



the

PANTHER

press

Volume 104, Issue 2

Modesto High School

December 2016



IN THIS ISSUE

4

HOLIDAY
TRADITIONS



6

WHAT SEASON
R U?

7

FALL SING



hello
bonjour
guten tag
hola
bon giorno
via sou
ni hao
namaste
zdravstvuite
dia duit
dobry rano
shalom
hej

8

MULTILINGUAL
SEAL



9 KEY CLUB RALLY



10 COLLEGE APPS ADVICE



11 FORMAL ?

CHILDHOOD STORIES **12**



LITTERING **14**



Holiday Traditions

by Joselinne Pulido and Leticia Mejia

Holiday traditions vary through many different cultures, and people are often unaware of the myriad of different traditions that surround them. The diversity at Modesto High School continues to expand, and so do the traditions that are celebrated within the families of these Modesto High Students.

Thanksgiving is the time of year when the focus is on giving thanks, and many people come together as a family. When interviewed about Thanksgiving traditions a majority of students said they gathered around with family, often family they don't have the privilege of seeing regularly. The students said they all ate and many went around one at a time stating that for which they are thankful. Although that's not the only way Thanksgiving is celebrated for all. Senior, Sweet Tevaseu, explained that for her Samoan traditions they tend to be unique from the rest. Tevaseu said, "All of my family has to get together and pray in a circle in the living room. All lights have to be off and everyone goes on to say a prayer of their own. Then the lights are turned back on and everyone says what it is they're thankful for. We often make our favorite recipe Pani Popo." Pani Popo is a traditional Samoan coconut bread, often eaten on many traditional holidays.

Laura Rosales explained that her day took a slight twist on the modern holiday tradition. Food is often one of the many holiday traditions that differ between different cultures and families. Rosales said, "For Thanksgiving the most unique thing we do as a family would be that we all write what we are thankful for

on a small piece of paper and bake it into our bread. We use the crescent rolls and it ends up being like a fortune cookie, and at the end of the night when they're done baking we try and figure out whose fortune it is." It is the unique traditions that make a family.

People do not always celebrate the same holidays. Depending on cultures and religions many celebrate other holidays, such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Hanukkah is a Jewish celebration that consists of the eight day and eight night celebration. Hanukkah is often known as the Celebration of Lights. It is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, games, gifts and traditional foods such as Potato Latkes.

Kwanzaa is another holiday celebrated by some families. It often involves a large feast, storytelling, music and dancing. Kwanzaa without some of the main dishes like: African Creole Turkey, Beef and Groundnut Stew and Oven-Style Jerk Chicken.

Holidays are the times when many families come together. At Christmas, families gather, give gifts, and celebrate with a family dinner.

It's the holiday season that brings families together to celebrate with many unique traditions. Modesto High is a culturally diverse school and its unique cultural backgrounds are shown during the holidays.

Recipes



Potato Latkes

Ingredients

- 2 cups peeled and shredded potatoes
- 1 tablespoon grated onion
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 cup peanut oil for frying

Directions

1. Place the potatoes in a cheesecloth and wring, extracting as much moisture as possible.
2. In a medium bowl stir the potatoes, onion, eggs, flour and salt together.
3. In a large heavy-bottomed skillet over medium-high heat, heat the oil until hot. Place large spoonfuls of the potato mixture into the hot oil, pressing down on them to form 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick patties. Brown on one side, turn and brown on the other. Let drain on paper towels. Serve hot!

