

## THE MOTHER OF PRESCHOOL, Ms. MARY

**By: Nathaly Romanes**  
Editor

Valencia High School's preschool program is not only a class that allows students the opportunity to attempt to earn teaching certificates but also a class that makes our students role models to the younger generations.

Preschool, on our campus, is a training program for careers with children. Most of the students that take the class are planning to study Education and or Child Development when they head off to college. This program specifically trains them to potentially earn a teaching certificate even before they begin college. Being in this class for one year rewards the student a teacher aid certificate. Being in it for two years rewards the student a teacher certificate as long as they continue to take child and child development classes after high school. The students must also maintain a B or better in the class to gain these certificates. In preschool they must have a portfolio, like a job, where they organize lesson plans they created ahead of time, (just like a teacher). Valencia High School's students work with the children four days a week. They are in charge of taking care and teaching the young preschool students with the lesson plans they had previously thought of. It takes a lot of courage to get up in front of a class to teach others



Ms. MARY'S SMILE CAN BE SEEN IN THE PRESCHOOL ROOM EVERY DAY. PHOTO BY: AADILA PARUK

something the right way; especially if they are preschool students because they look up to our juniors and seniors in the class. That is why this class also helps high school students' self-esteem increase.

Valencia's preschool program has been on campus for the past forty years. When it originated here it was simply a babysitting tips class. It taught students what to do and not do when babysitting. Throughout the years it has progressed into a more academic class. It is even W.A.S.C credited with the state of California.

The preschool teacher, Miss Mary Perez is one of the kindest people on campus. She has been teaching for thirty one years and twenty of those years have been at Valencia High School. When studying in college her original focus was special education

but while taking child development courses realized her true passion was teaching preschoolers. Coming from a large family also influenced her decision to work with children. Mrs. Mary loves teaching the preschool program and loves seeing it grow every year.

She expressed what she expects for the future to come, "We hope to maintain a positive influence for the preschool and high school students together."

If interested in joining our school's R.O.P. preschool program, one needs to be a junior or senior and have the passion to work with children to get a hands-on experience of teaching.

## READING TO THE PRESCHOOLERS

**By: Samantha Green**  
Reporter

The sheer innocence within their faces, chocolate on their cheeks and sparkle in their eyes—the children of pre-school. Did you know that there's a children's section in the library? Did you know that every year before Winter break Mrs. Millam reads to the children in pre-school? Mrs. Millam our school librarian has been working along with Ms. Mary to read to the children in the preschool.

Mrs. Millam normally starts reading a week before the holidays start and the children enjoy listening to her as she imitates the characters within the books. They thoroughly enjoy being read to and while they enjoy this facet of entertainment their literary skills develop. At times the children know the stories like the back of their hand and recite the unforgettable. Does anyone remember, "I'll huff and puff and blow the house down?" or maybe, "Rapunzel Rapunzel let your hair down!"(We're

not talking about the movie "Tangled" here—though it looks thoroughly entertaining). There's a natural joy in the faces of the children as they hear these stories that will resonate within them until adulthood. "My name is Sam and I like green eggs and ham," (Well my name is Samantha Green so I can go with it—Dr. Suess sure has stuck with me).

The preschool has been around for forty years and is strictly word of mouth; it is also the host of preschool class. The children are from two years and nine months to five years and they are all potty trained (they grow up to fast—pretty soon they'll be in high school—no need to be scared parents). In the class students also read to the youngsters when they have a one-to-one interaction, many of the students in pre-school are previous attendees. Everything is full circle for Ms. Mary, "I would like to thank the school for allowing us to collaborate together, it's nice to have all the teachers support." She and Mrs. Millam truly enjoy adding something special to the lives of these children.

PHOTO COURTESY FROM: WWW.VANILLAJOY.COM



## PRESCHOOL VOLUNTEERS: R.O.P ON HELPING SPREE

**By: Emilie Cady**  
Reporter

Here at Valencia we have a great Preschool program in which students sign up for the class and teach and supervise the children themselves.

The program includes children from two years and nine months to five years of age, and has both a morning and an afternoon class. According to Preschool teacher Miss. Mary, the morning classes are always full, but there are almost always openings for children in the afternoon.

The class is for Juniors and Seniors only and is either a one or two year class, depending on how many years the students want to take the class. The class is directly associated with Santa Ana College, Fullerton College, and Orange Coast College. For those

students who take and pass the class with a B or better for two years, they receive a preschool teaching certificate, but must continue their education at college or the certificate is voided.

