



# Pirate News

Presented By: The Journalism Club

January Issue

## Pirates Mean Business! By Kyah Corff

High school is a difficult time in which students are expected to choose a career and a way to get there. The Career Fair provided opportunities and connections for students to help clear up their futures. Nearly 100 different careers were represented at the event on Fri. Jan 25th in the New Gym.

"It's just a good experience to reach out and learn about possible career choices," said Emmy Withrow, a freshman at SYVUHS.

Students were allowed to leave class to browse the many different booths which filled the gym. Some of the more popular booths were Mary Kay Sales Director, which passed out free makeup samples, and J.Vista Photography, which had a free photo booth set up.

Matt Upkow of the Santa Barbara Fire and Air Support Unit booth was pleased that students were able to see what options were out there.

"I've been pretty blessed to do what I love," said Upkow who spent 20 years in the military and a year as a pilot for the fire support unit. He hopes the students will also find a career they love.

"Hopefully [The Career Fair] will give [the students] an idea and a focus about what they want to do," stated Mrs Boyer, a teacher at the high school.



## Storm blows down tree near the Pit, Water Leak in New Gym

By Kyah Corff



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# Ella Quinney: Passionate Photographer

By Lauren Thorburn



Ella Quinney is a senior on our campus whose passion for photography is evident on her instagram account @ellasharonphoto. Ella believes that photography is “The Art Of Capturing Christ’s Beauty.” Her grandmother inspired her to start taking pictures through her own photography and showed Ella how beautiful things can emerge from the lense of a camera. Ella says she grew up watching her Nana (grandmother) “capturing

laughter, love, and light like no other photographer I have ever seen.” This encouraged Ella to take her own photos so that when she had children she could share her memories through her visual records.

Her favorite subject to photograph is people because she believes “that humanity is God’s way of demonstrating his light to us.” However, she also enjoys photographing the occasional landscape or sunset. Ella explains, “The fact that some people invite me to participate in their huge milestones and memories is an honor, and my favorite part of photography: the art of documenting.” Photography is definitely a passion of Ella’s but her main passion is sharing the love of Christ through singing, teaching, and listening to others.

Ella’s other inspirations include photographers like Lindsey Roman, Kenzie Floyd, Lauren Porcher, and her boyfriend Ryan Casey. In fact, Ryan urged Ella to put her photos on a platform which happens to be instagram. Ella shares that “I feel like this year God has really equipped with me the confidence I needed to put myself out there.” This courage led her to partner with Heather Caughell last December. She raised money for Heather’s trip to Thailand with the International Justice Mission (IJM). Ella began taking family photos, portraits, and many other things to raise the money for Heather.

Ella’s partnership with Heather helped her gain confidence to start doing photography as a part time job. She does private shoots, starting price is \$200 but it can change depending on location and time.

Ella ensures me that her camera will never leave her side even when she goes to college. She plans to study English and Education because she would like to be a High School English Teacher. She says, “even though I do not plan on studying photography in college, that does not mean I will stop pursuing photography in college.” Her advice to anyone interested in starting photography is just to pick up a camera and shoot. “Don’t be shy and don’t be intimidated. Just go!”

Know someone who deserves to be highlighted in our next edition of Pirate News? Nominate them by emailing their name and why they should be our next spotlight to [syv.pirate.news@gmail.com](mailto:syv.pirate.news@gmail.com) !

# Confusion About New “Frosh Core-Tech” Class

By Libby Padfield

Our high school offers a unique opportunity for students to prepare for the road ahead. First implemented in 2015, these classes, named Frosh Core-Tech and Focus on Success, teach students how to practice internet safety, to efficiently use Microsoft Office, and also how to make plans regarding their upcoming futures. All of these life lessons are taught to incoming freshmen by teachers, Mr. Gandolfo, Mr. Petershick, and Mrs. Clement. This program is unique in that midway through the year students switch from one of the two classes to the other. However, this can prove to be a difficult process, both for students and staff.

Many students struggled with the transition due to a lack of guidance and direction. There was also the added frustration of getting a new Focus on Success teacher at the beginning of the second semester, half way through the school year. Joel Pakulski, a ninth grader transitioning into a Focus on Success class, stated, "There was lots of confusion on the day we got back from winter break and no word from teachers or over the announcements... I didn't find out about [which teacher I had] until about five minutes before the class was going to start." Pakulski raises a valuable point. Why weren't students alerted which teacher they had?

And in the words of freshman Lulu Sigoun, "In order to avoid having tardy and confused students, it would be nice if the school had a system in place so that freshman could know what class they would have when it changed over the semester."

Though the Frosh-Core Tech and Focus on Success programs may benefit students by preparing them for a technological future, many students seem confused about the switch from semester 1 to semester 2.

## Dancing into Audition Season

By Ava Casey



As the new year begins, so does a new round of dance auditions. Tension is high in a room filled with focused high-school aged girls with tight, neat buns. A teacher yells out the combination as judges walk around and scribble notes down onto their clipboards. This is how most auditions go for ballet summer intensives. With local dance schools like the Los Olivos Dance Gallery and Fossemalle, many girls from Santa Ynez High School attend a variety of these. Summer dance programs will positively embellish their college applications and brighten their futures. Marina Andrade, a dancer from LODG, says, "Summer programs could help your acceptance into colleges because it shows that you are working hard in collaboration with many people and if you want to dance, it will show your commitment to dance even on your breaks."

Although the two may not seem connected, college acceptance and dance can go hand in hand. Counselors often suggest summer programs like volunteer work or city college courses because they show initiative and that a student is taking advantage of their summer, not just sitting on the couch and watching Netflix. Programs like the ballet summer intensives show commitment and devotion to admission boards. Another dancer, Logan Melville, says, "audition season is nerve racking yet exciting. You have to show the judges how you dance in only an hour. There are about 60 other girls auditioning." We wish luck to all of our devoted dancers for the new year and the new round of auditions!



## Personal Opinion: Refugees

By Kelsey Briseo and Ampelia Lopez

Over the recent presidential years a common misconception about refugees has been made- that they are criminals and responsible for ruining our country. For example, President Donald Trump has used words like rapists, drug dealers, criminals, gang members, terrorists, and more to describe refugees. In my opinion, these people are creating a new life in a new country as they escape violence, poverty, and lack of protection from their native country. These people come to a new country to achieve a better education for their children and to live out the American dream.

Families are being separated from each other, and their children are given up for adoption even though their parents should be responsible for them. Furthermore, the refugees are abused physically, mentally, sexually, verbally, and medical attention is denied leading to death. According to American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Custom and Border Protection Officers punch, kick, push, run over, and use tasers on people. Officers verbally abuse refugees who are trying to enter the country because they speak another language and do not understand certain directions.

Moving to a new country where you are not understood can be a hard adaptation especially when stereotypes are made. Leaving your country, family, and culture behind can make starting a new life difficult especially learning how to adapt to the traditions of a different country. Many of our own classmates or their parents have had to make these adaptations. We should understand and sympathize with these refugees and help them achieve a better life.

Have a response to this personal opinion or a personal opinion of your own? Send in a short article to [svv.pirate.news@gmail.com](mailto:svv.pirate.news@gmail.com) to be featured in our next addition!

**SCAVENGER HUNT // \$20 New Frontiers Gift Card**

The Scavenger Hunt is still open! To win, look at the clues in the November issue of Pirate News.