

CENTURION SPOTLIGHT

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*See what Centurions' 2022 New Year Resolutions are! Do you have
any similar resolutions too?*



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NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

BY ADAM HAWARI



Senior Devin Cunningham's (left) New Year's Resolution is to be a better friend.



Mr. Hurtado has tried New Year's Resolutions before.

The year 2022 is now here and the people of Cypress High are deciding to change up their lifestyles by making new year's resolutions. Consider this a time to retry or attempt at anything that's been bugging you or any personal goals. To understand others' minds and views on their newly made resolutions, we surveyed CHS and asked students and staff about their new year's resolutions.

Counselors endure many struggles and have a lot of responsibilities every day, so it's reasonable for them to have their own yearly resolutions. Mr. Osvaldo Hurtado, the freshman counselor said his current new year's resolutions are to exercise more, and save more money. Hurtado's plan to achieve these two goals is to have a great diet and to start saving.

Security guard Carlos Garcia said that sticking to your goal is the key.

Just saying these two goals won't be enough, though. Despite only achieving a fraction of his goals from last year, Hurtado says that self-discipline would help him to finish them in 2022.

When asked about his new year's resolutions, security guard, Carlos Garcia, answered he was "getting into the pattern of working out and putting in the work to lose weight." To actually finish his new year's resolution he believes that sticking to his goal every day is the key.

Lastly, senior Devin Cunningham said his resolution is "to be a better friend." To improve himself, Cunningham will remind himself every day to be a better friend.

New Year's Resolutions give us the satisfaction of finishing something that bothered us before, so we can be happier in the new year.

Betty White: An Icon Lost

WRITTEN BY ANELINA ALEGRE

Betty White was a well-loved American actor who unexpectedly died on Dec. 21, just weeks before her 100th birthday. Her sudden death brought grief and sadness to America, disheartening both fans and fellow celebrities.

Many celebrities and public figures expressed their grief at the loss of White through social media tributes and interviews. According to AP News, even President Joe Biden expressed his condolences to reporters saying, "It's a shame. She was a lovely lady Ninety-nine years old. As my mother would say, God love her." Film star Ryan Reynolds also tweeted his condolences: "The world looks different now. She was great at defying expectation. She managed to grow very old and somehow, not old enough. We'll miss you, Betty. Now you know the secret." Arguably, the saddest fact about her passing was that White was merely weeks away from her birthday on Jan. 17, so close to reaching 100 years of age. Before her death, she recently told PEOPLE Magazine that she felt "so lucky to be in such a good health and feel so good at this age."

In her early career, White landed an unforgettable role on her very first sitcom, *Life with Elizabeth*. She later hit the Hollywood dream as a rising star on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, an American sitcom, and along with appearances in other iconic shows, like the notable *The Golden Girls*. In her elderly years, she spent her time enjoying small pleasures like puzzle games and card games in her Los Angeles home. Carol Burnett from *The Carol Burnett Show* describes her as witty and naturally funny, being able to "twist a line to get a laugh." White's lively humor and witty persona made her loved by all, a sensational and cherished star.

A hot debate going on around the internet is whether White's untimely death was "jinxed." PEOPLE Magazine ran a special interview and featured White on a magazine cover to celebrate her upcoming 100th birthday just three days before her death. Social media users suspect that the ahead-of-time birthday celebration jinxed White's death, somehow compelling it to happen only 17 days before she would turn 100. Journalist Ben Dreyfuss joked about the unfortunate timing and sequence of events on Twitter: "Happy New Year to everyone but People Magazine who killed Betty White by tempting fate," he tweeted.

Students at Cypress High express their sadness for Betty White's death, as she was an actress loved by many. Junior Rae Walker indicates that he felt "really sad, she was an icon," when asked about their reaction upon hearing the unfortunate news. White's death affects far more than just those who personally knew her; all of America is impacted by her loss. Her iconic personality and vibrant character will be missed, but the legacy of her success will forever live on



The Resurgence of Andrew Garfield

WRITTEN BY: JAKE HARRIS



Andrew Garfield poses as Spider Man for The Amazing Spider-Man.
(Photo Credit: IndieWire)

After his appearance in “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” fans rallied support for **Andrew Garfield’s** “The Amazing Spider-Man” franchise to finish his story with one more film.

