

News

## CYPRESS HIGH'S HOMECOMING DANCE BRINGS MAMMA MIA TO LIFE

By ZOE CHUNG



Cypress Students Dance the Night Away at Homecoming 2024. (photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

On Saturday October 12, 2024, Cypress High School held its annual Homecoming Dance with the theme Hoco: Here We Go Again! at the Executive Hangar, located in Fullerton.

After a couple of years of hosting the dance on the high school campus, Cypress ASB decided to change things up and host elsewhere. According to ASB President **Aimee Bunsirisert**, ASB “wanted to try something different, and allow [the] students to experience Homecoming in a different way than before.” Bunsirisert and the other ASB members were not incorrect in this judgment, as the responses of Cypress students were filled with delight. Bunsirisert shared that she had not

heard anything bad about having the dance off campus “other than the parking situation, but that is something we couldn’t have changed!” She recalled that some people did want the dance to be held on school grounds, but “overall everyone really enjoyed it off campus.”

When asked about the process of deciding on this year’s Homecoming theme, Bunsirisert stated that they “threw a bunch of ideas out there and had a list of around 10 themes.” From there, they “cut them down” and resulted in Mamma Mia as the winner. Attendees of the dance expressed excitement about this theme. Senior **Megan Na** expressed that she personally liked the Mamma Mia theme.

The dance was held in an open room with three walls. There were refreshments provided, along with some desserts that were catered. A DJ played a variety of music, including pop, hip-hop, and rap, as students danced the night away beneath colored lights. Many students lined up in front of a photo booth, where groups of friends posed together to keep physical memories of their fabulous night.

ASB is unsure of whether or not future Homecoming Dances will be held on Cypress High’s campus or at another location, but Bunsirisert says that that is “up to the future ASBs and what type of experience they want for their peers!”

## Cypress New Track Opens!

By Yazeed Albadarin



The ceremonial ribbon cutting officially opened the track to athletes, although there are a few details yet to be finalized. (photo by Yazeed Albadarin)

On October 1st, 2024, Cypress High School celebrated the grand opening of its new on-campus stadium with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The facility is now partially open, giving athletes an opportunity to train and compete at a higher level. However, there are some concerns about the track not being fully completed.

Athletic Director **Sean Pfeiffer** said, “So Cypress – it’s finally here! We have our new turf field and all-weather track. It’s been a long time coming. Ground-breaking started last October, and if you haven’t been out there to see it, go take a look—everyone who sees it is impressed. It feels great. Athletes are conditioning out there now, and we’ve started hosting games. We’re excited to see it all come together.”

That said, it is a partially opened field and not quite open to the public since the spectator area has not been com-

pleted yet. We still don’t have power or water out on the new track and field, and the athletic storage bins are being delivered and placed this month.”

**Jeff Fenton**, the project manager, added, “The job went extremely well, except for some weather challenges earlier in the year. Other than that, we haven’t had any issues. The track was projected to be finished by the end of November. It’s an all-weather track with an underground drainage system, designed to handle all conditions.

From design to construction, everything has gone smoothly without any major problems—it’s been a typical build.”

Athlete **Hector Castellanos** shared his excitement: “I run the 100-meter and 200-meter races. I’m also part of the 4×100 relay team, running the third leg. Compared to the years we ran on the old dirt track, this new surface is a huge improvement.”

## Evening of The Arts Shines Light on VAPA

By JAYDEN KAY LINAYAO



Devan Forester performs a monologue from the musical “Little Women” for Evening of the Arts. (photo by Jayden Kay Linayao)

Evening of the Arts was a two-day showcase of student talent from Cypress High Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) programs. On September 19 and 20, the show in the Theatre followed a dinner service in the media center provided

by the Cypress Culinary program. Each performance was based on different musical theatre and television show. Participants included CHS Theatre, CHS Advanced Dance, High Voltage, Pink Thunder, Voltage Unlimit-

ed, and Sound in Motion. Culinary students spent two days cooking, kneading, and mixing various dishes for the families of VAPA students. During dinner, Cypress Theatre students provided entertainment by improvising scenes on the spot with requests from the audience.

After families finished eating, they made their way to the Theatre to watch multiple performances, each inspired by films and movies. **Mrs. Karapoulos**, Advanced Culinary teacher, recalled, “Since this is only our second year doing Evening of the Arts, I am proud of how my students did. I think it went really smoothly, and now we knew what was expected after the first year.”

Sophomore **Shourya (Cheerio) Chaurasia** reenacted a well-known monologue from the Spiderman movies, and committed to the role by dressing the part. Chaurasia originally meant this monologue to be part of his audition for a play called “Little Women,” but his teacher saw potential in his performance. “There are a lot of spidermen out there, so instead of being a spiderman, why can’t I just be my own?” Chaurasia explained. “I wanted to do something with more emotion; something harder, because if it’s not hard, it’s not fun.”

Cypress Advanced Dance faced many struggles in preparation for this two-night performance, one struggle being the small amount of space

between the stage and the crowd. The dancers made a last-minute decision to split their class into two sections in order to accommodate the choir risers on stage. **Genesis Rivera**, Junior in Advanced Dance, found that “remembering the new moves and cuts from our choreography was hard, but thankfully Ms. Fenton drilled it into our heads, so we ended up being okay.”

Vice President of Advanced Choir **Lizzy Burke** had many mixed emotions about Evening of the Arts being her “last first show.” Performing with an entirely new team and finding that chemistry isn’t easy, but Burke found that “working with the other VAPA programs managed to bring [us] closer.

