



El Rodeo



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Academic Decathlon Advances to State Competition

BY BRIANNA MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Academic Decathlon team will attend state finals in Sacramento after placing fourth out of sixty in LA County with a score of 41,849 after a rigorous competition.

Having led this year's team to attain a score higher than last year's team, two-year decathlete and captain Amy Micheo said, "As a team, we did better than last year." Angeli Vicente, who is also a two-year decathlete and captain said, "We did amazing compared to last year."

Studying since June, El Rancho's decathletes have had their sights set on success.

"We have been studying since June and had worked hard for this; we really wanted and expected to succeed," said decathlete, Patrick Rubalcava.

One week prior to the competition, the decathletes studied twelve hours a day.

"At first, [studying] was a little bit slow, but these last couple of weeks it was crazy studying from seven in the morning to seven p.m. It was an effort and struggle, but it was worth it," said decathlete, Gerry Goyenaga.

Tate Harshbarger, the top scoring decathlete and the second overall top scorer in division one, (which makes him the first person ever in El Rancho history to place first, second,



Upon learning they have received first place and are advancing to the state competition, the decathletes take time to celebrate.

COURTESY OF MS. CHAVEZ

or third in county) said, "I'm really excited that we lived up to our expectations." Harshbarger continued, "Everyone had a lot of hope for this year in saying that we're a really good team, and we finally lived up to that."

The team's success was not only reflected in their overall score, but also through the

fact that each of the nine decathletes in the competition medaled.

"We medaled; everybody on the team medaled, so we did amazing individually," said Vicente.

The individual success of each competing decathlete does not take away from the team's unity.

"We all got medals and

we all cheered for each other. We don't really care about ourselves—we care about the guy sitting next to us." Decathlete, Oscar Vazquez continued, "When we saw other teams cheer for other players, we saw that we were the most unified team."

Knowing that the team put forth their best effort, Vi-

cente said, "No matter what we'll always be a family."

The decathletes are continuing to study with hopes that they will do well at the state competition.

Confident in the team, Tate Harshbarger said, "We have a good team; we bond well together, and we push each other to the limit."

Ms. Figueroa Receives Teacher of the Semester Award

BY REBECCA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Towards the end of first semester, students were encouraged to nominate and vote for a teacher whom they felt had impacted him or her the most.

Of the teachers nominated, the top three were: Ms. Figueroa, Ms. Carreon, and Mr. Wlasick. Ms. Figueroa was named Teacher of the Semester with first runner up being Ms. Carreon, followed by Mr. Wlasick.

"At first I was very surprised and thought it was a joke," said Ms. Figueroa, a freshman and senior English teacher. "I never win anything!" She felt great knowing her students appreciate her. "I was touched to realize that students had not only taken the time to recognize me as a good teacher, but to learn that I had a positive impact on students. I care about my students and genuinely want them to learn and be ready for the challenges of life beyond high school."

Figueroa teaches in a way that makes literature relatable. "I really explain readings and concepts and try to emphasize the universal themes tied into literature

and how they are applicable to life."

Ms. Figueroa is a teacher who whole-heartedly cares for her students. "I always make myself available for students who need extra help or just need someone to talk to."

Ms. Carreon, a U.S. History and Government teacher was the first runner up for Teacher of the Semester. "I was very surprised that the students would think of me in that manner, because they feel like I am always hard on them and trying to make them do their work. It is a nice recognition." Although Ms. Carreon is hard on her students, it is only because she wants them to do well. "I think after a while, students realize that I am fair and they know that I care about them and I want them to succeed.

"I try to be fair, and conscience of their needs," said Ms. Carreon. "My job and responsibilities are to have my students succeed. Whatever I can do to help them is what I strive for, I think my students see that."

Mr. Wlasick who teaches Drama and senior A.P. English Literature was the second runner up for Teacher of the Semester. "It is very gratifying because it



Mr. Wlasick, Ms. Figueroa, and Ms. Carreon proudly display their Teacher of the Semester awards.

is an honor that is bestowed upon teachers from the students themselves," said Wlasick. Mr. Wlasick is in his thirtieth year of teaching, and is glad that he is still "doing something right." He is grateful that students value him as a teacher. "I must have had an impact upon students and that makes me feel very happy," Wlasick said.

Mr. Wlasick brings a large sense of humor into his

teaching style. "I think students appreciate that I try to make learning fun and entertaining as well as informative."

