



PANTHER

press

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Modesto High School

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Table of Contents

The Panther Press
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Cover banner by Scott Mitchell

The Panther Press is created for and by students of Modesto High School. The goal is to bring news to MHS and to acknowledge ideas, events, and individuals on campus in an unbiased and professional manner. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the journalism staff and not of Modesto High School or Modesto City Schools. This publication may also be accessed at mohipantherpress.com or on the Modesto High School website.

4

6

7

10

11

Once Upon a Mattress

Wasc

ASB Election

Raining and Flooding

Day of Respect



By David Zhu and Zaynah Waseem

The cast for the musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*, prepared for its performances months in advance, beginning in November of 2016. Through a series of auditions, the cast for the play was chosen by the judges. Students' singing, dancing, and acting abilities were put to the test. Once the cast list was revealed, everyone worked relentlessly in order to prepare the play. Every day of the week, members of the cast would stay as late as 7 o'clock in order to practice the music, dance moves, and theatrics of the show. While at times they were tired, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"Yeah, it was really fun," mentioned Fabian Gutierrez, who played one of the Knights in the show. "I was surprised when I saw that I made it. It was a lot of work, but it was definitely worth it."

An enormous amount of work was dedicated to making the play as enjoyable as possible for both the audience and the cast members. From making costumes to making the props and perfecting the tech, the musical could not have been successful without the cooperation of the makeup crew, the technician crew, the band members, the prop makers, the cast members, and the wonderful musical instructors. Without a doubt, *Once Upon a Mattress* was a huge success that left both audience members and performers with a smile.



Photo courtesy of Scott Mitchell



Photo courtesy of Scott Mitchell



Photo courtesy of Scott Mitchell

What the Heck is WASC?

By Shelby Benz

Since early February, Modesto High students, staff members, teachers, and parents have participated in WASC, or Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The large group of evaluators are divided into four sectional groups with different focus areas and are to participate in a self-study of the school's programs, policies, and educational practices. WASC functions with the cooperation of the California Department of Education to periodically evaluate all schools in the state to ensure that they are occupying their full capacity and fulfilling standardized requirements to educate students. Because of the successful evaluations of Modesto High in the past, we undergo the WASC self-study every 6 years, and the period has officially begun to ensure that the school will score appropriately on the assessment.

Every few weeks, the motley groups of teachers, parents, staff members, and students meet in different classrooms to undergo the study of their specific focus and the joint emphasis on the ESLRs (Expected Schoolwide Learning Results) and their direct correlation to the Schoolwide Norms - in essence the idea that teachers practice desirable methods that result in the accomplishment of set goals for the students. The groups modify the current educational platforms and decidedly edit them to fit the modern-day state of the school. Some modifications have occurred in part because of the transition to technology in the classroom.

Adjusting the practices of the school to reflect the current digital age is only one of many modifications being targeted by the WASC committee. Members contribute to changes of the wording of many parts of the documents in order to better reflect the goals and positions of the school.

Why is WASC important? WASC maintains its importance in the idea that Modesto High School is surrounded by a community of caring individuals that work for the betterment of the school as well as the students. The fact that people take time out of their days and out of their schedules for the allotment of analyzing the school policies is incredible and stands for so much of why Modesto High is a successful school and produces some of the most well-rounded, globally aware students in our area. Although much work is being dedicated to the WASC self-study, it truly is rewarding to look back on the history of Modesto High and admire the impact that it has on so many people and families.

Do you want to get involved in our school self-study? Please take our survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/376QPFQ>

to voice your opinion on multiple aspects of our school. Let's make to voice your opinion of the school, teaching methods, means of evaluation, and programs that have affected you personally.



Modesto High School
Schoolwide Norms

To provide an atmosphere in which all students will develop academic skills and civic-mindedness, allowing them to contribute to their global community.

Structured Peer Collaboration
Think-Pair-Share Jigsaw
Group Presentations Socratic Seminar

Academic Speaking
ACE the Question Performances
Stand and Deliver Presentations

Organizational Skills
Schoolwide Study Skills
Note Taking System
Digital Applications



Democracy In Motion

Isn't election time your favorite time of year? This year, various students are racing for ASB President, ASB Vice President, ASB Secretary, & ASB Treasurer and many others are running for class positions (Class President, Class Vice President, Class Treasurer, Class Secretary, and Class Representative). In order to be placed on the voting ballots, the students had to attend a meeting, fill out a packet, write a campaign speech, get teacher recommendations, and publicize their campaign. For many students, that is a lot of work because many of the candidates are full IB students and have a whole load of homework already on their shoulders.

This year Modesto High School students have majorly amped up their campaigns. As a senior, I can't remember any time that I have seen this much publicity in any of my years. A new thing to the campaigning era at Modesto High School is Snapchat filters. Jeremy Kwon, Liam Willerup, and others created their own geofilters for the app. This allowed for a larger social media presence than in past years. Another way students tend to campaign is through their posters, which have also changed this year. The students who are running for various offices try their hardest to appeal to people mainly through their posters. For example, junior Matt Soares took a recent internet sensation (cash me outside, howbow dah) and used it to his own advantage. Other ways I have heard people are using this year is: campaign buttons, campaign stickers, and campaign candy. Each of these ways (Snapchat filters, posters, button, stickers, and candy) are used to entice students to vote for who they think will fill the position the best.