# US Elections Are Now International Affairs

By GIAN MATTEO VINATTIERI

The U.S. Presidential elections occur every four years and tend to occupy the spotlight worldwide. The U.S. president's influence over global economic policies and international diplomacy causes a lot of media attention in other countries. How are these elections viewed by the citizens of Europe and the rest of the world? Or how are figures like Donald Trump and Kamala Harris seen by non-Americans?

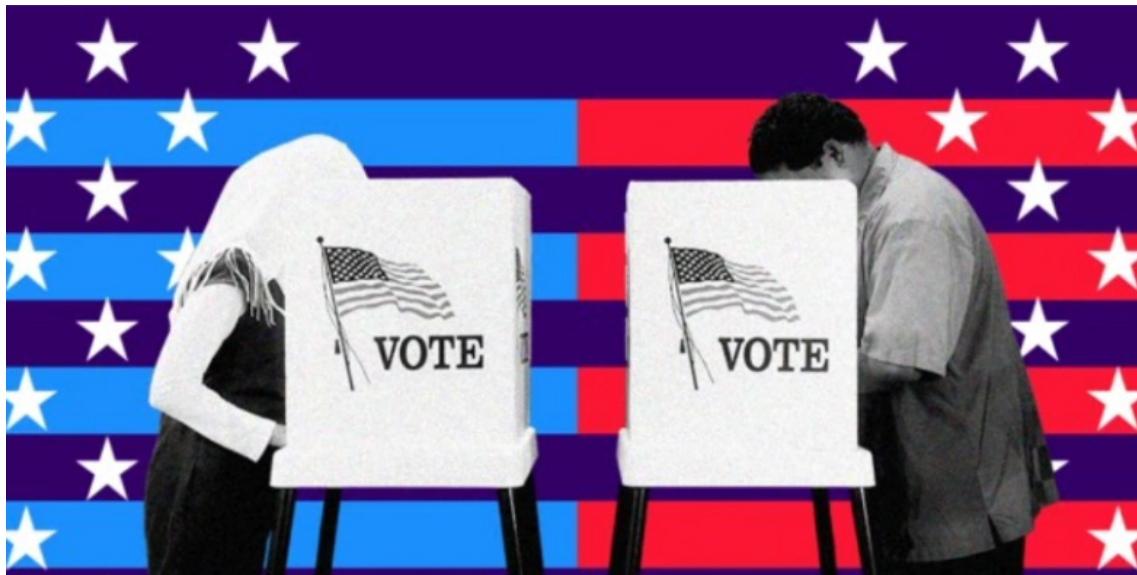
To many Europeans, the U.S. elections symbolize a decisive point for major global matters - environmental fights, trade pacts or military coalitions such as NATO. Le Monde, a French publication, acknowledged the commanding role the U.S. plays in global climate endeavors: "The U.S. is crucial for any genuine attempt to

left European allies uncertain about future transatlantic ties. On a different note, Vice President Kamala Harris, acclaimed for her progressive domestic tactics and focus on social justice, presents an alternative perspective. Currently occupying the seat of Vice President and possibly stepping up her role inside the White House in the future, she gives an impression of careful optimism among international circles. A movement towards more inclusive and internationally cooperative leadership is expected from Harris's potential advancement in American politics, as voiced by European news platforms like Germany's Der Spiegel. Being the first woman and person of color occupying the Vice Presidency has earned her a lot of support from global

tentious dealings with China and threats of placing tariffs on European goods echoes this sentiment. Many people, however, think that Harris's potential presidency may pave the way for more predictable and less aggressive trade policies, possibly steadying transatlantic economic relations.

Observers across the globe have always had trouble understanding the U.S. electoral process. The use of an Electoral College, the importance of swing states, and lengthy campaigns may seem strange to many outside the United States. In most European nations, a simple majority vote determines election outcomes, and anything else is kind of unheard of.

The British newspaper, The Independent, noted a lot of



People all over the world are hoping for U.S. leadership that values global interests as much as it does domestic ones. (photo by Gian Matteo Vinattieri)

counter climate change, and its election results hold the power to determine the course of policies regarding that. "Given the frequent collaboration on economic and security fronts between the European Union and the United States, election outcomes could either fortify or fray these relationships.

The view on individual candidates varies around the globe according to the political orientation of each country. Donald Trump, a former president, is recognized worldwide for his untraditional diplomatic and governing techniques. His time as President was marked by his "America First" ideology, gaining both praise and condemnation globally. In the United Kingdom, The Guardian commented that Trump's time in The White House was marked by a "protectionist and isolationist" attitude that

leadership diversity idealists. Moreover, considering Italy's newest prime minister: Giorgia Meloni who also happens to be the first ever woman to cover that role, people are starting to see a resemblance between these two characters despite their very different political views. Europe also hopes for a more "globalist" U.S. foreign policy under her leadership, where emphasis is laid on reviving international agreements and pursuing climate action, as reported by the Financial Times.

