

# MOCK TRIAL FACES FINANCIAL STRUGGLES

By: Sarah Rafiqi  
Editor

The Mock Trial team at Valencia High School is suffering financial issues that can possibly lead to the removal of all the Orange County teams. Problems of financial issues are creating problems within the club, as the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) is losing money.

Possibilities of closing the competition are the word on the street. The Constitutional Rights Foundation has increased their fees by 100% (1,000 dollars per team). The endless discussion of the foundation canceling the competition brings us to the concern of donating money to the team. Mrs. Esteban said, "There will be no mock trial if we don't fundraise. This is a serious issue and we need the money."

Although the team continues to prepare for the competition, they hope that the team will get enough money to compete. Russell Walker, a member of the team commented, "Please help us raise money for the team. This is a great educational opportunity that can really help us in the future." Russell is just one of the team members who is diligently preparing for the competition. He believes strongly that they will do great in the competition, as he continues to show his true Valencia Tiger spirit.

The coach of the team, Mrs. Esteban worries that if the team does not raise enough money to enter the competition, there will be no more

mock trial teams anymore. This issue is grave and leads to many challenges for the federation as they have no money to host the competition.

Sejal Patel, a member in the team also shared her opinions on Mock Trial, "Mock Trial is a great way to express yourself in a trial case which allows speech and debate skills to be applied in a real stimulated court case"

The Valencia High School Mock Trial has two teams,

a blue and a gold team. They both compete during the fall against many other schools. Their practices range from two to two and a half hours. The true dedication shown by the team is truly inspiring as they continue to keep their heads high ready for competition.

They continue to practice their parts in the case and they are ready to show the true Valencia spirits. So, please support our very own Valencia Mock Trial team by donating money.

VALERIA SOSA (12), CAPTAIN AND MADISON TANG (12), DEFENSE ATTORNEY OF THE GOLD TEAM, STUDYING THEIR CASES. PHOTO COURTESY FROM: NATHALIE ESTEBAN



## MINERS IN CHILE

By: Dominique Riutort  
Editor

In a time of need, people put their differences aside and collaborate together towards a subordinate goal. This was seen in the aftermath of both the Haitian and Chilean earthquakes earlier this year and more recently, it has been seen surrounding the mine collapse in the San Jose Mine located in the city of Copiapó, Chile. For over 65 days, 33 Chilean miners were trapped following a collapse in the interior of the San Jose Mine on August 5, 2010.

For the first seventeen days after the collapse, nothing was heard from these men. As the days went by, and with still no sign of them, people sadly began to lose hope. Soon enough, however, a miracle happened. As rescue workers dug small shafts into the mine, one of the workers came across a note that one of the miners had sent up the small plastic tube called a paloma, translated 'dove,' saying "Estamos bien en el refugio los 33" which translates to "the 33 of us are safe in the refuge."

Suddenly, rescue efforts immediately intensified. Three specific elaborate plans were drawn out for the rescuing of these men: Plans A, B, or C. In the end, the plan chosen was Plan B most likely due to its minimal distance between the surface and the refuge which was about a half mile underground.

During their first days fol-

lowing the collapse of the mine, the 33 men survived off of very minimal rations of food that were available in the refuge, which was built in the case of a collapse such as this one that occurred. The men shared their food and made it last for about 18 days eating a mere spoonful of tuna every other day. When the paloma reached the men and communication was established between rescue workers and the miners, more food was immediately sent down. Within a couple of weeks, the 33 miners were able to enjoy such accommodations as a television to watch the soccer game of Chile versus Ukraine and the Independence Day celebrations.

The entire nation of Chile along with the whole world waited anxiously for the arrival of the day in which the miners would be rescued from the depths of the refuge. Finally, that day arrived. On October 13, 2010, at approximately 12:20 a.m. local time, the first of the 33 miners emerged. His name is Florencio Avalos, 31 years old and was second-in-command of the group of the 33 miners. As the capsule that held him inside emerged to the surface, families, rescue workers, the entire nation of Chile and the complete world cheered. In less than 24 hours, the 33 miners and the 5 rescue workers that were in the mine emerged unscathed from the rescue mission. Millions of viewers burst into tears as bystanders began to excitedly chant "Chi! Chi! Chi! Le! Le Le! Viva Chile!"