Ms. Carreon is a former student of Mr. Wlasick. "It is nice that not only I was chosen [for Teacher of the Semester] but that one of my former students who has now come back was chosen as well, said Wlasick. "The circle continues on."

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NEWS

Mothers and Daughters Share Time at the "Beach"

BY CHRISTINA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday night, El Rancho held its annual Mother-Daughter Dessert. This year's theme was 'Beach Bash' so many of the guests came dressed in flowery shirts, capris, and sandals.

The cafeteria was decorated with cutouts of sea creatures and a combination of aqua and white balloons, giving the feel of an underwater scene. The centerpiece of each table was a red sand pail tilted to its side, spilling half of its sand onto the table in an artistic fashion. In addition, a glass bowl with two small, colorful fish swimming around pebbles sat in the center next to the sand pail.

The night began with an introduction by senior Kazondra Ramos as she detailed the events to take place, which was followed up by a raffle. Gift certificates to Starbucks and body lotions were among the prizes to be won.

Following the raffle, male ASB members, dressed in white shirts and board shorts, served each guest a juice box, a tasty sub sandwich and a bag of chips.

"At first we did not think a lot of people would want to go because of the ticket sales, but we were really glad to know

more people showed up and enjoyed the night," said Kazondra.

Ramos organized an entertaining game for the mothers too by seeing who had the most items within their purse. Senior Kajal Kandoria said, "the night was really fun because I felt like my mom and I finally got the time to hang out and enjoy ourselves in a fun environment."

Mr. Wlasick's drama departure put on a comical show by relating the games to a beach theme. The cafeteria was full of laughter and smile from mothers and daughters in each table.

"It was really nice being able to talk with my mom and enjoy the delicious sandwiches! I thought the drama show was entertaining and my mom loved it. Also the band performance of *She will be Loved* by Maroon 5 was really thoughtful because it was a perfect tune to listen to," said senior Joselyn Gonzalez.

The night ended with a performance by Daniel Mendez, member of the chorale department, accompanied by a medley of songs that contained heart-warming themes. The final song brought unity between mother and daughter because it gave the message of showing love to the individuals that matter most in life.



Venessa Lopez and her mother (left) share table with Marcela Lopez and her mother (right).

Is Theft a Problem at El Rancho?

BY PRISCILLA AMAVIZCA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Imagine yourself in the locker room, getting ready to go and do some exercise, but before you venture out, you set your backpack down and go to the restroom. Moments later, you return to find your bag on the floor, your belongings scattered everywhere, and the \$40 you were saving for your date, missing! What happened? Someone stole your money. Theft is a small, but serious issue at El Rancho High School.

"You must take precaution that



thieves still lurk about on our campus, waiting for the 'crime of

opportunity," says Junior Counselor, Olga Espinoza.

The locker rooms are the easiest and most targeted area for thieves to do their dirty work; reports of missing money, electronics, and P.E. clothing are among the most commonly stolen items.

Contrary to the thefts, many students give a helping hand and turn in items they find rather than keep it for themselves. "There are students that are more mature than others," says Celiz, "that follow the rules in the locker room. We have signs posted throughout the locker room stating that we are not responsible for theft. Yet some students choose to leave their items in an unlocked locker

or outside of the locker. I remind the girls to lock their locker."

Both Dean Lara and Counselor Espinoza agree that cell phones are the most common stolen item on campus, however even homework assignments have been reported missing. Unfortunately, because of America's economic situation, El Rancho does not have as much security as it once did, making it difficult to patrol the campus during school hours. "The best security is the student." Says Lara. So in short, the faster you tell somebody about theft, the faster the problem will be addressed.

WORD ON THE STREET

Do you think there is a problem with theft on campus?

If so, has anything ever been stolen from you?



"No I haven't gotten anything stolen but I think it is a big problem here at El Rancho. Someone gets either their iPod or phone stolen on a regular basis."
-Karina Uribe 12th



"Yeah I think there's a problem with theft at El Rancho. I always hear stories from teachers and students about things they've gotten stolen."
-Monica Riestra 12th



"Yes! I think so because my friend got her iPod stolen, and the person was right next to her and they didn't even care that she was crying for it."
-Alex Martinez 9th



"Yes and yes! I've gotten garlic stolen, people's lunches stolen, my lunch stolen, my protein shake was stolen, water, forks, plates, potato peelers and much more."
-Chef Luna, Culinary Arts Instructor



"Yes I think there's a problem because all the students are dirty rats and you can't trust them anymore then the man."
-Robert Pedroza 12th

ENTERTAINMENT

The iPad is an iScam



By JONATHAN RAYA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The newest product from Apple, known as the iPad, should be the last thing you spend your money on. In all, it is not very useful or needed by the general public. Apple has produced many great products in the past like the iPod, iPod touch, and iPhone; but the iPad is not one of them. iPad can perform the same functions as the iPhone or iPod touch; the only difference is it is larger than the needed size.

