



## Tropel Recites Her Way to Victory

By Arooba Muqaddor, Clarion Staff

Just before winter break in late 2018 in the school auditorium, Bernie Tropel (Class of 2019) won first place out of 60 contestants in Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry contest, for her recitation of the poem, "Undivided Attention."

The 10th annual competition began with students from English classes filling the John F. Kennedy Auditorium; over the course of four class periods. The lights dimmed and emcees Grant Wills and Jaqleen Stepter (c/o 2019) introduced visiting judges, and Kennedy alumni, Henry Adkisson, Matthew Allen, and Quest Sandel.



2018 Winner Bernie Tropel shown delivering her winning poem "Undivided Attention" in December. Photo by Carlos Sandoval, Yearbook staff.

Tropel felt honored, having not expected to win this year with Taylor Mall's poem. She participated in last year's competition as a junior with "Beautiful Wreckage" by W.D. Ehrhart, which was more gloomy compared to this year's more humorous and entertaining choice. As the Kennedy school-wide winner, Tropel will compete against other schools in the Sacramento County competition on Feb. 7, 2019 with "Bent to the Earth" by Manuel de Luna; if she advances to the state competition, she will be reciting "Rondeau" by Leigh Hunt. (Continued on page 10)

## EQ Ambassadors: Positivity Reigns on Campus

By Adrianna Iorio, Chief Editor

In recent years, Kennedy has adopted a variety of programs that aim towards making our campus a place of positivity. From Club Smile to Link Crew, Kennedy has made many improvements towards enhancing the high school experience. Now, one more group is continuing that effort but in a different fashion.

Students may have seen the big banners across campus, with bold letters stating "Get Invested" or "Be Thoughtful." This is a recent campaign initiated by Kennedy's EQ Ambassadors – "Emotional Quotient (EQ) Ambassadors" – the name is derived from 'Intelligence Quotient' (IQ) - a group comprised of 12 students who work collectively to improve school culture and climate. Three fundamental responsibilities – Cougar Canon campaigns, Walk-and-Talks, and case management – have been assigned to the EQ Ambassadors and should be fulfilled over the course of the school year. They first oversee school wide campaigns and are assigned one per quarter - this is tied to the Cougar Canon, a list of accomplishments and outcomes that Kennedy faculty works to instill in students by graduation. (Continued on page 9)



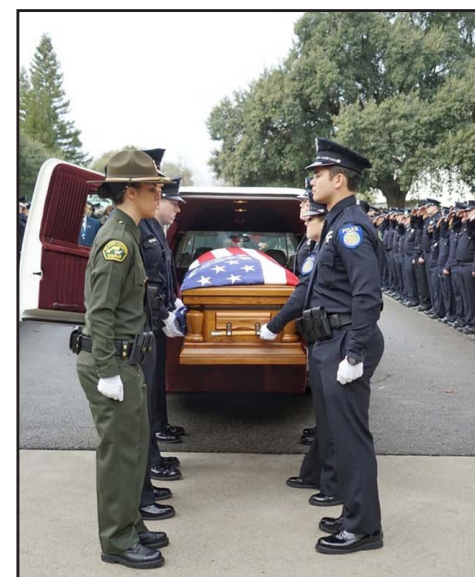
## Memorial for Courageous Officer at UC Davis

By Hana Ruiz, Clarion Staff

On the morning of January 18, 2019, the memorial service for Officer Natalie Corona, 22, who died in the line of duty a week before, took place in the UC Davis ARC Pavilion. Upon the arrival of her family, alongside with Officer Corona's casket, thousands of police officers from across the nation lined up, single-line on La Rue Road, outside the pavilion. Each officers saluted the arrival of the deceased and her family to pay their respects and undying support.

From families to friends, to officers and the public, around 8,000 people attended the service. Bagpipe players performed inside the Pavilion and the honor guard placed the American flag covered casket in front and center of the Pavilion. Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus performed a tribute to the fallen officer and called her an angel. Officer Lilia Vasquez, the police officer of the Criminal Justice Academy at John F. Kennedy High School, attended the memorial service with a dozen magnet cadets from the Class of 2019. "It was a beautiful memorial for someone that was just starting their career," Vasquez says.

A week before the service, Vasquez announced to the magnet cadets if they would like to attend the memorial service. Twelve Kennedy magnet cadets agreed to join Vasquez and the law enforcement community to pay their respects to Officer Corona. It was their first time to attend a police officer memorial and it was an emotional experience. Greg Moua (c/o of 2019) felt the need to attend because, "I had to show my respects to Officer Corona. I plan to work in the law enforcement in the future and it saddens me to know that she died at a young age. Officers make sacrifices in order to protect the community and they should be respected."



Officer Natalie Corona's casket being removed from the hearse. Photo by Officer Lilia Vasquez.

Speakers described Corona as radiant, mature, respectful, kind, and well focused. Davis Police Department Sergeant Eric Labbe, Corona's supervisor, expressed that, "Natalie's personality and her kind and loving demeanor was highly infectious." Davis Police Department Chief Darren Pytel stated that "Natalie was well loved at Davis PD and here in the community. She bravely reported to duty. She did everything that was expected and much more."

After the service, Corona was to be taken to Arbuckle, her hometown, for her burial. All the police officers hurried out the Pavilion to line-up side on the road and silently saluted as Corona and her family headed to Arbuckle.

Officer Corona was shot by 48-year-old Kevin Douglas Limbaugh, a resident with a criminal background, while she investigated a car collision near downtown Davis. Limbaugh approached Corona, shot her, and fled from the scene. Local police later found Limbaugh dead, after having committed suicide in his house.

Corona made a huge impact to the Davis community and the all of the law enforcement community. She gave what Officer Vasquez calls "the ultimate sacrifice for the career that she loved as a fellow Latina police officer. She will always be remembered."



## In This Issue

By Adrianna Iorio, Editor in Chief

Let me introduce myself as the new chief editor of *The Kennedy Clarion*. I have replaced our departing editor Joe Temblador who has left the school. I have been on the *Clarion* staff for each year that I've been attending John F. Kennedy High School, so I'm no stranger to this campus newspaper, and ready or not I'm in a leadership role.

