time. However, as the Centurions were edging closer to the red zone (20-yard-line) the Golden Bears intercepted a pass and ran the clock out for halftime.

Late in the third quarter, Temecula Valley advanced to the Cypress 20-yard line after a targeting flag was called against Cypress, which is an automatic 15-yard penalty and a first down. The Golden Bears took advantage and scored another

touchdown to make it a 21-7 game with only 46 seconds left in the third quarter.

In the third quarter, the Centurions desperately needed something to swing the momentum back in their favor, so they took another trick play out of their book and had three handoffs before having Eldredge throwing a pass to Senior wide receiver, Elijah Vaielua for a 70-yard passing touchdown to make it a seven point game with still one quarter left to be played.

Cypress attempted to get the ball back immediately after, with an onside kick that bounced on an edge and went out of bounds, giving Temecula Valley the ball at the 47-yard line. The Centurions defense needed a stop to keep the game in reach with time winding down. Senior defensive tackle Buddah Asoau kept the Bears to a 3-yard gain on the first play. Then on the next play, an incomplete pass forced it to be 3rd and 7 at the 50-yard line. Senior linebacker Aidan Ashcraft and defensive linemen Tyler Jones stopped a Bears receiver for a loss of two yards, to give Cypress back the ball for a chance to tie the game.

Cypress marched down the field, with Hurtado finding the end zone again for a 1-yard rushing touchdown to tie the game up with 6:37 left in the fourth quarter.

Cypress managed to stop Temecula Valley to get the ball back deep in their own zone at the one yard-line. A few plays later, the Centurions punted the ball back to the Golden Bears, but on the punt return the Bears fumbled the ball, with Cypress recovering it at their own 15. But the Golden Bears, in dramatic fashion, recovered the ball a few plays later on another fumble and scored a 13-yard touchdown to take the lead with only 40 seconds left.

With only 40 seconds left there was not enough time for the Centurions to tie the game up, as the Golden Bears won the game 28-21 for the CIF title.

The Centurions kept playing until the final play of the season. They finished this season with a 13-1 record, which is the best record in Centurions history. In addition, they won their first Empire League championship since 2011.

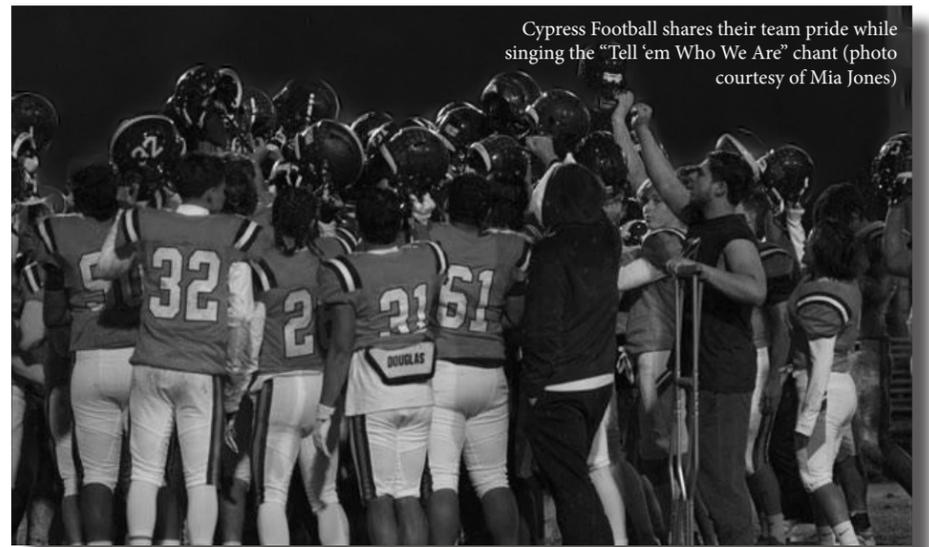
Coach Dull believed that, "the Senior class this year was by far the best group of athletes we have coached. They do everything the right way, they're polite, respectful, great citizens, and great human beings. I could not be more proud of this group."

Head Coach Feldman commented, "It was a great season, regardless of how it ended, which was a great game that we barely lost unfortunately. I think this is the best group of seniors we had since I have been here, both as players and more importantly their character." As for the future of the team, he believes that players such as Corey Anesei, Neil Jansen, Dylan Eldredge, John Fonseca, will have to step up as the leaders of the team,

and hopes the younger players on the team will be able to follow the seniors examples for the future of Cypress Football.

With amazing games all season long, Porteneuve, Jones, and Anesi were elected to be on the "All CIF Defense" team, while John Fonseca, Vaielua, and Hurtado were put on the "All CIF Offense" team. In addition to this, Hurtado was also named CIF Offensive MVP (Most Valuable Player), 1st Team All Orange County, LA Times 1st Team RB, and 1st Team Running Back. While Jones and Porteneuve were selected as North OC All Stars along with Hurtado.