Not only can it not fit in your pocket, it is also more expensive than the iPod touch and iPhone. The price for a 16GB (with Wi-Fi) iPad is \$499 and the 64 GB (with Wi-Fi and 3G) equivalent reaches as high as \$829. While the most expensive iPhone (at 32GB with Wi-Fi and 3G) is \$299 and the iPod touch highest price is \$399 (at 64GB including Wi-Fi). While you gain an additional 6.2 inches of screen, you will be losing \$100 and 48GB with the iPad. Apple says it will be, "The best way to experience the web, email, photos, and video, hands down." But what Apple does not tell you is that the iPad does not come with a flash player which allows us to see flash videos and play online games. The only new feature on the iPad is the iBook application, which Apple says is, "A great new way to read books." Well, this certainly saves a trip to the bookstore, Apple is not likely to allow a refund, while at most bookstores, a 30-day return policy is usually an option. So if you really look at it closely the iPad has nothing new that the iPod touch or iPhone has. So do not blow your money on the iPad or else you will be iScammed.

All-Star Cast Not Enough

By ARACELI CABRAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The count down is over, and eager teenagers everywhere are now able to see the movie for which they have been waiting. Directed by Garry Marshall, *Valentine's Day* is a romantic-comedy, which premiered on February 12. The film premeired at number one, making \$52.4 million dollars. This PG-13 movie lasts one hour and fifty-seven minutes. *Valentine's Day* has an all-star cast, including Topher Grace, Jessica Alba, Anne Hathaway, Ashton Kutcher, Taylor Lautner, Patrick Dempsey, Jamie Foxx, George Lopez and many more. *Valentine's Day* is about various couples in Los Angeles that engage in puppy love and broken hearts, during the Valentine's Holiday. Although the previews portrayed a "two thumbs-up" movie, viewers are left dissatisfied because there are too many characters and subplots to thoroughly explain. The concept of the movie is appealing, but would have been more effective if the film focused on one plot. Audience went with high expectations and were let down. Though the expectations of the audience were not met the overall message of the film was heart-warming.



Overall grade: C+



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FEATURES

Childhood Dream Coming True

BY ERIKA MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

While most high school seniors are awaiting acceptance letters from their preferred universities, Brandon Arrieta is already more than halfway finished with his education in the field he will soon call his career.

In the summer of 2008, Arrieta began training at the Fire Academy of Rio Hondo. At the time, he had just completed his sophomore year; now he is about to graduate from High School and the academy.

Growing up, Brandon saw his older cousin's career as a firefighter as an inspiration. He knew then that be-

ing a firefighter would be his "dream job." "Being a fireman is not as easy as people think," said Arrieta about his imminent career. Although it is a tough feat to work toward becoming a professional at such a young age, Arrieta says, "...knowing that I'm saving a person's life," is what pushes him to work in this field.

One of the most challenging obstacles he has had to face mentally is keeping up with high school and college classes; the most challenging task physically, was when he had to carry a two-hundred pound dummy across a large field.

Brandon's family is very proud of his achievements, especially the cousin who has



inspired him. Arrieta says that in five years he sees himself "...working in the field in San Diego, living in the fire station, and having a bachelor's degree in Fire Science."

A great advantage Brandon finds in his situation is that he has no stress about what college he will be attending in the fall, or what he would like to be, because he has already chosen.

"Happy Pill" Not the Answer

BY MARI DUENAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Forget your surroundings, lose yourself to the beat of the music, the strum of the bass; the music flows through you, in you and all around you. There is nothing left but your world, and in your world, everything is perfect. This is how most people would describe their "escape" while under the influence of ecstasy.

What is ecstasy exactly? Ecstasy (also known as the "happy drug") is an addictive pill, disguised with many different colors or logos, that contains a chemical called MDMA, the main ingredient which causes all its side effects, mixed with other illegal drugs that makes the user hallucinate, feel a 'rush' or play with their emotions like giving false confidence and bravery.

This drug is mainly targeted to the teenage generation, being seen as the new "weed" and like weed, the skeptical teen is being pressured into taking these pills just so they can look "cool".

