

TALENT SHOWN AT ASSEMBLY

By: Shannon Hsu
Opinion Editor

On the afternoon of February 18, students filled the gym to view the “Valencia’s Got Talent” themed winter sports assembly. Appropriately fitting the theme that was based off of the popular TV show “America’s Got Talent”, students were invited to participate in the assembly by showing off their own various talents for the audience as well as three “judges” – Mrs. Courtney Fenstermaker, Mr. Chris Henry, and Ms. Suzanne Feighery. [insert that girl’s name here] sang an endearing rendition of Jason Mraz’s “I’m Yours”, contrasted by the comical parody of the classic “Whole New World” song and scene from Disney’s Aladdin by John Shin (10) and Eric Schuster (10). Gun Hee Chang (12) excited the crowd with his impressive beat-boxing performance, and Sarah Galway’s singing of VV Brown’s “Shark in the Water” had the song stuck in the heads of the whole school.

“It was a great experience and it was definitely worth the thrill of being Aladdin flying on the magic carpet with Princess Jasmine to show her the world,” said Shin in regards to his performance. Many other groups contributed to the exciting atmosphere as well, including uniquely choreographed dance numbers by both the Girls Dance Team and Boys Hip-Hop. The Cheer and Song teams also put on their own exciting performances. In addition to all the performances, there were also amusing advertisements for the upcoming Spelling Bee and Dodgeball Tournament. Additionally featured in the assembly were the various winter season sports

teams, including Girls Waterpolo, Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer, Boys Basketball, and Boys Wrestling. The atmosphere and theme were further enhanced by the dialogue of the two “hosts”, Connor Watkins (12) and Maddie Cooke (10).

As usual, ASB had put much effort into preparing for the assembly. The gym had been painstakingly decorated, with a “judge’s stand” set up in the bleachers, and ASB members were also there to greet students as they entered the gym and found seats. “There are different committees that are in charge of different parts of the assembly,” explained Jason Yee (12), a member of ASB. Clearly, the effort that is undertaken to prepare these assemblies for fellow Tigers to enjoy is much greater than one may believe. “The assembly was very fun with the America’s Got Talent theme, and I loved seeing the different performances!” said Tar Rakhra (11). Indeed, ASB’s hard work with this time’s assembly has paid off, having successfully created an enjoyable and interesting winter sports assembly.



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MR. VANDERKOOY RUNS FOR A CAUSE

By: Emilie Cady
Reporter

Last month Mr. Gregory VanderKooy participated in the Surf City Marathon that took place along the coast of the Pacific Ocean in Huntington Beach. It started at 6:30 AM and ran for 26.2 miles with no set end time.

“I love this course. It’s flat and fast. I enjoy walking in the sand after the race. I think it is the best, most beautiful marathon I’ve ever run in.” said VanderKooy.

Marathons use an incredible amount of energy and take a lot of preparation to get ready for. The average calorie burn rate is 100 calories per mile, allowing for a full marathon to cost the participants almost 3,000 calories. All along the course there are volunteers who supply water, energy drinks, and food calorie items such as gummy bears to keep the runners’ energy up.

Running in marathons is a great way to stay fit and healthy, but some like to participate just for the fun of taking part in the action.

“I [run in marathons] for fun. I need to exercise as I get older in order to keep my mind healthy and active. Without exercise my thinking gets sluggish and dull. By exercising regularly

I feel better, more alert and my work performance here at VHS is enhanced,” said VanderKooy.

Many people would think it crazy to enjoy running for long periods of time, and often wonder how it is



PHOTO BY: MS. RACHEL SCHIFF.

that the runners are able to cross the finish line without collapsing. However, according to marathon runners such as VanderKooy, it’s the actual running of the marathon and not the crossing of the finish line that makes the whole experience worthwhile.

“Crossing the finish line is only one part of the race. For me crossing the line is just the final chapter and the closure. There is a type of sadness and regret that the race and all its glory and struggle are now over. There is a tinge of guilt over the struggles to keep up the pace that result from slacking during

training. There is excitement over the pride of doing better than the last race and a firm resolution to continue training harder, faster, longer. It’s not the medal as much as the hugs from those who watched me go out in the cold gray morning on a training run and now see why I did it,” said VanderKooy.

