Dons hope to reclaim CIF soccer title tomorrow afternoon

By Leslie Cordella
El Ransho Staff Writer

The El Rancho Decathletes will advance to the state competition after placing fifth in the county competition out of 52 schools.

"The El Rancho Decathletes have had the opportunity to work with multiple teachers as-" says Oase. "It's a community effort.

"We have multiple teachers assisting the Decathletes including W. S. Wick, Elias, Diaz, Lamb, Sorenson, Zoko, and of course Oase. It's a community effort. We have multiple teachers assisting the Decathletes with a certain subject for the county and state competitions. A lot of the success that we have had in Decathlon is because we have a teacher to go to," says senior Jaquelyn Escobar.

The Decathletes' hard work paid off in the county competition, as they earned a total of seventeen medals.

In the quarter finals, the Dons' opponent was La Sierra High School. In the semi-finals, the Dons clinched a spot in the finals with a dramatic 3-2 overtime victory over Century High School. Senior capt- tain Cristian Roldan led the team by scoring all three goals.

In the finals, Robert Brown, Jacob Rodriguez, and Mongi received silver and bronze; in the interview Bryen Mar- and Jacob Rodriguez received the gold medal and scored a goal against the Cardinals. In the semi-finals, the Dons played well and de- feated Glendale by an impressive score of 6-0, giving Con- teras his first CIF shutout.

The boys moved on to the second round of CIF and faced Little Rocker High School. Although Little Rocker had an early goal, the Dons did not allow many goal-scoring opportunities to their opponents. The Dons re- mained calm despite being down and scored five goals, not allowing any more goals against them. The team won the game by a final score of 5-1.

The win gave the Dons an overall league record of 9-1-1, which was enough to earn them first place in the Rio Hondo League.

Before CIF could begin for the Dons, their starting goalie, senior David Lopez, was injured. Because of this injury, Lopez will not be able to participate in the CIF finals. "It sucks because it's my senior year," says Lopez.

The injury allowed senior Gonzalo Contreras to take on the role of starting goalie for the Dons.

I was pretty nervous, but I have to step up and show them what I can do," says Gonzalo, "I have to prove to the team that I can do the same thing that [David] can." "In the first round, the boys faced Glendale High School. The Dons played well and de- feated Glendale by an impressive score of 6-0, giving Con- teras his first CIF shutout.

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In the quarter finals, the Dons' opponent was La Sierra High School. "My team was unable to score a goal of its own and lost the game 0-1. Despite the loss, the Dons bounced back as they defeated Whittier during their last league game. The boys had a solid game and they earned a 6-1 victory over the Cardinals. The win gave the Dons an overall league record of 9-1-1, which was enough to earn them first place in the Rio Hondo League.

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Immigration reform sweeping the nation

BY JAIVIER GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On February 12, President Barack Obama conveyed the need to refurbish the nation’s immigration laws, pressuring a divided Congress to send him an immigration reform bill. Four months have passed since Obama was re-elected for a second term, in which he has devoted considerable deliberation to immigration reform. During his state of the union address in Washington in which Obama bestowed his economic goals, Obama subtly implemented key principles, such as stronger border security, and legal immigration paving the way for undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States to apply for citizenship.

“Real reform means establishing a responsible pathway to earned citizenship... a path that includes passing a background check, paying taxes and meaningful penalty, learning English and going to the back of the line behind folks trying to come here legally,” Obama said.

The call for stronger border security is a legitimate element for an efficient immigration system. Over the years, the construction of an arroyo fence stretching from San Diego to the Gulf of Mexico demanded by lawmakers has become too unrealistic. During a speech on immigration reform, Obama has emphasized relying on a combination of barriers, border patrol agents, and tougher employee sanctions to combat those who break the law.

The call for direct action was met with bipartisan attention among Congress members, who quickly move ahead while the nation’s attention is emphasized on the issue. A group of eight senators dubbed “the gang of eight,” have released a framework, which would give them a goal worth the effort since more immigrants will have a chance to a better education.” - Nick Barrera, 12

Students across the nation speak out for the right to claim citizenship. It is a basic structure underlying a system, translating a concise document into a complicated bill.

Senator Jeff Sessions said he feared this bill would not include efficient provisions to halt immigration instead amounting to “amnesty only,” hence making citizenship easier for illegal immigrants. “There’s a lot of overconfidence about this bill,” he said.

