



Viking Voice

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Kingsburg High School

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VALLEY CHAMPS! Vikings Victorious at Selland



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News

KHS Winter Arts Flourish in Competition

By Lorne Rogers
Editor-in-Chief



With the fall season far behind us, marching band is out, and the winter arts are in!

While KHS' winter guard program has remained a consistent namesake of the program since around 2011, the winter percussion program was on hiatus for more than 20 years, finally being reinstated last year.

Winter percussion and winter guard both compete within the South Valley Winter Arts Association (SVWAA), with winter guard also competing within Winter Guard International (WGI).

This season, winter percussion competed in three competitions while winterguard competed in six.

This season, both ensembles have performed admirably, with percussion securing multiple first place finishes at competitions and also beating their scores from last season.

Senior Max Marshall, who plays tenors on the drumline, attributes the group's success to a stronger drive and them spending more time on technique.

"We definitely came into this year's season more prepared than last year. We were able to learn our show at a much faster rate as a result," said Marshall.

Frances Donabedian, who's the front ensemble instructor for KHS, has also noticed this dedication within the front ensemble.

"I'm most proud that all of the front ensemble members are such hard-working students," said Donabedian.

She continued, "I've seen more maturity in these kids than I've seen in the last six years of teaching at KHS. The members of the front ensemble are paving the way for future students in the program."

Meanwhile, the winterguard fought hard for every placement, usually placing on the lower end of the ladder. However, the guard's consistent effort and proficiency allowed them to move up a division within WGI.

This level of capability is not easily achieved. Colorguard coach Sarah Dezso gave some insight into the guard's growth since the fall.

"This winter season calls for some tricky moments that require a certain level of maturity and concentration while on the floor. These are mo-

ments we haven't necessarily been able to consider in the past, and that is a direct reflection of the work these kids have put in," she observed.

KHS' winter arts programs don't just give students a way to compete. The bonds that they form with each other and the memories they make together is where the true magic of the program resides.

"For me, the best part about winter percussion is being able to make music with my friends. The drumline is a very hard-working group and everyone is really fun to be around," remarked Will Bishop, who's the senior captain of the drumline.

"The thing that I like most about color guard is that I'm able to express myself in ways I wouldn't expect," said Ava Laney, who's a senior color guard captain.

Several other color guard members also identify with Laney, admitting that they enjoy the thrill and expressiveness of performing.

The other senior color guard captain, Autumn Perez, pointed out just how tight-knit the guard is.

"You create a family when you do color guard. We are with each other nearly every day and we've all formed strong bonds over the years," she expressed.

"We're with each other more than we are with our own families," joked Senior Kenia Tepetitlan-Barrios.

Something important to point out about the winter arts is that they're extracurricular activities; not all KHS band students are required to participate.

However, the experience gained from participating makes the winter arts invaluable to these students.

Marshall said, "In winter percussion, you're performing with a much smaller ensemble compared to a marching band. I've gained great experience in a new performance environment."

Laney commented, "Compared to marching band, the choreography in a winter guard is more intricate and complex. Our show challenges us, and I enjoy that."

Dezso also pointed out that, "In marching band the guard is just one element, whereas during the winterguard season they are the sole focus."

The KHS winter arts programs continue to be a valuable component of not just the band program, but also KHS as a whole. We are excited to see what future seasons have in store, and as always, go Vikings!



VIKING VOICE



Kingsburg High School 2021-2022

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Letters to the Editors

Email your comments, opinions, and ideas on this issue's articles to the Viking Voice at 6005196@stu.kingsburghigh.com. Your responses may be published next issue!

Check out the Viking Valor page at kingsburghigh.com

KHS 2022-2023 Academic Decathlon Team Places Second in Competition

By Grace Fan
Staff Writer

Kingsburg High School's Academic Decathlon Team recently took home a second place plaque along with thirteen other individual medals from this year's Academic Decathlon competition.

Each competing team was divided into three sections: Honors for those with a 3.80 GPA or higher; Scholastic for those with 3.20-3.799 GPA; and Varsity for those with a GPA between 0.00 and 3.199.

KHS' Honors team consisted of Seniors Lulu Abdelfattah, Elijah Rice, Lorne Rogers, and Junior Camille Zavala.

The Scholastic team included Seniors Destiny Delaisla and Nicolas Gordillo-Valdez, and Sophomores Serenity Hudler and Alexzander Croft.

The Varsity members were Sophomores Robert Neal and Nathan Ferrell.

There was also a non-competing Practice team involving members whose individual scores were not counted towards the overall score.

The Practice team students were Seniors Olivia Hale and Brenton Pumarejo, Junior Benedict Wedemann, Sophomore Nicolas Lindgren, and Freshmen Grace Fan, Armen Woods, Landon Manley, Jesus Castillo, and William Carnes.

Honors member Elijah Rice revealed that despite a formidable new competitor in their division, Kingsburg still maintained their historically high scores.

The competition was split into three days, where dedicated members participated in ten different subject tests centered around this year's theme, the American Revolution.

The ten subjects were Social Science, Science (Chemistry), Mathematics (Algebra and Trigonometry), Economics, Literature, Essay, Art, Music, Speech, and Interview.

In addition, a long work of literature is se-

lected for competitors to study. This year's chosen novel was *Wieland*, written by Charles Brockden Brown. Main team members also participated in a Super Quiz, a live competition consisting of all subjects except Speech, Interview, and Essay.

Delaisla, a Scholastic member, shared "the easiest subjects that we did were the Literature and Econ, and the hardest by far were the Science and Math tests."

Gordillo-Valdez, another Scholastic member, thought the easiest subjects were Science, Social Science, and Economics stating he could easily apply his knowledge to some extent without needing to direct his memory to study materials.

Even with the competition from twenty-five other schools that attended, Neal, Gordillo-Valdez, Hudler, Croft, Abdelfattah, Rice, and Rogers performed impressively in the Super Quiz with a total score of forty-seven.

Delaisla mentioned her favorite part of the experience was cheering everyone on during the Super Quiz. She stated, "Bene and I were the ideal soccer moms in the bleachers so it was super fun... it was nice to support people I care about."

She added, "This year's team was a good one, because we honestly did feel like a family all throughout the competition. I'm really glad I got to experience it with some great, hard working people."

Rice agreed stating, "I really loved this year's team dynamic, it was probably my favorite of all the AcaDec teams I've been on. This especially shone through during the Super Quiz, both when I was competing and when we were cheering on our team during the Scholastic and Varsity rounds."

Students were coached by English teacher Daniel Albers, who expressed he wanted to continue coaching Academic Decathlon as it was one of his happiest experiences at the school he previously taught at.

Albers stated, "Students often don't know what Academic Decathlon is. It takes a lot to build a tradition and have newer students coming in to replace the ones who graduate."

He encourages all students to join Academic Decathlon, and that it's a competition that welcomes participants from all GPA levels.

"Students come to love the competition," he added. "I have had students who only reluctantly agreed to join the team as freshmen who become devoted Academic Decathletes by their senior year."

Gordillo-Valdez emphasized that all students should consider joining. He stated, "I encourage anyone to join Academic Decathlon regardless of their GPA."

He remarked, "Those with a GPA less than a 3.0, I implore you to join. Mr. Albers is in desperate need of failing students."

For those interested in learning more about the competition, contact Mr. Albers to find out more information!



Shown above are members who won individual awards. Left to right: Alexzander Croft, Lulu Abdelfattah, Nicolas Gordillo-Valdez, Camille Zavala, Elijah Rice, Destiny Delasia, and Lorne Rogers.



The team pictured above on the third day at Sunnyside High School, after the Super Quiz.



Team shown above celebrating their success at Me N' Eds Neighborhood Pizza Parlor.

Features

In-Person Summer School returns to KHS

By Crystal Carrasco
Staff writer

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, many schools depended on online learning to teach their students. KHS was among these schools and used Zoom to educate students during the 2020-2021 school year. But when summer came around, KHS used an online program called Edgenuity to teach summer school classes.

Edgenuity is an online education service that provides K-12 learning material and teaches in the form of video courses. It leads students through videos that educate them on the given subject.

Unlike Zoom, teachers do not have to be present when students are online, students are given instructions on how much coursework they need to complete by a specific deadline. Students can also decide when they want to complete work, as they can access Edgenuity at any time. This allows students to be able to complete their courses early.



Edgenuity's logo, the online service offers pre-recorded videos for every lesson to help students understand.

When asked about her thoughts on Edgenuity, Freshman Kacy Bejarano explains, "I prefer to learn through Edgenuity because it's easier." She contin-

ued, "It's more difficult for students to get a hold of the teacher and ask them for help."

Freshman Layla Vasquez gave her thoughts on Edgenuity as well. "I like Edgenuity because I'm able to take my time to work properly." However, Vasquez admitted that it was easier to procrastinate and fall behind when using Edgenuity.

Earth Science and Anatomy Teacher Darin Peterson taught Health through Edgenuity and stated, "Edgenuity is convenient and easy for students and teachers but it's not the best choice for students." He mentions that "Edgenuity caters to our laziness and it's far better for students to be in the presence of a teacher."

