

Northern Lights Shine At Winter Formal

By Anish Ashokkumar and Jayden Kay Linayao

The Centurions gathered under the glow of the Northern Lights (theme) at Disneyland hotel for an unforgettable Winter Formal on Saturday, February 3rd. The men were in amazing suits and tuxedos, while the women adorned themselves in graceful dresses. From the moment attendees arrived, there was excitement in the air.

The doors opened promptly at 6:00 pm, and as guests checked in, the atmosphere was filled with energy and anticipation. Once inside, students quickly found their seats, to settle in for an evening of celebration. The ambiance was warm and inviting, with soft music playing in the background as guests mingled and caught up with friends old and new. Laughter filled the air, setting the stage for an unforgettable night of fun and memories. Math teacher, **Mrs. Shammas** stated, "This was my first Winter Formal ever... it was wonderful."

At 6:15 pm, the festivities officially began as the ballroom doors swung open, revealing a feast fit for royalty. The meal kicked off with a refreshing salad paired with warm bread and butter, setting the stage for the culinary delights yet to come. The main course, featuring succulent chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, and perfectly cooked vegetables, was met with rave reviews from attendees who savored every bite. For dessert, there was a tiramisu dessert.



Students took pictures together at the photo booth. (Photo By Jayden Kay Linayao)

delights yet to come. The main course, featuring succulent chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, and perfectly cooked vegetables, was met with rave reviews from attendees who savored every bite. For dessert, there was a tiramisu dessert.

As dinner concluded, the DJ took center stage, ready to ignite the dance floor with an amazing playlist. From chart-topping hits to classic favorites, the music spanned genres and generations, ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy. The DJ played very big hits such as "FE!N" by Kanye and "Munch" by Ice Spice. The dance floor quickly filled up as students let loose, showing off their best moves and creating memories while others were hanging out

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around the dance pit watching and cheering on.

Amidst the dancing and laughter, the Photo Booth provided a welcome opportunity for attendees to capture the magic of the evening in timeless snapshots. From silly poses to heartfelt embraces, each photo was a moment to enjoy joy, shared among classmates and created long lasting memories, especially for seniors who attended their final formal of high school.

Reflecting on the evening, Senior **Ryan Dietrich** fondly recalled the joy of taking photos with his friends, "I had fun with the bros." Meanwhile, Sophomore **JD Trujillo** praised the delicious chicken and delightful dessert. For the Centurions, the Winter Formal was more than just a dance—it was a celebration of friendship, laughter, and the bonds that united them.

New Korean Class for Students to Choose at Cypress!

By Grace Kim



Korean 1 is now available to take on campus for the 2024-2025 school year. (Photo By Grace Kim)

After student efforts to open a Korean class at Cypress High, Korean 1 is listed as a World Language course for students to take on campus in the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. By choosing Korean, students can learn more about Korean culture, fulfill their language requirements, and improve their communication skills. With February being registration month for students, students can choose Korean 1 on their registration card for the approaching year.

Recognizing the need for a Korean language class in their community, three Cypress High students, **Hannie Lee**, **Jeffrey Shim**, and **Grace Kim** created a survey to collect Korean interest data amongst their peers. Based on student response, a high number of students felt the need for Korean classes for cultural and educational reasons.

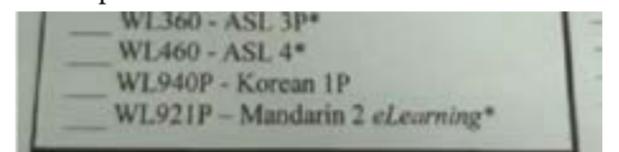
Realizing an opportunity to connect and provide real solutions to students, a campaign for Korean class was achieved with student efforts and data.

As K-drama, K-beauty, and K-food are rising in global popularity attracting students worldwide, more interest in Korean language is increasing. According to the student survey, 105 out of 182 respondents wanted to learn Korean to learn more about Korean culture. As Korean culture spreads beyond boundaries, many students are drawn to studying Korean language to gain deeper knowledge and experience in Korean customs and daily life.

Along with studying culture, the highest number of reasons students want to gain access to learning Korean is to fulfill their language requirements and expand their communication skills with their peers. With Korean not being a class to take on campus, many students have previously struggled to get their mother tongue approved as a language by the school, or even had to learn a new language to pass their language courses. Advocating for Korean class, junior **Hannie Lee** said, "NEWL Test, or the Korean language credential test, is provided on campus for Kennedy High School students, but not for Cypress students. Students who took the test without a Korean class at school not only had to self study, but had to drive all the way to Los Angeles because that was where the testing center was located, being very inconvenient."