The scary part? These new pills are being taken as if they were Smarties Candies but they make you anything but smart. Ecstasy pills consume brain cells (which you cannot re-grow, by the way), leaving the user damaged with severe anxiety, dependency, paranoia and depression.

Everyone faces problems in their everyday life, it would not be reality otherwise, but that does not mean one should be dependent on the "quick fix" method to solve them. Actually, with drugs, nothing is solved in the end.

Stress is easily managed with the help of loved ones and productive activities, not by trying to impress someone they barley know.

Whether or not people fall into the cycle of drugs, limits are the key to anything that people experience. This does not mean that people should be encouraged to try ecstasy; instead, they should try to avoid it when it is presented to them.

No More Pep Rallies, Really?

BY NATALIE RANGEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You scream at the top of your lungs, shouting support for your school along with more than half of your fellow classmates compressed into a tiny gymnasium. The people leading your school in this chant are right in front of you, smiling faces determined to make you proud of belonging to the best high school in the world! But what happens if those smiling faces disappear?

This diminishing school spirit has gone unnoticed as students at El Rancho continue their daily academic and social lives without much thought of their "missing" student rallies. The question remaining is: how did this happen? Where have the rallies gone?

Ms. Kemp, director and coach to the Pepsters, gives insight to the sudden disappearance of rallies.

"It's the Pepsters who organize the rallies," Ms. Kemp clarifies when asked about the absence. She clarifies that the cooperation between Pepsters



and ASB make El Rancho rallies possible. Between these two student based programs, an outline for every rally that would take place at school is drawn up and put into effect with minimal interference from Mrs. Kemp or Ms. Chapman but the organization of the rallies has been compromised with last minute planning and shortage of staff. Unable to keep their academic heads above water, a few Pepsters were re-

quired to drop their title, leaving the remaining with less staff.

Stress is running high in the ASB room with the loss of fellow companions and Pep commissioner, who is mainly responsible of running rally meetings. "(ASB and Pepsters) already have jobs they have to do," Ms. Chapman clarifies, "so now they have to take on someone else's job too."

This, however, is not the only reason so few Pep-

rallies take place as Ms. Chapman continued to explain.

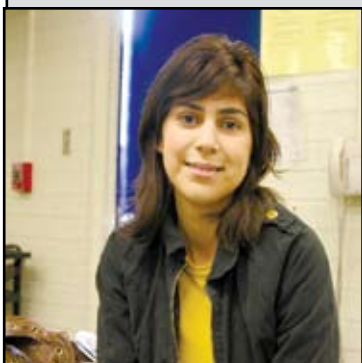
Quality not quantity is what Ms. Chapman and crew are aiming for, learning from poor rally outcomes in the past. "We used to have rallies every week, back to back, and only five 'hard-core' Pepsters would attend each one."

Ms. Chapman and Mrs. Kemp are both doing their best to keep ASB and Pepsters running as smoothly as possible but rallies have not disappeared completely from El Rancho, merely postponed; ASB are working diligently for their upcoming project: the Sadie Hawkin's rally, which they hope to be a huge success.

"What we want to do now is get more students excited for rallies." Ms. Chapman is eager for more student participation, suggesting that students with an exciting, new rally idea should come forward with it and present it to herself, Ms. Kemp or any member of ASB. "Maybe if we could get more kids giving ideas for rallies, we can pull off more." In other words, it's all up to the El Rancho student body!

WORD ON THE STREET

What did you think about this year's Winter Olympics?



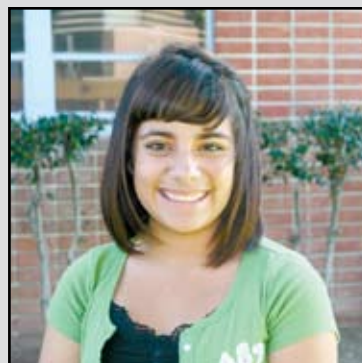
"The Olympics are very interesting and exciting to watch."
- Junior, Janet Anaya



"This years Olympics is the best."
- Sophomore, Joanna Aguile



"The Olympics started already?"
- Junior, Abigail Bermudez



"The best part of the Olympics was the opening ceremony."
- Junior, Catherine Barranco



"This is my first year watching the Olympics, the other years were too boring."
- Freshman, Jocelyn Ramirez

FEATURES

One Year, One Test, One Outstanding Teacher

By ABEL MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Francis seems to be on the tip of everyone's tongue these days. From the locker room to the faculty center, Mr. Francis is all that everybody is talking about due to the results of the recent AP Calculus exam.