Easy Pani Popo, Samoan Coconut Bread

Ingredients

- 18 frozen dinner rolls
- 1 (13 1/2 ounce) can coconut milk
- water
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch

Directions

1. Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish. Line the 18 rolls and set aside to let rise according to package directions.
 2. In a saucepan, add the coconut milk, fill the can with water and add to saucepan, add the sugar.
 3. In a small bowl, mix cornstarch with 2 tablespoons of cold water until all the clumps are gone, set aside. Bring the coconut sauce to a boil add the cornstarch mixture. Simmer for about 3 minutes (sauce will thicken a little), then remove sauce from heat.
 4. Bake rolls. After 10 minutes take rolls out of oven and pour the coconut sauce over the rolls till 1/2 to 3/4 of each bun is covered in sauce.
 5. Place the rolls back in the oven and continue baking the rolls with the sauce until the tops of the rolls are golden brown.
 6. Remove pan and allow a few minutes to cool. Serve warm.
- Left over sauce can be used to smother rolls when served individually or just make a second pan of Pani Popo.



Which Season Suits You?

By Melanie Meza and Synsanni Phaing

If you...

- Like pumpkin spice lattes
- Enjoy watching leaves fall
- Like wearing cozy clothing



You're a Fall Person

You are a person who prefers to stay inside in a blanket drinking a hot beverage. Hoodies and fuzzy socks are some of your favorite clothes along with scarves and beanies. You take interest into other people's lives. You're a fun yet quiet person.

If you...

- Prefer drinking hot cocoa
- Take joy in playing in the snow
- Like movie nights by the fireplace



You're a Winter Person

You have a big imagination and this is why you enjoy reading books by the fireplace. You love to eat s'mores and watching horror movies with your friends. When people who you don't know are around you, you become shy and reserved.

If you...

- Enjoy swimming
- Prefer slushies and ice cream
- Have fun at the beach
- Like bright colors



You're a Summer Person

You are adventurous. A good time is just what you're searching for. You enjoy long walks on the beach while eating shaved ice. At night, a good stargaze is what you look forward to. Quality time at the fair is just what you need to get away.

If you...

- Enjoy camping
- Have a good time picnicking
- Admire dandelions, daisies, and sunflowers



You're a Spring Person

Watching a good sunset fills you with content, but not as much as baking cupcakes. This is your favorite thing to do, especially around this time of the year. You're a calm person however, at times you can be rowdy. Playing in a colorful meadow is just the thing to keep you at peace.

FALL SING

David Zhu and Nick Zuroff

On Wednesday, November 2nd, all of the High schools from the district joined together at Modesto High School along with guest choirs from Modesto Junior College, Stanislaus State, Ripon High, and Turlock High school. With the title of, "Fall Sing" Modesto High School was proud to host this event, that has been going on for approximately 45 years. The pieces performed were to show the progress within the choirs for the first few months of practicing.

The event lasted for approximately three hours. Every choir was dressed in uniform for the event which took place in the Modesto High School auditorium. The seats were filled with audience members and choir singers from all different schools around the 209 area. Each group performed approximately three songs and most of them were accompanied by a pianist. Every choir prepared for this event several weeks in advance. The show overall was an outstanding display of talent and great showmanship as every individual performed to the best of his or her ability. It was a wonderful performance that was enjoyed by both the audience members and the performers.

"I am the world's biggest shower singer," joked Mr. Gonzalez as he gave an opening presentation before the performance. "I'm jealous of how talented you all are! We are honored to host Fall Sing this year at Modesto High School, and hope to do so again next year!" he commented.



Show Them Skills

Story By: Kristina Zuroff

Not many people can say that they have been tested and are proficient in two languages? Many high school students from all over Stanislaus County are officially able to say that just that. The Stanislaus County Seal of Education is awarded by the Stanislaus County Office of Education to students who are able to demonstrate proficiency in two languages, English and the other world language for which they apply. For these select students the seal appears on their transcripts and is official evidence of their proficiency in multiple languages. Another benefit to this seal is the students who receive it are recognized at graduation, depending on their school district. Being multilingual holds many benefits when it comes to job opportunities and these students are now able to say officially that they are multilingual.

