

News

Centurion Theatre Solves the Murder Mystery in Clue

By Rehansa Kulatilleke

On November 30th and December 1st, 7 PM Cypress Theatre presented their first production of the year with an adaptation of the movie/board game Clue. The backstage crew from Ms. Stewart's Stagecraft class along with help from Mr. Geerdes' AP student, **Michelle Yu**.

The performance opened with the protagonist—Mr. Wadsworth played by senior **Andy Nguyen** followed by sophomore **Natalie Uy** who played the maid Yvette. During the first act, the two would introduce the

main set of characters as they made their way on stage. Colonel Mustard played by **Leo Aispuro**

would make

the first in-

troduction,

followed

by Miss

White

played by

Natalya

Carvell,

then

Mrs.

Pea-

cock

played by

Arina Matie-

su, Mr. Green

played by

Dorian Carril-

lo Ferrer, and

finally last but

not least— Pro-

fessor Plum and

Miss Scarlet both

played by **Ettore**

D'Agostini and **Noelle Lee**. Actors ran back and forth across the stage enacting their parts while responding with comical remarks. With the slight parallels to the classic movie, it was clear to see that the performance was a hit in the theatre.

Although the show was successful—some last-minute changes affected a fragment of the performance. Two days before opening night, one of

the main actors unfortunately became unavailable at the last minute, causing an array of events to unfold. Senior, **Emily Martin** was unable to perform for both nights, leaving her understudy—Arina Matiesu to play the role of Mrs. Peacock. With the limited amount of time left until show day, some might have been given the idea that memorizing lines last minute would have been hard—when in reality Matiesu believes otherwise. Matiesu said, “At the very beginning of the year when everyone got their roles, they all recorded themselves going through the script...so memorizing the lines wasn't a big deal.” Despite the fact that she memorized most of her lines, others decided that it would be best to keep a script on stage in case she might be required to

have quick glance. Director—Senior, **Emily Alexander** shared, “We made Mrs. Peacock—her script—covered it and made it look like a Bible—since she's sort of a religious character.” Although the script

was on stage, it was hardly noticeable since Matiesu hardly glanced at it during the performance. However, this was not the end of the turmoil of events—with Matiesu now set for one of the main

roles, her original role as Newscaster to be passed to the understudy **Finn Cooper** which led to another understudy taking up a

role. Leo Aispuro who played Colonel Mustard shared his experience and how he used Quizlet to help him memorize his lines. Aispuro shared,

“I need to know when to say my lines and know what my lines are. So I would put the other person's lines on the front of the flashcard on Quizlet and my line behind it—that way I know who was speaking before me.”

Every Cypress High School show includes an amazing backstage crew to help behind the scenes. Both actors and crew members were tasked

to follow a certain schedule that kept everything organized. Theatre and Stagecraft teacher—Ms. Stewart said, “We...work in what's called a production cycle. So when you figure out how many weeks you have to produce your play, then you lay out what needs to get done each week in order to be on time.” Students were tasked with creating some of the main props that would play an essential

role in helping with the show. Hopefully the next theatre show will be satisfying as a mystery to solve.



SAT/ACT Going Fully Digital in 2024

By Deborah Son

The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) will be digital for all students starting in 2024. While international students start the digital testing in 2023, US students will not take the SAT on paper. The first digital 2024 SAT exam for US students will be on March 9, 2024. The registration deadline will be February 23, 2024.

According to Prep Scholar, the College Board changed the format “to make the SAT easier to take and easier to give and to make the SAT more relevant.” Instead of taking the test traditionally for three hours, the time will be cut down to roughly two hours and 45 minutes, reflecting the length of the test.

The benefits of the digital SAT include

an accessibility for students, shorter test period, concise reading passages, and additional test-taking digital tools. Students can take practice tests to prepare for the digital SAT the College Board has released on their website.

Elysia Kim, a junior at Cypress High School said, “I think this change comes with both pros and cons. Some people who are better test takers on paper would probably view this as a con while those who don't mind taking tests online probably view this as a pro.”

Tips and Recommendations for the SAT are to take multiple practice tests before the final exam, create study groups, eat a healthy meal, bring an acceptable ID, a printed copy of the SAT ticket, and writing utensils.