As well as passing their language requirements, numerous students wanted Korean as a class to expand their level of communication. With language being the primary tool of expression and communication, students who have Korean friends, classmates, and family members wanted to build their intimate relationships through languages. Junior **Jeffrey Shim** explained, "Despite the difficulties of making a new class, there are many Asian students here at Cypress who are willing to learn Korean. Having a Korean class is more relevant to our community, and we can empower students to learn and feel proud about their cultural background." By being able to share our ideas, thoughts, and feelings with others, we can move people and societies as well. Opportunities to learn and preserve these valuable languages are crucial for students in their developing ages.

Labeled as a World Language course in the 2024-2025 registration card, students with interest in learning Korean should enroll for the class in the approaching year. The more in demand of these courses, the more CHS can push and expand for more options.



Choose Korean 1 as your World Language option! (Photo By Grace Kim)

Valentine's Day

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By Mifrah Bawany and Minnel Vega

February is a month of Love. With Valentine's Day around the corner here is what some students here at Cypress High School have to say about what they would like to do to celebrate Valentine's Day!



Brandon Santos: "Date because I like food and I like time with people..."



Tukqa Eid: "Go on a date because you can stay at home any other time."

Would you rather go on a date or chill at home...



Mason Arias: "Date then chill at home. Best of both worlds."



Stacey Kilpatrick-Codd: "Date since you can be more sentimental."

Features

Spend Time With Your Special Someone

By Mikaela Campos



These are just a few of the simple Valentine's day ideas to show someone how much you love them. (Photo by Carly Pedroza)

Valentine's day is a wonderful day to celebrate your love for someone. What is a better way to celebrate than taking your loved one out for a nice evening? There are so many fun and/or romantic activities to do to show your care and adoration.

"Anyone But You" is a movie that you can watch at the theater or at home with a loved one. Movie platforms including Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime and Disney+ all have amazing Valentine's day movies.

If you are looking for something with more thrill and adventure and don't mind spending a good chunk of money, you can take your special someone to Disney's Sweetheart Nite!

This event is an after-hour event that gives access to rides, entertainment, rare character appearances, specialty food and/or beverages and even exclusive merchandise. This event starts

on January 31 and occurs February 2, 5, 7, 9, 14 & 16.

Junior **Brooke Hamilton** celebrated Valentine's day last year by going to "Downtown Disney walked the shops and watched the fireworks then went home and built Lego flowers."

For those on a budget, if you're looking to go out and enjoy nature, you might like going to the beach to watch the sunset, stargaze and have a picnic. Orange County has some amazing beaches and places to watch the sunsets, including Huntington beach/Pier, Corona Del Mar State Beach, Newport Beach, Victoria Beach, Laguna Beach and Salt Creek Beach, Dana Point.

Lastly, are you just looking to stay home and enjoy a relaxing night? Consider making dinner and playing some board games. Dipping chocolate covered strawberries, taking pictures, having a dance party, painting, and even baking are other ideas. Junior **Sydney Hoffman** says if she had a boyfriend, she "would want to go to eat and then go home to watch movies and eat cookies."

These activities can give you a Valentine's day to remember! Remember to get out there, be yourself, and make it a night to remember!



By Mikaela Campos



February 14 is not a day to miss for your special someone. (Photo by Google)

People say that money can't buy love. Even so, February 14 is not a day that's cheap or a day to skip on the displays of affection. Couples are probably going to want to pick up a little something for your partner leading up to February 14. This is a list of affordable meaningful gifts for valentines day.

10.Lego Roses

For Lego fans this is a very cute gift partners can do together. These are a good affordable gift and can be décor for a table, room, or anywhere you like. This is a gift that doesn't make a mess and isn't too complicated to do.



9. Coffee Mug & Warmer set

A simple but special gift to keep your loved one's mug warm all morning long, and it's easy and fast to use. This is a nice gift that does not cost much and can be used to make other things than coffee.



8.Eternity Preserved Roses

This box of preserved roses can be customized with scents, messages, box accents, and more. This is a gift that can last all 365 days that is not expensive and is better than buying just boring flowers that will die the next day.



7.Heart Mini Waffle Maker

This makes mini waffles in the shape of a heart and won't take up too much cabinet space. It is an inexpensive gift but makes a very nice gift for that special someone.



6.Sterling Silver Birthstone Rings

Jewelry is a classic Valentine's Day gift, but it can be expensive. With this sterling silver birthstone ring. You can pick a birth month or the month you both met for extra romance.



5.Pocket Hug Token

Perfect for whenever they need a pick-me-up, this cute stainless steel pocket hug token will remind them of how much they're loved. This is an adorable little gift for a loved one to carry with them always, either in their pocket or purse.



4.LukieJac I Love You Sign

They can keep it on their desk, by their bed or anywhere they'd like, really, since it's so pretty and a good last minute gift.



3.Befiner Crystal Flower
 Real flowers are expensive, and only last a few days. But this stunning crystal rose will last forever, and leaves a big impression.



2.Face Socks with Hearts
 If he's not really the lovey-dovey type. They can go with a photo of your face, the kids or even a pet. This is a funny way to show love to your partner.



