

THE KNIGHT TIMES



In This Issue...

Homecoming review,

Fall Festival

Senior Breakfast

Fall Sports Recap

and more...

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2



FALL DIGITAL ISSUE

Cheer team raises flag for Homecoming game



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Harut Gkrigkorian showing off his dance moves at Homecoming.

ONCE UPON A HOMECOMING: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

By: Iliana Arriaza '25

This year's Homecoming was one of the best that ASB has pulled off according to many students who had attended the event. The Theme was "Once Upon a Hoco" similar to a story/fantasy theme. Thanks to the hard work of ASB and everyone who had volunteered to help, the event was truly an unforgettable night. Leadership members Anna Ginosyan, Armine Sulikhanyan, and Eva Bublil, who set up the gym, had spent many hours putting hard work into the decorations to make the event beautiful.

"We started setting up at 2pm and didnt go home until around 8pm which was very tiring." Armine mentioned that making and setting up the castle for the DJ stand was the hardest part of all the decorations. Leadership as a whole is grateful that everyone could have a fun homecoming where people can dance and have fun with their peers. ASB is excited to continue to plan events like this in the future along with other smaller events that everyone on campus can participate in.

Students say that this year's homecoming was the best compared to others due to the decorations being top tier, many enjoyed the bright lights and amazing castle where the DJ was. It's clear that leadership put a lot of time and effort into this year's event which makes students much more excited for the next upcoming events.



"The decorations were definitely the highlight. They were genuinely the best the school has done," an attendee at the event had mentioned. The dancing this year was much more included and the music got people to vibe and dance.

Some students say that the seniors really made the dance floor fun. Levon Grigoryan and Aroutioun Gkrigkorian were the two people who were constantly in the dance circle encouraging others to dance as well. Students who attended say that it was mainly the seniors who were the ones dancing.

There was also a photobooth which some people had mixed feelings about because the background was a plain yellow instead of a nicer background color. However, there were different props like sunglasses and cowboy hats that the students could wear for the pictures, making taking photos fun regardless. Thanks to leadership and all the people who volunteered to help, SOCES was able to have such an amazing Homecoming this year. And hopefully next year's Hoco will be just as great or even better!



Photo of Homecoming Court





FALL FESTIVAL: ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR CLUBS RETURNS

By: Lucille Leoffelholz '28

The fall festival is an annual autumn-themed event held at SOCES. The point is for clubs and organizations to have the opportunity to set up their very own booth around school to promote their clubs and raise money. The event took place on October 19, 2024 from 11am - 2 pm. This year's fall festival broke the record of having the most booths participating (over 45 booths)! It gave students and visitors a chance to have fun while participating in the booth's activities and a chance for friends to hang-out and bond over this fun event!

At the fall festival, there were opportunities for visitors to play games such as: ring toss, axe throwing, and olympic games. There were also tables with arts and crafts: face painting and Korean calligraphy. Some other fun and creative booths were glitter tattoos and cookie decorating. A pumpkin patch was filled with many different sizes and shapes of pumpkins! Treats were available for participants such as caramel apples and apple cider, and prizes were handed out to game booth winners. Music played around the new area by the cafeteria as well to create a lively environment. A student favorite that was played was "Monster Mash." Visitors were allowed to choose songs to play at the cost of a couple tickets. There were also many dancers dancing around to the music on the stage. Visitors were also encouraged to dress in fall season clothing. Many people arrived in plaid patterns and gingham patterns.

A student who attended the Fall Festival stated, "The Fall Festival was set up in a really interesting way. There were many booths with many different activities. Overall, it was a really fun time and I know that many people enjoyed it, like myself." Everyone had a great time as they were easing into the Halloween mood. The date of the Fall Festival was about two weeks away from Halloween and people who attended this great event are ready for it. This festival was a fantastic way to get into the fall spirit and a great way to kick off the Halloween season!



FEATURING NEW CLUBS AT SOCES!

By: Nora Militosyan '26

The Society Club:

The society club is a society that thrives together. This club helps our local community with volunteering and community service. The purpose of this club is to better our local communities. As well as building relationships with each other. Some things that the club does are go to homeless shelters and build a relationship. There is a form for the school staff and teachers that need help and the club members go and help. Another thing is researching projects to help others in need in the community. This club meets in room 504 on Tuesdays at Nutrition.

The Film Association Club:

The film association is a club that is about growing passion for films. In this club you go watch free movies outside of school and review them. The benefit of this club is to better understand the movies you're watching. They create a community about films. You are able to discuss and create relationships with your fellow club members. After watching the movie you review and go over it. You talk about how it can improve. What you like and what you dislike about the movie. If you have passions about film it's a way to see how to make films and do better. Meetings are in room 504 on Tuesdays at Lunch.

National English Honors Society:

The National English Society is a new club about learning things about English. The society is an organization that celebrates the excellents of English and literature. The club's purpose is promoting literacy, engaging in discussion about literature. The club gives opportunities for members to improve their writing and analytical skills. The club also organizes events such as book drives. Joining the club will benefit you in literary discussion and improve your writing skills. It will also help you stand out in college applications! If interested, meetings are in room 504 every other Tuesday during nutrition.

Game Club:

Game club is for groups of people who like playing games together. But in this club, they offer more than just games. Members watch movies, play game boards, and relax. In this club, you have the opportunity to make friends and create relationships with one and another. They have meetings once a week on Monday at lunch in room 604.

SPEECH AND DEBATE BECOMES A CLASS AT SOCES!

By: Sydney DeVore '26



Picture of Speech and Debate at 2024 Spring IE Tournament

This year, Speech and Debate was made into a class accessible at SOCES. Available after school on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:40 to 5:30, the class allows members of Speech to advance their knowledge using more resources than they had in the previous years. However, there are people who aren't in the class who are still able to be in the club and on the team.

One of the largest reasons the class was created was for funding. Now that it is a class, the district can pay for tournaments whereas previously the students competing had to pay. This is also very beneficial for team members who are struggling financially.

Many team members have mixed opinions on the new class. For many of the high grade achieving students who are taking multiple AP classes, a 4.0 added into the calculation may lower their 4.0+ GPA. On the other hand, for students who may be struggling with some of their academic classes, this elective class may benefit their GPA.

Aya Yusefbekova, who is Captain of individual events, shared her opinion on this new class and how it has been running so far. Aya stated, "There's a lot of work involved. You learn more at a faster rate but I'd prefer more hands on learning and speaking and actually competing". However, now that the class has learned the basis of speaking, they are beginning to do more individual work focusing on their events they are preparing to compete in.

Now that there is a class, a greater workload is expected of the team. Taking the class means more notes, homework, and quizzes. Some of these tools were pre-existing with the team but are used more often now.