## LIFE'S MANIFESTO

By: Sarah Rafiqi  
Editor

Nathan Truong, a junior at Valencia High School, has taken a leap into his future by already throwing himself into his chosen career.

Last summer, in the August of 2009, he read a quote on the internet saying that it is impossible to write a book in thirty days. Truong, who has always dreamed of being a professional writer, decided that writing a book in thirty days was exactly what he would do. With the experience of having written short stories in the past, Truong dedicated himself to the task of constructing a story. Thirty days later, his script was complete.

Truong's finished book, *Life's Manifesto*, follows the story of four high school students that part their ways. The crux of the story unfolds

when they meet each other again, ten years later, and drama ensues. In more concise words, Truong explains his book by saying that "It's about nothing and everything."

Truong found inspiration by looking back at his elementary school friends. "I left them when I moved," he orates. "I caught up with them on Facebook and it brought back a nostalgic feeling. [This made me think] why not apply that to older people."

Initially, Truong had intended to write guidelines of life. These life guidelines eventually transformed into indirect

guidelines and simple philosophies of life. Quite suddenly, Truong's personal project had transformed into a whole guidebook of what life was all about. Thus the title for Truong's book was born.

After completing his text, the next item on Truong's list was self-publishing. He decided to go to an online publishing website called xlibris.com. During the month of April, 2010, Truong worked actively in the editing process. "I scanned through it several times," he says, "and I had several of my mom's and dad's friends read it."

Finally, after two months of hard work (writing in August and editing in April), Nathan Truong's book was almost ready for sale. The last thing he needed was to fit his hard-bound book snugly into the perfect cover. Using a symbol from the book, Truong finally settled on a cover picture that represents how food brings people together.

The book originally came out in mid May, 2010. Due to a series of additional edits, *Life's Manifesto* ended up with a total of two release dates. Truong affirms that "it [my book] does well when I sell it by hand, and I hope to have it in bookstores and libraries soon." He urges his fellow tigers to "please go out and buy my book." For those that have already gotten a taste of Truong's creative juices, you will all be pleased to know that Truong is, in fact, working on another book. Until then, we will have to suffice in enjoying this one and wishing him every fortune.



PHOTO OF NATHAN TRUONG (11). PHOTO BY: RICHARD MA.

# CLUB RUSH HITS VALENCIA

**By: Emilie Cady**  
Reporter

This year's club rush was a big success as students all over campus came together during the week of September 27th to October 1st to sign up for some of the many clubs Valencia has to offer in order to 'get involved' in activities on and off campus. Students were able to join clubs new to the 2010-2011 school year such as Kids In Need(KIN) , which helps raise money for foster children on and off campus, and the Building Industry Academy, as well as old favorites such as the Spanish Club, Japanese Club, Operation Smile, Junior Statesmen of America (JSA), Christian Club, Music Outreach Program (M.O.P), Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), Literature in Action, Comedy Sportz Club, Teens 4 Community, Flamenco Club, Blue Crew, and the Wildlife Conservation Club.

These in-school societies are just one of the many things that help make Valencia unique. In clubs such as K.I.N. Ship and Operation Smile, students are able to support causes in and out of their community whether they are in the club or not. Many of these in-school associations are actively involved raising money for people in need, and students who get involved are definitely in for an unforgettable experience.

However, not all of the Valencia clubs are purely for community assistance. Clubs such as Flamenco Club are purely for fun and the curiosity to learn new things, and others allow participants to partake in

activities that explain about their club's culture such as the Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish Clubs. Many of these communities are home to free food, and unforgettable people.