1.Engraved Wallet Card

The card will sit nicely inside their wallet or purse as a reminder of their love for them. This is a very inexpensive gift but by far better than a traditional card and special enough to be a stand-alone gift.



What Movies to Watch on Valentine's Day

By Rehansa Kulatililke



There are thousands of movie options for family, friends, and couples to choose to watch for Valentine's day. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatililke)

Since the 14th century, Valentine's Day has been used to celebrate love's meaning. Whether it be with your significant other or just someone you love, Valentine's Day is used to devote a special connection with someone you love. While some live for the thrill of going out with their partners, friends, or even just staying home alone in the comfort of their bed, there has always been one ultimate activity that some tend to do—watch movies. With thousands of Rom-Coms from around the world, it can be hard to choose which ones are really worth watching.

Although some might disagree, the 2000s cheesy-meet-cute Rom-Coms are generally renowned for being a genre that some movie critics have longed for over the past decade—one of which includes the 2003 hit Rom-Com at the time, *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*. This movie kicks off with Kate Hudson's character, *Andie Anderson*—a writer for a women's magazine, who is given the task to write a story about everything you should not do when it comes to trying to get into a relationship and does an experiment on someone named *Ben Barry*—played by *Matthew McConaughey*. He bets that he can make any girl fall in love with in within ten days. Throughout the film, *Andie* does everything in her power to annoy *Ben* to result in him leaving her, while he does everything in his power to make her fall in love with him.

Another prominent love story is the 2008 movie, *27 Dresses*. *Jane Nichols*—played by *Katherine Heigl*, had always loved the idea of weddings and the chance to see everyone express their love with each other, and this resulted in her attending twenty-seven weddings. At one of those weddings, she meets *Kevin Doyle* (played by *James Marsden*), a news reporter who was forced to write about all the extravagant weddings happening. The two end up bumping into each other once again because of *Jane's* sister's wedding, which *Kevin* was set to write a story about. Throughout the story, the two try their best to do their jobs without meddling with the others' jobs.

Another movie that has grabbed people's hearts over the years is the 1999 film *10 Things I Hate About You*. *Kat Stratford* (played by *Julia Stiles*) is a smart yet sarcastic character who has no interest in dating anyone, which is unfortunate for her sister, *Bianca* (played by *Larisa Oleynik*) since she is only allowed to date once *Kat* starts dating. Once *Bianca* meets *Cameron James* (played by *Joseph Gordon-Levitt*) the two devise a plan to get *Kat* to date the outcast in the school, who happens to be *Heath Ledger's* character *Patrick Verona*. Junior, *Gabby Duran* says, "...this movie made me raise the standard for me...a guy learned French for her!"

If you're looking for a classic, celebrated movie known in the Rom-Com genre, *Say Anything* is the perfect movie. The notable scene with *John Cusack* holding up the famed boombox, has inspired an abundance of Rom-Coms. The film starts with *John Cusack's* character, *Lloyd Dobler*, who started his first day after his high school graduation by asking out *Ione Skye's* character, *Diane Court*, who happens to be the untouchable straight-A student who spent her entire high school career dedicated to her grades. Not too long after the two start to go out with each other, *Diane* opens up and uses the freedom she never allowed herself to have. The movie is a great film to take into

consideration showing the prospects of how you should enjoy your teenage years for as long as you can.

However, if you would rather watch a movie out with your friends or partner in a movie theater instead of the comfort of your bed, *Anyone But You* is a great recommendation. *Bea*—played by *Sydney Sweeney* runs into *Glen Powell's* character, *Ben* in a coffee shop. The two initially hit it off and ended up talking to each other throughout the day. It wasn't until *Bea* overheard the conversation between *Ben* and his friend before everything went south. Not too long after, a wedding that was planned to take place in *Australia* pulled them back together which caused the two to "fake date" each other for the sake of their friends to stop meddling with their lives. Junior, *Mia Thomas* says, "...it's so cute to watch the relationship evolve into something they both hated, into something that they both loved."

Although these are only just a few of the many famed Rom-Coms during the past few decades there are a few honorable mentions that are just as appealing.

Some of these include:

- When Harry Met Sally (1989)
- She's All That (1999)
- Mamma Mia (2008)
- (500) Days of Summer (2009)
- Flipped (2010)
- Crazy, Stupid, Love (2011)
- About Time (2013)
- La La Land (2016)
- Set It Up (2018)
- To All The Boys I've Loved Before (2018)

Whether or not you have someone to watch these movies with, there is no doubt that some will enjoy Valentine's Day this year.