This Speech and Debate class seems to be doing very well and has gotten a lot of engagement. This past week on Saturday October 26, the team swept the competition at the Novice IE tournament with Sydney DeVore placing first in impromptu, Sophia Madrid placing third in impromptu, and Isabella Moritz and Wylie Peterson placing 3rd in duo interpretation. The team was able to have a lot of fun and is excited for the next IE tournament in December.

The class is very excited to continue running and succeeding as a team. There are more tournaments coming up that the team is looking forward to competing in. Mr. Barasch and his team are very fortunate to have such a substantial class of students and peers who are excited to learn and advance their speaking skills.



Seniors getting situated in their seats at Senior Breakfast.

THE LUMINARIES CELEBRATE MEMORIES AT SENIOR BREAKFAST

By: Jeremy Shishkin '25

On Wednesday October 23rd, while all other high school students were taking the PSAT, the entire senior class gathered in Glenn Hall for Senior Breakfast; a chance to reminisce and remember their high school moments.

Glenn Hall was decorated with lots of dark blue, the class color for the Luminaries (Class of 2025). There were also multiple photo booths set up for students to take photos with their friends. With no assigned seating, students had the opportunity to sit with their friend group to socialize and have a great time.

The event began at exactly 9 AM with an introduction from Senior Class President Spencer Diep. After thanking all the parents and teachers who helped Decorate Glenn Hall, the senior cabinet passed out time capsules that seniors made at the beginning of their freshman year. Many seniors looked back at their 9th-grade selves and smiled at the progress they made since then, reading the letter and remembering the items they put in the time capsules.

The Cabinet then played a slideshow full of students and their memories at SOCES. The seniors had the chance to submit any photos they wanted for the slideshow, the week prior, to share with the entire class. As the slide show played, many seniors were laughing and having a good time over different memories. Some memories on the slide show even dated back to 2019!

After the slide show one student from each senior homeroom was chosen to present an award, along with a short speech, to thank their homeroom teachers for all their hard work.

At around 10 AM, students began to get their breakfast. All seniors were served breakfast from Porto's Bakery and from Chef Avila. A few entrees were scrambled eggs, chicken empanadas, signature potato balls, and turkey patties. Seniors had a wide selection of entries, sides, and desserts to choose from. The students appreciate the efforts of the senior class, Chef Avila, and parent volunteers for their efforts to prepare/set up the food.

With the teachers up front, each homeroom teacher called their students to the front one by one for group homeroom pictures. Students also received complimentary mugs and pins with their class name and graduating year stamped on them.

Ending off the event, the senior cabinet revealed and awarded Senior Superlatives. Seniors were nominated weeks before and the last day to vote was Friday, October 18th. There were 26 superlatives--Ricardo Rios and Sameiah Bradford for Best Laugh, Dylan Morran and Diana Popova for Best Eyes, and Adam Larios and Hailey Frait for Best Flirt, to name a few.

Class presidents Spencer and Juliana say that "Superlatives were meant to be a fun and enjoyable experience for everyone." They also served as a fun way to "recognize different people in Senior class for their talents and special aspects."

In the end, students had the chance to take last-minute pictures with their friends to commemorate the event.

President Spencer says "The goal of our senior breakfast was to unite all of our seniors and really showcase all the memories and friendships that have been building over the years at this campus," and they sure did achieve this goal with this event. The Senior Breakfast tradition never fails to be a fun way to celebrate how far seniors have progressed through the years and a chance to look back at students' memories in SOCES.



KIDS BACKPACKS: THE TREND FOR SENIORS THAT STARTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Seniors Hailey and Madi participating in “Kid Senior Backpacks” trend

By: Iliana Arriaza '25 and Valeriya Kashirskaya '28

This year, SOCES joins in on the “Senior Backpack” trend that has been going on for a while on social media. If you’ve been wondering why some students at SOCES have fun backpacks that have childhood movies that you’ve probably seen, those students are seniors following this trend. The senior backpack trend started on TikTok and it is a trend where once you’re a senior, your next backpack should be your favorite movie/show from when you were younger. Some people join in on the trend to honor how far they’ve come and many jump in on the trend for fun.

One of the seniors, David Nafman, shared his thoughts and opinions about this trend that’s going on. He believes that by joining the trend, it is a fun way to express yourself and something that you can always laugh about with your friends. “I saw this trend on Instagram. I follow the trend because I think that it’s a fun way to express myself and have something to laugh at with my friends. I also chose this backpack because I used to play Sonic as a kid and thought that these colors would make it seem fun.”

David also finished off by saying that not many seniors participated in this trend this year and why he thinks so: “To be honest there weren’t a huge amount of choices in person and not many people wore these kinds of backpacks.”

Another Senior, Christian Garcia, says “I think that it’s cool that there are a lot of people who participated in this trend. It’s a new trend and fun to see around school.”

The Seniors also said they didn’t like how people who weren’t Seniors did the trend, which in their opinion, defeats the purpose of the trend. “I saw some Juniors with the kid backpacks thinking they were Seniors at first, but when they weren’t I just thought they were following the original trend. But whatever, people can have whatever they want,” one senior said. They hope this trend can go on for more years as it is a very fun way to express your childhood self as a graduating Senior.

However, there are some mixed opinions on the backpacks. Some people think it’s dumb and childish while others think it’s fun to have for their last year. This trend is somewhat of an opportunity for Seniors to live out their childhood dream of owning a childish backpack like they would have wanted as a kid.

Many other Seniors think that the backpacks are cute but a bit of an inconvenience considering how small they are and how they can break much more easily. “Sure they are cute but they are definitely not made to hold a lot of books and supplies,” said another senior. Though there aren’t a lot of Senior backpacks around on campus, there are enough people wearing them to spot them out with the large variety of different kid backpacks. This makes the trend even more fun to see in person and maybe will even influence the following Senior class to participate when they become Seniors.

READ LETTERS FROM MS. NELSON'S SCIENCE STUDENTS!



Three of Ms. Nelson's students, posing for a photo

Read about why Ms. Nelson assigned these persuasive letters to her class and see the impact they had on the students and their community. In an interview, Ms. Nelson explained that she assigned this learning project to her class and that it aimed to lean away from the standard lectures and PowerPoint presentations and instead create a situation where students can enjoy learning things that go far beyond the classroom and their school. The students were introduced to real-world issues and given roles such as mayors and congressmen where they played a game to figure out the issues in their community. Then, they constructed a debate to figure out possible solutions. Finally, the students wrote well-formatted persuasive letters that were reviewed and sent to areas in their community or the school board to raise awareness and make a change. Ms. Nelson chose a few of the best letters in her class to share with the school newspaper. We have listed them below.

(Intro written by Dylan Morran '25)

Dear Scott Schmerelson,

How is California going to meet its clean energy goals by 2045, if no actions are currently taken to ensure that? There are 2 registered voters in my household, therefore, I have a good understanding of some of the goals and problems our state and country are facing. I believe that all the LAUSD schools in the San Fernando Valley need, and will benefit greatly on the use of solar energy. According to Environment America, "To meet our clean energy goals, increase resilience against blackouts, and provide much-needed energy bills savings, California must keep solar growing in its schools." The benefits of solar energy are greater than we think, and to reach these benefits, sacrifices will need to be made to have better environmental results in the long term.