In a recent survey conducted by the Washington Post, approximately 70% of the American people said that immigrants living in the U.S. undocumented should be allowed to become citizens if they meet certain requirements. A similar poll compared 64% of voters who say immigrants should be given a chance compared with 27% who support deportation. The poll also found that two-thirds of white voters compared with 27% who support legalization of immigrants. “There’s a lot of overconfidence about this bill,” he said.

In the last five years, state legislators have released a patchwork of laws in hopes to reduce illegal immigration, creating legal means for the non-citizens to obtain driver licenses.

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State of the economy at El Rancho: Dons feel economic impact

BY EMILY PEYTON
EL RANCHO ENTREPRENEUR CLUB ANALYST

In an update to last year’s comprehensive look into El Rancho students’ spending habits, the El Rancho Entrepreneur club found the average Don’s wallet to be a little more empty this year.

The 20-question survey, distributed to El Rancho social studies and science classes representing all grades, found the average student allowance suffered a 10 percent decline, falling to $16.75 compared to $18.64 in 2012.

With a little less spending power at their disposal, students said the economy might be improving, but not fast enough.

“This year I had to apply for fee waivers because money was a little bit tight,” said junior Andrew Gomez, afraid that the economy’s sluggish progress would impede his education.

“In a year and a half I’ll be applying to colleges and I think tuition prices will continue to rise and I’ll have to pay more.”

The survey found that fast food remains at the top of students’ financial priorities list, with the majority of students eating out one to two times per week in average groups of four.

But despite their affin- ity for a cheap and easy meal, student responses revealed they recognize the health risks involved in fast food, with the majority worried about the food’s fat and health content.

Survey data went on to show Dons’ increasingly thrifty behavior to compensate for less spending money, with 66 percent of Dons expressing their willingness to use coupons for fast food.

Surprised by students’ responses to their latest survey, the Entrepreneur Club plans to continue monitoring students’ spending habits throughout the year for accurate, up to date figures on El Rancho’s spending power.

In case you haven’t noticed, there has been a new addition to the Pico Rivera Town Center. What was once Borders has now become PetSmart. As one of the largest pet retailers of pet services, PetSmart stores are stocked with approximately 10,000 pet supplies and products. Now many dogs and cats, as well as other pets, have been in and out of these doors. But what exactly is PetSmart? To clear up any confusion, PetSmart sells pet merchandise, not the pets themselves. They provide a wide variety of services, from veterinary services to training. PetSmart has lined up professional groomers that you can ensure your pet achieves as good. Their accredited training can ensure your pet achieves positive behavior. Although they do not sell the pets they urge people to adopt, PetSmart has partnered itself with PetSmart Charities helping homeless animals find homes and families. PetSmart has saved over five million animal lives by successfully having them adopted, and the number is still growing. PetSmart Charities Inc, established in 1994, is an independent, non-profit animal organization, as well as the largest funder of animal welfare efforts in North America. So what drew PetSmart to become a member of the Pico Rivera community? A dense population of people can ensure not only good business to them but just as many people can ensure not only good business but just as many people can ensure not only good business but just as many people can ensure not only good business but just as many people can ensure not only good business.

PetSmart manager John Woodward strives to provide Pico Rivera with “accredited” pet services.

Join the El Rancho High School Entrepreneur Club!

Learn how to:
- start and manage a business
- prepare a winning business plan
- market and promote your product/service
- finance your business
- improve your communications skills
- dress for success

Benefits of Membership:
- Each new member is provided a free student savings account
- Members will be working with local businesses and organizations
- Members are promoted among local businesses and organizations for job opportunities
- Members are provided greater name recognition opportunities
- Members are provided college letters of recommendations

How to Join: Attend our meetings held on the first and last Thursday of each month at 3:15 pm in X-6

Pico Rivera’s pets are smarter

Purchase a $3.00 Wendy’s Discount Card and receive a 20% discount for everything on the menu (except value meals)
Card is valid until August of 2013

Dons Loyalty Card

20% OFF*

Six Months not Six Coupons of Savings Dollar for Dollar
The Best Deal in Pico Rivera
Email: erhsentrepreneurclub@gmail.com
for purchase information

How to Join: Attend our meetings held on the first and last Thursday of each month at 3:15 pm in X-6

