

A WINTER WITHOUT DISCONTENT



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PLACENTIA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY RUNNING NEWSPAPER, EL TIGRE IS A STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER IN THE PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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WINTER WONDER SHOW DAZZLED THE CROWDED AUDITORIUM LAST FRIDAY



By: Andy Anusiem
Reporter

Mrs. Courtney Fenstermaker, the dance team coordinator, hosted a Winter Wonder Show on December 10 in order to raise money for their teams. "The theme to the show is Winter Wonder Show. It is a holiday show that features songs to get people into the spirit of the season!" Fenstermaker said, excited about this show.

sented the gift of skill and creativity, and showcased the skills of the all-male hip-hop team and the girls dance team. With unbelievable commitment portrayed by the dance team members daily, new material for the dancers to perform to, and great choreographing by the coaches, this sure was one Christmas gift that didn't disappoint!

These Valencia dancers are dedicated to every performance that they participate in and take (continued on page 2).

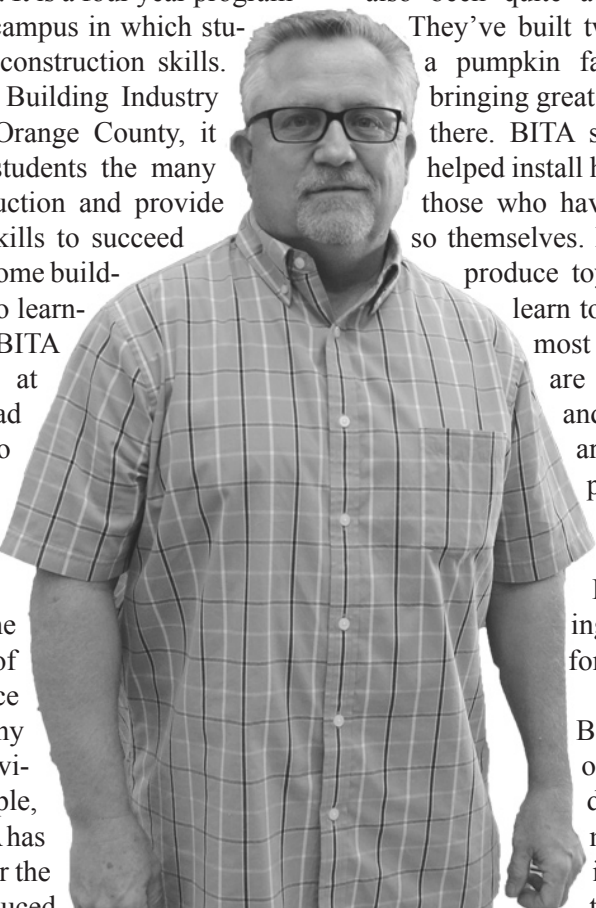
BOYS HIP-HOP TEAM PERFORMING AT THE WINTER WONDER SHOW. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KAMRAN PAKDAMANI (12), JJ CUBIAS (11), CALVIN LEUNG (11), SHIMPEI SHINOHARA (12), SEBASTIAN HA (10), DAVID TIROL (9). PHOTO BY: BEN CERCEA

BITA GIVES A "BITA" LOVE

By: Allen Lin
Reporter

BITA stands for Building Industry Technology Academy. It is a four year program for students on campus in which students can learn construction skills. Founded by the Building Industry Association of Orange County, it seeks to teach students the many facets of construction and provide them with the skills to succeed as professional home builders. In addition to learning to build, BITA students here at Valencia have had the opportunity to give back to the community, and they have done so in spades.

BITA has done a large amount of community service work, with many charitable activities. For example, on campus, BITA has built a counter for the library and produced small whiteboards for them to the Language Arts Department. They also send a group to every single Tiger Pride Day and have been working on



MR. MORRISON IS THE BITA INSTRUCTOR. PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI.

pathways for the vacant lot by the Science building. When faculty needs furniture refurbished, BITA is on the case. BITA is clearly active and helpful around campus.