“Spider-Man: No Way Home” was released on December 17, 2021 to massive success and fan support. It is currently the eighth highest grossing movie ever at the global box office, grossing over \$1.53 billion. Garfield reprised his role as Spider-Man from the “The Amazing Spider-Man” released in 2012, which received mixed reviews and less success than **Tobey Maguire’s** “Spider-Man” released in 2002.

Originally, it was announced in 2013 that there was a planned third and fourth movie to be released in 2016 and 2018 for “The Amazing Spider-Man” series. In multiple interviews throughout the years, directors have revealed the plot of the third movie was going to see Spider-Man fight against the group of villains the Sinister Six and deal with his love interest Gwen Stacy dying, however, plans changed due to the success of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. In December 2014, Sony’s emails were hacked and in the emails it was revealed that Spider-Man was going to join the MCU in the third Captain America film “Captain America: Civil War,” but it was revealed Garfield wouldn’t be playing the character. The leak cited the reason for Garfield’s departure from the character was due to critical remarks he made about Sony and him standing up to Sony CEO **Kaz Hirai** at a corporate dinner. In February 2015, “The Amazing Spider-Man 3” was officially canceled and **Tom Holland** was named the new Spider-Man joining the MCU.

Garfield’s Spider-Man was given no closure and wouldn’t be able to come to terms with Gwen Stacy’s death due to the canceled film, or so it seemed. With the release of “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” Garfield’s Spider-Man was able to have some redemption and saved Holland’s love interest MJ, preventing her from meeting the same fate as Gwen Stacy. After the release of the movie, many fans have been campaigning for Garfield’s Spider-Man to reappear to fight Venom in Sony’s Spider-Man Universe. Garfield commented on the Happy Sad Confused Podcast that bringing his character back to face off with Venom is a “cool idea.” The future of his character is unclear, however, rumors have been speculating that due to the fan support Garfield’s Spider-Man will reappear on the big screen. Garfield’s fans are loyal to him and it appears that if a new movie were to be made that it would be very successful.

Cypress' GRAMMYS 2022 Predictions

WRITTEN BY: RUBY MILBURN

1. RECORD OF THE YEAR: LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN - SILK SONIC 27.9%
2. ALBUM OF THE YEAR: PLANET HER - DOJA CAT 23.3%
3. SONG OF THE YEAR: DRIVERS LICENSE - OLIVIA RODRIGO 31%
4. BEST NEW ARTIST: OLIVIA RODRIGO - 57.1%
5. BEST POP VOCAL ALBUM: POSITIONS - ARIANA GRANDE 33.3%
6. BEST RAP ALBUM: CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST - TYLER, THE CREATOR 45%



YOUNG ARTIST OLIVIA RODRIGO IS POPULAR AMONG CENTURIONS – WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?

According to Centurions who shared their Grammy predictions via survey, recent pop star **Olivia Rodrigo** is predicted to receive at least two Grammys this year. Her hit single, “drivers license,” reached top charts and broke records at the beginning of 2021. About 57% of students who took the survey believe she will win Best New Artist, and 31% think she’ll win Song of the Year with “drivers license.” Going against popular artists **Billie Eilish**, **Taylor Swift**, and **Doja Cat**, who are also nominated for multiple awards, Rodrigo has tough competition, but definitely has potential.

“Positions” was **Ariana Grande**’s sixth studio album that came out in 2020. Grande implemented her signature whistle notes, while also showcasing her lower vocal range in this album which we usually don’t hear from her as often. As a result, many Centurions are predicting she will win Best Pop Vocal Album with “Positions.” Silk Sonic, a duo of solo artists **Bruno Mars** and **Anderson .Paak**, debuted their single, “Leave The Door Open” in 2020, followed by their album, “An Evening With Silk Sonic.” Their song, “Leave the Door Open” is now nominated for Record of the Year, and 27.9% of surveyors predict it will win the Grammy.

Doja Cat explored new sounds embracing her South African roots in her 2021 album, “Planet Her.” She also collaborated with many artists, such as Young Thug, Ariana Grande, and SZA. The popular artist is predicted to win Album of the Year by 23.3%, running against Justin Bieber, Billie Eilish, and Kanye West with “Donda.”

Popular rapper, **Tyler, the Creator**, made a comeback after two years, dropping his popular album, “Call Me If You Get Lost.” Tyler featured many artists on this album, including Lil Wayne, DAISY WORLD, and 42 Dugg. His most popular song from this album was “WASYUNAME” featuring Youngboy Never Broke Again and Ty Dolla \$ign.