Over the past quarter, bumps in the road became evident as we approached final production of this issue. Though it was difficult, our amazing staff and editorial board managed to pull through and deliver a diverse 12 page issue that covers an array of topics. By diving deep into what Kennedy has to offer, we uncovered new things about campus life, such as our new EQ Ambassador program and two clubs, one that is brand new and another that was started 50 years ago on our campus.

Even though we had a rocky start I am immensely proud of the work we have accomplished. I am looking forward to the future as editor and I hope you learn a thing or two from the paper in your hands.

## Can Humanities STEM Job Security?

By Sid Slesicki and Liliana López, Clarion Staff

### STEM Majors

If you're a senior or junior, chances are you've been contemplating the next stage of your education - more specifically, college. With it comes the (sometimes) stressful decision of picking a major. This is undoubtedly the hardest, most influential choice of your life that will dictate your success, your social standing, college experiences, and that will walk beside you to all jobs you apply for as your petals of adolescence and youth wither into tedious, desolate adulthood.

Only, that's not necessarily the case.

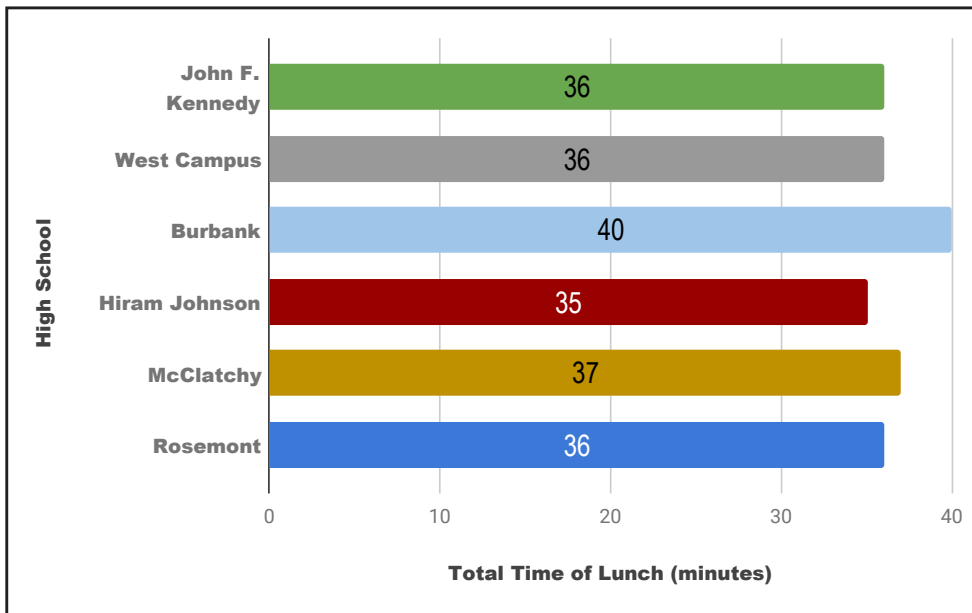
When discussing college major choices, there has always been a slight disapproval of majors that don't fall into areas known for high income wages. Students that have parents with high expectations usually see this in the variance of passive/aggressive to highly "suggestive" steering towards the positions: doctors (anything medical related), lawyers, engineers, software developers - the list goes on and on. The discussion of major studies such as philosophy, gender studies, art, acting, biblical studies, etc. are usually dismissed or suggested to be reconsidered as minor studies, but why? The most common thought that comes to mind is job security, as majors that fall into the humanities category simply don't set up students to find jobs that provide a stable lifestyle after college and to an extent, that's true.

(Continued on page 3)

## Big Bite, Short Lunch

By Brandyn Matsumoto, Clarion Staff

Lunch for high school students is an important aspect of a student's day that keeps them focused for the remaining hours of school. Students need lunch to recharge and take a break from the hard work. However, the problem with these lunch breaks are that they are very short. It seems as if there isn't enough time to catch up with other students, go to the library read a book or use the computers, and maybe just to relax. The whole point of lunch is to take a break and socialize, so it would seem to be fair to get an hour of lunch.



The ratio of lunch break time to school work time is a big gap, it seems unfair to students. Most high schools lunch breaks average around 37 minutes. The longest lunch break, that a SCUSD high school has is 40 minutes. Now, most high school periods average around 57 minutes, this is a big difference in time when compared to each other. The comparison (average) between those two times is 20 minutes. This seems unfair to the students who sit in classes for more than four hours until their 35-40 minute break. Then followed up with two more hours of class. Students, as well as teachers, deserve a longer break to relax and push themselves away for a bit. Sometimes students and teachers can feel stressed if there are too many things to do in a short amount of time.

Benefits to these extended lunch breaks are that both teachers and students can recharge their focus bar and let loose on any extra energy. It also allows students and teachers to get a breath of fresh air. Extended lunch breaks also allows students to catch up with friends and stay social. These lunch breaks would be a great addition to many schools around the scusd area.

## The Kennedy Clarion

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## Learning or Memorizing By Kevin Chen, Clarion Staff

Learning and memorizing are often categorized together; they are both required to promote academic growth. Learning provides the ability to understand and memorize, but memorization is merely the action of storing certain bits of information. While both can yield results in the school grading system, students as a whole seem to lean towards memorizing required knowledge. Memorization usually consists of focusing on required terms for a big test, then consequently forgetting said terms a day after. This type of habit should be disregarded, as it doesn't encourage retainment of newly obtained knowledge and flat out puts the student back at square one.

Learning, however, brings understanding of knowledge, which can be applied to events outside of the classroom. This is the true purpose of our education system. Whereas memorization of facts holds little value and only provides information about how a fact is relevant, learning can help you understand the fact's significance, the reason why it's true, and can allow the individual to link it to other areas of learning. Of course, memorization is still useful for remembering necessary formulas and historical events to understand their importance in our lives.