Furthermore, in addition to their laudable efforts at school, BITA students have also been quite active off campus.

They've built two playhouses for a pumpkin farm in Temecula, bringing great joy to the children there. BITA students have also helped install holiday lighting for those who have difficulty doing so themselves. First year students produce toy cars in order to learn to measure well; almost 200 of these cars are made each year and these toy cars are donated to orphanages in Mexico. BITA works with Habitat for Humanity, helping to build homes for those in need.

Mr. Morrison, the BITA teacher, said of BITA that "students learn a lot more than building and carpentry in BITA. They also learn critical thinking skills, communication skills, and team building skills. They learn things they can apply in everyday life."

DON'T BE GREEDY, FEED THE NEEDY

By: Richard Ma
Reporter

"Just going to stand there with this canned food" begins the song that ASB members Dante Cantal (12), Vince Nguyen (12), and Patrick Simpelo (12) made promoting this year's canned food drive. While the video is entertaining and humorous, the canned food drive at Valencia is a charitable cause to help the needy. As the holidays approach, the spirit of giving rises in the air. The food we eat almost defines this joyous time of year. Without food, the holidays cannot be properly celebrated. Thus, the canned food drive helps the less fortunate celebrate the holidays as well. The canned food drive exemplifies the holidays perfectly as the spirit of giving is truly revealed. Just a couple of cans of food can travel a long way in bringing the same warm feeling that we all get when the holiday season approaches.

On the first week of December, Valencia held its annual canned food drive. Throughout the week, students from all classes contributed by bringing in a plethora of canned food, ranging from canned soup to canned fruits

during their second period class.

Valencia's canned food drive has been an annual tradition for Valencia students, and is sponsored by Valencia's ASB themselves. In the spirit of the holiday season, the food collected from the canned food drive is given to the families of the students on campus. It is part of Valencia's ongoing cause to do everything we can to help the needy.

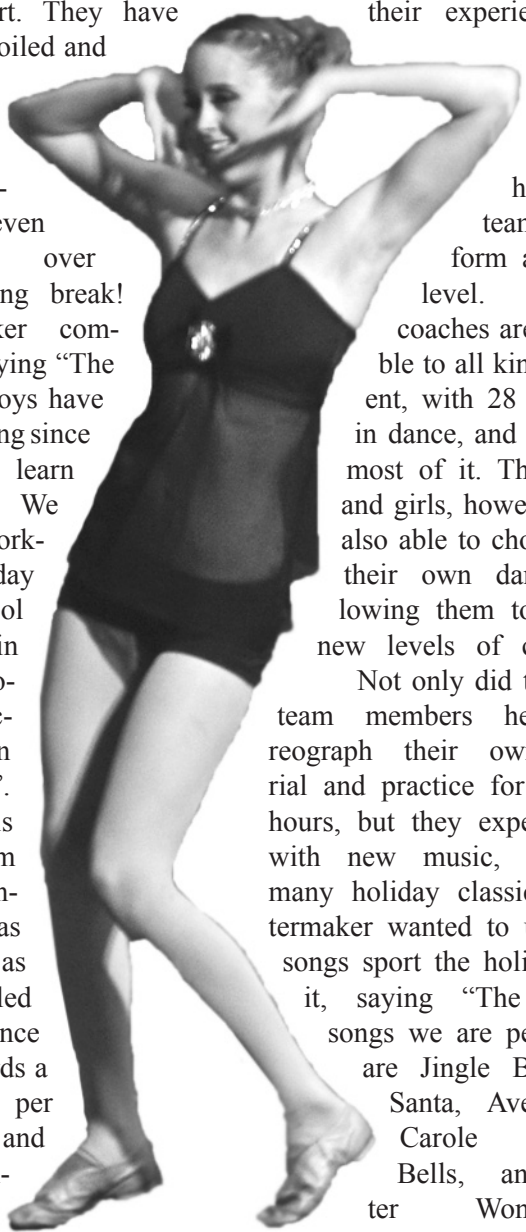
The success of the canned food drive is unprecedented. During the week, students have collected a substantial amount of food. Every year, Valencia rewards the class who reaches 100 cans first. This year, the victor was Ms. Rita Phillips's second period class, who reached 100 cans the day after the canned food drive was announced. In response to her achievement, Phillips simply praises, "My Honors Biology class is awesome!" We congratulate Phillips and her class on their outstanding achievement.