Mrs. Taylor, an AP Language teacher at Cypress High School said, “Most schools are going test optional; I don't think the SAT is necessarily a measure of intellect skills and serves as a fair equitable assessment. There are better ways of assessing students' abilities and skills.”

Opinion 2 Local Places To Visit During The Holiday Season

By Cara Karpan



There are so many local places to visit during the holiday season. (Photo by Cara Karpan)

When most people think of a Christmas in California they think of the beaches and the summertime weather, but California has so much more to offer. With diverse landscapes and towns, California can make a great place to spend the holidays.

Solvang is a great place to visit because of all the festivities available during winter. It is a Danish-styled town that sits outside Santa Barbara. During December they have parades, light shows, and caroling.

Disneyland is one of the “Happiest Places On Earth” especially during the month of December, when the theme park goes all out with their festivities. The decorations on Main Street make it feel like guests are entering the North Pole.

During the holiday season, Newport Beach has an annual boat parade. Fifty boats line up at the harbor with festive lights all over them making it truly a magical experience. Fashion Island is another place in Newport Beach where you can gather around and watch a 90-foot-tall Christmas tree light and hear music playing.

California is mostly known for its beaches but we also have our own mountains, like Big Bear Lake. Being in the snowy mountains and drinking hot chocolate while looking at festive lights is one of the most amazing feelings anyone can experience this holiday season. With affordable cabins to rent, places to ski like Snow Summit and Bear Mountain, and trails to visit such as Alpine Pedal Path Trail and Pineknot Trail, Big Bear is easily one of the best places to visit for the holidays.

Knott’s Berry Farm is a theme park decked out with festive lights, performers around the park, Christmas music playing in the background, and fake snow around the park.

Everyone will get an unforgettable experience while enjoying the holidays and spending time with friends and family.

Features

Legendary Game Grant Theft Auto VI Finally Revealed

By Anish Ashokkumar



GTA VI finally reveals their new game (Photo by IGN)

After twelve long years, the most anticipated game GTA VI has finally been revealed. Rockstar games, the developer of the legendary game series Grand Theft Auto (GTA) recently revealed in a trailer that in 2025 GTA VI will be released.

Due to a leak on the game’s trailer, Rockstar games was forced to reveal the trailer early. However, its release brought so much hype to many people, even to people who don’t play the game because of how revolutionary the game series is to the gaming industry. The series is celebrated for its attention to detail, realistic graphics, and in depth gameplay on the open world. What makes the game so popular is that the game offers freedom to pursue various activities in the game such as robbing casinos, or committing crimes. In its recent reveal, gamers learned that it takes place in Miami, Florida and has even more real-

istic graphics, a new story, and a new open world experience. **Senior Patrick Boceta** says, “Graphics are good, the hype is insane, I think it will break the market to be honest.”

In the end, Grand Theft Auto VI is not just a game; it is a big event for gamers all over the world. It shows off the amount of years of innovation, creativity, and a relentless pursuit to create the best experience for players by Rockstar games. GTA VI will be released in the year 2025 where players will be able to experience the game fully.

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The Keys to your Independence

—Features— Surprise Your Significant Other with These Romantic Gift Ideas!

—By Carly Pedroza—



You can never go wrong with a simple gift card. (Photo by Carly Pedroza)

Christmas is right around the corner, and so are “on a budget” gifts. Here are some ideas to help you find special gifts for a special someone.

Things to get your girlfriend:

- Jewelry
- Bath & Body Works
- Blankets
- Clothes
- Hair products
- Makeup
- Candles

Gift Cards to Target, Starbucks, Forever 21, Tillys, and any other places she enjoys going to

Things to get your boyfriend:

- Clothes
- Headphones
- Hair products
- Phone cases
- Video games
- Legos
- Gift Cards to Nike, Wingstop, Amazon, Zumiez, Hollister, and other places he enjoys shopping at

Eleventh grader **Adrian Douglas** will be getting his girlfriend “a blanket, candles, weighted stuffed animal, and a hoodie.”