Every LAUSD school in the San Fernando Valley should have solar panels installed as the power for their campuses. Switching schools to solar energy will ensure growth in California's clean energy goal which is much needed to provide healthy and safe environments for everyone. Another thing to keep in mind is that my school experienced a brown out in the science department in the fourth week of school, during the heatwave. This led to many students and teachers having to adjust to the unfortunate circumstances. With solar energy, however, possibilities of brown outs would not be as high. According to Paradise Energy Solutions, "...two exceptions to this: your system is equipped with energy storage, or you forgo the benefits of grid-tied solar and opt for an off-grid system." More options are included with solar energy, such as a system with energy storage, or an independent system. Another benefit to solar energy is the low cost of energy in the long run. According to Boston Solar, "Over 7,000 K-12 schools in the US have already installed solar panels and they're seeing excellent return on their investments." If the valley also makes this investment for the LAUSD schools, the energy bill will lower or even disappear in the long run. Solar investments in schools will also raise the reputations of the schools. Boston Solar also states, "...staff may also be more likely to stay in or apply for a job at a school that takes its environmental impact seriously." More students and faculty will want to be a part of a school that is prepared, and cares for the environment. Finally, solar panels have low to no maintenance costs after installation. According to Forbes, "Once installed, a solar system requires little maintenance as long as it remains unaffected by environmental factors." The solar panels are guaranteed to function with no additional cost after the initial investment. The little costs that may come up will be worth it for the amount of time they are expected to work, which is according to K-12 Dive, 25-30 years.

Some reasonable concerns do pop up, such as those wondering if the solar panels will provide energy on cloudy days in the winter, where the sun is not as present. However, this statement is not fully true, because although more light means more electricity, the light that is projected on cloudy days is still enough to provide electricity. E.ON Energy states, "Modern solar panels work reasonably well in cloudy weather, even though the light on cloudy days isn't as strong...the sun doesn't suddenly stop working because of a bit of cloud." Therefore, energy will not be as grave a problem as expected, and electricity will still be provided to schools. Another downfall people may think of about solar panels is that they wouldn't be able to withstand the different weather conditions. Yet, solar panels work throughout all four seasons of the year. Furthermore, E.ON Energy states, "...rain can even make solar panels work better by washing away any dust or dirt that might block light." In the San Fernando Valley, the most that really ever happens is rain, and solar panels can definitely withstand that. Moreover, Boston Solar adds, "...solar panels are generally tested at about 77°F and are rated to perform...between 59°F and 95°F. But solar panels...can reach temperatures of 150°F or higher." This only confirms that solar panels can withstand many different weather conditions, even in the heat that is brought upon in the Valley. One final argument people might make is that solar panels cost too much, and schools may have to pay up to millions of dollars for installation. Yes, this is true, but it is also true that after that purchase, solar panels will be worth it. In the long term, the money you don't have to pay anymore, will even out the initial cost. According to K-12 Dive, "And since today's solar panels have a lifespan of 25-30 years, schools can benefit from these savings long-term as energy prices continue to rise." When balancing out the pros and cons of solar panels, it becomes clear that if you look at the investment as a whole, the cost is outweighed by the benefits you get out of the investment.

This comes to show why solar panels should be a part of all LAUSD schools in the San Fernando Valley. They will not only lower the cost of electricity in the long term, but also help lead the way to a healthy and sustainable future environment for generations to come. Green Ridge Solar states, "A major benefit of solar panels for schools and universities is their positive impact on local air and water quality. Unlike the burning of fossil fuels, solar energy production does not release harmful pollutants into the air or water." When actions are taken to help the community, such as ensuring cleaner air, the environment will start to change for the better.

In conclusion, every LAUSD school in the San Fernando Valley will benefit greatly on the use of solar energy. Powering schools with solar energy will ensure growth in California's clean energy goal, less possibilities of brown outs, lower costs of energy in the long run, better school reputations, and low maintenance costs. I suggest that you seriously take into consideration all the reasons why this action should take place in our LAUSD community. As it is important to start moving towards a clean environment, the initial cost of the installation will be worth it in the end.

Sincerely,

Sofia Hughson

Dear Scott Schmerlson,

I'm writing you this letter as a student at Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies. 90% of my school (including me) are driven on buses to and from school each day. This is why I was very excited to message you when my biology teacher gave my class an assignment, where we choose someone from a list of people to contact, and address a school related problem. You particularly stood out to me because you were a teacher and principal at one point, and your website stated that you "understand the importance of carefully considering how policy and budget decisions impact our school sites." What I wanted to talk to you about is switching LaUSD's gasoline powered school buses with electric buses.

Here's why transporting students with electric school buses would be a much better alternative to diesel powered buses. In the article "How California Schools Can Use Historic Education Funding to Improve School Bus Access & Safety", it says that California school districts spend \$1.8 billion dollars on home to school transportation with diesel buses. From that \$1.8 billion dollars, 10-20% (\$180,000,000-\$360,000,000) is used for fuel expenditures. The consequences of using diesel buses also include huge amounts of diesel emissions that can pose a risk to human health and the environment.

Los Angeles has the worst air quality in the United States. Studies also show that there's a connection between asthma rates in children, and air quality. This is why 1 in 11 kids, and 1 in 14 adults living Los Angeles have asthma. In an article from Harvard T.H Chan titled, "Electric school buses may yield significant health and climate benefits, cost savings", it states, "Meanwhile, each electric school bus was associated with \$43,800 in health savings, from less air pollution and reduced rates of mortality and childhood asthma." when referring to a study where they replaced an average diesel school bus in the U.S. fleet in 2017 with an electric one. This means changing to electric school buses could help improve our air quality, carbon footprint, and quality of life.

The initial cost of purchasing electric buses can be quite expensive as they are almost 4 times more expensive than other buses. Even though this might sound bad, they more than make up for it in health savings, better air quality, and better learning and living environments for children, students, teachers, parents, etc. Electric school buses are also a much more sustainable option and don't require \$4,200 worth of gas each year. In the long run, converting to electric buses will actually save money as well, which can be used to improve the quality of life and school in many other aspects.

There's also electric school bus grants that schools can apply for to help with the cost of electric school buses. As an LAUSD student, I'm asking you to help promote converting to electric school buses. With a more sustainable and better quality of transportation, electric buses will be able to improve schools and our quality of life. I am so thankful for your time, and I hope you have a good day!

Sincerely,
Enalei M. Villarubia

Dear Scott Schmerlson,

Have you ever wondered about how to get electric bills down? Solar panels would significantly decrease school electricity bills, especially in this electronic driven age. This would benefit not only the district in helping pay these bills, but maybe even teacher pay, with all the leftover money.

