

465 John F. Kennedy High School Seniors to Walk into Their Future on June 13

By Desiree Leong, Clarion Staff

After making it through the hectic 2017-2018 school year, the 465 graduating seniors will finally be walking the stage at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium at 3 p.m. on June 13. Two of Kennedy's graduating seniors, Malissia Bordeaux and Zainab Khan, will be speaking at the ceremony, along with Sacramento City Unified School District Board member Darrell Woo.



Clarion photo by Sarif Morningstar

Singing the National Anthem is senior Zaria Boykins, with remaining performers from the Kennedy marching band performing the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance." Additionally, two top students from the graduating class will receive awards for their significant achievements throughout their high school career.

Seniors also have the opportunity to participate in several celebratory events. The celebration will begin with the Senior Trip to Disneyland on June 1-2. Following the trip will be the annual Senior Awards Night at 6 p.m. on June 5 in the school auditorium, where many deserving seniors will be receiving awards or scholarships.

Seniors are invited to join classmates for the Senior Barbeque at the quad at 6 p.m. on June 8, which will feature food, a DJ, and at least one bounce house. The concluding event will be Sober Grad Night on June 13 after the graduation ceremony. It will begin at Country Club Lanes at 11 p.m. and continue to 6 a.m. the next day. Activities include bowling, laser tag, arcade and casino games, raffles, and much more.

Ms. Retter St. John
a spirited supporter of the
school, devoted teacher of
generations, part of the school's
DNA. You will be dearly
missed and never forgotten



Senior Rally: On to the Next Chapter



Clarion photo by Sarif Morningstar

Robotics Team Finishes 9th in World Championship

By Desiree Leong, Clarion Staff

In the final months of the school year, the award-winning Kennedy Robotics team traveled across the country as well as internationally in search of victory. Their road to success began in Sacramento at the regional competition where they ranked 3rd and ended in late April with a 9th place finish at the World Championship in Houston.



Photo courtesy C. Kaze

Kennedy Robotics team poses for a group photo while in Houston.

The group was started in 2009 by Mr. Robert Greene, Kennedy's Career Technical Educator. Since then, they have received more than 20 awards for their design, performance, and safety awareness.

In all the skills the robotics team possesses, junior Mateo Lee, a co-captain, explained, "I started from the ground up. They really teach you right at the beginning really fundamental skills and it just kind of builds from there."

The team of 25 students, along with their instructor qualified at Calgary, Canada, their first international competition, two weeks prior to their Houston World Championship. At Worlds, Robotics placed 9th against 67 other teams in their division.

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NEWS & OPINION

Clarion Staff Collect Multiple Awards at Annual Journalism Event

By Adrianna Iorio, Clarion Staff

On May 9th, nine members of the *Clarion* staff attended the 7th Annual Journalism Awards Dinner hosted by the Sacramento High School Journalism Network at Sacramento County Office of Education Conference Center (SCOE). At the event, John F. Kennedy students received a total of ten individual awards, two more than last year and more than any other high school. The Sacramento High School Journalism Network recognizes excellence in journalism among 11 high schools in the area and also publishes *The Sac County Breeze*, a quarterly compendium of students' submissions.



The Clarion staff and advisors gathered for a group photo as the 7th Annual Journalism Awards Dinner ended. Pictured (L to R) First row - Sarif Morningstar, Saeri Plagmann, Chris Wong; Second row - Karissa Jones, Jianna Beasley; Back row - Mr. Hanzlik, Dominic Larsen, Brandon Wong, Joe Temblador, Makayla Smith, Mrs. Hanzlik

The night began with a speech from Sharon Ito, a writing coach for *The Sac County Breeze*, who discussed the importance of journalism. Ito, who currently works at Sacramento State University's College of Continuing Education following 30 years as a broadcast journalist, spoke of the importance of journalism as a skill that can be used in many other professions.

Honored guests David W. Gordon, Superintendent of SCOE, and Matt Perry, Assistant Superintendent, gave impassioned and informative speeches regarding the journalism industry and need to continue to support journalism education.

The night's keynote speaker, Regina Wilson, Executive Director of California Black Media, and the daughter of two successful journalists shared her career path in journalism with the assembled group.

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KENNEDY VOICES

now on the Clarion's YouTube Channel!

Squirrel elected to UC Berkeley Senate

"An animal is not gonna take care of the school dances and that s**t."

-Michelle Garcia, 11



School forces students to smile

"Some people might be like, 'Oh, you got an ugly smile.'"

-Jackie Stepter, 11



Scan this QR Code to access our channel!

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*videos blocked on school wi-fi.

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NEWS & OPINION

Rent Control Issue Creates Another Political Divide

By Timmy Curry, Clarion Staff

Currently, California politicians are debating rent control, which is the government preventing a tenant's rent either from being charged above a certain level or from increasing at a rate higher than a predetermined percentage.

There are proponents of both sides of the issue. People who support rent control want to help California's poor and middle classes afford the rising rent costs. Opponents argue that changing current rent control laws would bring housing developments to a standstill.

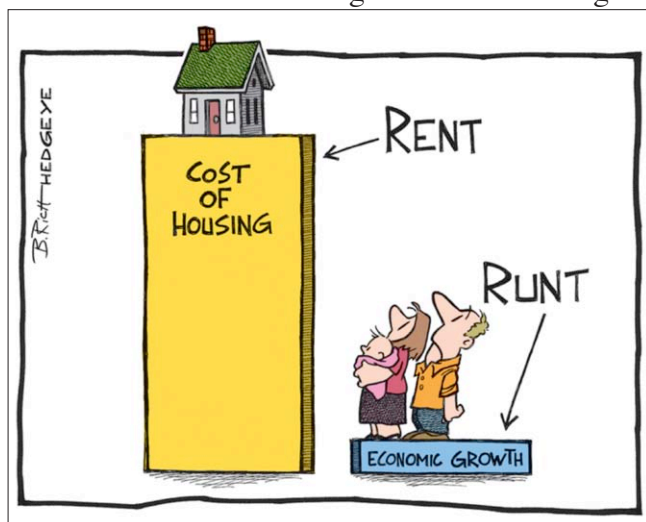
Rent control proponents want to ease the current burden on many middle class and poor families through the use of government limits. They argue that the market forces take years to get around to an affordable level for most renters while rent control is one option to help solve the growing housing crisis across California. The supporters of rent control also want a repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Act of 1995. They dislike two major parts of the bill that allow landlords to raise rent on their property after a tenant moves out and prevents cities from placing rent caps on buildings built after February, 1995.

Proponents of rent control have pointed to the over 565,000 signatures they have obtained from voters to put their initiative into law. They hope that at least 365,880 of these signatures are deemed valid by the California Secretary of State for their initiative to be on the ballot in November. Their new initiative not only repeals Costa-Hawkins but gives each city control over a rent cap for their area. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle* the average rent for a tenant in California is \$3,433 a month with places like Berkeley having a higher rent in excess of the average.

These high rent prices are precisely why the supporters of rent control want controls in place to support poor and middle class tenants.

Rent control opponents believe that capping the rent that landlords charge will lead to more expensive housing to cover the costs and delayed housing projects. According to an Econometer panel of fourteen economists, they believe that rent control would not benefit San Diego's economy and lead to shortages in quality or quantity of housing. The California Apartment Association is also opposed to repealing Costa-Hawkins, advocating that it would do more harm than good by exacerbating the housing crisis. They suggest rent control keeps many tenants at current housing cost levels leading to wealthier tenants pay-

ing less than the market price for rent. The maintenance costs or getting a new tenant on the property once a tenant moves out with rent control is difficult due to the lower costs leading to less income. In addition to reducing housing units, rent control also will reduce local property tax income by lowering the value of the property.



The opponents of rent control suggest easing housing regulations and rent controls to build more available housing which would ultimately stabilize rent prices in the market through the demands for housing being met with new projects. The combination of reduced money and challenges to construct new houses could make California's housing crisis even worse by implementing rent control from the opponents perspective.

The political climate in California shows that rent control will be a tough battle for either side to gain an advantage. On the one hand the proponents of rent control want to help the poor and middle class tenants afford the high costs of rent. On the other hand if new housing and tax money are greatly reduced rent control will not benefit California. This is one development in the Golden State that's worth watching this fall, so stay tuned, and more importantly vote to make your voice heard on this critical issue.

JFK's Traffic is Utter "Car"mageddon

By Brandan Wong, Clarion Staff

Every school day, Gloria Drive is congested with the hundreds of parent and student drivers. But we have some serious problems with the etiquette many of these "liscenced" drivers have. This issue has risen to be mainly an issue for the student driving community at JFK. The following flaws regarding school traffic are complaints given by various students.



Clarion staff photo

No Parking: Narcissist Permit Required

For some reason some parents think it's okay to drive into the parking lot and then immediately stop in the road to drop off their kid. As a result of this, there's more traffic and everyone is angry all because the world somehow revolves around you enough to stop in the middle of the road to let your kid out. If you want you can give me a call and I'll be sure to bring out the red carpet. Remember that student drivers also use the lot to park. If you want to drop off your kid in the parking lot, I'd recommend driving into a parking spot where students don't park and dropping your kid off there. I'm sure it isn't gonna kill your kid to walk an extra 20 feet.

Despite this solution, parents aren't really going to care anyway and will continue to use an entire road as their personal stopping point. If you're still going to do this, at least have your kid pick up the pace getting out of the car. My goodness, so many of these kids take their sweet time getting dropped off and forget that their inconsiderate chauffeur is blocking up the road creating traffic. Are you all filing your taxes before you get out of the car?

We're Pulling Out

Parents also seem to have forgotten the art of using a turn signal. Several times drivers pull out of the curb without notice and cut in front of unsuspecting drivers. Thinking that someone is always going to let them in, they put a danger on themselves and others. That turn signal exists for a reason, someone would probably let you out if you had the decency to use it. It's better than cutting someone off.

Broom Broom... Get Out Me Way

After school, some parents think that it's cool to park in the bus lane to pick up their child. All it takes is turning your head about 45 degrees east to see the red sign that reads, "No parking, Bus lane." I don't know if you know this, but a lot of Kennedy students get picked up from the bus there. I guess that doesn't matter to some of these people though, so the bus would then have to go around the car parked and would pick up students while poking out of the street. This would in turn create more traffic and is a danger to the many cyclists that use the bike lane there to get home all because you couldn't follow basic traffic rules.

Green Means Go

It's the most basic rule of them all. When the traffic light turns green, you are clear to advance. It's a rule so easy to follow, children play games relating to it. But for some reason this simple rule is a problem for drivers on the intersection leading to Gloria Drive. The lesson here requires little explanation: pay attention and get your head out of whatever device is distracting you from performing simple traffic rules.

KENNEDY SENIORS

Last Will & Testament from Class of 2018

Collected by Aryanna Zavala and Cynthia Dominguez

I, Katelyn Yang, will my younger brother, Alex, and younger sister, Natalyn, to continue to pursue your dream despite what the adults may say and to be always kind and compassionate to everyone you meet.

I, Ivy Wang, will my blood, bruises, scrapes, and tears to my hurdle babies. May all this pain bring forth new PRs and even more growth. Most importantly, I will you all happiness and laughter everyday.

I, Nicco Welks, do not have much to leave but I will my most prized possession, my protractor. You can use it to find angles.

I, Jia, will the ability to create and maintain the long lasting, beautiful friendships I have made during my four years at John F. Kennedy to every freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior (because it's never too late to make a good friend), and the creative passion to not only follow your heart, but also follow me on Instagram @bunnii. doodles (Jianna Beasley).