When sixth period volunteer Ivette Duarte (12) was asked what her reasons for choosing to take the class were, she said, "I love being around kids and teaching them right from wrong, and I'm actually looking forward to being a Preschool teacher." Also, according to Ms. Mary, students also choose to volunteer just to see what it's like being around children all of the time. She said, "It's a great opportunity to see if students want to have a career with kids in the future, and to see if they have the patience to be around kids. Often times students who think they don't have the patience find out that they really did have it after taking this class, and for those who just don't have the patience, it at least prepares them for when they become parents later in life."

The student volunteers work with the kids without the assistance of Ms. Mary or Ms. Lisa for four days a week, usually Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, the students get their lectures from the Preschool teachers about different child-related topics such as child abuse, and they also take that time and over the weekend to come up with their own individual lesson plans for the following week based on the theme that Ms. Mary or Ms. Lisa gives them, such as Winter Wonderland. Each period, the student volunteers have a different subject in which to teach and interact with the children, such as Arts and Crafts, Colors, Numbers, and Shapes, and an outside playtime that takes place during seventh period.

It is the student's job to come up with fun activities in which the children can interact in, as well as maintaining a positive attitude around the children. Obviously, the kids aren't always well-behaved, and it's up to the student volunteers to try to redi-

rect the child's negative attitude into a more positive one, and if they are being absolutely uncooperative, they are then sent to Ms. Mary or Ms. Lisa, the Preschool teachers. Upon entering the Preschool classroom, however, it was very surprising to see that the general atmosphere was very calm; there weren't children running around everywhere acting like maniacs, and the student volunteers were manning different 'play stations' and playing with the kids without any intervention from either Ms. Mary or Ms. Lisa. When asked how she and her students were able to keep the children so well behaved, Ms. Mary stated, "If you keep the kids busy, there won't be a behavior problem". It's really extraordinary how well the student volunteers react and bond with the students. When asked if she thinks she has developed a bond with the children she works with, Ivette Duarte (12) replied, "Yes, I do because if they ever need help they know that they can come to me for help."



## FORMAL APPOLOGIES

In our first issue we printed the wrong bylines for various articles. "Rule the Pool With Water Polo," located on page 15, was written by Allen Lin instead of Samantha Green. Also, the article "Mock Trial Faces Financial Struggles" was written by Reetu Inamdar instead of Sarah Rafiqi.

Last issue in our credits we misspelled cartoonist Kiara Luckie's name.

Due to Fourlough Days, *El Tigre* postponed it's initial release date. We applogize for any "old news".

## DISTRICT BAND PAGEANT STUNS THE CROWD

By: **Andy Anusiem**  
Reporter

The District Band Pageant was hosted at Bradford Stadium on November 3rd in order to display the coming together of all the high schools, and the importance of music education. With all the middle and high school bands playing, color guard performing, patriotic mu-

sic playing, and dazzling visuals lighting up the field, it would be quite hard for you to take your eyes away. District members supporting or representing the music branch of the District attended, along with parents and students who packed the stands at Bradford Stadium.

The District Pageant started off with all the middle and high school bands performing their selective and individual parades. Numerous songs were performed, ranged from patriotic songs to rhythmical sets. The crowd was left in awe at the musical talent that was shown on the field, and it was hard to look away. Then, as a symbol of the unity of the District, the bands joined on the field to

perform "The Star Spangled Banner", and "Spirit of America", directed by Yorba Linda's director, Mr. Garcia.

Each high school showed off their individual performances, and did their own field show. This included all the high schools in the district. Color guard also performed, and showed their potential and dedication. The show was finished off with an outstanding flute solo by Rebecca Anderson. The whole crowd burst into applause and cheered as the Valencia band marched off the field with a feeling of accomplishment. Harji Singh Charaia (11), trumpeter, simply stated, "The Band Pageant is all about promoting the continuation of music education in our district's schools. Tonight's performances had amazing impacts, dazzling visuals, and were true displays of skill."

Many district employees attended, including Mr. Bell, other members of the administration, and Phil Mortenson - the district music manager. He watched the show, and made a speech about the necessity of music in our high schools.



WITH A SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE ON THE FIELD, VALENCIA'S BAND IS SURE TO MESMERIZE MANY MORE TIGERS. PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI.

## BLOOD DRIVE

By: **Richard Ma**  
Reporter

On the first of December, Valencia High School revved up for its annual ASB Blood Drive. During this beneficial time of the year, Valencia's ASB urged fellow tigers to participate in giving to the needy.

