



## 510 Kennedy Seniors to Graduate on June 12

By Hana Ruiz and Arooba Muqaddar, Clarion Staff

As the 2018-2019 school year comes to an end, 510 Kennedy seniors will once again be walking the stage at their graduation ceremony that will take place at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, June 12th in the recently renovated Memorial Auditorium on 1515 J Street. Kennedy seniors, Rafaela Lomboy and Frances Feng, will serve as Salutatorian and Valedictorian, respectively. Two other graduating Cougars, Noah Cantero, and Julian Williams, will be the featured student speakers sharing their advice or memories with fellow classmates. Also speaking will be Sacramento City Unified School District Board Members Darrell Woo and Superintendent Jorge Aguilar. Mary Hardin Young, the Instructional Assistant Superintendent, will be a distinguished guest at the ceremony.



Standing near the 50 yard line and facing west, a soon-to-graduate Kennedy senior thinks about which direction her life may take in the future. Photo by Hana Ruiz, Clarion Staff

The Class of 2019 will have a number of opportunities to attend fun events as they live their last moments as high school seniors. The last spirit week is from May 28th through May 31st, ending with the Senior Rally. Seniors that are receiving awards/scholarship are invited to attend the Senior Awards Night on June 4th from 6 to 8 PM in the auditorium. On June 5th, Kennedy seniors can attend the annual Senior BBQ from 6 to 8 PM in the football stadium to enjoy outside games and eat BBQ. Lastly, Sober Grad Night is on June 12th from 11 PM to 6 AM at Country Club Lanes; seniors are welcome to come and enjoy the night with their friends and make final memories.

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## SCUSD and Teachers Union Lock Horns in Fight Over Survival?

By Kevin Chen, Clarion Staff

It has been quite a spring in our school district. The 1-day teacher strike on April 11 left parents, teachers, and students of Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) asking: "What was going to happen? Will it happen again? If so, when?" As it turns out, SCUSD and the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) have not resolved their disputes. Still, a second strike, planned by SCTA for May 22, was postponed in good faith that both sides will need to work on contract agreements and avoid more labor actions in the coming year. Meanwhile, SCUSD discovered millions of unaccounted-for dollars in their ledgers, which has helped to ease fears of the state taking over district operations.

Most Kennedy students were absent during the strike on April 11, the first labor action in decades, but school was technically still in session. A majority of Kennedy's staff -- along with several courageous students and honking drivers -- protested on the sidewalks of Florin Blvd. and Gloria Dr. They demonstrated at Kennedy, and then joined with other SCUSD teachers at 11:00 for a larger scale protest at Serna Center, the site of the district offices. At Serna Center, union leaders and teachers from Sacramento, as well as Oakland and Los Angeles, took turns making speeches to the crowd.

Back at Kennedy, the few hundred students who appeared at school were herded into the T-wing box classrooms to sit for hours. The district hired outside people looking to earn an advertised \$500. These "substitutes" did nothing but attempt to ensure that the students did not leave the classroom they were placed into. They did not have background checks or have the gumption required to stop students from leaving classrooms. There were some incidents: students trashed Mr. Lam's classroom, pulled down lights from the ceiling, threw student work everywhere, and left behind wrappers and food. Substitutes also could not stop students from leaving their designated classrooms, leaving that to campus monitors. Regardless, operations at Kennedy continued throughout the day, ending with a movie in the cafeteria.



Despite teacher demonstrations, the district still refused to meet with SCTA until the May 16 board meeting. The board informed SCTA that, by cutting 178 jobs and different programs in the district, a whopping \$33 million was found, a quantity nearly enough to pay off the \$35 million budget deficit that would be needed to keep SCUSD free from state control. Unfortunately influential teachers have still been laid off due to staff cuts. Among others, an elementary school teacher expressed her sadness and frustration towards those who made the decision to lay her off. Multiple programs from different schools, including bands from Kennedy High, McClatchy High, Sam Brannan Middle, and others, protested the potential cutting of their programs, each explaining why their program is so important to them and future generations. This meeting went 3 hours overtime, ending at 12:30 AM due to the amount of information and conflict between teachers and the district.

The second 1-day strike, planned for May 22, was ultimately postponed by SCTA. Class learning continued as normal, and hundreds of teachers converged after school upon the state capitol to join in the California Teacher Association's RedforEd Rally, standing alongside fellow teachers from our region and statewide, to signal unity and, hopefully, a smooth year ahead.

**In This Issue****By Adrianna Iorio, Editor in Chief**

With the 2018-2019 school year coming to an end, each member of The Kennedy Clarion staff continues to display hard work, perseverance, and determination.

I am immensely proud of all the hard work and time each individual student has put into making this paper work. The dedication that our staff displayed this school year is exceptional, and I can't wait to see how the paper progresses in the future.

In this issue, we kept up with the theme of covering student interest alongside issues that pertained to our campus as a whole. The dangers of riding in transportation services (such as Lyft or Uber) and the malfunctions of the pad and tampon machines on campus are examples of big stories that impacted Kennedy's general population.

With the class of 2019 graduating, our staff also dedicated stories toward senior class - senior wills, senior favorites, and graduation itself. We hope that these stories will serve as a tribute to what each 12th grader has brought to our campus.

We worked extremely hard to produce every paper we've published this school year and I hope you enjoy our last issue as much as I do.

**My Kennedy Rewind****By Desiree Leong, Managing Editor**

Four years of a student's life are dedicated to trying to figure out who they are and what they're interested in. Almost half a decade's worth of time is spent on classes that are necessary to achieve a higher education. As for myself, interests have come and gone; throughout high school I've changed so much, while still in some ways remaining that same freshman from the first year of high school.

For the past four years, I've debated what my major should be, spent thousands of seconds cramming (but also getting distracted). From that first day of my high school career, I was determined to get perfect grades, grow closer to my best friends, and go to a UC. I was overconfident in my abilities, yet I remained terrified of not being good enough. I thought I had the big picture in mind that the small corner of the world I glimpsed was everything I would need to get by in life.

With my expectations growing more and more, I'm still not as confident as I should be. Despite the years that have gone by and the variety of experiences that I have lived through, the doubts about the future still linger. Learning about what I really want to do has been both thrilling and terrifying.

When I began high school, I was confident in what I wanted to do. I had plans to major in creative writing at UC Riverside and thought nothing would change my mind. I was set in my thinking and was

determined to see it through. However, no matter how determined I was, my future wouldn't be exactly how I planned it.

Though I was struggling, I still kept some belief that my skills would be enough to get met through. My grades, though not completely stable, remained somewhat consistent. While my motivation to better my grades was better in my freshmen year, it still wasn't easy to score well and raise my grades.



Extracurriculars had been considered, but I wasn't sure what I specifically wanted to participate in. Knowing people who were apart of the school's color guard, along with having friends trying out too, I joined the winter guard. I'd never considered an activity that required grace and

attention. Since I was young, I've been clumsy and hated the spotlight. As much as I struggled, I learned how to respect the strengths of others. My skills may not be as developed as someone else's, but I didn't have to be envious of what I couldn't do.

Trying to follow through on my goal of being in the creative writing field, I joined the newspaper my junior year. It had been something I hadn't ever even considered doing, a recommendation I had thought would help me. I was surprised at how different the class was and found it enjoyable. It forced me out of my comfort zone and I got to see what interested me. I gained the confidence to share my writing. While my first year had been an adjustment for me to get used to publishing deadlines and writing journalistically, this second year had been a far bigger change. Stepping into the role of a leader has been unexpected and something I wouldn't have expected of me. Like color guard, it just wasn't something I thought I was capable of. I wasn't good at standing in front of people and telling them what to do. I was incredibly shy when I had to be at the center of attention.

Having had plans for college influencing my decisions for the better part of this year, conflicting thoughts about wanting to end high school with good grades were a contrast to my wanting to do the bare minimum. Improving my grades had been a top priority, though my motivation was shaky at times. My dedication began to decline once college acceptance letters arrived, making it hard to get myself to do homework and study, but I finally pulled myself together to finish my work.

With this final year of high school ending soon, I've begun to realize that the plan I had may not have fallen in the ways I hoped it would. I would still have upcoming experiences where I would be able to further discover more about myself. Though I will be attending UC Irvine and majoring in computer game science, it is still a future I'm excited for.

**The Kennedy Clarion**

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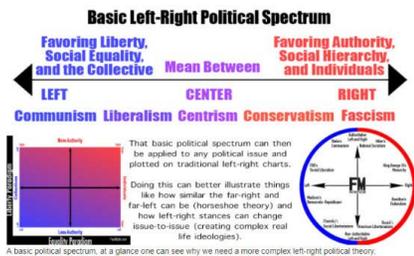
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## Politics For Plebs: Basics of Political Preference

By Sid Slesicki, Clarion Photo Editor

Among possible controversial conversation topics, such as religion, income level, race, and sexual orientation, politics comes to the forefront as a topic to generally avoid at most costs. However, while it is good to be aware of your conversational audience, being educated on the basics of touchy topics is a great way to see where your views align in the situation, and see the reasoning behind the opposing viewpoint. In this article, three basic political ideologies: Centrism, Liberal Leftism, and Right Wing Conservatism, will be presented alongside a few examples of the general ideological stances on political issues affecting the nation currently.



