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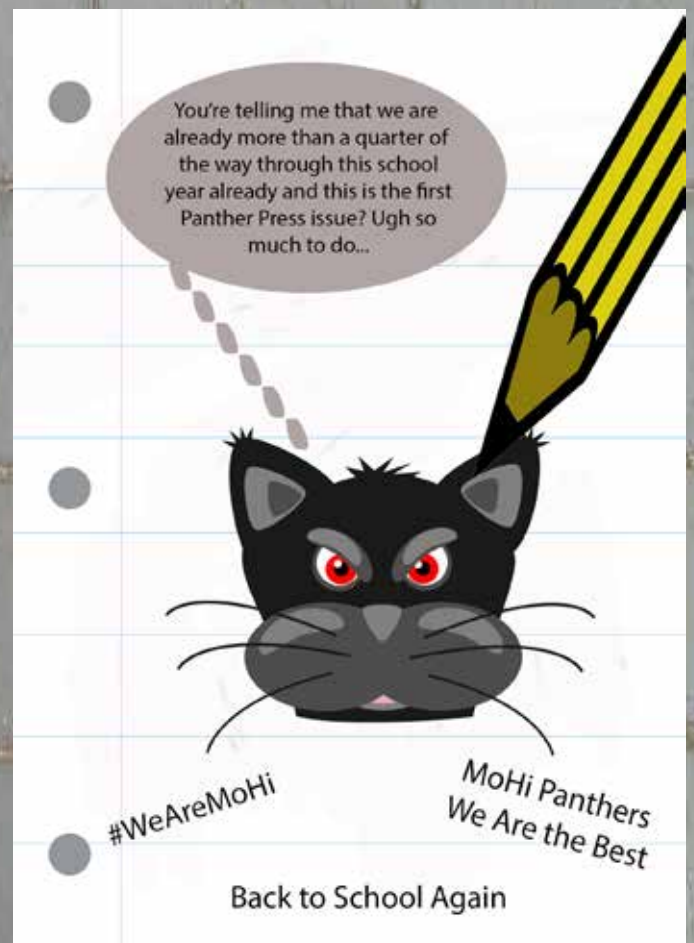
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The Panther Press is created for and by students of Modesto High School. The goal is to bring news to MHS and to acknowledge ideas, events, and individuals on campus in an unbiased and professional manner. The opinions expressed in this publication 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.





Club Faire

by Melanie Meza

Every year Modesto High holds a club faire in the beginning of the new school year. Club Faire is organized by the leadership team to expose new incoming students to all of the wonderful clubs offered. In this year's club faire approximately 33 clubs participated. There was everything from ping pong club to chess club to project hope. Anything you have in mind was most likely there and if it wasn't, it's good thing you can always create a new one. The club you choose not only has any impact on your future but reflects who you are as person. This is why it is important you choose the perfect one for you.

If you were there during 4th or 5th period lunch on August 29, then you probably remember all the clubs representing themselves proudly.

There was an overall exciting environment with all the banners and happy music. Not only did the club's representatives seem happy but so did everyone else who was there to find the ideal club for them. There was definitely a lot of energy in the atmosphere. If you didn't attend this year's club faire, I definitely recommend going to next years.

Thanks to the members of leadership, overall everything went well. "The goal was accomplished", said Mrs. Hernandez, "Exposure of clubs". This had been her ninth year of organizing club faire. Although everything went smoothly, there were some mishaps. "There was a communication issue." Ms. Hernandez explained that 70 tables were supposed to be reserved, however none were. She

added how she and her leadership team had to think fast and got through it.

When thinking about becoming a part of a club it is important that you take into consideration what you are committing to. Overwhelming yourself in too much to handle will eventually catch up to you. Always remember that it's better to join one and be committed, than to join several and you turn out to only be able to attend so many meeting. At this point, it is not fair to you or the other members of the club. In addition, if you devote your time to one club you are most likely able to create stronger bonds with other members of that club.

Photos Courtesy of Sycamore Staff





Freshmen Are Here!

Photos Co

While some journeys come to an end, others are just beginning. This year Modesto High welcomes the freshman class of 2020. For these students, the next four years will be what they make of it.

Coming into high school many freshmen don't know what to expect. Marcus Herroz from Mark Twain Junior High said that his apprehension about coming to Modesto High was the number of responsibilities that he would have to face.

Some freshman seem to feel that coming to high school will be a complete change from their previous junior high experiences. Freshman Jorge Pulido believed that coming into high school the atmosphere would be really different, but he now realizes that's not the case. He said, "When I first came to high school I thought it was going to be scary being on campus with students so much older than me, but I feel at home here. Everyone is so nice, and my older sister has helped me adjust to life in high school."