Exactly 45% of voters predict this album to win Best Rap Album.

Although the Grammy’s have been postponed indefinitely due to Covid, Centurions and music fans across the country look forward to finding out who wins.

Winter Formal Postponed!

WRITTEN BY: ANNA NGUYEN



Winter Formal posters have been updated with the new date all around campus.

Photo Credit: Anna Nguyen

To comply with the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and new state guidelines, Winter Formal was postponed from January 15th to February 26th.

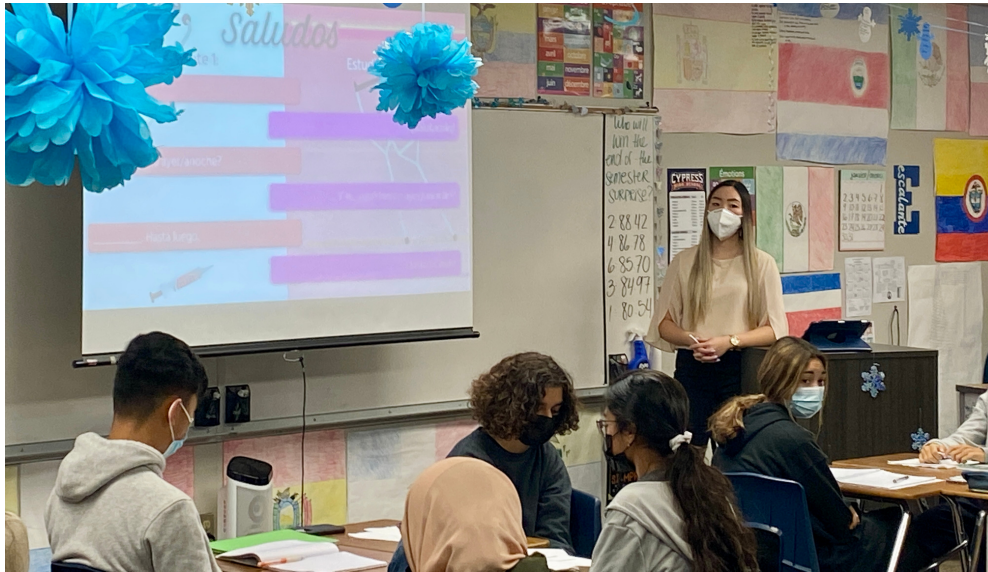
This decision was made in partnership with the Disneyland Hotel, the location host of Winter Formal, to give ample time for us to comply with the new event guidelines. The seven week postponement was not an easy decision, but it is a hopeful one to give our students and faculty a chance to return to a healthier situation. Dr. Hodgson feels strongly that “it is the right call,” as reported in an email sent to our student body.

Joey Hannifin, ABS President, reported that, “We’re hoping we won’t have to cancel Formal and that by postponing it, the current circumstances will lessen and we’ll get back to the party.” ASB is very fortunate to be working alongside Disneyland Hotel to come up with the best game plan to keep all our students safe. Maleena Duhnna, ASB Officer, says “Student’s safety is ASB’s main concern.” With this statement in mind, Cypress should trust our ASB and the hotel and use this extra time to be better prepared and healthier to attend our highly anticipated dance.

As positive cases lessen in our community, and as we listen to the updated guidelines, the chance of Winter Formal occurring seems very possible and likely. Dr. Hodgson and other school faculty are still in close communication with Disneyland Hotel and will continue updating Cypress students on any Winter Formal updates. Be sure to keep a lookout on any announcements from Dr. Hodgson during this waiting period, but as of now, the dance is still green-lit for February 26th, 2022.

Cypress High School Welcomes Mrs. Escalante

WRITTEN BY: ANISH ASHOKKUMAR



Mrs. Escalante (corner right) teaches Spanish to her class

Photo credit: Anish Ashokkumar

Mrs. Escalante is a new Cypress who teaches French and Spanish. She graduated from Irvine Valley College, California State University Fullerton, and University of California, Irvine. She enjoys designing really unique and fun activities for students to learn.

Mrs. Escalante's favorite part of teaching is when she makes a connection with the students and has fun with the students. She enjoys it when the students get that "lightbulb moment" and understand the material. Although teaching is fun, she said, "There are some difficult parts to being a teacher, such as when students are not participating much in the discussion/class." Still, she is still positive and enjoys working with such a great group of people every day. Outside of school she enjoys baking, especially making pasta.