Overall, this year's canned food drive was a great success. ASB member Jason Yee (12) acknowledges that "I am glad to have taken part in this year's canned food drive. We [at ASB] are doing all we can to help out and give back, and so far we are happy with the results." Hopefully, next year, we can replicate our success and give back even more during this joyous holiday season.

ICE AND SNOW AND WINTER SHOWS

(continued from page 1) pride Cole and Eric Torres have used in their art. They have their experience and diligently toiled and practiced their expertise to help the almost all-male hip-hop team perform at a high level. These coaches are accessible to all kinds of talent, with 28 members in dance, and make the most of it. These boys and girls, however, were also able to choreograph their own dances, allowing them to explore new levels of creativity.

Not only did the dance team members help choreograph their own material and practice for grueling hours, but they experimented with new music, including many holiday classics. Fenstermaker wanted to use these songs sport the holiday spirit, saying "The holiday songs we are performing are Jingle Bells, Oh Santa, Ave Maria, Carole of the Bells, and Winter Wonderland".



LEAH SLATIC (12) PERFORMS A SOLO TO THE SONG "LEATHER" BY KATIE THOMPSON. PHOTO BY: BEN CERCEA

ONCE A BUDDY ALWAYS A BUDDY A CLUB THAT CREATES A ONE-ON-ONE FRIENDSHIP

By: Samantha Green
Reporter

The Best Buddies Club is the newest addition to the clubs at VHS. Best Buddies is an international foundation that hopes to, "establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (bestbuddies.org)." This is the first year the club has been on campus and is headed by Mr. Maeder (Faculty Advisor) and Mrs. Belsey (Special Education Advisor). The club has a lot to offer and is a worthwhile experience for those with time who are willing to get involved in someone else's life.

How did the club come about? Before working at Valencia Mr. Maeder worked at Esperanza High School where they had a Best Buddies chapter (club). As he began working here he realized that the Special

Education students needed a mixer within the school. Since he was apart of the organization for years he hoped to start a chapter here. Mrs. Belsey voiced the same idea and they got right on board; they then partnered up their chapter became a reality.

A few years ago Mr. Maeder went to an international buddy meeting; he witnessed something amazing. He saw a young man sitting in a wheelchair drooling and in the blink of an eye he began programming a computer like nothing else. Mr. Maeder stood in awe and realized that in life people can surprise you by surpassing certain boundaries. The club's president Grace Araujo(12), vice-president Stephanie Rykowskie(12) and buddy director Jake Ries(12) have also seen how the club can be impactful on someone's lives.

In this club there are two types of members; peer buddies and associate buddies. Peer buddies have to fully commit their time to their buddy, for example, eat-

ing lunch with them; whereas associates befriend everyone at meetings and go to bigger functions. Activities include luncheons, bowling at the Yorba Linda Bowl even proms and parties. If you are interested in joining you can go to Room 507 and get an application.

There are sixty people in the club and more are welcome to join. "Right now we have a pretty good group of students. I really encourage anyone to stop by and get to know them, they're great individuals. For next year we hope that the club gets bigger and bigger," Mrs. Belsey said. The thing that would strike someone the most about this club is seeing how the other half coexists. It's a good reality check for all of us who have never seen a different perspective. We all need friends and flourish with the help of others. As Mr. Maeder says, "Can't we all just get along; we don't want our differences to separate us."