English teacher Jon Hall also expressed his opinion on Edgenuity, saying, "Students get to work at their own pace, and I get to work from home." However, he reveals, "I like in-person better because, "In-person summer school allows teachers to be able to monitor students' progress. With these responses in mind, it's clear students and teachers have mixed opinions on the subject. But which is really better?"

When learning through Edgenuity, students can learn at their own pace, they don't have to leave home, and they can do their work from anywhere with an internet connection. Along with this, students can learn new technical skills such as learning to type more quickly and effectively because they would type regularly. Other skills include being able to navigate the internet, create

new documents, and communicate online.

Nevertheless, some cons include cheating, limited teacher communication, and students being more prone to technical problems. The setup of Edgenuity's curriculum made it so that students could potentially access answers online. Additionally, there may be many distractions in the student's home while they are trying to concentrate.

When considering in-person summer school, some possible pros include students actively interacting with other students, limited outside distractions, and class schedules assigned to students to help create a sense of consistency. Since it's in-person, students are able to develop their social skills and build relationships with their peers and educators. Furthermore, in-person summer school makes it easier for all students to ask for help.

However, there are some disadvantages to consider, such as tighter schedules, transportation issues, and higher costs than online schooling. In addition, parents/guardians of students may find themselves unable to accommodate their student's schedules during the summer and they might need to take the bus.

With these concerns in mind, it's clear both options have benefits and drawbacks. Nevertheless, the two choices offer an opportunity for students to gain the understanding of the subject presented.

Green Club Is Successful in Pismo Beach Clean Up!

By Avah Sloan
Staff Writer

Mrs. Olsen is the head of a club called The Green Club, which consists of twenty-five students. The club's primary focus seems to be on promoting a green and sustainable lifestyle, and it may involve activities such as planting trees, recycling, and participating in environmental projects. These students started cleaning up Pismo beach on January 21st, 2023. In the early morning they piled up in a bus for a two and a half hour drive. Every student in the club must be dedicated. They went on a Saturday and spent one of what for most people is a rest day.

The goal of the green club is to spread awareness about pollution and how to reduce your footprint on earth.

They not only tell people about their cause but they show it. The green club sets an example for what everyone should do to help the environment. Most schools have a green club but no school has a green club as dedicated as the green club at Kingsburg Highschool.

When asked about why he joined the green club, Benedict (Bene) Wedemann said, "I want to be part of a community that is doing something good for our planet. A community who helps the planet, not destroys it more." Bene has a very positive attitude towards the clean up which seems to be

contagious. he flourishes and shows his passion for the green club.

Devin loves helping the environment with her friends. It's a long ride from Pismo beach. Kiara Zarate is bringing "Money, snacks, a friend, and a good attitude." Camilla Gutierrez, like the other club members wants to make the world a better place. Students from this club say that it was hard to spend a Saturday cleaning up but it was worth it.



The Green Club at Pismo beach on Saturday

The bus ride was long but everyone tried their best to be respectful to the other passengers. Pismo Beach is much cleaner than when they arrived thanks to these students.

The Green Club does really well for a club that The members of this club join not but also be-

cause they want to help the community and future generations live and prosper.



An example of trash littered across Pismo Beach

Sadies Strikes Out With Students

By Scarlett Laita

Production Editor

Due to lack of interest and attendance, the Sadie Hawkins dance was cancelled.

Sadies 2023 was canceled on March 8th as a notice went out that Sadies was canceled because of lack of interest and low ticket sales.

The Sadie Hawkins dance theme this year was supposed

to be sports and scheduled to be on Friday March 10th at the Herb Knight Center at YoungLife adjacent to the highschool.

Even though the dance would have had food trucks, games, Wii sport station, dancing, and a photo booth, the event still could not seem to draw support from the student body.



Some factors that may have contributed to the lack of participation were that there was a swim meet the same day, and a softball game at the same time.

Some students expressed their thoughts on Sadies being canceled. Senior Jayla Lopez said, "I'm not surprised Sadies was canceled, just because the tickets were expensive for what was being offered."

Freshman Emilio Ayala exclaimed, "I was pretty disappointed it got canceled because I got asked to go, and we had paid for everything already."

Some students who were attending had

already been planning and had gotten ready with their proposing posters and outfits.



KHS Students Honored at Rotary Top 40 Awards



9th grade recipients

Madelyn Essegian
Presley Patterson
Jensen Hirschhorn
James Ergo
Kate Guerrero
Grace Fan
Carli Burkhalter
Sophia Diaz
Simon Marriott
Emmanuel Gutierrez



10th grade recipients

Jasleen Gill
Dennis Fan (2)
Hunter Nelson
Caleb Pasillas
Briar Estes
Kaylynn Fridolfs
Taryn Parker
John Peterson (2)
Nicholas Lindgren (2)
Callie Waldner (2)
Alyanna Gonzales (2)



11th grade recipients

Damian Aragon
Emily Ayala Gonzales (2)
Alonso Hernandez
Gavin Jensen (2)
Addison Murguia
Kristen Pacheco (3)
Emilie Parker (3)
Sullivan Phelan (2)
Emma Sloan
Sydney Wilson (3)

12th grade recipients

Lorne Rogers
Nicolette Fierro
Devyn Sasai (2)
James Cranford (3)
Emma Chappel
Elijah Rice (2)
Zachary Ergo (4)
Carly Raven
Angie Hernandez-Ramirez
Trista Fry (4)

Features

KHS's Fiddler on the Roof: About Breaking Tradition

Landon Manley
Staff Writer

Kingsburg High's annual musical for the 2023 season, *Fiddler on the Roof* has just recently finished their performances! *Fiddler on the Roof* was performed on February 21 through February 25, and was directed by our school's librarian, Ms. Laura Vallenari.

Fiddler on the Roof's story follows the little town of Anatevka, which is located in central Ukraine during the early 1900s. The plot focuses around Anatevka's Jewish traditions and shows how they can change throughout the years as new generations come.

The play's protagonist, Tevye (played by Sophomore JB Noh), is strongly against breaking these traditions, while other characters such as Tzeitel (Kristen Pacheco), Hodel (Emily Fedor), and Chava (Megan George) fight against their long-standing traditions amidst the pressure of having to get married to someone they don't love.

Tevye, a poor milkman, strongly believes in his family's traditions, but as his daughters begin to break away from them he begins to question their importance. "When his (Tevye's) daughters break tradition I start thinking what can I do, do I ignore my daughters or should I care for them and give them the life they want," stated Noh.

"Tevye's view on tradition, in the beginning, was that nothing must change and he must keep the tradition alive by letting the matchmaker

find a husband for his daughters, always keeping their heads covered, and always having a prayer shawl to show devotion to god." He doesn't even know what the tradition means or where it came from, It's because of the justification for most traditions being buried in the past." Noh continued.

The oldest daughter Tzeitel is the first to break the family tradition by not agreeing to her arranged marriage with Lazar Wolf (played by Ragan Bowen) and instead marrying the love of her life, Motel (played by Damian Mendoza).

Pacheco states, "My performance evoked a sense of sympathy for my character." She continued, "Marriage should be for love, not for political or economic reasons, and Tzeitel proves this by going against tradition in order to fulfill her own happiness."

Hodel soon breaks the tradition too by falling in love with someone that she wasn't supposed to. She falls in love with a student named Perchik (played by Dennis Fan) who strongly doesn't believe in the typical traditions. Perchick and Hodel shed a new light on their little town of Anatevka. They changed tradition, and no matter what they faced they knew they'd always have each other," Fedor stated.

Chava is the last of the sisters that breaks tradition by falling in love with Anatevka's enemy, a Russian soldier, Fyedka (played by Aaron Dourough) even though his people ravaged their city.

"To prepare to know how Chava would feel I thought about the way it would be if Aaron (Fyedka) was forbidden to me since we are dating. Then I just fell into the character from there. Megan George says.

Vallenari guided the actors through their scenes, paving the way for when they performed it on stage.

During an interview, Noh gave information on how he prepared for the play's emotional scenes, since they are the driving force of the plot. "I prepared by remembering who Tevye is and what he loves most, which is his family. Tevye always put his family and religion first no matter what, and this especially is shown when it's said his family must move out and his first thought is protecting his daughter."

But of course, a play is not complete without an audience. Freshman Mia Gonzalez gave her thoughts after her first viewing of the performance.

"It was an excellent show of course, but the story truly moved me. The fact the daughters decided their love was more important than what their parents believed in was a really nice plot point."

Fiddler on the Roof displayed a vital message of tradition and how people move forward in life despite hardships. The effort the cast put into making these heartfelt scenes paid off, resulting in another great performance from the KHS theater department.



Photoed Left to Right: Megan George, Aaron Dourough, Dennis Fan, Emily Fedor, Damian Mendoza, Kristen Pacheco.

Photo Credits: Brenton Pumajero

KHS Students Win the App Challenge 4TH Year in a Row

Scarlett Laita
Production Editor

Under the guidance of Computer Science teacher Josh Woods, KHS students win the 2022 Congressional App Challenge in California's 21st District four years running.