In order to receive this seal, students had to go through a lengthy process that spanned a few events. The first step to receiving their seal was filing their registration and turning in permission slips. Students then had to fill out a *LinguaFolio* and get that turned in on time. The *LinguaFolio* is an autobiography the student wrote in English based on their responses to questions. From there, students who were selected to move on to the next phase, had to attend testing on their school campuses. Even further than that, the students then had to participate in an interview that was conducted in both English and their additional language. The interview was the last phase of this process before students were notified as to whether or not they received their seal. Students who received their seals were invited to join a celebration. The students got all dolled up and attended their celebration at the Gallo Center on November 2nd, 2016. Each student then received their seal and was recognized on stage in front of everyone.

Here at Modesto High School, we had a handful of students receive their Multilingual Seal and we are very proud of them! Because they came from Modesto High, the school held a separate Multilingual Seal Celebration for the students and their family members. At the event, there was a mariachi band and lots of food.

Congratulations to all who received their seals this school year and special congratulations to the Modesto High Students!



Photo Courtesy of Stanislaus Country Office of Education

D46 Meets Six Flags

On October 22nd, 2016, the Modesto High Key Club participated in the annual Fall Rally hosted by the California-Nevada-Hawaii, or CNH, district of Key Club International. The event consisted of Key Clubs from all over Northern California. Members attended Six Flags in Vallejo to cheer for their division, fundraise for the Pediatric Trauma Program (PTP), socialize with other members, and much more. This year, thousands of members attended and \$160,000 was raised for PTP. There were seven representatives from our Modesto High Key Club who were in attendance.

The entire Division 46 North, consisting of local Key Clubs including Beyer, Enochs, Johansen, Gregori, Davis, etc., started their busy day meeting up at Downey High School for bus transportation and to prepare for the upcoming rally. The bus ride there and back consisted of Red Panda (the mascot of D46N) cheers and socialization before the event. Upon arrival, all of the divisions convened at the Chabot Stadium inside Six Flags. Each division was divided by their different colored t-shirts splaying the combined passions of involvement in community service. There were two rallies held to accommodate each division because of the massive number of people attending the event. Calling the winner of the rallies, as stated by Key Club board members, was pretty difficult due to the intensity of the spirit battles and cheer-offs. After several different spirit rounds, the Division 7 North Bees won. Division Lieutenant Governors (members who lead the whole division) got to spend the day with different divisions. Following the finale of the rally,



members headed to the Mexican food vendors stationed in the park. The rest of the day, attendees ventured around the park, perused the gift shops, rode the various attractions, and made memories with old friends and new. Since Halloween was around the corner, Six Flags held Fright Fest as it was getting darker. Zombies appeared and colored lights illuminated the thick eerie smoke creeping through the area. Park visitors and event attendees were consistently spooked by their Fright Fest surroundings. After a long yet fun day, everyone gathered in the main section of the park for individual pictures, more cheer-offs, and last minute gift-buying. Completing their day, each of the representatives headed home with their divisions. On the bus ride back, spirit cheers and socializing were continued. In the end, it was a memorable day for all Key Clubs.

Story By: Sameen Mahood

'Tis the Season



Story by: Zaynah Waseem

It's the most stressful time of the year! You guessed it, it's college application season! Although you might have already started hearing sleigh bells jinglin', you might have also started hearing your parents and teachers on campus telling you to submit your college applications as soon as possible and to not procrastinate. Since finals are upon us, students, especially seniors, have excessive amounts of work just towering over them like essay deadlines, daily homework, projects, presentations and how can we forget...college apps!

It's that time of the year again when seniors truly begin to experience the stress of senior year. Although the early action deadlines have passed, seniors are still working on their college applications for private schools and just finished up applications for the public schools including the University of California and California State University campuses. The fall application cycle for both the UC's and CSU's closed on November 30th. This time of the year, one can often see seniors lined up outside Mrs. Cardoza's office asking for transcripts, letters of recommendations or assistance on how to smoothly get through the college application process without losing his or her sanity.

