

## ASB ELECTIONS

**By: Dominique Riutort**  
A&E Editor

It's that time of year again, it's time for the ASB elections. The freshmen, sophomore, and junior classes have the opportunity to elect those students who they think will best represent them during the upcoming school year. Last year, the Class of 2011 chose seniors BreAnna Garcia as the Associated Student Body(ASB) President, Conor Watkins as the ASB Vice President, and Dominique Schorn as Senior Class President.

Those students who wish to involve themselves in constructive, educational activities find this to be an excellent option. Being a member of ASB allows the students to enjoy their school year to the fullest while also working on their personal leadership skills which will definitely prove beneficial in the workforce, and as an extra bonus, it looks

great on college applications.

Those who want to join ASB have to apply and then be interviewed by current members of ASB. Those students who want to hold officer positions in ASB are then given the chance to run for election. Then, during election time, Valencia students are given the opportunity to vote for their candidate of choice depending on their grade. They choose the candidates of their grade to represent them in important decisions. The incoming class of seniors have the chance to vote for the following year's ASB President, ASB Vice President, Senior Class President and other important positions.

Senior Class President Dominique Schorn feels that running for ASB officer positions is very beneficial.

"If you're running, you need to be willing to communicate with your class and even if you're an underclassman, it is still [a great opportunity] because you get responsibilities," Schorn explained.

## TRADING CARDS WITH EVERY MEAL

**By: Sarah Rafiqi**  
News Editor

The Valencia High School staff have decided to add a toy with every lunch served on campus. The toy will be teacher trading cards and will be implemented as soon as the new health-code lunches will be introduced. One of VHS' vice principals, Mr. Joey Davis, had this to say about both the new, healthier lunches and the trading cards: "We're really excited about the new lunch system and the prizes."

The original idea for the trading cards stemmed from Mr. Gary Robinett, one of the teachers here on campus. He was at first inspired by watching his students play with game cards, and decided to use this concept to better connect kids to their school.

"You see kids play with things of their own intellectual abilities," Robinett explained, "and we need things like this [teacher trading cards] for high school students. That way they'll have a reason to come to school and know what classes to attend."

Robinett's idea was taken to a committee of teachers for discussion. Once the idea had been approved, it was introduced to the

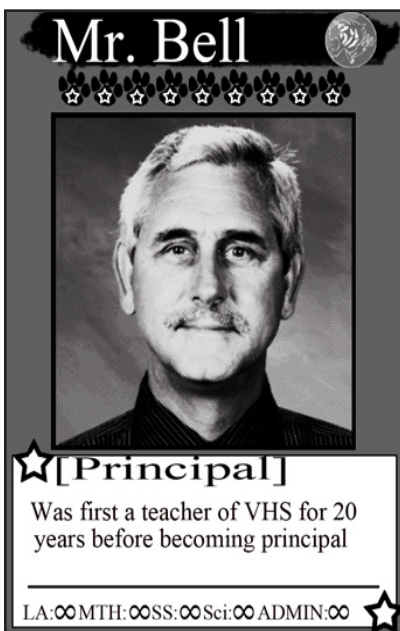
art department, where the fundamental design was created.

The resulting product depicts a teacher's picture in the middle center, with their name in the very top, left corner. Below the name

and the to the right lies a row of stars. Depending on the level of seniority of the teacher, they will have a different number of stars. Below the picture there is a brief description of the teacher's classes and credentials. Naturally, the teachers' cards will have strengths in certain areas over others, and students will need to collect a certain number of points in each subject matter to progress on to the next grade level in the game.

Special cards will be of administration members and other members of Valencia staff that are not actual teachers, such as our librarians, and the people who work in the Attendance and Finance offices. These cards will hold special points that students will be able to use when playing with friends. Robinett confessed that he is even going as far as to offer 5% extra credit to any of his students who can score the rare, gold Mr. Bell card.

Although the exact date for release hasn't yet been announced, some teachers are already imagining what their cards will look like. "Saintly" was the word Robinett used to explain what he wants his card to look like. "I'd be a saint. Patterned after the card of St. Jude."



PLAYING CARDS LIKE THIS ONE OF MR. BELL CAN BE FOUND IN YOUR NEXT SCHOOL MEAL. CARTOON BY: CHRISTINA CHAVEZ.

## TIGER PRIDE DAY IS COMING UP

**By: Shannon Hsu**  
Opinion Editor

On April 9, Tigers will be given the chance to help make Valencia a better place to learn while showing school spirit and possibly earning community service hours. Tiger Pride Day is an ongoing school tradition where students

can come on a Saturday and work together on a variety of tasks to improve the school. This includes repainting buildings, picking up trash, cleaning windows, and other campus beautification activities. For some students, such as National Honor Societies, participation is a requirement. However, what seems like a series of boring tasks can become a meaningful, cooperative experience for all students. This is a perfect chance to become more involved in the school's affairs.

Divided into teams, students and teachers typically work together to help out around campus. Participants are to arrive at 8 o'clock in the morning, and in preparation of getting messy due to the nature

of many of the jobs that need to be carried out, meaning old shirts and pants that you don't mind getting dirty. The event is set to conclude at around noon, and a snack will be provided some time during the day. Groups will probably participate in more than one activity throughout the day.