Seniors Elijah Rice and Alyson Johnson are the 2022 winners for their app, "San Joaquin Valley Snacks."

Seniors Johnson and Rice told congressionalappchallenge.us, "We were inspired to create this app because we understood the foreign feeling people might get when visiting the Valley, like any other unfamiliar place. We wanted to make an app that made it quick and easy for families and friends to find cool locations to dine in and get to know the place they are visiting."

Their app was created through studio.code.org.

Their app allows users to choose what type of cuisine they are craving, like savory or

sweet. After choosing, users are given multiple selections of restaurants that come up. They include location and hours provided.

When App users finally pick a restaurant, it gives them information about the establishment and the menu. The app also provides a link for the

business on google maps so they can either drive to or call the restaurant when they decide to go there.

U-Task. And in 2021, Carson Yakligian and Zachary Ergo won with their app, PickATripUSA.

Each member of Congress selects the winning app from their congressional district. The winners are invited to showcase their app during the annual House of Code Festival.

Creating an app for this challenge was challenging for Rice and Johnson, as the designers have to put themselves in the shoes of people who are visiting the Valley and don't know the best places to eat.

This is not the only time KHS students have won this challenge. This year marks the fourth year in a row that KHS students have won the Congressional App Challenge.

In 2019, Hayden Yakiligian, Connor Yakota and Luis Martinez won with their app. In 2020, Brenton Pumarejo and Lorne Rogers won with their app,

The 2023 App Challenge opens up in June and lasts till November. If you are interested in competing visit the app challenge website, www.congressionalappchallenge.us.



business on google maps so they can either drive to or call the restaurant when they decide to go there.

The Congressional App Challenge is an official initiative of the U.S. House of Representatives, the members of Congress direct middle school and highschool students, and teach them

Congressional App Challenge Winners Past and Present



San Joaquin Valley Snacks



This app is designed to share the food gems of the Central Valley!

What do you want to eat? ▾

Pictured Left: Seniors Elijah Rice and Alyson Johnson, winners and Creators of San Joaquin Valley Snacks mobile phone application. Pictured above: Brenton Pumarejo, Lorne Rogers, Zachary Ergo, Carson Yakligian, Elijah Rice, Alyson Johnson 2020-2022 App Challenge Winners

Features

KHS FFA Chapter Vist Ontario CA for State Convention

By Kirrah Morton

Assiastant Editor

The FFA State Convention is the only time all of California FFA can come together. Over 7,000 members attended the conference this year.

There were many significant events during this year's convention. Our new FFA state officers are selected, rules are looked over, etc.

The state convention is usually located in Sacramento CA., but this year it was in Ontario, CA.

KHS FFA attends this event yearly. Not only are they attending conferences, meetings, and workshops, they also get the chance to see new things in the Ontario area. One of the things that they got to go to was the LA Flower Market.

The KHS FFA chapter arrived in Ontario on March 16th, then left on March 18th late in the evening.

Every year our FFA chapter sends two delegates to the state conference to represent Kingsburg. This year, KHS' representatives were Kaydyn Kazanjian and Camille Zavala.

Being a voting delegate is an honor and shows that you are a valuable and trusted member of the chapter.

KHS' chapter is run by three advisors, who are also agriculture teachers at the school: . Brian Donovan, Amanda Ferguson, and Allexsis Calvert. In addition Johnathan Woodard a Agriculture student teacher and Mrs. Turmon a mother of one of the students will also be attending as supervisors. These are the people who took the chapter and

supervised them for this trip.

When asked about how this convention benefited the students Calvert said, "This convention offers students an opportunity to travel, which some may otherwise never get to do."

She continued, "It also teaches students personal responsibility. They learn how to be professional and accountable. Lastly, there is something that is just transformative about seeing your peers presenting and performing on stage in front of thousands of people."

This convention was an experience that only a certain group of people get to attend. FFA members refer to this oirganization as their "found family". California State Convention 2023 was a success.

Shout out to Senior Trista Fry for being awarded on stage for her work with show rabbits.



Math Team Sucess at Bakersfield Math Field Day



On Saturday March 11th, 2023, KHS attended a math feild day in Bakersfield. KHS performed admirably, with nine people taking home awards. Alonso (Salvador) Hernandez received 1st Place in the Varsity Individual Medley, while Nicholas Lindgren received 1st Place in the JV Individual Medley. Nicholas Lindgren, Zhenhong Li, Emmanuel Gutierrez, and Cameron Perkins were awarded 1st place in the JV Team Medley. Alonso (Salvador) Hernandez, Bradley Harder, and Jaxon Ahumada were awarded 3rd place in the Varsity Team Medley.

Are Rallies for everyone? One student's opinion

By Abigail Berry
Staff Writer

KHS is known for hosting many rallies, and this year already has 3 rallies, with many more to come. However, a problem that persists is some of these rallies can be very noisy and uncomfortable. Our student body has really outgrown the gym.

These rallies can be student participation friendly and allow students to talk and yell freely, however, one reason that students may not like rallies is because of the intense volume level in the gym. Students are encouraged to yell and scream in order to gain spirit points, which can be irritating to some students.

Another factor that contributes to this problem is that the bleachers can be very crowded and tight-spaced, as students struggle to fit in their assigned seating. It has significantly affected the Freshman class, as they find themselves sitting on the floor because of the limited bleacher space. This will only get worse over time, as the class size will greatly increase even more.

Not only are these bleachers super uncomfortable to sit on overtime, but sometimes students can't even choose who they sit next to either. Students can find themselves sitting next to a super polite and quiet

person, or a super loud and obnoxious person. And it is impossible to even to choose to move most of the time, as it is hard to get out of seats until the end.

Leaving also plays a factor in causing stress. Leaving is difficult as students do not follow a certain order in which they exit. Students are dismissed all at



once and not by row, causing everybody to attempt to leave at once. This causes a lot of crowd surges, which could be a potential danger. Students usually rush towards the exit to leave, which causes many students to get stuck at the door.

All of these factors contribute to many students' feelings about the rallies being stressful and unnecessary. As a result, they are uncomfortable and too overwhelming for most students.

So what factor could be changed about rallies that would make them a better experience and enjoyable to almost every student?

There should be a system developed to allow students to leave one row at a time when being excused, which would eliminate a lot of the crowd surges that occur as well as allow for students to leave considerably faster, as there will no longer be huge crowds of students blocking the exit and making it take longer for students to leave.

Another factor that should be taken into consideration is bleacher space, as the years pass by it is inevitable that the class size will increase more over time, as Kingsburg is a town that is drastically growing in population at the moment, so the addition of bleacher space would be proficient.

And finally, creating a more comfortable environment for those who are unfavorable of loud noises. While school spirit is vital for the purpose that these rallies want to serve, there are certainly other ways that the school could

encourage school spirit without creating a disruption for a large majority of students. This "hype" can be saved up for the event that they are hyping up, such as a football game, rather than for a non-optional event.

New Hall Pass Policy Raises Opinions At KHS

By Lilliana Cortez
Staff Writer

As the second semester at KHS begins, a new policy for students has been issued. Students must now have a hall pass on their person in order to use the restroom, go to the nurse or visit the office.

With this new policy, if a student is caught without a hall pass, the security officer will take the student back to their class and disciplinary action will be taken.

The policy started due to a number of students lingering around the quad and wandering around the school when they were supposed to be in their respective classes.

Many students here at KHS have voiced their objections against the new policy. Students argue that the passes are unsanitary, especially when the lanyards are being taken to the restroom. This back to back use allows for no time to sterilize and remove lingering bacteria.

Students have proposed a few solutions for this issue. One

solution could be providing students with some disinfectant spray to use after arriving back from the restroom.

The hall passes have sparked controversy amongst KHS students, with most disliking the

Sophomore Jenna Rogers gave her thoughts on the new hall pass system.

"I dislike them because it's just another way to interrupt the teacher. It takes away learning time as they have to spend quite a bit of time filling out the pass."

With the policy now in full effect, students may now start being punished if caught without the pass. Though, students have noticed that no one has been enforcing it. No one will come up to you and ask whether you have a hall pass to be out of class.

Now that this has been seen, it has raised the question of, "Why do you need a hall pass if no one is checking them?" and if they aren't being checked, it still doesn't fix the issue of students just walking off campus without permission.

The issues will remain if students who are out aren't being checked and it makes these passes useless.

Will this flaw be fixed? While there are ways the hall passes help, there are also ways it doesn't. While the school's efforts are noble, perhaps there are ways to further improve the new policy.

Hall Pass

Please allow _____
(Hall Pass Pad - Green) (033) _____
(Student's Name)

To go to:

<input type="checkbox"/> Bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Nurse	<input type="checkbox"/> Principal/Asst. Prin.
<input type="checkbox"/> Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Office
<input type="checkbox"/> Guidance	<input type="checkbox"/> Auditorium	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus
<input type="checkbox"/> Dean	<input type="checkbox"/> Locker	<input type="checkbox"/> Room _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Lab	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

Date: _____ Time Left: _____ AM
PM

Teacher/Staff: _____

Time Returning: _____ AM
PM

Teacher/Staff: _____

Form #033 - NationalSchoolForms.com - 1-800-431-1201

potential solution is using just the paper hall pass form instead of using it with the lanyard. Another

new policy while others don't really have a strong opinion on it.

efforts are noble, perhaps there are ways to further improve the new policy.