4 Ending the Year of the Rat, Beginning the Year of the Dragon

By Deborah Son



Food and luck is shared with loved ones during Lunar New Years. (Photo by Deborah Son)

Lunar New Year is the beginning of the year, celebrated mostly by people in parts of Asia, based on the lunar calendar. It is a time to honor ancestors, receive luck, and spend time with loved ones. The Lunar calendar is

Student Activities

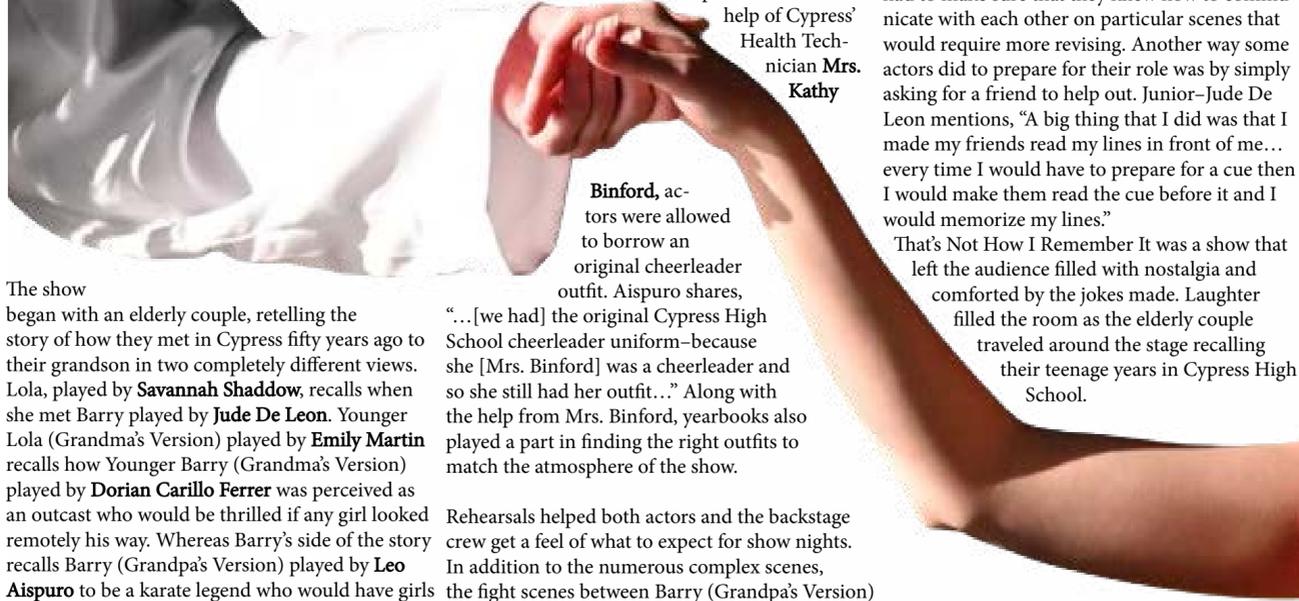
“That’s Not How I Remember It” Makes it’s Way to the Centurion Theatre

By Rehansa Kulatilleke

On February 8th and 9th, Cypress Theatre introduced its second show of the year with a Cypress spin-off of the play *That’s Not How I Remember It*. Set on a couple during the early years of Cypress’ opening, the show left guests in high spirits with a storyline from the past. **Ms. Stewart’s** backstage crew from her Stagecraft class helped with the set production.

swoon for him left and right all while having Lola (Grandpa’s Version) played by **Arina Matiesu** be one of those girls. Throughout the show, the two dispute over the definite story of the past and the factual events of how they met.

In addition to having students—**Kristen Cheng** and **Ailica Park** make sure the original script by Don Zoldis fit the scene in the 70s, the costume crew had to make sure that the costumes would also be up to date. With the help of Cypress’ Health Technician **Mrs. Kathy**



The show began with an elderly couple, retelling the story of how they met in Cypress fifty years ago to their grandson in two completely different views. Lola, played by **Savannah Shaddow**, recalls when she met Barry played by **Jude De Leon**. Younger Lola (Grandma’s Version) played by **Emily Martin** recalls how Younger Barry (Grandma’s Version) played by **Dorian Carrillo Ferrer** was perceived as an outcast who would be thrilled if any girl looked remotely his way. Whereas Barry’s side of the story recalls Barry (Grandpa’s Version) played by **Leo Aispuro** to be a karate legend who would have girls

Binford, actors were allowed to borrow an original cheerleader outfit. Aispuro shares, “...[we had] the original Cypress High School cheerleader uniform—because she [Mrs. Binford] was a cheerleader and so she still had her outfit...” Along with the help from Mrs. Binford, yearbooks also played a part in finding the right outfits to match the atmosphere of the show.

Rehearsals helped both actors and the backstage crew get a feel of what to expect for show nights. In addition to the numerous complex scenes, the fight scenes between Barry (Grandpa’s Version)

and Karl (Grandpa’s Version) played by **Noelle Lee** were claimed to be the most difficult scenes to rehearse. Unlike the prior theatre show—*Clue*, rather than having most of the main actors in the same class period and getting to practice some of the crucial scenes with each other, this show had actors from other class periods—making the time they had together limited with only having two days a week to work with each other. As a result of the limited time made available, actors had to make sure that they knew how to communicate with each other on particular scenes that would require more revising. Another way some actors did to prepare for their role was by simply asking for a friend to help out. Junior—**Jude De Leon** mentions, “A big thing that I did was that I made my friends read my lines in front of me... every time I would have to prepare for a cue then I would make them read the cue before it and I would memorize my lines.”