Her advice for students going to college is to get a minor. "You're likely going to take miscellaneous classes throughout your time in college because the class you want/need isn't offered a certain semester, the class is full, etc. Therefore, you might as well set a goal to complete a certain minor to add to your resume/diploma."

With her various degrees and knowledge, Mrs. Escalante is definitely going to be influential in the foreign language department.

Review of Biden's First Year

WRITTEN BY: YE JI JONG

Biden's first year has been rocky, to say the least. While he was the better option than the alternative, his presidency was filled with highs and lows.

The Highs:

A \$1.9 trillion COVID-19-relief package that helped families in many states and cities after the hard hitting pandemic that caused millions of people to lose their jobs and homes

Biden's team also successfully distributed COVID-19 vaccines to Americans. Approximately 200 million people were fully vaccinated thanks to Biden. Compared to the Trump administration who spread false information and refused to take necessary action, Biden definitely alleviated the COVID crisis.

Biden also won bi-partisan support for the \$1 trillion infrastructure law to make competent progress on issues regarding poverty and working class Americans that both parties were struggling to combat. This was a breakthrough for the Biden administration and showed Americans that they could work through political polarization to put the country's best interest at heart.

The Lows:

The poor and chaotic withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan that caused the country to crumble to Taliban control. This was not only irresponsible, but deeply troubling and concerning for women's rights, quality of life for everyday Afghan citizens, and the fight for democracy. U.S. troops' lives were lost for nothing while the U.S. took zero responsibility for their role in Afghanistan's crisis.

Biden failed to win Senate approval for his \$1.75 trillion Build Back Better economic plan. Not only was this a huge loss for his approval ratings, but also hurt millions of Americans.



Biden's first year has been bittersweet.
Photo Credit: The White House

Although Biden was successful with Covid relief and rolling back Trump's harmful and divisive policies, he disappointed many Americans with his lack of competency winning Senate and ignorant and hasty decision to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Most importantly, it's too early to fully judge Biden's policies.

The Brookings Institute sums it up best, "Because regulatory policy takes time, years two and beyond will establish how much of Biden's own agenda gets implemented, and how much of it can last."

Hopefully, Biden's next three years will be filled with more successes.

Girls Basketball

WRITTEN BY TALANIA WILSON

The Cypress high school girls basketball team has had an eventful first month of the new year. The first game they had this year was against Wilson high school and they won 66 to 45, which is the first game against them since December 28 of 2019. January 18, Cypress High school's girls basketball team won their game against Kennedy, 43 to 33. This was the first game they played against Kennedy since April of 2021. Now girls basketball is 2nd in the empire league, and compared to last year they were 3rd. Coach **Nathaniel Rivera** said the way they prepare for the games is "scouting out the other teams by watching their games to see their pluses and minuses and see what they're strong points at and their weak points."

His favorite things about coaching basketball is watching his team grow and improve on how they play and teaching them life through basketball. Like how being disciplined and being on time is important. Rivera said "coaching the girls basketball isn't hard, and that you need to get to know the girls to really coach them." For example they identified what they're strong in and what they're weak in. As well as having a plan and getting to know each one of his players. The way he brings his team together is they go out and eat dinner together, because food brings people together. They are more like a family than a team because most of the girls on the team have been there for multiple years. One of the girls,

Jan Lim has been on the Varsity team since her freshman year and is now the captain of the basketball team. Lim said, "It's kind of stressful being captain but still very fun." Even though Lim loves basketball and says it's very fun, she says "it's still very difficult and draining, because you have to be mentally prepared for everything." Because there is always a chance of getting injured. The way she mentally prepares herself for a game by calming down before a game by listening to music and focusing on what she's going to do in the game.

Myia Collins, has been on the team since her sophomore year. She says, "Basketball is fun and she really enjoys it." Something Collins has improved on is being more confident, she said "before I was she but being in basketball has made me more confident." The Cypress High girls basketball team is an amazing team that is having a great season and a loving family like team.

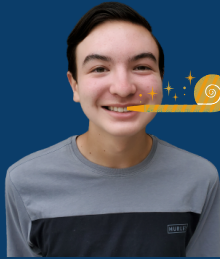


Girls Basketball practicing for a up coming game



The Centurion Spotlight

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