I, Karissa Jones, will my motivation to live and my iconic reciting of vines. To future students I give you my exploration on memes and hope you continue the legacy I leave for you.

I, Christopher Jeong, will the hope for a stress-free life for the families I leave behind. To rid any negativity that may cloud your thoughts, to great success which life will bring lots, and to less problems that need to be fought. Alas I say be gone thoughts!

I, David Yu, will David Ma of 2019 to uphold the virtues and continued excellence of the David name. Remember to be humble and shed pettiness. Sometimes it's just better to lose something with grace than insist on winning for no reason.

I, Sarif Morningstar, will my photography to anyone who seeks to be the best photographer they can be. I also will my perseverance for them to get through all their classes.

I, Malissia Bordeaux, will all Kennedy students of the future the power to change the system. I also will the certainty that equity will become a part of the new school culture.

I, Aryanna Zavala, will my wisdom, responsibility, and desire to succeed to my cousin, Lauren and all future Kennedy students. Do not be afraid to be yourself and the drama won't matter when high school is over. Never give up, when the going gets tough, keep on going because the end result will be amazing.

I, Darren Garland, leave my mixtape on soundcloud for everyone to listen too. (link unreadable)

I, Savannah Perry, will my sister, Emily Perry, the mindfulness to speak truthfully and thoughtfully, the motivation to complete ALL your assignments, and the courage to be better than yesterday, all the days of your life. I love you, sissy.

I, Jerico Francisco, will all my funky dance moves, comic routine, and Youtube playlist to my friends, who have not yet moved on. Friends, show all the students out there your cool dancing and beats. Believe yourself, just follow your dreams, heart and just do it. Don't let the mean people bully because students are scared and they need help and you need friends.

I, Timmy Curry, will my cousin and all the incoming seniors my AP Government skills to succeed in the class. I also will my history skills to all the new underclassmen to enjoy their remaining years in their history classes. The choices you make in your classes each day can have a profound impact on your future and you only get to go through high school one time in your life as you so make the best of it.

I, Michelle Dominguez, only hope for the many students to enjoy your time in high school. Every merit will be in your past. You'll face struggles, learn lessons, and make memories. It's just steps of growing, on who you are.

I, Matthew Allin, leave my jacket to my incoming freshman brother Sean, leave my finesse to Collin Reynolds, leave my clout tokens to Nic Gregson.

I, Haleigh Lee, leave all the readmit slips in the attendance office to the new TA's. I also leave all my teachers to Noel, Max, Harman, and Ashneel. I will leave all the classroom parties to everyone in the D-wing.

I, Brandon Collins, leave a stack of unfolded pizza boxes to David Gutierrez and the classroom table to Kaiah Walker. I hope you enjoy them.

I, Eva Garcia, will my iPad to the current and future classmates of D3 to guide them to learning sign language from the apps.

I, James Wesley Isom, leave to you, knowledge that will stay with you forever. My Spanish and math notes are in my locker (G45), they have all the answers for the year. I will also leave you a quote that stuck with me my whole life, "Be who you are, NO matter where you are!!!"

I, Joaquin Jauregui, leave my broken pencil to Ryan Smith and my old binder to David Gutierrez. Good luck in your classes.

I, Makiya Simiril, will all my Kennedy memories to Noel, Kaiah, Ashneel, David, Joshua and Antonio. I will miss everyone.

I, Shomee (Lilley) Xiong, will my art supplies to my friends Joshua, Max, and Ryan. I will my basketball, swimming, golf, track and field Olympics to my classmates. I also will all my job sites with Mrs. Ceni to my friends and future classmates. I will miss everyone.

I, Naomi Leulseged, will all the sensors and price tags that I tagged at Marshalls to Noel. I also will my shopping ability to pick out clothes to Kaiah. I enjoyed spending time with my friends Jeremiah, Antonio, and Lilley.

I, Dominic J Larsen, have had many years at Kennedy to procure lessons and trinkets, and now I give these to all of you. To my younger brother, Vinny, I leave to him all

of my pride and admiration, for he may not know I have it towards him, yet I hold him in the highest of regards. I will always stand by your side, not matter the challenges you face. Kesi, to you, I will the ability to make the best of everything. Lastly, I leave to Emma, all the advice and assistance she may need in continuing the tradition of the Clarion. Just remember do not let life go by, make the most of it! Live life to the fullest and make everyday worth it. Love all of you!

I, Chris Wong, will my marimba and height-o-meter to Hunter Albert, a Snickers bar to Adrianna Iorio, my soup grudge to Johnny Thich, my likeness to the next Asian with a bowl cut and thick glasses to join band, whatever ounce of attractiveness I have to Steven Yu so he can find a mate, and a portion of my sexuality to the front ensemble in hopes that it will once again become the gayest section.

I, Cole Klein, will my wit and extraordinary ability to be humble.

I, Koji Lo, will all current and future high school students the passion for what you want to do in this life and the relentless drive to do whatever you think you can do. Always remember who you are and you will force the world confident and strong.

I, Alex Chan, will to all underclassmen the ability to wash their hands and flush the toilet everytime. P.S. Somebody please put paper towels and soap in the boy's bathroom.

I, Vani, will my sister-like friend, Sophia Hare, my fearlessness in doing what is needed to be done. Don't be scared of anything as no one knows what you are 100 percent. I also will my carefree nature to you. Be yourself and life will feel a lot easier.

I, Miguel Camacho, will the fact that ogres are like onions. Life is all about the layers. Get Shreked!

I, Jojo Mamola, hand down the hype torch to my beloved insane sophomores. I also self proclaim Rachel Diekmann, Queen of Kennedy High School.

I, Saeri Plagmann, will to my sister Yukari Plagmann the motivation and courage to make the most out of high school and to discover and explore the world. There are so many opportunities for you out there, you just have to want it enough and be brave enough to see it.

I, Ashley Perez, will Alyssa Proeung and Hana Ruiz all my procrastination skills and the hundreds of sleepless nights I went through. You girls can make it through the last year. I will every Physics student my undesirable love for Ms. Chen's demos and her ways of teaching. Future seniors, take advantage of your moments as youth and figure out where's your place in the world. It'll be here before you know it.



KENNEDY SENIORS

Kairee Brown: The Dreams That Still Live On

By Saeri Plagmann, Features Editor

What happened to the big dreams and admirable professions that people once aspired to? Most would blame it on age, saying that with experience comes a reality check that forces one to see how impractical dreams can be. Some goals seem out of reach because of a variety of circumstances, but in no way does that mean they are completely unachievable. Take Kairee Brown, for example, a senior at Kennedy, who continues to pursue his childhood dream of working in the acting or music industry.

Growing up Kairee frequently moved from place to place. He had been introduced to multiple schools and faced several life-changing events, but what always stayed the same was his desire to be a part of something big. “I thought by this time I was gonna be an actor or singer. I never really put college into perspective, I always thought oh, I’m gonna be famous first. That’s obviously not how things worked out,” he admitted.

Very little had been done throughout his high school career to make his dream a reality, although his love for music had influenced him to play the flute from a young age. In his first year of high school in Long Island, he leaped at the opportunity to play in third chair second flute in the marching band which was “really good for a freshman” because higher positions such as those were usually for older students.

Now, after his second year at Kennedy and a member of the marching band, he holds one of the highest positions in the flute section and plans to major in music at Morehouse College, a private liberal arts college in Georgia. The school is known to be the only four-year liberal arts college that is historically black and all male, receiving recognition for alumni such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Samuel L. Jackson. Barack Obama also lectured at the school.

“I just wanted to go where the least amount of racist people are, and I think Atlanta was a great choice for that. I know the South is still really racist, and although it’s not talked about much [discrimination] is still there,” he said.

With the heightening of racial incidents that plague today’s society, Kairee felt historically black colleges (HBCU) would feel safer and would allow for him to chase his dreams without restriction.

Fully aware of the number of risks that come with pursuing a job in the music industry, Kairee also aspires to be a physician’s assistant and follow in the steps of his mother in the medical field. He finds interest in dermatology and cosmetology, and even considers working with plastic surgeons. “I just have to work it all out in my mind. It’s in there, and I think about it all the time because I’m at that time where I make decisions. But at the same time I have to be smart and go to school and do the things that are right,” he said. “It’s just all a ‘we’ll see’ type of thing right now.”

Not many people can say they are in the dream job that they always wanted to be in, but like Kairee, it is important to believe that an opportunity will come. After all, there is only one life to live so why not make it worthwhile?



Kairee Brown poses in front of a musical staff board for the Clarion.

Clarion photo by Saeri Plagmann

Mia Santos Uses Talents to Better Community

By Liana James and Saeri Plagmann, Clarion Staff



Mia Santos posed for a Clarion photographer briefly during Senior Rally on May 25, 2018.

Clarion photo by Saeri Plagmann

Coming from Arizona in 2016, Kennedy senior Mia Santos was quick to make a name for herself in just the short time she has been here by excelling in academics and athletics. Her achievements have caught the attention of the community far and wide, earning her titles such as All-American by Under Armor and All-West Coast by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

When she arrived at Kennedy, Mia felt nervous and out of place as any new student at a new high school. Helping her to adjust and make friends was her passion for sports, involvement in the community, and

a positive attitude, although she personally feels her energetic personality to have contributed to her adjustment the most.

Back in Arizona, Mia played four different sports and was part of both the American Sign Language and drama club. Her successful journey at Kennedy began when Aaron Pollock, the girls volleyball coach and science teacher at Kennedy, asked her to coach volleyball to middle school students.

As an older sister who had experience in coaching her siblings soccer for fun, Mia was well prepared for the leadership role that Pollock had presented her with. “I was happy to accept because I love coaching and teaching people stuff that I am passionate about,” she said. It was being able to watch kids grow and learn, as well as seeing their desire for the sport expand, that encouraged her to continue teaching kids even after she graduates from college.

Although having been exposed to a variety of sports growing up, softball remains her top choice as it connects back to her childhood aspirations of wanting to follow in her father’s footsteps: a college baseball player. When Mia first started playing at the age of six, she found it difficult to stand out in her neighborhood. The constant support she received from family and friends, including her own motivation, had helped her to finally succeed and make All-State.

Obstacles faced in sports were nothing new to Mia, but those from academics were ones that required more time to overcome. The move to California provided plenty of academic struggles with different teaching styles and requirements. It was not long, however, before balancing academic life and athletic life came easy; connecting with teachers helped to keep her on track, and time management was a skill she had mastered at a young age.

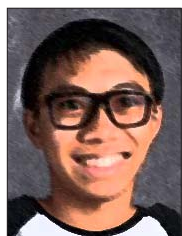
One of Mia’s greatest accomplishments at Kennedy was creating the American Sign Language Club. Sacramento has one of the largest deaf communities in the state, and Kennedy did not have any classes or clubs that promoted awareness. “I created the club to get deaf awareness out and help people to be able to connect with the deaf community,” she said. In order to keep supporting the deaf community, Mia plans to attend conventions where the deaf and the mute go to interact while she attends Sacramento City College.

Much of Mia’s success came from her family and friends who have always pushed her to be her best in all sports. She was taught to give service to others, which not only benefited those in need but allowed for her to realize her passion for contributing to the community. As a graduating student this year, Mia hopes to be able to continue what she set out to do as a child: become a college softball player and contribute her talents to the community.