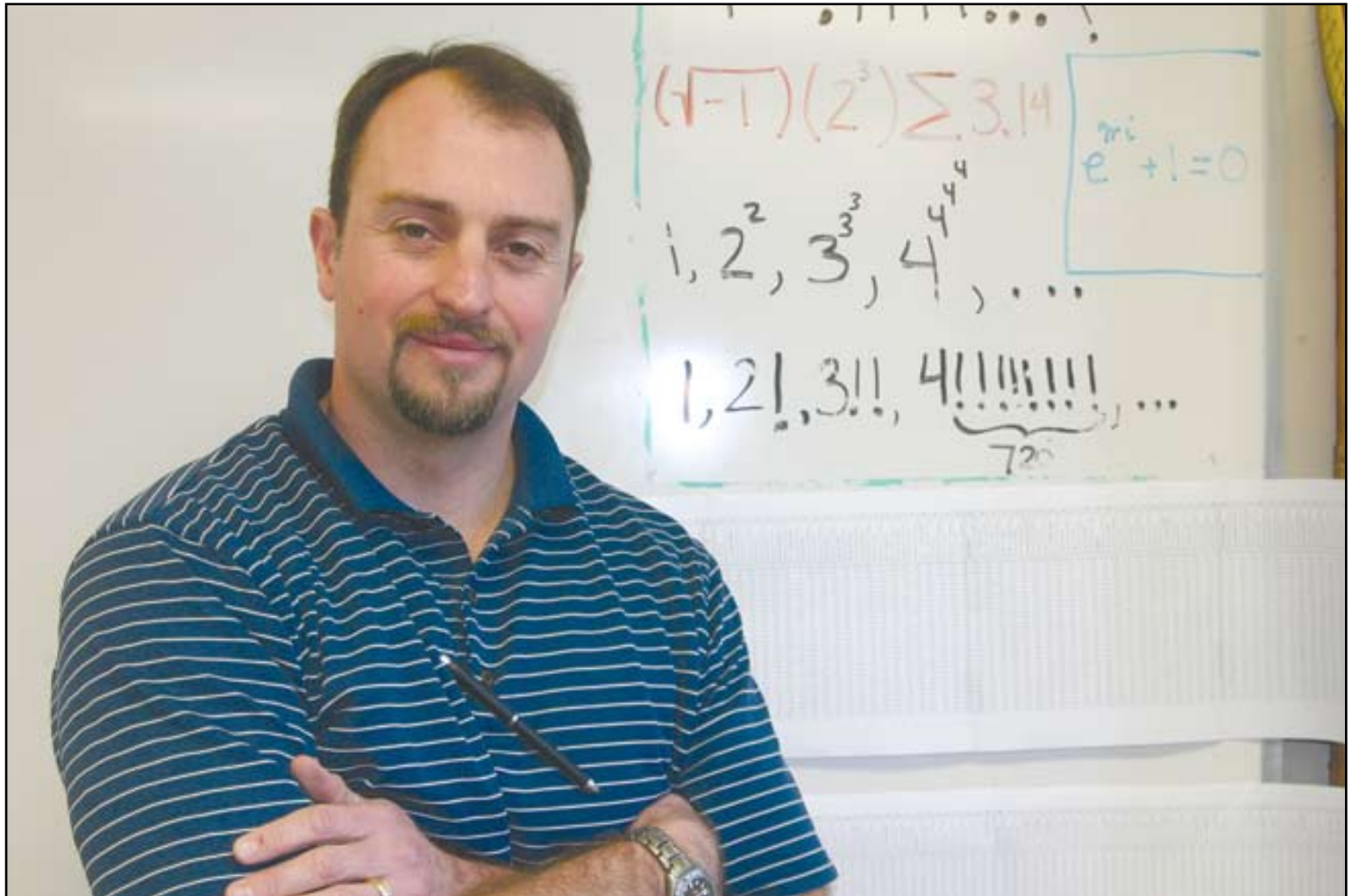
On May 26, 2009, after an entire year of intense preparation, 28 students took the AP Calculus exam. The test is broken up into two separate parts, which include the AB and BC portion. The AB portion is graded separately and covers the first semester of college calculus. The BC portion covers the first two semesters of college calculus. As with all AP exams, the grading scale ranges from the numerical values of 1-5, 3's are the minimum passing score. Here were the results from the exam:

Of the 28 that took the AB portion, 27 passed (96.428%), with 19 students receiving a score of 5.