**Centrism:** At the middle of the political spectrum is an ideology called centrism, and is widely characterized by its ideals advocating for logic-based and common sense solutions for current and future issues. Centrists tend to favor hard evidence in terms of providing

reason to pursue certain causes, and emphasize doing what is right over doing what is deemed to be popular. In terms of stances on political issues, Centrists currently favor a market-based economy (when goods and services that are guided solely by the interactions of a country's individual citizens and businesses with little government regulation), and want to reform the current political system to lower the influence of big money corporations within our legislative and electoral processes using government intervention (oh the irony), while putting an emphasis on clean energy usage for environmental conservation, and promoting a healthy diet to lower healthcare costs.

**Left Wing Liberal Ideology:** Those who support the causes of social equality and egalitarianism (the doctrine that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities) will find that the left side of the political spectrum will align most, if not completely with their ideals. Leftists tend to support a stronger democratic presence in society, believing that in order to maintain a balanced society, democratic rule is essential in making sure that one person or group doesn't end up making conditions for the rest of society unfair. Additionally those on the left would mainly agree that human development flourishes when individuals engage in cooperative, mutually respectful relations that can thrive only when excessive differences in status, power, and wealth are eliminated. Political Parties who will typically adopt left wing ideals are the Democrats.

**Right Wing Conservative Ideology:** If you favor decisions that uphold traditional values, or protect the rights of individuals rather than the collective community, your ideology may swing towards the right side of the political spectrum. Right leaning individuals favor lowered taxes in order to provide more income for the individual citizen, gun rights, low government interference in the life of constituents, and a high support of Capitalism. Political parties who usually adopt conservative ideals are usually Republicans.

Despite the general usage of political affiliation to associate traits of either side of the spectrum to individuals who align with a certain side, it is important to note that while you may have ideologies that differ with the views of others, this is okay in most instances. It is a common occurrence in politics to see officials adopt views on both sides of the spectrum, and just because someone aligns mostly with one side, doesn't mean they can't adopt or agree with common stances taken by the opposing political ideology.

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## How Article 13 Could Change the Scene for Media Influencers

By Andrew Ely & Xavier Martinez, Clarion Staff

In 2018 the European Union passed Article 13, which is part of the European Union's copyright law that details how content sharing services, including social media, should deal with copyrighted content. Many people use the term fair use when using copyrighted material in their videos. Fair use is a term that supports official releases of copyrighted media for criticism and/or news purposes and applies to movie reviews, gameplay, etc. However the term won't matter much anymore, as content can be more easy to take down, under fair use or not. Fair use will be ignored even if the video wasn't intended for copyright. Because of this, freedom on the internet will be restricted.



This encouraged more than just YouTubers, like Pewdiepie and T-Series, but as well as their fans to fight against the European Union's decisions considering Article 13. Many are angry and scared about the situation, as many speculate it may be the "be all end all" of not only YouTube, but other social media as we know it.

If there are people willing to fight back, here are some online sources for some more information on Article 13 and what it means for the faith of the online community and how fighting back is possible. "With these heavy burdens, the internet might have to shut down all together" - WIRED UK. (2019, March 25). What is Article 13 and will it Kill Memes? WIRED Explains. Retrieved from <https://youtu.be/MAqJBDh6GY4>. "The representatives do not represent." - Martin, N. [Optimus]. (2019, March 26). Article 13 Has Passed. Retrieved from <https://youtu.be/iwQnfMEtaZA>. "The internet isn't looking too good, a VPN is the only way to somewhat fight back" - Langevin, J. [jayztwocents]. (2019, March 27). What is Article 13 and how to fight back. Retrieved from <https://youtu.be/MdlHM-ytD6A>.

## Why Video Games Are Important

By Will Seaver, Clarion Staff

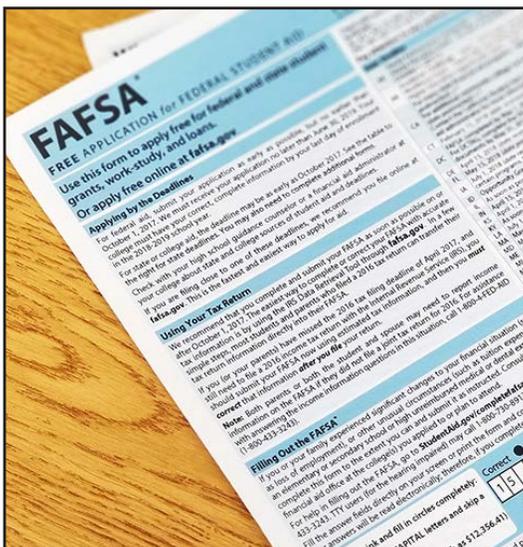
When people say that video games are bad for you, they are very, very wrong. Games are important because they provide a fun and social form of entertainment, encourage teamwork and cooperation when played with others. They make people under the age of 10 or 15 comfortable with technology. They also increase children's self-confidence and self esteem as they master games, provide points of common interest and opportunities for socialization. Certain games like puzzle or math related games can develop skills in reading, math, technology and problem solving, and encourage participation in related offline activities, such as reading video game related books, "etc", or doing certain sports. they also encourage and improve civic participation, and hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills.

They can also teach important skills or address serious issues. It even turns out that games do provide a valuable service to each and every player. They provide a quick and easy way to light up the pleasure centers in our brains. Games mirror the way the human mind learns and uses it in certain situations like a sword fight or where to go in quick thinking situations. They motivate players to take risks and actions, persevere through failures, set and achieve increasingly difficult goals, and devote attention, time, and effort to acquiring new skills. Video games speed up reaction time for situations where you have to use your brain like a speed run. Playing action video games trains people to make the right decisions faster, according to Alan Blank-Rochester's article on Futurity.org (September 13th, 2010).

## What you Need to know About FAFSA

By Hana Ruiz and Isabella Wolfe, Clarion Staff

Going from 12 years of free public school education to now having to pay for college is a drastic change for many students. In high school you can change or drop a class without financial consequences, but in college there are fees that are attached to any changes in your class schedule. Each class depending on the school and the amount of units will have a cost attached to taking that class.



As our high school education comes to an end, some of us have been thinking about college, but how does one pay for college? Financial aid is a process that most students don't worry about until senior year, but for underclassmen who may want to know more about this mysterious activity in advance, it might be wise to educate yourself. Kennedy counselor Mrs. Anderson

provided some insight, "Lowerclassmen can't really prepare but they can find prior knowledge from counselors, upperclassmen, and off-campus knowledge as well." The answer lies with financial aid.

Let's start with the basics.

Financial aid is money that is used to pay for college, and comes in the form of scholarships, grants, or money directly from the government for students who qualify. Students who are planning to go to college and cannot afford the fees can apply for financial aid. Specifically, most students apply through free application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA), a platform for students to receive assistance from the federal government or borrow money (student loans) via the platform.

CAL Soap is a group that introduces Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) and informs students about different options for financial aid depending on their situation. Students can apply online for the aid on FAFSA website (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/afsa>). The application for FAFSA opens on October 1st and ends on March 2nd, students and parents are required to start an account with FAFSA. As a precaution, students should NOT apply for FAFSA on any other website besides the one provided because there are scams and they can steal your information.

The application requires students to enter their personal and family information, such as social security, tax information, choice of colleges, etc. The application requires a parent's tax return information from two years prior. Jasnie Nath (Class of 2019) applied for the FAFSA 2019-2020, saying that FAFSA was really difficult because my parents are really protective with our personal information and I was busy with school too. Eventually, I got it done in time, so I think time management really helps."

Once the application is completed, the student and their parents must review the information before submitting it. The student and one of their parents can sign the application electronically and submit it. However, if the parent of the student doesn't have a social security number, the student has to print out a form at the very end of the application for their parent to sign and mail it through the U.S. postal service.

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## Clarion Staff Receives Awards

By Kevin Chen, Clarion Staff

On May 9th, nine Kennedy Clarion students took home awards for their outstanding work this year at the annual journalism award ceremony hosted by the Sacramento High School Journalism Network. Young editors, writers, cartoonists, and photographers from high schools across the area met at the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) Conference Center to celebrate this annual event, with the best submissions in each category receiving awards. This year, Clarion newspaper staff members won several awards for their amazing work: best personal column, best editorial writing, best criticism writing, best photography, best editorial cartoon, and best graphic design.

Staff writer Hana Ruiz and sections editor Lilitiana Lopez' article "Her Own Did Not Receive Her: Actress Yalitza Aparicio Slighted After Roma" won first place for Best Criticism Writing. The article is a review of the 2018 movie Roma and discusses the importance of lead actress Yalitza Aparicio's status as an actress and why her spot in the acting world is so valued.



**Clarion staff members attending annual event (L to R) Hana Ruiz, Wendy Xiong, Lilitiana Lopez, Kevin Chen, Adrianna Iorio, Desiree Leong, Jenelle Lum, Kimberly Landeck**

Taking top honors for best editorial cartoon was Hana Ruiz with her comic entitled "La Frontera." This comic poked fun at President Trump's interference at the U.S.-Mexico border, comparing him to the character from the childhood rhyme Humpty Dumpty. Second place awards went to several Clarion staff members including Editor in Chief Adrianna Iorio's news article "Divided Campus", who sought to discover if Kennedy, on a smaller scale, is as politically polarized as our nation.