On Tuesday, March 14th, the ASB Forum was held during both lunches where students were given the opportunity to enjoy listening to the campaign speeches written by the people running. Each of the classes (except seniors) were invited to hear the people running for class positions' speeches along with the people running for an ASB position.



Election story, photo, and design by: Kristina Zuroff

ASB & Class Officers 2017-2018



The winners of this year's
election are as follows:



President
Lauren Bridges

Secretary
Sumra Mirza



Vice President
Grant Sutter

Treasurer
Ruben Berumen

President
Matthew Soares

Vice President
Johnny Pallios



Treasurer
Damian Sablan

Representative
Sophia Furtado

Secretary
Naomi Wenstrup



Vice President
Michael Ramirez

President
Chanveer Hothi

Secretary
Aaliyah Espinoza

**Class of
2019**

Treasurer
Shelby Benz

Representative
Lauren Byerly

Vice President
Liam Willerup

President
Eindveer Hothi

Secretary
Joseph Leonard Tecson

**Class of
2020**

Treasurer
Shubpreet Bal

Representative
Lyla Patel

Congratulations & best next year to
you from the MoHi Panther Press!



HEAVY RAINS

by Melanie Meza

From the months of February throughout March, not only Modesto, but most of California has been experiencing some serious rain showers. There have been several consequences resulting from the rough rains we have been receiving lately here in Modesto, from heavy flooding to overflowing canals. After several years of praying and/or hoping for rain, have we gotten more than we anticipated?

The effects of the rain we have been receiving lately have been constant. Some are minor while others have been major. In the early month of February the San Joaquin River overflowed. As a result, nearby trailers were flooded. In another instance, those people who live near the Tuolumne River were notified and warned to move their possessions in preparation for the storms to come. The rising water from the Tuolumne River was the result of the Northern California storms and the water that was released from the Don Pedro Dam for the first time in nearly two decades.

Many roads and bridges throughout Stanislaus County have been closed due to the flooding.

When asked how the roads were during some of the storms, Laura Rosales responded, "There was lots of traffic on my way to school because of the dangerous roads and car accidents."

In addition to those accidents occurring around the county, many people have been taking precautions in preparation for more floods.

When asked how the showers have been affecting her, Michelle Tipton replied, "The rain didn't let me do my garden work."

Similarly, Sonia Ramos replied, "Due to the wind combined with the rain storms our lemon tree has fallen from its roots and broke our fence dividing the neighbor yard and ours."

To sum it up, these heavy rains have affected many people. Overall, people seem relieved that California is officially out of drought status. However, it is still important that people conserve water. There are no guarantees of another wet winter like the one we just had.

Day of Respect

by Kristina Zuroff

What does that mean to you? For most people, it would probably be a day where we respect everyone. But for the students at Modesto High, it means so much more than that. History, discrimination, racism, different abled people, & more comes to life before their eyes. Day of Respect is a time for learning, thinking and reflecting about their lives, actions & attitudes towards others. It has been a MoHi tradition since 1997 & it tends to be something that many students look forward to. Day of Respect is when various speakers come to visit Modesto High and speak to students during their classes. Teachers have the option not to host a speaker, but many chose to host one. A speaker is assigned to an escort (student) who shows them around the campus and gets them where they need to be. The escorts are members of MoHi's Human Relations club. Behind the scenes, they have prepared months in advance in order to make this special day happen.

There are so many different speakers who come each year, but there are also ones who come each year because of many reasons. One of those reasons being: they like sharing their story with younger people so they will gain some wisdom. On the day of the event, students greet their speakers and head off to the first class where they are assigned to. They then go throughout the day to various classrooms according to their schedule which was created by the members of the Human Relations club. When it comes to what the students get out of Day of Respect there are so many different things because each speaker touches students in a new way.

This year, I got the opportunity to be an escort for the first time and it was very rewarding. Not physically with money, but with the valuable and insightful knowledge you are able to gain. Being an escort also makes you think about some of the things you easily take for granted. For example, I was able to escort a lovely lady in a wheelchair who had an assistance dog and I usually take a route around campus that has a few small steps. Instead, I had to go the extra way to go down the handicap ramps, which allowed me to realize I take my own two legs for granted.

Another favorite part of mine when it comes to Day of Respect is the fact that history and discrimination comes alive before our eyes. At this year's Day of Respect, we had some Vietnam Veterans and a World War II soldier with his son. Their stories were very cool to listen to because usually it is all just from a textbook and seems so far away, but Day of Respect allows the history to be in front of our eyes. Two years ago, Leslie (Les) Williams, a Tuskegee Airmen, was able to come and tell his story before passing a few months later. Day of Respect at Modesto High is also a way to memorialize and pass on some of our history, such as theirs, and it is an amazing thing to be a part of.

In conclusion, senior Jose Chaidez explains Day of Respect as, "...a day in which we as people come together, put aside our differences, and we learn to mutually respect each other as what we are: people." His words sum up what Day of Respect is all about on campus here. In my opinion, get involved. Juan Estrada says, "I think people should get involved because it is an unforgettable experience. Every speaker has a different story to tell and you never know which one could have an everlasting impact on you."

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Saturday 9-3
Closed Sunday



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