Senior, Sheemrun Ranjan said, "My advice is DO THEM EARLY and keep a weekend mainly for writing college apps," when asked about what advice she would like to give to next year's seniors.

Senior, Mariah Moreno said that "They need to manage their time with school work. Personal statements should be started way before the deadline. Make sure several people check over the application and personal statements. This will be better in the long run."

Quite a few seniors stressed how important it is to not procrastinate on college applications, so finish them as soon as you possibly can!

FALL FORMAL????

The Event that Never Occurred and What is Being Done About It

An Enchanted Forest, it sounds fun right? Well, it was supposed to be this year's theme of the Fall Formal. Unfortunately for some people, it never happened. In order for the dance to occur, the sophomore class of 2019, along with senior Dance Directors, Natalia Cipponeri and Cesar Gonzalez, had to sell 200 tickets priced at \$22 with ASB and \$25 without. However, they only sold a little over 100 tickets to the dance - meaning that the dance was postponed. Clemsa Sokk, a junior, expressed feelings of happiness that the dance was cancelled. She mentioned that the weekend of the dance she got sick and would not have been able to attend. It doesn't affect some people because they weren't going to go anyway. Senior Ian O'Dell said, "I had plans to go hunting anyways." He also mentioned that a lot of the dance was close to football season so many of the football players were too focused on football to care about proposals. On the other hand, junior Megan Brown says, "I am a little displeased. I bought a fancy dress." She will still be able to use that dress though because the dance was postponed to Saturday, February 4th, 2017. It will now become a Winter Ball instead of a Night in an Enchanted Forest. One of the issues with postponing the dance is that it will collide with the Winter Homecoming dance which usually occurs after the Homecoming basketball game. They have decided to combine the two dances this year because there was so little time between the two.

With that said, the sophomore class and dance directors put both time and money into the planning of a Fall Formal that never happened. Therefore the issue still remains, not enough tickets were sold for the dance so any of you (by that I mean all of you) who haven't already, should purchase a ticket. But before you do that, create a fancy winter ball! Then make sure to attend the dance. It will be one fun night to always remember. Also for the seniors who may be too busy, keep in mind it is your last dance before prom and you only attend high school once, so go and have fun!

Story by Kristina Zuroff



Childhood Stories

By Jasmine López

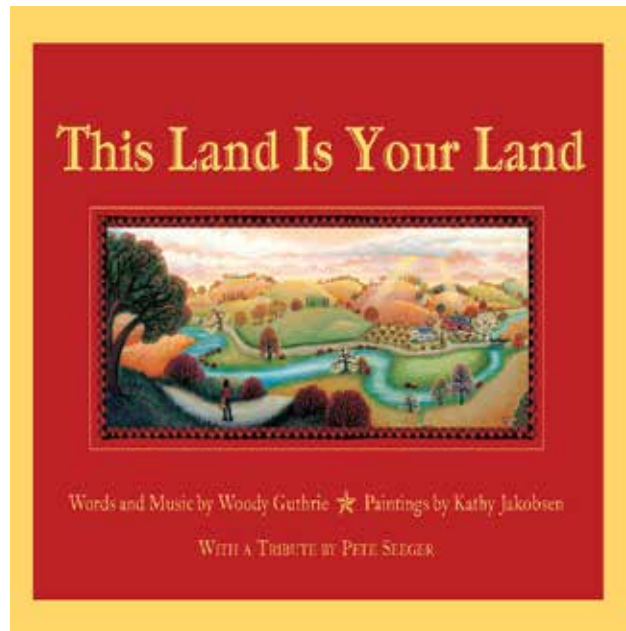
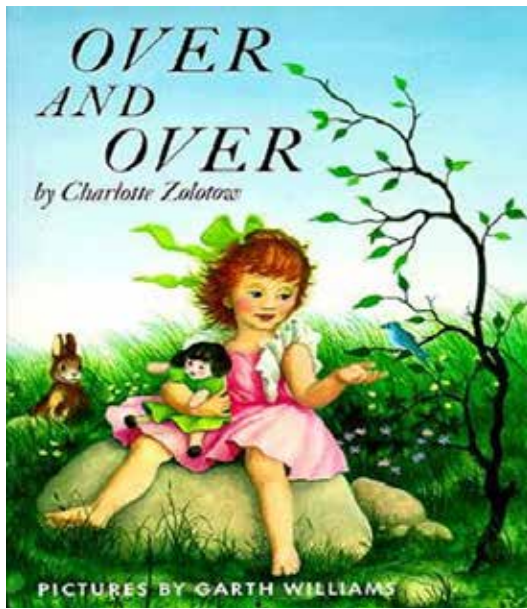
“I’ll love you forever, I’ll like you for always, As long as I’m living my mommy you’ll be.” This is a quote from my favorite book that was read to me as a child, *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch. This book is one of my mother’s favorite which is whom read it to me. I will never forget the familiar refrain said constantly by the mother to her son as he grows up. Recently, I read the book myself and was able to further understand the meaning. Observing the roles slowly reverse over time along with the ending image of the son rocking his mother made me realize how quickly time flies. We go through life caught up in whatever we’re busy doing stuck in our own world. I fathomed the importance of showing gratitude towards the people that help you and love you throughout the course of the human experience such as your parents.