THE CHOIR SHOW INSPIRES A WAVE OF WINTER WONDER

By: Sarah Rafiqi
Editor

Every winter, the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District hosts a concert of performances by the high school choirs. This Winter Music Festival has been held at the Valencia High School auditorium for the past ten years. According to former 15-year VHS Band Director and current Coordinator of Visual and Performing Arts, Mr. Phil R. Mortensen, "It [the Winter Music Festival] was started by the Coordinator of Visual and Performing Arts at that time, Linda Owen, in an attempt to feature the HS Choirs during the fall season." Mortensen is now in charge of producing the entire show. He explains, "We work one month in advance to plan music, work orders, invites, and program production."

This year's Winter Music Festival began at seven o'clock sharp, on November 30. El Dorado High School opened the show with Girls' Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Concert Choir, and Combined Choirs, respectively. At this point, Valencia High School Combined Choirs, Women's Ensemble, Chamber Singers, Vocal Jazz, and Chamber Singers and Vocal Jazz together, took the stage, in that order. After them, Yorba Linda High School stepped onto the Winter Music Festival stage for one of the very first times ever, and presented its Vocal ensemble, Vocal Ensemble Women, Vocal Jazz, and Vocal Ensemble, respectively. Finally, Esperanza got its chance to wow the crowd with its Vivace, Vocal Ensemble, Concert Choir, and Combined Choirs, in that order. As each school prepared to follow the preceding act, Valen-

cia's Sinfonia Orchestra demonstrated its very own performances. To end the show, all the high school choirs came together with Valencia High School's orchestra for one last, jaw-dropping performance.

LEAH SLATIC (12) PERFORMS A SOLO TO THE SONG "LEATHER" BY KATIE THOMPSON. PHOTO BY: BEN CERCEA



TAKEN THE CAMPUS BY STORM: BIG BROTHERS AND SISTERS

By: Andy Anusiem
Reporter

Everybody needs that older figure to look up to, confide in, have fun with, and be comfortable around. Some insightful Tigers have realized this, and have instituted "Big-Brother", a county-wide program, in Valencia. Numerous tigers have joined the program that has been the leader of one-to-one youth service for more than a century, and has had a lasting impact on those from the ages of 6-18.

Big Brother gathers older figures, usually from high school, nicknamed

"bigs", who are willing to assist and donate their time for other children, called "littles", who need mentoring and look for someone to spend time with. Big brothers will participate in activities like playing basketball, playing a board game, sharing pizza, taking a walk in the park, or just hanging out and talking. The "littles" look forward to the hour spent during each week with their big brother, and usually feel comfortable expressing their feelings in a relatively comfortable environment.

Many dedicated Tigers have undertaken this opportunity, and have signed up for the program sweeping the campus. You may be walking past

the bathroom, and see a "big brother" waiting for their "little", or you may be sitting in class listening to the morning announcements, and be surprised by a "happy birthday" announcement from a "big sister" to a "little". The point is, for every troubled and neglected "little", there is a caring and supportive "big". The founders of "Big Brother" in our school are proud of how many participants they have. (STAT)

Big Brother has a history of producing results, and if you ask, it wouldn't say it creates happiness, but rather, "motivates children to have a great time with other kids". Researchers have also shown that after 18 months

spending time with their bigs, the little brothers and little sisters are 46% less likely to use illegal drugs, 27% less likely to use alcohol, 52% less likely to skip school, more confident, and get along better with their families.

What mattered to the children were not the activities, but the fact that they had a caring teenager in their lives. Because they had someone to confide in and to look up to, they were, in turn, doing better in school and at home. If you wish to have your passage written in this success story, become a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister", or just support out Tigers who participate in this life-changing experience.

A LIVING TRIBUTE TO Ms. SAWYER

By: Jordan Steyer and Samantha Green
Contributing Reporter and Reporter

Ms. Sue Sawyer grew up in a small town in Chicago with a population of about 17,000 people. She lived with her four siblings and shared a room with them. She had to learn to adapt from a young age and it paved the platform for her kind ways, especially her inclination to share. Sawyer can seem passionate about what she teaches however she uses that passion to motivate and drive students. Not only does she teach seven class, update the school website on a daily occurrence, and feed random mouths that enter her classroom, she also provides Tiger-Tube for the school, goes above and beyond for the teachers when needing technical help, and somehow finds time to run the pancake breakfast that is unique to Valencia High School.