Still, though, consider math- a subject that requires memorization, but yet the memorization causes more damage than benefits. An equation is asked, it's responded to with an answer, but the answer is purely memorized. The students do not know the process of getting to the answer, they do not know what the variables of the equation represent, and they do not know how to apply the equation to real-life scenarios. Such a form of learning will only harm students and the generations that follow.

This kind of learning is called rote learning and, according to The Atlantic, is most common in the Eastern world: China, India, Japan, and Greece are all proud users of this repetitive memorization method. These eastern countries place high on international intelligence tests despite the drawbacks of memorization. However the U.S. is condemning rote learning and supports meaningful learning: a process of learning in which students can piece evidence together to understand a concept. Despite this claim rote learning is still practiced widely in America by both teachers and students.

According to an article by high school pre-Calculus teacher Ben Orlin (When Memorization Gets in the Way of Learning) his math class had only memorized equations and facts rather than understanding it. "To them, math wasn't a process of logical discovery and thoughtful exploration. It was a call-and-response game. Trigonometry was just a collection of non-rhyming lyrics to the lamest sing-along ever." This represents how insignificant Orlin's lessons were to his students, especially if he compared them to a game that even five year olds could comprehend.

This memorization process can't be countered by teachers who intend for students to actually learn and develop upon subjects like calculus, physics, chemistry, etc. If teachers want longer, more complicated problems, they'd stay up at night to grade, if teachers want to teach new ways to understand a topic, they'll have to dish out time in their already busy schedule. If teachers want their students to improve on tests, they'd have to give them more time on tests to properly solve problems. The situation is complicated for both teachers and students. No matter what teachers want to do, memorization always seems to slither through their plans.

## Job Security *(Continued from page 2)*

Currently the American job environment is focusing on occupations in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, (STEM for short) and there are numbers to support this shift in subject preference. According to the U.S. Department of Education, STEM jobs were predicted to have a 14% increase from 2010 up to 2020 - with biomedical engineering jobs seeing an expected 62% increase in demand, and software development jobs seeing a 32% increase in addition. Thus, college major enrollment rates from 2008 to 2016 have seen a 14% decline in the humanities, and a surge of students enrolling in economics majors specifically.

While STEM jobs can provide enough income to maintain a steady living, what the numbers fail to show are the happiness rates for those who decide to pursue the usually long and academically rigorous process of studying mathematics and the sciences.

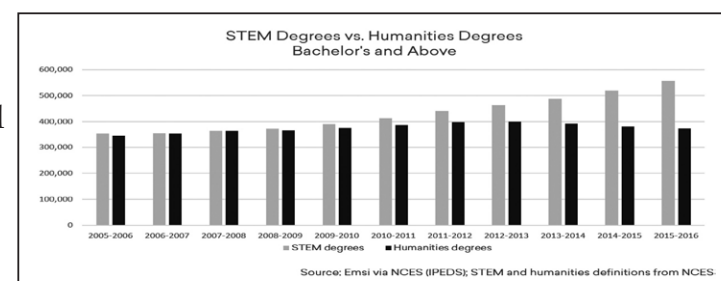


## Humanities Majors

What exactly are the humanities? Humanities, also known as liberal arts, are subjects such as literature, languages, history, ethics, philosophy, and religion. Over the course of the last five years, there has been a great decrease in humanities majors due to the high demand and preference for STEM careers.

California and New York have seen the greatest rise in STEM majors: 39% and 45%, respectively. On the flip side, humanities majors have decreased or become stagnant in both states, with a -3% decrease in California and a 1% growth in New York. Contrariwise, Virginia and Vermont have the highest rate in humanities majors at 23% and 22%.

A humanities major, however, does not necessarily mean that there will be no job opportunities available. In fact, many employers in the STEM workforce are looking to employ humanities majors. The qualities obtained by a humanities major, such as critical and creative thinking, analysis, and writing skills are often desirable to employers in both the fields of technology and business.



Oftentimes, the sales, marketing, or human resources employees of huge Silicon Valley companies are liberal arts majors including theater or philosophy. These people have the skills necessary to be involved in the communication/consumer relations areas of technology and are therefore vital to the companies for which they work. They are a complement to the "techies" (coders, program designers, and engineers) that we see so many people aspiring to be. If you're stressed about what major to choose, or wondering if your passions will even lead to a stable job, remember that there are all sorts of high-paying jobs out there for you.



## One of Kennedy's Newest Clubs Bob the Builder Got Nothing on Jenga Club

By Hana Ruiz, Clarion Staff

A tower of blocks, shaking hands, one small mistake and everything comes tumbling down. That's how most of the members of the new JENGA Club at Kennedy spend their lunch time weekly. Jenga is a game made up of wooden blocks that can be played with a multitude of players; each player has to take out one block at a time without making the tower fall.

Founded by Parker Scarpa and Christopher Lee both members of the Class of 2019. Jenga Club provides a fun and safe space for students to stop by and enjoy an intense game of Jenga. The club's two club leaders, Scarpa (president) and Lee (vice-president) invite Kennedy students to stop by and enjoy an intense game of Jenga in a fun and safe space.



Massimo Giordano at a Jenga Club meeting. Photo by Sid Slesiki, Photo Editor.

In Lee's sarcastic words, "I noticed a lack of Jenga around the campus and Parker noticed this as well. It was just sad to see that people are not playing Jenga, so we decided that it would be good to have a club where you can play Jenga and now people can be exposed to Jenga." Jenga is an intense game that tests the skills and strategies of each player. Regardless of the experience of each member, the Jenga Club community is outgoing and close to one another. Not to mention, there are Jenga Club competitions!

"There are some crazy competitions going on! Everyone wants to be the victor and everyone is really engaged when we have these competitions. Everyone wants to be on top because we give out prizes for our Jenga winners. You pretty much get to go down on the Hall of Fame in Jenga," exclaimed Vice-President Lee.