Of the 28 that took the BC portion, 26 passed (92.857%), with 12 students receiving a score of 5.

The passing percentages for these results are the highest that El Rancho has seen in 10 years for both portions of the exam. Behind the students that took the exam is a man being seen as the "Jaime Escalante" of El Rancho High School.

Jaime Escalante is a teacher who gained worldwide fame while teaching at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles. Escalante formed an advanced mathematics program composed of mainly Hispanic students at a school notoriously known for drugs, violence, and gang activ-



ity. In 1982, his largest class of students attempted and passed the AP Calculus examination thus propelling Escalante into legendary ranks. A movie entitled "Stand and Deliver" was released in 1988 depicting Escalante's endeavors.

Over the period of one year, Mr. Francis studiously prepared the brilliant 28 students who took the exam. "These results are fantastic, the best of my career," states Francis. "It was a combination of what the students did. I worked hard on my end and they

worked hard on their end. There was also a very strong bond between myself and my students."

Angeli Vicente is one of the students who took the test and felt that it was not very difficult at all. "After taking Mr. Francis's class, the test was easy in comparison." She offers a bit of advice for those that will be taking the test by saying to "keep on pushing through the class. It's challenging material, but learning the material will help you on the test."

Fellow math teacher Mrs.

Martinez had nothing but positive things to say about Mr. Francis. "Mr. Francis is an exceptional teacher," says Martinez. "I think his standards are high and that helped the students succeed. I believe that it was his high standards that strongly encouraged his students to do their best on the test."

"It's going to be hard to match this year's results," says Francis about the future. "The change to semesters has presented the obstacle of not having as much time as before, but I still think

that there will be good results this year." As for the title of the "Jaime Escalante" of El Rancho... well, it's clear now that Mr. Francis is exceptional in his own right.

"It's very flattering to be compared to someone who is such a great teacher," says Francis, "it was never my goal to hold myself up to him or be compared to him. It's always been my goal to be the best that I can be."

Juan Olivares Shows His School Spirit



GUILLIANA BRAVO
EL RODEO STAFF

How prepared are you for college? Well not as prepared as junior Juan Olivares.

He is the over-achieving junior with 260 credits and counting; having 40 more credits than required for high school graduation.

Olivares has attended ten Rio Hondo classes, while balancing his high school classes. He also participates in swimming, the Social Justice Club and Link Crew.

"The good thing about balancing all these things is that it makes me more organized because I know that I need to get my work done," Olivares said.

"When I apply to colleges, I will be applying as a freshman, but I will be entering as a junior," Olivares stated proudly. His dedication to succeed has given him an edge when it comes to applying for college.

Still not completely decided about his future careers, Olivares has narrowed down his choices between becoming a history professor or practicing some sort of law.

CAMPUS

ASB Starts Birthday Tradition

CHRISTINA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With a box full of Blow-Pops and decorative birthday cards El Rancho's Executive Commission goes around campus handing out a sweet, birthday treat to each student for his or her special day.

"Everyone has a birthday and handing out these cards are a way to make a student feel special and appreciated," says Ms. Chapman, ASB advisor.

"We want students to feel as if they do not necessarily need to be apart of a sport or involved in a club to be recognized on campus," she continued.

Since the beginning of the year, ASB has handed out a birthday card during first period to each student whose birthday has landed in that week.

With the help of Pauline and Ingrid in the Guidance office, ASB is given a list of birthdays for each month detailing the classroom and date of the student's birthday.

Alyssa Nunez, sophomore Vice President, takes charge of having all the cards ready to be delivered on his or her special day.

"I think it is worth making the birthday cards and handing them out because I know a lot of people who do not receive anything for their birthday so by giving them a sweet treat can let them have a better day," said Alyssa.

"I have had kids come up to me thanking me for handing them a birthday card and it is pretty cool to know that it makes their day," said Junior President Elise Contreras.

Going through two boxes of Blow Pops every month, ASB hands out almost ten cards a day.

"Some people do not receive anything for their birthday, not even a simple card," she said. Alyssa took on the role of being in charge of the task and has done an incredible job at it.

"Receiving the birthday card was thoughtful because it made it seem as if someone at school actually cared about my birthday," says El Rancho senior Jose Reyes.

El Rancho's Staff also believe the birthday cards are a great addition to making the students feel important.