When asked what was their favorite childhood book Tess B. Kara said, “My favorite childhood book is *Over and Over* by Charlotte Zolotow. It’s about the holidays that happen every year. My favor-

ite line from the book is, ‘Once there was a little girl who didn’t understand about time.’ It simply reminds me of how simple things were when you were just a little kid.” When we’re young we don’t have a developed sense of time leading us to believe that there is time for absolutely everything. As we grow up we realize that it isn’t indeed true, but it leaves us with the ability to make time for what really matters.

Coby McCaig, a sophomore this year, said, “A book that has always stuck with me is *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss. I like how the beginning of the book starts with fish but later different colored beasts are introduced.” The book is full of light humor that would make any person laugh, catchy phrases, and a clever use of repetition.

Margaret Peterson said her favorite that was read to her as a child is *This Land is Your Land* by Woody Guthrie. “The book depicts the beauty of the United States, and the paintings are appropriate to the United States history. When we were kids, we

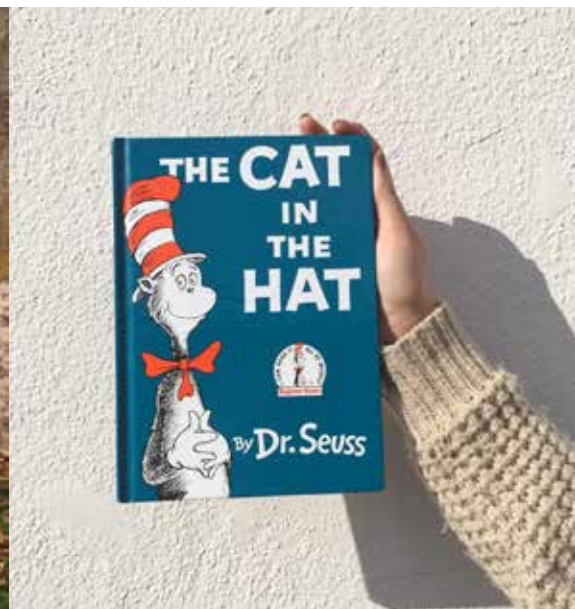


didn't realize it tackles questions we repeatedly face as a nation." As kids, we enjoyed it because we liked the song that went along with it, but the book has so much more to it. The message is not made complex but rather simple to understand, "This land was made for you and me." It teaches the fundamental idea that the country we live in belongs to all of us. It reminds us that those in power cannot go around putting up signs saying it doesn't.