Although VanderKooy has participated in countless marathons and quite a few Triathlons, he just recently began to think of himself as “a runner”. In fact, VanderKooy revealed that it isn’t because of his love of running that he participates in marathons; in actuality he really doesn’t enjoy running.

VanderKooy commented, “The more I succeed then the more sense of identity I get. You may find it interesting that I don’t particularly like running. What I do like is the sense of identity that is earned from hard work sacrifice and discipline. Only this year have I ever referred to myself as a runner. “I’m a runner”; I am forging an identity that I’ve earned and that feels complete.”

A “SAVE ME” INSPIRED SADIES

By: Nathaly Romanes
Features Editor

Sadies has been a dormant tradition at Valencia High School and will be returning this year at the Save Me Sadies on March 26th.

The concept of Sadies has been around Valencia’s past Sadies but our generation hasn’t experienced it yet. This year the Associated Student Body (ASB)

is bringing back the idea to “crown” a couple according to the theme. For example, the “crown” this year will be something like a cape or badge, that represents the Save Me theme.

The Sadies dance is held every year for the opportunity for the young ladies to ask a young man to a dance. She will purchase the tickets (ideally) and take him to the dance as opposed the traditional way, it’s almost like a roll reversal.

SPRING MUSICAL: THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

By: Elizabeth Knarr
Reporter

In the middle of March, Valencia High School’s Drama Department will put on their spring musical: the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (25th APCSB). This production, which is directed by Mrs. Grace Stanton and conducted by Mrs. Megan Arthurton, required hard work and dedication from the students and teachers involved in order to make the musical a success.

Stanton decided to direct 25th APCSB after seeing a production of the play in New York City several years ago with her students. She thought the musical was hilarious, and noted that everyone in the audience enjoyed it, so she wanted to bring this enjoyable musical experience to audiences here at Valencia.

Directing this musical was more difficult than directing a play, because choral and dance rehearsals had to be coordinated and combined with normal play rehearsals. In addition to extra rehearsals, 25th APCSB also required extra staff and performers.

To successfully put on this musical took the work of 20 support staff as well as 16 performers. Six of these roles were created specifically by Stanton, and were not in the original script. Stanton also double cast one of the roles. Student musicians also perform for 25th APCSB, and Stanton decided to hire some professional musicians to complement the talents of the student musicians.

Due to the fact that both Stanton and Arthurton are required to work around hectic schedules, including their involvement in the Dodgeball Tournament and the VHS Talent Show, the rehearsal schedule began ten weeks before opening night. All performers and staff were required to meet several times a week, putting in countless hours of preparation to ensure that the final performances would run smoothly.

The dedication of Stanton, Arthurton, and all the students involved in the production will show throughout all the performances of the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee on March 10, 11, and 12. Their hard work and countless hours of practice will be evident, so support the Drama Department and buy a ticket from any cast member or from Mrs. Stanton in room 212 for ten dollars to see the final musical of the school year.

IN THIS PHOTO (SINGERS): SHAY MARTOS (10), KEANU SILVA (10), SUSIE MORALES (12), CONOR WATKINS (12) AND DAVEY LINAM (11). PHOTO BY: SEJAL PATEL.



EVERY 15 MINUTES LEFT VALENCIA MOURNING

By: Nathaly Romanes
Features Editor

(Continued from page 1) The grant covered the majority of the costs for Every 15 Minutes; total cost of the program was about \$6,000 this year.

"We consider the program worthwhile [...] to address the issue, with a demonstration as close as possible as reality," expressed Martinez and was relieved to find out that Valencia would be receiving a grant to pay for it [Every 15 Minutes].

The twenty-four students involved are as follows: Ashley Allen-Mitchell (12), Evan Boughman (11), Natalie Christiansen (12), Warren Corales (12), Brianne Coulombe, Jacob Elliot (12), Brooke French (11), Chase French (12), Milton Fuentes (12), BreAnna Garcia (12), Michael Garcia (12), Devon Gray (12), Travis Hawley (12), Cassandra Hinger (12), Leilani Jones (12), Bryson Kauhaaha (12), Julian Larasquiti (11), Jessica Morataya (11), Caleb Nelson (11), Lauren Powell (12), Vaishali Rana (12), Rebekha Sanchez (12), Jasmyn Santos (12) and Connor Watkins (12).