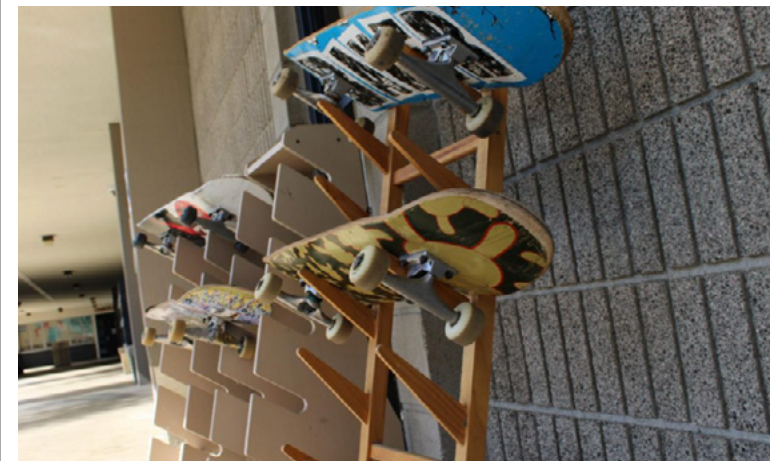
U.S. elections also carry immense importance for global economic equilibrium. The deep connection between European and U.S. economies means policies that create tariffs or cause disruption to trade agreements aren't often well regarded. The uncertainty created within the European Union due to Trump's con-

Europeans find the U.S. voting system "complicated and unnecessarily intricate." They find it particularly baffling when the candidate with the most votes nationwide does not win in the Electoral College. This was well-displayed in 2016, Donald Trump secured the presidency even though he did not win the majority vote. This led people all around the world to question the integrity of our system.

People all over the world are hoping for U.S. leadership that values global interests as much as it does domestic ones. They want leaders who believe in international cooperation, and who ensure stability and progress that is sustainable. As we near another election, eyes around the world will be on us, their hopes pinned on decisions that will eventually impact far more than just us.

# Skate Scene In Cypress High School!?!?

By ANTONIO SANDOVAL



The skate scene at Cypress is "sick" and "gnarly." (photo by Antonio Sandoval)

The small local skate scene at Cypress High School has lively individuals.

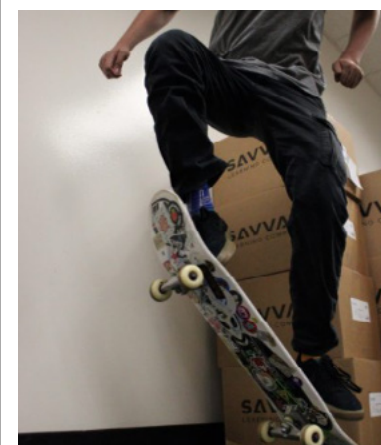
One of these skateboarding machines is **Nassar Hattar**, a sophomore with mad ambition for skating since he was 7 years old. He's currently rockin' an Alien Workshop deck, some "generic trucks," and 52 mm Android wheels. Hattar absolutely LOVES Alien Workshop man, maybe a "little too much," he says. He's been through ten boards in his lifetime, some broken and some given to the second love of his life, his "non-skater" girlfriend **Audrey Landeros**, (since his first love is his board.)

When he found his first skateboard on the ground, he said he felt like he found "the love of his life."

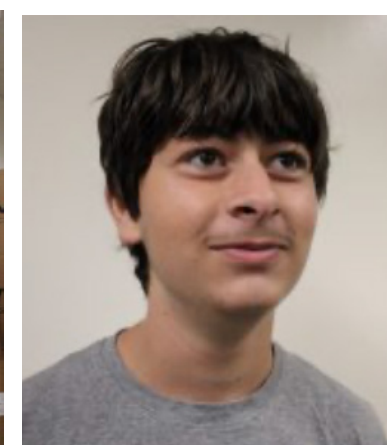
Though he has been skating for about seven years, he can hardly do tricks. Skaters take learning tricks seriously and that moment when they finally land one, it's straight nirvana. The first time he landed a shuvit, he felt such an emo-

tion of accomplishment, he said that he, "cried for two nights straight." His advice to newbies who want to get into skating is, "Just do it." He said, "Don't be afraid to get hurt because that's just a part of skating." If you can't take a thrashing, honestly you shouldn't be even thinkin' of being a skater. According to Hattar, starting with a Walmart board is best. According to Hattar, people starting out don't need high-quality wheels and bearings because they should just focus on balancing and the straight fundamentals of skating. Newbies don't need the highest quality product to learn how to balance and go straight, and having a cheap board helps with wobble. They hardly move at all.

Overall, skating is something that can be enjoyed by EVERYONE. Skateboarding is awesome, you look pretty cool doing it, and you meet fellow skateboarding comrades who are really nice people. But whatever you do, DO NOT BE A POSER.



The "ollie" is a skateboard trick that can take months to learn. (photo by Antonio Sandoval)



Nassar Hattar loves working on new skateboard tricks. (photo by Antonio Sandoval)

# Navigating College Applications: Key Insights for Students

By MIFRAH BAWANY



Seniors are busy applying to colleges before the official deadlines. (photo by Mifrah Bawany/Carly Pedroza)

As high school students approach the critical phase of college applications, they must familiarize themselves with the process. From understanding financial aid options to the significance of extracurricular activities, each element plays a crucial role in shaping a competitive application.

Before making a decision, it is important to understand the varying requirements.

California State Universities and the Universities of California are four-year institutions requiring a high school diploma and completion of A-G requirements. Community colleges focus on providing affordable paths to either a trade certificate or university transfer. Additionally, students transferring from Cypress College may have an upper hand in transferring to some nearby educational institutions

including Cal State Fullerton and UC Irvine. Students should research colleges thoroughly to find a good fit, considering whether the institution offers their desired major, the GPA requirements, and the location. Starting this research as early as sophomore year helps students visualize where they might succeed academically and personally. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAF-

SA) is a form students must fill out to apply for financial aid for college. It covers various types of aid, including grants, loans, college scholarships, and work-study opportunities. Submitting the FAFSA is crucial because it determines a student's eligibility for financial assistance. Students in the Anaheim Union High School District can attend Cypress College and Fullerton College tuition-free for two years through the Anaheim Pledge, provided they complete the FAFSA or the California Dream Act if they also meet all the other requirements. Financial aid, including scholarships and grants, is available, but students must fill out the FAFSA by March 2, 2025, to maximize their chances of receiving funds for the following college year. A strong application often goes beyond grades. Universities consider well-rounded

students active in extracurriculars and/or dual enrollment programs compared to students with a plain college application. **Carrie Vaughn**, 2025 Senior Counselor, noted that involvement shows that a student is "taking advantage of an educational opportunity beyond the high school curriculum." Writing pieces required, especially for UCs and private schools, play a significant role in sharing personal stories and overcoming challenges, offering a voice beyond what's reflected in a transcript.