The Jenga Club shows that playing Jenga brings out the best in people and sheds light to their greatest potential while being able to hang out and get a thrill from playing this competitive game. The Jenga Club has their meetings every Fridays, during lunch time in T-12.

## College Apps, Check! Finals, Check! Senior Project?

By Isabella Wolfe, Clarion Staff

One semester down, one more to go. John F. Kennedy Class of 2019's graduation is far off, yet time can fly. Worrying about finals, stressing about college apps, battling senioritis, there are so many things to keep straight.

All seniors are also required to complete a Senior Project or they won't walk the stage on June 12th. If seniors haven't yet started, this is the time to do so. Nou Thao (c/o 2019) says, "I feel a little worried because I have other things that need to be finished. I think Senior Project is pretty easy."

Read the full story about Kennedy Senior Projects at [jfkclarion.com](http://jfkclarion.com)

## 50 Years of BSU at Kennedy Inside Black Student Union

By Parker Scarpa, Clarion Staff

The Black Student Union (BSU) is an on-campus organization dedicated to providing a safe place for students to express their ideas and opinions on controversial topics, as well as to learn about challenges facing African Americans in daily life. According to Kennedy records, BSU has existed on campus nearly since the school was founded in the 60's. The earliest record of the club was found in the 1969 yearbook, making this year the club's 50th anniversary.



Although BSU has been at Kennedy for some time, this year Club President Billie Dee Scott is focused on reforming the club to be "more consistent with meetings" and "more involved with the community."

According to Billie Dee Scott, at a typical meeting, members will present research on various topics related to black history or current events, and the group will discuss their own feelings on the topic. In the past, discussions have ranged from police brutality and the Black Panther Party to ancient African civilizations. Billie Dee Scott says "at times we trail off into other topics, but we always learn something new!"

At meetings, members also plan and discuss upcoming events that support the future of BSU. On February 15, BSU will host a Table Talk and potluck where students and parents can share their life experiences. Additionally, on February 22, the club will host its first BSU Game Night, where students can participate in games inspired by Jeopardy and Family Feud. Billie Dee Scott invites students of any ethnicity to participate in these events: "We would love it if we had more people from different backgrounds come out and attend our meetings!"

In the past, BSU has not made much of an impact on the Kennedy campus, but "This year," says Billie Dee Scott, "we are focused on Keeping BSU united and giving back to the community". Billie Dee Scott hopes to accomplish this by "providing students with a safe and friendly environment where they can make a change". Students can support BSU by attending club meetings or events. Billie Dee Scott advises any students interested in "exploring different points of view" to attend a meeting and learn more about the Black Student Union. The club meets on the first and last Wednesday of every month from 3:30-4:30.



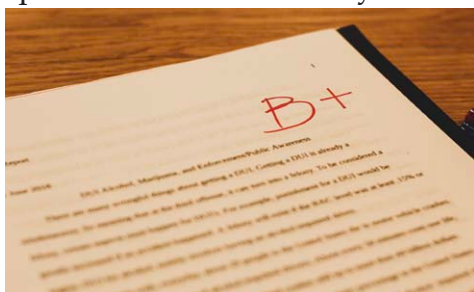
Comic by Sid Slesicki



## Write or Wrong: On Kennedy's Literacy Lab

By Hana Ruiz, Clarion Staff

Writing, spelling, grammar – these are all subjects Kennedy students may struggle with and that's what Literacy Lab is here for. The Literacy Lab has been around since having opened in the spring of 2017, and offers assistance with paper revisions, test preparations, grammar help, multiple choice testing, and tutoring for English – including AP Language, AP Literature, and ERWC classes. Having been established, the lab has been packed with students this year needing all levels of assistance.



Jennifer Reynaga, AP Literature/Language and Composition teacher is the head of the Literacy Lab. According to Reynaga, "English is a difficult subject to master with whole group structure. In Literacy Lab, students get help that is tailored to their weaknesses. One-on-one helps, particularly in writing."

For Reynaga, every day presents something new in the Literacy Lab. When asked about the typical attendance to Literacy Lab, she responded "Variably— Sometimes 30 people come or none at all. Sometimes teachers assign papers that causes a whole group comes in to get help, or when there's nothing due they get help by themselves."

The students who come to Literacy Lab have lots of energy, the kind that sets the tone of the classroom, which overall encourages others to be comfortable. Nikisha Dutt (Class of 2020) said, "I've been coming here for the past two to three weeks to really get help with my English.... I get help on how to use rhetorical devices and how to write good essays."

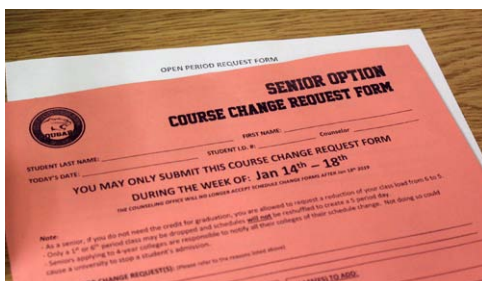
The Literacy Lab provides a friendly environment to study in, students can get help from student tutors or Reynaga herself, and also help each other. Reynaga encourages students to come get help: "If you get a bad grade in English; ask for a retake, rewrite, or ask to get extra credit for coming to Literacy Lab with the assignment that you got a bad grade on. So bring a specific assignment that you are doing or need help with repairing."

The Literacy Lab is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 3:20 pm to 4:20 pm every week in C-302.

## 6th Period, No Early Release

By Wendy Xiong, Clarion Staff

False information has spread among students at John F. Kennedy High School. Many students believe that seniors are no longer getting early release after fifth period. They are curious as to how much truth there is to this rumor.



Maichua Vang (Class of 2020) says that one of her classmates who is graduating this year, has only four required classes per semester with the exception of a college class. Meanwhile, another classmate told her that students must take a sixth period class.

"I don't remember who told me I need six periods as a senior because I tell everyone I want four classes my senior year," says Vang.