ASB hopes to come up with more creative ideas to celebrate the students birthdays for the upcoming years and continue the new tradition.

Mrs. Cardenas' Class Donates to Haiti Relief



BY ARLETTE LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the month of February a class competition between all second periods was held to raise money for the Haiti disaster relief.

Ms. Cardenas, junior English teacher, won the class competition for raising the highest donation on campus, a grand total of \$205.94.

"We only had three days during Finals Week, however everyone decided to donate," said Ms. Cardenas,

"In a few minutes we came up with thirty dollars and I said to myself, 'We could really win this.' So I told my class that whatever money they came up with, I would contribute the same amount."

This motivated her students to donate more money to the cause, especially El Rancho's student Mike Rios who donated fifty dollars.

Ms. Cardenas participated because "the importance of giving something to help others," is the right thing to do.

"The amount of money we collected will help those who are in need of shelter, food, clothes and whatever else needed. That was our goal," said Cardenas.

At the end of competition Mr. Genis filled out a blank check that accumulated all of the money donated and sent it to Rivera Middle School to represent El Rancho.

Ms. Cardenas would like to congratulate her second period class and let them know that she is very proud because her students showed their true characteristics.



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Team Infinity Wins El Rancho's First Kickball Tournament



Steven runs across the bases to reach a homerun for his team.



Luis Sanchez catches the ball trying to strike out an opponent.



Jesus Rivera tries to get to third base without being struck out.



Ms. Kerr kicks the ball for Team Blackout.

FEATURES

Lights, Camera, Action! Film Club Sets the Scene

By NAOMI ORTEGA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Lord of the Rings, *The Breakfast Club*, and *Strictly Ballroom* are all featured films at Gear Up's Film Club. The advisor for the club is senior English teacher Ms. Segal, who is currently seeking new members to come and join her every Wednesday in Y-3.

Ms. Segal taught in South Africa for nine years and her experience there is what inspired her to start the Film Club. In South Africa, visual literacy is a part of the English curriculum and as a part of visual literacy students have to, "Learn to read a movie and the power of film and how it can manipulate the viewers.

"What happens to people who see movies on TV is that they will surf through the channels, then only really end up seeing a fragment of a film," says Ms. Segal. She is offering students the opportunity to enjoy quality films followed by a discussion to get the film's intended message.

In a typical club session, not only is the theme of the watched film discussed, but the



meaning through the director's camera work, setting, scenery, and other details that usually go

unnoticed, are also discussed. In order to encourage students to participate in the Film

Club, English teachers are now offering extra credit. If you need a little boost in your Eng-

lish grade, the film club will begin to meet every Wednesday.

Students Show Off Creative Sides at Coffee House



Shanny Scott advising a student.

By EMMA LEAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Coordinated by the after school program, Gear Up, an exciting Career Coffee House Art Show was held in El Rancho's cafeteria on Wednesday, February 10. In this workshop, like Career Coffee House, E.R. students had the opportunity to speak with visitors, like university students, who answered questions about

their field of study and things they learned once exiting the university.

Sophomore Mariela Quinonez, said, "It was interesting and it was, somewhat, of an eye opener for me, I mean, it helped me be aware of the different opportunities there are after high school."

Though there were a variety of visitors, this art show also gave students the chance to show off their own incredible artistic talents.

Student's art was displayed; student's were also given the

chance to recite original poetry and dancing. All in all, it gave students knowledge of what is expected after high school. It helped students because it enabled particular students to actually have a desire to do something in their future. Another thing that happened in this Art Show was that there was hands on explanations of lot

If you have an artistic side to you and you wish to go to an upcoming art show, stop by the Gear Up program's office in A-207.

TEEN READ WEEK MARCH 2ND-5TH, 2010

Teen Read Week is a celebration of reading hosted by the ERHS Library on our campus March 2nd-5th, 2010.

ERHS Library welcomes the Little Old Book Shop Book Fair to our campus. This is the first year that the Whittier book store will join us for Teen Read Week. Students and staff will receive a 20% discount. (Students, cash only, staff, credit cards and checks accepted) The Library Wish List will be available so it will be very convenient to donate a book to the ER Library. A bookplate with your name will be placed in the donated book. How can you resist: sports, manga, mysteries, music, sketchbooks, children's books and more---both new and used books will be sold.