In conclusion, by staying organized, meeting deadlines, and leveraging financial aid opportunities, students can navigate the college application process with greater confidence. "Be in the moment, be positive, and put your best selves on that application" during this exciting yet challenging journey, Vaughn said.

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# Horrorful History Of Halloween

By TYLER HERNANDEZ



Halloween got another revision turning into a more romantic one from a spiritual one. (drawing by Tyler Hernandez)

With Halloween rolling in, it's time for some fun facts and treats about Halloween history! Ever wonder how this holiday began? Curious about its more romantic side? (Yes, there is a good chunk of romance with this holiday!)

Halloween existed for centuries and was brought to life by the Celts. The Celts were a group of people who originated in central Europe and spread throughout both Europe and Asia. The Celts were also Pagan. The trend of holidays coming from paganism continues. This one started around 2,000 years ago, though back then, it wasn't called Halloween; it was called Samhain.

Samhain is a spiritual tradition that marks the end of summer and the welcoming of the harvest. It starts on the evening of October 31 and goes to November 1. During this time the Celts

believed that the veil between our world and the spirits was at its thinnest, so thin that one could simply enter the other realm. Because of this, they began to wear disguises to confuse and ward off any evil spirits who sought mischief from them.

However, such a holiday overlapped with All Hallows' Eve and All Saints' Day. Around 500 years after the start of Samhain, the church began to have issues with the holiday. They saw Samhain as a celebration of the Devil, as it began on All Hallows' Eve, the day used to celebrate Satan, and it was focused around spirits and evil (which is a big 'NO' in the Bible). Because of this, the holiday used to ward off spirits was seen as one that celebrated them in the church's eyes. This is also when Samhain was renamed with the title we know today, Halloween. An abbreviated version of All Hallows' Eve.

Strangely enough, around a century ago, Halloween got another revision. This one turned the more spiritual holiday into a more romantic one. Newspapers and guides began presenting a new way to decorate and celebrate. Two main games garnered popularity from the teens, both centered

around finding one's soulmate. The first one was a fun, but slightly dangerous game. An apple and a lit candle were tied onto a thick string and spun around. Biting the apple meant that you and whoever else bit it were soulmates. Missing the apple, however, meant you got a mouthful of hot wax and you and that person were not meant to be. The second game is still well known today but has been changed a lot. Bloody Mary, was originally a game where someone would summon Bloody Mary, and as you look into the mirror you would see your soulmate looking back. Alas, should a skull or full skeleton appear, you would be fated to die alone without ever knowing or finding your soulmate. Nowadays, Bloody Mary has changed from a game of love into a game of courage, where only the bravest and foolish dare summon her and her given wrath.

Unsurprisingly, the romance side of Halloween didn't stick for long and after a while, it returned to the spooky holiday we now know and love. Now romance and warding off evil have turned frightful. People now embrace the spirits and call upon them on this dark, creepy night. The demons rise and with them, free candy.

# 4 Fall Season: Varsity E-Sports Team is Here!

By ADAM HAWARI



Esports is led by Mr. Borad and team captain Tavian Palacios (2nd from rt.) (photo by Adam Hawari)

The Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Cypress High esports team has already started. The varsity team is preparing for their important CIF championship on December 11th. Before the CIF championship, the SSBU team will be participating in an exhibition game in the College and Career Fair on October 14th. **Tavian Palacios**, varsity team captain, leads the team in aiding and helping fellow teammates.

it's best to start with the Esports club. Through the club you can communicate and ask any needed questions to Mr. Borad. Every Wednesday, Mr. Borad manages and holds tryouts for the Esports club in room 304. Don't worry, "If you can't make the team, there are other teams available," Mr. Borad says.

Compared to the past, academic opportunities from Esports haven't been as achievable until now. "It's a great time for people to sign up now since scholarships are possible," Mr. Borad reported. Mr. Board said that our school environment has benefited from esports, and that it influences students to get better grades and get more scholarship opportunities.

The current SSBU varsity team consists of; Tavian Palacios, **Jacob Morales**, **Robert Perez**, **Alex Kim**, **Lucas Mircea**, and **Devin Nunez**. In addition to the varsity SSBU team, other teams include; the junior-varsity team, a Valorant team, and a League of Legends team. To join this season,

In general, this promising new season of esports gaming uplifts students. The newly possible opportunities from esports creates a new world for anyone interested in esports. Instead of being seen as illegitimate, gaming now is seen as a possible career pathway.



During Esports club, varsity SSBU players Alex Kim and Tavian Palacios play in a friendly match. (photo by Adam Hawari)

# HOMECOMING PEP RALLY: UPING SCHOOL SPIRIT

By REINA TAKAGI



Cheer and football showed their spirit with a fun rally performance. (photo by Reina Takagi)

On Friday, October 11, Cypress High School students and staff gathered in the main gymnasium to show their school spirit. The annual Homecoming pep rally featured student performances, like the school's Song and Cheer team, as well as advanced dance.