Michael Fry, JFK Assistant Principal, said, "It doesn't say students 'must' take a sixth period class." Fry clarified that in the first semester, twelfth-grade students may be exempt from taking a sixth-period class if they enroll in a college course; intern with approval by the school; work with verification letter by employment; or have a valid permit on file.

Even with these alternatives, students may still be required to take a sixth-period in order to fulfill their credit for graduation, depending on their current standing. During the second semester, however, according to Fry, the Sacramento City Unified School District said seniors may enroll in a maximum of five periods.

Students seeking more information may check the school district website's search icon, "SCUSD.edu/resource/graduation-policies."

## Winter Guard's Combined Destiny

By Desiree Leong, Managing Editor

A shorter show.  
Indoors.  
Performing without the band.

The transition from fall to winter is what happens every year after Thanksgiving break for Kennedy's award-winning color guard. Following their last competition with the band, Kennedy's guard now has a shorter show compared to the normal eight to ten-minute performance. This season, there is no longer A Guard and B Guard, having combined the two into just the scholastic-ranked former. With this, Kennedy will only have one team performing in competitions.



(Left to Right) Grace Yang (Class of 2019), Logan Tuazon (c/o 2019), Cindy Leung (c/o 2019), Calyn Mims-Wesley (c/o 2020), and Lisa Kim (c/o 2019) synchronize during color guard practice. Photos by Sid Slesicki, Clarion Staff

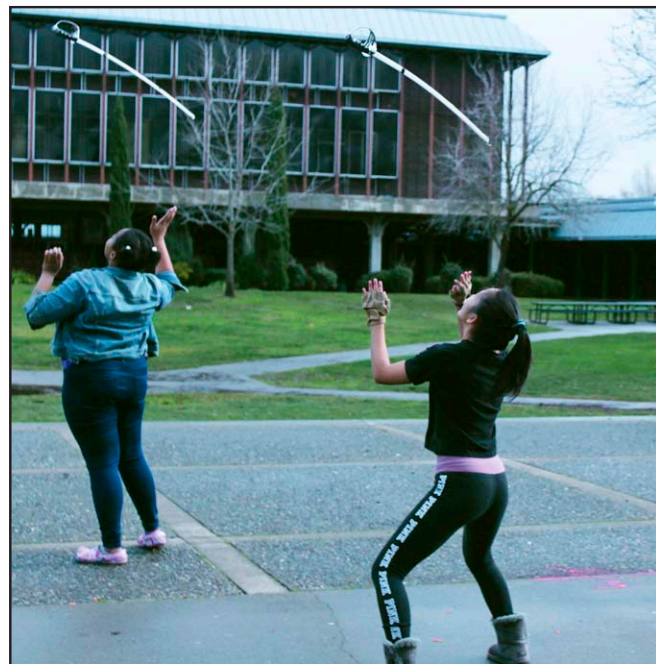
The captains this season are Cindy Leung and Lisa Kim (Class of 2019). With a total of 17 members, 12 are returning and five are new.

In explaining the change, Cindy Leung mused, "I believe that it's because of how this year's show is going to be. From what is currently given to us, our show seems to be pretty empowering to us as high school students. I still remember the first time we heard our show, the instructors said to us, "This is a show for you guys."

The song for the performance is an edit of Oprah's "Destiny" speech and "To Build a Home" by The Cinematic Orchestra. Returning member Samantha Ng (c/o 2019) said, "I think it'll be interesting because we've never had one guard before and our song has some speech in it, which we've also never had."

Their practices are similar to fall season, being on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, they now run from 3:30-6:00.

While winter season is definitely different from that of fall, it still requires the same endurance and passion. Both involve complicated tosses and dancework that is beautiful to watch. Lillian Lerch (c/o of 2021) added, "It's fun. It's definitely a lot of work, but it's worth it."



Calyn Mims-Wesley (c/o 2020) and Cindy Leung (c/o 2019) synchronize sabers in their colorguard run-through.

The season ends around May with about five to six competitions. Travelling to various high schools to perform, Kennedy's winter guard is not something to be missed.



# FEATURES

## Crazy Bathroom Passes

By Emma Shoemaker and Jenelle Lum, Clarion Staff



Many Kennedy students may have noticed, teachers around campus are known to have unusual bathroom passes that are available for students needing to leave the room during class time. Teachers do this to express their individual classroom and style.

Mr. Plotts, one of Kennedy's math teachers reported, "You want the pass to look like something that came from your room." Plotts is known to have two Star Wars themed bathroom passes which reflect his passion for the classic science fiction franchise. According to Plotts, his bathroom policy remains if a pass is available, any student is free to use the restroom. He reasons, "I know I can't sit and learn when I have to use the restroom. Sometimes students need a break not only to use the restroom, but to take a short break from the classroom setting. That is valuable to me." Plotts believes learning is more efficient when a student is given the opportunity to take care of their physical and emotional needs.



Photos by Emma Shoemaker, Clarion Staff

Mr. Bryant, one of Kennedy's Spanish teachers is also known for his bathroom pass. Bryant uses a straw sombrero for students to use while leaving his class. The inspiration behind this bathroom pass is not only for a representation of his class, but "something that people can wear and keep clean". Bryant's policy corresponds with the school bathroom policy, (students cannot leave during the first ten minutes or last ten minutes of class), and he feels that it is "okay to go when I am finished teaching something important."



Kennedy's art and ceramics teacher Mrs. Graves created a new, unique paintbrush pass for her students to use. Graves, Plotts, and

Bryant have similar points of view and want to ensure that their students have access to what they need to take care of their health. Crazy bathroom passes are a unique way to reflect the diversity classrooms. Journalism students have been known to use Clarion Press Passes as bathroom passes during class time.

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## Preparing for final exams at Cocoa & Cram

Kennedy's Link Crew hosted their second annual Cocoa & Cram event in the cafeteria on January 17, 2019

*All photos by Wendy Xiong, Clarion Staff*





## Minds Of Clay

By Emma Shoemaker, Clarion Staff

We grasp for golden rays,  
peering through criss-crossed  
cages,  
yearning to see as a Dragonfly:  
In this dry desert-

One morning, you  
told me to listen  
to the air.  
Guard your perspective.  
I tumbled through.