Hours: 10-4 Wednesday, March 3rd

7:30-4 Thursday&Friday, March 4th-5th

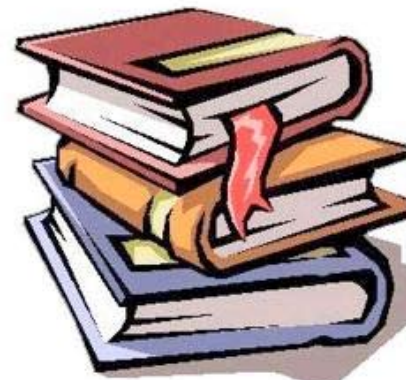
More events that celebrate reading during the week:

Tuesday, March 2nd: Get Lit Players will perform for all 3rd and 4th period English classes. High school students will perform classic, contemporary and original poetry.

Thursday, March 4th: Coffee and treats for staff in the Library, 7:30-4pm

Guest readers, Book-Related Quizzes and Prizes in your classrooms

Freshman Accelerated Reader classes will compete for prizes and a party.



SPORTS

Coachella Valley Downs Dons 3-1 in Quarterfinals

BY ALYSSA MENDOZA
& REBECCA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Last night the Dons lost 3-1 to host Coachella Valley. "We gave it all we got, but Coachella Valley was the better team today," said Captain Dorian Puentes.

Alejandro Haro scored the only goal of the game for the Dons.

"It was a good game, but we didn't play as well as we should have," said Puentes. "We ended the road with our heads held up high."

The Dons scored the first goal, but in the first half "[they] weren't connecting," said Puentes.

Last Thursday, the Dons defeated Downey 4-0 in the first round of CIF playoff. The game was pretty close in the first half but the Dons dominated the field for most of the second half.

Then the boys took on Montclair in second round action at home this past Tuesday and were again victorious. The Dons emerged from this game with a hard fought 1-0 victory.

Senior Ruben Olivares said after the Montclair game, "I was happy, and the pain that I felt when I got injured just went away, it was a great feeling."

The 1-0 win helped the boys move on to the 3rd round of CIF where they fell to Coachella Valley in yesterday's game.



Senior, Dorian Puentes defending El Rancho during a game against Downey High during first round of C.I.F. playoffs.

La Quinta Knocks Out Lady Dons in First Round of CIF

BY ARACELI CABRAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After dedicating much effort into the season, the girls' varsity soccer team made the playoffs. They scored third place in the league and were able to participate in CIF.

On February 19, the soccer team played against La Quinta in Palm Springs. La Quinta scored on the first half and the game ended 1-0. "It feels like we're a better team than the others, but when it comes to the games I don't know what happens," says junior, Jessica Santa Cruz.

After Mr. Romero left the

position of head coach, junior varsity soccer coach, Ms. Kerr, filled the spot. Coach Kerr pushed the girls to their potential and trained them well enough for the playoffs.

"I feel like both teams were strong and had the same ability, but I didn't feel we were ready to play after our three hour bus ride," said Coach Kerr.

Although the team is done for the season, they keep a positive attitude for their success. "The girls should be proud of their accomplishments and about making it to CIF even though we didn't win and they should start getting ready for the next year," said Coach Kerr.



COURTESY OF JESSICA SANTA CRUZ

Riverside Poly Ends Girls' Waterpolo Hopes



Abigail Martinez defends the goal during a game against Riverside Poly.

BY DANIELA AGUILAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ending the season with a 20-9, Girls' Varsity Waterpolo won first round of CIF, but came up short in the second round.

Though the team was eliminated, Coach John Pringle believed in the girls 100%.

The first round, against Temescal Canyon on February 16 at Downey High was "frustrating," according to Pringle.

In a tight match, the team made a good effort, especially in defense.

As the game was tied and went into overtime, player Jennifer Preciado, made the miracle shot ending the game with a 8-7 score, advancing El Rancho to the second round.

"I felt surprised and proud of myself being under pressure and scoring," says Preciado. "I also felt good as player and felt I've won something big."

With the first advancement, the team was excited and looking forward to the next round.

The second round of CIF against Riverside Poly on February 19, "was a tough game physically and emotionally draining," said Pringle.

The girls were staying on top of the game all the way through the third quarter.

As Riverside Poly scored, Pringle stopped worrying about winning and became more concerned that the girls finish strong all the way through the game.

Goalie Kimberly Pedregon, said, "The game was well fought until the end even though we lost."

Captain, Isela Aguirre said "I was happy the team made it to quarter finals because we were underestimated but we knew this was gonna be a very hard game, but didn't back down from the challenge and came out strong."

Results of the game of Riverside Poly against El Rancho were 12-6.