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TALENT WORTH WATCHING: VHS TIGERS PREPARE FOR THE STAGE

By: Samantha Green
Editor

Valencia's Got Talent is back! Valencia's second annual talent show, hosted by choir's Mrs. Arthuron, will showcase an array of talent on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium.

This night will be another way to unite the school and will be a celebration of all of our differences in a positive way. The performances aren't truly about winning, but are about showcasing talent and raising confidence involved with performing on stage.

Valencia's Got Talent has been on-and-off for the last 12 years and is an exciting event that students should try to attend. The talent pool includes dancers, singers, songwriters, instrumentalists, a guitarist, an actress and a beat boxer. There are around 20 acts in the show. At the end of the night, cash prizes will be awarded to the top three acts.

Last year the top three winners

included a jazz band, a songwriter and a break dancer. Last year's winner for the dance category Francine Gonzalez (12) is entering this year again.

"I feel like I've gotten better this year," Gonzalez said. "I'm mostly excited because my little brother likes watching me dance onstage. He's more excited than me."

Gonzalez has been dancing since she was 4 years old and started break-dancing when she was in eighth grade.

"I've been entering rock city battles with my crew and any local battles," Gonzalez said when asked if she's entered other competitions. She said her experience will help shape the platform for her performance.

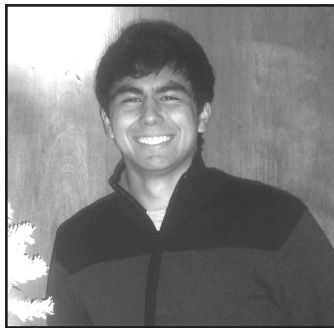
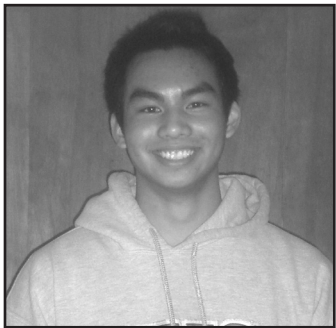
Performing onstage in front of a large audience is truly a talent in itself.

Break a leg to all the contestants! Tickets will be \$7 pre-sale and \$8 at the door. Tickets may also be purchased from any of the contestants entered into the show. For more information, contact Mrs. Arthuron in the choir room. Make sure to go out and support your peers. The experience will be unforgettable.

WE ASKED THE CONTESTANTS OF THIS YEARS MR. VHS WHY THEY WANTED TO BE CROWNED, THESE ARE THEIR RESPONSES.

Dante Cantal (12)

It would be an honor to be recognized as the "Mr." that comes before our great school that is VHS. In addition, I've always wanted to be on stage with some of my best friends so I am excited to do so.

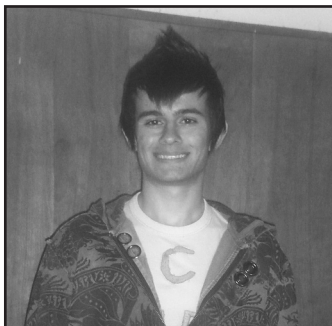


Troy Czegledy (12)

Because I feel I represent what VHS is all about: sports, school, social participation, and Tiger pride!

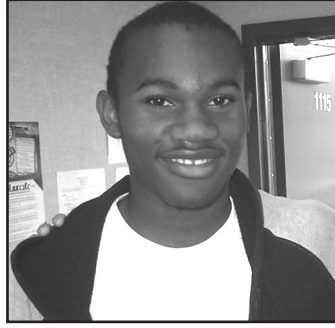
Brian Bacean (12)

It's a fun experience, I did it last year too, and I want to make top 5.



Connor Watkins (12)

Because I've seen a lot of my friends compete and I felt it was time to give it a shot.



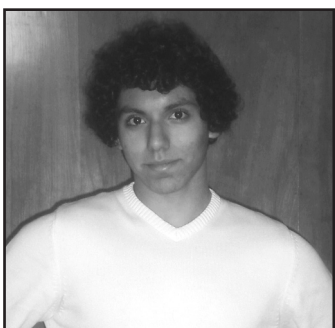
Kadeem Calhoun (12)

Because I'm awesome



Michael Garcia (12)

To show that everything's not about looks, but what's inside you.



Isaac Arreola (12)

Because I think I'd look good in a crown. It's just really fun doing it, just a great experience hanging out with the other contestants.

Justin Lupei (10)

Because I'm tired of people saying a sophomore can't do it.



Daniel Cepeda (12)

All I want to do is have a chance to get up on stage and show people what I can do. And show off my abs.