Valencia has taken part in this blood drive for many years, and has saved the lives of many patients. The blood collected from the blood drive was delivered to the University of California, Irvine Medical Center, where it was used for a variety of causes, such as for cancer patients or premature babies who need blood transfusions.

On December 1st, the blood drive truck arrived at Valencia, and was situated near the school cafeteria. The truck arrived at 8:00 AM, and remained there throughout the school day. In order to participate, volunteer donors had to be at least seventeen years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health, and have a valid photo ID. All blood types were accepted and everyone was en-

couraged to come. We needed all the help we can get in order to take full advantage of the blood drive. Donors also needed their parents to sign a consent form in order to partake in the event. This consent form was handed out by the students in ASB and could also be found in the ASB room.

Before participating in the Blood Drive, students ensured that they were well hydrated and had enough iron in their system.

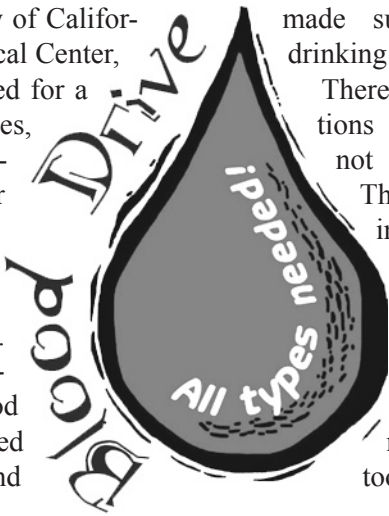
After donating blood, students were sure to avoid strenuous activities such as heavy lifting or any sports and made sure to continue drinking plenty of water.

There were some exceptions where one could not donate blood.

These exceptions included: having had hepatitis at or after age eleven, having received certain vaccinations, having received a tattoo within the last twelve months,

or having taken any antibiotics within 72 hours of the assigned date. Further reasons for deferrals could be found at <http://www.healthcare.uci.edu/pdfs/newwhocandonate.pdf>

Conor Watkins (12) was "happy to donate... because someone out there is really going to need blood."



THOSE WHO GAVE BLOOD IN THE ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE WILL HELP SAVE HUNDREDS OF LIVES. PHOTO COURTESY FROM: WWW.OCHEALTHINFO.COM

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## NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

**By: Ben Cercea**  
*Editor-and-Chief*

The National Merit Scholarship Finals have been announced and this year Valencia's Juniors have taken ten spots. Coming into the top 50% of the whole nation "is a huge accomplishment... it says great things about the student body" says Mr. Davis. These Juniors took the PSATs a little under two months ago and had to score a minimum of 219 points on the test out of 240 points. One of the highest scores were Alan Herbert's, who only missed one question and ended with a 238. Alphabetically, the finalists include Laila Atalla, Ja-

son Chi, Clarence Chu, Alan Hebert, Bo Kim, Elizabeth Knarr, Megan Lee, Allen Lin, Kathy Pierce, and Cara Ta.

An additional twelve juniors scored a minimum of 202 and received national Merit Commended Scholar recognition. They, also in alphabetical order, are: Cynthia Bor, Harji Charaia, Reba John, Daniel Kim, Rachel Leiken, Kellan Liem, Richard Ma, Biola McCaulay, Nupur Savala, Neil Srinivas, Jason Wan, and Lindsay Youngquist.

"This is at least the third consecutive year that Valencia has had the most National Merit Finalists [out of the district]..." said Mr. Bell, "... and we are extremely proud of that fact."

## A TOY DRIVE THAT IS "CHOC" FULL OF LOVE

**By: Elizabeth Knarr**  
*Reporter*

As the two-week winter break draws closer, the spirit of the holidays is in the air. Wrapped up in this holiday spirit is the joy of giving back to those in need in our community. A perfect outlet for giving back is the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) toy drive. The toy drive provides young patients with a more joyful holiday spent in the hospital.

CHOC, which has been open since 1964, is dedicated to providing the highest quality medical care to children. The hospital includes a state-of-the-art 238 bed hospital facility, as well as several primary and secondary clinics. In the year 2009, approximately 220,000 children came through CHOC's doors for inpatient services, outpatient services, and

emergency room visits. Since 2009, the hospital has expanded its capacity, allowing even greater numbers of patients to be cared for.