Another second place article, "Legality, Morality, and Police Brutality", was written by staff writer Parker Scarpa. The article elaborated on his opinion on the Stephon Clark incident and questioned what was truly more important: the ability to potentially defuse dangerous situations or the right of an innocent citizen to live.

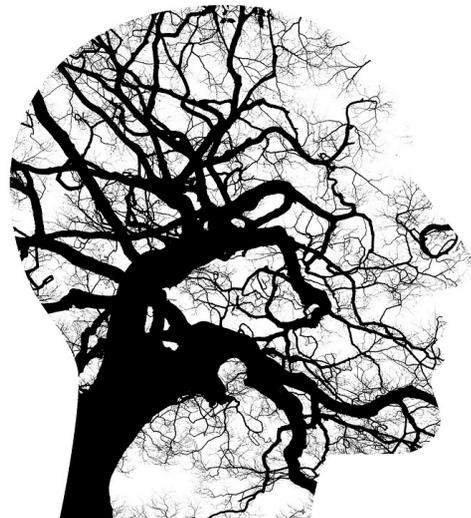
Winning second place for Best Criticism Writing was Production Manager Kimberly Landeck's album review, "Mendes' Latest Strikes a Chord with Teens." The article, which reviews Shawn Mendes' song In My Blood, connects high school life to the song's lyrics, even going so far as to reference specific musical changes and progressions in the song. Former photographer Wendy Xiong won second place for photography with a photo capturing a prideful moment of the Cougar swimming team celebrating a brief victory during their championship game against McClatchy.

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## Spreading Mental Health Awareness at Kennedy

By Emma Shoemaker, Clarion Staff

The past year at Kennedy High School, many Seniors have been working on Civic Empowerment Projects, also known as CEPs. This includes Seniors forming small groups within their classes working alongside other Seniors that aspire to make a difference in the world with a similar focus. The CEPs range from helping to decrease the homeless population in Sacramento to protesting against Police Brutality. In Mr. Williams fourth period, our group partnered with a group in William's



sixth period to place a focus on raising awareness for mental health and to increase the resources regarding mental health that are available within Kennedy.

According to an article by Mental Health First Aid, within the US, just 41 percent of people who had a mental disorder in the past year sought professional help or care.

Many students may not realize that the counselors on Kennedy's campus are not only on campus to assist with class adjustments, but are here to talk to students about more serious matters as well, such as mental health issues. The counselors can help students with problems they are facing within their life and do what they can to assist the students or refer them to a counselor or therapist that would be a good fit for a specific student. Also, Kennedy offers access to an educational psychologist for academic issues that students may be facing.

The majority of students at Kennedy do not have access to mental health resources and many lack awareness of mental health issues and mental health education. Although Kennedy does not have enforced mental health education, there are a variety of resources on campus that students can take advantage of. This year, another CEP group organized a presentation of the organization NAMI which spreads mental health awareness. A representative from NAMI came to Kennedy to speak on mental health issues and to spread mental health education to Kennedy Students.

Many Students do not have the appropriate amount of mental health education to know when it is time to seek professional help or may be worried about a friend or a loved one that may need such assistance. This may affect attention in school, the quality of schoolwork, along with a student's overall demeanor within school. Within our CEP group, we spread flyers around Kennedy's campus providing various mental health hotlines and resources that students can utilize in the event of a crisis or if an individual or student is worried about their personal mental health or the mental health of a loved one.

In the near future, the mental health CEP groups hope that Kennedy will have mandatory mental health education for a day or two each year for all students on campus. This would allow for students to better understand the emotions they are feeling and to know if it is time to get assistance from a professional. In the meantime, Kennedy students should do their best to spread awareness of mental health issues within Kennedy's campus and to their loved ones.

## Fill in the Blank: Kennedy's Senior Graduation Mad Libs

By Desiree Leong and Kimberly Landeck, Clarion Staff

Graduation. A day filled with new challenges and \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, one senior, \_\_\_\_\_, was so excited that they gathered their friends, the ever \_\_\_\_\_ Sallie, \_\_\_\_\_ quick-witted Lukas, and \_\_\_\_\_ Adrienne. They decided to \_\_\_\_\_ in the park to celebrate their \_\_\_\_\_ futures. One of them made delicious \_\_\_\_\_ while another brought \_\_\_\_\_. Bringing the blanket, \_\_\_\_\_, also picked up Lukas. They sat in a \_\_\_\_\_ and discussed the tea. After this, they got into \_\_\_\_\_'s car and drove to Buutez Drive, a place filled with magical \_\_\_\_\_ that happily \_\_\_\_\_.

As the group continued heading towards their \_\_\_\_\_ graduation, they came across their favorite teacher \_\_\_\_\_, who was known for their \_\_\_\_\_ teaching style. This teacher wished them luck in their future pursuit. After this, the group wanted to complete one more errand before they went to the graduation ceremony:

\_\_\_\_\_. Finally finished with everything they wanted to do before graduation, they headed to the big ceremony. Upon the group's arrival, they saw that their principal, who was up on the podium before the entire school \_\_\_\_\_ before an \_\_\_\_\_ audience. After that, two students went up to the podium and gave a speech on the specifics of the graduation ceremony, like when a speaker on the podium hears \_\_\_\_\_ then they are requested to stop what they were doing and return to their seat. So it begins. The first person to speak was \_\_\_\_\_, a person known for their \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ was not needed. Following them, \_\_\_\_\_ went up and gave their speech. Once again, the noise was not needed. Then the last person went up to stand: \_\_\_\_\_. Right from the start, the crowd felt that this would be the one. They were right. The person began their speech, but it was filled with \_\_\_\_\_. They kept talking for another three minutes, and then the noise was heard throughout the entire building. It resonated in everyone's ears. But the speaker rambled on, talking about the joys of canned \_\_\_\_\_ before the principal stood, requesting for them to sit.

Then, at long last, the ceremony began. The group of friends sat, waiting as one by one they were called up to receive their diplomas.

Once the last student walked across the stage, all the students were asked to stand. The Principal congratulated the most recent class of graduates. \_\_\_\_\_ Sallie, Lukas, and Adrienne looked at each other, smiling. They finally completed high school. They flipped their tassels from the right to the left, then \_\_\_\_\_ threw their caps into the air.

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## Kennedy Robotics Build Their Way to Victory

By Ethan Vue, Clarion Staff



The Kennedy Robotics Team, also known as Team 3250, has proven to be successful in getting students involved with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Robotics allows students to engage in many different skills including computer science, design, electrical, and fabrication. It lets students explore their imagination, and teaches them how to apply it to real life situations.

The Robotics team's purpose is to create a functioning robot that can perform various activities. These include tasks such as solving puzzles, picking up various types of material, and much more. The robot must be able to perform these human-like activities so that it can compete in Robotics events all over the world. In the early years of the Robotics program, the team struggled to win competitions. However, as students began to get more comfortable in using their own unique ideas, they gradually began to win competitions. Their creativity allowed them to maximize their true potential, making them more productive. With their newfound productivity, the team was advancing further into competitions, making the quality of their work more crucial in competing against top schools.

It is important to make sure that all parts of the robot are built correctly, or else multiple problems can occur. A loose screw can cause the whole machine to fall, or one incorrect command in the code can corrupt the whole system. Being precise in each action must be a priority, in order to have a chance at competing and winning in competitive events.

The precision implemented by Team 3250 eventually resulted in immense success this season with the competitions they participated in: Orange County Regional, Sacramento Regional, Canadian Rockies Regional, and World Championships in Houston. The most important competitions were the Sacramento Regional and World Championships. In the Sacramento event, the team advanced far enough to qualify for World Championships where they competed with 400 teams and 40 countries represented. The other two competitions, Canadian Rockies Regional and Orange County Regional, were helpful as it gave the team time to repair and refine their robot. It showed the team the robot's flaws, and enabled them to strengthen the weaknesses of their stunning feat of engineering.

With great performances in all four competitions, the Robotics team walked away with awards that commended them for their hard work. "In Orange County we also received the Innovation in Control Award because of our exceptional programming, thanks to our programmers Matthew Stringer, Ryan Brown, and Ryder Sellards," says Mr. Greene, the Robotics instructor. Mr. Greene was proud of his team because they achieved many of their goals in the biggest events. The team was able to showcase their talent, and finish strong in their last few competitions.

Much of their success is due to the amount of time each member puts into the team. Every day after school, and occasionally on the weekends, each member dedicates their time to robotics.

"What motivates me to work hard on the team is both the mentor, Mr. Greene, and all of my teammates because we're always pushing each other to build a better, more robust, and competitive robot," says Jenna Yu (c/o 2020), summing up the commitment and connection that the team has. This just goes to show how the Kennedy Robotics environment has turned into something more than just a club. *Continued on Page 11*

## Issues with Girls' Bathrooms

By Adrianna Iorio, Editor in Chief

In January 2018, a California law was passed to make learning a comfortable experience on public school campuses. The law, initiated by assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, requires that public schools provide feminine products - for free - in bathrooms across California school districts. In the late summer of 2018, these machines were established in Kennedy bathrooms, and prior to this, feminine products on Kennedy's campus weren't easily accessible. Feminine products, such as pads or tampons, were primarily provided in the school nurse's office or by teachers who kept them in their classrooms.