Solar panels benefit in other ways too, not just its long-term cost efficiency. For example, according to the Department of Energy, the solar panels will work no matter the weather (5 Benefits of Residential Solar, 2023). Even if there is pouring rain, the lights will never go out. This is because of the stored solar energy. Another example is from a study in Bangladesh, by the SSRN, which states that it can improve study time and decision making mainly in the evening which will impact those in afterschool programs (H. Samad, S. Khandker, M. Asaduzzaman, M. Yunusd, 2013). In addition, a study from Nigeria shows that solar plants are long-lasting (up to 25 years), expandable, require minimal maintenance, and take up a smaller amount of space compared to coal fired plants (Michael & Esther Oisamoje, 2013). Moreover, another study says that solar panels lower "emission, dependence on fossil fuels...(increases) air quality", which proves that it helps with decreasing air pollution, which is already a problem now (A. Klepacka, W. Florkowski, T. Meng, 2018). Lastly, evidence from Chile suggests that it can also yield positive consequences on human health, including increased mortality rates and decreasing hospital visits. Which is very important in a large-scale, mainly youth, environment (N. Rivera, J. Ruiz-Tagle, E. Spiller, 2024).

On the opposing side, the changes in solar panels can slightly change over time. After around 20 years, it can result in energy losses if the system is not properly maintained and calibrated (M. Tur, I. Colak, R. Bayindir, 2018). Furthermore, dust accumulation seems to be a significant issue in the maintenance of the plants. This throws off the system with the opposing temperatures (S. Oh, B. Figgis, S. Rashkeev, 2020).

In my opinion, the most important topic I briefly went over would be the decrease in carbon emissions. This is a big issue and implementing a renewable energy source in all schools in the LAUSD area would be a huge step in the right direction in reducing our carbon footprint. Not only does it affect the environment but also the children in schools. Chronic exposure to carbon dioxide, produced by the burning of fossil fuels, can result in early bone, kidney, and cognitive decline and increased stress levels (T. Jacobson, J. Kler, M. Hernke, R. Braun, K. Meyer, W. Funk, 2019).

In conclusion, solar panels in LAUSD would be a huge benefit for many students, teachers, staff, and even local communities. I hope you consider these recommendations and I hope to see a change in the future. It might take a little to get things running, but in the long-run, it will be worth it, for the environment, and for the pupils of schools in LA.

Sincerely,

Delaney Forsmark

Dear Scott Schemerelson ,

We need a reliable energy Resource for our environment To help our community & gain energy. Quicker we have So much environmental issues in the world with climate change. And also Environmental degradation With Blackouts of energy & bills of electricity. Higher and Higher in price which people are never happy about which should be changed. The site where I got all this information is from www.decisionsonline.com on paper

We need Affordable energy for people and sufficient energy for people. And thats why we need solar panels which will increase energy. Solar panels have very good positive effects towards the environment. It creates no carbon Emissions & no heat Trapping "greenhouse" gases. Which avoids environmental damages Which is associated with mining & drilling. Solar energy uses less water unlike power plants using horrible steam turbines. I got my cite from <https://www.constellation.com>

The "downside" of solar panels are high initial costs of installing solar panels. Likely disagree since Solar panels will reduce homes Electricity bill By so much. It states in the following source Low maintenance cost. Solar energy can also Get you money back by Solar Renewable Energy credits. Which will greatly save money For bills & has a less maintenance cost. I got my information from the Following source <https://www.constellation.com>

Solar panels are reliable energy and will help out the community greatly. Will greatly help the cost of energy Since the prices have gone up Too much for people. This will help with the environment greatly & help cost of Bills. Which is a great alternative Renewable energy resource. Technology always gets better The prices decrease less For solar energy. Solar power advancements continue to be made better each day. The source I have to get this information is <https://www.forbes.com>

The reasoning and following evidence I have concluded should Convince you that solar energy. Solar panels will have good effects on the environment & on bills. Solar panels will Benefit the whole community. Environmental wise & will help on money with these horrible Power electricity bills. So what Im explaining is how much money and environmental issues you can fix by switching to solar panels.

Sincerely,
Jayden.C

Dear Councilman Blumenfeld,

Did you know that Los Angeles has one of the worst air quality in the world? The air quality comes from air pollution which can cause much more than just bad air. Air pollution is a threat to health and climate. It causes people to have asthma, lung cancer, etc. Air pollution is a big problem to the city of Los Angeles. And there are many ways for us to fix this issue.

There are many ways to fix the air quality problem in Los Angeles. So where does most of the air pollution come from? According to Air pollution - World Health Organization (WHO), burning fossil fuels (boats, cars or planes), air pollution also comes from industrial facilities and wildfires. Around 85% of Angelinos drive cars. That's a lot of air pollution and causes plenty of problems to the city of Los Angeles. So how can we reduce air pollution? We can support Angelinos to switch to electric cars. Electric cars are much more environmental than a gasoline car. According Today's Electric Vehicles Can Greatly Reduce Emissions From Driving it reduces air pollution and global warming. Electric vehicles also don't use coal mining, gas drilling, fuels they simply use electricity. So let's start supporting Angelinos to switch to electric cars to make an end to air pollution.

However, making a lot of people switch to electric cars can be difficult. It can be quite pricey. Electric cars are more expensive to purchase than gasoline cars. However there are good qualities in electric cars. According to Electric vs Gasoline: Is EV ownership competitive in your area, electric cars are cheaper overtime because they have lower maintenance and don't require fuel costs. Although it's not the only way of reducing air pollution. We can plant and care for trees, using less energy, and try to drive less. Air pollution is a problem that must be stopped. And doing these will help improve our air quality. I had a friend from Washington state who came down to LA to visit me for Christmas. She used to live in LA for most of her life but when she came back she said that air quality was so bad she didn't think she could ever live here again. This is an example of how big of a problem air pollution is.

The air quality has started getting worse over the past couple of years. Not only is it affecting air pollution, it's affecting the people of Los Angeles. Bad air quality affects lung development, can cause asthma, and respiratory problems. We cannot have our people go through this and we need to protect the future of Los Angeles. So let's start now. Make the people of Los Angeles start to conserve energy. The first step we can do is move from gasoline cars to electric cars. That way we can stop air pollution and protect Angelinos from getting illnesses. This is why air pollution is a major problem in Los Angeles.

In conclusion, air pollution is one of the biggest problems in LA. There are plenty of ways to reduce air pollution such as conserving energy, planting trees and driving less. But the most dependable way to stop air pollution is switching to electric cars. It's a known fact that cars that need gasoline affect the air quality. These are all the ways we can reduce the air pollution in our city.