Sweet or Salty: Winter Drinks for All

—Brianna Naranjo—



There is a Winter drink for every taste bud. (Photo by Brianna Naranjo)

pumpkin spice latte and peppermint mocha, there are many options. So sit back, relax, and savor the delicious flavors of this list to help you choose your next favorite winter drink. If you’re in the mood for something sweet and indulgent, then hot chocolate is the perfect choice because of its rich and velvety texture. This is a classic drink and a favorite among all ages. You can even add a dash of cinnamon or whipped cream on top to make it sweeter and much more flavorful.

If you’re looking for something seasonal and festive, Pumpkin Spice Latte and Peppermint Mocha are the go-to choices. Pumpkin Spice Latte is a delicious blend of pumpkin puree, cinnamon, nutmeg, and clove with a shot of espresso and steamed milk. Peppermint Mocha is a rich and decadent drink made with chocolate, espresso, and peppermint syrup. Both of these drinks are perfect for getting into the holiday spirit and warming up on a cold winter day.

There’s nothing like a warm drink to lift your spirits and warm you up in this cold winter. Whether you’re into coffee, tea, or hot chocolate, there’s a drink out there to suit your taste and mood. From classic favorites like caramel latte and hot chocolate to seasonal treats like

For those who prefer tea, a Chai Latte is a perfect winter drink. The warm and spicy flavors of cinnamon, cardamom, and ginger make for a delicious and soothing drink. It can be enjoyed plainly or with a splash of milk for a much creamier taste.

So, whether you’re looking for something sweet or a little more bitter, there’s a winter drink out there to suit your mood and taste. Take the time to relax and enjoy your next favorite drink.

—SPOTLIGHT: Groundbreaking Construction—



Groundbreaking for the new track and field was officially started on November 13th, 2023. The facilities will include an all-weather track and a synthetic turf football field, dedicated areas for Track and Field, Soccer, Marching Band, and a new JV Softball field. The facility will also feature seating for about 1,600 fans. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

Seniors’ Advice On Taking Finals

By Cassandra Thurmond



“It is not that hard, it’s just like other tests so don’t be nervous.”
-Delilah Davila



“Do not procrastinate your work and don’t stress about it.” -Adam Sharkasi

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SPOTLIGHT STAFF 2023-24



Mrs. Doherty
Science or nature socks!



Erin Baek
Digital camera or Essentials hoodie



Naya Chanthavy
Olivia Rodrigo concert tickets



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Spanish/English bible and sunglasses

All Christmas is...



Kingston Salazar
Money to buy things I want



Gavin Oshiro
Apple airpod max



Noah Spalding
Bench to lift weights



Jaiden Anthony
Football helmet for practice



Makayla Vasquez, Eligh Johnson
Uggs and iPhone 13!



Maya Sanda, Amberly C.
New car and new shoes!!



Lisa Martinez
I want to cook pozole for my kids

I want for Christmas

By Grace Kim and Minnel Vega



Ari Chung
Yarns to crochet!



Mrs. Shammas
I want peace, and I would love to visit Big Bear with my family.



Traci Nguyen
Sony wireless headphones



Marissa Krebs
Essentials hoodie



6 New Fortnite "Underground" Including New Map Available Now

By Elias Tubbs



Fortnite Underground became available December 3rd. (Photo by Elias Tubbs)

Fortnite's new season "Under Ground," debuted on December 3rd. Players have gotten a new battle pass, and a new map with locations that have never been seen before. New items and new movements were added, including vehicles such as Lamborghinis and a train that goes through-

out the map as the game progresses. Lego Fortnite, which was teased in the live event, will be available to play on December 7th, and Fortnite's new season will last until March 8, 2024.

Epic Games released Fortnite on July 21st in 2017. It is a free-to-play battle royale game, where 100 players compete against each other until there is only one player remaining. Available on the Play store and gaming consoles such as PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo Switch, and PC. Game modes include solos, duos, trios, and squads.

Since then, the game has grown to be one of the biggest games in history. Companies collaborate with the game to create skins, or outfits available through purchase using a currency in the game

known as V-bucks.