Despite these products being seen as something a woman "should always have on her," it's important to take into consideration that it's not always a good student can afford. A box of tampons or pads can cost up to \$7 to \$10 - varying on size, brand, and type - and that doesn't include the amount of product each woman uses. The machines established on Kennedy's campus are convenient and free, but what was shocking to many female students was the fact that they didn't work.

"I would be in desperate need of a product - of any kind - and the machines seemed to have some sort of malfunction," an anonymous member of Class of 2020 told *The Clarion*. "I, alongside other students, resorted to sticking our arms up [the machines] and hitting just to get a tampon."



The machines are provided by SCUSD while the products themselves are purchased by Kennedy's janitorial staff through their budget. According to Kennedy plant manager James Hernandez, the janitors were unaware of the machine malfunctions, considering no one has informed them of the issue prior to *The Clarion* reaching out. Kennedy is a big school, and with only so many people on his staff James Hernandez encourages people to inform him or his staff if another situation like this occurs again.

## Kennedy Speech & Debate 2019 Jhavar Reaches New Heights for Kennedy



Rohit Jhavar (class of 2020) ends the 2019 debate season with a 4th place finish at the Tournament of Champions. With this, Rohit has reached the highest national ranking ever achieved by a Kennedy student.

The trophy will add to the Team Captain's collection of eight league tournament wins and 1st and 4th place finishes at the Stanford and UC Berkeley Invitationals.

## Wayback Machine Kennedy Fashion Through the Years

Jenelle Lum & Emma Shoemaker, *Clarion Staff*



The past 50 years at Kennedy High School have been filled with a variety of fashion trends representing many shifts in styles and tastes. What students wear has become a way to express their creativity and personality while on campus.

*Featured in this article are photos from Kennedy yearbooks throughout previous decades, which showcase the varying styles of the students and cultures of specific time eras.*

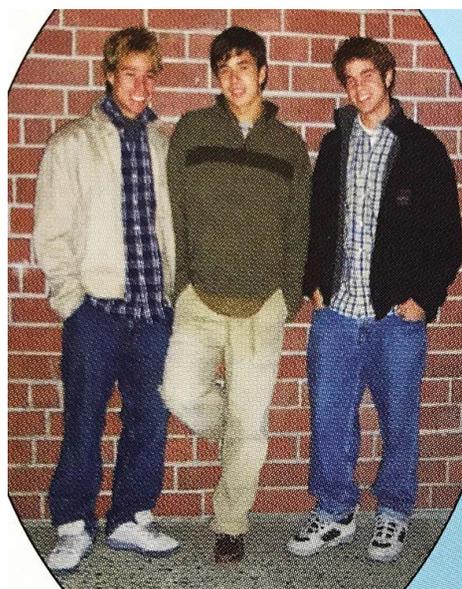
When Kennedy first opened in the late 60s, fashion was more diverse and expressive. For women, flared pants, colorful vests, and jumpsuits were not uncommon and continued to be worn into the 70s. For men, colorful, bell bottoms with a variety of designs were also popular, as were leather jackets and plaid designs. Platform shoes were also fashionable for both men and women throughout the decade.



The 80s was another distinct fashion era for students on the Kennedy campus. Women transitioned into wearing high-waisted, light colored jeans, colorful neon attire and huge earrings. The ladies and men alike elevated and sculpted their hair with copious amounts of hairspray. Many women teased their hair with large perms and rollers while men grew out their hair and developed mullets. The men typically wore neon colors and slim

jeans with varsity jackets.

Continuing into the 90s and early 2000s, fashion took a major shift at Kennedy. Many girls wore cargo capris, low-rise jeans along with longer tank tops. Long skirts with blouses were also popular. Hair was flatter for women and many men spiked their hair and frosted the tips. Men wore baggy jeans and leather jackets. "Heely" shoes were popular for both genders which were large sneakers with wheels on their soles. Styles varied especially in this era as it went from grunge attire to hip-hop influenced outfits.



## SENIOR WILLS

# Class of 2019

I, Ellis Penn, will the doubleness of the L's and N's in my name of Ulysses so his name can be Uulysses.

I, Andrew Rosario, leave my busted eraser to Kaiah, and my best teacher Ms. Chloe to all my friends.

I, Harry Butler, leave my favorite candy spots to Colin Bell and my cheat sheets for gaming club to Albert Stucky.

I, Merlin Beall, leave behind my school because I'm moving out. Good luck Jeremiah Profit.

I, Antonia Chavez, leave behind my jokes to Jeremiah Profit.

I, Lorena Juarez, remain to be humble and oh yea be good.

I, Laniya Johnson, leave my smile and happiness.

I, Sunshine Moua, leave Mr. Williams to my younger siblings and any other future seniors to experience the magic of AP Gov.

I, Kamryn Ebling, leave my busted locker to whatever poor student gets it next year.

I, Kymi E., will my will to Will.

I, Emily Carter, hereby pass on my Horrible AP study notes that will definitely at least get you a 1 on any AP test.

I, Emma Shoemaker, give all my gratitude to Ms. St. John for being an outstanding teacher and for starting off my experience at Kennedy with positivity.

I, Liliana Lopez, will my bookishness to Tania Arriaga. May you always find the answer in words!

I, Jenelle Lum, will my endurance and determination to the Class of 2020 to get through their Senior Year. And, to make the most of every moment.

I, Hana Ruiz, will my senioritis to Amanda Li, Sommie Brown-Coats, Nicholas Cazares and Hope Xiong. I love you all and I'll miss you. Make sure to have fun in your senior year.

I, Victoria Chen, will pass my smiling energy to grumpy Mr. Whalen. :)

I, David Ma, will all of my calculus knowledge to my favorite junior, Irvin Wong. To Amanda Feng: you're welcome for the AP Bio notes. And to all Mathletes: hope you place higher than sixth. Get a trophy for once.

I, Sid Slesicki, do appox upon thee who dost have my iron chamber to lose that which is most dearest to them academically, but prosper nonetheless. - The Onceler from The Lorax

I, Francis Feng, as Valedictorian of the Class of 2019, will all my past schoolwork and exams to the highest bidder.

I, Nickee O'Bryant, leave my dilapidated English and Government folders to my dearest friends and lab partners, Anaise Smith and Alma de la Cruz. They are beyond repair, so y'all should probably buy some new ones.

I, Hopoate Sioppe Soakai Fua'atonga Koloamatangi, leave my favorite hangout spot in the B-Wing to my tokos. Shout out to all my tongans: Peta, Sisilia, Nathan, Sean, Paul.

## Ode to a High School Hallway

By Liliana Lopez, Sections Editor

i.

head throbbing, no pop in my ear,  
Or iPhone in my hand,  
sitting on the steps of the third floor.  
We sit together, after hours,  
in the C wing halls  
because you don't like books.  
Beige tile meadows, sprinkled  
Here and there  
With wildflowers left by youth:  
Doritos, Pepsi, lunch trays.  
The brick sky overhead,  
Gleaming with Edisonian sunshine.  
We read the funnies,  
Featured weekly on staircase rails  
And bathroom stalls in Sharpie, we  
Listen to rap in Cantonese and Korean,  
We are these stairs, the footprints are my skin,  
The foregone gum under the rail, my mouth  
Among so many other insignificant  
Dried-out sticks of gum  
A high school hallway is  
So many of us and  
None of us at all.

ii.

maybe it was pop, or oldies,  
Or a Samsung CRUSH\_X565,  
as we sat in a classroom devoid of class,  
Sitting together, after hours,  
in any hall, because you don't like books,  
and you finally read one.  
Gray asphalt fields, sprinkled  
Here and there  
With dandelion wishes blown by youth:  
An education, a love, a life.  
A natural sky overhead,  
Gleaming with cerulean gerontocracy and  
an ozone layer quietly burning.  
We read the news,  
featured minutely on websites we've never heard of,  
Users we've never seen  
(it's all fake news anyway, I heard)  
We are these stairs, the footprints are my skin,  
but my mouth is no longer a  
foregone gum under the rail, amidst  
So many other chewed-up, spat-out, sticks of gum.  
A high school hallway is  
so many of us and  
None of us at all.

## Seniors Make Their Mark at Kennedy

By Emma Shoemaker, Clarion Staff

The current Senior Class has worked hard the past four years of high school with schoolwork balanced with sports, extracurricular activities, and spending time with family and friends. In the midst of the Class of 2019's busy lives they still make time for what they enjoy to do. As the Senior Class enters their last days of high school, they continue to mark their path, savoring the last moments before graduation.

Music is a way for students to either focus while they study or listen to while relaxing alone or with friends. The majority of seniors commented that music allows for them to decompress after a long day and to prevent from becoming overwhelmed. Within the class of 2019 popular music tastes include Rap, Pop, early 2000 and late 90s music. Senior class president, Julian Williams, commented that his favorite music artists are Kendrick Lamar, YG, and Nipsey Hussle. Other popular artists for the senior class include Ariana Grande, Billie Eilish, and Khalid.