Also, some of the clubs are beneficial towards your education. The California Scholarship Federation (CSF) and the National Honor Society (NHS) are all offered on-campus. Students should begin CSF in their Sophomore year and NHS in their Junior and Senior years. In order to qualify for membership for CSF, students must be able to have achieved the required "points" from the classes listed on the sheet, but cannot use any classes other than the ones listed for credit. In order to qualify for NHS, students must have at least a 3.0 GPA, and show good leadership, character, and citizenship qualities. Students who participate in these programs will be recognized by colleges just by being associated with the societies. Mr. Chung is the head of the NHS and CSF programs at Valencia, and students who are interested are encouraged to see him for more information.

The Valencia clubs hold meetings all the time and announcements are often made on when the meetings are during second period. Students don't have to have already signed up to be a part of an in-school community; in fact, most of the clubs encourage students to bring their friends with them to the meetings! Different clubs have different meeting times; some are during lunch and others take place after school. Students have all year to join, so make sure to take advantage of your school year and become a part of a Valencia Community that you will remember forever.

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## AN ENTREPRENEUR IN OUR SCHOOL: SNAH DESAI

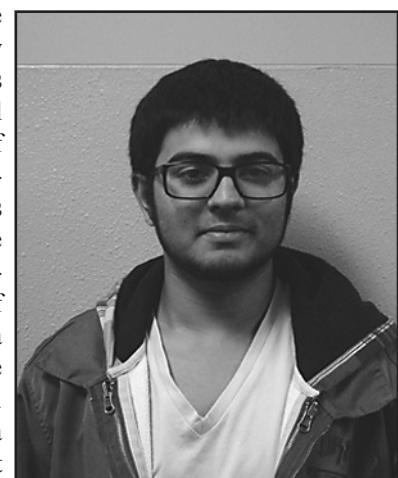
**By: Samantha Green**  
Reporter

In high school we're bombarded by different things, like finishing homework, balancing friends and family, and participating in other daily activities. Then there are those who defy normal standings of a stereotypical teenager. Some of us break those barriers by having jobs and helping take care of our families, but some of us will go the extra mile and become entrepreneurs. Snah Desai (12), a Val Tech Student is exactly like this.

Growing up Snah remembered his father wanting to be an entrepreneur; he never did because he had other responsibilities. That dream eventually became his, and he decided to follow it. The schedule and being able to do what he wanted made this

stand out more to Snah. The biggest problem doing both is balancing out school and work as he stated, "when going into a business you need to go in one hundred percent."

The first business he entered in was a freelance video editing service with a group of friends at the end of sophomore year. They'd work on videos and also teach (depending on their client) them how to make videos.



**SNAH DESAI, AN ENTREPRENEUR AT VHS.**

PHOTO BY: AADILA PARUK

When he entered the business was dead so he didn't make much profit. The profit total was three hundred dollars so when splitting it up between six partners.

After this Snah decided to have only one partner and go into a new business. Snah and his partner are working on a program called "cloud hosting."

Information is put on remote servers, so it may be accessed from afar. This idea, an innovative one will hopefully be a success. Snah shows the aspects of a true tiger, one with pride, tradition and excellence.

# ENGLISH LAUNGAUGE DEVELOPMENT: WHAT IT IS

By: Sarah Rafiqi  
Editor

While we have all probably heard of IB, Val Tech, AVID, and AP, there is another, lesser known, group at our school that deserves much the same recognition. This group is called ELD, which stands for English Language Development. It is a series of classes, including reading, grammar, and oral proficiency, intended for students who are learning Spanish or are trying to transition into mainstream.

The new students that come in from out of country, also known as our "newcomer" population, are put into a three hour, intense, structure emergent English program called SEI (Structures English Immersion). During these three hour, daily blocks, students are taught grammar, reading, and oral.

On the other hand, students that qualify as English limited, known as LEP (Limited English Proficient), are annually tested with STAR and the CELDT (California English Language Development Test), which covers reading, speaking, and writing. These students are usually either working on their English, are new to the country but qualify as English limited, or are trying to transition into mainstream.

Carolyn Douglas, a Valencia High School counselor who has an emphasis with the ELD program, iterates the importance of having an open mind when it comes to ELD students. "They're coming over and are having to assimilate, and having to adjust to the culture," she says.