Features

Honoring the Vikings of the Month at KHS

by Kirrah Morton
assistant editor

Each month, KHS teachers honor students for their exceptional character, positive attitude towards school, determination, and perseverance.

The different Academic departments have a meeting to discuss how the month is going, things to improve on, and talk about which students they believe deserve this honor and recognition. Each department nominates a student from each grade level to be honored as "Student of the Month."

Each recipient is given a personalized certificate, as well as a special message from the nominating teacher.

January



Max Marshal Math teacher Bryan Peterson nominated Max saying, "Max has been working real hard and doing a fantastic job in Math Analysis. He likes to both ask and answer questions in class and he is very nice to the people around him"

Miranda Fabela Luna English teacher Heather Manley nominated Miranda saying, "Miranda is extremely kind and respectful to myself and her fellow classmates. Demonstrated through her dedication to her education are honor, success and determination."



Sydnee Wilson Spanish teacher Ana Parra nominated sydney saying, "Miss Wilson is a very determined and steadfast student. Sydnee is always motivated, driven, and focused on her goals. She is determined to well her job."

Tejbir Purewal Math teacher Mike Manley nominated Tejbir saying, "Tejbir has always shown determination, but has become a classroom leader willing to help others in class succeed. It is an honor to work with him."



Gab Amariei Math teacher Ken Harvey nominated Gab saying, "Gab has consistently shown kindness by helping others while faithfully completing his work. His example of always being on task, seeking to understand concepts"

Madelyn Essegian Science teacher Amanada Manuszak nominated Madelyn saying, "Madelyn has always shown kindness and determination. She always comes to class prepared and with a good attitude."



Genesis Tajada Science teacher Amanda Manuszak nominated Genesis saying, "Genesis always does her best at her work and she is kind to everyone around her at all times. It's been a pleasure having her in my class for four years."

Madison Digidio Science teacher Pauline Phillips nominated Madison saying, "Maddie is a very determined young lady. She has started the second semester very well, completing all of her work and staying ahead."



Raygam McGowan Math teacher Carrie Boyd nominated Raygam saying, "Although math is a big challenge for Raygam, she comes into class every day with a positive attitude and amazing work ethic. She asks questions when she needs

Jacob Caglia Ag teacher Brain Donovan nominated Jacob saying, "Jacob has been extremely in both his Advanced Ag Mechanics class as well as my 3rd Period Aide. In addition to his increased participation in activities outside of class."



Ismael Hernandez Gonzales Math teacher Gail Williams nominated Ismael saying, "smael has been an outstanding student in Math 1B. He shows excitement while learning and he encourages the other students in his groups."

Katherine Carrasco Spanish teacher Martha Gudino nominated Katherine saying, "Katherine is an exceptional student of great character. She achieves high grades in class because of her dedication and hard work. It is my pleasure to have her in class."



Natalie Hernandez Sapiñish teacher Yaniary Espindola nominated Natalie saying, "Natalie is a student who demonstrates kindness and honor on a daily basis. She serves as a role model in the classroom. Natalie always comes into class with a positive attitude"

Jimmy Cranford Admin Michelle Warkentin nominated Jimmy saying, "Jimmy is a constant at KHS. He is always respectful, polite, helpful, and kind. Jimmy is extremely trustworthy, hard working, and is an outstanding Viking."



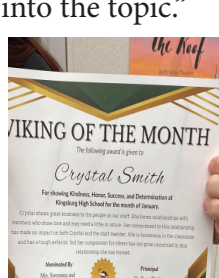
Hunter Nelson Sapiñish teacher Jorge Contreras nominated Hunter saying, "Hunter is a hardworking student and demonstrates the KHS pillars of character. In the classroom he is always open to helping others and takes leadership roles."

Chris Goldie Special ED teacher Gabriella Lopes nominated Chris saying, "Chris had done an exemplary job in providing support and kindness to his peers in his art class, as a TA in Math 1B and in providing support during Life Skills class."



Rei Talawepi English teacher Phillip Bergstrom nominated Rei saying, "Rei shows great courage, focus, and DETERMINATION in my class. She is always engaged in the lesson, and I appreciate every time she shares her unique insight into the topic."

Crystal Smith English teachers Joelle Swenning & Michelle Schiller nominated Crystal saying, "Crystal shows great kindness to the people on our staff. She forms relationships with members who show love and may need a little in return."



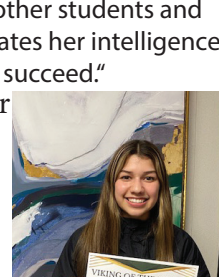
February

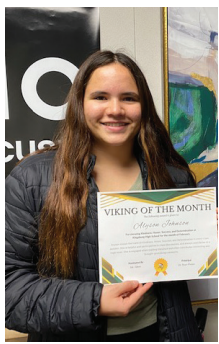
Ismael Hernandez Gonzales Math teacher Gail Williams nominated Ismael saying, "Ismael has been an outstanding student in Math 1B. He shows excitement while learning and he encourages the other students in his groups."



Jasleen Gill english teacher Daniel Albers nominated Jasleen saying, "asleen consistently demonstrates Kindness, Honor, Success, and Determination in class. She participates in class discussions and always has interesting and relevant things to say. She is helpful to other students and always demonstrates her intelligence and her ability to succeed."

Alize Gutierrez Spanish teacher Yaniary Espindola nominated Alize saying, "Alize is a well deserving student who shows determination, kindness and honor in our Spanish 1 class. She is always ready to work and brings her best-self to class."





Alyson Johnson English teacher Daniel Albers nominated Alyson saying, "Alyson shows the traits of Kindness, Honor, Success, and Determination in every class session. She is helpful and participative in class discussions."

Josue Serrano Physical Education teacher James Cranford nominated Josue saying, "Josue is a hard working and positive young man. He works well with all his classmates and is pleasure to have in class."



Hunter Nelson Spanish teacher Jorge Contreras nominated Hunter saying, "Hunter is a hardworking student and demonstrates the KHS pillars of character. In the classroom he is always open to helping others and takes leadership roles without having to ask."



Onnika Aguirre Math teacher Ken Harvey nominated Onnika saying, "Onnika is a bright, inquisitive student who is personable, works well with others, and pays attention to details."

Macario Garcia

Special ED teacher Gaberiella Lopes nominated macario saying, "Macario always has a great work ethic, he rarely needs reminding to get started on independent work and always knows what assignments are priority at that moment in time."



Audrey Laney and Daniela Padilla Math teacher Brian Peterson nominated Audrey and Daniela saying, "This goes to both Audrey and Daniela because I can't give it to one without the other. These two are in my 6th period Math 3 class and they work extremely well together."



Kate Guerrero Spanish teacher Martha Gudino nominated Kate saying, "Kate is always on task and ready to learn. She is always respectful to everyone and when someone asks for help in her group she is always willing to help."

Lauren Van Curen Math teacher Ingrid Morris nominated Lauren saying, "Lauren works hard in class and has a kind and cheerful disposition. She brings a smile to my face whenever she enters my room. Lauren is kind to those around her and helps others in class."



Manuel Serrano VROP teacher John Marquez nominated Manuel saying, "Manuel has an exceptional work ethic in the workshop, he does top quality work and also demonstrates kindness and honor while he helps other students complete shop projects."

International students at KHS

by Kairbubu Kurmanbek kyzy
Staff Writer

International students at our school this year come from Kairbubu-FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange Program), Ziad-YES (The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange Program), and Bene-Greenheart programs.

In Kyrgyzstan, our lessons start at 7:30, and finish at 13:20. Then I have lunch with my friends, and go to the ORT (national university admissions test) courses. Afterwards, I go swimming and do other sports at my school, do volunteering, and do other activities. In the evening, I cook, and finish my homework.

Bene, Ziad and I are enjoying and having the best time here at KHS. We like KHS very much.

Truth to be told, here I have noticed more differences than similarities to my home. For example: the school year in all schools of the whole country always starts traditionally on the "Day of Knowledge," September 1. In Kyrgyzstan students graduate after 11th grade. Lessons in Kyrgyzstan start at 7:30 and finish at 13:20, we study 6 days in a week, have 7 lessons every day and each of them lasts 40-45 minutes. We can not choose our lessons. We have 17 required lessons, and we do not have lessons like Stagecraft, Yearbook, Band, Choir and others.

We do not have time for lunch, we eat after school, and our breaks last 5 minutes after each class. In Kyrgyzstan, all the schools are indoor schools, and this has been my first experience studying in an outdoor school. In Kyrgyzstan, in all 17 classes, we have the same classmates. Students who are in different grades can

not be in the same classes.

We do not have school buses and football games in my country. We have to wear school uniforms every day. For Ziad and Benedict, they have the same differences, but also they are educated in English in Egypt and Germany.