See more *Clarion* photos and extended articles on our website
jfkclarion.com

KENNEDY SENIORS

Clarion Editors Reflections



Christopher Wong, Chief Editor

Two years, nine months, and seven days ago, I finished preparations in the dark of night for recruitment for a new club. At orientation, I waited out in front of the G wing quad behind a table with a sign urging people to join the school newspaper, the Kennedy Clarion.

A few weeks later, still mostly in the dark on how to write or publish a newspaper, I finished my first article. With the help of our new advisor, Mr. Hanzlik, two years, six months, and 25 days ago, the first issue of the Clarion since its demise was published. The cover lacked color, mostly dark ink on newsprint.

That year's April, I shone a flashlight on Kennedy's plans to install signal jammers in classrooms to stop cell phone use. I heard PACE book club leaders discussing the outrageousness of this action weeks later. I was enlightened; it was then that I discovered the impact my writing could have.

One year and nine months ago during first period as the sun just rose, I scanned the new newspaper class, finding fresh and familiar faces.

I lightened up like the sun on a clear Sacramento day. I found the newspaper was printing less errors. I found an amazing editorial staff to help push the paper forward. I found new friends in the new staff, and found them again playing hide and seek in the auditorium in a class wide game. I found that our paper won eight awards in the county high school journalism awards. The sun set on that night as the paper celebrated an amazing second year.

Two months and 16 days ago, the alarm bells rang, and I found myself on the auditorium's spiral staircase gazing down at my peers, falling into three divisions: afraid, angry, and apathetic. I wanted a camera, but was forced to burn the images in my head instead: Casey the Cougar's skin, my friends huddled on the ground, a guy from SPD carrying the colors on his way out.

I left. I forgot my orange watch inside.

Time stood still as I collected my thoughts, anger once again aflame inside me. I addressed those who wronged the scared students in that auditorium, not just the threatener, but the apathetic public. I finished that article just before sundown after return from break. Students wore orange at the walkout on 4/20 to push for gun laws. More conflict is coming in the night.

Seven days from now, I'll sit in the newsroom as an editor for the last time. I'll wonder what the paper will be when I visit. "History repeats itself" is often a warning of disaster's second coming, but what of miracles as well? My money is on miracles, but I still wonder if, upon my return, the paper will once again be as it was two years, nine months, and six days ago.



Saeri Plagmann, Features Editor

Having transferred from a school on a military base in Japan in 2016, I was only fortunate enough to be a member of *The Clarion* for two years. It was the year that the newspaper class returned to Kennedy after being eliminated nearly half a decade earlier.

Back in Japan, I had been on the staff of the school newspaper, so I joined *The Clarion* with the intent to continue my journey as a student reporter. Difficult as it was for me to adjust to the new environment and make friends, *The Clarion* had always been there as my main source of support. The first friends I made were from the newspaper class, and I quickly befriended Mr. and Mrs. Hanzlik, the advisors, who were so kind and patient, making my transition into the school easier. Thank you, Hanzlik's, for believing in my talents even when I did not.

I started off my junior year as a regular staff writer, but now as a senior, I prepare to relinquish my position as a features editor. As I look back on all the opportunities the class had presented to me, I cannot help but wonder where I would be today if I had not chosen to take the class. Every struggle that I experienced, which was when the deadline was nearing or when I had to sell an advertisement to local businesses, in

some way had shaped me into the person I am today. I am not only a better writer, but my social, communication, and time management skills have improved dramatically.

The last few quarters in *The Clarion* have been my golden times. I was creating my best work along with my fellow staff, and I often find myself convinced that no other future class will ever be able to replicate anything as creative and unique. Part of what made the class so successful this school year was the large number of the 'right' kind of people; people that ranged from great writers and photographers to those who knew how to work Photoshop like it was the back of their hand.

I am confident, though, that *The Clarion* will continue to thrive and create work that is unique and impactful to the student body, just as it has been doing for the last 50 years. The key to making a successful paper is to have everyone contribute a part of their talent to it. Although my time as a student reporter is up, I plan to use the skills I learned from the class to aid me in the future, wherever it may take me.

To the future *Clarion* staff—I hope you find the desire to discover more about the world around you and to have the courage to keep pushing and searching for answers. You are the voice of the school now; do what is right to spread the truth, and I wish you all luck.



Aryanna Zavala, Copy Editor

The last three years in newspaper have been memorable, stressful, and most of all fun, but I would not change a thing. I have had the amazing opportunity to be in newspaper for a majority of high school and got to watch it grow as I did. It has always been one of my favorite parts of the day, despite it being first period, because it is where I nurtured my writing and editing skills and met some amazing human beings.

During club rush all the way back in 2014, I signed up for *the Clarion* when it was attempting to revive itself after being dormant for so many years. I remember being hesitant to sign up because of my sophomore ignorance, I thought it was not cool and it also required dedication. I had always wanted to be in publications, so I had 20 seconds of courage and signed up, who knew back then that *the Clarion* would change the way I see the world and improve my writing skills.

When I look back at my high school years, I will remember my time in newspaper and the memories that were made. Many students have gone through the class and each one of them has made their impact. I will always remember the girls I sat next to my senior year and the crazy music they played or the memes they could recite from the top of their heads. I will always remember the rivalry we had with McClatchy and all the times we messed with them. I will always remember the writers that always wrote three page articles (that were a pain to edit) and the writers that did not write enough. I will always remember the breakfast parties we had and the boy who always wanted the french toast casserole. I will always remember getting our shirts at the end of the year rather than at the beginning. I will always remember the long days that were full of editing because we needed to make deadline.

I know that I will never forget my experience in the Clarion and hope that it continues and strives to be the very best. For future members of *the Clarion* I have one piece of advice for you, "If you work hard and you do your best, you can do and be anything."



Cynthia Dominguez, Opinions Editor

Joining the newspaper class my junior year of high school was a pivotal point in the shaping of my view of both the John F. Kennedy campus and the world as a whole. In the struggle that is creating one's identity, having an activity that helps in the development of one's worldview is crucial. Having involvement in the school newspaper not only provided me with skills that will be helpful in the future, but allowed me to surround myself with fellow students who were vocal about their opinions.

Throughout my time in newspaper, seeing fellow members of the staff who continuously produce excellent work and are consistent in taking advantage of all opportunities presented to them allowed me to become more appreciative of my peers, passions and efforts.

KENNEDY SENIORS

My involvement in the newspaper, despite the good memories and skills learned, more than anything emphasizes the efforts of the people I was able to work with. From the members of the newspaper who took matters into their own hands in establishing the newspaper after years of inactivity to the teachers and advisors who provided guidance and support for all students.

The community that formed and the resulting issues of the school newspaper were built on the admirable work of countless students who began the new chapter of *Clarion* history, and those who follow. I am endlessly thankful for all the good memories in newspaper on the Kennedy campus and hope to see future students experience the long-running student journalism present on the Kennedy campus.



Dominic J Larsen, News Editor

Commanding authority with all that he spoke, Gen. George Washington articulated, "If men are to be precluded from offering their sentiments on a matter, which may involve the most serious and alarming consequences that can invite the consideration of mankind, reason is of no use to us; the freedom of speech may be taken away, and dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep, to the slaughter." Having a natural talent for literary composition, Thomas Jefferson expressed, "All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent." Reaffirming the sentiments of both, Benjamin Franklin wrote, "Freedom of speech is a principal pillar of a free government: When this support is taken away, the constitution of a free society is dissolved, and tyranny is erected on its ruins."

Being guided by the knowledge of the Founding Fathers, I have come to develop a reverence and strong passion in the defense of the First Amendment. A sacred gift bestowed upon us, by our Creator, and protected by the Republic's founding documents, the freedom of speech is of utmost importance, and with it comes the tremendous responsibility, burdened upon the shoulders of journalists and writers alike, to wield the sword of truth in the face of all injustices.

My time with *the Clarion* has only further garnered my devotion to the principles that act as a defense to our liberties and the American way of life. No matter what I was contributing to the student paper, the thought at the forefront of my mind was what good might this information do for our community, and how might this better the world we found ourselves within. From reporting on the heinous crimes of morally abhorrent staff members to holding elected officials accountable to their constituents, my time on the editorial board has been for one purpose, to further shed the light of truth into humanity's darkest corners. May all Kennedy students, current and future, read this message composed for you, and come to understand the importance of newspapers and the media, actively participate within your government, and stand firm against all infirmities of this life.

Ten Ways to Defeat Senioritis

Karissa Jones w/Jianna Beasley as test subject

Many high school students have been struggling to find motivation. They have become careless and have lost the will to learn. The culprit of this annual problem is a lethal infection known as senioritis. It is a term used to describe students who are so unmotivated and so they do not put the effort forth to do any type of work.

There's no need to fear because we have just what the doctor ordered to keep you going for the last few weeks of school.



1. Sleep is essential

You're trying to finish your homework and any last minute projects, but sometimes sleep just doesn't seem like a priority. You may be staying up later than you should. You need to keep your mind healthy and your body from falling asleep in third period. Try and go to bed at a reasonable time that allows your body to rejuvenate.

2. Surround yourself with positivity

Yes, it sounds very cheesy, but having positive influences or good vibes around you will give you a positive mindset. Being around negative people or seeing too much negativity will put you in a bad state of mind that will slowly decrease your motivation.

3. Keep manageable goals

Do I sound like your grandma yet? Setting easy manageable goals that can be accomplished in the span of a week will make you feel like you're succeeding in life as opposed to having unattainable goals that will take a lot of effort to reach, resulting in a negative mindset. Manageable goals will give you time and keep you from falling into that dark pit in your mind that you go to when you can't finish something.

4. Manage your time to have some fun

If all you do is work all day and all night, you are setting yourself up for failure. Go outside and get some air, and hang with some friends. Make sure you have some sort of an escape from your school life to clear your mind.

5. Take everything one day at a time

Some of you may think you are Superman and can handle a lot in one day, but instead of trying to work on everything all at once set priorities for different days to complete your work. There's no need to do everything all at once. Take your time and let each day be less stressful. Take baby steps, otherwise you'll be sprinting off a cliff.

6. Turn in your homework on time

As cliché as it sounds, this is an important step. This will prevent you from having a panic attack when grades are posted so make the effort and turn in your homework, so you can make the grade you need.

7. Have a cry every once in a while

Crying is not just a way to express human response, but it is a natural way to reduce emotional stress that, if left unchecked, can have negative physical effects on the body. So go ahead, big guy. Let out that left-over emotional stress.

8. Grades still matter

Remember that it's not over yet and your grades still matter. You're so close to the end and you just want to nap until you walk the stage. There's still work to be done, so keep pushing and do not let it all go to crap so close to the end.

9. Don't let small failures get you down

Worrying about one small mistake will lower your motivation to keep going and make you feel like there is no way you can finish. Remember, you still have time to fix whatever those small mistakes are that get you down.

10. Be happy you've come this far

Realize that you have finally made it to your senior year and you have not given up, or dropped out, or become any of the things you said you would do. Be proud of yourself for keeping the motivation to push through the adversity you have been struggling with these past few years.



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FEATURES

The Future Starts with MESA

by Saeri Plagmann, Features editor

Reaching an all-time high of 49 members this year, the Kennedy MESA program basked in their glory after five students placed at the MESA Day preliminaries held at UC Davis in March, making it to the regional competition on April 28 at California State University, East Bay.

