



Pirate News

Presented By: The Journalism Club Final '18/'19 Issue

“The Budget Crisis” & What It Means for Next Year

By Libby Padfield



For many, the inner workings of schools and their own forms of convoluted politics are a mystery. However, many students and parents are finding themselves attempting to wade through the complicated policies for one important reason... Budget cuts. The high school was informed of a California state order to transfer funding (up to \$700,000 this year and potentially more in following years) to Olive Grove Charter School. As of February of 2018, the board that represents our school, composed

of elected public officials, said, "we are experiencing a significant structural deficit that requires an immediate reduction in ongoing expenditures. Failure to do so will, in three years' time, result in a fiscal situation from which we will not be able to recover." Many resolutions to solve this crisis were proposed during the Board meeting on March 4, 2019, the majority of those propositions including the firing of teachers and discontinuation of programs. This sparked community outrage.

"I believe that the students at our school would have been negatively impacted in their education if teachers and programs were cut. Many of the teachers on the list [to potentially cut] are teachers that go above and beyond for our students daily and it would have been detrimental to many students to not have that support system for them anymore," stated Ms Coelho, a teacher at the high school. However, she went on to say, "I think the Board did an excellent job of allowing for public comment from anyone who wanted to speak. I believe they all listened and heard what we were all communicating. I think the only thing that could have been improved on was getting this information out more quickly to our community, faculty, students and parents."

The community came together to propose alternative solutions to the financial situation other than cutting programs and teachers. Many students advocated for their teachers, coaches, and mentors by speaking at the board meeting and creating posters.

At the boards' March 12th meeting, the council approved a financial plan that would cut aide positions instead of teachers or programs. Athletic secretary and staff services person, Kathy Rick, and campus supervisor, Gordon Whyte, were let go. The board also decided to reduce two teachers' and four support staff's hours and have six administrators take furlough days. All together saving \$355,260 in personnel costs.

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Furthermore, the deteriorating east parking lot (by the S buildings) will not be repaved as previously \$500,000 was allocated for and a resolution was approved to change the minimum reserve fund from 30 percent of expenditures to a flat \$3 million, freeing up another \$1 million.

Though the letting go of anyone who works on this campus is an unfortunate loss, many celebrated, grateful the jobs of those who work so hard in teaching positions were saved. Josh McClurg, Physical Education teacher and head coach of the Santa Ynez Football program, whose job was one of those that was threatened, said this to those students who vocalized against the proceedings: "The students that spoke up at all of these meetings, did something. They respectfully stood up and advocated for what they believe in. At the end of all of this, I think we can all see that is a huge win for SYHS. We are creating young men and women who are not afraid to fight for what they believe in and care about."



The Theatre Group Presents *Treasure Island*

By Lauren Thorburn

Treasure Island, adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's 1883 novel, is a swashbuckling adventure that follows young Jim Hawkins as she and her friends follow Billy Bones's map to find Flint's buried treasure. The cast of *Treasure Island* brought a new twist to the original story with music composed by senior Marty Dixon and junior Davis Reinhart. Director Jeff McKinnon also added four hand puppets that helped Jim Hawkins, portrayed by Kyah Corff, narrate the story. The show included three large fights choreographed by Patrick Lawlor. The actors used authentic cutlasses, fencing foils, and daggers to perform fights that they had been working on for over three months. Another aspect to The Theatre Group's performance was a dance number choreographed by Nora McKinnon at the top of Act Two as the pirated celebrate landing on the island. Long John Silver, portrayed by Richard Taylor, leads his band of pirates, doing anything necessary to find Flint's treasure.

Almost every night was sold out, and each performance wowed audiences with the fantastic acting, dancing, fighting, puppetry, singing, accents, and ariel skills. On closing night The Theatre Group said good-bye to the sixteen seniors a part of the show. This included: Kyah Corff (Jim Hawkins), Richard Taylor (Long John Silver), Hannah Albrecht (Squire Trelawney), Harrison Windmiller (Doctor Livsey), Ben Soto (Ben Gunn), Maddie Alton (Grey), Bella Hartley (Black Dog), Miari Costirelli (Grandma), Gaby Saxon (Ms Crossley), and Justin Sutton (Blind Pew).



Welcome the new Presidents of The Journalism Club!



My name is Lauren Thorburn. I am currently a junior (future senior) at Santa Ynez High School and the future president of the Journalism Club. I am honored to be taking over from two amazing leaders, Kyah Corff and Isabella Escobedo, who have taught me so much this year. Next year, I hope to continue building on the foundation that both Kyah and Isabella have started. I would like to use many different types of media to share the untold and less highlighted stories of the high school as a way to keep students more informed about

their campus and community.

My name is Elizabeth Padfield, and I am currently in my freshman year (future sophomore) of high school. Next year, I will be working with Lauren to help take charge of our school's journalism club and to further what our wonderful co-founders and leaders Kyah Corff and Isabella Escobedo started. I hope to make the paper more accessible to students by digitizing copies and making them public while in office, while also gaining members to make up the staff of our incredible newspaper.



Editor's Note: Kyah Corff and Isabella Escobedo founded this club in their Junior year and started the school newspaper (the first in many years at the high school) in order to give students an opportunity to explore journalism, photography, and graphic design. Kyah Corff will be attending The New School in New York City to study journalism. Isabella Escobedo will be attending Emerson College to study media arts production.