That’s Not How I Remember It was a show that left the audience filled with nostalgia and comforted by the jokes made. Laughter filled the room as the elderly couple traveled around the stage recalling their teenage years in Cypress High School.



Lola’s dad (played by Mark Sadek) gives Barry (Dorian Carrillo Ferrer) a lecture. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)



Barry (Leo Aispuro) shows off his karate skills to Lola (Arina Matiesu). (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)



Barry and Lola (played by Jude De Leon and Savannah Shaddow) arguing how they really met. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

also known as the lung solar calendar, which combines both the solar and lunar calendars. While the dates of Lunar New Year range from January 21, to February 20, this year, it is on February 10, 2024.

Christine Kim, a junior at Cypress High School said, “I’m going to spend quality time with my family!”

The Year of the Dragon will start on February 10, 2024 and end on January 28, 2025. Traditionally, on the first day of Lunar New Year to the 15th day, celebrations occur including festivals and family gatherings. Gifts including red envelopes are a sign of passing on good luck and fortune. Lanterns are made, games are played, and food is made.

Justin Vo, a junior at Cypress High School said, “I’m going to the Têt Festival and visiting a Temple. I’m also going to a night market.” The Têt Festival is the most important festival of the year in Vietnam. It is an opportunity to have extended family reunions and exchange gifts.

In different countries, Lunar New Year is called in various ways. In Vietnam, Lunar New Year is known as Têt. In Korea, it is known as Seollal. In China, it is known as Chūn Jié. This holiday is celebrated by people all around the world and cherished by many individuals.

Clubs Wraps up the Semester with Creativity and Compassion 5

By Yoshi Vazquez Monero



The clubs at Cypress High School displayed companionship and had fun during club activities. (Photo by Deborah Son)

Cypress High clubs have been bustling with activity. In the Poetry Club, anticipation ran high as members gathered to elect new leaders for the upcoming school year. After hearing small speeches but heartfelt promises, students cast their votes, all eager to see the new club leaders guide the club’s artistic endeavors.

Meanwhile, the Theater Club made waves on Social Justice Day with its thought-provoking performances, shining a light on important issues facing society. Their upcoming musical, *High School Musical On Stage*, will be choosing cast members and rehearsing to perform for everyone in early May.

In a powerful collaboration, the GSA Club and OC Bridges are joining forces to raise awareness and support for LGBTQ+ rights in the local community. They aim to foster inclusivity and understanding, making a meaningful impact on those around them and allow everyone around to be aware of issues within the community by hosting small events to bring up problems that come with being an ally or a part of the community and empower those who are LGBTQIA+.

In the Environmental Science Club, students have been nurturing the school garden, cultivating vibrant lavender blooms that they eagerly shared with their peers to bring in more greenery and

keep the school eco-friendly. Their dedication to sustainability and eco-consciousness serves as a reminder of the importance of caring for our planet and preserving its natural beauty.

Meanwhile, in AP Environmental Science, students have been deeply engaged in Civic Action Projects, applying their knowledge to address pressing environmental issues and enact positive change in their communities. Their initiatives demonstrate the power of education and activism in shaping a brighter future for generations to come.

Key Club poured in their efforts to set up pancake services to bring joy and nourishment to the school community on February 10.

Best Buddies also held a holiday party on December 14. It formed connections for students to gather and watch the beloved movie, *Elf*, with a room full of laughter. They decorated cookies and had pizza for dinner, with hot chocolate to celebrate the holidays.

Many clubs participated in Social Justice Day like GSA held a Truth or Myth game, Girls Inc. had goodies to encourage girls to join the group, Theater was doing slam poetry and more in the theater, and many more. **Lynné Vargeson** (Poetry Club president) said, “I love that we have Social Justice Day to help future generations learn about these issues.”

As the quarter draws to a close, these clubs stand as testaments to the power of community, creativity, and compassion. Though their activities vary, their collective impact resonates far beyond the walls of the school, helping and encouraging the students who encounter their endeavors.

—SPOTLIGHT: Social Justice Day—



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SPOTLIGHT STAFF 2023-24

6 Entertainment Lisa Frankenstein's Gory Love Story Available on Theaters

By Danica Dizon



The action really gets started when the monster comes back to life. (Photo by Danica Dizon)

When people hear "Frankenstein," they think of a scary skin-chilling film. The original film Frankenstein is about a mysterious creature that was created. This three-in-one classic comedy, horror, and romance film has entertaining moments. Lisa Frankenstein was directed by **Zelda Williams**

and written by **Diablo Cody**. The new film was based on Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. It is about a teenage girl moving to a new school after her mother's murder. She starts on the wrong foot with her new "psycho" stepmother and along the way, she makes decisions that change the rest of her life.