Many of these children are undergoing costly medical treatments, which puts a great deal of financial strain on their families. As the bills mount up towards the end of the year, CHOC holds a toy drive in order to help ease their stress and ensure that the patients have a happy holiday during their stay in the hospital. Play experiences can also help children cope with illness and hospitalization; the toy drive provides CHOC with the resources to meet these needs.

Greatly appreciated donations include newly released DVDs (rated G, PG, or PG13 only), crayons and markers, Playdoh, playing cards, and coloring books. Other popular toys are Barbie dolls, Hot Wheels, action figures, board games (especially Life, Battleship, Sorry, and Connect Four), and Wii, Playstation, and Xbox games.

Gift cards are also appreciated, as they help CHOC purchase the most needed items for hospital patients. CHOC prefers gift cards from Target, Toys "R" Us, Wal-Mart, Michael's, Barnes and Noble, and Visa. With its patients in mind, CHOC cannot accept any hand-made items, stuffed animals, VHS tapes, food items, or used toys, due to the problems with controlling infection. However, gently used books are accepted for use in the Reading Room Program, and gently used DVDs are also appreciated.

Due to patient confidentiality and infection control, donors are not allowed to personally deliver gifts to the children. Gift cards, gift certificates, and donations can be sent to the Children's Hospital of Orange County. Toy donations can be dropped off at the hospital's main lobby information desk, at which time you will receive a letter acknowledging your gift. More information can be found at <http://www.choc.org/>.

## MOCK TRIAL ADVANCES TO FIFTH ROUND

**By: Richard Ma**  
*Reporter*

Valencia's Mock Trial team is comprised of the most talented and skillful students our school has to offer, and the mock trial gold team's advancement to round five proves it. Since the beginning of this school year, mock trial has been fine-tuning their debating skills for over 5 hours a week.

The Gold Team is considered the "varsity" team of mock trial, and is comprised of the prosecution team and the defense team. The mock trial team competes in many competitions that function very similarly to regular sports teams. For example, there are 8 rounds in a mock trial competition. All the teams (including the Blue Team) compete in the first four rounds, while the top sixteen teams move on to round five. If a team loses its trial, it is immediately eliminated from the competition. This creates a very tense

and heated environment for mock trial members.

However, Valencia's Mock Trial Gold Team has a reason to celebrate. After its four years at Valencia, this was the first year the team advanced to the fifth round. The crucial game took place on November 30th at the Santa Ana courthouse against Newport Harbor. The trial lasted for about two and a half hours until a victor was finally determined. After Valencia's team's endurance and bravado, the Gold Team barely snatched a victory with a score of 315 points to 291 points. With the skill of the members of the Gold Team, Valencia's Mock Trial will be sure to go far in the competition this year.

The Gold Team's team captain Valeria Sosa (12) adds, "We're very proud of our accomplishments as a Mock Trial team this year. This is the first time we've made it to the fifth round, which shows how much we've grown as a program over the years. We really have a great group of people this year, and all our hard work has paid off." It looks like this will be a great year for Valencia's Mock Trial team.

THE MEMBERS OF THE GOLD TEAM IN THE HALLS OF THE COURT. PHOTO COURTESY FROM: KIMBERLY ANN LARSEN.



## FURLOUGHS STIR UP PROBLEMS

**By: Sarah Rafiqi**  
*Editor*

By now, everyone at Valencia High School has been affected by Furlough Days. Furlough Days are a certain number of counted days a year that teachers are not given any pay. For this reason students are given a "day off".

Although Furlough Days began due to budget cuts, money is not the only thing being shorthanded in this unfortunate equation. Students' educations and extracurriculars are being jeopardized by Furlough Days. This is because Furlough Days decrease the amount of school hours students are given to learn and work on certain subjects. A couple of days may not seem like a big deal, especially while we are spending them relaxing and partying, but inside a classroom they can be detrimental, especially where time is limited and the work load doesn't change.

For classes like Yearbook, Newspaper, and Tiger-Tube, that are bound by deadlines, Furlough Days can spell disaster. If these classes do not meet their deadlines, then nothing ever gets done, funding can be potentially lost, and students may lose points for not making deadline. Of course, all this becomes ever more probable as school days are cut, because now the students are expected to complete the same amount of work within the framework of the same semester dates, but with less working hours in-between.

However, to be honest, every single class on campus faces this vital issue of deadlines. We are all running on a very precisely timed clock that guides us throughout the year. Each course has a certain curriculum that must be mastered by all its students at the end of every year. If this is not adhered to, then students will not be prepared for or qualified to get into college or, for that matter, graduate high school.