Sincerely,

Amanda Vuong

Dear Sir,

The Los Angeles city's persistent air pollution and the scarcity of green spaces have created a toxic environment that disproportionately affects the children of the city. From the respiratory problems triggered by poor air quality limits the access to safe outdoor play areas. This condition compromise the respiratory health, cognitive development and overall quality of life of everyone; specially in children. It affects the playful children both physically and mentally.

The main idea is that the environment concerns harm to children's wellbeing. I can provide 5 supporting details that prove this main idea. 1) According to the American Lung Association (2022), Los Angeles air pollution is responsible for a staggering 1 in 5 children suffering from asthma, with African American and Latino children disproportionately affected. 2) According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (2022), Our long beach areas rank among the worst in the nation for toxic air pollutants, with particles that pose serious health risks to children. 3) According to the California Environmental Protection Agency (2022), Children in Los Angeles are 30% more likely to visit emergency rooms for respiratory issues due to poor air quality, with an estimated 114,000 annual visits. 4) Los Angeles County Department of Public health says that "Over 75% of Los Angeles schools are located within 500 feet of a high-polluting facility". 5) As my last supporting detail, Rand Corporation (2022) says that "Poor air quality in Los Angeles costs the healthcare system approximately \$1.5 billion annually, with childhood respiratory issues.

Some argue that stricter regulations would increase costs for business and consumers but clean energy investment can create jobs, stimulate local economies, and reduce healthcare costs. Others claim that current technology cannot effectively reduce emissions. Nevertheless, advancement in electric vehicles, clean energy storage, and emissions-reducing technologies make significant improvements possible. As the third, some argue that individual actions are insufficient to address LA's air quality. However, collective individual actions, combined with policy changes, can significantly impact air quality. California Air Resources Board, University of Southern California, Port of Los Angeles, and LA Clean Air Alliance are some sources that supplied me these information.

Among them, use of electricity instead of fossil fuels can largely control greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, noise pollution and particularly air pollution as well. One of the best ways to apply this is to use more electric vehicles instead of vehicles that use fossil fuels. A good news on it is according to California Air Resources Board (2022), electric vehicle sales in LA increased by 50% since 2020. Another best way to reduce the fossil fuel emissions is using public transportation. American Public Transportation Association says that public transportation saves approximately 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline annually in the US. All of these steps help to reduce the emission of fossil fuels and also to increase the air quality.

When taking a look at these facts, it is more clear that the unfavorable air condition in Los Angeles is heavily affecting the health of children. And also the information I found from all the above sources prove that there are also some ways that support to get the air quality better. So my main suggestion is to encourage people to use public transportation more. And it will be a suitable idea for school district to use electric buses for student transportation because it is directly connected with children. And I think the electrical vehicle companies need to work a little more harder to increase the people's interest in using electric vehicles. It will be a huge positive step that helps to get the mission success. I would be glad if you could please consider this huge issue and take action on it. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Sasmi R. Manikkunambi .



Ms. Nelson passionately teaching her science class

- TECH -

iOS-18 Update

By: Anthony Miziner '25



Photo from apple.com

Recently, we had the new iOS 18 update that came along with the iPhone 16. Lots of new features came with this, and they promised a new AI system called Apple Intelligence, but that has yet to be released from beta. The new redesigned iOS Control Center has new groups of controls that are easier to access. You can also customize the controls by rearranging them, resizing them, or adding new ones from your favorite apps.

It also redesigned the photos app to make it easier to find photos and organize your library. You can now also apply animated effects to letters, words, phrases, or emojis in the messages app. Safari now automatically highlights relevant information on a page as you browse. They also added a new app for all your saved passwords instead of it being held in the settings app. Notes can now solve math problems and difficult equations. Apple also added new ways to arrange the home and lock screen, so it can be whatever you want. Lastly, they added a new feature that allows you to record calls, which has been asked for, for a long time.

DONALD TRUMP AND PRESIDENTIAL SAFETY

By: Kerolos Bektor '25



Photo from CNN

In a world where risks of gun violence are high, not even politicians are safe. The former President Donald Trump, who was first shot by Thomas Matthew Crooks on July 13th, encountered another possible assassination attempt where shots were fired in his vicinity. The attempt was made by Ryan Routh while golfing in Florida on September 15th.

Following the shooting in July, many eye witnesses claimed that they saw 20 year old Crooks on top of the roof and reported the unusual sighting to the police. Unfortunately, the police didn't perceive this sighting as a threat and allowed Crooks to remain on the roof. This fatal mistake by the Pennsylvania police officers spiked major civil disruption alongside two innocent deaths. Later in the day, Elon Musk officially stated that he's fully endorsing Trump and that Trump's security along with the head of the Secret Service should immediately resign. Russian President Putin and China's president Xi Jinping both expressed their sympathy towards the former president.

The second assassination attempt fortunately didn't harm anyone and was followed by Routh getting arrested.

After the second arrest, multiple conspiracy theories on the assassination were brought back to light. Multiple people conspired that the first assassination was planned by Trump and was used as an attempt to get Trump on the headlines. Others stated that the assassination was ordered by President Joe Biden to get rid of the competition.

New theories also emerged once the press found out that the shooter happened to be Ukrainian. Russia stated that the shooting was ordered by Ukraine in order to get rid of Trump. Other people stated that Kamala Harris and Joe Biden were involved in the second assassination attempt as well. This was due to the shooter saying that both of them should attend the funeral of Crooks (the first shooter). These are all public theories that have little evidence behind them, but compelled many Americans.

Additionally, Harris' campaign office in Arizona was shot at on September 16th by a BB gun, officers explained. The shooter has yet to be caught and the situation is currently undergoing an investigation by the Tempe police. The shooting was classified as property damage because fortunately, nobody was inside the building at the time of the shooting. A month after Harris' campaign office was shot at, FEMA officials were threatened in North Carolina on October 14th as they were attempting to help those who suffered from hurricane Helene. This has raised many concerns about how presidential candidates, government agencies, and campaign workers are being dangerously threatened this election. Others wonder who is at fault, and how these shootings may affect the people of the United States. How could we strengthen these agencies and politicians in order to ensure they could support the American people.

TRUMP WINS 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

By: Kerolos Boktor '25



Photo taken from BBC

On Tuesday, November 5, Americans elected Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States. The country was selecting between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris. Trump will become the second president in American history, after Grover Cleveland, to be elected for two non-consecutive terms. In this election, voters had made their decisions by considering the economic, tax, and immigration policies of both parties.

Trump won this election by a long shot, gaining 295 electoral votes, while Kamala took 226. Trump won most of the swing states with this election. North Carolina, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, and Pennsylvania to name a few.

When it comes to economic policies, Trump's plans were mainly to support the upper class as he plans to cut spending, increase tariffs, and make the US the cryptocurrency capital of the world according to CNN. Trump wants to cut spending through a government efficiency commission which will be in charge of determining what is wasteful and what is worth spending on.