One night a corpse returns to life, and they are journeying to find a happy ending with new experiences. In the end, Lisa and The Corpse fall in love based on their understanding of each other.

The film stars **Kathryn Newton** (Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quatanmania (2023)), **Cole Sprouse** in The Suite Life of Zach & Cody (2005) The Suite Life on Deck (2008), Riverdale (2017), and Five Feet Apart (2019). Filipino actor **Liza Soberano** is most famous for playing her roles in romcoms and dramas, and lastly, **Jenna Davis** is most famous for her voicing roles on M3GAN (2022), Treehouse Detectives (2018), and Vamparina (2017).

The movie Lisa Frankenstein is about teen romances wanting to be, "anything more than love and understood, and in that it's a great callback to teen romances from an earlier era," said **Alissa Wilkinson** from The New York Times.

Newton said The Creature, played by Cole Sprouse on how his role didn't consist of many lines, and communication was mainly non-verbal. "And the whole thing is that Lisa is the only one who doesn't hear him. She's a girl who's alone and thinks no one can hear her so she manifests a friend that literally can't speak," she said in an interview with The Wrap.

Lisa Frankenstein is a film where you wouldn't expect to see how it ends. Despite expecting to see a gory horror film along with romance, it turned out to end with a teenage girl and a corpse living happily ever after. The film was given a 50% on Rotten Tomatoes and an 81% audience score. Overall the film was given 6.6 out of 10 stars on IMDB.

Embracing One Love for Bob Marley

By Cara Karpan

Bob Marley: One Love, is a movie that celebrates **Bob Marley's** life and music which famously include messages about things like social justice, human rights, peace, love and unity. The movie will showcase Bob Marley's story about overcoming adversity, and the challenges he went through like his two-year exile in London, his making his exodus album, and his return to Jamaica where he held a concert which helped ease political tensions in his country.

During the movie, the viewers can see Bob Marley growing up, from his years as a kid to a young and grown adult. During these years it explains what Bob Marley went through, his mother leaving him as a young child, all of the violence going on in his country, being exiled and sent to London, and surviving an assassination attempt that wounded him, his wife, and his manager who took a bullet for him. Bob Marley had an assassination attempt on him and then got sent to exile in London which is where he made his Exodus

album with some of his most famous songs. While he is in London, his wife sees him holding a ring from the Prince of Ethiopia which plays an important role at the end of the movie.

At the end of the movie, Bob Marley returns to Jamaica and performs in front of hundreds to thousands of people which helps ease political tensions happening in his country. Once he returns to his home at the end it cuts to a scene where Bob Marley is a child and sees the Prince

on a horse, gifting him the ring and telling him to come back home to Jamaica.



The new film, One Love, describes many facets of Bob Marley's life, including some that the average listener would not know. (Photo by Cara Karpan)

Sports

Kansas City Chiefs Repeat as Champs in Super Bowl LVIII

By Elias Tubbs



Travis Kelce and the Chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers 25-22. (Photo by NFL)

The NFL 2023-24 season came to an end as the rematch of Super Bowl LIV between the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs. In 2020 the Chiefs were victors beating the 49ers 31-20 in the Super Bowl, at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. This year Super Bowl LVIII, played at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, the (14-5) San Francisco 49ers and the (14-6) Kansas City Chiefs fought to an overtime finish. With the Kansas City Chiefs winning the coin toss they decided to defer the opening kickoff.

With great defense on both ends in the first quarter, both teams were scoreless. Then to start off the second quarter, San Francisco kicker **Jake**

Moody set a Super Bowl record for a 55- yard kick, making the score 3-0. Then the 49ers pulled off a trick play where Quarterback **Brock Purdy** threw behind to Receiver **Jauan Jennings**, who then threw it across the field to running back **Christian McCaffrey** for a 21- yard touchdown extending the 49ers lead 10-0.

Before the half, Kansas City Chiefs kicker, **Harrison Butker** delivered with a 28- yard field goal, giving the Chiefs their first score and cutting down on the lead 10-3 to go into the half.

Coming out of the Usher Halftime Super Bowl performance, the Chiefs received the ball. Receiver **Marquez Valdez Scantling** scored a 16- yard touchdown tying the game. Then the Chiefs defense stopped the 49ers again, giving the Chiefs the chance to take the lead with a 57-yard kick, breaking Moody's own record in the first quarter, and making a new Super Bowl record. With the Chiefs leading 13-10 to start off the 4th quarter, 49ers and the Chiefs battled all the way through the 4th, to overtime tied at 19-19.

The 49ers won the coin toss and decided to receive the ball first. The Chiefs defense kept the 49ers to only a field goal, giving the Chiefs offense a chance to win it all with a touchdown. The Chiefs offense marched down the field, and

with 13 seconds, left **Patrick Mahomes** was able to connect with receiver **Mecole Hartman** for a one yard touchdown pass to give the Chiefs the Super Bowl win, beating the 49ers 25-22 in overtime.