**Kerri Fenton**, who teaches dance at Cypress High School, couldn't wait for her students to perform at the pep rally. They performed a piece to the 1970's Abba song "Dancing Queen," which they choreographed a few months ago and had been practicing ever since. Fenton expressed her excitement, "I love when everybody comes together...it's a great moment on campus."

As the dancers prepared their routine, ASB went

through lots of specific planning, which included making decorations, ordering items, and getting performances set.

ASB President **Aimee Bun-sirisert** expressed her hope that students "have a fun time, are entertained, and are able to participate in our first big rally of the year...and that they get a feel for ASB and what we do for school spirit."

Varsity Cheer Captain **Abigail Hernandez** enjoys the atmosphere the pep rally brings. She looked forward to seeing the creativity from the different sports and programs. Prior to the rally, Hernandez wanted "students to have a fun time...having this is a good kick start to the year."

Hernandez, who is also in ASB, explained that they are "making sure that ev-

erything is really nice and looks good for everyone." The team is focusing on taking things step by step.

**Alicia Villegas**, a Varsity Cheer Captain and the Senior Class President for ASB, looked forward to seeing the performances. "I'm excited to see them excited," she said. She explained, "We have leads for everything...so everybody knows what's going on and it goes smoothly." Villegas hoped that students would see how spirited our school is. She emphasized, "ASB wants to make this event as fun as possible, so we hope that they really enjoy it and remember it for the rest of their lives.

Our student leaders and teams worked diligently on this event. Thanks to their hard work and preparation, the pep rally was successful.



Cypress High School Advanced Dance performed their routine at the pep rally (photo by Reina Takagi)

# Future Business Leaders of America Turning Students into Leaders

By MINNEL VEGA



FBLA students had many winners at the Southern Section Leadership Conference. (photo by Courtesy of FBLA Instagram)

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is an organization throughout the United States that offers insights into careers in business, health care, and computer science. This organization offers many programs, including conferences, publications, competitive events, and partnership opportunities. Cypress FBLA meets every Wednesday during lunch in room 320.

Not only does FBLA give students opportunities to attend competitions, but the club also prepares students for their future careers. FBLA lets students explore different career paths, earn awards, prepare students for competitive events similar to what they might experience

in the future, and meet new people. FBLA has three levels of competition: regional, state, and national.

President and four-year club member, **Sreeja Chagantipati**, says, "This club can build your leadership and communication skills. You can also meet many people throughout California and there are a lot of networking opportunities through FBLA." Chagantipati is also the president of the Southern section and state vice president for California. Apart from managing the FBLA chapter here at Cypress she also helps plan some of the competitions for the Southern Section of FBLA.

FBLA has allowed students to get jobs from some of the judges, get scholarships, and they also have traveled to Chicago, Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Orlando in the past 15 years. Fifteen-year club adviser, **Mr. Don King**, said, "FBLA is a great way to make connections between what you are learning in class and then you go to compete in one of those events related to what you're learning."

FBLA gives students various experiences to try new things and step out of their comfort zone. Chagantipati said, "It's a really fun experience with your friends and you can meet new people and at the same time you can win awards. Being able to be in that environment is very empowering."



Mr. King has been the FBLA adviser for 15 years. (photo by Courtesy of FBLA Instagram)

# Key Club Empowers Community and Promote Leadership

By BETTY LANGRINE



Key Club already has new members, like these at their October meeting. (photo by Crystal Tran)

Cypress High School's Key Club promotes a safe and engaging environment for students. Dedicated to community service and leadership development, the club encourages students to join and actively participate in a variety of activities that benefit both the school and their community. "We're more excited

this year to have students sign up for Key Club because they want to and not just because they get service hours," said club adviser **Julia Shin**.

Key Club's commitment to service extends beyond these major events. Throughout the year, members engage in various community service

projects, from local clean-up initiatives to fundraising for charitable causes. These activities not only benefit the community but also instill a sense of responsibility and empathy in the students.

Leadership development is another core focus of Key Club. By taking on roles and responsibilities within the club, students learn essential skills such as teamwork, communication, and project management. These experiences prepare them for future leadership roles both in and out of school. "I really encourage students to join Key Club and bring their friends," said Club President **Crystal Tran**.

One of the club's most anticipated events is the Fall Rally. This spirited gathering draws members from various schools to celebrate their achievements and motivate each other for the year ahead. The Fall Rally not only boosts morale, but also

strengthens the sense of community among participants, fostering lasting friendships, and connections.

In addition to the Fall Rally, the club's biggest highlight is the District Convention. This event is considered a major event in Key Club and offers an invaluable opportunity for students to network, share ideas, and gain insights from experienced leaders. The convention serves as a platform for recognizing the hard work and dedication of members, while also inspiring them to continue their efforts in making a positive impact.

Cypress High School's Key Club is more than just an extracurricular activity. It is a fun club that nurtures leadership, service, and personal growth. Through events like the Fall Rally, the District Convention, and ongoing community service projects, the club is making a lasting impact on its members and the community at large.

# Sweat, Spirit, and Sacrifice

By Bryana Bennett



Cypress High School's Varsity Football Team is experiencing growing pains. (photo by Bryana Bennett)

The 2024 Cypress High School football team is extremely young, with several sophomores starting. The many coaches and players are working to do the best they can to bring home the win. Football consumes the players' minds to the point that they doodle footballs on their papers. Each player dedicates every free minute to learning the plays that week and reviews film on their upcoming opponent.