While for many freshmen the focus is on adjusting socially, they also recognize the need to focus on academics. The ultimate goal is to graduate and make families and friends proud. Setting a goal to graduate is only the start. Many freshmen express that after high school, college awaits them.

When discussing personal goals freshman Natalie Portillo said, "One goal that I made for





courtesy of Scott Mitchell

myself was to get straight A's and also try to do cross country."

Like many fellow freshman Gloria Leon Mendoza explained that her goals are to attain a good GPA and not procrastinate.

Being involved is a vital part of one's high school experience and, maybe more importantly, part of the Modesto High tradition. Taking part in school activities, whether it be sports or clubs is always a rewarding experience all students should have.

Freshmen were asked about the best advice they had received regarding high school. The answers all fell along the same lines. Portillo said, "I think the best tips given to me as an incoming freshman were don't procrastinate, do extra credit, and get involved in any extracurricular activities."

Mendoza said the best advice she received was, "Do not procrastinate."

Teachers know how common it is for students to procrastinate and fall behind.

During the beginning of the school year freshmen often forget how important it can be to stay on top of their classes and make sure they're getting good grades. Often students begin to procrastinate and it becomes a bad habit throughout the years.

Mrs. Santana, the Spanish for Native Speakers teacher, gave her best advice to freshman in order to stay on track. She said, "My advice to incoming freshmen is to stay organized."

Keeping an up-to-date calendar of upcoming assignments and tests is incredibly helpful. Getting involved in class discussions, and learning to be comfortable asking for help when needed are also great ways to create healthy learning habits.

Remember how important it is to stay involved, Freshmen. Make the most out of the four years that are to come. Remember that the class of 2020 is now part of the Modesto High family. Make the most of it!

By Joselinne Pulido and Leticia Mejia



READY FOR THE FUTURE

#mhsdigitalpilot

Stories and photos by Jasmine López

Imagine a world where high school students no longer carry around heavy backpacks filled with textbooks. This may be reality for students sooner than one might think. This year at Modesto High there are three English classes that are entirely digital. These classes are piloting, or trying out, one-to-one devices as well as new digital English curriculum. Each student has been loaned an HP 360 laptop to use during the first semester of school this year. The curriculum programs that are being piloted are, “StudySync,” a product from McGraw-Hill, and “My Perspectives,” a Pearson product. Each high school in the district has at least two teachers trying out these products at various grade-levels. Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Glenn, and Mrs. Guinn each have a class period of students giving this digital process a try.

Instructors that are piloting the new curriculum have received training not only for the new programs, but also for the SurfacePro, Schoology, Lamschool, and Nearpod. They received training from the District’s Instructional Technology Department and from both publishers on content training.

One student, who wished to remain anonymous said, “One good thing about the online curriculum is that it won’t get outdated. Once a textbook is printed, it is what it is. My teacher told me these digital programs get updated with new stuff on a regular basis.”

Like any new process there have been some challenges. The students have encountered technical glitches, which is to be expected to some degree.

“The digital class is confusing at times because there is a lot of new technology to learn and it doesn’t always work right. Besides the glitches, it is working pretty well, and I like having the laptop to use,” said junior Bill Sonsamouth.

Beside technical glitches, it is a whole new process to which it takes time to adapt. Alexandra Guillen said, “It is a bit hard because we’re used to looking in textbooks and finding what’s there. With the computer it’s hard because Internet lags or the app doesn’t work at home for people who don’t have Internet. Google has been the positive because I can just search a word’s meaning and it’s right there.”





for higher education where many aspects of coursework has already gone digital.

In the long run this will help the district economically. Funds that are put aside to update textbooks will be used to go digital. The Future Ready program is aimed at helping the district reach some of its LCAP goals. LCAP fund Goal 1.1 is aimed at improving facilities for students, staff, and parents, including increasing the technology infrastructure. Goal 1.2 increases equitable access to technology.

Not only will students' backpacks be lighter, but this will make students mobile. Students will be able to take their device with them anywhere they go and work on an assignment or research anything that sparks an interest.

This will be an adjustment for both teachers and students, but we now live in a world where being familiar with technology is essential. Imagine what students will be able to accomplish with so much information at their fingertips.

An important aspect of the trial process for this digital program is to learn about the challenges and work out solutions. The hope is that the process will go much smoother as it goes school-wide. For example, the at home app for the current program has already been fixed, so that should not be an issue for future students if that curriculum is selected.