In most cases, even the parents have a difficult time adjusting. Douglas says that she has to work numerous hours with families because she has to explain everything to them, as they are entering a new school system. There is even a support program for parents called ELAC (The English Language Advisory Committee) which she holds in the evenings for the parents of ELs (English Learners) throughout the school year.

While the fact that Douglas is bilingual (she is fluent in both English and Spanish) make it much easier for her to communicate to Spanish speaking parents, she makes it a point to note that ELs come from all different backgrounds. "It's important to realize that our ELs consist of various cultural and ethnic backgrounds," she says. In fact, it is her opinion that the best part of ELD is getting to meet kids from different places, meeting their parents, and learning about their cultures.

Douglas admits that "the hardest

thing would be with a lot of the new kids having to pass graduation requirements and the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam)." This proves a big obstacle for most ELs, especially those that came to America as either juniors or seniors. Still, even with this daunting task on their shoulders, Douglas and the other teachers involved in the ELD program have pushed their students to success. In fact, the past couple of years, alone, have exhibited great improvement with the number of ELs graduating and passing the CAHSEE.

The main priority of ELD is to remediate certain classes not taken in the students' original countries, and

have them learning English. EL students are accountable to the same standards as all other students at our school, and in America, and it is extremely difficult to get into a four year university without these basic requirements, like passing the CAHSEE. Although this is a lot of hard work, for both the students and teachers, Douglas says it is very rewarding. "Our goal is to have everyone graduate and seek postsecondary education," she says. "When I see one of our ELs who came to this country without knowing a word of English, seeing them walk across that stage, getting their diploma, and finally graduating; it's very rewarding and very amazing."

Ms. DOUGLAS IS THE COUNSELOR THAT WORKS MAINLY WITH ENGLISH LEARNERS. PHOTO BY: STEVEN OEI



## FALL PRODUCTION: THE CRUCIBLE

### "THEY BE CALLIN' US WITCHES ABBY"

By: Emilie Cady  
Reporter

The Fall Production, "The Crucible", directed by Mrs. Grace Stanton and assistant director Samantha Green (11), will take place on the fourth, fifth, and sixth of November, with a Matinee at 2:00 pm on Saturday, November sixth. From order of appearance: Joy Linam (8) as Betty Parris, Michael Garcia (12) as Reverend Parris, Samantha Green (11) as Tituba, Cassy Forrester (12) as Abigail Williams, Haley Carrol (11) as Susanna Wallcott, Tobi Gonzales (10) as Mrs. Ann Putnum, Cain Goday (12) as Thomas Putnum, Paige Fielding (11) as Mercy Lewis, Sarali Necheoqea (12) and Daisy Garcia (11) as Mary Warren, Ben Cercea (12) as John Proctor, Camille Piccinino (11) as Rebecca Nurse, Keanu Silva (10) as Giles Corey, Richard Garcia (9) as Reverend John Hale, Haley Montero (12) as Elizabeth Proctor, Brian Heim (11) as Francis Nurse, Davey Linam (11) as Ezekiel Cheever, Jacob Trammel (11) John Willard, Leemar Gillam (9) as Judge Hathorne, Jacob Depriest (11) as Deputy-Governor Danforth, and finally Ms. Rachel Schiff and Kelsi Martindale (12) as Sarah Good.

The original play was written by Arthur Miller in the early 1950's and takes place in 1692, during the Salem Witch Trials of Salem, Massachusetts. The first scene begins as a group of girls are caught performing a secret

ritual-like dance in the nearby forest by the local minister, Reverend Parris. The minister claims to be an expert on witchcraft and accuses the girls of taking part in the feared magic, beginning a crazy chain of arguments and confessions that lead to a much unforeseen ending. To add to the excitement of the performance, a large portion of the audience will be able to take part in judging the accused in court to decide if the assumed witches deserve to DIE.