Fortnite has been around for a long time and has included many interesting live events in the game where players can watch certain events unfold and play out the Fortnite storyline. This impacts map changes, like new locations on the map and new items to the game too. Fortnite's latest live event featured rapper Eminem, Lego, and another game called Rocket League on December 2nd. Players got to see an Eminem concert where 2 songs of his played, "Lose Yourself" and "Godzilla". They also got to experience a Lego version of the game, and got to participate in a Rocket League race. Sophomore **Jayden Singh** said, "I enjoyed the live event and thought it was cool," he rates the new season a 7/10 and is looking forward to playing with friends.

New Films: *Hunger Games The Ballad Of Songbirds & Snakes* In Theaters For A Short Time

By Belle Paccione



Entering finals week in high school is like entering the arena. (Photo by Belle Paccione) The newest Hunger Games movie debuted on November 17, 2023, in theaters until December 15.

Before he becomes the tyrannical president of Panem, 18-year-old **Coriolanus Snow** remains

the last hope for his fading lineage. With the 10th annual Hunger Games fast approaching, the young Snow becomes alarmed when he's assigned to mentor **Lucy Gray Baird** from District 12. Uniting their instincts for showmanship and political savvy, they race against time to ultimately reveal who's a songbird and who's a snake. Katniss' story feels complete, and it hinges on Hunger Games author **Suzanne Collins** wanting to revisit Katniss herself. If Collins doesn't want to crack a story about Katniss' return, then the film team won't be bringing **Jennifer Lawrence** back. This means Lucy Gray wins the 10th Hunger Games, and she is sent back to District 12.

Meanwhile, Snow is forced to become a Peacekeeper after **Dr. Gaul** and **Dean Highbottom** learn that he cheated. He requests to be sent to

District 12 where he reunites with Lucy Gray and **Sejanus Plinth**, who also becomes a Peacekeeper with no repercussions for mentor Coriolanus, who broke some rules to ensure his beloved songbird makes it out alive.

Nick Widdoss a sophomore, read the books and thought they were interesting. He read all four of the books and watched the movie. He said all four books were really good and taught him to strategize. Nick's favorite character was Katniss Everdeen. Widdoss said, "When **Mrs. Crooks** started talking about the book I did not find it interesting, but learning more about the book piqued my interest. My favorite district is number 12 because it is for coal mining. There was a lot of content that was in the book that was in the movie too. I would love to re-read the books over again."

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Top Ten Countdown of 2023 Anime

—By Tyler Hernandez



This year's shows, especially JJK, were all popular. (Photo by Tyler Hernandez)

With 2023 ending, it's good to look back on animes and see the top ten list for this year.

10. Horimiya: The Missing Pieces

For the Horimiya lovers, a fun spin-off with extra content showing the antics of the high school friends. With so many humorous moments and clips spreading around this show gained quite a bit of popularity. Before watching you should see the main series Horimiya first!

9. Tokyo Revengers (Season 2)

Tis the season for action and sci-fi! With the manga series ending a second season of the anime was released. Watch as the Tokyo Manji Gang deals with Tetta Hisaki. Can the gang stand their ground or will they be forced to give up the gang?

8. Scott Pilgrim Takes off

The Seven Deadly Exes are back along with a new threat! This anime adaptation is based on the Scott Pilgrim books, game, and movie. With many of the original movie cast coming back for the anime! Scott can defeat exes but can he defeat himself?

7. Zom 100: Bucket List of the Dead

This humorous zombie series is full of adventure and comedy. Follow the misadventures of an office worker deciding to get a life in the undead world. Will Akira Tendo finish his list and finally live his life or will he end up becoming a lifeless zombie once more?

6. Spy x Family (Season 2)

Another season of whole shenanigans as Anya Forger tries to save the world! Watch as Anya tries her best to shine in the light and her "parents" fight in the dark. Can Anya befriend a high-level threat's son? Will Loid complete his mission? What messes will they fall into?

5. Oshi no Ko

Oshi no Ko arrived on the scene and immediately anime fans flocked to watch. Follow Ai's children as one follows her footsteps and the other tries to uncover the truth of the idol business. Will Aqua find out the dark truth about his mother? Will Ruby be able to make it as an idol?

4. Bungo Stray Dogs (Season 5)

Right after season four ended a new season was announced. The Detective Agency faces a new threat. When the world is on the verge of collapsing the agency has to team up with old acquaintances and enemies to protect their loved ones. Can the agency save the world or will it all crumble?