Senior **Matthew Baldonado**, who plays defensive back and wide receiver, said, "All day goes to football. We watch film during lunch, af-

ter school, and when we get home. Then we go and practice on the field and don't get out of practice until about six." The players spend so much time on football, even coming in to review Friday's game on Saturday. The players and coaches also sacrifice their summers to practice. Senior quarterback **Keiran Edmundson** informing that, "After school ends, we have two weeks off then go straight into practice, so it's basically a year-round game." "The summer practices are hard work but I like to do them because it makes you better," said sophomore **Mekaih Felix**, who plays wide receiver.

Head coach **Rick Feldman** said, "I'm going to try and prepare our guys the best we can, and I just want them to play as hard as they can every play." The coaches do the best they can to make the players ready, and as long as every guy plays their best, the coaches are proud of them.

Football requires sacrifice from both the players and coaches. Sophomore **Jaiden Anthony**, who plays defensive back, running back, and receiver, said, "I know the stuff I'm missing and know what I'm sacrificing, but just remind myself to keep working." Anthony is hoping to get a sports scholarship for college. He and the other athletes diligently work to find the delicate balance between sports, school, and social life. The coaches "sacrifice just as much, if not more, than the players. I spend all weekend and all week working as the defensive coach to put everything together," said Cypress High School teacher and defensive coach **Jeffery Crooks**. Feldman stating that "I'm here Saturday and Sunday from the time the season starts un-

til the time the season ends."

The time spent together creates a close-knit family environment. "I think we're definitely really close and as the season goes on, we're constantly facing adversity together, and Friday's game is a lot to go through, so you really get a bond with your boys," said sophomore receiver and safety **Matthew Rodriguez**. Head Coach Feldman hopes that making them "better people will make them better teammates." That approach working to build a cohesive team.

The team needs everybody working together in order to succeed. "For example, if the offensive line doesn't block, then the quarterback can't throw a pass; if the offensive line doesn't block, then the running back can't run the ball," said linemen coach, **Bobby Archuleta**. However, there are some guys that have had a standout season so far, with Coach Feldman naming, "**Bryson Busbee** (Junior) as running back, **Tyler White** (Senior) as linebacker, **Matthew Baldonado** (Senior) at defensive back,

**Logan Kennedy** (Senior) and **Mekaih Felix** (Sophomore) as receivers, **Xavier Guerrero** (Sophomore) and Keiran Edmundson (Senior) as quarterbacks, **Kyree Lewis** (Senior), **Aaron Lamuyen** (Senior), and **Shane Puffert** (Senior) on the offensive line, **Garrison Manzanarez** (Sophomore), and **Chasen Sparks** (Senior) has had some big moments on defense and offense." Defensive back coach **Dan Falt** also noticed that "Chasen Sparks has been really good, he's a leader on the defense; Matthew Baldonado is another leader on the defensive."

The coaches recognize all the effort that every player has been putting in since they joined football. The players also recognize all the work the coaches put in. "I appreciate every single coach and what they've done for us so far and what they're going to keep doing for us. They always try to put us in the positions to win and have success so we're really fortunate to have so many good coaches here at Cypress," said Rodriguez.

## Tennis Returns to the Courts

By REHANSA KULATILLEKE



The Girls' Tennis team debuted their season with a score of 15-3 against Sage Hill. (photo by Rehansa Kulatilike)

After being named champions in the 2023 Empire League, Girls' Tennis has returned to the court with scores of 13-5 against Milikan High, 8-10 against Yorba Linda High, and 14-4 against Canyon High. Following their success from last year, when they defeated 19 of 22 schools, the girls' tennis team moved up their rank from a DIII to DII. It's safe to say that Girls' Tennis continues to push themselves to another successful year.

With the advance in the school's ranking, the level of competition has risen as well. This year the team is playing against more

difficult Division II, but the team continues to strive to be successful in CIF. Miia Thomas, the Girls' Tennis captain said, "One of my biggest goals for this year is as a team, I kind of want to see us make it really far into CIF... last year in CIF, because of how high we were ranked in Division II, we were put into some D1 schools and we made it past the first round and we lost second round—but this year they're doing it completely different." Along with the team's competitive side, Girl's Tennis also hopes to get to know each other over the season. Stacey Woo, the Girls' Tennis captain said,

"I think our overall goal other than that is bonding as a team and growing with one another."

When it comes to student-athletes balancing their academic life and their personal life, it can take a lot of work to have enough time to give each the right attention. As a result of this, the girls' tennis team has implemented a study hall where athletes can not only focus on their life outside the court, but also receive help from others who have already taken that class. This not only helps students learn from others, but also helps give students the chance to bond with their peers, both off and on the court. With the advantage of earning better grades individually, the team also aims to earn the Academic Championship which is one of their many targets for this year. Coach Joe Paul, the coach for the Girls' Tennis team said, "One goal we have this year is to get an Academic Championship. So we do have a required sixth-period study hall... we do that so that they can help each other—tutor each other for those days they're missing."

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# BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE, The Sequel The Sequel

By YOSHI VAZQUEZ MORENO



Beetlejuice Beetlejuice has been a box office success since its opening weekend. (photo by Warner Bros.)

On September 6, 2024, Beetlejuice premiered in theaters all around. Featuring Michael Keaton returning to his iconic role as the prankster demon, this long-awaited sequel stays true to the eccentric spirit of the original, delivering a manic, hyper-stylized visual experience reminiscent of the 1988 film.