Brandon Noguchi, Casandra Dominguez, Wendy Rios, Leila Fitt, Crystal Montanez (In order from left to right) proudly display their Monday "Chad Day" spirit gear.

For the Senior Class, fashion has become extremely diverse. Many Seniors appreciate shopping at thrift stores to get cheaper options, while also receiving trendy clothes. Senior Cristal Odipeo, remarked that the stores she most enjoys to shop for clothes at are "Pacsun and Eco Thrift because they have really cool clothing pieces and some are even vintage." High waisted jeans and shorts have come back into fashion along with various vintage outfits and clothing.

After four years at Kennedy, the Class of 2019 have become well acquainted with nearby food locations to indulge in after a day of hard work at school. A few minutes after the bell rings it is not uncommon to see a group of seniors walking down Florin Road to Taco Bell or Baskin Robbins. Also, Wingstop and T4 are close by and are popular locations for Seniors to eat at with friends and family. Many Seniors meet at Starbucks on the weekends or at night to study either solo or for group projects.

As the Senior Class looks towards the future, they reflect on their favorite memories. Senior, Alyssa Orot commented, "While attending Kennedy it made me realize a lot about myself. I realize that I have a lot of love and affection for my time practicing dance and time with my peers." As Seniors in PACE, MAD, ROTC, and other fellow students remember fond times at Kennedy, and are thankful for favorite music, food, and styles that made their time at Kennedy more unique.

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Photos by Isabella Wolfe, Clarion Sports Editor

Along with six other schools in the Sacramento area, Kennedy students ran the 50m, 100m, mile, and relay during a Special Olympics Unified Track & Field event held on May 3, 2019 at Kennedy.



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## Into the Fold

By Xavier Martinez, Clarion Staff

John F. Kennedy High School has many clubs and programs that encompass the interests of the student body and help pass time. Origami club, 2019's latest addition to Kennedy's long list of extracurriculars, is an exciting club that students have been turning the corner for and becoming a part of. Due to the club's recent opening, there may be questions going around.

Luckily, math teacher Mr. Dalton Simpson (Origami Club's advisor) was kind enough to explain the club's origins, stating, "Yasuto Monguchi, class of 2022, is the leader of the club, and was interested in origami so he wanted to see who would join and what skills they have."



Picture left to right: Intricate folds made by Noelle Wong, Lucena Stein, and Jamie Riches from small squares of paper. Photo by Xavier Martinez, Clarion staff

Origami is a Japanese art form involving folded papers to create all kinds of shapes and creations. Yasuto Monguchi says that Mr. Simpson's classroom is a common hangout place, including for those who aren't in clubs. Monguchi explained that the club's goal was to, "Make something special with the art of paper folding and develop very important skills to society such as leadership, responsibility, maturity, respect, and socialization." Monguchi also mentioned that every other Wednesday he and other club members do community service around campus and teach Kennedy seniors about origami.

If you are interested in this unique art form, Origami club is a great place to craft your paper-folded dreams and make something unlike any other piece of art. To accomplish something the world has never seen before, join origami club and meet some great people to help you out. It's never too late, as the club will be here next school year (2019-2020).



Pictured from left to right: Raphael Peralta-Rawson instructing Brandon Paschane and Adrian Hurtado. Photo by Xavier Martinez, Clarion staff

## Kennedy Robotics

Continued from page 6

In their third trip to world championships, Team 3250 ranked 30/67 in their division and received the coveted safety award, recognition of the team's training and abilities.

The 2019 Robotics year has been a year of growth and learning as members from the class of 2018 departed, propelling this year's members to fill in their spots, constantly adapting to new changes. This year they were able to prove themselves advance in their competitions. This tremendous Robotics season will serve as momentum for next year's team, giving Team 3250 a chance for another strong return in 2020, and, hopefully, giving other teams a run for their money.

## Staff Journalism Awards

continued from Page 4

Running into third place of editorial writing was "NIKE: Goddess of Victory and Advertising" by Photography Editor Sid Slesicki, who speaks on Nike's decision to support the take a knee movement which developed in the NFL. Slesicki analyzed how this move benefited both Nike's image and finances.

Honorable mention for Best Criticism writing was awarded to Managing Editor Desiree Leong, who wrote a review about the all-Asian-cast movie Crazy Rich Asians. She explains how the movie relates to her own Chinese traditions, detailing how it is the first all-Asian American movie in years to hold no martial arts but, rather, is a one of a kind rom-com.

Props to Production Manager Kimberly Landeck and Creative Director Jenelle Lum won second place in best graphic art and design for their much-appreciated work on the Clarion masthead which includes the name and logo.

Congratulations to all those who won awards and were recognized by the local student journalism community for their best efforts.



Hana Ruiz explains the meaning of her La Frontera comic to Steve O'Donoghue, Ca. Scholastic Journalism Initiative Coordinator while other Clarion staff members look on.

## FAFSA

Continued from page 4

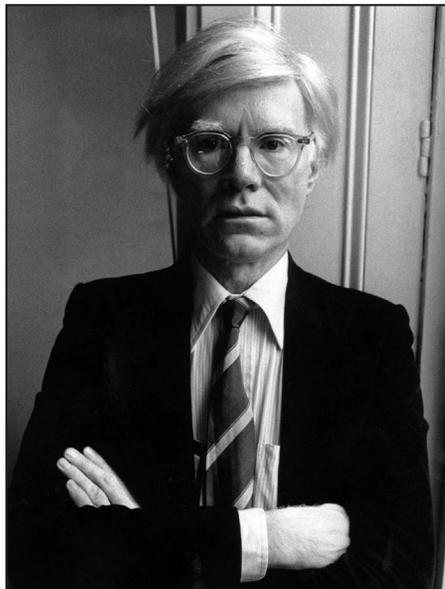
If successful, expect to receive an email immediately confirming your submission. FAFSA will contact you within a month to tell you how much financial aid you are eligible for or confirm with you any grants or scholarships you may have received. If you are not eligible for free aid from the government, or receiving only partial aid, you can borrow money using the same platform.

College applications and financial aid can be stressful process.

High school students of all ages should do their best to stay on top of deadlines and be informed. Seniors it doesn't end after one year, remember that FAFSA has to be filed every year. For everyone else, make sure that you are well versed in college and financial aid vocabulary.

**Art Review****How Warhol Shaped Pop Culture**

By Andrew Ely, Clarion Staff



Andrew Warhola, or mostly known as Andy Warhol, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on August 6, 1928. Warhol as a result of acquiring the disease of Chorea at a young age; developed passion for art that grew bigger because it was the only thing that kept him amused and occupied throughout his sickness. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in fine arts and then he became a commercial artist who specialized in ads for shoes and worked for a famous magazine in the early 50's. Andy Warhol became a prolific and popular figure in arts and culture.

He was known as one of the avant garde artists in the arts scene in the

1960's. Warhol, considered the "father" of Pop Art, gave life to the "pop art" culture that people are used to in the 60's going to the 70's. Pop art is a reestablishment of goods and mass produced products to be more visual. Using commercial themes such as his famous Campbell soup cans paintings, that eventually became so popular, Warhol gave inspiration to other artists like Keith Haring, Takashi Murakami, and Jeff Koons. His aesthetic was totally sophisticated since plain and simple advertisement signs were turned into a more vibrant and eye-catching works of art of everyday items and portraits of celebrities.

Kennedy art teacher, Mrs. Graves, incorporates Warhol's ideas into her class curriculum. She explained the concept of Pop Art this way, "The term pop comes from popular culture, the idea of things that are common to everybody. Warhol and the other Pop artists were taking those items that won't be considered worthy art topics or subjects because they are common everyday things, but now they're elevating them to fine art status. So it becomes a kind of satire where the artists are kind of poking fun of our American culture, it's kind of a negative commen-

tary but negative in kind of a light-hearted or a self-deprecating humor kind of way. Warhol is making art about these products and things and it was so different and art up until this time."

In the year 1964 Warhol opened his own art studio called



"The Factory" and it became his space for doing experimental artworks with his friends. The studio became the mecca for lavish parties attended by a lot of socialites, celebrities and elites. Famous people such as Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, and The Velvet Underground and Nico were subjects in his pop style portraits.



If you want to learn more about Andy Warhol, look no further than the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Currently the SF-MOMA has a special exhibit featuring Andy Warhol's "From A to B and Back Again". It's open to the public on May 19 through September 2. Admissions for adult \$35-37, children 18 and under and members are always free. Tickets should be bought online for entry on a specific date and time due to high demand. SFMOMA is located at 151 Third Street, Downtown San Francisco.

**Movie Review****Part of the Journey is the End**

By Jenelle Lum, Creative Director

Avengers: Endgame, one of the most anticipated movies of 2019, broke box office records its opening weekend with \$1.2 billion worldwide, the biggest opening in movie history. It has been highly anticipated among fans, who have been camping outside of theaters. Movie theaters added more showings because tickets were in high demand. Endgame also caused controversy as directors, Anthony Russo and Joe Russo released a statement before the premiere asking fans to not spoil the movie, which created the hashtag, "#dontspoilendgame". Avengers: Endgame was rumored to be the last Avengers movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).