Of the five Kennedy students, junior pair Leeann Lee and Victoria Chen earned first place honors at regionals with their “Think Tank” idea of a solar panel car made out of recyclable materials. “We did not go in thinking that we would possibly win anything,” admits Lee, who, with her partner, went against 400 other middle school and high school students from all over Sacramento at the preliminaries. The MESA program, now



Photo courtesy Mrs. Henry

Kennedy Students (L to R) Leeann Lee and Victoria Chen stand with UC Davis MESA director and statewide executive director after they take first place at the MESA regional competition on April 28.

at 40 years, has been giving students the opportunity to create projects that utilize math, engineering, and science skills. MESA Days are held every year to test these skills and to get students to compete in various challenges, such as the prosthetic arm, egg drop, and balsa wood airplanes and gliders. This year, Kennedy juniors Aldo Gonzalez-Ruiz, Xiao dong Lin, and Ricky Ho made it to regionals alongside their first place teammates by constructing a bridge out of balsa wood, although they did not win.

The program at Kennedy has never been so successful; mentoring these students is advisor and science teacher, Yasmin Henry, who took over for Pete Juarez, Kennedy’s retired MESA advisor and science teacher. Henry feels the program to be getting better every year since she took over, and hopes to make it an elective class next year.

“We may have a 7th period. We’re trying to work out something where we have kids that actually take an elective class so they can actually work on their projects every day and get credit for it,” she says. The only problem is the funding cut by the school district, where teachers are no longer paid for advising the program. Henry, however, is determined to keep it alive. “I personally still like the program and I’ll still run it because I’ve been involved with it now for 10 years. I believe in the program,” she says.

Math, engineering, and science are topics that many people feel to be difficult. Even in the program students find themselves easily bored or frustrated. To improve the program for next year Henry hopes to make it more engaging for students. “I want to make it fun and let students know that it’s okay to fail. The first airplane didn’t work either, the first car didn’t work either, so you have to keep making prototypes and improvements. It’s okay to do that and that’s what engineering’s all about,” she says.

Lee and Chen also faced the same problem, with the most difficult part of their solar panel car being that they had no experience with engineering whatsoever. The number of setbacks they experienced before finally coming to a working model was the source for much of their discouragement. But, after constant encouragement from their peers and teachers, both felt they were inspired to go into a profession that uses the skills they learned through MESA.

Anyone in the program will know that nothing turns out correct on the first try, but it is the failures that are endured that make the final working project all the more rewarding and meaningful. Students truly get to understand what it means to “not give up”, as Chen says, which will go on to be an essential life skill for anyone.

Club Highlight: Stitching The Community Quilt

By Desiree Leong, Clarion Staff

The LiLu club, named after Mira Loma High School founders Libby and Lucy in 2000, has been around for seventeen years now. Since then, the club leadership has passed through various schools in the Sacramento area. Throughout the year, the group meets to sew bags. Since 2001, the club has held yearly auctions to sell those bags they made and donate the money to charity.

Each auction consists of the club members modeling the bags and then a silent auction for those bags. Some of the handmade bags are sold for a preset value. At this year’s auction, LiLu raised about \$750 for Sierra Forever Families, who will use the money to provide support for foster care children.

The club’s president has been Elizabeth Sperring, a senior at Christian Brothers High School, for the last two years. As of this year, the new president will be Sarina Lin, a junior at Kennedy who has been involved with LiLu for the last three years.

“It’s not one of those clubs where you have to go to every meeting and sign up, but it’s a club where I could hang out with my friends and sew at the same time. It’s also a club you can really enjoy because you get to make your own bags and designs,” Lin says.

LiLu’s meetings are extremely laid-back, with all of the members talking and having fun as they sew. They help each other both with technical problems and in designing. Everyone there is open to new ideas and welcomes newcomers.

Member Leeann Lee, a junior at Kennedy adds, “I was relatively skeptical going into LiLu and upon realizing how fun LiLu truly is, I really came to love the purpose of the club. LiLu has helped me in the realization that pursuing an area of volunteering in which someone truly enjoys is incandescently wonderful.”



LiLu Club members (L to R) Lisa Kim, Kimberly Landeck, Sarina Lin, Leeann Lee, Emily Sperring, Olivia Chan, Desi Leong, and Elizabeth Sperring

Though the club is small, it has thrived on donations from the community as well as from the annual auction. Many of the fabrics used by the club have been donated by the diverse people within the community.

For new members, Lin states, “Even if you’re a beginner, the members could teach you to sew. You should be excited and looking forward to the club. You have to be willing to work and you can’t really slack off.” LiLu will be starting in September for the next school year. They normally meet on the first and third Saturday of each month, running from about 1:30-5:00 p.m.. Those interested in joining, contact Sarina Lin.

FEATURES

Teaching Art Takes on Many Different Forms for Hanzlik

By Christopher Wong, Chief Editor

After her 22 years of teaching in Sacramento, Kennedy art teacher Mrs. Mary Lou Hanzlik has made the decision to retire.

Mrs. Hanzlik knew she wanted a career in art from the age of 6. “I was what you would call a late bloomer. When I first entered school, I didn’t do well, but from a young age I realized that art was something I could do well. I struggled in reading, math, speech, and other subjects, but creating art was where I stood out, so I grabbed onto it really early.”



Clarion photo by Sarif Morningstar

Mrs. Hanzlik chats with one of the yearbook editor, Ivy Wang, upon the books' arrival.

Mrs. Hanzlik took hold of her career at State College in New York, Farmingdale, where she obtained an associate degree in the modern equivalent of graphic design. From there, she transferred to State University of New York, Buffalo, where she earned her B.S. in art education. In 1978 she bought a one-way ticket to San Francisco and continued her education at the College of Notre Dame (now Notre Dame de Namur University) where she received her master's degree in art therapy.

After working as an art therapist helping stroke and alzheimer's patients for over a decade, Mrs. Hanzlik finally entered teaching in 1996 at Sam Brannan, where she taught for nine years. She then moved to a small charter school for two years before she received a new job opportunity thanks to her son Andrew.

“He was in the yearbook class, and that teacher, Ms. Thomas, shared that she wanted to retire. She also taught a banner-making class and was afraid that if she left, that program wouldn’t continue,” Mrs. Hanzlik shared.

Mrs. Hanzlik's son told her, “I think my mother could teach this class.” The following year, Mrs. Hanzlik became the yearbook advisor, and productive ads (banner-making) instructor. However, after Andrew returned to yearbook class his senior year with his mom as the teacher, he dropped the class immediately.

Teaching elective classes is sometimes a challenge because it is dependent on student choice and under-enrolled classes can be cut. Productive ads, which at one time received over one thousand calls a year for banners, dropped in popularity and was cut. Newspaper fell through as well near the beginning of just this decade before being revived in 2015. Filling the yearbook class was a struggle some years as the course popularity fluctuated.

Mrs. Hanzlik's ability to overcome these obstacles is what allowed her to leave such a lasting impact on the school and the community.

Continued on Page 15

Retiring Veteran Teachers Look Toward a Future of Community Service

By Jianna Beasley & Karissa Jones, Clarion Staff

After years of teaching, two veteran teachers at Kennedy, Ms. Yolanda Richardson and Ms. Janet Egidi, will retire at the end of this school year.

Thanks to Ms. Richardson's well-crafted lessons, students leave with a heightened knowledge in social studies and world history provided by Ms. Richardson. Her many years of involvement with advocacy clubs such as the Black Student Union also gave students a voice and a sense of pride on campus.

Ms. Richardson began teaching social science in 2004, inspired by her mother to allow her students to have access to all the knowledge the world has to offer. She graduated from Kennedy in 1970, and after obtaining her Bachelor's degree began her teaching career. At SCUSD she taught at Genesis High School, which closed in 2010 before returning to her own high school, Kennedy where she has been teaching social science ever since. Upon returning to the campus remembered, “It was really weird because it was like life was coming full circle.”



Ms. Richardson steps outside her V-wing classroom for a few minutes to talk with the Clarion. Photo by Jianna Beasley

Ms. Egidi's work in the English department has spanned many years and in many directions. “When I moved from New York, I wanted to work at John F. Kennedy because of who he was as a person, because he was impressive. Inspiring. I was delighted to work at Kennedy,” she expressed. For forty years, she has dedicated her career to reaching all students, from teaching advanced placement, to guiding students in credit recovery on the other end of the spectrum. She worked closely with ELL (English Language Learners) students and was responsible for developing reading programs on campus.

Students that have been in their classes fondly shared that both Richardson and Egidi were understanding teachers that were helpful when they needed someone to talk to. In a couple of short interviews with the two teachers, we learned that some of the most memorable moments occurred during visits from students after they graduated. Ms. Egidi shared that a student, who spent a year in her class being rude and uncooperative, came back to apologize. She was surprised and appreciated the thoughtful gesture.



Ms. Egidi poses for Clarion staff photographer in her T-wing classroom.

Ms. Richardson expressed satisfaction when a student returned to share her accomplishments in her life. This particular student, in the span of three years, got married, gave birth, and graduated with a bachelor's degree from Sacramento State. Ms. Richardson felt touched that the student had taken the time to return and share this amazing list of accomplishments with her.

In their after-retirement plans, both plan to volunteer, while Ms. Egidi also plans to tackle her to-do list.

She says she will finally have the time to go through and organize thirty years of mementos that have accumulated in her home. She would also like to resume her interest in yoga and volunteer at the B Street Theater, as well as indulge in her love for dogs and train them for pet therapy. Ms. Richardson plans to serve the community by training in in-disaster-preparedness so she can volunteer in disaster relief programs.

Students that have been fortunate to be a part of these teachers' classrooms will not forget their dedicated contributions to our campus. They have taught beyond their subject matter, giving students life lessons they will take into their lives past high school. Ms. Egidi and Ms. Richardson will be missed, but for their time at Kennedy we say thank you, congratulations, and good luck with your new future.



FEATURES

MaD Program Harnesses the Promise of Renewable Energy

By Miya Murata, Clarion Staff



Clarion Staff Photo

The Kennedy solar regatta team stops cooling their boat's solar panels for a photo at Rancho Seco Recreational Area on May 4. Pictured (L to R) David Yu, Mr. Indreland, Bradley Nielson, Theo Tran, Enrique García, Michael Huang, Mia Whitfield, and Sarah Cerda.

Students in the Manufacturing and Design (MaD) program built their first solar boat to compete in the Seventh Annual California Solar Regatta. The May 4th event was hosted by local energy supplier SMUD, and held at the Rancho Seco Recreational Area, a property owned and managed by the company. SMUD supports a number of STEM educational initiatives by helming a variety of events such as the Solar Car Race, Electricity Fair, and California Solar Regatta.

Twenty teams, each comprised of students from middle school to university level, prepared custom-built solar sailboats. Boy Scout Troops also competed alongside the teams that represented schools in the region.

The watercraft was made out of solar panels that use solar energy to power and control the boat. Students utilized the renewable energy provided by the sky and technology skills they learned in the MaD program to create the boat.

MaD student and senior, Sarah Cerda suggested the greatest challenge was getting the boat powered by battery and solar panels. "We spent most of the second semester building the boat's frame using Douglas fir and plywood," described Cerda. "After that, we were able to get the boat powered with strong teamwork."

Explaining that events such as these and studying in the engineering program provided her immense opportunities, Cerda added, "I will be majoring in chemical engineering, so the collaboration skills used here can help me in the future projects like this one later in college."

Choosing to enter Kennedy into the competition for the first time, David Indreland, the Architecture and Design teacher, spoke to the takeaway from such an experience, stating, "...We have much to learn. We'll be more competitive next year."

Brad Nielsen, a senior and four year member of the MaD program, recalled the process of designing, crafting, and racing the boat, stating, "Regardless of whether or not we won, it was nice to see our work out in the field! Whatever floats your boat, and for us it was a carefully designed hull."