Keaton's performance is once again a standout, embodying the chaotic bio-exorcist who scuttles through the film in his signature black-and-white striped suit, with the decaying DNA of the original clearly present throughout. However, the film teeters on the edge of falling into the same trap as

the most recent Ghostbusters reboot—recycling old ideas with a new coat of paint. Burton's distinctive style and idiosyncratic creativity manage to rescue it from feeling entirely derivative with both suffering from trying to cram too many ideas into one movie. However, unlike the aforementioned Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire, the movie manages to tie the different plotlines together.

A key moment in the film involves solving the issue of a non-returning original cast member with a lo-fi claymation sequence that culminates in a character's face being chewed off by a shark, a typically Burton-esque way of sidestepping the problem. Winona Ryder returns as Lydia Deetz, now an adult, but still with the same Bauhaus-groupie haircut and haunted Victorian doll

wardrobe. Her character, now a TV personality hosting a haunting show, has lost her rebellious edge, appearing brittle and vulnerable in the face of a manipulative boyfriend, played by Justin Theroux. The plot centers around Lydia's daughter, Astrid (Jenna Ortega), taking on the role of the new rebellious goth teenager. A family tragedy brings the Deetz family back to the house from the original film, allowing Beetlejuice to plot his escape from the underworld in a bid to marry Lydia.

The film also introduces new characters, including Monica Bellucci as Beetlejuice's ex-wife and Willem Dafoe as a deceased actor, playing a hard-boiled cop investigating afterlife violations. These playful, absurd scenes highlight the film's live-

ness and sense of humor. Beetlejuice was a pivotal film for Burton, cementing his macabre, gothic aesthetic and forming lasting collaborations, most notably with composer Danny Elfman, who returns to score the sequel. Elfman's music in Beetlejuice Beetlejuice is familiar, with frenzied skeletons playing out the signature chaotic soundtrack. However, other musical choices are more hit-and-miss, with a kitschy Bee Gees' Tragedy feeling out of place. Still, a possessed rendition of MacArthur Park adds a fun, deranged energy, capturing some of the original's anarchic spirit.

While Beetlejuice Beetlejuice doesn't quite reach the cult status of the original, it has a lot of fun trying, delivering moments of inspired silliness and macabre mischief that honor the 1988 classic.

## SMILE 2 LEAVES AUDIENCE SCREAMING IN SILENCE SMILING IN FEAR

By AMY PARK



Smile 2 is hauntingly rewarding to the audience who appreciates a psychological approach to horror. (photo by Amy Park)

Smile 2 premiered in theaters on October 18, 2024. The film is about a pop star named Skye Riley, who is played by Naomi Scott (Aladdin (2019), Charlie's Angels (2019), and The Martian (2015)), experiencing increasingly terrifying and explicit events while being on her world tour. Because of the pressure she faces with these escalating horrors and the fame that she's gaining, Skye is forced to face

her dark and difficult past to regain control over her life again.

The director of Smile 2 is Parker Finn, director of Laura Hasn't Slept (2020), The Hidebehind (N/A), and Smile (2022.) According to Discussing Film, Parker Finn said that "In approaching a sequel, I wanted to make sure that I wasn't just doing a traditional continuation or any sort of simple retread of the first

film. I wanted to deliver a fresh and unexpected experience for the audience... I wanted to see if maybe I could use that information against them and find new ways to scare them. Also, I wanted to throw some sharp left turns where they might not be expecting." We will have to see if this movie is worth the suspense it holds on people who are eager to watch Smile 2.

Smile 2 begins with a strong but disturbing start, showing the fear people cursed with the evil entity have to endure. It hints at what we will have to expect for future victims including the main character, Skye Riley. From the very beginning we are shown an extreme amount of gore that is ultimately displayed throughout the whole film. As the movie begins to focus on the main character, we begin to

see tension as the lines between reality and Skye's illusions blur. The ending is unexpected, but clues to the final scene are subtly planted throughout the film.

Skye Riley is the main character of this plot and she is a famous singer that has a very tragic backstory that affects how her character reacts to all of her illusions. Sykes' journey is one of self-discovery, as she confronts both the physical and emotional threats of the curse and the emotional scars of her past. Skye is going through traumatic experiences, but supporting characters aren't there for her. Ray Nicholson, son of Jack Nicholson (The Shining, 1980), makes an appearance to further traumatize Skye of her past. In order to create a suspenseful and eerie atmosphere, Finn uses lighting to build the suspense that

leads to jump scares, leaving the audience with anticipation in the scenes where you can't see what happens next. By making the shots closer to the main character's face and isolating the character, it creates suspense for both the characters and the audience.

Smile 2 is hauntingly rewarding to the audience who appreciates a psychological approach to horror. The blend of suspense, gore, and horror keeps the audience engaged. The film's deeper themes of repression give it a weight that lingers long after the credits roll. Although it may not satisfy viewers who favor "true-horror" it is a must-watch for fans of character-driven horror. With strong performances from all the actors with a meticulously crafted visual style, Smile 2 is an unsettling and thought provoking experience to sit and watch.

—COMIC

## Sacred Actor

By TYLER HERNANDEZ

HELP ME!!

OH IT'S JUST TYLER!

RAHH-

W-WAIT! LET GO!

HELP!

BASED ON REAL EVENTS

# Opinion Of The People Matters In The 2024 Election

By TONY RODRIGUEZ



Voters should think about their beliefs, such as honesty, equality, and freedom, and let those beliefs guide their choices. (photo by Tony Rodriguez)

With less than a month until Election Day, many voters feel negatively about the 2024 presidential campaign. According to pewresearch.org, 71% think the campaign is too negative, and 62% believe it isn't focusing on important issues. Though, 68% find it interesting, and some voters, starting to feel a little more hopeful about the election and its focus on key topics.