Ms. SAWYER CONTRIBUTES SO MUCH TO THIS SCHOOL. PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI.

The pancake breakfast that was brought to us eight years ago by Sawyer has a monumental affair that she herself has put together and worked before every break and holiday. Sawyer compiles all the necessary tools to serve students and staff through donations allowing others to contribute to her event. In addition, Sawyer allows staff and students to utilize the website making out school stand out from others and making the website become a vital resource for our campus life. The website features assets that we have on campus through various groups and activities each getting fair and equal time and creating a connection for all tigers to enjoy. Three years ago Sawyer brought Tiger-Tube

on campus. This endeavor allowed students to broadcast weekly to classrooms and solicit events that needed better advertising such as water polo games and various fine art group. Sawyer utilizes Tiger-Tube to showcase students' talents as well as other celebrations on campus. Sawyer continually goes above and beyond by volunteering her time for the 75th Anniversary, Staffulty Club, After-school tutoring as well as before school tutoring, web design, tech triage, and other various needs across campus. What people may not know is that Sawyer is just as caring and companionate in her personal life as she is on campus. She's served her country for thirteen years in the Marine Corps becoming Major, which is a high ranking position, as well as partaking in the Olympic volleyball team. She's also an umpire for softball and continues to be passionate about her family life. Sawyer feels as if everyone

should try to reach to their full potential and all she tries to do is her best. For example last year she took care of her in-laws during the summer. Many people were shocked when they heard this but Sawyer's response was, "What I did isn't special, it's normal, I don't understand why people don't do it, it's just the right thing to do." Sawyer prides herself in her high integrity and work ethic and at the end of the day that's what she wishes to promote with all her students. The passion that she exudes isn't simply because she has to do it but more because she wants to do it. More students should take her example and better themselves because like she says, "sometimes you have to fight a battle to win a war."

THINK PINX

By: Elizabeth Knarr
Reporter

This year, a new club has been established on campus to help raise breast cancer awareness. The club, called Pinx, has been started by Andi Sandler (11), a cheerleader here at Valencia. Andi's mom had breast cancer, which motivated her to start this club.

Andi began the club by contacting regional support. Her goal is to raise money to help find a cure for breast cancer, as well as to raise awareness about breast cancer. She has enlisted the help of many of her fellow cheerleaders, and she encourages both guys and girls on our campus to come join the club.

The club color is pink, and their first meeting was held on December

13 in room 1122. The meetings will continue to be held in room 1122 until the beginning of next semester, when the room will be changed to 502.

If you are interested in joining, make sure to keep a look out for upcoming events for this club. For example, the club hopes to have a Pinx dodgeball team for the VHS dodgeball competition this year.

Advising club Pinx for the year is Ms. Schiff. As to her motivations for advising a club such as Pinx, she says, "I couldn't resist helping out a club that not only

has meaning and purpose, but such spirit and motivation. I am so impressed with Andi's desire to make people aware and for those who are aware, help them. I am constantly impressed with how tigers work hard to make something happen!"