While the team may not have returned the Kennedy campus with a victory, many agreed the time was well spent. Kennedy's MaD program continues to push the limits of modern engineering and provides ample opportunity for students interested in an array of fields.

In Their New Play, Drama is Proving to Be "A Little Shop of Promise"

By Joe Temblador, Clarion Staff

The curtains open, lights flicker, and in the foreground of the stage, a hobo played by junior Yandry Ortiz sprawls along the cold, wood flooring of the Little Theatre with a bottle of spirits and her wits. Around the audience trash litters the floor, haphazard signs line the walls, and the viewer is transported into New York City's fictitious "Skid Row" slum. Thus the audience is invited to join in viewing John F. Kennedy's and Mr. Lee's take on Alan Menken and Howard Ashman's cult classic, dark-comedy, rock musical, "Little Shop of Horrors."

On stage right, the chorus dressed as street buffs harmonize in Skid Row, and we are introduced to the less than impressive and masculine Seymour Krelborn played by junior Allen Turner, perhaps the perfect student for the role. Turner brought a certain innocence and humility to Seymour's character, staying completely charming throughout the entire play.

Turner's Seymour is complimented by stark contrast in the form of the delightfully sadistic Orin Scrivello, played by senior Seth Emerson, a dentist with an affinity for inflicting pain on his patients, Audrey's boyfriend, and main antagonist Audrey 2, the talking, blood eating Venus-flytrap from space.

Additionally, Seymour's less than intelligent and emotionally weak love interest Audrey 1, played in alternating casting by junior Bernadette Tropel and sophomore Xochilt Guerrero, remains lovable and pitiful even while her voice makes viewers want to tear out their eardrums.



Photo by Yandry Ortiz

Kennedy drama players Xochilt Guerrero and Allen Turner stand behind Audrey II (the less than innocent little Venus-flytrap) in late May performance of "Little Shop of Horrors"

Even minor characters like Mr. Mushnik, also casted with two players, sophomore Gabriel Erlewine and junior Christopher Lee, and World Botanical Enterprise's Patrick Martin, senior Paiya Moua, have their own humor and talent to add to the production.

The play is a perfect fusion of young talent that will make you laugh, cry, and then laugh again throughout the performance. That being said, to call the play low budget by Broadway standards wouldn't be inaccurate, but that's part of its charm. The students taking part in the production play their roles with a certain passion, tenderness, and innocence absent in a world that thinks it's seen everything. Lines and expressions are delivered with such conviction, sometimes you forget you're watching a high school cast. The Kennedy drama students love what they're doing, and it shows.

It is truly a joy to join the cast in all of its wardrobe and prop malfunctions, all of its trials and tribulations, voice cracks, and stage falls, because the students of the drama club are hinting at something bigger and better with every delivery of a line and stride across the stage.

I can't help but recommend seeing whatever the drama department has in store for Kennedy High School next, and I have no doubt that if drama keeps on the track they are heading, future productions will require staging in the school's much larger auditorium.

Check out more photos of Kennedy MaD students and also "Little Shop of Horrors" at jfkclarion.com

FEATURES

Kennedy Speech and Debate Talk Their Way into Championships

By Dominic J Larsen, News Editor

Reminiscent of the 1960 presidential election, those with the Kennedy name have outperformed their opponents, employing their talents in public speaking and debate. Finishing their season strong, the JFK Speech and Debate team has accomplished a number of group and individual goals, racking up personal records and awards.

Performing at the top of their game, Kennedy students placed in first, out of all of the competing schools in the Greater Sacramento area, during the Congressional Debates.



Pictured L to R - Rohit Jhawar, Coach Quest Sandel, Matthew Allin

This was the second year in a row that the team has accomplished such a feat. The team was headed by Sophomore Rohit Jhawar, who himself placed first in three of the four league Congressional tournaments.

Alongside Jhawar, who also placed seventh at the Stanford National Forensics Tournament, many of the school's debaters were able to achieve impressive goals this season. Freshmen Grant Bell and Sara Faraj were both able to advance in their respective divisions. Bell qualified, and then finished in fourth at the California High School Speech

Association State Championship. Faraj placed fourth in the National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL) Grand National Championship.

Speaking to the astounding feeling of victory, Faraj stated, "It felt great to qualify to the NCFL because it showed how much my hard work had really paid off. In the beginning of the year, I felt I was not seeing much success, but this qualification truly validated the fact that hard work pays off. I also learned to accept feedback as much as I can in order to find success."

Performing one last season before they exit high school, Seniors Matthew Allin and Lucia Salazar were able to rise through the ranks and be awarded for their performances. Only one step ahead of his freshmen counterpart Grant Bell, Allin earned third at the CHSSA State Tournament. Competing for speech, Lucia, more commonly referred to as Lucy by her classmates, took home second for her performance in the dramatic interpretation segment of the Speech State Qualifier. She, too, qualified for the CHSSA State Tournament, yet did not go on to compete.

Kennedy alumnus Quest Sandel, graduating with the class of 2016, has since gone on to coach the speech and debate team, alongside the course's teacher, Emily Sommer. Using the abilities he developed as captain of the debate team during his senior year, Quest has helped lead the team to the heights reached as of now.

Marveling at the successes brought to the team by Coach Sandel, Sommer added, "He puts countless hours in both on and off the clock coaching small groups and individual students. He has a gift for pressing students to work smarter and harder to improve their debating and speaking skills beyond what those students think is possible."

Through determination and hours of practice, a group of developed debaters and their coach have traveled across the country, to the nation's capital. Much like the Kennedy band, some members of the speech and debate team toured Washington D.C. and competed in the 67th NCFL Grand National Speech and Debate Tournament. These strong members were Faraj, Allin, and Jhawar. Faraj and Allin nearly qualified for semifinals, with Allin just narrowly missing qualification by one spot. Jhawar advanced to semifinals, beating 181 out of the 220 competitors.

Employing teamwork, learning from their failures, and attending countless rehearsal, these youthful orators have competed, even defeating some, against the best of the best in the state and the nation.

Robotics Team

Continued from Page 1

Co-Captain Kaylee Kazee, a junior, says, "Outside of this room, if I had not known these people, I would not have been as close friends with them. They're not people I have in my classes all the time or even people I share the same views. But the whole beauty of Robotics is, if you come here with beef with someone, you have to get over it. There is no way you can work at the level we work and be non-functional as peers. So even if someone came into the room that I didn't like, I know by the end of the season we'd be best of friends."

Though they work throughout the school year, the team really starts their work during the summer. Additionally, they participate in a six-week build season to build a competition robot. This allows them to develop their leadership, time management, and team-building skills. Furthermore, they are able to better their CAD drafting, design, manufacturing, welding, and safety skills.

Sophomore Madi Sellards states, "Robotics has helped me a lot. Time management is one of the biggest. Our season is basically a time commitment. We spend really long days in the shop. We go really late at nights and spend Saturdays and we have to do that with school as well. A lot of the times, what we're doing is really difficult until we figure out the answer."

"It's definitely made an impact on what I want to focus on in my major. It used to be a much broader idea of what I wanted to do; I didn't know what kind of engineering I wanted to do or even if I was sure of engineering. But at this point, It's definitely secured what I want to do," Lee adds.

During a six-week period, Kennedy students invested over 14,000 hours of time designing, building, wiring and programming their robot "3250" for competition. They have displayed a variety of skills including the desire to succeed, and earned the respect of their competitors and those at John F. Kennedy High School.

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FEATURES

Conspiracy Theories: Is Everything We Know A Lie?
By Adrianna Iorio and Aryanna Zavala

According to Dictionary.com, conspiracy theories are the idea that many important political events or economic and social trends are the products of secret plots that are largely unknown to the general public. These theories have impacted society’s view of the world because it is a way for the public to cope with a catastrophic event or something that they do not have knowledge of.

Due to social media and television, conspiracies have garnered a large following, especially in times of distraught and uncertainty. Typically following terrorist attacks, natural disasters, or events that result in a notable death count, conspiracy theories are a way for the public to provide themselves an alternative explanation in order to cope with how and why they occurred.

They tend to be a popular topic amongst Kennedy students. A survey was conducted by The Clarion and found that among the 60 students that participated, 49 said that they discovered conspiracy theories on social media. Platforms such as YouTube or Instagram are common ways people share their beliefs and provide sufficient evidence to convince the public. The most popular conspiracies are anything related to aliens. Most of the students believed we are not alone in our universe. Patricia Chapman, a sophomore, believes in aliens, “The fact that the universe is so big and has so many planets, it's impossible that Earth is the only planet capable of producing life.”

The attention and discussion surrounding extraterrestrials rocked after the Roswell, New Mexico incident, giving way to the increase of both UFO sightings and the number of believers in otherworldly forms. On July 7, 1947 a rancher by the name of W.W. Brazel told Sheriff George Wilcox that something strange had been found on a sheep ranch northwest of the town. When pieces of rubber, wood, foil, tape, and paper had been found in the field, the local Army airfield was called, and drew the conclusion that Brazel had found the remains of a flying saucer. The following day the Roswell Daily Record published an article titled, “RAAF CAPTURES FLYING SAUCER ON RANCH IN ROSWELL REGION,” instantly putting Roswell on the map as the UFO capital of our nation. Alien encounters and sightings have grown since Roswell, yet some people remain skeptical.

In the survey conducted, The Clarion found that a number of students believe in the idea of aliens, but not the sightings many people have documented or posted online. According to Isabella Garcia, a freshman, “To say aliens are not real is a big statement. Our universe is expanding farther and faster than we can comprehend, so we cannot possibly be the only ones out here. However in terms of UFO sightings, all the images I see are just lights not actual objects.”

UFO and extraterrestrials are not the only popular conspiracy amongst the public, the Illuminati is also a popular conspiracy because of its relation to social media influencers and celebrities. The term ‘Illuminati’ refers to the Bavarian Illuminati, a secret society that operated for only a decade, from 1776 to 1785. Their goals was to oppose superstition, obscurantism, religious influence over public life, and abuses of state power. In 1785 secret societies were banned, which included the Illuminati, anyone who joined the group received serious punishments. Most of the group's secrets were disclosed or published, and most historians believe the Illuminati disappeared.

The modern conception of the Illuminati is different from its predecessor, in that it is believed their goal is for their prominent

members to come together and win world domination. According to *In Touch*, a website dedicated to following celebrities, suggest that Beyoncé and Jay-Z are the highest-ranking members of the Illuminati. This belief that they are in the Illuminati has existed for a couple of years and its popularity has not died down. “Beyoncé has zero chill about keeping it a secret. It all started with the music video for "Crazy in Love" in which Bey is performing a sexy satanic ritual to sell her soul, reborn at Jay-Z's side as the demon-possessed Sasha Fierce,” said *In Touch*.

Katelyn Yang, a senior admitted, “You realize how much there is you don’t know about the universe, and everything you know could be a lie. Despite this though, they’re fun to think about.” Conspiracy theories tend to give false interpretations of how our world works and provides a coping mechanism for society to deal with the unimaginable. Social media and the Internet often lead people to question facts that are often looked at as truths. Kennedy students even admitted to their view of the world being altered because of social media and the Internet’s influence on the world. Conspiracies impact today’s society, especially today’s youth and makes them question everything they have known.

Club Highlight: Fellowship in Serving Him
By Enia Chanthapaseuth, Clarion Staff

Club 1:16, Kennedy’s Christian club, is a place where students of the Christian community are welcomed to discuss topics from the Bible, play games, and hang out with fellow students. “It’s hard to walk into school when there are so many people with different beliefs,” says senior Danielle Rosillo.