Concerns about political violence are also rising, with two-thirds of voters saying it's a serious problem. Most people doubt either candidate will accept defeat gracefully; 74% think Trump won't concede if he loses, where only 27% believe Harris would. Significantly, both sides agree that it's important for the other candidate to concede, but there's a big difference in how much they expect their own candidate to do so. As we get closer to the election, just 14% of voters feel sure and unsure about who will win.

**Stephanie Payne**, a junior in Cypress High School, is concerned that a Trump win in the 2024 election could lead to a reduction in rights, especially for women, and fears his plans are not clear that can be misleading to the public. She suggests voters to look past party biases and focus on what's best for the country, evaluating that voting for a Democrat, even if their views don't completely align, could help protect rights and economic stability. Payne believes Gen Z tends to be more liberal and will likely support candidates like Kamala Harris, who they see as promoting more equality. She worries that if Trump is re-elected, his 2025 agenda might lead to harmful changes in the education system. Expressing diverse issues like abortion and immigration, Payne emphasizes the need for productive discussions rather than debating between each candidate on what they are trying to explain. She sees social media as a tool to in-

form young voters and explains the ideal candidate should prioritize community well-being over personal gain. To improve voter awareness, where she emphasizes for better educational access.

**Mr. Eastridge** said the importance of the U.S. presidential elections by explaining how many positions are at stake. He said that not only is the President being elected, but all 435 members of the House of Representatives as well as 33 Senators. How these roles hold power, and the President will likely have the opportunity to appoint two Supreme Court justices, which can affect the country. Each election shapes the future of the U.S., affecting key institutions and the direction of the country.

Eastridge views elections as a reflection of values rather than just policy differences. He stresses that voters should think about their beliefs, such as honesty, equality, and freedom, and let those beliefs guide their choices. Instead of focusing solely on policy issues like tax rates, he argues that the election is about fundamental principles, and voters should vote based on what they value most. His comments suggest a deeper connection between voting and personal identity, emphasizing the moral and ethical dimensions of choosing a leader.

Eastridge discusses Plato's concept of a "philosopher king," Eastridge pointed out the idea of a wise, powerful ruler who would ideally lead. However, he acknowledges that such a person does not exist, which is why democracy, with its shared decision-making, is more necessary. He implies that while the current candidates may not be perfect, democracy allows for collective wisdom to guide decisions. This democratic process ensures that even without a perfect leader, the system can still function effectively, driven by the values of the people.

# Everchanging Spirit of Halloween

By CARLY PEDROZA



Pumpkin carving can lose its appeal to older teens and adults. (photo by Carly Pedroza)

Candy, costumes, jack-o-lanterns, skulls, trick-or-treating and parties. That's what people think Halloween is all about. But is that the true meaning of Halloween? Halloween originated from an ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, and since then the holiday has gone global. October 31st is the day when "spirits of the dead rise and return to earth."

Ancient Celtic festival of Samhain was a festival that would mark the end of the harvest season and mark the beginning of winter. In Gaelic "samhain" trans-

lates to "summer's end." The benefits of this festival were the boundaries between the physical world and the spirits world became one allowing spirits to come visit. Some rituals they would follow were bonfires feasting costumes and divination practices. Today people cherish the holiday as a time to celebrate and hang out with friends and family. It gives them the opportunity to dress up as some of their favorite characters, attend pumpkin patches, carve pumpkins, and just enjoy the begin-

ning of fall. Senior **Angelica Castorena** said, "I've always truly enjoyed Halloween. I love dressing up and attending full activities with my friends and family as well as feeling the spooky season all throughout October."

To some people, Halloween has become a holiday that is not celebrated. Many believe that going house to house receiving candy from strangers is just foolish, as well as spending money on costumes you're only going to wear one time. 12th grader **Amina Mohammed** said, "Halloween isn't as fun as it used to be now that I am older. It is a fun tradition for families to share with their young children, but as I've gotten older the meaning has changed."

Halloween has been an exaggerated holiday for over a thousand years. Trick-or-Treating, carving pumpkins, and dressing up in costumes is not as special as people think.

# Brandy Melville Promotes Body Dysmorphic Disorder With "One Size Fits All"

By DEBORAH SON



Brandy Melville is a trendy brand, with teenage girls as its target audience. (photo by Deborah Son)

**B**randy Melville, known for their "one size fits all" clothing has been adopted by influencer marketing, mainly for its "skinny aesthetic." Shaming young women who possess a body type anything other than petite. Accusations of the brand targeting and promoting unrealistic standards among young girls have been hinted at throughout the documentary, "Brandy Melville & the Cult of Fast Fashion" by HBO. Since the early 1980s, Brandy Melville has been a growing reputable brand, opening its

first US store in Los Angeles' Westwood neighborhood. Italian businessman, Silvio Marsan and his son Stephan founded Brandy Melville, illustrating the name from a fictional story about an American girl named Brandy falling in love with an Englishman named Melville. Melville was attracted to Brandy because of her American style, and they fell in love in Italy. As of 2024, Brandy Melville has opened stores in a total of 133 locations. Allegedly, Brandy Melville's marketing strategy of limiting sizes

is publicly criticized. Models of Brandy Melville with a height of 170 to 175 centimeters with a waist size of 63.5 centimeters are claimed to be the ideal body type. People who are able to fit into these clothes are reassured that they are part of the beauty standard. The validation people receive from fitting into petite-sized clothing encourages them to return. **Josephine Lee**, a senior at Cypress High School said, "It's hard to shop at Brandy because it's a hit or miss. You never know how the clothes will fit. I wish they had more sizes."