The Best Deal in Pico Rivera

GULLIBLE
A good nights sleep: beneficial to the brain, and body

BY SAUVANNA GUERRERO
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

Sleeping well every night is essential to a healthy body and a healthy mind. But teenagers are not getting their recommend- ed seven to nine hours of sleep per night. The amount of shut- eye you get affects your stress levels, performance in school, weight gain, and even depression. Not sleeping enough can make it difficult to concentrate throughout the day, which can result in poor learning skills, and learning abilities, according to the National Sleep Foundation. Psychology teacher Mr. Rojas explains, “Teenagers in general need more sleep than adults do because it is a period of time when their bodies are growing. Brains are developing certain parts of the brain particularly the frontal lobes, an area known for decision making and good judgments.” Rojas adds, “The more sleep [you get] those kind of things can develop without having to ac- cess resources that aren’t there. As the brain struggles to keep up the daily lives of teens, lack of sleep makes it tire- some to try to focus in school. “A lot of times they’re so tired and they don’t pay attention; they just want to put their head down and sleep,” says Health teacher Mrs. Sythe. The frustra- tion of trying to stay awake and not concentrating, stress levels increase. “You need to rest your mind and body,” says Sythe. Rojas explains, “If you’re not really getting enough sleep, you’re not allowing your brain to recover, you’re not allowing your body to recover, and there- fore your cognitive abilities or your abilities to think; through things are impaired.” Your brain is forced to run on low energy, so it’s not going to function effi- ciently. “That causes you to per- haps, have to try a little harder at things in what you normally would be capable of doing had you had a normal pattern of sleep in a given week.” Rojas adds.

Senior Villasana heads to Hollywood

BY ISABEL RAMIREZ
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

On January 29th, senior Pat- ry Villasana attended the Interna- tional Make Up Artist Trade Show in Pasadena and was selected as a winner of a $16,000 scholarship. Villasana’s sister Crystal Teague, El Rancho graduate ‘09, is a self-taught beauty make- up artist, and introduced Patty to the makeup industry. “I’ve been wanting to be a make-up artist since I was twelve,” says Villasana. Various makeup schools from around the country held booths at the convention including the E.J. School of Makeup, which offered a scholarship to anyone who had a raffle that awarded four “exclusive” scholarships each worth $16,000 dollars. “I always looked at this as a opportunity,” says Villasana who was accepted to the school as well as several others. In addition to the scholarship, airbrushing and body painting classes are included. The E.J. School is lo- cated fifteen minutes away from the Sunset Strip in Hollywood and became famous for being the world’s first makeup school.

Teague actually encouraged Villasana to sign-up for the raffle. Three days after the convention, Villasana checked her email and realized that her name was selected as one of the winners of the scholarship. “It was very exciting and I was so happy,” says Villasana. Villasana was unsure of what this particular scholarship offered until she called admissions director Tracy Van Slyke for more information. Slyke will contact Villasana in March to start the application pro- cess. “If all goes well she will start her program this August.” Villasana plans to pro- vide freelance special ef- fects makeup for film, television, and special effects makeup. With special effects makeup, there are several classes such as sculpting and prosthetics. In addition to the scholarship, airbrushing

Reasons teens do not get their full rest can vary from having a stack of homework to electronic devices.

According to the Mayo Clinic, not enough sleep can be a factor of behavior problems and mood swings. Harvard Health Publica- tions state: “Sleep problems are particularly common in patients with anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).” Research at Harvard have shown that a high percentage of patients with depression have symptoms of sleep problems. An estimate 96% of children that suffer from major depression, experience some kind of sleep problem.

Did you know...

A good nights sleep: beneficial to the brain, and body

BY PATSY VILLASANA
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

According to the U.S. Cen- sus Bureau, 43.2% of the people living in California in 2012 re- ported that they had been raised to speak more than one lan- guage. That same year, 72.6% of the people living in Pico Rivera made that same claim. Due to these high num- bers, employment for transla- tors and interpreters is expected to increase faster than any other occupation throughout the next decade. People with multilin- gual skills in English, Spanish, French, Japanese, Korean, and Chinese remain some of the most sought after employees, and job competitiveness depends on a worker’s choice of specialization.

Employments in law and health offices experience the highest demand of translators and interpreters, and interpreters for the deaf should continue to have a steady stream of job opportunities, as there are never nearly enough people to fill these spots.

The U.S. Bureau of La- bor Statistics defines an inter- preter’s duties as “converting information from spoken lan- guage into another spoken lan- guage, or sign language” and a translator’s duties as “converting written materials from one spoken language into another.”