Avengers: Endgame is a continuation of Avengers Infinity War (2018) after the villain, Thanos, used Infinity Stones to wipe out half of Earth's population (superheroes included). In Endgame the surviving heroes team up to get their team back and attempt to defeat Thanos.

Avengers: Endgame is a three-hour movie filled with a variety of powerful scenes. It is especially an emotional rollercoaster for those who have watched Marvel films for the past eleven years or who feel some sort of a connection to characters that have changed over time. This movie does an excellent job of showing how all of these characters have developed since they were first introduced to the MCU and successfully concludes the Avengers films series. With that said, it is not the end of "Phase 3" of Marvel films. The upcoming film, Spider-Man: Far From Home will conclude this phase.

## Movie Review "You Ain't Never Had a Friend Like Me"

By Jenelle Lum, Creative Director

"Mister Aladdin sir, have a wish or two or three"

Disney's live-action remake of Aladdin was released on May 24th and made \$113 million within its first weekend. Many movie critics and Disney fans were doubtful about Disney remakes, including this film because they felt that no one could replace the memorable Genie, originally voiced by Robin Williams. While this film received some skepticism, Aladdin was enjoyable and stayed true to the original classic.

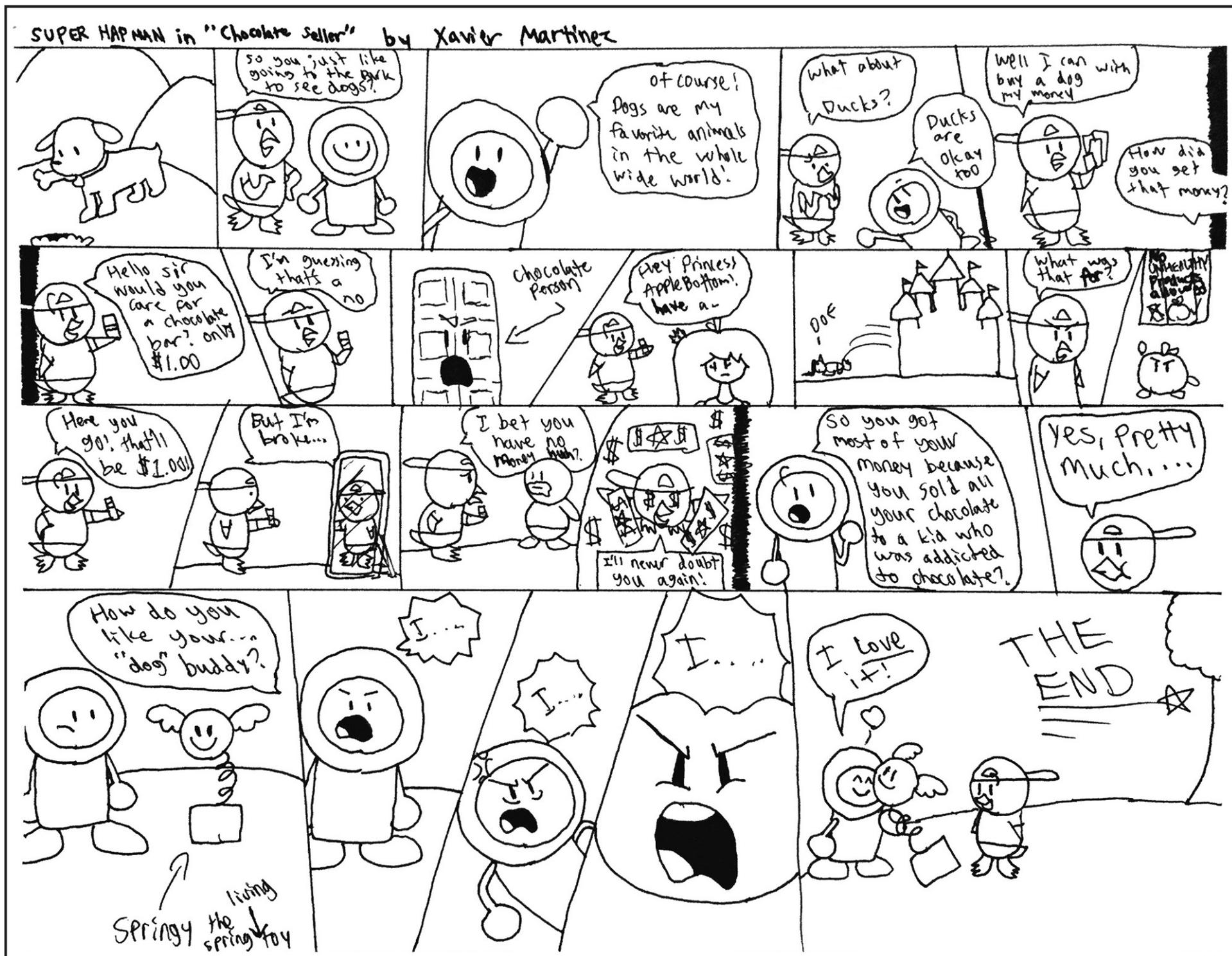
Aladdin is well-known for its catchy songs and variety of visual effects and this remake captured them miraculously. Disney found the perfect actors to portray the main characters, Aladdin (Mena Massoud) and Princess



Jasmine (Naomi Scott). The Genie (Will Smith) could have been improved in the blue version of himself. The Genie's performance of "Friend Like Me" is no comparison to the original, but unique because Will Smith took a more hip-hop approach to the song.

The visual effects for this film were outstanding because it showcased the bright colors, the town of Agrabah, and the Cave of Wonders. Additionally, a new character and a new song were introduced. Princess Jasmine had a servant and friend named Dalia, who also had a large role towards the end of the film. Jasmine also had her own song, "Speechless," which provided the audience with an empowering message about not letting anyone control her. This song also gave Jasmine better character development, reinforcing her personality.

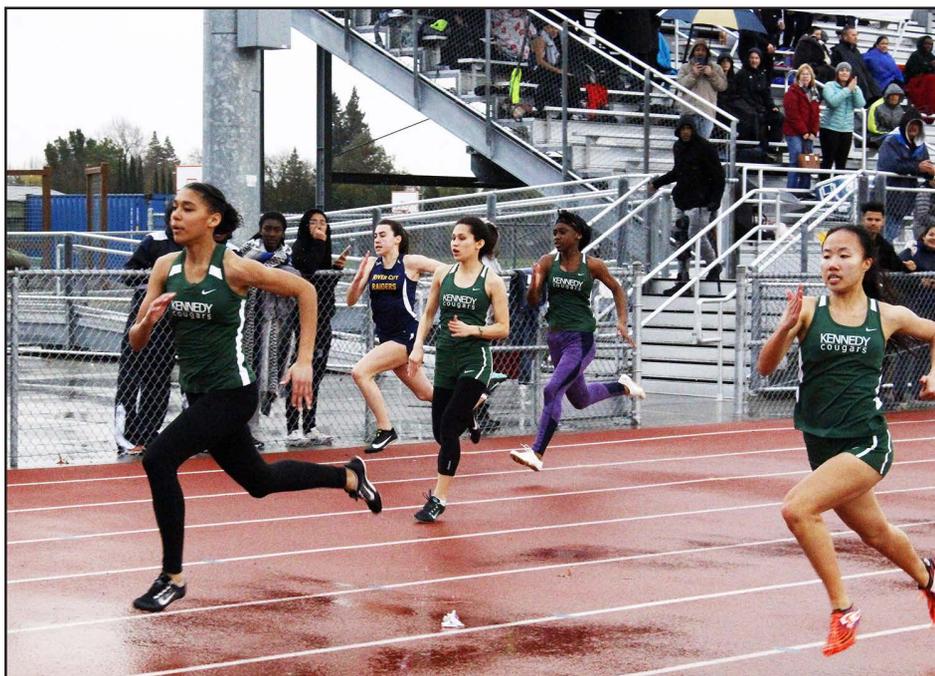
Overall, Aladdin was one of the most memorable Disney remakes and worth watching. This film is definitely suitable for anyone who wishes to experience the magic found in all Disney productions.



## Kennedy Track & Field Cougars Run, Jump, and Toss

By Daryle Johnson, Clarion Staff

Pita Vi, one of the best runners here at Kennedy, made it to the Masters division and completely dominated, and not far behind was Mianna Giovannini making a combo of 1st place and her personal best with a time of 2 minutes and 21 seconds during her 800 meter race.



At the Kennedy opening meet on a rainy afternoon on February 27, Miana Giovannini takes the lead in the 100m dash closely followed by Kaylyn Yu, Jade Cheng, and Ebony McKinney. Photo by Patricia Chapman, Yearbook Staff

One of the track runners, Emily Malas (c/o 2022) has been competing in track since 7th grade, and really enjoys running. She joined the track team because she thought it would be a cool extracurricular activity, and all of her friends were recommending it to her telling her that it would be the right decision to join. "Honestly being able to beat people keeps me motivated. I'm not the fastest but when I out sprint people it feels so good, and when people beat me, it makes me want to work harder the next day" Emily explained. One of her Malas' goals for next season is to be able to clear 30 feet for the triple jump and to get a 68 second 400 meter time or faster.