San Francisco's quarterback **Brock Purdy** performed well for his first Super Bowl with 255 passing yards and 12 rushing yards, 0 interceptions and 1 touchdown. Offensive Player of the Year, **Christian McCaffrey** rushed 22 times for 80 yards and had 8 targets for 80 yards, and one touchdown. McCaffrey set a Super Bowl record, being the first player to have both 80 rushing yards and 80 receiving yards in a Super Bowl. Receiver **Brandon Aiyuk** had 49 yards for 3 receptions.

Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce excelled: Kelce had 93 receiving yards for 10 targets. and Mahomes with 66 rushing yards, 333 passing yards for 2 touchdowns, and 1 interception. Running back **Isiah Pacheco** had 59 rushing yards on 18 rushing attempts.

The Chiefs were the first team to win "back to back" Super Bowls since 2005, ending the 19-year-period. Patrick Mahomes was awarded his 3rd Super Bowl MVP, and won his 3rd Super Bowl title in five years.

Sports Teams Wrap up the Season Without Regrets

By Deborah Son, Roberto Cardenas, Betty Langrine, and Belle Paccione

The Cypress High School's Varsity Boys Basketball team powered their way to the CIF Division 2A quarterfinals on February 13, 2024. Although they lost a close game with a score of 55-57, the players continued to strive and pour in their best efforts. They are 1st in the Empire League with 9-1 as co-League Champions tied with Crean Lutheran. Overall, they have a win of 23-7.

On February 7, 2024, Cypress High School's Varsity Boys Basketball team won against Beaumont High School with a score of 67-59 in the first round of CIF. Transitioning to February 9, 2024, the Cypress High School's Varsity Boys Basketball team won against Knight High School with a score of 75-50.

Ryan Gov and **Michael Wright** were two players who shined in the CIF Division 2A quarterfinals. Wright scored 25 points, made three 3-pointers, nine rebounds, and two blocked shots as a 6-5 forward. Gov scored 13 points, six rebounds, four assists, and four steals.

The Cypress High School's Varsity Girls Basketball team is 2nd in the Empire League with 6-4. Their overall win is 14-14 and their last game was in the 2024 CIF Southern Section Girls' Basketball Championships Division 1. Cypress went against Santiago and ended with a loss, 28-87 on February 8, 2024.

Throughout the season, the Varsity Girls Basketball team has poured their skills into the game against Kennedy with a score of 50-38 on January 26, 2024. **Morgan Mok** is a Junior on the Varsity Girl's Basketball team who is ranked in the top 9 in Empire League. She scored eight points with two steals in the game against Kennedy.

Thank you to Coach Derek Mitchell, Coach Nathaniel Rivera, and the Cypress High School's Basketball teams for all their hard work and dedication as a team.

The girl's water polo team from Cypress High School has been making waves with their impressive performances in recent matches. Demonstrating exceptional skills and teamwork, they have won several challenging games. In a closely contested match against Tustin High School, the Cypress girls displayed their determination and skill, emerging victorious with a final score of 10-8. Their strategic plays and coordinated efforts were key factors in their success.

Continuing their winning streak, the team faced off against Valencia High School. With a strong defensive game and well-executed offensive maneuvers, the Cypress girls dominated the pool, clinching an 11-4 victory.

The team's success continued as they took on Redlands East Valley High School. Through their relentless efforts and precise execution, the Cypress girls outperformed their opponents, resulting in a well-deserved win. The final score of 5-0 reflected their control of the game.

The girls' hard work and commitment to excellence were evident in their matches against St. Lucy and Burroughs High School. With a final score of 15-8, they showcased their skills and teamwork, leaving no doubt about their capabilities in the pool.

Cypress Boys solid year, in the Em-with a Lundberg and work-4:00. The started with against Tus-way points are scored by doing

Wrestling has had a finishing undefeated pure League season 4-0 record. Coach kept these boys busy ing hard from 2:00 to students had a blowout win tin 57-24. The

history. She was named the CIF-SS Southern Division heavyweight champion. When she won she "had to keep in her excitement" just so she wouldn't make others feel bad. That is what you call good sportsmanship. On December 29th the wrestling team competed at the Lady Black Watch and out of 51 teams they had placed 6th overall. They will continue to win matches and tournaments not just for themselves but for their team and Cypress as a whole.

As the soccer season came to a close, players from our school's soccer team took a moment to reflect on their experiences, challenges, and triumphs throughout the season.

Andrea Dominguez and **Cesar Soriano**, both senior captains, shared their insights into leadership and handling pressure. Dominguez emphasized the importance of resilience, reminding us that every outcome serves a purpose. Soriano highlighted the bond among teammates, a sentiment echoed by many, "Don't take the moment for granted, it'll be gone before you know it," Soriano said.