Jesús Palomares said, "My favorite childhood book is Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss. I still wonder what Cat's real name is. When the teacher would read it to us and say the last lines of the book, 'What would YOU do/ If your mother asked YOU.' The entire class would scream back, 'We would tell her!'"

It's funny to think about it now because would you really tell her." This book is a classic children's book, and one that everyone knows.

Books are the core of childhood development. A good book unlocks not only a child's but anyone's imagination which leads to an abundance of creativity and boundless depths of emotion. Whether it's a valuable message that we learned or just an enjoyable read, these stories will always be carried with us wherever we go.



Littering or Respect

by Shelby Benz

A problem is occurring on our school property - damage is being done to our home.

There are two different types of people that occupy the planet and that occupy our school. While some people are born and raised to cringe at the idea of littering as an indication of a poor sense of character, others can litter without thinking differently. These two different mindsets clash as the fate of the world rests in the hands of the people. However, this absolute power is often overlooked as the crucial potential that is fated to determine the type of tomorrow they long to see.

Although it may not seem like it, litter is changing the world. According to "The Balance," plastic waste can last for up to 1000 years before decomposing and everyday when numerous pieces of trash are left behind they become victims of the wind and will stay in the area for longer than our lives can see. In one way or another a piece of trash can leach its manmade, unnatural toxins into the ground and destroy wildlife or sea life.

Day after day, the human populace, arguably one of the most capable of species, watches and awaits its impending doom unflinchingly. But it is not only ignorance that drives people to the belief that littering in any circumstance should be tolerated, but it is a lack of compassion and understanding for the beauty and grace of the natural world.

Not only is it a middle finger to the birther of humanity, littering is also disrespectful to the Modesto High Staff that work hard to maintain the condition of the campus. Janitors and custodians are among the hard workers that strive to keep Modesto High School clean and safe for all of its attendants. A loved campus supervisor, Nancy Meeks stated regarding littering that, "It shows poor character." She explained that the custodians at our school work hard everyday to make sure that trash bins are easily accessible and that the campus remains spotless. However, picking up the litter on campus is not the custodians primary position. They are essentially the behind the scenes workers that are in charge of maintenance and the function of services and utilities. Littering shows a lack of respect for the people that work hard for the entire student body continuously throughout the year. They are the ones that arrive early on campus to prepare the old school for its usage every single day. Give a little respect and one is bound to receive some in return - basic human decency on this soft exchange of respect.



In an interview with Jesse Aguinada, Romello Parker, and Felix Perez, it was an agreed idea that, "[People that litter] know that it is not right to do but they do it anyways." It is interesting however to wonder what crosses a person's mind while littering and how it is comprehensible. Even though it is a common idea that littering is a character flaw, people do it anyway. How could the community put an end to littering? Out of all of the people interviewed, it was a common utterance that unified the conversations, "You can't." You can't stop people from littering. Why can't society put an end to the ignorance that is very well leading to its downfall? How can the passion of individuals proliferate to encompass the entirety of the human population to ensure a brighter and cleaner tomorrow?

Aside from the idea stated by both Romello Parker as well as Michelle Mercado on two separate occasions opening the suggestion to make the trash cans look like basketball hoops, there really is no way to put an end to the tyranny. The students are the future and only they can save the world.

All they can do is make throwing away trash a game. Maybe that will encourage people to help ease the cry of the world.

Also, keep in mind that trash thrown into garbage bins pollute the world as well. The only difference is that this trash is concentrated in landfills or incinerated whereas uncontained trash can litter the communities as well as the ocean. Either way, trash is trash and in some way it is affecting the environment. That is why it is important to support other means of renewable energy such as recycling, composting, reducing, reusing, and repurposing items as part of a campaign to save the world and save the future.



Happy Holidays
from the
Panther Press
staff!

Enjoy winter break.

Your ad could be here.

Email us at
mohipantherpress@gmail.com
for details.