Looking back over the season at some of the Metro League Track & Field meets, one of Kennedy's own, Jeremiah Price, came in second place with a time of 51.40 seconds during the Boys' 400 meter race on April 10th. In the Girls' 400 meter race, another Kennedy runner, Miana Giovannini, placed first with a winning time of 57.41 seconds. At the second Metro meet on April 24th at River City, Kennedy's relay team of Genesis Tholmer, Ja'Den Mallory, Kaylyn Yu, and Jade Cheng came in second place, with a time of 51.01 seconds following Monterey Trails' winning 49.63 seconds during the Women's 4x100 relay race.

Another four of our own, Abdurrahman Garner, Kyle Matthews, Andre Davis, and Thomas Walker came in second behind Monterey Trail, with a time of 42.93 seconds, twenty-three tenths of a second behind Monterey Trail, boy's track finished in Fourth place for Sectionals. Two young men by the names of Pita Vi and Thomas Walker are both Division II champions, with Pita Vi winning the 110-meter hurdles as well as the 300-meter hurdles, and Thomas Walker winning the 100-meter dash.

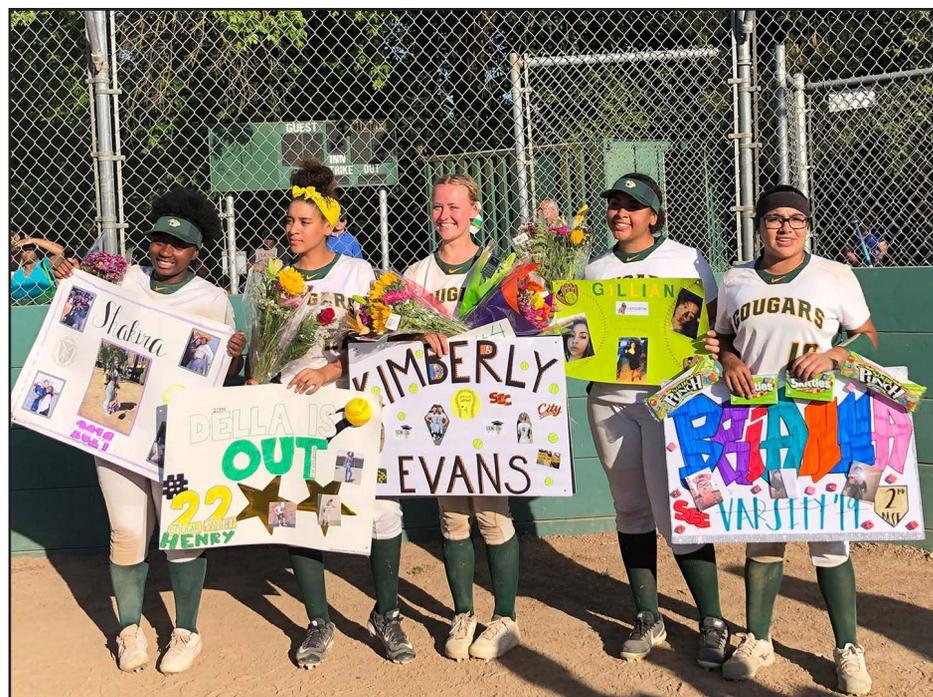
Kennedy Track & Field team members suffered through a roller-coaster season, dealing with games being cancelled or moved due to weather conditions earlier in the season, but they ultimately triumphed in the end by sending numerous competitors to Division II championships, and Masters.

## Girls Softball Spirited Evans, Captains Lead Team

By Emma Shoemaker, Clarion Staff

The Kennedy Girls Softball team worked extremely hard this year to overcome challenges, and enthusiastically trained a much younger team guided by Coach Seymour and their captains. The 2019 season was successful in winning the last three games of the season, ending on a high note with a respectable win-loss record of 6-6 in Sacramento Metro Conference and 9-10 overall.

Captain Kimberly Evans (class of 2019) worked hard to lead her team while also working to achieve her personal goals. The senior member of the team put in a great effort the past four years and is planning to continue her softball career next year at Sacramento City College. At Kennedy, she did her best each season and led the younger team this year with patience and perseverance. Evans commented on the game against Laguna Creek High School that occurred on the team's senior night celebration, "I thought to myself we were going to lose again, but the team put everything on their mind behind them, and we played like a team and beat them."



Five Kennedy senior softball teammates celebrate together at their final game on their home field, May 1st against Laguna Creek H.S. (left to right) Shakira Jeffreys, Della Henry, Kimberly Evans, Gillian Henry, and Brianna Hernandez. Photo by Emma Shoemaker, Clarion staff

The team continuously persevered through challenges this year as a younger team grew stronger with the leadership of their coach and captains. Evans described, "My team's strength was being very communicative with each other and helping each other get better with positive attitudes." The team did not let losing a game bring them down, instead they were able to push past their losses, and end their season strong.

Evans is proud of her team's work the past year. She is grateful for what Kennedy has taught her and the opportunities the team and school has provided for her. "I am very thankful to have played all four years," Evans responded, "and being able to share my passion with other girls and creating unbreakable bonds with my teammates, I am very lucky to have that opportunity."

The team learned from Evan's spirit, and the leadership of her fellow captains. They challenged themselves and are excited to continue to work together next season.

## Boys Baseball Winning Cougars Reach Home Safely

Brandyn Matsumoto, Clarion Staff

Kennedy's varsity baseball team had an overall record of 16-10 and metro league record of 8-4. Kennedy has made the playoffs for the past five years including this year.



Ethan Pack (class of 2022) heads toward second base in an early home pre-season game against Armijo H.S. on March 16. Photo by Emma Shoemaker, Clarion staff

Kennedy's varsity has many outstanding players but there are a few who led the team statistically. Ethan Pack (class of 2022) led the team with the most runs scored with 25 as well as triples with a total of three. Luke Crawford (class of 2019) led the team in several categories including most hits, 30, and RBI's with 24. The leaders with the most doubles were Crawford and Zach Enos (class of 2020), with six each.

Kennedy's first game against rival McClatchy was a tough loss of 3-0 but, given Kennedy's hunger to win, they won against them the very next game that they played with the final score being 2-1.

Next was a road game against El Dorado Hills; Kennedy beat their opponents 8-0. Kennedy's two-game win streak carried into their next game against Grant and Kennedy won, 6-2.

Two days later, against Grant, Kennedy had a heartbreaking loss with a score of 8-7. Getting right back into the action, Kennedy won their next game against Laguna Creek with a score of 11-5. A close game against Bradshaw Christian resulted in Kennedy losing by 8-7.

Their very first tournament game was a blowout win against Bear River with a final score of 14-3. The second tournament game was a loss against Vista del Lago with the final score reported to be 2-0. Kennedy's third tournament game was against River Valley and a Kennedy victory with a score of 5-0.

Kennedy showed up on enemy turf and beat Burbank by a crushing score of 31-1. What followed was a home game against Burbank again, with Kennedy prevailing with the final score of 11-1.

Hoping to keep their win streak alive, Kennedy snatched a win against Ponderosa, ending their season with a win, 3-1.

Not only was this baseball season just about the game itself, it was also about how a young freshman played on the Kennedy varsity team. Ethan Pack plays outfield and catcher, and wears jersey number 5. Pack says, "I'm honored to play on varsity; I've really been able to enjoy it because our upperclassmen made it a welcoming environment."

Pack also says, "I love playing the game and I'm a very competitive person. When I'm on the field I am so in the moment that nothing else matters." Remaining focused on the field has helped Pack accomplish his goals in baseball this season, including playing in the Under Armor Preseason All-American games, and being a member of the varsity team itself. Ethan has played baseball since early childhood; his focus and hard work helps him compete at a high level and separates him from the rest of the crowd.

This season was amazing for the Kennedy varsity team, with an overall record of 16-10 and their metro league record of 8-4. Their win percentage is .615 and best win streak is 4 games. Kennedy's varsity baseball team should be proud with what they have accomplished and continue to strive to be great.

## Boys Volleyball Players Wrap Up Difficult Season

By Kimberly Landeck, Clarion Staff

Despite the numerous obstacles laced throughout the 2019 Kennedy Boys' Volleyball season, the team still managed to finish strong in Metro League play. They ended the season with an overall record of 9-13 and a Metro League tally of 7-5. Although this year's record may appear to shadow their previous seasons, the Cougars proved that they could still hold their ground after a third of the members left the team during the grueling season.

On top of that, by the season's end, only one member on the team was a senior, seven were juniors, and one was a sophomore. Most of these members joined the team this year, suggesting that the team dynamic might not be as strong as it had been in the past. But players Riley Onodera and Lucas Matsuura (both c/o 2020) believed the team was able to make the season the best they could.



Pictured (L-R) Kennedy varsity volleyball players Lucas Matsuura and Riley Onodera. Photo by Clarion instructor Mr. Gleason

The most important thing they took from their volleyball experience was "persevering through the season", especially after the departure of their teammates. Both Riley and Lucas said that working with their remaining teammates created a strong group dynamic. With this dynamic paired with the players' collective talents, the Cougars beat the seemingly overwhelming odds and finished the season with a collective sense of comradery.