One morning, silver  
Birds will glisten,  
our voices breaking,  
Crystal  
Shaking the sand  
crumbled in our hands.



## Movie Review

### “Holy Cow! We’re In the Internet.”

By Jenelle Lum, Creative Director

*Ralph Breaks the Internet* has been trending among Disney fans and those who enjoyed the first movie. On opening weekend, this film made \$56,237,634 in comparison to the first *Wreck-It-Ralph* movie, which made \$49,038,712, according to boxoffice-emoji.com. Both children and adults can appreciate this movie due to the many elements contributed to the storyline.

Adults especially would feel nostalgic because of the incorporation of Disney princesses, Star Wars characters, Marvel superheroes and many more components. It was interesting to finally see all three franchises in one movie, now that Disney has the rights to Marvel and Star Wars.

The sequel to *Wreck-It-Ralph* (2012), takes place six years after the first movie. The movie starts with the main character, Vanellope, breaking the steering wheel for arcade game “Sugar Rush”, and faces the threat of her game being “unplugged”. She and *Wreck-It-Ralph* team up to go inside the internet to find a new steering wheel for the game.



It is debatable if *Ralph Breaks the Internet* was better than *Wreck-It-Ralph*, but this is a movie people will not forget. While the first movie had more of an idea people found unique (Ralph, an arcade game character no longer wanting to be known as a “bad guy”), this movie used some of the same elements; the arcade game setting, as well as incorporating new ones; well known internet apps. However, at times, too many things happened at once and not everything had to do with the main point of the story. It took away from the main goal of the movie. *Ralph Breaks the Internet* has brought many new memories for those who enjoyed the first film, but it did not exceed the first movie.

## Fantastical Sciences

By Desiree Leong & Kevin Chen, Clarion Staff

Magic has always been around in other worlds, but how much magic each person has in the clan ranges. A small glimpse into one of these enchanted realm in which magic is falling apart.

I am generally drawn to stories that include magic and a fantasy world. As such, I took on the fantasy aspect of this article. I love the mystery involved in having this mythological power. The wonder in learning about different races attracts my attention. It offers an escape to a world that feels so different, but also holds aspect I can relate to.

With fantasy, there is magic. Spells and enchantments. Mythical creatures and races. It isn't entirely logic based or explainable. There are other worlds to explore that expand on the real world. Often times, the magical world of elves and dragons and such have issues that aren't so different than what is faced in everyday life. There are books like the Harry Potter series where there is such a large range of magic and races. Everything is unique in the story. Other fantasy tales such as *A Midsummer's Night Dream* have fairies and magic, but the origin isn't explained. However, this doesn't take away from the appeal of the story.

~Desiree Leong

An alternative universe in which a world is falling, well at least in the midst of falling. Before every war or conflict, there is something that triggers it. This is that something; the catalyst to prevent the triggering of conflict. Unfortunately, the catalyst keeps falling, never touching the ground. What good is a savior who cannot save?

As such, Sci-Fi is a topic that's always seems to attract my attention. It brings about this idea or theory that causes you to think about our modern society and how these changes can be implemented or developed upon in the present or potential future. Not only that but the way these futuristic ideas are utilized or could be utilized are not afar. It's a wonderland for ideas of the future or those inspired by these inventions. For example, the iPod was originated from a device in a movie entitled *2001: A Space Odyssey* and the hoverboards from *Back to the Future*.

Science fiction explores the concept of something futuristic, whether it be an alien infested world, time travel, or unexplained phenomena in the modern world. It uses these potential ideas to bring inspiration and attract attention towards an audience through curiosity or the theory of an alternative universe within our society. Sci-Fi explores the concept of something futuristic, whether it be an alien infested world, time travel, or unexplained phenomena in the modern world. Many pop culture films and books such as *Star Wars*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *Transformers* have proven to be incredible popular due to their interesting concepts and the process of thinking in which people may take it.

~Kevin Chen

For a complete analysis of Fantasy & SciFi from Desi & Kevin, check out [jfkclarion.com](http://jfkclarion.com)

## Rain

by Liliana Noemí López, Sections Editor

*Window panes are weeping because children  
Press their noses against them, their breath  
Fogging up the glass face.  
They weep when moths throw themselves  
Against their cold glass countenance again and again:  
Maybe if they just got out in the rain the watercolors,  
The palette of God would bleed into their lifeless wings.  
Window panes are what separate Juan Pablo from  
Maria Iribarne, window panes make the little things seem like  
Drops of eternity falling down an elusive glass window,  
Caught between reality and the blurred vision of unconsummated dreams.*

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EQ Ambassadors

(Continued from Page 1)

"Walk and Talks", case management, and conflict resolution sessions are also an inherent part of the EQ Ambassador work.

EQ Ambassadors carefully designate a specific Cougar Canon message to each quarter. "Get Invested" was assigned to first quarter, with the idea that "Getting Invested" at the beginning of the school year will set students up for success within the following months.

The planning process for getting the Cougar Canon message out can be challenging to EQ members. Two Ambassadors are assigned per class period and all 12 of them meet every other Monday.

For their first campaign the EQ Ambassadors did a variety of things to broadcast the idea of "Getting Invested," including messages in the announcements, setting up posters around the school, and staging a scavenger hunt.

"Seeing the work that they do fills me with joy," Kennedy Assistant Principal Buitrago, EQ Ambassador Advisor, told The Clarion.

"Walk-and-Talks" are another EQ Ambassador responsibility that, so far, have shown improvement in terms of student behavior. When a student becomes disruptive or distracted during instruction time, a teacher has the option to call an EQ Ambassador, who will spend approximately 5 to 10 minutes talking to the student regarding the issue that arose.

"I can't say how much its helped yet but there has been a great deal of improvement. There were students who used to come in regularly who stopped coming in because they don't get in trouble anymore.