Most interpreters special- ize in simultaneous interpret- ing, which requires them to lis- ten or watch and speak or sign at the same time that someone else is speaking or signing. Si- multaneous interpreters work in pairs with a partner, with each one interpreting for about thirty minutes and then rest- ing while the other interprets. It is also common for in- terpreters to have knowledge in the subject being discussed so they can anticipate the end of a speaker’s sentences, such as earning a degree in law, health, literature, and others.

A popular option for trans- lators is rewriting news and mag- azine articles, books, and poetry into different languages. These translators must read the origi- nal language fluently to grasp any cultural slang and usually only translate the text into their native language. With almost all translation work being done electronically, translators often have little to no client interaction. Whether you choose to in- terpret or translate, wage earn- ings for either job position con- tinue to grow steadily per year. The average wages, the average being $37.64.

Careers focus on translating across the globe

By Mike Mendoza
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

In the last few months, North Korea has been active with its nuclear weapons program. North Korea’s advance- ments first began on December 12, 2012 when it successfully launched a long-range rock- et into orbit. This successful launch caused nations to fear failures and served as a proving point on demonstrating that they have the technology to build inter- continental ballistic missile.

Confidence rose in North Korea and began to threaten the United States. The New York Times says that “North Korea has no interest in talks on denuclearization and that it will forge ahead with its missile and weapons development, with the goal of attaining the capa- bility to hit American territory.”

February 12, 2013, re- ports came in of a 4.9 mag- nitude earthquake in North Korea. United Nations Secu- rity Council diplomat com- mented on the “earthquake” possibly being North Korea’s third nuclear test. North Ko- rea confirmed a third nuclear test, defying world powers. Many to believe that their nuclear and missile pro- grams are directed against their “archenemy,” the United States.
Eighth annual Teen Read Week a huge success

Teen Read Week has become an annual event here at El Rancho. Activities over the past five days have included everything from Literature Circles to performances in the Little Theater. In an effort to get students interested in discovering new pieces of literature, guest speakers discussed reading with various classes. Lunchtime on Tuesday provided students with free READ tattoos from ASB. Dons were also able to get in touch with literary works through Mrs. Nelson’s Book Fair which will continue on through Friday in the library until three p.m.

What’s your favorite book and why?

“My favorite book [series] is Harry Potter because it is very exciting to read.” -Delon Viray, 12

“My favorite book is The Fault in Our Stars because it has a bitter humor. It’s bitter sweet in a heart-wrenching way.” -Alexandria Castro-Spencer, 12

“My favorite book would be Where The Wild Things Are because it is a really interesting book and has a lot of imagination.” -Fernanda Hernandez, 11

“My favorite book is Old Yeller because I am an animal lover and it is a good story.” -Eddie Rosales, 10

“My favorite book is Of Mice and Men because of the way Lenny is taking care of George. It shows true friendship.” -Erika Hernandez, 10

“My favorite book is...
Player Profile: Cristian Roldan heads for Washington

BY MIKE MENDOZA
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

The name Cristian Roldan has been circulating in sports writing for the past month and a half. Playing for El Rancho High School, Roldan is the Boys’ Soccer Team Captain and he has recently signed his letter of intent with the University of Washington. The University of Washington initially made contact with Roldan initially made contact with the University of Washington. Signed his letter of intent with Washington, and he has recently been named to all four years, Roldan is a San Diego soccer tournament. Scouts first saw him in action at a San Diego soccer tournament. Although Roldan received multiple scholarship offers from schools like UCI, UCR, LMU, Dominguez Hills, Chico State (just to list a few), Roldan made it official on February 7th, 2013, that he would be a Husky, playing soccer for the University of Washington. He will be receiving $36,000 for his freshman and sophomore year (an 85% athletic scholarship) and $41,000 for his junior and senior year (f a full ride athletic scholarship).

The defining factor in choosing Washington over any other school was his visit to the campus. “When I visited the campus in Seattle, it was just so much more better than any other school I went to. ‘While on his visit to the campus, Roldan had the opportunity to play soccer with the current University of Washington soccer team. “Playing with the guys… was just the ultimate feeling.” “For all the attention Roldan has been receiving in spite of all his accomplishments, “It’s been nerve-racking…” just feels overwhelming, but it feels great.”