Along with the spending cuts, Trump would also like to increase tariffs on goods coming mainly from China and support the mining and production of cryptocurrencies within the United States.

At SOCES, many students were very passionate about their political stance. One student, who is in favor of Trump, says "Trump is a prime example of what it means to be a good American. He's a real patriot. I like his morals. I like what he has planned for this country, and I am glad that he won."

Another student is concerned about her rights as a woman. "I am afraid of my rights as a woman being taken away while Trump is President... Why did we let a felon into office... after all the things he did to women?"

Another SOCES student who was hoping Harris would win says "First of all it's very upsetting, I was looking forward to seeing a woman President... especially one of color, that would make history. Unfortunately that's not the case, there's lots of concerns regarding immigration, economy, and foreign policy for me."

In an interview, another passionate student shared her opinions on the election: "In my opinion, I think that Kamala was truly just endorsing what Biden was going off of when he was president. Kamala had 4 years to do something as vice president for our country and she chose not to. What has she done for our country in the past 4 years? Nothing."

Regarding abortion rights, the same student said: "I agree that women should have the right to do what they want with their bodies but that's not up to the president. That's completely up to the supreme court, which is full of people who think they're entitled and can choose what we do with our bodies. Unfortunately no one can change that."

Vice President Harris' economical plan focused on supporting the middle and lower classes by revising tax cuts made by Trump, banning price gouging, and making healthcare more affordable. Harris believed that her plans would create an opening for everyone within the United States to succeed through creating more regulations on huge businesses that have been taking advantage of their popularity.

Trump plans to cut taxes on Social Security and make tips incapable of being taxed as stated in his campaign proposal. The only issue with this plan is that experts have determined that the increased tariffs he plans to put in place would still not cover the taxes that are being lost on Social Security and tips.

Kamala Harris' plans were to tax unrealized gains that exceed a wealth of \$100 million, which has angered multiple property owners within the upper class.

Trump plans to deport undocumented citizens by utilizing the national guard and has stated that it would be the largest mass deportation in US history. On the other hand, Harris plans to create a pathway for these undocumented citizens to gain citizenship within the United States to avoid splitting up families. She also plans to make border security stronger and ensure that immigrants can no longer get into the US illegally.

Though Americans are divided over the results of the election, it is important to remember that you shouldn't allow political views to affect friendships or relationships. The greatest sign of maturity is to agree to disagree.

WHO NEEDS THE GYM WHEN YOU HAVE OZEMPIC?

By: Janelle Rosales '26



For decades society has been infatuated with weight loss culture. In this new era, people are relying on drugs like Ozempic to reach their weight goals. Ozempic's intended purpose was to help those struggling with type 2 diabetes. In recent times, the most common users of the drug are celebrities striving to lose weight.

How does this drug work? The semaglutide, which is a main ingredient in Ozempic, helps the pancreas create more insulin which aids those who have type 2 diabetes. A side effect of the drug causes users to feel "full" and "suppresses appetite...[causing] weight loss"(Hunter Medical Research Institute). Once a constant user decides to go off the drug they will quickly regain their appetites and may even gain weight at the same pace that they lost it. Although it may help people achieve health through weight loss, it also pushes users away from receiving necessary nutrients and being well nourished.

Technically, "Ozempic is not approved for weight loss. However, semaglutide is approved for weight loss under the name Wegovy"(UC Davis Health). Wegovy contains higher doses of semaglutide designed for losing weight. The drug is also owned by the same company as Ozempic and works through weekly injections.

Ozempic has become a common term used in Hollywood as many celebrities have been accused or admitted to using the medicine. These same celebrities have openly discussed their opinions on this particular drug use amongst their peers. Actor and musician Ashley Benson has expressed that, although she has no judgment towards those who have used Ozempic, she feels a greater sense of pride in knowing that she worked hard to achieve her weight loss. The actress was accused of taking the drug herself after losing weight postpartum.

Up-and-coming rapper, Ice Spice, has shared her offended attitude regarding many accusations of Ozempic use from fans. Communicating that going to the gym, eating healthy, and being on tour have been the factors contributing to her weight loss. Dr. Phil applauds those taking the drug stating, "If someone is using a tool to help them get back to health...[it] isn't something they should be criticized about"(People Magazine).

Celebrities such as Billie Jean King, Oprah Winfrey, Tracy Morgan, Rebel Wilson, and Whoopi Goldberg have all expressed their positive sentiments and gratitude towards the weight loss drugs. It allowed them to reach the weight loss goals they needed to achieve for better health. Most of these personalities have felt no shame and continue to openly use the drug.

Nevertheless, there are still celebrities, such as actress and comedian Amy Schumer, who didn't find the drug helpful. "I was one of those people that felt so sick and couldn't play with my son" she said during an interview (People Magazine).

It is evident that there are a lot of mixed opinions about Ozempic and its use throughout Hollywood. However, there are a few reasons behind the negative connotations surrounding the usage of Ozempic. Most of these emotions emerge from people's own personal biases. It has become a societal norm to lose weight through working out and eating healthy. Anything else is frowned upon by other members of society and perceived as "lazy" or "taking the easy way out". There is also "mistrust of the medical community"(The Harvard Gazette).

When asking Chef Avila how he feels about the popular weight loss drug, this is what he said "...I'm not here to judge anyone for what they do...People make their own decisions on what they think is best for themselves. If you're able to do it, do it. If you don't want to, don't."

Is Ozempic reshaping the weight loss industry as we know it? Or will the stigma surrounding it soon put an end to the trend?

FALL PLAYLIST

By: Mary Matevosyan '26

Autumn Leaves- Nat King Cole

A song about love and loss, using autumn leaves as a metaphor for memories fading.

Sweater Weather- The Neighbourhood

A song about intimacy and comfort in a relationship as the weather gets colder.

Harvest Moon- Neil Young

A celebration of lasting love under the glow of the harvest moon.

September- Earth, Wind, & Fire

A song about love and dancing in september.

All Too Well- Taylor Swift

A reflection about a past relationship.

October- U2

A song about time passing and changes it brings

Rivers and Roads- The Head and the Heart

A song about missing friends who are far away

Autumn in New York- Billie Holiday

The beauty in New York in fall.

November Rain- Guns N' Roses

A song about love, loss, and sadness.

Wake Me Up When September Ends- Green Day

A song about dealing with loss and wanting time to pass.



FALL DATES

By: Sona Karapetyan '26

Fall is the perfect time of year for warm, romantic dates that strengthen your bond. Halloween horror nights at Universal Studios is the ideal option for an exciting and memorable date night. You're put into a scary mood as soon as you enter the park, thanks to the spooky designs, creepy music, and foggy paths. As you explore the horrific haunted houses, where creepy animals and scary scenes await around every corner, you and your date can hold hands. As you comfort each other through facing monsters, zombies, and scary looking clowns, it is the ultimate test of bravery.