Case management and conflict resolution sessions are a practice that the Ambassadors received training on in the beginning of the year. Case management occurs when a staff member notices that a student is engaging in activities not desirable in a high school environment.

Despite being their first year, the EQ Ambassador work is something both Kennedy staff and students can look forward to seeing grow. Even though Ms. Buitrago, alongside the Ambassadors, cannot officially say they have made an impact on campus, its evident that their work has brought renewed positivity to Kennedy.

Way Back Machine - 30 Years Ago

Vol. 22, No. 4, February 1989
By Lilianna Lopez, Sections Editor

Help!!!

Written by Wilson Wong and Gary Gee, "Help!!!" is a brief story that is written in script form. It delineates a stereotypical conversation between a "Stupid freshman" and a "superior senior". The freshman goes to the senior for advice about his issues both in and out of school.

Kennedy Clarion magazine cover for January 1989. Features articles on Elks Award, Optimist, and Welcome Spring Cabinet. Includes photos of Renee Perrone, Jolene Morais, and Terri Robinson.

Valentines

Valentines is another short story, written by Jeannie Wong. It features two brothers by the name of Amorous and Obnoxious, both nephews of the god Cupid. The two siblings, tired of ruling over the Land of Love, decide to pay a visit to the Land of Heartbreak.

Dear PJ

Dear PJ was an advice column in the Kennedy Clarion. The problems featured therein were much the same as the ones high schoolers experience today: crushes, match making, and, of course, the typical high school prank advice request.

Rent One, Get One Free!

In the 21st century, it is rare that people know about, much less own, the antiquated VHS. Now that is so easy to stream movies or rent them via Netflix, Hulu, or Redbox, it might seem rather ridiculous that the 1989 issue of the Clarion ran an advertisement for a video cassette rental business.



Mikey

A 4-panel comic strip from a student guest artist showing an earlier form of senioritis at Kennedy HS.

Kennedy Clarion Facts (1988-89 school year)

Co-Editors: Stacy Kiesz, Julie Routhier
Advisor: Byron Clemens
Principal: Jerry Lee

See Clarion photos and extended articles on our web site
jfkclarion.com



**Poetry Out Loud**

*(Continued on page 10)*

Contestants had a range of feelings after reciting their poems some were excited to hear the results while others were relieved that it was over. Students had different reasons for reciting their poems. Some participated for fun, such as Blake Yuyama (c/o 2019) who performed simply because it is his senior year; others such as Andrew Hunsaker (c/o 2020), chose "Negative" by Kevin Young because he saw it as a lens through which to talk about racism and how people are constantly blinded by money.



Poetry Out Loud competitor Parker Scarpa c/o 2019 delivers his address. Photo by Sid Slesicki, Photo Editor

The event was coordinated once again by the Kennedy English teacher David Phanthai. Mr. Phanthai has been and continues to be extremely passionate about poetry, believing that it speaks to young students and allows them to express themselves. As a goal for Poetry Out Loud, he wishes to one day have a state and national winner. According to him, "Poetry is a celebration of not just art but students and emotions." Poetry Out Loud includes students from all grades and levels of experience with both veteran hopefuls and amateurs taking part in the competition. This school year the competition included 20 more participants compared to previous years.

While the judges decided the winners Gerardoangelo Lopez and Christopher Lee (both c/o 2019), performed original songs. Although they had some technical difficulties in the beginning, Lopez and Lee did not fail to entertain the audience. Kennedy students showed their support by cheering and waving their phone lights around. The event ended with the emcees announcing the winners and recognizing everyone who participated in the competition.

**Kennedy Celebrates 9 New Faculty Members**  
By Arooba Muqaddar, Clarion Staff

With each new school year at John F. Kennedy comes new staff members, each helping to build a successful Kennedy community. This year Kennedy welcomes new staff members in the following departments: Math, Fine Arts, Social Science, Science, and Special Education.



New Kennedy staff members shown above (L to R) Back row-Douglas Dammarell, Julie Law Marin, Ruben Griffin, Dalton Simpson, Zechariah Lee; Front Row- Seanne Louvet, Kelsey Riley, and Missy Wallace. Not pictured Carolyn Zierenberg. Photo by Wendy Xiong, Clarion Staff

Meet the new Kennedy staff by going to our website! Read Arooba's complete article online and learn fun facts about each of the newest teachers at John F. Kennedy High School.



**FAMILY PRACTICE**



**NEW PATIENTS WELCOME**

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**Boys & Girls Basketball (continued from page 12)**

This year the team won both rivalry games against McClatchy decidedly (83-53) and (63-42). Johnson recalled another important contest, "Our best game this season was our very first. We ended up losing in overtime, but we battled our way back from a 20+ point 3rd quarter deficit against a ranked team and showed resilience. We had a lot of setbacks this year which included the flooded gym, losing players, injuries and grades, but we still managed to complete the year above with a record above .500."

Freshman had an overall record of 9-14 and metro league record of 4-4 and Junior Varsity overall record of 8-15 and league record of 3-8. The JV squad bested their arch rivals CKM twice this season.

Girls Varsity basketball has a overall record of 9-15 as of Feb. 5 and metro league of 4-7, putting their all out on and off the court working together. Working hard trying to exceed their personal and team expectations finishing the basketball season with dignity and honor, Coach Nakamoto says "They definitely improved in that area. Every season we try to do a 'bonding' Tournament when they came back they were much closer. What could they work on... There is so much to learn in this game... Just working on the simplest of skills would help."



Kennedy girls varsity basketball, Nikki Tanaka c/o 2020 attempts a three-point shot against Grant H.S. Photo by Wendy Xiong, Clarion Staff.

Girls Junior Varsity registered an above .500 overall record of 11-10 and metro league record of 7-4. Girls Junior Varsity has come a long way, building character, skill and much more learning and improving year after year continuing to learn from games, mistakes, and themselves.

**Girls Soccer (continued from page 12)**

Upon interviewing players from the varsity team, this goal was fulfilled as the soccer season came to a close.