Feb. 10 was the day of the accident and four students were chosen to be part of it. Brooke French, Chase French, Travis Hawley and Leilani Jones were the ones who participated

in the accident. Brooke French was told she would be taken, in an ambulance, to Placentia-Linda Hospital, where she would "die", Chase French was told he would be taken via helicopter to the hospital (would "die" before reaching the hospital), Hawley was told he would die on site and taken in a hearse to the Orange County Coroner's Office.

It was a shock to all of them as Jones said, "I was super nervous. [...] I sucked it up for everyone to see [the accident] though."



CHASE FRENCH (12) TASTED DEATH DURING THE REENACTMENT OF A DRUNK DRIVING INCIDENT. PHOTO BY: AADILA PARUK.

Two cars were involved in the accident, a green Ford Mustang and a black Toyota Camry. Jones and Hawley were in the black Camry and both Brooke and Chase French were in the green Mustang.

Chase French expressed, "The

hardest part was at the hospital, acting dead when I could hear my mom crying." He shared that it was difficult for his mom to see both of her children in that situation.

Feb. 11 was the day of the student body assembly, portrayed as a "funeral". The O.C. Coroner's Office entered along with some of ASB students, putting in front of the audience a silver coffin; then entered the twenty-four, living dead students reuniting with their family, embracing and

rest of the speeches that morning.

They showed the video of the events of the previous day. In the video, they showed Brooke and Chase French at the hospital, as well as their mother having to identify their bodies; Jones at the Placentia Police Department, having to call her father (she was charged with vehicular manslaughter and driving under the influence); Hawley's family having to identify his body at the Coroner's Office.

Boughman and Christiansen read the letters they had to write the previous night about what it felt like to die without having the chance to say good-bye. Parents who shared their writings were: Boughman's mother, Watkins's mother and Powell's mother's poem.

A guest speaker followed the parents' letters and shared her story. Her name is, Desiree Garcia and is part of the organization, Mother's Against Drunk Drivers. Garcia lost her mother because a nineteen year old man chose to drive under the influence of alcohol. Her powerful story reached out to Valencia High School students to think about the choices they make and how they can affect the rest of their lives.

"This powerful program is designed to create awareness among students that they are not invincible," [source: CHP], with the first hand experience to see how their actions affect the lives of others.



AFTER A YEAR LONG WAIT, PAYBACK WAS GIVEN. CARTOON BY: CHRISTINA CHAVEZ.

IT WAS JUST "BUSINESS AS USUAL" THIS YEAR TEACHERS TOOK 1ST IN THE 2011 DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT.

By: Dominique Riutort
A&E Editor

It's that time of year again. We all know it, and we look forward to it every single year. Participants begin to prepare months in advance in order to have a shot in claiming the title of champion. A wonderfully thrilling event that both participants and audience enjoy almost equally as much. If during the above description you were thinking about the Valencia High School Drama Department's arranging of the annual Dodgeball competition, then you are correct.

Every year, as a means of fundraising, the Valencia High School Drama Department, headed by Mrs. Grace Stanton, arranges this thrilling competition that we all look forward to every year, along with the other productions that the Drama Department arranges such as the two annual plays and Mr. VHS as well. Students at Valencia enjoy very much so to attend these productions because they always manage to have a good time.

Last year, the champions were the famous "Business As Usual." It was a good thing that the students' grades did not depend on whether they won the competition or not because these teachers pounded the other teams into dust.

On February 18, during the Winter Sport's Assembly, a promo advertising this year's

Dodgeball tournament seemed to have gotten all of the students, and staff, excited for this upcoming event. With slow-motion shots of students and staff getting a red hand ball thrown at their face, the crowd cheered with laughter and excitement, anxious to know what this year's tournament would have brought.

The tournament brought along a few surprises including the fact that one of the teams who lost during the first round were given the opportunity to be voted upon by the audience. Since it was an extremely close call between "The A-Team" and the "Warriors," they were both given a second chance.

Another surprise this year was the fact that our very own Mr. Rick Lopez joined the teams. He played along with "Business As Usual" who showed no mercy.

After an exciting tournament filled with red hand balls flailing mindlessly at the audience, it was "Business As Usual" who took the cake. As usual. However, second place winners "Insert Cool Name Here" put up a great fight and were given their deserved credit.

"BUSINESS AS USUAL" TOOK FIRST PLACE. PHOTO BY: SEJAL PATEL.