A romantic dinner date in a classy restaurant is another perfect way to spend amazing time together. Find a fancy restaurant, dress cute, and enjoy a delicious cuisine dinner together while talking about your day or future plans. To round off the perfect date, go for a stroll outside after dessert.

Nothing beats a comfortable movie night for a relaxed, enjoyable date. You could grab some pumpkin-flavored goodies like caramel popcorn, pumpkin candy, apple cider, or any other seasonal snack of your choice. You can select a film with a fall theme or an old favorite that is perfect for this time of year. To get into the autumn mood, consider watching something inspiring or even a little creepy. You can cuddle up and watch the movie together as you enjoy the beautiful moment. The warm fall atmosphere adds to the comfort of the evening.

STARBUCKS FALL MENU REVIEW



By: Rowan Lee '27

Every year, Starbucks releases its new fall menu. This annual menu always includes the popular autumn drink, the Pumpkin Spice Latte. This drink consists of cinnamon, nutmeg and clove taste, and is made with real pumpkin puree. The Pumpkin Spice Latte was released in 2003 and has since been the inspiration for many more drinks. This year the menu contains an Iced Apple Crisp Non-dairy Chai, a drink combining the pumpkin vibes with its popular chai latte. As well as this, the Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew makes its return to the menu with a coffee, vanilla, and pumpkin mix. Another returning beverage is the Apple Crisp Oat Milk Macchiato, a creamy, spiced apple, and espresso layered drink. Starbucks, in addition, has added its bakery items such as the pumpkin cream cheese muffin. The new treats also include a crisp apple croissant and returning pumpkin loaf and fall inspired cake pops.

HALLOWEEN MOVIE RECCOMENDATIONS

By: Maksim Sosyan '25

Halloween is the perfect time to get cozy and enjoy some fun and thrilling movies. Whether you're a fan of uncomfortable tones, classic monsters, or family-friendly frights, there's something for everyone. Here's a list of Halloween movies to make your Halloween season special.

1. **Hocus Pocus (1993)**

A trio of witches (played by Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Kathy Najimy) is accidentally resurrected in modern-day Massachusetts by a group of kids. The witches have only one night to secure their immortality, but the kids and a talking cat try to stop them. Why Watch It? This is a Halloween classic full of humor and magic. It's perfect for those who enjoy a bit of fun.

2. **The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)**

Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of HalloweenTown, grows tired of his routine and comes across Christmas Town. Lured by the holiday, Jack decides to take over Christmas, but things don't go as planned.

Why Watch It? With its great animation and Tim Burton's unique storytelling, this film blends Halloween and Christmas in a way that's perfect for both.

3. **Beetlejuice (1988)**

A recently deceased couple hires an exorcist named Beetlejuice to scare away the new residents of their beloved home. However, Beetlejuice's unpredictable antics lead to chaos. Why Watch It? This quirky and hilarious film offers a mix of uneasiness and humor, making it a great Halloween watch for those who enjoy supernatural comedies.



4. **Coraline (2009)**

Coraline Jones discovers an alternate reality through a hidden door in her new home, where everyone has buttons for eyes. While the world seems perfect at first, Coraline soon realizes that there are sinister secrets behind the facade.

Why Watch It? Its creepy, otherworldly atmosphere and stunning stop-motion animation make it a unique Halloween pick that's both eerie and visually captivating.

5. **The Addams Family (1991)**

The eccentric and ghoulish Addams family faces a scheme from con artists who try to steal their fortune by pretending to be a long-lost relative. The darkly humorous film highlights the loving, if bizarre, dynamics of this famous family.

Why Watch It? Full of dark humor, this film is perfect for viewers who enjoy a little gothic charm and a lot of laughs.

CURRENT SPORTS

By: Kerolos Boktor '25

Soccer Champions League Overview



Photo taken from Shutterstock

The Champions League had kicked off Tuesday, September 17th with a new format. Young prodigies are popping off, and giants being challenged. With the latest Champions League format, all teams are now required to play eight matches against 8 different teams in a single league format, rather than 6 matches in 8 different groups of 4. Only the top 8 teams on the table will qualify for the round of 16. All teams ranked 9 - 24 will go into a knockout stage to compete for their spot in the round of 16 rather than taking the second-place teams within the group stages. As for the round of 16, quarter-finals, and semifinals, all teams will still have to play the same team they are matched with twice (one home and one away) and the team that moves on will be determined by who has scored the most goals. The finals will be determined by a single match between the two finalists.

Over the past two match days in the Champions League we have seen multiple young prodigies like Lamine Yamal, Jamal Musiala, and Michael Olise demonstrate their value to their teams. On September 19th the 17-year-old Barcelona star Lamine Yamal scored his first Champions League goal making him the second youngest player to score in Champions League history. Jamal Musiala created 7 chances for Bayern and had 2 assists in their game against Dinamo Zagreb which resulted in a score of 9 - 2 (setting a record for the team with the most goals in one Champions League match). The new 22-year-old Bayern transfer Michael Olise helped Bayern set this record by scoring 2 goals in his first-ever Champions League game.

After match day 2 came to an end, Bayern, Real Madrid, and Barcelona surprisingly didn't secure a spot within the top 8 teams. After Bayern suffered a huge loss against Aston Villa on October 2nd, they were placed 15th on the table. Real Madrid also lost against Lille the second putting them at 17th. Barcelona's loss against Monaco on September 19th is holding them back from taking Manchester City's spot as number 8 on the table. With that being said, the fight for the top 8 is not over yet and the Giants still have 6 more games to come back from these losses.

WORLD SERIES: DODGERS TAKE THE WIN!

By: Garrett Arch '26 and Janelle Rosales '26



Picture from The Today Show

The Dodgers have just won the World Series, one of America's most anticipated sporting events. This year, the New York Yankees came to Los Angeles to face the Dodgers in the most anticipated World Series matchup of the 21st century.

The Yankees are historically the best team in baseball history. Not only do they have the best winning percentage in baseball history (56.9%) but they also have the most World Series wins, appearing in 41 World Series games and winning 27. The Dodgers also stack up a pretty good resume in the regular season, historically having the third best winning percentage in baseball history (53.2%). The Dodgers World Series resume on the other hand, is not so impressive, only winning 7 games of their 20 appearances.

Despite this, with the way the Dodgers were performing at the end of the regular season, it looked as though the Dodgers had a fairly easy path to win it all. In the NLDS, it looked as though the Dodgers were on the brink of elimination, but in an insane turn of events, the injured Dodgers roster sent the series back to LA and won the last two games of the series in shutouts. In the NLCS, this same roster was carried to a six game series win by player Tommy Edman. Going into the World Series, it looked as though it would be an extremely back and forth matchup. Instead, in the very first game it seemed to be Dodger dominated, as Freddie Freeman hit the first walk off grand slam in World Series history in the bottom of the tenth to secure the Dodgers a very historic win. Since this game, this series has only become more and more one sided, as the Dodgers were leading the series with a score of 3 to 1, with the Yankees only winning their first game after losing three straight.