Like several other sports teams, Kennedy's girl's soccer competitors hope to perform to the best of their abilities at each and every game. In their recent season against JFK's toughest competitors, the teams needed this effort in order to succeed. Out of the games that varsity girls' soccer competed in, the best games were against McClatchy and River City. As Maia Campos, (c/o 2020) one of the three varsity captains on the girls' team said, both games had "very high intensity... and [were] very competitive." Although the team lost in their December 13th home game against River City by a score of 1-0, players rebounded their efforts into an away game against McClatchy. With this effort, they edged against CKM by a final score of 2-1. Along with their intense performance that contributed to their victory, several new team members added speed, which provided an edge in reaching and defending the goals on both ends of the field.

Packed with talent on both the JV and the varsity teams, solidarity continued to grow with each successful practice, ensuring that the 2019 season was an amazing one, both on and off of the field. Varsity finished the season on February 5 against Burbank following a 1-1 tie at Laguna Creek and a solid 6-1 win at Grant high school on January 29.

**Kennedy Wrestling Mat Experts Grapple with Loss of Players**  
By Isabella Wolfe, Sports Editor

During the 2018-2019 season, the J.F. Kennedy Wrestling team got off to an unprecedented start. The wrestling season began with 28 wrestlers (boys) and 4 wrestlers (girls) on the team but by early 2019 had dropped to only 5 boys and 1 girl. Brian Ewing returned to the fold as head coach and guided the small team of grapplers through their paces. In this short time they worked together, competed and won several individual matches.

"Our best match this season was against Grant and River City," Coach Ewing shared via email with the Clarion. "All wrestlers won a match and Jordan Noble and Carlos L. Garcia, (both Class of 2019) won their matches by pinning their opponent."

Coach Ewing says individual goals for all wrestlers include making it to the NorCal Divisional Tournament and ultimately the California State Tournament. Jordan and Carlos, at 113lbs and 220lbs, respectively, each earned victories at league championship tournament at Laguna Creek on Feb. 2.



Kennedy wrestling champs Carlos Garcia and Jordan Noble pose after winning individual matches at the league tournament at Laguna Creek on Feb. 2 Photo courtesy Jordan Noble.

"Going into the League Tournament I had expected to win 1st place," Jordan Noble shared with the Clarion. "Being a league champion feels good but it isn't much of an accomplishment as there is still so much time left in the season. My next goal is to win the Division Tournament and qualify for state. I plan on pursuing wrestling in college, or trying out for national teams in the future."

**Boys Soccer (continued from page 12)**

The boy's varsity soccer team scored huge wins against Burbank and Monterey Trail. They blew out their opponents, beating Burbank 4-0 and Trail 7-1, using their skilled footwork, fast ball movement, and quick agility. Those big wins pointed toward the true potential of the boy's soccer team giving them hopeful momentum for the second half of the season. They were hungry for redemption, determined to come back stronger than ever, while also trying to claim a playoff spot. The soccer program hasn't made the playoffs since 2012, coming close every year as the fourth or fifth runner-up.

In the end, the varsity team fell short of making the playoffs ending with a win-loss record, short of expectation and below .500. They put in a tough effort giving it their all in each game, and while only winning three metro league matches, they still ended up winning something greater. The players became close and quickly learned, along with their teammates, that working together on the field was more important. Their chemistry was shown in games, as selfless gameplay and laughter between teammates were highlights in each match.

Kennedy Soccer star Aksel Rodarte c/o 2019 states, "We're all close on and off the field, we know each other's strength and weaknesses so we all work for each other. We just have a strong connection with one another." A team so close and connected is truly the meaning and success of the boy's varsity 2018-2019 soccer season.



## Boys Soccer End the Season with a Kick

By Ethan Vue, Clarion Staff



Kennedy soccer player, Jose Herrera controls the ball along sideline against Grant opponent. Photo by Carlos Sandoval, Kennedy Yearbook

The 2018-2019 Boys Varsity and JV teams were filled with young prospects and athletic talent. It was a fresh start for the program which has been led by new head coach, Kenyon Hill.

"Our junior class is strong and that bodes well for next year's team, we have some solid players emerging from the JV team," stated by Coach Hill. "I feel the program is on the right track in terms of growth and we hope to be the soccer hub for the Greenhaven community." Coach Hill's philosophy in leading the varsity team is to improve his team's experience by having them play hard while having fun on the field. (Continued on page 11)

## Girls Soccer

### Winning Both on and Off the Field

By Kimberly Landeck, Clarion Production Mgr.



Kennedy varsity soccer player, Kyla Neely c/o 2022 races to control the ball against Burbank Photo by Zach Abay, Kennedy Yearbook.

No matter how successful or unsuccessful the season is, all Kennedy sports teams deserve an equal amount of recognition and love, especially Kennedy's girl JV and varsity soccer teams. With an overall record of 8-6-1 and a Metro League score of 5-4-1, the varsity team may not dominate the leaderboards, but Kennedy players still consider the season to be a success.

According to the JV and varsity coach, Coach Rubio, a good season would meet his goal of "understanding what is attainable if they work together. It depends on if the performance matches the will and game plan." (Continued on page 11)

## Boys & Girls Basketball Heads Held High

By Isabella Wolfe, Sports Editor

The Kennedy Boys and Girls basketball 2018-2019 season has officially ended, Kennedy Cougars (Varsity, JV, and Freshmen) can now look back over the season and reflect on their performances, and how they were able to build a strong foundation despite some bumps in the road.



Kennedy varsity guard, Cristian Johnson c/o 2019 shown in contest again Monterey Trail. Photo by Baylee Phang, Kennedy Yearbook Staff.

The Varsity Boys team record as of Feb. 5 was 15-12, and 6-5 in metro competition keeping safely above .500 for most of the winter season. The teamwork between each teammate was evident on and off the court. Varsity basketball player Class of 2019 Cristian Johnson says "This year we were able to improve our overall and league record from the previous season." (Continued on page 11)



Kennedy girls varsity basketball players listen closely during a team huddle. Photo by Wendy Xiong, Clarion Staff.