To ensure every student that passes a class does so because they know all their necessary material, state tests are given at the end of each year. While these tests evaluate mastery of curriculum, one cannot hope to pass them without having completed all their classwork and lessons, a task made ever more difficult when there is less class time to complete all this work.

For AP and IB classes, especially, the most significant part of the class is the all important test at the end of the year. If AP and IB tests are not passed by their takers, those students do not receive credit for those classes, besides the actual grades they earned over the year. This may not seem bad, but considering the amount of effort that is put into these challenging courses, as well as the money spent for the test fee, not passing an AP or IB test can make the whole year seem pointless.



## E-WASTE EVENT WAS PROMISING

**By: Allen Lin**  
Reporter

On December 4 and December 5, Valencia High School hosted a successful E-Waste fundraiser. E-Waste requires special disposal processes because electronics have hazardous

chemicals inside. Due to the dangerous materials inside, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requires one to dispose of waste according to proper procedure.

Fortunately, last weekend one was able to obtain quick and easy disposal of E-Waste. It was

as simple as leaving one's waste and letting Hi-Tec Recycling take it away. They accepted TVs, monitors, computers, printers, fax machines, copiers, scanners, wiring,

batteries, phones, PDAs, cameras, MP3 players, audio equipment, video game consoles, and much more.

It's a good thing too, as electronics can contain high amounts of lead and mercury. As much as 70% of the heavy metals in landfills come from electronics. Things such as mercury can seep into groundwater supplies and contaminate them.



SIMILAR TRUCK AND SETUP WERE AT VALENCIA TO COLLECT ELECTRONICS. PHOTO COURTESY FROM: GOV.ALLCONET.ORG

Attempting to dispose of electronic waste and bothersome old electronics. However, E-Waste recycling services, such as the one provided last weekend, can extract some of the valuable substances in E-Waste and dispose of the rest safely.

If you missed the E-Waste Event, you can still get rid of your E-Waste. Hi-Tec Recycling can be contacted by calling 800-981-9019 or by emailing [info@htrecycling.com](mailto:info@htrecycling.com).

## THE GIVING GROUP GIVES TO COMMUNITY

**By: Emile Cady**  
Reporter

Recently, Mrs. Joy Millam has announced that she, along with a few fellow teachers and parents have started a Giving Group on campus to raise money to directly assist the people in our community. Millam says that the idea came to her from an article that she read in the Orange County Register about a group called the Giving Circle in Mission Viejo, California, and thought it would be a great idea to apply the group's methods to our own district. She shared the idea to a couple of friends, and the Giving Group was started on campus; she says, "When I shared this with a few of my friends on campus, we were all moved by the idea of helping people locally. We were already doing it, but by doing it using the giving circle we felt it would allow us to make a greater impact."

Every month, each member of the group agrees on a set amount to turn in at the quarterly meeting, and then uses the money for causes that will directly impact the people in our own local community, such as donating money for someone whose electricity was recently shut off, or for car repairs so members of the family would be able to make it to work to earn money for their family. During meetings, people in the group suggest students and families that they know could use some help, after the brainstorming, a cause is chosen, and any money saved up at

the end of the fiscal quarter, which is every three months, is donated to the student or family that was previously chosen by the members of the Circle. Instead of raising a lot of money and sending it to a large donation organization such as the Salvation Army in the hopes that the money will make a positive impact on people having trouble somewhere in the country, the Giving Group raises money for specific families within the boundaries of our district in order to directly impact the lives of those in need within a local radius. When asked why she believed that the Giving Group was a more efficient way to help the people in our community, Millam responded, "What was most appealing about creating such a group is that all of our monies would be used to help people locally with none of our money being used to pay for overhead like office supplies, employees, and rent. Essentially it allows us to effect our community in a positive way - it gives us a way to help others in a more efficient way. We directly impact the lives of people in need." Not very many families are open to the idea of putting their financial crises out in the open, and the Giving Group helps make sure that the pride and identity of the family is protected by not revealing any information about the family or their financial problems outside of the group. There is no age requirement for members; any student and/or their family are welcome to join the group. Anyone who wants to join to help make a local difference can see Mrs. Joy Millam for more details.

## FROM RAGS TO RICHES, VALENCIA ORCHESTRA

**By: Elizabeth Knarr**  
Reporter

In the past decade, the orchestra program here at Valencia High School has grown to include four orchestras, becoming the largest orchestra in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Mr. Topping, the conductor and director of the orchestra, has worked hard to ensure that the orchestra is successful, allowing students of all different skill levels the opportunity to play.