High stakes for Game 5 of the World Series made both teams determined to win. If the Dodgers won, the Series would be over, giving them their 8th World Series title. However, a win for the Yankees would give them just enough hope to earn a victory back in Los Angeles. For the first five innings, with the Yankees leading by a score of 5 - 0, it seemed that the teams were going to continue their series at Dodger Stadium. Back to back homeruns from Aaron Judge and Jazz Chisholm Jr. in the first inning gave Yankee fans the assumption of triumph. However, this would all change when a missed catch from Judge opened a window of opportunity for the Dodgers. During the top of the 5th inning with bases loaded and 2 outs, Dodger fans had their fingers crossed praying that Mookie Betts would bring someone home. The single hit from Betts allowed 1 run in, and when Freeman came up to bat the MVP brought pride to his city as he helped score 2 more runs. Teoscar Hernandez's additional two RBIs made the Dodgers officially tie with the Yankees 5 - 5 by the middle of the 5th inning.

One more homer for the Yankees in the 6th inning gave them the upper hand. Fans and teammates could already taste the win. At this point, Dave Roberts was all in and refused to let the Yankees continue scoring. Reliever pitcher Blake Treinen was placed on the mound. By the top of the 8th inning bases were loaded again, a single hit by Gavin Lux allowed the Dodgers to tie up. By the middle of the 8th inning the Dodgers were leading the game with a score of 7 - 6. It was now or never, and the Dodgers had to secure their victory. 3 sequential outs allowed the teams to advance to the 9th inning. By the bottom of the 9th the Dodgers were taking the lead, but only by one. The Yankees still had a final chance to seize the game. With so much on the line, Roberts placed all his hope on Walker Buehler (previous World Series pitcher). With two outs and two strikes, Alex Verdugo at bat would make or break the Yankees. Fortunately for the Dodgers, Buehler's last pitch was a strike. The Dodgers had won the 2024 World Series with a score of 7 - 6!

SOCES FALL SPORTS: FLASHBACKS

By: Knight Times Staff



Pictures of the football team during the Homecoming Game

FOOTBALL

SOCES football is having their best season since their 2016 championship year. They just defeated East Valley on Friday November 1 by a score of 48 - 26 claiming the Valley League title. It gives the Knights the perfect momentum going into the playoffs and making them a clear favorite to win the 8-man City Championship.

It has been an amazing turn around for Knights football. Last year SOCES football played its first season since 2019 due to the pandemic. After finding a new coach and building a new team, the Knights had an inconsistent season with blowout victories while getting crushed by opponents themselves. It was a learning experience for the entire team, but growing pains have paid off this year with a season many fans weren't expecting.

The Knights finished the regular season undefeated with a 8-0 overall record and 3-0 in league play. They have outscored their opponents 362-117 winning each game by an average of 30.6 points.

Senior King Burns and junior Daniel Truong have been stand outs this year, especially on offense. Through the first seven games Truong once again is leading the team in rushing averaging 151.1 yards per game with 14 rushing touchdowns. Burns is having an MVP caliber year excelling at both offense and defense. On offense he has thrown for 450 yards averaging 14 yards per game. He is averaging 78.7 rushing yards per game and has 16 total touchdowns.



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The SOCES Lady Knights Volleyball team may be disappointed with their 2024-2025 campaign after a first round playoff loss, but to some, it was a much better season than it might have been. After last year's head coach was dismissed, the school had difficulty finding a replacement. Without a coach, the team had a challenging preseason with little practice time. Rumors about games being canceled and a possible lost season began spreading with many wondering what was going on with the girls volleyball team. Athletic director Ms. Tabares and PTSA volunteer Cybele Constantin took on coaching responsibilities to ensure that there would be a season.

The team struggled with maintaining momentum trading wins and losses all season finishing 5-5 in league play, good enough to finish 3rd in the Valley. They finished 9-9 overall. The Lady Knights hosted a first round playoff game, but they were upset by San Fernando 3 -1.

The Lady Knights will lose 9 seniors to graduation including team captains Madisyn Mehlman, Sophia Wall, and Hailey Frait. With only three juniors returning, next year's team may lack experience, but the squad has a lot of great young talent looking to make an impact. The future looks bright with the JV squad going undefeated and many of them looking to play varsity.



FLAG FOOTBALL

The SOCES Flag Football team took a large leap forward after their inaugural season last year. Under headcoach Ms. Crockett, the Lady Knights had another year of learning the game and playing together resulting a 7-3 league record and good enough for second place in the Valley. They have a 10-7 overall record.

In their final game of the regular season the Lady Knights trounced Alliance Marine-Innovation & Technology 51-0. It was SOCES' third win in a row. SOCES finished the season winning six of their final seven games giving them great momentum for a playoff run.

This season the Lady Knights have been led by amazing play from junior Yeimi Gutierrez and sophomore Alexandra Namm. Gutierrez leads the team with 10 rushing touchdowns and averaging 142.9 rushing yards per game. Namm, the team's quarterback, has 6 rushing touchdowns and 8 passing touchdowns. She's averaging 77 rushing yards per game and 129.3 quarterback rating.



GIRLS TENNIS

The Girls Tennis Team literally returned to play at SOCES this season with the tennis courts finally being completed for the fall season. Despite a dismal DESIGN that has no area or stands for spectators to watch the matches, it was great to finally welcome tennis back to campus. The season also saw new head coach Joseph Siron take over the program for Ms. Lim who stepped down at the end of the boys season in May.

After a successful season last year, the Lady Knights saw themselves in rebuilding mode. They finished the year 3-6 in league play and 3-8 overall. The team only won 28 of 43 matches. The team struggled to find consistency as lineups were constantly shifted all season with players randomly shifting from singles to doubles and doubles partners often being changed.

Despite the disappointing season, the Lady Knights will only be losing two seniors. This year the team featured a majority of sophomores and juniors who will return next year.

Junior Sarah Kovalev led the team this year with 5 singles wins. Sophomores Ani Dischian and Victoria Stepanyants both finished with 4 singles wins. Seniors Abi Park and Kristina Harutyunyan led the double pairings with 4 wins.



CROSS COUNTRY

SOCES Cross Country is having another great season going undefeated so far with a 5-0 record in the Valley League. They are ramping up for League finals on November 7 at Pierce College featuring the best runners in the Valley.

The boys have been led by juniors Shumei Umemoto with a PR of 17:22 and David Boussi with PR of 17:25. Hassan Mozannar has been the outstanding sophomore of the team with a PR of 17:52.

The girls squad have been led by sophomore Paulina Petrina with PR time of 22:08. Junior Elizabet Castillo has the team's second best PR time of 22:30 and junior Destiny Lee is seconds behind her with a best 22:33.