The volleyball team faced one of their roughest seasons, yet they are already looking to build next year's team with an equally rigorous foundation that can return them to their former glory of dominating Metro League play. Next spring, for anyone interested in the art of volleyball, be sure to sign up so Kennedy can keep staying 'on top of the net' and continue to soar above their opponents!

## Boys Tennis Kennedy Makes the Playoffs Again

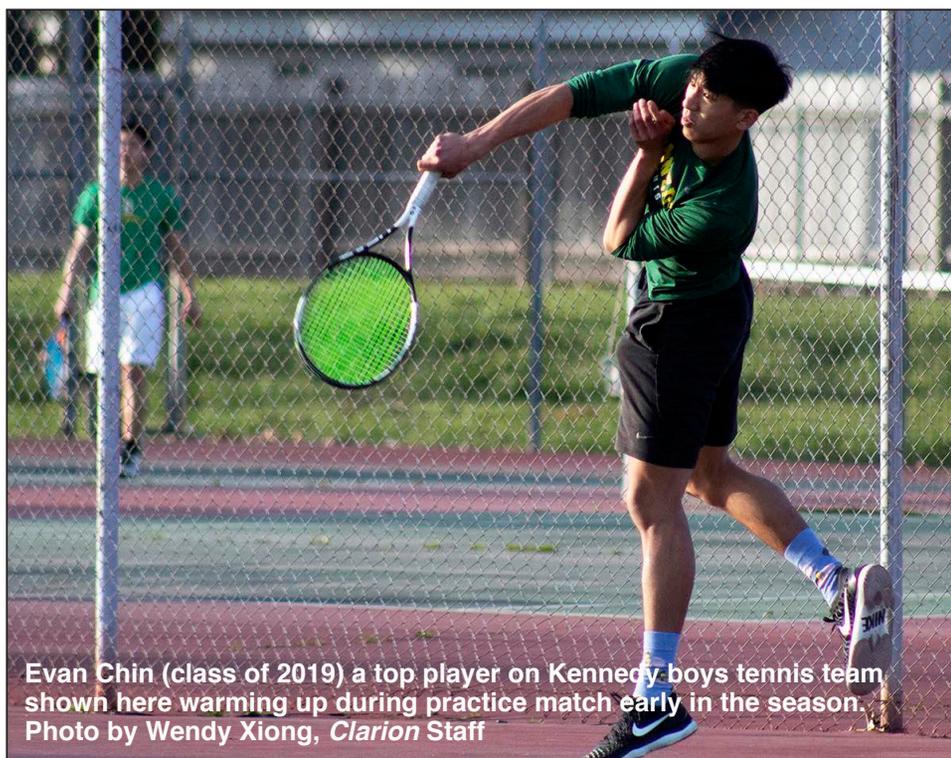
By Isabella Wolfe, Clarion Staff

The 2018-19 school year is nearing its end, and boys tennis season has already come to a close. With six returning seniors providing the talent and leadership this year, the tennis team achieved an overall record of 9-3 and Metro League mark of 7-3 allowing the team to make playoffs again, by placing in top three.

They team has done a spectacular job this year with their leadership, chemistry, and overall skill. Not only did they meet Coach Parsh's expectations, but they exceeded them. Parsh told the Clarion in a season-ending interview, "The main goal for this season is to make playoffs and we did."

One challenge in the beginning of the season was serving, but as the matches rolled by, Coach Parsh says the team improved. In the end, the Cougars had won two-thirds of their matches with 42 wins, 22 losses in 64 total matches.

One of the top players on the Kennedy team and a returning member from last year, Evan Chin (Class of 2019) lost only one game during the entire season which was against Kennedy rival C.K. McClatchy. Evan had a 6-1 win-loss record in matches this year compared to 11-2 the previous season which over two years averages about one loss every six games. If the current season didn't have as many rainouts and cancelled matches, Evan would likely have won another half dozen matches.



Evan Chin (class of 2019) a top player on Kennedy boys tennis team shown here warming up during practice match early in the season. Photo by Wendy Xiong, Clarion Staff

"It's been an honor playing for the tennis team, I had a lot of fun and I am going to miss playing for Kennedy." As the school year comes to an end, the Kennedy tennis team celebrates yet another successful season but is already looking toward the 2019-20 tennis season, eager to build on their success and win once again.



**Cougars at CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Swimming Championships on May 3-4, 2019.** (left to right) Coach Perkins, Joel Amezcua (jr), David Candia (sr), Grant Greenlow (sr), Calvin Elliott (sr), Matthew Lee (sr), Jordan Selvin (sr), and Coach Annie

## Boys Golf Kennedy Drivers' Hard Work Pays Off

By Ethan Vue, Clarion Staff

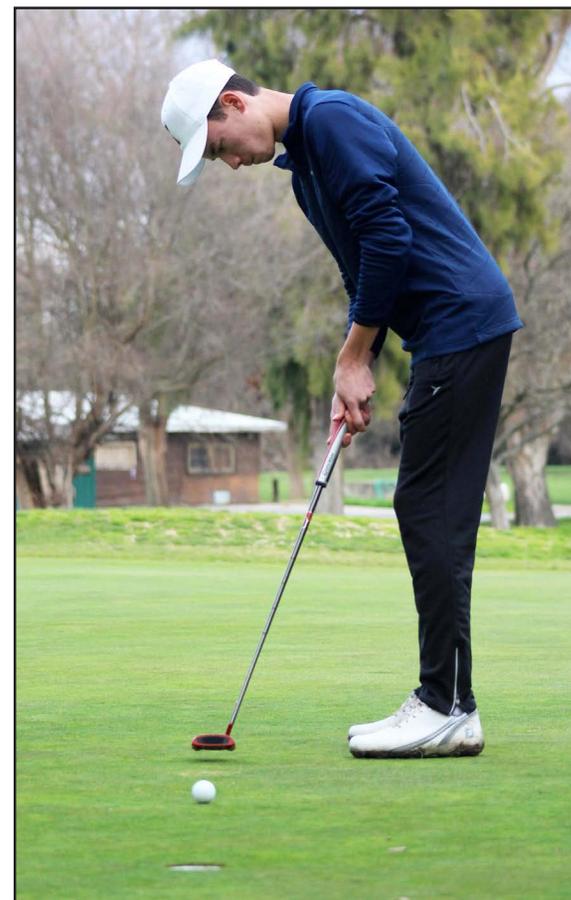
For the past several years, Kennedy's boys golf team has consistently dominated Sacramento Metro League. They have won undefeated league titles, won at the Sac-Joaquin Section Division II level, and sent players to compete at Masters Level. The program always taken manages to recruit golfers of all skill levels who are determined to succeed.

The 2019 season would be a repeat of the past, as the Golf Team would go undefeated in all their matches, and send players to Masters. Team-mates, Dylan Van Ostrand (class of 2019) and Ethan Lu (class of 2021) both qualified for the Masters Level, where they competed individually against top players in Northern California on May 13th at Spanos Park, Stockton.

Van Ostrand (% 2019) captain of the team, has been a star player for Kennedy ever since he joined his freshman year. He chose golf when he was young, and it has been a passion of his ever since. He has participated in various golf tournaments outside of school, which brought additional experience to the team. "I have been on the team since my first year of high school, plus years of training before. I have definitely learned a lot playing cooperating with new players each year." says Van Ostrand. Playing with new players has given him a better lookout on the sport of golf. However, his greater achievement would be playing in the Masters Level, for the past four years. At Masters, Van Ostrand's performances were solid, but his last year as a Kennedy golfer would be one of his best. In 2019 Masters Level, he landed in first place with a score of 73 strokes, advancing him to the next level.

Playing alongside Dylan were a variety of students, from all grades. Notably, one sophomore playing extraordinary for the 2019 season was Ethan Lu (% 2021). "As a younger player, it has no effect on my gameplay because I just play my game, I don't care how everyone else does," Lu says. He comes with a hungry mentality going into tournaments making him a formidable opponent against other schools.. "I practice golf everyday for several hours and playing in tournaments within the year. I'm just trying to do something with my time, maybe make a career out it." Lu's motivation would pay off when he got the chance to play at the Masters Level. It would be the first time he ever played in a competition with highly-skilled opponents. When Lu played at the tournament, he put up a great effort ending with a score of 88 strokes. He may have not performed as well as Lu, but showed he had the potential to be a star. This minor small score at Masters, would only further his desire to become a better player, hoping to bounce back stronger into the next season.

The Boys Kennedy Golf Team was a successful season, with every award and dedicated player the team had. Each player was super passionate about golf, and it served as a backbone for the program. Their sheer hard work was what made the golf team, as they put in the necessary time. Everyday after school, players would practice for many hours even if it was time to go home. It was starting to become a daily part of their routines, and shaped the outcome of their golf year. The players made the season a outstanding year, creating their own destiny on how the season should end.



Dylan Van Ostrand (class of 2019) shown finishing a hole with an accurate putt. Photo by Carlos Sandoval, Yearbook staff