The club is run by Kennedy juniors Thomas Ng and Zachary Wong, whose goal is to recruit more members to keep the club alive. “Anyone is welcomed to come and join or just visit,” says Ng.

Olivia Chan, a junior adds that the club is “spreading love and encouragement throughout the campus.”

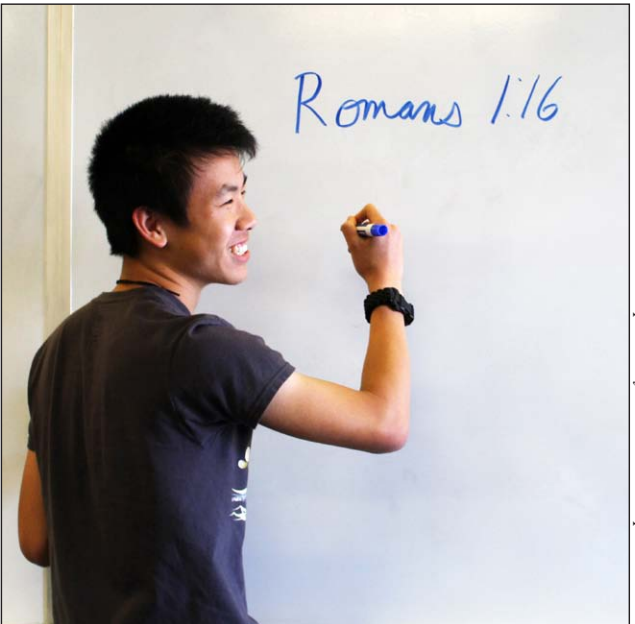
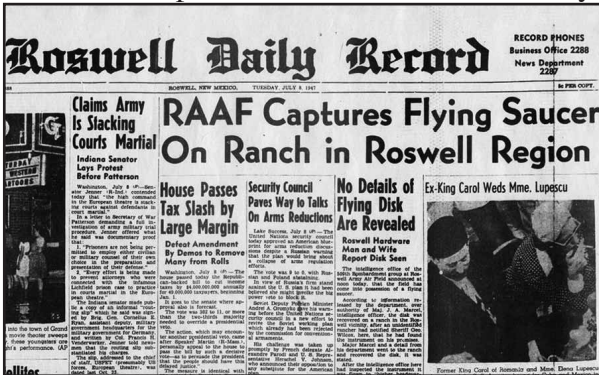
1:16’s name itself refers to a verse from the Bible, Romans 1:16 which states, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” Club 1:16 was originally just called, “Christian Club” then turned into “F.I.S.H. Club”, which stood for Fellowship In Serving Him, then recently changed to what is known today as Club 1:16.

“I feel like when people say it’s a religious club, they think it’s really strict and has a lot of practices you have to do. We don’t do that and it’s really laid-back,” junior Sarina Lin explains. The club’s environment is friendly with club members being open-minded and getting along.

During a meeting, there will be a speaker who has selected some verses and will share their thoughts and opinions on it. Often, it is a message or devotional about how to apply those verses to the everyday lives of the club members. Speakers have been club members and the pastors from the various churches, that club members attend.

“My favorite part of 1:16 is how I get to see other classmates be passionate about certain topics,” describes junior Leeann Lee.

1:16 meets on Wednesdays at lunch in Mr. Lam’s, room T5.



One of the club leaders, Zachary Wong, is shown writing the Bible verse on a white board during a club meeting in April.

Clarion photo by Enia Chanthapaseuth

FEATURES

Teaching Art

Continued from Page 9

One way she impacted students is through her philosophy, "My philosophy has always been that art is for everyone. I have always preferred to teach the beginning art classes, the students new to the subject and not on an art career path. This is because support of the arts is essential to our society and I wanted all students to have a positive art experience and to understand its value." She recalled that some of her friends would share negative art experiences they had as kids. They would tell her, "When I was in second grade, the teacher criticized me for coloring the inside of my cave purple, and since then I've known I was not good at art." Mrs. Hanzlik sought to fix that scenario by validating the creative voices of her students.

Since becoming a Kennedy teacher, Mrs. Hanzlik has helped lead Kennedy's media programs to success, with two of her yearbooks receiving national recognition from Herff Jones, a nationwide publisher for yearbooks. These yearbooks included the 2011, *Bold*, yearbook and the first yearbook she worked on after a brief hiatus from 2014-2016, last year's book, *BLINK*. She has been a yearbook adviser for thirteen books, nine at Kennedy. She also co-teaches the journalism class with her husband, Mark.

Now, though, Mrs. Hanzlik will be turning 63 this week, which is surprising to the eye. She leaves to make a new use of her time outside the structure of a schedule and to travel. She plans to return as a volunteer to help in the yearbook class next school year.

Clarion Staff Wins Awards

Continued from Page 2

As tradition continues, the dinner for the night was presented by the Culinary Cafe located at Leo A. Palmiter Jr./Sr High School. It consisted of Hispanic dishes such as fajitas and yellow rice, with dessert being chocolate and vanilla cupcakes.

The top award of the evening, Journalist of The Year, was presented by the McClatchy Company Regional Editor, Lauren Gustus, to Camryn Dadey, a senior at Laguna Creek High School.

At the event, *Clarion* students placed in all but one category. Christopher Wong, *the Clarion's* chief editor, won two individual awards for best feature "SCUSD Board Member Mai Vang Comes to Kennedy" as well as best column and personal opinion writing for "Observations on the Evacuation". Saeri Plagmann, *Clarion* features editor, earned two awards for her best feature "Link Crew Brings Students Back Together at JFK" and best sports writing "Kennedy Soccer Struggles With Upheaval From Coach Scandal". Wong and Plagmann together received recognition at the event for their outstanding service as student editors for the *Sac County Breeze*.

Other *Clarion* Editors, Dominic J Larsen, and Sarif Morningstar also received recognition for their hard work and dedication to journalism. Morningstar, *Clarion* photo editor, collected two awards for his photography with spectacular spectacular winter concert and senior sunrise photos. Larsen placed for best news writing, "Sex, Lies & Uber". Other *Clarion* staff winners included Jianna Beasley for her best graphic design "Meme Timeline", Brandon Wong for his best edit art/cartoon "K-House, Planet Earth", and Makayla Smith for her creative photography for Dominic's winning article.

In the span of just three years, *The Clarion* has risen from a club of minimal status in the back of an art room to an award winning journalism class committed to printing four issues a year and managing an active and well-populated website. In that time, students from all backgrounds have collaborated, bringing together their artistic talents, and created a media program to be proud of. *The Clarion* looks forward to the years to come. May they be filled with chances to best their rival C.K. McClatchy, expand the paper, and most importantly, present the stories that need to be brought to the front.

Need a Way Out of Your Poor Choice in Electives Earlier in the Year?

Join the *Clarion* staff for the 2018-2019 school year! Drop by B-12 to pick up an application and join in on the fun. It's not too late to change your schedule!

Way Back Machine – 35 Years Ago

Vol. 16 No. 13, May 27, 1983

By Saeri Plagmann, Features Editor

Successful African American Students Recognized by Fraternities

The Epsilon XI Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity sponsored their sixth annual awards banquet to recognize and award graduating black seniors who have made significant accomplishments throughout their high school career. Students from all 21 high schools in the greater Sacramento area have been considered for this award, of which 15 Kennedy students have qualified and received achievement plaques. Those who have been exceptionally outstanding received scholarships.

Qualification requirements included a position in the student body council or a club President, a GPA of a 3.0 or higher, a recipient of an academic scholarship, a recipient of an athletic scholarship, or a recipient of the special subject matter award from the school or a reputable organization.

The European Summer Tour

Kennedy's former Activities Director, Byron Clemons, led a group of Kennedy students on an educational vacation in 1983 to Europe. The trip began in Amsterdam, then Copenhagen, where the group traveled south by a steamer to Warnemunde and Rostock in Germany, crossing Mecklenburg Lake District on their way to Berlin. Through the Ore Mountains, they crossed the border into Czechoslovakia and reached the capital, Prague.

Continuing south the group drove through Bohemia and Austria, passing Traunsee, the largest lake in Austria, and the Venetian Alps. After arriving in Venice the group prepared for Rome where they traveled north through the cities of Assisi, Perugia, and Siena, reaching Florence, then Nice. Going back into Italy Clemons led his students to Switzerland where they made their final stop up north in England.

The Program for Arrested Teens

If a teenager were to be arrested, the Juvenile Offender Program gave tips on the steps they should take to "lessen the severity of treatment by the criminal justice system." It advised that after being arrested the teen will be allowed to give a call to their parents, which, if possible, should be handed over to the police officer for them to explain the situation, as the teen may not be able to give accurate information in the heat of the moment.

If the offense committed was a misdemeanor, such as vandalism or disturbing peace, parents would most likely be able to arrange bail by signing a surety bond if they own property. If they do not, or you cannot raise the necessary amount of cash, parents should turn to a professional bail bondsman for a last resort. They usually charge a nonrefundable 10 percent fee. On the other hand, if the offense was a felony, such as a car theft or burglary, it is absolutely necessary to contact a lawyer for legal advice.

Letter to the Editor

The Kennedy *Clarion* Editor of 1983, Alan McKinney, received a complaint from an anonymous student on a piece from a previous paper about Kennedy building a stadium. Anonymous stated that Kennedy was "wasting time and money" by building a \$200,000 football stadium that it did not need, and which would not be completed when the next school year began. McKinney replied by saying that Anonymous should make sure they are not ignorant about what they have to say and that they should have read the story more carefully. "Kennedy is not the one who is forking out \$200,000 for the stadium," he said, but in fact would come from the Kennedy marching band supporters, parents, and alumni, who graciously donated to the school. McKinney went on to say that the story had clearly stated, "with completed schedule for the fall of 1984."

Candle Bearers for the Class of '83

An advertisement was looking to recruit 24 girls who would hold candles in a "processional line" for the 1983 Commencement Night for graduates. Although the deadline had passed, any girl would be accepted, so long as they were not seniors.

Kennedy Clarion Facts (1982-1983 school year)

Editor-in-Chief: Mike Bartram

Staff Advisor: Carol Lee (Piskoti)

Principal: Ronald Morgan



Tracy Thomas Wins State Speech Competition

Tracy Thomas, a senior at Kennedy, won first place in the State Speech Competition. She delivered a powerful speech on the importance of education and the role of the student body.

June Optimist Laura Kujubu

Laura Kujubu, a senior at Kennedy, was named the June Optimist. She was recognized for her positive attitude and her commitment to her community.

Ryan Fong Named Mr. FBLA

Ryan Fong, a senior at Kennedy, was named Mr. FBLA. He was recognized for his leadership skills and his dedication to his school and community.

July Optimist Eric Otani

Eric Otani, a senior at Kennedy, was named the July Optimist. He was recognized for his positive attitude and his commitment to his community.

August Optimist Warren Shimada

Warren Shimada, a senior at Kennedy, was named the August Optimist. He was recognized for his positive attitude and his commitment to his community.

Candlebearers Needed for Graduation

We are looking for 24 girls to be candlebearers for the 1983 Commencement Night. If you are interested, please contact the student body council.

KENNEDY ARTS

Forever

By Desiree Leong, Clarion Staff

Anxiety and pain weigh you down,
It's hard to come around.

Though it gets dark
And may leave a mark,

Scars don't hold you back forever.