This year, I want to share about my country, culture, and traditions with many people, make more presentations about Kyrgyzstan, try classes that we do not have, and participate in different school activities, like sports that we do not have, such as Tennis, and Water Polo. I want to learn about waste treatment problems. Ziad wants to successfully complete soccer season, and Bene wants to join track team.

The differences between Kingsburg and my hometown Bishkek, that I have noticed are: First, there are many high-rise buildings and apartments in Bishkek, and here there are more private houses. Ziad and Bene have also mentioned these were some of the differences they noticed compared to their home.

Secondly, there is a big difference between the population. Here it is approximately about 12,000 people, in Bishkek it is over 3,000,000 people.

Thirdly, public transport in Bishkek is everywhere. It is very popular and the majority of the population uses public transport every day, while in Kingsburg it is very sparse.

Summarizing my article about being an exchange student, I would say that I have been enjoying and enjoyed every moment of being an exchange student here in Kingsburg. I have tried

taking an AP classes, joined Track team, introduced my culture, and have held 26 presentations as an exchange student introducing my culture. This has been the best year of my life. It wasn't just a year in my life, it was a life in a year.



Extracurricular Classes that KHS should offer

By Serj Valenzuela
Staff Writer

Though KHS has an impressive list of Extracurricular opportunities, there's always room for improvement.

Freshman Elijah Allen said, "I think that our school should add back Drivers Ed so that students can learn not just how to drive, but the basics like turn signals and road rules."

He continued, "This would be beneficial so students can learn how to drive easier, quicker and safer at a younger age."

When asked if KHS should add new sports he said, "I think that KHS already has enough sports."

Freshman Nathan Fitzcharles is interested in a barbershop class for Juniors and Seniors who are interested in hairstyling.

"Not only would it be an enjoyable class but it would also teach students how to cut hair and do certain styles for people."

In regards to sports, Fitzcharles believes

that KHS does not need any new sports.

"KHS has excellent sports options. They allow kids to sign up for multiple sports as long as their grades are good and students are rarely cut from teams," he remarked.

Meanwhile, Freshman Jose Bueno believes

He continued, "Instead of waiting for people to get up and cook their food they can cook it themselves."

When Jose was asked about his thoughts on potential sports additions he said, "KHS already has plenty of good sports like golf and football."

Having these extra classes at KHS could be beneficial for KHS students because these classes help out in the real world/future.

For example, having a cooking class can help people train to be a chef. Bringing back drivers ed can help better prepare teens for their future. Lastly, having a barber shop class can help teens become hair stylists or hairdressers, and would help encourage careers within the cosmetology industry.

Some students have expressed a desire for a KHS boys volleyball team. The central valley a healthy league for boys volleyball and it could be very beneficial for KHS to start a Men's Volleyball Team as this would give some students a new desire and good competition



that a Cooking class or Home Ec course would be an excellent class.

"A cooking or home ec class would teach students how to bake and cook for future events or for home meals."

Should Freshmen be able to take AP Classes

By Amia Mathis
Prudction Editor

In highschool, freshmen aren't able to take any sort of AP classes. Some freshmen think that this is unfair because they aren't able to get a higher GPA.

I think that freshmen should be able to take AP classes if they know what they want to pursue in the future.

Taking AP classes will help them get ahead for the future and can help them learn more of the topic that they chose.

After asking Junior Madysen Delgado if she thinks that freshmen should be able to take AP classes she responded with, "I think that freshmen should be able to take AP classes because they have the option at the end of the semester to drop the class and for some students it would help them get into a better college."

After asking Sophomore Caitlyn Van Laar the same questions she said, "I think that Freshmen shouldn't be able to take AP classes unless they know what college they are going to attend. I think this is because AP classes are challenging and can ruin a student's GPA."

Freshmen schedules can be chaotic as it's their first year, but for people that are in clubs and

sports it can be even more busy to the point where they can't handle it.

AP classes help a student earn college credits which increase their chance for getting into a better college. If a student were to fail an AP class, it would just drop and act like a normal class.



Taking AP classes is a good idea if you want to get into a good college and get higher than a 4.0 GPA, but in your first year it's not ideal to take AP classes.

In the end, students should have the option to take AP classes if they wish and should have to take a placement test to make sure that they have

the ability to pass the class.

Some freshmen find that some classes are really easy and should be in a more advanced class which should be offered. If a student has the ability and knowledge to excel they should have the option to.

If a freshman takes an AP class and doesn't get good enough grades then they have the option to switch out of it at the end of the semester.

Taking an AP course improves your chances of getting into a top ranked school. For some people this is their main priority so having the chance to take these classes improves their chances.

There are multiple AP classes that a student can take like AP World History and AP Calculus. There should only be maybe 1-2 AP classes that freshmen should be able to take.

Freshmen should have the option to take AP classes that aren't as difficult as normal classes but they would still be learning on a more advanced level and get a higher GPA. They should always have the option to take whatever class they want but mostly the students that know what college they want to go to in the future.

Mr. Marquez Wins Teacher of the Year

By Maria Escoto
Production Editor

VROP instructor John Marquez has been voted Educator of the Year by the KJUHSD Board of Trustees.

Marquez has been at KHS since 2019. He teaches various classes such as Intro to Manufacturing, CADD, and Construction Technology.

Each class has around 20-25 students. His classes consist of freshmen to seniors.

Each student is offered the same opportunities to compete in Tiger Romp just in different events. Tiger Romp is a competition for kids in classes. The competition is on things the students learn throughout the year.

When Marquez was asked what class he would take if he was a student he said, "I would really enjoy being in the Intro to Manufacturing class, if I were a student. I think that the class showcases a lot of cool and interactive projects."

One aspect of Marquez's success as a teacher is his teaching style, which is loved by his students. Marquez gave his thoughts on this saying, "I think my teaching style is particularly helpful because I give students hands-on demonstrations and give them the opportunity to work it out on their own

with assistance. I always try to get an understanding on what the student is missing and figure out different ways to get them to understand".

Marquez began teaching at KHS. His whole career as a teacher grew at KHS. Before becoming a teacher Marquez's dream was to become a CADD/CAM designer. He achieved this dream and con-

high school in 2003 and went to Clovis East High School.

He learned about ROP through his time at high school. "I took ROP classes at Clovis East in high school. I took automotive ROP classes, was in VICA, and was the vice president for my Junior and Senior year," explained Marquez.

He continued, "When asked to be the SkillsUSA chapter advisor I decided it would be a good opportunity to reach more young minds."

His wife Elizabeth Marquez is a 3rd grade elementary teacher at Miramonte Elementary in Clovis, won teacher of the year for her school.

Other teaching Honorees for this year include John Hall, Carrie Friesen and Kathryn Olsen. For Coach of the Year, Dave Wilson, who coaches football, won one of three awards for coaching. Kristen Bray who coaches volleyball also won a Coach of the Year Award.

In addition, Mike Manley who coached Swim for 18 years won the Life Time Coaching Award. He recently retired from coaching last year.

Finally, Classified Employee of the Year Rufino Ucelo Jr. Classified Honoree Rosa Corona and Ronnie Wilson. Administrator of the Year went to Heather Wilson.



tinued to do that for three years until he decided he wanted to go into teaching.

"My instructor at Fresno City College told me I would be a good teacher."

He went to Fresno City for a degree in Computer Aided Design at Fresno state. He graduated

Student Opinions On Off-Campus Lunch

By Nehemiah Zapien
Staff Writer

Here at KHS, off-campus lunch for students is an enormous part of the high school experience, and they let students have freedom with what they chose to do and where they choose to go

Seeing that KHS doesn't have a cafeteria anymore, they make up for it by allowing their students to go off-campus, but does this have its drawbacks and benefits?

Senior Hayden Gallyer gave her thoughts, saying, "I think if we are allowed to drive to school in the morning, then we should be able to drive wherever we want in our spare time during break and lunch time as long as we're back in time for class."

Gallyer also commented, "I like the fact that we get to choose where we go for lunch because I can choose to have whatever I'm in the mood for and it's fun to be able to hang out with friends."

When asked about her thoughts on the duration of lunch, she replied, "I feel if we have to spend six to seven hours in class, then we should at least get a full hour of lunch since

many students also have to walk to get our food and wait for it to be ready."

Junior Ariana Salinas was asked questions on how she felt about off-campus lunch, to which she responded, "It's amazing because it's nice to be able to go out and have lunch with friends especially if you don't have classes with them."



She was also asked if she would rather have a cafeteria and commented, "No, because off-campus has more options and better quality food compared to the school's food."

Salinas was also asked for her opinion

on the amount of time we have for lunch and replied, "I think lunch should be an hour long because we have 2-hour classes, so we use lunch to take a break from class and enjoy our food."

Senior Peyton Smith was asked if they would like to give their opinion on the topic, in which they responded with, "I like that they allow everyone to have off-campus lunch here because at some schools, they only allow seniors to have it."

They were also asked if they would prefer a cafeteria, in which they said, "I feel like I would prefer a cafeteria, because when I don't go off-campus the library and quad get filled and there really isn't anywhere to sit."

When Smith was interviewed, they gave a good reason why off-campus lunch has its drawbacks by saying, "I've been late to class numerous times because I had to wait for my food to be done and then had to walk back to campus."