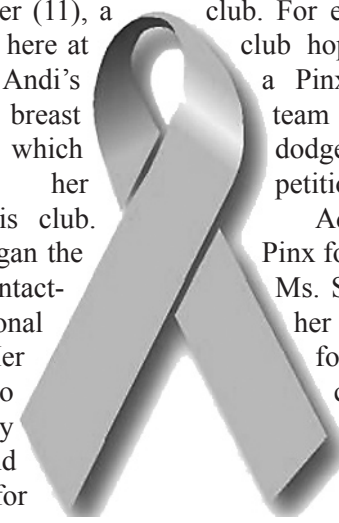


PHOTO COURTESY FROM: WISCONSIN.BBB.ORG

MR. UMBERTO RECIEVED A PROMOTION

By: Allen Lin
Reporter

Recently, one of the groundskeepers, Umberto, was promoted to the district office. When asked, he responded that, "Well, I feel happy. [Although] I don't want to want to leave, if you want to get more money, sometimes you have to move on." Umberto has been a permanent groundskeeper here at Valencia for three years, and before that, a substitute groundskeeper for two years. As groundskeeper he trimmed the various bushes and trees on campus, cleaned up leaves, kept the campus clean, and maintained the fields. He would have to fix sprinklers, mow, and water the fields, in order to get them ready for the various sports on campus.

His promotion will put him in charge of maintaining multiple campuses in the district. He will be moving about, working on the many schools in the Placentia-Yorba Linda USD. The work will be of the same sort he currently does here. Umberto estimated he will be working on around ten schools, although he was not certain on the exact number yet, as there were three groundskeeping teams, and they each work on different schools.

When asked how he felt about his time here, he replied, "I've been having a good time. Everyone is real friendly and nice. I hate to leave, but sometimes you have to move forward... I like it here."

As a parting remark Umberto said that, "I think I'm going to miss the teachers. There's [also] a lot of good students that say hi and are nice to me, I'll be missing them [as well]."

GEARED UP AND READY TO GO

By: Richard Ma
Reporter

Over the years, Valencia High School has been excelling in the area of academics, especially in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, the Valencia Technology Program, and Advanced Placement classes.

Last year, Valencia's Class of 2013 had 161 Pre-IB Academy Students; 2012 had 116 Pre-IB Academy Students; 2011 had 62 Diploma Candidates; and 2010 had 58 Diploma Candidates. This totaled 394 students enrolled in Valencia's IB Program last year. Valencia's International Baccalaureate Coordinator, Mr. Fred Jenkins, praises that "we at Valencia are very proud of the fact that students throughout the district and outside the district are choosing to participate in our IB Program."

In addition, there were 143 Val Tech Academy Students in the Classes of 2011-13, and 39 Val Tech Diploma Candidates in the Class of 2010, totaling 182 Val Tech students. Valencia's Val Tech Coordinator, Mr. Mike Guest, "encourage[s]

each of you to check out the opportunities the Val Tech Program offers. Hundreds of students are now part of Val Tech, and there may be a place for you."

Students in the Advanced Placement classes have also been doing well. In 2010, about 587 students participated in AP Testing, with Valencia offering 1064 exams given in 26 subjects. Our school has a 100% pass rate in Music Theory, Japanese Language and Culture, Spanish Literature, Statistics, Chemistry, and Psychology; 90%-99% pass rate in Studio Art, Calculus BC, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics; and 80%-89% pass rate in Spanish Language, Computer Science A, Human Geography, United States History.

Valencia is home to some of the brightest students, and our continuing admission in the IB Program and Val Tech Program proves it. In the words of Valencia's IB and Val Tech Counselor, Mr. Mark Stanley, "Valencia has always had a tremendously skilled and dedicated teaching staff, and with the leadership of Principal Jim Bell and Academy Coordinators Fred Jenkins and Mike Guest, the Valencia Academy has a bright future."

MR. STANLEY IS THE COUNSELOR OF IB AND VAL-TECH. PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI.



IN BRIEF

December 18: 11-4pm
Cross County will wrap gifts at A Snail's Pace Running Shop. For \$2, they will wrap your presents along with providing a handcrafted gift tag.

January 3
First Day Back
The first school day of 2011!

January 7
Comedy Sportz Match
Come see the Comedy Sportz team compete in various improv games, from 7:00 to 9:00 in the VHS Auditorium.

January 14
Boy's Varsity Soccer Game
Come out to Bradford Stadium to support your tigers!

January 17
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
A three day weekend in honor of MLK's birthday.

January 21
Mr. VHS
Come see who is crowned this year's Mr. VHS.

January 28
End of the Semester
Final grades go in for the first half of the year.