3. Attack on Titan (Season 4 Part 3)

The finale is here! After years of fighting titans the scouting legions may finally know peace. Though this is the end of an anime that has been dear to many, people are happy to note that it was able to have a satisfying conclusion.

2. Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba (Season 3)

Tanjiro's journey to turn his sister Nezuko back into a human. However, there are two new upper moons that would be more than happy to stop him! Thankfully some new Hashira are willing to lend a hand.

1. Jujutsu Kaisen (Season 2)

Jujutsu Kaisen makes a stunning return with a stunning season two. Many believe that they have even improved the character design and animation. The second season is full of memorable moments and action. Follow Yuji in his quest to seal the evil curse, Sukuna, away forever.



Classic Holiday Films: Top Five Festive Flicks

—By Betty Langrine



There are plenty of holiday films to choose from this Winter! (Photo by Betty Langrine)

'Tis the season to snuggle up and get cozy with some holiday movie magic. Here are the top five Christmas movies that will fill your heart with joy and make you feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

Number five this is a classic that has everything you would want in a holiday film, with its

adventure, magic, and a heartfelt story. From the breathtaking animations to the catchy songs, this movie will surely get you into the Christmas spirit, The Polar Express! With these heartwarming moments this movie will surely get you into the Christmas spirit.

At number four Home Alone 2. This beloved film takes us on a wild adventure with Kevin McCallister, who finds himself lost in New York City during the holidays. The movie perfectly captures the magic, and excitement of Christmas in the bustling city, while also delivering heartfelt moments with family and friends.

Next is an endearing popularity and heartfelt story, Elf at number three. The movie perfectly captures the joy and wonder of the holiday season, with its whimsical humor, memorable characters, and heartfelt messages of love and acceptance. With its infectious Christmas spirit, timeless appeal, and Will Ferrell's hilarious and

endearing performance as Buddy has made the movie a classic.

In second place is The Grinch. This beloved film, based on Dr. Seuss' timeless tale, showcases the incredible artistry of animation and brings the whimsical world of Whoville to life. Through the Grinch's transformation from a holiday-hating character, to someone who learns the true meaning of Christmas, the movie delivers a powerful message of love, compassion, and the spirit of giving.

A movie that never fails to bring joy and laughter during the holiday seasons Home Alone! This movie is a perfect blend of comedy, heart-warming moments, and holiday spirit. The hilarious pranks that Kevin pulls on the bad guys, the heartfelt moments when he realizes the importance of family, and overall the festive vibe makes it a classic. So get ready to be transported into a world of Christmas wonder with these five movies.

8 Girl's Basketball Winning By Focusing On Team Chemistry

By Mifrah Bawany and Mikaela Campos



Varsity has two tournaments coming up soon. (Photo by Coach Rivera)

The Cypress High School Girl's Basketball team is having a slow start this year, with a 4-4 win-loss ratio to date.

The Cypress Varsity Girl's Basketball team had

their first win of the season against St. Margaret's High School with a score of 51-36. Varsity girls basketball team won their second game against Rancho Buena Vista with a score of 46-34. This was the season's third game, proving that our girls started strong. On Wednesday, Nov 29, 2023, they won their game against Woodbridge High School by a score of 47-38, and their most recent win was against Rowland High School with a score of 55-49.

The varsity has two tournaments left to compete in, the Segerstrom tournament which starts December 12th-16th and the Marina tournament which will be played right after Christmas day. The JV and Frosh/Soph teams have one tournament left and that is the Edison tournament right after Christmas.

Every year is a new start for all the girls and they expressed their concern that it takes time to build chemistry with the new members of the team. Team manager **Amanda Haro** said, "As evident from the last tournament, our chemistry has developed a lot." A Haro's role involves assisting the coaches, "I enjoy it because I know the game and I get to help out the coaches, it makes me happy to see how our girls progress each day." According to team member **Miral Haj**, the girls practice every day for 1 hour and 30 minutes and sometimes 2 hours."

The team's journey has been rough but has shown great improvement. They have illustrated splendid sportsmanship on and off the court and have done amazing teamwork.