This led to them saying, "I feel like lunch should be an hour long so people that have to wait a little longer for their food can still eat and walk back to campus without having to worry about being tardy."

Kingsburg's Success: EXPLAINED

By Conner McFall
Staff Writer

93631. That's the zip code, not the population. Kingsburg High School is one of the most successful high schools in the Central Valley. The town of 12,662 people are constantly competing with towns like Clovis (122,989) or Fresno (544,510) in sports, music, and countless extracurricular activities. Not only are they just competing with these towns and schools, they're giving them a run for their money, or they're, you guessed it, winning.

There is no simple formula to becoming a winning program because if there was, obviously everybody would replicate it. The exact or complete formula of Kingsburg High School's winning culture is impossible to clearly pinpoint. However, there are some components that lie on the championship surface of this school.

The small town factor of Kingsburg High School has helped its teams be more united. Instead of having 50 kids getting cut from sports teams, most who try out often make the team and are given a clear role. This allows coaches and directors to work more personally with each and every one of their students. With 4 years of personalized coaching, athletes are bound to improve greatly and even be REALLY good.

Another big component of Kingsburg's success and arguably the most important: its coaches and leaders. Many coaches at the high school are KHS graduates who know what it takes for our teams to win. To name a few, Coach David Wilson, Philip Bergstrom, Scott Hodges, and Principal Ryan Phelan know what it takes to win both as a player and a coach. A repeating cycle of tradition starts to form as the players under these coaches begin to replace them as time goes on. The loyalty of Kingsburg, both in coaches and players contributes vitally to team chemistry and ultimately, success.



At the end of the day, amazing coaching needs great talent to win championships. KHS has had some incredible talent throughout the years. Student athletes like Rafer and Jimmy Johnson, Tyler and Austin Bray, Andrew Vorhees, Jake Woods, and Monte Clark all went on to have professional careers in their respective sports. There have been countless athletes from Kingsburg that have gone on to play sports in college. The talent that this town has produced is undeniable.

Kingsburg does not only find success in sports, but also in its music. The award winning KHS band is one of our top performing programs. Any football game is energized by the band's enthusiastic presence under the direction of Mike Schofield. Just this year, the marching band won the WBA Central Regional Championships. They also progressed to finals as a 4A band for the first time in the history of the school. Over the years, the band has continued to grow as more and more students find their calling in music.

Overall, Kingsburg High School has been one of the most remarkable high schools in the Valley. The "small town" also known as "The Swedish Village" continues to be successful. KHS has established a steady winning record, and things don't look to be changing anytime soon.

A Game For the Ages: Super Bowl LVII

By Luke Johnston
Staff Writer

The game that all football fans love, the Super Bowl, featured two teams that came out on top of both divisions. The KC Chiefs for AFC and the Eagles for the NFC, finally played in the final game of the season.

The Chiefs lost the opening coin toss and the Eagles chose to receive. The Eagles had an impressive first drive of 99 yards and then Jalen Hurts, the Eagles' quarterback, scored the first touchdown in Super Bowl LVII. It only took four minutes and fifty-one seconds for the Eagles to take an early lead in the Super Bowl, making the score 7-0. Then the Chiefs' quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, made a 18 yard pass to the tight-end Travis Kelce for a touchdown, tying the game up 7-7. The Eagles second drive in the first quarter wasn't the best and were not able to recover. The Chiefs had the same problem only making it to Philadelphia's 24-yard line and had to go for a field-goal. Harrison Butker, the Chiefs kicker, booted his 42-yard field-goal off the left post, leaving the game at 7-7. The Eagles then went for their third drive which carried over into the second quarter. Travis Kelce had an outstanding performance in the first quarter with 60 receiving yards and 3 catches. Wide receiver DeVonta Smith for the Eagles had 4 catches and had 46 yards in the first quarter. The first quarter ended in a tie at 7-7.

To start off the second quarter of the Super Bowl, Jalen Hurts threw a 45-yard pass to A.J. Brown in the left corner of the end zone which then made them have a 14-7 lead. That was Brown's first touchdown in the Super Bowl and that catch was his first major involvement in the Super Bowl. The Eagles were up and

then made their first error on offense.

The Chiefs tied the game up by making a defensive score by Nick Bolton on a 36-yard fumble recovery. How this happened was by Hurts attempting to scramble and losing control of the ball.

The Eagles got the ball again and Hurts redeemed himself on the next drive by making a 14-yard run into the end zone making the score 21-14. The Chiefs had a rough time recouping in that quarter. They had too many turnovers and also had Mahomes sit out for the rest of the quarter. He had an ankle injury that he suffered when he played against the Jacksonville Jaguars and then had similar problems when he was playing against the Eagles.

The Eagles went on for another drive before the teams would go into halftime. Hurts threw a 22-yard pass to Brown which helped the Eagles get into field goal range. The Eagles kicker, Jake Elliott, kicked a 35 yard field goal to make the Eagles have a 10 point lead against the Chiefs. The score at halftime was 24-14.

After halftime and the Super Bowl headed into the second half of the game, the Chiefs started to push their way down the field. Mahomes hands the ball to an underdog and Jerrick McKinnon rushed into the endzone to make the Eagles only lead by three making the score 24-21.

The Eagles were then back on defense and went straight down the field like they did with most of their drives. Even though they didn't find their way into the endzone they were in field goal range. Jake Elliot made the field goal making the score 27-21.

Later on in the third quarter, Dallas Goedert made an amazing catch. Andy Reid unsuccessfully

challenged the catch when it appeared that Goedert bobbled the ball as he pulled it in. The Chiefs were able to hold the Eagles to only a field goal and the Eagles were still winning at the end of the third quarter making the score still 27-21.

In the last quarter of the Super Bowl LVII. The Chiefs were down by 6 and there was still hope. This was the Chief's quarter and they were able to play their way of the game against the Eagles. The Chiefs were able to make a touchdown with a five yard catch by the wide receiver Kadrius Toney giving the Chiefs the lead for the first time that night, the score being 27-28.

Then the Chiefs were on a roll. They made another touchdown from the four-yard connection between Mahomes and Moore and then the game was 27-35.

However, the Eagles weren't going to just give up, they came back stronger and Jalen Hurts rushed into the endzone for the third time making the score 33-35.

To tie the game, Jalen Hurts ran the ball in for a two point conversion, tying up the score at 35-35.

The game almost went to overtime, but the Chiefs went down the field into Eagles territory one last time to kick a field goal

The Chiefs positioned the ball in the center for Harrison Butker and he made the game-winning 27-yard field goal.

The final score was 35-38 and the Chiefs made an amazing comeback. Patrick Mahomes won the MVP for LVII Super Bowl. This was an amazing season in the NFL and probably the best Superbowl in many years. All of the fans can't wait for what's next.

Covid Remains Relevant Resurges with new XBB.1.5

By Gir Brewer
Staff Writer

A new variant of COVID-19 referred to as XBB.1.5 has taken the place of the initial Omicron variant. 49% of the currently known Covid cases are the XBB.1.5 variant while the original Omicron variant is nearly gone now. In addition variants BA.5 and BQ.1 alongside the previously mentioned XBB.1.5 have dominated parts of the U.S., such as Nebraska. This new strain has reinstated the initial concerns of covid infection.

The new XBB.1.5 variant is more infectious than prior variants and binds to the host, making it more efficient as a virus. The symptoms are similar to prior variants of Covid-19 and are no more dangerous than the prior strains.

At the time of writing, there have been a total of 12,004,618 cases with 102,522 deaths in California. In addition, 75.1% of the Californian population is fully vaccinated. By February 2nd, California had 19,796 new covid cases, but the period from January 28 through January 30th only had 17 new cases total, which means the cases

increased by 70,615,300%. On February 2nd, California reported 154 new covid-related deaths.

With Covid resurging, it is important to remember there are protective measures you can take to protect you and your loved ones. Avoiding contact with sick people and testing when you feel sick are highly encouraged. Wearing a medical-grade facial mask can also protect you from covid-19 and prevent you from spreading any illnesses. If you are sick you should wear a mask to prevent you from infecting anyone else. If you are experiencing Covid symptoms you should test and stay home. If you can, you should get vaccinated. The vaccine creates antibodies in your system so that should you actually catch Covid your body is more prepared to handle it.

If you are looking to get vaccinated, Walgreens does same-day appointments for both vaccination and boosters. Several clinics also do walk-ins however you should check with your local clinic beforehand.

Gun Violence Effects Student Mental Health, Increases Anxiety

By Connor Ramirez
Staff Writer

School is the place where kids go to learn, become members of society, gain valuable academic knowledge, and form relationships with like-minded individuals. What happens when this space suddenly can no longer provide the safety that students require? School gun violence (school shootings) have been affecting the US for a long time. Since 2010, over 68 reported school shootings have taken place all across America (according to Security.org).

How does this growing crisis affect students? Even those who are not directly harmed by the offender and are only witnesses to an on campus shooting are still likely to experience some type of traumatic stress symptom and the use of antidepressants is higher. The Children's hospital of Philadelphia reported that after shootings, students are most at risk to experience anxiety, depression and heightened concerns for their own and others safety. While most will be faced with only short term effects of these mental illnesses, others may develop long standing psychiatric disorders.