When asked about the digital program, which the district is calling "Future Ready," one Modesto City school board member emphasized that the key component is that each student can research curriculum for his or her individual needs. If a student is curious about the definition of a word, the device is there in front of him or her and in a matter of seconds the student can know the definition. This board member also reminded students that the device is a tool and is not a replacement for excellent teaching.

When asked about benefits of going digital, one student said, "Typing is faster than taking notes and it's easier to make changes. I like the idea of going one-to-one. I was at Davis, and I liked it. There were chargers everywhere, and the teachers knew what they were doing, so I think it will be good here, too."

The potential for student learning with access to this technology is endless. Students will be better prepared



Because I Said I Would

By David Zhu & Ciara Bermillo

Because I Said I Would is an international social movement. At the beginning of the school year, this organization came and presented to various students and the entire MHS staff. The goal of this movement is to make the world a better place. Every person involved makes a “promise card” which the holder must commit to. By writing it down, the aim is to help the person stick to their commitment or goal. With over 4.47 million cards distributed around the world already, the Because I Said I Would movement has already impacted the world in small yet beneficial ways.

Sophomore Miguel Arroyo is a student who attended the Because I Said I Would presentation. He has made his own promise card, which says: “I will never tell a lie.” “It’s worked really well so far,” he commented. “I think it inspires us to be less lazy, and to help finish the goals and promises that we’ve made.”

Many kids, staff members, teachers, and assistant principals at this school are already involved in this program, including Mr. Manning. He said, “It’s about making a promise and going through with it.” At the event that took place on our campus, the speaker gave a presentation talking about the importance of fulfilling a promise or making a commitment. Mr. Mitchell said, “When it came down to it, he had a really good message.” If you make goal, keep it. Make a promise card today!



The Different Types of Promises

The Promise:

- Step 1: Write the promise.
- Step 2: Give the card to the person you're making a promise to.
- Step 3: Fulfill the promise.
- Step 4: Get your card back. Keep it as a reminder that you are a person of your word.

The Trade:

- Step 1: You and another person write promises to each other on separate cards.
- Step 2: Exchange cards with each other as a sign of mutual commitment.
- Step 3: Fulfill your promises.
- Step 4: Trade your cards back and keep them.

The Post:

- Step 1: Write your promise on the card.
- Step 2: Take a picture of the card.
- Step 3: Post it on social media to help hold yourself accountable.

The Goodbye:

- Step 1: Write your promise on the card.
- Step 2: Leave your card with a loved one who has passed.
- Step 3: Fulfill your promise as a memorial to them.

The Calendar:

- Step 1: Write a promise or goal on 52 separate cards.
- Step 2: Each week select one card at random.
- Step 3: Fulfill the promise.
- Step 4: Share the experience in a blog, through social media or in a personal journal.



“She shook with fear under the jacket of grittiness and I took her home.”

Photo Courtesy of Modesto Paws

THE WANDERERS

By Shelby Benz

I carefully traced the school map with the pads of my fingertips and felt the stickiness of sweat paste the white leaf to my skin. I held the map and schedule directly under my nose as though I could not see it a foot or two away; as if the pieces of paper would blow away in the wind if I didn't maintain an iron grip, or maybe I would be blown away without them. Zero period... done... With a rush of relief and a little more confidence, I strode anxiously to first period. By the gym I shifted my arm to my side and allowed my eyes to see the gray, plush blanket that wrapped the sky in a dreary mood. My mind was set and I rushed forth toward the girl's gym standing prominent in a black and white setting. My arm gingerly reached to grab the handle of the door when I could hear distant laughing and the tiny patter of needles probing the ground and pattering with the drum of rain.

A tiny dog wove between the legs of boys walking to class in a huddle. I brought up the anomaly to all of the teachers in my following classes, and the image haunted my first day of freshmen year, but this "anomaly" was not as unexpected as I had first imagined. The staff, the teachers, suggested I get used to the sight of animals running across campus. Through time, the image became usual; however, I could never truly "get used to it." A few months later, I was crossing the street to my mother's car, and I could hear the patter once again. A small terrier ran across along the bold yellow cross walk between North and Main campus and evaded cars throughout his run as the spry leap of each step kept her from harm's way. Dirt streaked her face and clumps of her hair lay in mats, dotting her skin with poofs of brown coarseness. In response to my call, she edged carefully toward the sidewalk and leapt into my arms. She shook with fear under the jacket of grittiness and I took her home.