To allow for all different skill levels to play, there are four orchestras at VHS; Sinfonia, Camerata, Chamber, and Concert. Sinfonia is the highest orchestra level, and they play more difficult pieces than the lower levels. However, all of the orchestras play many styles of music, including Mozart, Beethoven, and Dvorak. There is also a symphony orchestra, which is combined with the band. Mr. Topping is grateful that the growth of the program that has allowed him to have these orchestras, saying "This year the orchestra is larger. I've always had great students, and our freshman group is the largest." The growth of the program

allows the orchestra to take trips during the school year, to California Adventure in February and Knott's Berry Farm in June. Mr. Topping is also considering taking an extended trip in the near future, as a larger orchestra would enable him to do so. He is considering San Francisco, New York, and Hawaii as possible options. All orchestra levels are participating in the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Administration Orchestra Festival on March 30th, as well as the Grand Finale Concert on June 1st.

Both Mr. Topping and the VHS administration look forward to further growth of the orchestra program in the future. The administration here at Valencia is incredibly supportive of orchestra. Mr. Bell is especially proud of the growth, commenting, "We resurrected our orchestra thirteen years ago when I first became assistant principal, and just to have one orchestra, we had to combine our programs and practice with El Dorado. Now, thirteen years later, we have 158 kids involved in the program, and four distinct orchestras. Not only do we have the largest program in the district, we have the best program in the district."

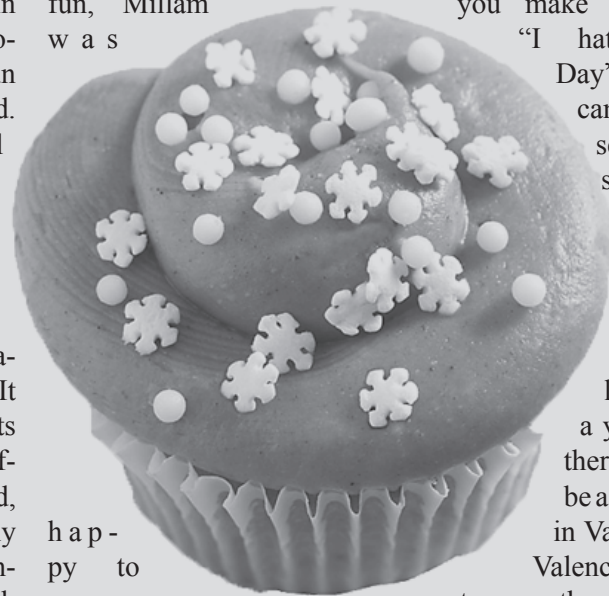
## VALENCIA GETS SOME SUGAR IN THE FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY CUPCAKE DECORATING EVENT

**By: Emile Cady**  
Reporter

Valencia held our first annual Holiday Cupcake Decorating Event on Tuesday, December 14. It took place afterschool in the school library, was absolutely free, and was tasty fun for everybody who attended. Mrs. Joy Millam, the school librarian, with the help of the ovens in Foods teacher Mrs. Gayle Ashabraner's classroom, took time out of her day to bake over 100 delicious cupcakes in both vanilla and chocolate flavors. It was a great time for students to get together and visit afterschool while making and, of course, eating, yummy holiday cupcakes. Not to mention that for all those book readers out there, it was a fantastic opportunity to hang out with an intriguing book in one hand and a delectable cupcake in the other hand. Regardless of how people en-

joyed their treats everybody who came was met with a great abundance of sugar and different colored frosting and sprinkles that allowed them to make their own deliciously edible custom-made cupcakes!

Because the Holiday Cupcake Decorating Event was such a success and a lot of fun, Millam was a s



happy to announce that she will be holding our first annual Valentine's Day Cupcake Decorating Event in February, as well as continuing the holiday treat decorating events in

the years to come. It will be a great opportunity to give your boyfriend or girlfriend, as well as yourself or your friends, a custom sugary treat made with lots and lots of love. Also, for those of you who absolutely cannot stand Valentine's Day, all of the delicious frosting and sprinkles can help you make a scrumptious

"I hate Valentine's Day" treat that you can indulge yourself in while you sulk through your day. Millam was also pleased to announce that she would like to make this a yearly event, so there will definitely be a lot of sweetness in Valencia's future! Valencia would like to say thank-you to Mrs. Millam, Mrs. Ashabraner, and everyone else who helped make the cupcake decorating event possible this year, and we can't wait for the next one!