There is always an end to the stress
That may make a mess.

Hope and joy never fade,
Hard times will abate.

Happiness will be around forever.

There is always a future for you,
Options for anyone too.

Disappointment may abound,
But dreams will be found.

Love is here,
It is everywhere

Don't lose sight of who you are,
The future isn't far.

You are cherished forever.



Pieces of You

By Makayla Smith, Clarion Staff

Every part of you is like a puzzle
You always find out missing pieces as you grow
The older you get, the more you learn
That those pieces you've found in you took time
You may make mistakes
Mistakes that you wish you could take back
You realize everything happens for a reason
And those missing pieces are yet to be found

You may have a piece of you that is ambitious
Always striving to be great
Or a piece that is aware of the company you keep
Aware of the certain people in your life
But then there's always an unknown piece about you
A piece that is yet to be found
The older you get, the more you learn
That in every part of you there is a puzzle

I think nobody ever finds out every single piece
About who they are who they want to be
But in life you still gotta be confident
Embrace who you are and all the pieces you've found
Choose to accept the flaws you've endured
Just like every part of you is like a puzzle
Just bigger pieces of you

The Story

By Billy T. Hernandez, Guest Contributor

(Chapter 1 & 2 of "The Story" are available on jfkclarion.com)

Chapter 3

In medias res (That means I'm skipping exposition).

"You don't understand," Will said, passively.

"What?" Penny was angered and incredulous. "No. You don't understand the importance of this cruise."

"There's no difference between the boat and this hotel," said Will. "The only differences are Maddie is replaced by Bailey, Zack and Cody are slightly older, and Mr. Moseby's fashion sense is worse."

Penny rebutted, "You're just not invested in our relationship!"

Will rapidly responded, "I paid into a retirement plan for us yesterday!"

"Fine. We won't go. Whatever," Penny said to herself, "I don't know why I thought this would work."

Will thought, "Why would she think I wanted to go on a cruise to the Arctic anyway?"

Penny cried that night, but Will snored through it. Penny hated Will for not understanding her need for a cooler climate and Will began to wonder if science might hold the solution to their sticky situation.

To be continued.

Introducing PenguinDating.com! Connect with thousands of penguins all over the world. Use PenguinDating online or download our app. And it's all absolutely free!

Chapter 4

It was a dark and stormy night, but it didn't matter because Will and Penny were in space. After Suite Life on Deck turned out to be a wreck, Will began researching and experimenting for ways to dissolve the Love Glue. As the gamma rays from the sun cut through the final thread of Love Glue, Will exclaimed, "It worked! I told you it would work! I'm free!"

Penny began to say "I hate-" and then they were both struck by an asteroid and died.

This was the Story. The Story was a tragedy. The story of the tragedy of standing beside each other, but not understanding each other. The story of the tragedy of falling in love, but not being able to love.

Walking Man

By Joe Temblador, Clarion Staff

Christ is dead / I cried for his help and he left me on read /
Left me alone / left me to ask /
Am I sadistic / or masochistic / no / I guess I'm just realistic /
I just can't help seeing truth / it's almost cystic /
It's malignant / infectious /
Correction / the things you did just left me defenseless /
Left me confused / left me unhinged / left me on the fringe /
And I can't walk away /
I can't close my eyes / I cut ties / an angel cries /
And you can't see my tears / as I walk through the rain /
And baby I'm Vishnu / I'm with you /
I'm right by your side / I lied / I'm not really here / my mind's somewhere else /
You told me you wanted to see the world / well / that's what I heard /
But I guess we don't talk anymore / I guess you're not here either /
But that's ok / I'd say we're all good / life's pretty short so let's live and let live /
Let's take and let's give / Cause hell / I've moved on / that feeling, it's gone /
Like whispers in wind /

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Review

Avengers 3: To Infinity and Beyond

By Aryanna Zavala, Copy Editor



A roller coaster is the perfect way to describe a viewer's feelings when watching the newest installment of the Avengers Franchise, *Infinity War*. The film was released in the United States on April 27, 2018, a week before its initial release, May 4th. It was predicted to make \$245 million in its opening weekend, but it exceeded expectations, making \$257,698,183. The film was highly anticipated by fans all over the globe, with tickets being sold out months in advance. *Infinity War* begins where the movie *Thor: Ragnarok* leaves off, and the audience formally gets introduced to Thanos, the villain that Marvel has been building up to in the last 10 years. The Avengers unite after their civil war in the previous Avengers film, to fight Thanos and

collect all six Infinity Stones. Thanos plans to use the stones to create chaos and change reality to his liking. The fate of the world and existence itself rests on the shoulders of the Avengers.

This giant film has been in the making for Marvel for the last 10 years. The film brought together all the loved characters in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) with the exception of a few. Some characters were absent from the film, although directors Anthony and Joseph Russo claim that the characters will be present in the second film. Fans were furious that some of the characters were excluded from this first film but after watching it, they understood why the Russo brothers did what they did.

According to Collider, an entertainment website and youtube channel, "The film's greatest strength—putting most of its characters into one movie—also ends up being its greatest weakness." The film attempted to give all the characters screen time but it felt like no one got enough of it. A film's purpose is to further develop character growth and/or life lessons. Growth and development of the characters remained static in the film.

It was entertaining to see all of the characters interacting with one another, something that would not happen in their individual films. Watching it there was this feeling that something was missing and it was the fact that it lacked in its plot line. Don't get me wrong, the film was good and exciting for fans to see all their favorite superheroes in one film but it lacked in plot. The film had its villain and the heroes fighting, but the scene cuts resulted in the characters not getting enough screen time.

Overall, it was a great film. Fans have been waiting years to see what Marvel would do and how they would present the characters. It had humor, although at times they missed opportunities to make jokes. There were also many emotional scenes that pulled on the audience's heart strings (if you have watched it, you know). The character that stood out the most in his performance was Tom Holland as Spider-man; his last scene in the film was so impactful and was the most talked about scene due to how emotional it was.

Infinity War has not only made an impact on fans but also the box office. The film has surpassed past placeholders, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (\$248 million domestically) and *The Fate of the Furious* (\$541 million globally), in the top spot in opening weekend. The film was released in China on May 12th, China is the biggest international box office, which was estimated to bring in \$100 million. It exceeded the expectation, bringing in \$200 million, which pushed the film up to top five most watched films in the world. The film has broken many records and it continues to remain in first place in the box office. Whether you agree with my opinion or oppose it, there is no denying that *Infinity War* is worth watching and that it is dominating the box offices.

Movie Review

Everyone's Favorite Mutant Regenerated for Sequel

By Miya Murata and Aryanna Zavala

The regenerative superhuman Wade Wilson, also known as "Deadpool" returns for a sequel and once again beats any enemy that comes his way. *Deadpool's* funny and silly personality also repeats in *Deadpool 2* and makes the audience remember why they love him so much. The film was released on May 10, which was only three weeks after *Avengers: Infinity War*, a concern for ticket sales. The film had nothing to fear, *Deadpool 2* made about \$300 million at the box office in its opening week. In its first week, *Deadpool 2* beat *Avengers: Infinity War* by making a little over \$125.5 million, resulting in film being the top grossing movie of the week.



For those who need a refresher or have not seen the first film (why haven't you?), Deadpool is the moniker used by Wade Wilson after an experiment gone wrong. He was diagnosed with stage 4 terminal cancer and signed up for a new treatment to cure his cancer. The procedure made him immortal and impossible to kill, but also severely disfigured his face. In the second film Deadpool battles a new enemy that goes by the name of Cable, who is after a mutant. This film introduces many new characters, some who are well known online, while also bringing back old characters that the audience loved in the first film.

The quality of the second film was in question because it was announced in 2016 that Tim Miller, the director from the first film would not be returning due to creative differences with Ryan Reynolds. *Deadpool 2* named David Leitch as the new director for the franchise. Any doubts about the film diminished when it quickly duplicated the success of the first film which is in great part due to the use of same dark humor that pervaded the first installment. According to a critic from the Washington Post, "Deadpool 2's real submersive superpower is the ability to laugh, unsparingly, at itself." The film received a score of 82% from Rotten Tomatoes, which was one percent less than the first film.

Fans loved the film and appreciated its humor and the lively characters that made the movie what it is. It had its signature gore yet entertaining scenes that Deadpool is known for. Fans and moviegoers alike love the witty and new world anti-hero that makes its humor-vibe thrive. The film is different than other films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), it allows the writers and directors to have creative freedom with its R rating. The film is not tied with the other films in the MCU, so they can write any plot that they wish and it will not affect the other films, which is great because it gives the audience a refreshing film to watch. Overall, the film was great and is definitely worth watching.

There is not much known about Deadpool 3 but a threequel would surely excite the fans and make a lot of money in the box office. The third installment has not been announced but fans will be eagerly waiting its arrival.

KENNEDY SPORTS

Making a Splash: Kennedy Swimmers Set Records

By Eddie Rodrigues, Sports Editor



Juniors Kalena Ozdaglar and Emilia Seelig adjust their goggles during an after-school swim practice in early Spring. Photo courtesy Kennedy Yearbook

The swimming squad of Kennedy High School had a very successful season this year. The men's varsity team went undefeated and won Metro League title, one of several Kennedy sports championships this spring.

Max Ezzell, a freshman swimmer on the team, beamed, "It felt really good winning the championship. We won many meets and events against some really tough schools. My personal goal and the team's goal are to win the League Championship again. I'm only a freshman on varsity so I hope to assist and contribute to the team as long as I can. It was truly fun and felt amazing winning the league." Matthew Lee, another member to the team stated in regards to winning league, "I had a feeling unlike any before. I was speechless, in shock, and obviously beyond happy." It is a certainty that all of the players felt this way after the historic Metro League title in their hands.

The championship team headed by coach Derek Perkins dominated the league in most to all categories and sections, completely taking over the entire Sacramento field. Coach Perkins shared, "We had a very big team that was able to be successful in multiple events, we graduated few athletes and should be stronger next year. We are returning a lot of kids next year. I would like to see the team make the state championship meet and I would like to see some of the seniors break a few of the records that are pretty old." One such record was the varsity boys' 200-medley relay, which was broken after 35 years.

The varsity boys also went on to place in the top ten of the Sectional League, which only adds to the season's accomplishment. The Varsity girls also had a great season that should not go unnoticed. They finished 3rd in the league and in doing so, broke a long standing Kennedy swimming record at one of the varsity meets.

Though some will leave off to college next year to continue their athletic success, many will stay and fight to be the top next year. Now embedded with much confidence, the group will try to dominate the ranks again with Coach Derek Perkins leading them on. It will be interesting to see what the team will do over the next few years and beyond, with us rooting them on by their side. We can only hope they bring home the Metro League Championship once again.

Spiking Their Way to the End

By Adrianna Iorio, Clarion Staff

Kennedy's varsity men's volleyball team displayed teamwork and perseverance this season. Through hard competitors and a small roster, they placed first in the Metro League standings, scoring a record of 13-1. In comparison to the 2016 season, the team members showed significant improvements where they placed second with a league score of 11-2 under their toughest competition, Burbank.

Seniors Sam Martinez and Joshua Yang led the team this year. The season was rough on Kennedy's players due to many of their best players graduating last year, but with a new season comes new beginnings and the team has come farther each year. Martinez explains, "I was not expecting to win Metro after losing all our starters last year and only coming into the season with one returner."

Despite the obstacles the team was able to pull through, having demonstrated it by their game against River Valley High School. According to coach, Jakira Rand, River Valley is a very talented team with a talented coach. This highly competitive game included huge blocks, tough jump serves, as well as hard-hitting attacks. The win highlighted the potential the volleyball program has and labeled the game as the most memorable one of the season.