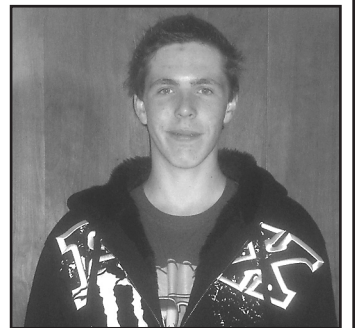
Tim Hoang (12)

I want to be able to tell my kids in the future that I've done something extraordinary in high school and share my experiences with them.



Shimpei Shinohara (12)

Just for the experience. Just for the fun. Getting to do what I like in front of people, which is to dance.



Nick Brown (10)

I just want to have fun and have a good experience in the performance.



Shane Dumas (9)

I think I should be Mr. VHS because I'm a very nice person and I like to try new things and do my best in them, no matter whether I win or lose.

TEACHERS' STEADY GROOVE DISRUPTED BY A SUDDEN MOVE

By: Andy Anusiem
Reporter

While most students are trying to change their study habits in preparation for finals, some teachers will be changing classrooms with the arrival of the new semester. This transition will mainly affect those in the 200, 300 and 500 buildings. The teachers moving include but are not limited to Dr. Nancy Watkins, Ms. Judy Yen, Mr. Chris Henry and Mrs. Maria Elena Ethington.

Moving poses a lot of problems but also creates a lot of benefits.

"Some positives include a new environment, collaboration with other teachers, better campus organization," said Watkins, who's moving from Room 204 to the second floor of the 600 building. "However, there may be some confusion for students as to where to find teachers."

After pupils get acquainted with the transition, teachers plan to focus their attention to finals again.

The transition will affect many of these teachers in various ways, but the teachers hope the change is only for them, not the students. They know their methods are successful, and there

won't really be a change in teaching required. The teachers moving into new rooms are mostly glad for a new classroom, a smart board and, according to Henry (moving from room 209 to 505), "a respectable smell."

Many teachers have to move multiple years' worth of belongings into a new classroom. They will be moving mostly during the closing weeks of the first semester and the beginning weeks of second semester.

"I am going to come in on the weekend to and stay late on finals week to make sure that it all gets done," said Henry.

Other teachers are planning along similar lines.

The more advanced technology in their new classrooms also has encouraged teachers to look toward the change with optimism. The new smart boards will assist the already superb teaching styles of our teachers, but most teachers agree they will stay with their traditional ways to keep students' learning consistent and give them the best opportunity to succeed.

"I do believe students will benefit from the new classroom because I can finally utilize a fully techno-

logically equipped classroom in my teaching," said Yen, who is moving from classroom 1133 to room 504.

Even though changing classrooms will alter walking distances, technology and "smells," the change looks as if it will be a good one. Students and teachers may be able to collaborate more efficiently and work with more resources and space.

"It is very easy to get comfortable in one place, but I am excited about the change," said Watkins. "This is an opportunity to group teachers by department to increase collaboration and facilitate the use of resources. But hopefully students are not really affected by the moving. Students still have great teachers doing great things... just in a different classroom."

TEACHERS WILL BE SPENDING THEIR FINAL DAYS BEFORE THE FIRST SEMESTER ENDS PREPARING TO MOVE INTO THEIR NEW CLASSROOMS. CARTOON BY: KIARRA LUCKIE.



A WEEK OF TOLERANCE

THE CHALK ART CONTEST HAPPENED YESTERDAY, VOTING UNDER WAY.

By: Elizabeth Knarr
Reporter

During the month of January, students at Valencia High School set aside a week dedicated to stopping violence. The diversity we have here on campus contributes greatly to the tolerance

message that is the central focus of Yellow Ribbon Week.

Associated Student Body (ASB) has been organizing Yellow Ribbon Week to promote tolerance and non-violence for the past 15 years. Although Yellow Ribbon Week grew more prominent on a national scale after the Columbine High School Shootings of 1999, it has been in existence since before that incident took place.

Yellow Ribbon Week took place on campus Jan. 10-14. Some of the events that ASB organizes include a Chalk Art Contest, pep rallies and a Wear Yellow Day. The week kicked off with two

pep rallies in order to get students in the spirit of Yellow Ribbon Week. On Jan. 12, ASB held a Wear Yellow Day class contest. All second period classes competed to see which class could get the most participation and the winning class won a pizza party. The Chalk Art Contest, postponed from its initial date of Jan. 10, will be held Jan. 24, wrapping up the month with artistic statements supporting Yellow Ribbon Week's theme of encouraging tolerance and preventing violence.

Students and teachers actively participated throughout the week through the Chalk Art Contest and the pep rallies, as well as by wearing yellow, but participation in Yellow Ribbon Week goes beyond that.