Valley Christian ends girls’ CIF soccer hopes

BY LESLIE CHINCHIELLA
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho girls’ soccer team was able to finish season in third place by winning two out of their last three league games and also made it to the first round of CIF. In their second-round league game against Pioneer, the girls were able to defeat their opponents by a score of 3-0. The match was tied, but the Dons were able to put away a goal in the second half. Following their game against Pioneer, the girls faced their rivals, the La Serna Lancers. The game ended in a 0-2 loss for the Dons. Although they didn’t get the result they wanted, the team was happy with how they played. “I was frustrated with the loss because I think we could’ve won, but I’m glad that the girls tried their best,” says senior captain Elisa Martinez. In their final league game, the girls faced Whittier. The Dons were down 1-2 in the first half, but were able to tie the game in the second half. In overtime, the girls dominated the Cardinals and scored three goals. The Dons won the game 5-2.

With the win, the Dons ended league tied in third place with California High School. After submitting an at-large petition, the Dons were able to play a wildcard game for a chance to make it to CIF. The girls traveled to Temecula for their wildcard game, where they faced Linfield Christian School. The game was tight as five goals were scored in the first half alone, two for the Dons and three for Linfield. In the second half, the girls scored three more goals. With a final score of 5-3 the Dons were able to secure a spot in the first round of CIF.

In the first round of CIF, the girls faced Valley Christian. The opponents were aggressive and scored a goal in the first half. The Dons did their best to tie the game in the second half, but Valley Christian secured their win with another goal. The game ended with a 0-2 loss for the Dons.

For the team, the loss was very hard to take. “We didn’t play our hardest,” thinks sophomore Briana Calderon. “Losing our seniors is going to be hard because most of them were starters, but hopefully there will be other players to replace them,” adds Viramontes. Despite the outcome this season, the girls and coaches are satisfied with their performance. “We played with our hearts and left everything out on the field,” says Corona. “I wish I could’ve ended my senior year by advancing further in CIF, but I had a lot of fun hanging out with the girls and I’m going to miss them,” adds Martinez. Zaldate says, “I was able to play the sport I love with a great group of girls.” “We had a good season this year,” concludes Preciado.
Boys' basketball team falls short against Huntington Beach

By ANGELICA GAMEZ
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The varsity boys' basketball team officially ended league 7-3. In their second round of league, they lost to the California Condors and the Pioneer Titans. The Titans played equally, qualifying for CIF, but fell short in the first round to Huntington Beach. A tough loss for the Dons against the Pioneer Titans. The Dons led the Titans for most of the game but the Titans came out with a big fourth quarter. "It hurt a lot knowing that we had the game... but there's nothing we can do about it," says senior captain Emilou Burgos. The Titans took the win with a score of 59-58.

The Dons then went on and played away against the La Serna Lancers. The Dons played better basketball than the Lancers that night and they brought home the win. "It was a victory over the Lancers. "It was our first time in like fifteen years that we beat the La Serna at La Serna," says Burgos. The Dons were a big crowd than La Serna that evening. "Having a bigger crowd than them at their own place, it felt great," says senior captain Daniel Becerra. It was a memorable game for the Dons.

The Don then faced a tough season closer against the Whittier Cardinals. They had already won against the Cardinals in the first half of season 54-47. This game wasn't much tougher for the Dons as they defeated the Cardinals again, 83-69.

The Dons ended league in second place, one game away from the Condors, who are now the league champs. "I think we should've won league, but it is what it is," says Burgos. With league out of the picture, the new focus for the Dons was to win CIF. The Dons faced Huntington Beach in the first round of CIF. Huntington Beach had won a wildcard game before being able to play the Dons. Huntington Beach came out stronger and left with a win of 53-47. "We let their bigs control our bigs and we couldn't finish in the long run," says Burgos. It was a tough loss for the Dons, tougher for Becerra, who was now the league champs. "I was sad that we lost but I'm glad we were up there, no one thought we would get that far," says Becerra.

Senior Kenny Gonzales also thought it would've been nice to get the win, but he "can't be mad about making playoffs." Now the Dons can only hope for an even better season next year.

Girls' basketball team takes Del Rio League title

By ANGELICA GAMEZ
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The girls' basketball team ended league in a three way tie with the Whittier Cardinals and the Santa Fe Chiefs. The Dons ended league with a record of 8-2, with a tough loss in their season closer against the Cardinals. They continued to the first round of CIF but lost against Aliso Nigio.

The Dons had it fairly easy when they faced Pioneer. They had a 14-point win. The Dons then had to face the La Serna Lancers. They defeated the Lancers 59-31.

Senior Emilou Burgos goes up for a two pointer against Huntington player during first round of CIF.