Players like **Lily Asham** and **Peter Batsaras** looked to family and friends for inspiration. Lily Asham, a freshman, drew strength from her brother and church community, while Batsaras credited his dad for instilling a love for the sport. "No matter how tired you are or how hard it is, keep fighting," Asham said.

From facing tough opponents like Valencia to overcoming personal obstacles, each player recognized areas for improvement. **Raul Mora** and **Olivia Linares** emphasized agility and adaptability, while **Katie Moore** focused on leadership and distribution. "I am really grateful I got to be teammates and the captain of so many great people and create memories," Moore had said.

From thrilling victories to hard-fought ties, the season was marked by unforgettable moments. **Brian Rothery** celebrated the camaraderie of the team, while **Connor Somers** cherished the energy of senior night. **Ivy Nguyen** found pride in the team's perseverance, even in the face of adversity.

As the season concludes, players like Moore, a freshman goalkeeper, eagerly anticipate the future, ready to support their teammates and continue growing as individuals and as a team. With each player's unique perspective and contribution, this season was truly one to remember. As they hang up their cleats until next season, they leave behind a legacy of teamwork, determination, and passion for the game.

"We are so proud of our Boys and Girls soccer programs this season. Coach Jamir took our boys through a successful season (one game shy of CIF Championship competition). Coach Jamir has worked to develop our soccer program this year and the athletes have stepped up and are more cohesive, disciplined, and trained. Coach Woiemberge has coached our Lady Centurions into CIF Round One. It has been an exciting season and our ladies are aggressive and talented on the pitch," Pfeiffer said.



Athletes Take Their Talents to College

By Yazeed Albadarin and Brianna Naranjo



These athletes have made Cypress proud of everything they have accomplished. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

February has started out great so far as multiple of Cypress' athletes have officially signed their letter of intent for their respective colleges. On the 7th of February, 2024, volleyball player **Trace Oswald**, golfer **Katherine Gerbing**, baseball player **Nick Montgomery**, softball player **Madeline Granados**, basketball player **Isabella Caceres**, softball player **Brianna Holguin**, baseball player **Antonio Lujan**, diver **Isabella Chen**, softball player **Breana Townsend**, and golfer **Ryan Slevcove** attended the annual athletic signing ceremony in the gym and got to celebrate their accomplishments with their overjoyed parents and dear friends.

The ceremony started with words of encouragement given by Asst. Principal **Joseph Boardwine** and each student was introduced to the audience by athletic directors **Mark Slevcove** and **Sean Pfeiffer**, who handed out the letter of intent to each athlete. The event was filled with lots of joy and excitement as parents took pictures of their athletes as they signed.



Softball and baseball players, Brianna Holguin (top left), Breana Townsend (top right), Antonio Lujan (middle), Madeline Granados (bottom left), and Nick Montgomery (bottom right) are ready to move toward the next chapter in their lives. (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)

This was a quite bittersweet day for both parents and athletes since the athletes will be transitioning into the next chapter of their lives. Although many students would be nervous to move away from home, these athletes are confident that they will do great things while playing the sport they love. Softball player **Breana Townsend** will be attending BYU. In college, she plans to "beat out [her] position" regardless of obstacles.

Two other softball players, **Madeline Granados** and **Brianna Holguin**, have also decided to continue their athletic careers. Granados will be attending Biola University and Holguin will join Fairleigh Dickinson University. These girls are examples on and off the field and will do great as they move

to college. Granados advises young players to "Be you, don't let anybody else change who you are and just go out there and do it for yourself first." Baseball stars, **Antonio Lujan** and **Nick Montgomery** will also take their talents to their respective universities. Montgomery will attend Arizona State University while Lujan committed to Azusa Pacific University. To keep their positive attitude these athletes strive to maintain the unity in their team. "When we are on that field we're going to war together and we are trying to win," Lujan says. Montgomery is a hard worker who "loves to compete, no matter what [he's] doing" which pushes him to be a better player and teammate.

Trace Oswald has been playing volleyball for six years. His coaches and teammates motivate him every day, and keep each other accountable. His advice for young players is "stay consistent with it and practice, love the sport, and you will get there one day." Oswald earned a scholarship to The Master's University and will major in international business. He's a little worried about how his body will adapt to longer practices and how to keep up with the stress. His goal for freshman year is to see himself play at the highest level he can play at.

Golfers **Ryan Slevcove** and **Katherine Gerbing** will be attending Iona University and UCI respectively to continue their golf careers. Diver **Isabella Chen** will be attending Northwestern University and **Isabella Caceres** will be attending Hiram College to continue her basketball career.

Cypress is incredibly proud of all of these athletes and excited to see what the future holds for them.



Although Cypress is sad to see them leave they wish all of these athletes well. Isabella Caceres (top left) Katherine Gerbing (top right) Ryan Slevcove (bottom left) Trace Oswald (bottom right) Isabella Chen (middle) (Photo by Rehansa Kulatilleke)