Participation also involves the acceptance of others and the promotion of tolerance and non-violence in daily life.

Conor Watkins, ASB Vice President and one of the organizers of Yellow Ribbon Week notes how the continuation of Yellow Ribbon Week is at Valencia.

"Yellow Ribbon Week is a really important tradition we have here on campus," said Watkins. "By encouraging everyone at Valencia to be tolerant and non-violent, it helps to make our school a better place for everyone."

SO GLAD TO BE IN OCAD

By: Sarah Rafiqi
Editor

While most students only have to worry about tests and homework they have for core classes, a select group of senior and junior students have independently decided to take on an extracurricular activity that involves an extra amount of studying. These are the dedicated students in the Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD), a local branch of the national United States Academic Decathlon (USAD).

OCAD covers the following 10 subjects: literature, art, music, math, economics, interview, speech, impromptu speech, essay and super quiz. The dedicated members of OCAD take time out of their daily schedules to study for these subjects at home. A number of teachers give the OCAD students help with their studies from 4 to 5 p.m. everyday. Mrs. Jamie Jauch covers the subject of literature, Mrs. Danielle Connor assists with speech and interview, Dr. Samuel Myovich helps the students with their art and history, Mrs. Mindi Foote covers math and music and Mr. Fred Jenkins, OCAD coach, teaches economics.

All participating Orange County schools compete by taking multiple choice exams for each subject, besides speech, interview and super

quiz. The total possible multiple choice score for each person is 10,000 points. During the super quiz, students from competing schools are asked questions in front of a crowd of spectators. The participants answer the questions on-the-spot and a card is held up for the team with the correct answer. It is the only aspect of OCAD with an audience factor.

Within OCAD there are three categories, including Honors, Varsity and Scholastic. Each student's school grade point average (GPA) determines which category they are placed in. The students with the highest GPAs are placed in the Scholastic category, while those with the second highest GPAs find themselves in the Varsity category, closely followed by the Honors category.

Everyone on the team takes the multiple choice exams but not everyone's score is counted. Although there are three people in each category, only the top two scores for each category in each subject are used as the basis for competitively comparing schools.

Valencia High School's OCAD team has a history of success. Two years ago, Valencia won county, and last year we received first place in super quiz.

"We've been very successful and we're very proud of what we've accomplished," said Myovich. "We have high expectations for this group. They are a very dedicated and talented group that has a chance of winning county again."



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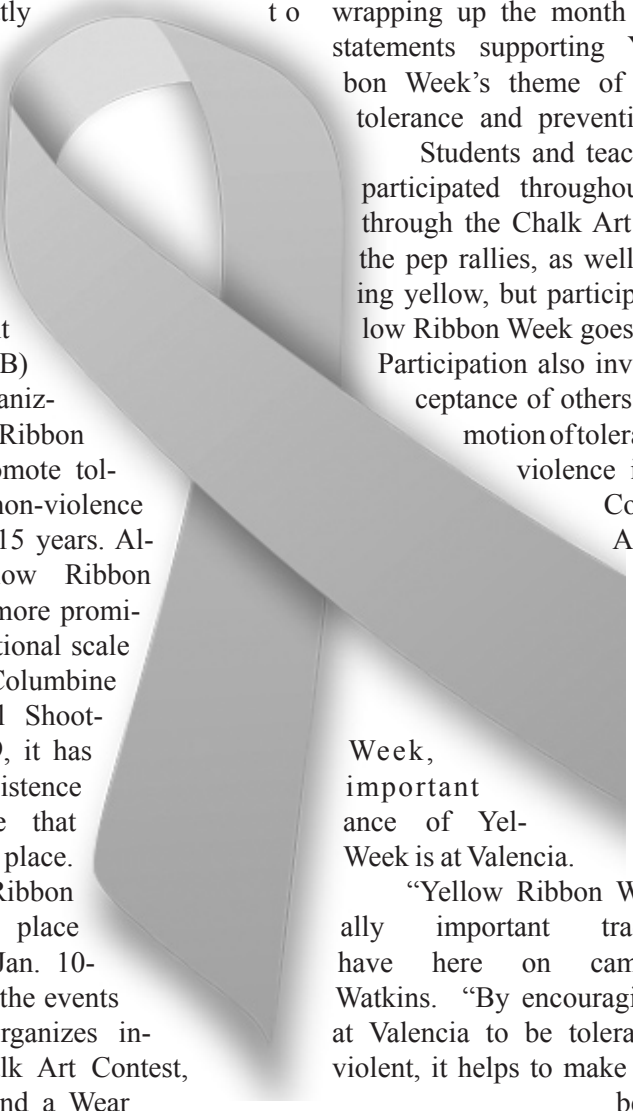


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