Boy's Soccer Has A Lot To Look Forward To

By Jayden Kay Linayao



Freshman Peter Batsaras has bolstered the soccer team's offense. (Photo by Cypress Soccer)

The Boy's Soccer team kicked off their season slowly with a record so far of 2-2-1. What do this year's players have to say about the season so far?

Varsity Captain and midfield and striker **Raul Mora** is excited to begin his third season playing with the Centurions. "It's still the beginning..." Mora said, "we have a lot to look forward to." His job as captain is to motivate his team and get them on their "be sure that everybody is in the right mindset."

What do the newest additions to the team have to say about their first season playing for Cypress? "I feel great," Freshman **Peter Batsaras**, Varsity defense and midfield said. "As a team, we have been doing really well and winning our first games." Varsity left wing **Aaron Garcia** said, "It's kind of nerve-wracking because everybody is almost twice my size, and it makes it hard to compete with them."

Girl's Soccer Kicking Off The Season

By Danica Dizon



Senior Addy Osborne knows the team has worked hard. (Photo by Nicole Woiemberghe)

The Girl's Soccer teams are kicking it into the winter soccer season. So far the Girl's Soccer teams have gotten two wins for Varsity and JV, against Fullerton and Ocean View. The Varsity game against Fairmont Prep was the first loss of the season, with the score of 0-1. Senior Team Captain, Addison Osborne, described the first win of the season, "I think that it was well deserved and that we worked hard and I think it's definitely going to set the tone of this season. I think that it is exciting that we came out of our first game with a win." While leading the team to more wins there is also more room for improvement. "I feel that we will improve on team chemistry and working as a team, along with getting farther for CIF," said Senior Team

Captain Sierra Carter. With another game against Fullerton the score of 2-0 from the JV team goals were scored by Allison Jen and Ruby Guerra. JV member Malena Felix talked about the first win of the season, "We did pretty well and it was a fair team. We won 2-0 and we definitely powered through them. We were passing a lot more than them and I feel like we deserved that win." Coach Nicole Woiemberghe, Coach Krissy Barone, and Coach Courtney Allard have been leading the teams through their new season this year. Coach Woiemberghe has new goals and expectations, "We have a solid group coming back for the season with Senior Captain Sierra Carter in goal. She is a 4-year varsity member and brings a lot of leadership and experience to our defense. I am very much looking forward to this season and league. Also having our leading goal scorer from last year back, Addison Osborne back for her senior year will help guide our offense. Our goals are to win the last year of Empire League... and win CIF."

Boy's Basketball Season Opener: Triumphs and Challenges

By Roberto Cardenas



The boy's basketball players know that practice is the key. (Photo by Roberto Cardenas)

Cypress High School Basketball commenced their season with a record of 3-2. The season has witnessed notable victories against South Gate (73-39), Orangewood Academy (75-35), and Tesoro (73-54) as well as La Habra (73-58.) However, the team faced challenges encountering Fountain Valley (66-70) and Los Alamitos (77-87)

Cypress High School Basketball set a formidable tone for the season with convincing victories. The team displayed outstanding offensive and defensive skills, dominating South Gate with a resounding score of 73-39. Similarly, against Orangewood Academy, they secured a commanding win with a score of 75-35. The clash with Tesoro resulted in another victory with over 70 points (73-54.) The path to success is often riddled with challenges, and Cypress High School Basketball encountered two

formidable opponents, Fountain Valley and Los Alamitos. The team experienced a narrow defeat against Fountain Valley (66-70) and engaged in a spirited battle against Los Alamitos (77-87). These losses, while setbacks have provided valuable lessons for the team.

Every missed shot and a hard-fought point against them fuels Cypress High School Basketball's determination to bounce back stronger and more resilient in the face of adversity.

Senior Team Captain, **Michael Wright**, shared insights into his mindset on the court. He emphasized a singular focus – "just to win." Observing his peers, Wright expressed his desire to present himself as "a good role model." His leadership on and off the court contributes to the team's collective determination to succeed.

As the season unfolds, Cypress High School Basketball stands at a pivotal juncture, armed with experiences from victories and lessons from defeats. The players and coaching staff are gearing up for the challenges that lie ahead.

In the heart of the season, Cypress High School Basketball's narrative continues to evolve one victory at a time.