Rand told *The Clarion*, "The team's success is built on everyone doing their part. Volleyball is a system and the varsity men's volleyball team discovered that early in the season, which allowed them great success." Everyone on the team is immensely proud of how far they have come this season. Through pride and competitive spirits, the varsity team never lost a game without fighting back.



Senior Sam Martinez power tips the ball over the Cosumnes defenders. Photo courtesy Kennedy Yearbook

Under Coach Keng and Assistant Coach Keith, the men's JV team also finished with a record of 13-6. With huge wins against River Valley and Christian Brothers High School, the JV team continued to make a name for the volleyball program at Kennedy.

Tennis Team Improves in 2018

By Liana James, Clarion Staff

The Kennedy boy's tennis team finished their spring season above .500 with a final record of 6-4 in Metro League and 8-6 in overall matches played. Their Metro record landed them in third place and afforded the team their second post-season berth.

The season started with a loss River City on February 28, but the team went on to win their next six matches in a row until finally bowing to their rival McClatchy on April 9. They traded several more wins and losses until finishing the season April 19.

There were a number of highlights during the season, including junior Jet Archuleta being named to the All-Metro League team. Team captain senior Alex Chan provided excellent leadership throughout the entire season, one that helped keep the players on their toes, and not the balls of their feet.

"The best thing about the season was the continual improvement of all the players," coach Dave Parsh reflected on the year. "Many of the team members practiced diligently both in the off-season and during the season to become much more competitive players." He concluded, "This helped our overall team depth."

KENNEDY SPORTS

Road to Success: Softball Team on Their Way to Championship

By Eddie Rodrigues, Sports Editor

Kennedy's 2018 softball season was an adventure for everyone on the team. Coach Caitlyn Seymour led the team to a 15-9 record and 12-2 in their league. They won their last conference game against Metro League rival Burbank by a crushing score of 21-1. After a very successful season where they beat rival McClatchy by 7-2 and Elk Grove's Laguna Creek by 2-0, they finished second in Metro.



Caitlyn Evans (12) unleashes a mighty swing and drives the ball through the left side of the infield for a single. Clarion photo by Sarif Morningstar

Coach Seymour boasted, "One of our strengths was our ability to cheer very loudly. This team also has a very strong bond and even though not everyone played a whole lot, everyone supported the team goals and vision. Another big strength was our pitcher Lindsay, who led the league in strikeouts for most of the season! Lastly, we were consistent hitters. Most of the teams' batting average sits above .300 which is huge in games against good teams!"

The game of softball requires very strong bonds and dedication, along with teamwork. Seymour states, "Other highlights included seeing the improvement in the girls from the beginning of the season to the end." They grew over that time and can now go try and bring a championship back to Kennedy.

Star player Caitlyn Evans, a senior, says, "This season was definitely one to remember and I was very happy with the outcome. [My] best memory would have to be beating McClatchy on their senior night." The win against McClatchy sounded like a good one, and we hope to have many more against our storied rivals.

We all hope to see much more success from the Lady Cougars team in the present and future, and it will be fun to witness their accomplishments and accolades they bring to the school in the next few seasons.



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to see pictures
from last month's
walkout at
jfkclarion.com!

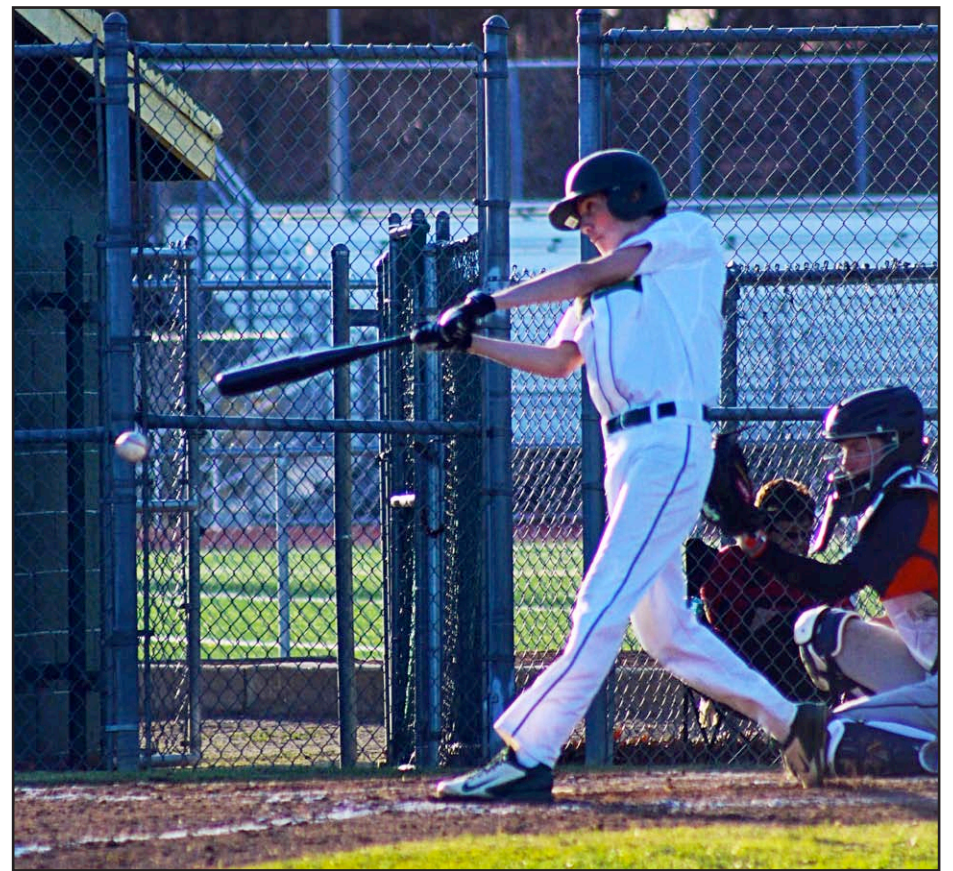
Post Game Wrap Up

By Eddie Rodrigues, Sports Editor

Kennedy's varsity baseball team has had many ups and downs throughout this year's season. They finished the well-fought season with a .500 record at 13 and 13, having a great league record at 11-3, but struggled out of the league. They defeated teams like Burbank with both wins against them towards the end of the schedule not surrendering a run. They also beat league rivals Sacramento High, as well as Florin, Rosemont and Laguna Creek.

Coach Tim Fitzgerald, or Coach Fitz, as he is commonly referred to as in the dugout, stated, "Overall, this season has been very productive. This season the schedule was filled how some of the toughest competition around Sacramento, including league opponents McClatchy and Conference Champions Laguna Creek. We were also the only team to defeat Laguna Creek (3-2 at Kennedy on April 20) this year in Metro League Conference Play."

Outfielder Zachary Herth (11) reflected on the season stating, "I loved the confidence our team got after beating Laguna and playing other Elk Grove teams who were very different than the team we play regularly. Next year I look forward to playing tougher teams, and the season started out rough but got better overall throughout the season." We look forward to seeing what next year's varsity squad will do.



Varsity baseball hitter Blake Yuyama (11) connects with a pitch against El Dorado. Photo by Yearbook photographer Meng Thao

Coach Fitzgerald added, "This team had 11 seniors. This team has grown up together playing Little League and here at Kennedy so there was a lot of comfortability within the team. Many of the seniors are three-year varsity student-athletes, under the former Head Coach Marcos Pineda and myself, which helped build a foundation for the underclassmen rising through the ranks. Our pitching and defense have been stellar this year, however, our downfall was our offense and ability to produce runs against high-quality opponents. This will be a focus for years to come as we continue to build the program at Kennedy High School."

This season for the Cougar baseball team marked the end to many Kennedy baseball careers, although those who will remain are bound to continue the success in future seasons. This year's success can be attributed to the great plays made by every player, all who have put in great effort and motivation in any position they were in. The varsity baseball team will continue to grow and expand throughout the years at Kennedy, and we all look forward to the day they bring home a championship. Caps off to a great 2018 season.

KENNEDY SPORTS

2018 Championships for Golf, Track & Field Teams



Three Kennedy runners, Maia Campos (10), Mira Mohan (12), and Miana Giovannini (9) lead a large group of McClatchy runners in 800 meter race during Metro Meet on the Kennedy track.



Kennedy golfer Zack Simpton (10) tees off on during late Spring match.

Clarion photo by Dominic Larsen

Clarion photo by Sophia O'Neal

Track Team Dominates Metro League

By Dominic J Larsen, News Editor

Going completely undefeated this season by dominating Metro League Championships. Advancing to Sectionals, the Kennedy Track and Field gave their competitors a run for their money.

With over one hundred athletes on the team, the relationships and cooperation fostered have propelled the team forward, with some claiming it as the main reason for their success this season. Speaking to the close knit dynamic between team members, senior Ritika Jhawar stated "We're all a big family, and we always encouraged each other to try our best. I think that's what made it so great for us, because we were all in it together."

The bond among runners, not only played a part in their success, but it was the key factor in keeping the team together through the thick of it. Head Coach John Gallen saw this principle in action, going on to proclaim "These kids overcame a lot of obstacles this year; injuries, not having a stadium to practice in for three weeks, practices canceled due to threats, weather, etc. They remained focused and accomplished their mission!"

Dominating their final meet of the season at Metro Championships, Kennedy won in all three divisions of competition: varsity men, varsity women, and frosh/soph mens. Varsity mens ran up a score of 188.5, with the second place

school, CKM, some thirty points behind. The Frosh/Soph section placed in first as well, with a final score 141. Rounding of the win, the Lady Cougars on the Women's Varsity team dashed into first, ending the meet with a score of 188.

Proud of himself and his team, senior Nelson Poon stated "It's unbelievable, from the countless injuries we had during the season, all the hard work we put into it. It's unbelievable, man! We, as a team, worked together as one to become Metro-league champions. I'm proud to say I'm a cougar!"

Though the team claimed this title, there are still improvements that can be made. Junior Andre Davis made that very clear, adding "It [the season] opened my eyes. It's a big world out there, there is a whole lot of competition. You may be the fastest at your school, but maybe you are not the fastest out there."

Following the Metro Championships, Track and Field ended as a team sport, with only individual athletes continuing onto Sectionals and the preliminaries of the Masters. With all three teams being especially young, compared to years prior, Gallen believes they should "be very strong next season."

To celebrate their wins and foster their kinship, the team is coming together, one last time this season for an awards night held in the cafeteria on June 14 at 6 p.m. With over one hundred athletes, the evening will be crowded with revelry and brotherhood.

Link Stars Drive for Extra Yards

By Sophia O'Neal, Clarion Staff

Kennedy's Golf team has had a very successful season by going undefeated. They have won the Metro League title, the sectionals tournament, and qualified for Masters.

This year the players that went to sectionals included seniors Dylan Van Ostrand, Chris Nakao, Zac Zimpton, Ethan Lum, Trevor Hull and Koji Lo. They were the first 12th team in Kennedy History to win the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Section Championship. The team won sectionals by one stroke against Whitney High School.

"We went on to Masters which is probably the highest achievement that Kennedy golf has ever received. We became the second team in Kennedy history to advance to Masters, the last being two years ago. Even though we played pretty bad that day we still felt very accomplished to get that far in the season," said Lo, reflecting on how the golf season went this year.

Members of the team expressed how much they enjoyed being on the team together for the last, but most successful year.