Birdie was just one of many dogs that roam the streets of Modesto aimlessly with the intentions of a dog: eat, run, and mate. Throughout the course of a year at Modesto High School, I witnessed many dogs in a variety of situations. Different animals suffer from different conditions, such as heat exhaustion or starvation, not to say that all of these animals are treated

poorly. Some dogs just wander away from home through an unfenced yard or an open gate. But one commonality between many of the animals let loose is that most of them are not spayed or neutered. Silly, what's the big deal?

Within 6 years of a mother dog, her mate, and their line, the total number of puppies can grow to be as high as 67,000. This is a major issue that is quite prominent in the area around our school. Maybe other dogs and puppies are sitting in the animal shelter waiting for a home, but the population is increasing and therefore these animals' chances at a home are growing slimmer. The situation is especially applicable to older dogs, who are less desirable than younger puppies. The animal shelter therefore explodes with an abundance of animals and many other strays remain in the streets. Although this cycle seems far-fetched, it is happening right in front of our very eyes.

What should a person do if they see a dog on the street? You may ask yourself, what is the condition of the animal? Is it spayed or neutered? Is it exhausted, dehydrated, or starving?

There are ways Modesto High can help. Modesto Paws, a local shelter run strictly by volunteers developed a program that gathers recyclables to raise money in order to spay and neuter animals, which is an expensive operation without some financial support. However not only is spaying and neutering animals helpful in easing to the number of homeless dogs, but it also restricts the use of puppy mills and dog breeding. Recently in 2015, Arizona City mandated that all dogs sold in pet stores were to come from shelters; an impetus to decrease the number of animals kept in shelters for years, waiting for a home.

The revelation itself does not necessarily prevent animal homelessness, but each year more and more animals are taken in to the Stanislaus Animal rescue and many killed humanely due to a lack of interest in the dog from possible adopters. It is our obligation to reach our Panther paws to the innocent beings in our backyard. We can do this through simple caring acts: adopt rather than purchase, volunteer at a shelter, or donate.

Through involved community effort, maybe someday we can be the ones to follow the precedent of Arizona City to gradually end the animal breeding business in order to allow the surplus of animals in shelters to dwindle. It is our obligation as students of Modesto High to be the changes in which we wish see in the world. Let's start now.



Dance Culture



There are many different cultures represented at Modesto High. Some of these include Hmong, Hispanic, Khmer, Laotian, Chinese and the list goes on. Getting to know the different dances, languages, food, etc., is quite fun to do.

People may not realize that many students at this school are part of cultural dance groups.

One student, sophomore Brandon Lay said, “I joined dance because I wanted to keep my culture alive. Our dance group is called KYOM which means Khmer Youth of Modesto. We are a non-profit organization, and we travel to many places to perform.”

One cultural dance the group performs every year is called “Robam Jun Por” which means “blessing dance.” Many Modesto High students are in the dance group, always wanting to keep their culture alive.

Although she is not Cambodian, senior Gabbie Camacho is also in the Khmer dance group KYOM. She loves what she does and will continue to keep dancing.

Another KYOM dance group member is senior Angelica Khy.

Her favorite dance is the blessing dance. She



said, “It is performed before a ceremony to bless the people with great prosperity.”

When she decided to join she was only seven years old, and she has continued dancing ever since. She expressed that what she enjoys about dance is having a great bonding time with everyone and learning new things about each dance and the culture behind it.

Many MHS students travel and dance outside of school. It is great to know that students are not just sitting at home all the time but instead are doing something interactive.

Sophomore, Lexi Sutter participates in jazz, ballet,

and contemporary - dance forms people may be more familiar with. She has danced for about 11 years now and performs in shows at the Gallo Center, most recently performing in “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.”

Sutter said, “I like dancing because I get to express my feelings and because it is fun.”

Whether dancing as an expression of their cultures and traditions or simply to express their feelings, it is clear. Students at Modesto High are embracing the timeless art of rhythmic movement to communicate ideas and emotions.



Parking Permits

By Nicholas Zuroff

For years now students and teachers have parked around the school campus in various different cars. But what was to happen if people parked in campus lots that were not involved in the school at all? What if there was an incident where the school needed to search a car. How would the school know which car to search? The student supervision office has provided a solution - student and teacher parking passes - with the goal to make school safety a top priority.

Mr. Fosenberg, Assistant Principal of Supervision, said, 'The parking permits allow supervision to match a car to a student or staff member without having to wait on a student or whoever owns the car. The main goal of having these permits is to make sure the cars parking in the allotted spots intended for students and staff members, are indeed school and staff members.'

If parking permits are now required, how can I get one?