An incredible season has come to a close, and while it may have not been the ending Cypress wanted, this Centurion team had one of the best seasons in school history. It will be a team that will be remembered for a very long time and will be a set example for future generations of Cypress Football.



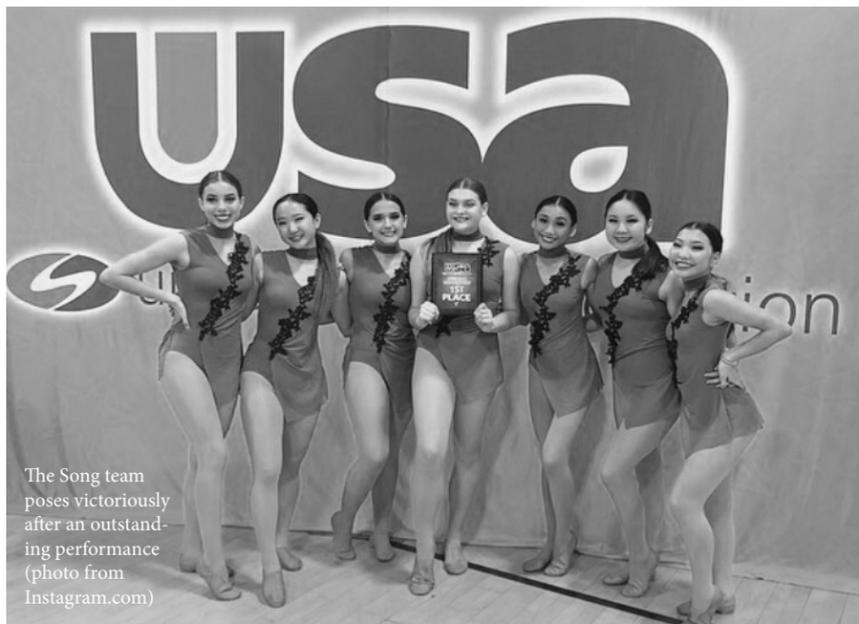
Cypress Football shares their team pride while singing the "Tell 'em Who We Are" chant (photo courtesy of Mia Jones)

SONG: AN IMPRESSIVE FEAT

Ramya Sridhar
Student Activities Editor

We have all seen Song at various pep rallies and School-spirit activities, leaping and bounding across the stage with grace and power. At first glance, it may seem trivial and somewhat simple. However, this sport is a lot more complex than it seems and relies on a lot of blood, sweat, and tears.

"Song is one of my favorite sports to watch during pep rallies," stated Theresa Phung, Junior, "The students in Song seem to be very well coordinated and their performances are top-notch most of the time. I can tell that it's a very physically demanding sport because of its inclusion of complex dance moves; I also think it's very mentally demanding because of



The Song team poses victoriously after an outstanding performance (photo from Instagram.com)

them having to memorize their dance moves and perfect it for pep rallies/football games."

While sports like Song have played a very fundamental role in encouraging school spirit and enthusiasm, they are also very much underappreciated and, to some extent, not even considered as sports by a significant portion of the school population. However, Song requires enormous amounts of physical exertion.

Song is an incredibly complex sport that requires flexibility and physical strength. Not only does it require an exceptional physique, but it also requires mental talent-this sport, like any other, requires multi-tasking and team coordination. It incorporates the best elements of ballet, jazz, and hip-hop to form a hybrid, multi-faceted and complex dance form-one that is incredibly difficult to perform. It is difficult, incredible, and requires a lot of hard work, work that our team here at Cypress High is motivated and spirited to give.

BOYS VARSITY SOCCER SENIORS START THEIR LAST SEASON

Jasmine Coquia
Photo Editor

Boys Varsity Soccer started off the winter season back in November. They've been collaborating and working hard at practices as they aim to make CIF. Some of the seniors on the team shared their thoughts on their last season as a centurion.

Cypress Senior, JC Perez, likes how close and hardworking the team has become. He says the team is very passionate about what they do every day, no matter how tiring it gets. "I'm

going to miss all the memories and the thrill of playing every team," says Perez. "It saddens me, but I know that I played my heart out every game." He has been playing soccer since he was five-years-old and says that teamwork is what makes the sport beautiful.

Caden Nelson says the team is a family and it's always fun to be with them. "It's hard to think that this is my last year of soccer at Cypress," says Nelson. "But I'm proud to say I played varsity for this school all four years." Nelson has been playing soccer since he was seven years old. His expectations for this season are to do well in league

and make CIF.

Dino Giakoumis says the team has great leadership, positivity, and competitiveness. "All four years of soccer went by really fast and I'm sad it's coming to an end." Giakoumis likes that the sport gives him a competitive edge. He hopes to continue playing the sport in college next year.

The boys make it clear that they have a true passion for soccer. They genuinely love playing together and consider themselves a family. While it is sad that the seniors will be saying goodbye to playing as a Centurion, they plan to make the most of their last season.



Boys Varsity Soccer (photo courtesy of YeJi Jong)