The Dons will be losing eight seniors next year who this year's team accomplished. "We took a tour of the campus, I got to sit in a class and talk to a professor in the major that I want to major which is kinesiology and anatomy. I also got to run with the girls there for track. Computing high school level running and college level running, she says, "It was kind of intense because the day when we ran, it was their day off so we only run a 40-minute run. But running with girls at this level is even more stressful." Though she is going to the school where they were impressed with her running ability, it will always be challenging. Henry says, "I want to major in something that I'm not running behind me here, it's going to be challenging trying to get up there but I'm looking to major in exercise science."

Senior Griselda Velez dribbles alongside Aliso Nigio player Martinez. This accomplishment also makes Coach Randy Shigezane proud. "They can look up there and see 2013 and say 'that was my year, we won it... they will never forget that..." says Shigezane. It took hard work to accomplish this. "They sacrificed more than anyone can understand," says Shigezane.

Unfortunately, during the Dons' last league game against the Cardinals, Diakite suffered an injury. "I couldn't really play at all but I tried to keep playing because I didn't want to let my team down," says Diakite. Despite her injury, she was going to try to help lead her team to the second round of CIF.

The Dons played wildcard Aliso Nigio in their first round game. Aliso Nigio came out strong and outscored the Dons 56-40. Many factors led to this. "We were tired from season," says Diakite. Most can also agree that injuries hurt them, but Diakite says that you “have to deal with them and adjust." The Dons ended season with two losses, but Shigezane looks at it differently. “Unless you win the championship, you are always going to lose your games," says Shigezane.

Regardless of their season ending earlier than expected, the Dons can still say that they had a great season. They accomplished our ultimate goal, which was to win league," says Diakite. The Dons had a great season this year. "I can’t be displeased, we won twenty two games," says Shigezane.

The Dons are more of a family, and they will still have these friendships forever. "We’re going to work hard," says Martinez. With hard work, Martinez also hopes to finish better goals next season.

The Dons became a close family this year. "We made a lot of memories, and became a family," says Ayla. After this season, Shigezane also knows that they can leave, and they will still have that close relationship through the whole league.
Dons get a head start on college credits

BY BRIDGETT MOTA
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

This year El Rancho gives its advanced placement class, giving students a warm welcome to the Rio Hondo Early College Academy as it returns to our campus. The College Academy is designed for students who want to take college courses as they are enrolled in high school, in an effort to get ahead. Students earn college credit and can be able to earn a passing grade in each class. In total, these cohorts of students take Counseling-College and Life Success 101, Public Speaking 101, Art of Mexico 108, Counseling-Career and Life Exploration 151, English 101, Sociology 101, and English 208, earning possibly up to 22 college credits, which is almost one year’s worth in college.

The program is very beneficial for students who can’t afford to take college classes now because the program offers the classes free when normally the students would have to pay $46 per unit of class they take, and the average unit of each class is three.

By taking these classes “you are finishing some of the General Education classes you need to take when you are working towards either an Associates Degree or Bachelor’s Degree,” says Mrs. Chavez, formally in charge of the program. This also boosts a students GPA as these classes are given college credit.

To get accepted to this program, students must submit an application that consists of an essay, must have two letters of recommendation, and a parent agreement form. After the applications are reviewed, the students apply to Rio Hondo College and take their college placement test shows their English and Reading levels that can qualify or disqualify them from the program.

The first class that many of the new junior and seniors took as they were accepted to the program last summer was College Counseling 101 with Mr. Alvarado. This class helps the students mentally prepare for college. The class includes learning about financial aid, the different college systems, transferring from community colleges to California state colleges or universities of California, and more. It also helps students who are not familiar with the system to get an early idea of what college can be like. Students in total saved $138 by taking this college class here at El Rancho.

Most students in the fall took a Speech 101 class with Dr. Woodenburg. The class was designed to help students increase their ability to communicate more clearly, and confidently, in a variety of settings that include making presentations, speaking in work settings, and speaking informally. On the long run, this could potentially help students as those who speak more clearly, and more effectively are perceived to be brighter and well organized, increasing their chances of getting into a job they are applying for.

During this spring semester, the students are currently taking Art of Mexico 108 with Mrs. Robertson. The classes are identical to those offered at Rio Hondo College. A tutor from the PREP program is assigned to any Rio Hondo program being run at El Rancho to help the students especially in power sessions, which are held after the class before a test to study what was learned. The classes are taught here at El Rancho from 3:15 to 4:30 pm every Monday from 3:15 to 4:30 pm every Monday.