What causes shootings and gun violence? Many have assumed that poor mental health is what causes school shootings, but only a small percentage (around 5%) were connected to mental illness and substance abuse (according to the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, 2021). Research has shown that school shootings are mainly committed by students who are being outcast by peers, subjected to abuse, seeking out revenge, or not wanting to live (according to Alfred University).

Schools across America are running man-

dated "active shooter drills" during the school year, but these drills do not guarantee complete safety. Some staff and students have reported lasting distress or even trauma from these safety drills.

School shootings are preventable, but how does one prevent them from happening? Students should report any communication they hear of shooting someone at school, however it can be hard when that student feels isolated, either due to being shunned from social groups or other disagreements with peers. Building a supportive environment could be the first step to preventing future tragedies. Talking to your counselors openly about your feelings can help tremendously in learning how to manage with home life, school, and with their peers. Feeling isolated can occur in many different ways. Encouraging a good-natured and supportive classroom environment can help lower the feeling of isolation.

Educating students on the dangers and consequences of school gun violence is just as important as keeping them safe and preventing these events from taking place.



Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images

Recent Teacher Shortage Crisis in The United States

By Grace Fan
Staff Writer

In the past few years, the United States has been facing a significant teacher shortage. As of two years ago, it worsened to become the most severe it's been in decades. According to the National Education Association, the U.S. reached a record high of 16% teacher turnover rates in 2021.

Studies also show that from 2017 to 2021, the percentage of teachers who reported leaving the profession due to job dissatisfaction increased from 5% to 9%. With similar rates, the percentage of those who left their jobs in the middle of the school year increased from 8% to 12% during the same years.

One main reason for the teacher shortage is simply a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. With already existing issues such as low pay in the industry, EdWeek shared that Covid just exacerbated the shortage of teachers. As a result of burnout and safety concerns, many retired or left the profession.

As reported by the nonprofit RAND Corporation, 30% of teachers who left their jobs in 2020 did so following the pandemic. Besides Covid-19 related reasons, health concerns and lack of support were listed as causes.

"Surviving COVID, online teaching, and the demands put on teachers are some of the things I believe impact the reasoning behind the teacher shortage," stated Heather Wilson, the Assistant Principal at KHS.

She shared the challenges educators had to face and adjust to, one being the sudden way everyone was asked to teach online and use forms of technology without any warning or training.

Wilson continued, "Not only did teachers feel the pressure of trying to teach online, but they also had to fill the gaps that students had while they missed out on months of instruction. Teachers were asked to make sacrifices, fill out forms, find creative ways to teach online, go back to in-person instruction while wearing masks and worrying about their own safety, and all while trying to meet the needs of every student."

Kaitlyn Doolittle, a student teacher at Kingsburg High School, commented, "I think the lasting effects of the Covid-19 pandemic continue to contribute to the teacher shortage. For educators to be thrown into a new teaching modality with little to no prior training can be difficult and exhausting."

In addition to Covid-related problems, another major factor driving the crisis are the low wages teachers live with.

The National Center for Education Statistics indicates the average teacher salary in the US was adjusted for inflation, decreasing by 4% between 2017 and 2020.

According to data provided by the National Education Association, teachers in America are usually paid less than other similarly-education professionals. The low salaries can contribute to high rates of teacher turnover.

Wilson mentioned, "I also think that many teachers that quit found other jobs where they could just work online permanently and get paid the same amount."

To begin change, it's evident that there needs to be an increase in teacher pay and benefits.

Wilson added, "Teachers being paid more money is always a way to get teachers to stay in their jobs."

"It is also important that they feel supported in their roles and responsibilities, whether that be by the administration, other educators, or the community in general," said Doolittle.

"Feeling appreciated for the many hats that teachers wear is a huge change that needs to be implemented. When others feel appreciated and valued, they will move mountains for each other," agreed Wilson.

The turnover has definitely impacted many schools, but luckily KHS hasn't felt the impact of the recent teacher shortage. Wilson shares that it's typical for new openings to receive lots of applicants.

Wilson expressed, "Teaching has become a demanding job with expectations that continue to grow. However, I am beyond grateful to our staff at KHS for their grit, perseverance, and determination to help our students be successful no matter how much energy, stress, or time it took."

Sports

2023 Boy's Basketball Valley Champs!

Victoriana Dimas
Production Editor

Kingsburg High School's boys basketball had a great season by winning the valley championship game!

The boys basketball team was led by head coach Philip Bergstrom and assistant coaches Chris Woods, Dylan Peckham, Jordan Mehta, and Todd Esajian.

During the season the boys played 26 games before playoffs, winning 14 of them and making it into playoffs.

The Vikings won the first round of playoffs against Bakersfield North with a final score of 54-43.

In the second round, they played against Bakersfield South, the Vikings winning again with a score of 68-61.

In the semi-finals, the boys played against Bakersfield Independence.

In the first half Independence took the lead with the score being 23-19.

But the Vikings stole back the game with scoring 17 in the third quarter and 23 in the fourth. Which lead them to have a final score of 59-52.

For the finals, the Vikings traveled to Selland Arena in Fresno to compete against Sierra/Tollhouse for the valley title. A tough battle lay

ahead, as Sierra had a 14-0 record and was the number one seed in the valley.

In the first quarter, Sierra scored 12 points with Kingsburg scoring 13 points.

In the second quarter, Sierra scored 10 with Kingsburg scoring 16.

Which left a score of 22-29 at the end of



the first half Vikings in the lead.

In their third quarter, Sierra went downhill with only 4 points while Kingsburg scored 16. Finally, in the fourth quarter, Sierra scored 17 with Kingsburg scoring 18, for a final score of 63-43.

The Kingsburg Vikings took home the victory in a surprising upset and are the 2022-2023

Division 3 Valley champions.

Upon winning Valley, the team moved on to compete in the state playoffs. On Tuesday, February 28th the Vikings made their way down to Monterey where they played against the Monterey Dores who had a 20-8 record.

This was a tough game for the Vikings. The first quarter started off with the Vikings in the lead at 15-13.

The second quarter was 17-19 the Vikings scoring seventeen and the Dores scoring nineteen. Which made the Vikings and Dores tied 32-32 at the end of the first half.

The second half started with the third quarter score of 16-13. But in the fourth quarter, the Dores broke ahead, scoring 21 points while the Vikings only scored 7.

With a final score of 66-55, the Dores won and the Vikings ended their season.

The Vikings overall had a great season with 18 wins and 13 losses. The seniors Conner Mcfall, Christian Aguirre, Noah Brown, Derek Brett, Luke Schoelen, and James Cranford had a fulfilling last season of their high school basketball careers.

We congratulate the boys for their season and bringing home a valley title. We can't wait to see how well the team will do next year and in the years to come!



Girl's Basketball finishes out season

By Aliya Ayers
Staff Writer

Kingsburg High School Girls' basketball, with an overall record of 14-13, has finished their season, ending with a hard-fought game and losing away at Bakersfield Christian.

Despite this unfortunate ending, the team's season was far from unsuccessful. One highlight from the season was the team's decisive win against Reedley. This win pronounced them champions of the three-day Reedley Holiday tournament, as they also defeated Mt. Whitney and Chavez. On December 20th, the Reedley Pirates were beaten on their home court 45-37.

The girls' team competed in a number of tournaments this season, but this is the first time the Lady Vikings have won one. They placed second at the Redwood tournament at the beginning of the season and ended in 7th place at the Hoover Holiday Tournament.

Senior Jacky Ruiz was awarded MVP of the Reedley tournament. Seniors Michelle Bailey and Abbie Hernandez were awarded the "all tournament" award for scoring the most points throughout the games.

Senior Katelyn DeGroot shares, "I'm really proud of my team and our accomplishments," citing the tournament as a significant achievement.



Photo Credit: Samuel Marshall Photo

Freshman Ava Irigoyen is also proud of the team's performance at the tournament adding, "The championship game was really intense with the fans and the audience, and I felt like we kept our composure and battled through all the noise."

The team was successful with a six-game win streak during preseason before Christmas break, but this year's season wasn't without some tough losses. League play commenced after Christmas break, with a schedule full of formidable opponents.

The rivalry home game against Selma resulted in an unfortunate loss of 42-40, despite a successful half-court shot by senior Jacky Ruiz

at the last second of the game. Over the next two weeks, the team also suffered losses to Sierra Pacific and Hanford West but beat Exeter and Kerman. The team also faced some injuries throughout the season. Sophomore Alyanna Gonzales was benched with a pulled muscle in her back, and senior Abbie Hernandez fractured her collarbone in a home game against Exeter. They remained benched for the rest of the season and are on the road to recovery.

Although the end of this season was disappointing for many, the program looks forward to growth and improvement.

Irigoyen is hopeful for the team's future. "Next year I hope we win league and make a statement in playoffs. I really hope we show who we are and that we're here to win," she says.