During the performance, stage manager Tabita Cercea (11) and assistant stage manager Kathryn Heferman (12) will be behind-the-scenes making sure everything on-stage runs smoothly. They control everything from the lighting during scenes to blocking, which is basically every action that happens on-stage, such as throwing a chair or walking towards the left side of the stage. However, the stage managers couldn't do it without the help and advice of Fred Ronquillo, the theater manager. Not only does he offer tips and hints, but he is also in the back of the auditorium during performances watching over everything and making sure nothing goes wrong. Tabita, Kathryn, and Fred, though generally not seen by the audience, are major contributors towards the smooth-running and enjoyment, and Valencia's theater productions would never be the same without them.

Ms. Schiff will also be making her debut in the play by playing one of the first characters to be accused of practicing witchcraft, Sarah Good. Although she has been involved in other campus activities such as the Welcome

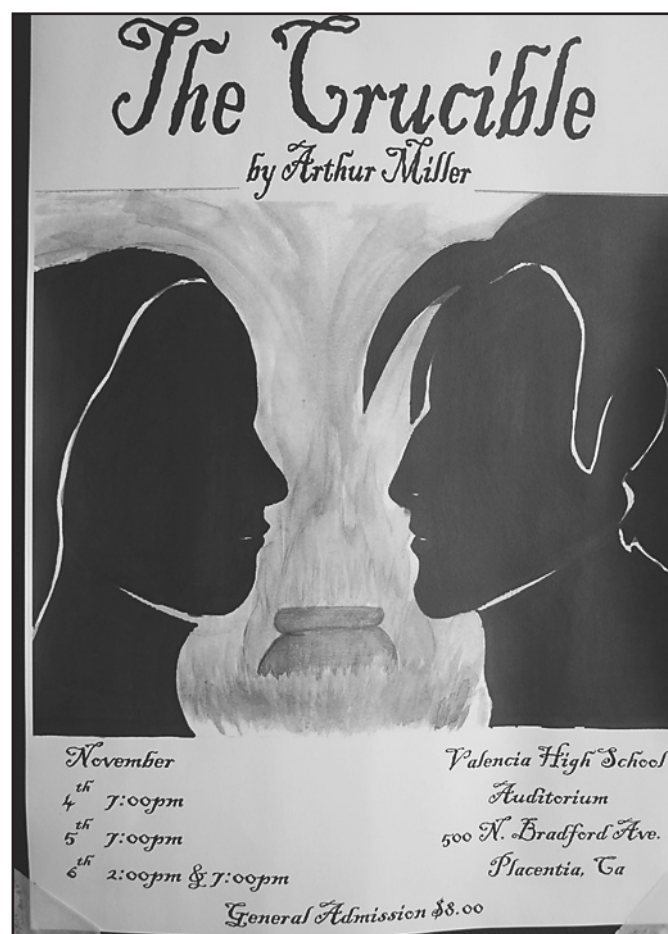
Back assembly, where students might recognize her as "That-lady-in-the-tutu-who-was-lip-syncing-to-'There's No Getting Over You'-with-a-light-saber", and Comedy Sportz, she ad-

mitted that this will be her first time interacting in an on-campus play. When asked how she felt in playing a minor character in the upcoming performance, she replied, "I feel privileged to share the stage with students who work so diligently for a fine art. It satisfies me to no end even to be asked

to participate." Anyone who knows Ms. Schiff knows what a funny person she is, and that she is guaranteed to bring 'zest' to the Fall Production.

Many eleventh grade classes

are required to read this play, and certain teachers are offering extra credit to students who attend the play. When asked why people should go see the play she replied, "The Crucible is an important piece of literature and theatre. It is about a historic event in our country's history and it deals with the idea of mass hysteria which has happened since, most notably during the 'red scare' during the 1950's, but it has occurred. It is one of those pieces that reminds us today that this could easily happen again and we must protect ourselves from it." The Crucible is



POSTER DRAWN BY KELSIE MARTINDALE (12).

guaranteed to be an exciting and interesting play, and students are encouraged to bring along their friends and family to join in the unforgettable experience. General admission is \$8.00 and \$6.00 pre-sale, and there are only 94 seats available, so be sure to get your ticket before the show sells out!