In order to receive a parking permit to park in the student parking lot a student must be a licensed driver and provide valid insurance information along with a physical description of the car.

What do the students have to say about it?

Senior Ellen Davis, a student driver here at Mohi, and a frequent user of the cage said, "I was a little surprised at first because we never had strict rules enforced within the cage, but when I thought about it longer, I realized that is was a necessary measure in order to ensure our safety at Modesto High."



Many students had similar answers when asked about the new parking permit requirement.

Senior James Estreba said, "At first I thought that it was slightly annoying, but honestly the requisite makes sense for campus safety, especially with what's going on in our world now. Also, so many Modesto City Schools already have implemented student parking permits, so it was obvious that we would follow after."

For the most part, everyone seems to agree. There is nothing really wrong with student parking permits to park in places designed for students. It ensures safety and brings us up to speed with other school's rules and regulations. The only problem or complaints the students have ran into so far is for the students who do not qualify for one.

Falling into Play

Stories and Photos by Zaynah Waseem and Kristina Zuroff

Blood, sweat, tears: the recipe for great results when it comes to sports. Here at MoHi everyone who puts on a jersey or polo, puts on their Panther Pride. They represent all of us and our spirit here at MoHi. Sports is a MoHi tradition since 1883 - it is something that almost everyone looks forward to and has fun while participating. Whether an athlete plays during the fall, winter or spring - it all represents MoHi's incredible spirit. It is shown through the determination, not the resignation that other schools may put forth. During the fall season, there is a variety of sports that occur. They play, run, or swim against the other Modesto Metropolitan Conference schools from around the area including: Beyer, Enochs, Gregori, Johansen, Downey, and Davis. If you were to ask a variety of players, the biggest rival that MoHi has depends on the sports.

Cross Country



Photo by Lucia Luis

Determination and motivation are two very important traits in a cross country player. From running together to hanging together, cross country allows students to create a family-like atmosphere in their athletic as well as personal lives. "My sister was in cross country and she encouraged me to do it, I really enjoyed the team and the way everyone motivated each other," said Hilda Perez when talking about her main reason for joining the team her freshman year. Cross country may be strenuous, however it is very evident that this sport creates a loving atmosphere like no other. Team members have great amounts of respect and admiration for one another. Being part of the MoHi cross country team throughout your high school career signs you up to lifelong, genuine friends as well as great memories!

Waterpolo



Photo by Niels Willerup

Water Polo isn't an easy sport. It requires commitment, perseverance, and most importantly practice, practice and more practice! Senior, Payton Steward, who has played water polo for seven years describes her best memory from her sophomore year in high school "when we won league and went to sections." Team members work really well together and always support and encourage each other to do better. Communication and understanding are two very important aspects of any team. It helps create team unity which is what makes a team strong. Coach Mike Chiavetta makes sure water polo players are ready for any challenges they might face during games. Payton Steward is looking forward to the Downey vs MoHi water polo game as they are the biggest rivalry for the team.

Football

Football is family. Each and every year the family grows with new additions. "We're the big brothers of the team," said Senior Ian O'Dell who has played for MoHi all of his high school career. They spend 2-3 hours a day, 6 days a week together - whether they are on the field, lifting weights, or watching film. As a team, one of their main goals is to win their first round of playoffs. Of course with that, also comes taking first place in the MMC league as well.



Girls Golf

MoHi's golf team includes 2 experienced players, 4 beginners, 3 seniors, 2 freshmen, 1 sophomore. Don't let those numbers fool you, there is only six girls on the team this year. Each of the girls practice daily at Dryden golf course where they chip, put, or work on their drives. At first, many of the girls' thought that golf would be easy, but it really wasn't. Although they may not have the best record, they have tried their hardest and they saw improvements throughout the season.



Volleyball

MoHi's volleyball team is competitive. Coach Harris has coached the MoHi volleyball team for the past three years. While discussing the weaknesses of the team, Coach Harris pointed out that since the team consists of five sophomores, lack of confidence is the biggest weakness of the team. However, she also discussed the strengths of the team and pointed out that "they are all physically talented." Her favorite part of coaching is "playing a role in young womens' lives."



Girls Tennis

Ohh ahh, you wish you were a Panther! The MoHi girls tennis team is amazing. There is a variety of girls who are playing this year, some have experience while others do not. Each of them compete throughout the week for their rankings, and to figure out whether or not they are going to be playing doubles or singles that week. There are quite a few seniors who have played for multiple years - such as Henna Basi or Neve Foresti. Every girl works their butts off at practices and they also have matches twice a week as well.





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