Overall, the team has had a successful season, with strides being made toward greater improvement. Head Coach Nathan Ayers says, "I'm proud of the fight and determination that the team showed all year. I'm going to miss our seniors but at the same time I'm looking forward to what the future holds for our returners and future players." While it wasn't a perfect season, the Kingsburg high girls' basketball team continues to look to the future. The team's continual improvement will lead them to greater things as they take large steps toward higher accomplishments.

Poll: What are You Doing for Spring Break?

By Jasmine Galvan
Staff Writer



Emily Rodriguez

"Since I'm a senior, my work can be a lot so I'm going to catch up on my sleep over break."



Wyatt Boyd

"I'm going to be hanging out with some friends"



Isabella Grillione

"I'll be celebrating my birthday with Kirrah in Morro Bay."



Ian Stype

"My friends and I are going to Pismo Beach, and then I'm going to Hollywood with family."



Kristen Pacheco

"Going to Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York. Then I'm going to see a Broadway show."



Tejbir Purewal

"My family and I are going to Cancun."

Sports

Boy's Soccer Season Comes to an End

By Sophia Raven
Staff Writer

The 2022-2023 Boys soccer season began on November 15th of 2022. Since then, they've played ten games with an overall record of 7-13-1.

When asked about how the soccer season was going, Freshman Owen Miguel responded, "The soccer season started good but we started to fall off at the end, we were undefeated and then had a losing streak at the end of the season.

He concluded, "Overall, it was better than the previous years but it could've been way better."

When asked about progress on the team's goals, he replied, "We did have some goals we did make, and the main one was to make the playoffs which prior to this season hasn't happened for a long time for our team. So it was good for us to finally make the playoffs.

He continued, "Another goal we met was to score more goals as a team, we scored a lot more this season than the seasons in the past."

In soccer, consistent motivation and determination amongst the entire team is vital to a



team's success. Owen Miguel gave his take on what he thinks motivated his team.

"What I think motivated us the most was the thought of being able to finally have a good season for the boys soccer team which hasn't happened for a long time."

The boys soccer team had a strong showing this season, Junior Bodhi Verners was asked about how the season went.

"In general, I felt that the season was successful. We secured a seed in the playoffs and were

a couple games shy of a league championship," Verners recalled.

Verners also felt that the team did well on meeting their goals for the season.

"I think we accomplished the majority of the goals we set. Some goals I felt we accomplished were obviously a spot in playoffs, our scoring ability, and overall just setting a winning standard for the younger players."

On the topic of motivation, Bodhi said, "The seniors motivated us the most for sure. We all wanted to make their final season as a Viking memorable and send them off on a positive note."

Junior Wyatt Boyd agreed, saying, "We definitely crushed our goals thanks to Ziad and by making the playoffs."

He continued, "What really motivated us was the opportunity to take the league but unfortunately we were a win away, but overall we had a good season."

Despite the unfortunate end result to their season, the KHS boys soccer team continues to stay positive and motivated, and will always be looking for ways to improve as the years go on.

Girl's Soccer Team Makes it to Playoffs

By Jasmine Galvan
Staff Writer

The girl's soccer team has shown off their practicing time and how determined they are to win, by winning game to game and making it to the playoffs.

On Tuesday, November 15th, the girl's KHS Varsity team had their first game ever against Tulare Union. The girls demonstrated their hard work and abilities in this game by making the score 2-1 and winning.

The following Thursday, November 17th, 2022 the girl's team had their second game against Clovis East. The girls kept their streak going with this game by winning by 2 points with a score of 3-1.

Freshman Parker Woods shared her excitement for the win against Clovis East. "I'm super glad that we secured another win, it just shows off our great teamwork and skills," said Woods.

Going against Sanger West, the varsity team took the win with great strength. The



team won by a whopping score of 8-0.

Felix shared, "It was a great win for our team. I think we really worked good together and I'm happy we won because we definitely deserved it."

On the 29th of November, the varsity

team sadly took their first loss against Clovis North. KHS' varsity team had taken another loss with their game against Montgomery with a score of 3-0.

The KHS girl's Varsity team took the

season by storm with sixteen wins, ten losses, and one tie against Bullard in Fresno.

On the 21st of February, the girl's KHS varsity team traveled all the way to St. Joseph school in Santa Maria for the soccer playoffs.

The girls, unfortunately, lost with a score of 8-0. But, even with the loss, the girls still had good things to say about even making it to playoffs.

Freshman Gabriela Ramirez Felix said, "The loss was rough and a bit sad, but we were able to make a great trip of it, and being able to be with my team for a long time was fun."

With losses come learning experiences, and freshman Isabella Ramirez Felix seems to agree because she said, "When we lost, of course, we were sad and disappointed, but we're grateful for the experience and the time we got to spend with our teammates."

Even if it ended with a loss, the KHS girl's soccer team had an amazing season and showed us great effort and determination.

Sports

Tumbling Out of 2023 Cheer Season

By Gracie Davis
Production Editor

The 2022-23 KHS cheer team has reportedly created more team spirit than ever before; from pumping up the crowd to the fun, upbeat halftime performances!

Head Coach Shanna McDonald said, "I think the 22/23 cheer season went fantastic. We had 55 athletes participate in the program!"

"From USA camp to Fresno Pacific stunt clinic to collaborating with Roberta from TDC in town, it was a great year!"

From August 18th to November 10th, both KHS varsity and JV cheer performed every Friday during the football season.

The girls led the student section in chants, stunted on the sidelines, and performed different dances they learned during halftime.

Shanna McDonald, the new head coach as of this year, has brought exciting new changes!

Both JV and Varsity trained at a stunt clinic with the Fresno Pacific Cheer squad.

In 2022, JV got to partake in one of JAMZ's Cheer and Dance camps. (JAMZ is a cheerleading and dance company.) This was a two day event, July 9th-10th, at KHS.

About a week later, July 17th-19th, Varsity was able to attend a UCA Cheer Camp at Great Wolf Lodge in Manteca. UCA stands for Universal

Cheerleading Association.

At the camp, the girls went to stunt clinics, learned cheers and chants, learned a dance, and participated in team spirit with a dress up day on the last day.

On Aug. 22nd, some of the Varsity girls helped check students in at Back To School Night.

This year Varsity cheer got to host their very own Future Vikings Cheer Camp from Sept. 19th-21st. This event was for Kindergarten-8th graders.

The 40 kids that signed up were able to perform at a KHS football half time on Sept. 23rd with the Varsity Cheerleaders.

During the month of October, the squad used pink poms and wore pink bows in support of breast cancer awareness month.

October 28th was Senior Night. Roberta Woods, from The Dance Company in Kingsburg, was kind enough to work with cheer on the amazing halftime routine, including stunts and a kick-line!

Fifteen girls from the Varsity squad were going to partake in the KHS Competition Cheerleading Team, traveling to Costa Mesa and Las Vegas.

However, there were some difficulties and the comp team was canceled.

Unfortunately, McDonald is unlikely going

to be coaching for the 2023-2024 cheer season. She says, "I had such a great experience and I truly wish my family situation would have allowed me many more years as coach."

Overall, this year's cheer squad got so many kind messages and feedback.

McDonald says, "I've received so much positive feedback this year. The community came together and helped us get to camp and really supported us along the way."

She said, "I was having dinner on Friday and a gal came up to me and said she was so impressed with this year's squad and that they were so joyful and fun to watch."

She ended with saying, "I could write a pull page on all the kind messages, but overall everyone was impressed with the talent and spirit of this year's team."



Hitting into the 2023 Softball Season

By Litzy Orellana
Staff Writer

2022-2023 KHS Softball season started on February 21, 2023. This year our softball team is in Division 2.

Sophomore player Sarah Carver has been playing softball for the past 2 years of high school. Carver said, "My goal this year is to strive to play with my team, and be there for them when they need me."

She added, "I have high expectations for this upcoming season and I think our team has a lot of potential and I am looking forward to playing."

She also added, "Our team is very quick and are very experienced due to the fact that most of us have played all our lives and together within the same leagues. I feel that we can work on our sportsmanship as a whole."

Senior Aryssa Rios who has played all 4 years of her high school career announced on October 15th she is committed to Southern Hampshire University to further her athletic and academic career.

Rios said, "I am very excited about my commitment to Southern Hampshire. I'm very excited to travel and see the other side of the country. I'm also excited to meet new people, play with new people and get to study in such a beautiful place."

feeling about this season. If we keep playing the way we are right now, I feel like we can get far and beat some big schools this season."

She also added, "I feel like our team is very good at communicating in the dugout in order to help each other out of the field, but I feel like we can also work on sportsmanship as well."

Since Aryssa has played all four years of her high school career, I asked what her fondest memory of playing for the softball team was and she responded with, "One of my favorite memories is being a part of helping with the dollar horse trots and getting water spilled on us constantly after big wins."

She ended her interview with "One of my favorite things about playing for the Kingsburg Softball team is how involved we are in the community and playing

with all my friends, but I am excited about the new chapter in my life."



After playing the first couple of games of the season Rios commented, "The first couple of games went well in my opinion, our communication with the group is still strong even with the new freshmen added to the team. I have a good