"I haven't gotten the chance to participate in Tiger Pride Day before," says



GIRLS HELP OUT DURING TIGER PRIDE DAY. PHOTO COURTESY FROM: VHS TIGERS.ORG

Isabel Hsu (12), who will be joining other Tigers in the event for the first time, "So I'm looking forward to being able to help out around campus this time."

"Tiger Pride Day was a lot of fun last year," says Tiffany Nguyen (12), who has

participated in previous Tiger Pride Days. "I thought cleaning up and repainting would be no fun at all, but everyone works together, and even though it was pretty tiring, I actually ended up having a really good time."

All students are welcome to participate this time, so clear space in your schedules and get ready for a productive morning to help our school shine. After all, we are students of this school and should do what we can to contribute to our campus.

## VALENCIA TIGER PROFILE: FELICIA HSU

**By: Emilie Cady**  
Reporter

Felicia Hsu (12) is one of many of Valencia High School's most successful students. With extracurricular activities, International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and an above 4.0 GPA, there's no mistaking that Hsu is indeed an accomplished Tiger. As well as being an IB/AP student, Hsu has also been involved in many activities in and out of school. She is a member of the VHS Girls' Tennis Team, and is also involved in Orchestra, Science Olympiad, Chemistry Olympiad, and plays Piano.

Hsu volunteers outside of school and this past summer, she spent about 40 hours a week conducting research at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) about the use of nano wires and chemical sensing. "My parents are extremely supportive of me, and they are the reason I am able to be involved in all of the extracurricular activities that I am," said Hsu.

In order to achieve the level of success she has, Hsu has had to work very hard in all of classes, especially so with the IB extended essays and thesis paper added to the chaos. "Senior year is the hardest year in IB because it goes by quickly because there are many deadlines to meet," said Hsu.

Fortunately, Hsu was able to finish her IB thesis paper early due to the fact that the subject of her paper happened to be about the research she conducted over the summer. To study, Hsu makes outlines for her History classes and does extra practice work for Science and Math. She claims to be a conceptual learner, which explains her preference of Math and Science over History. "I don't like just memorizing things, I like learning where they're coming from," Hsu explained. Hsu's parents and teachers have all been very supportive and helpful during her probably very stressful four years at Valencia. "I love all of our teachers, especially the teachers in IB. they're extremely support-



FELICIA HSU HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FEW ACCEPTED TO MIT. PHOTO BY: SEJAL PATEL.

ive and open, and they're always there when you need help," said Hsu. Her friends are also there along the way not only to study with her, but after working especially hard for a big project or test, Hsu says that she and her friends 'work hard, then party hard' to relieve the tension that had been building about school. Hsu has been accepted to many prestigious colleges and universities. She has been accepted to MIT University of Engineering, the Universities of California of Los Angeles, Berkeley, Irvine, and San Diego, Yale University, California Technical University, Duke University, Harvey-Mudd University, and the University of Southern California.



## FINALISTS OF ART CONTEST ANNOUNCED

By: Sejal Patel  
Reporter

Wonder who the Leonardo de Vincis and Michelangelos of Valencia are? Deanna Lopez (12), Janet Ascencio (9) and Jessica Chung (11) showcased their awe-inspiring art pieces at the 2011 Placentia-Yorba Linda Library Art Competition which was last March.

All three students received awards or High Recognition, with Chung taking first place overall. The First place winner prize in this competition was High Recognition and 75 dollars.

Chung's motive to enter the competition was to take initiative in the movement of creating awareness that American art programs need more attention. She explains that European art programs should act as a model for our education system.

Chung's winning artwork, appropriately

named the Morning Frog, was of a frog sitting on a

log. The painting has distinguishable details on color, wrinkles, and visible textures. When looking at the painting, at first glance, there is a snake in the upper right hand corner that is not noticed. Chung employs a blending technique of colors that is inconspicuously used to separate the snake from the vines.

Chung explains that the snake is "a conflict be-



JESSICA CHUNG RECEIVED 1ST PLACE IN THE PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA LIBRARY ART CONTEST. PHOTO COURTESY FROM: VHSART-GALLERY.BLOGSPOT.COM

cause the snake could possibly eat the frog". This is to elucidate that everyone has problems and should remain calm and collected like the frog.

Lopez's art piece was done on acrylic on board, like the Morning Frog. Her artwork depicted a woman dressed in a red Hispanic gown, eloquently positioned with her back towards the viewer. There is a correlation of a red rose in the dancer's hair and an inverted rose in the mirror.

Lopez comments that the upside down rose in the mirror signifies "the reverse exaggeration of the dancer's dress and poise". Lopez chose to draw a dancer with evidence of Hispanic culture to represent her heritage and her upbringing.

Ascencio's painting is of a lion done in charcoal. She chose the lion because it best expressed her talent. Her artwork was done in charcoal because that was the technique she was most comfortable with using. Ascencio commented that she had "a wonderful experience and it was a pleasant surprise to find out that I won honorary recognition". She is also very excited for next year's competition to show more of her work.

Valencia's art talent will next be presented at the Art Show located in the cafeteria on May 25-27. Unlike the Placentia-Yorba Linda Library Art Competition the Valencia Art Show will only show work done from Valencia students. Come and support our artists and see more Valencia talent.

## DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS

By: Jeremy Beyon  
Reporter

Every year in May, Valencia High School holds a ceremony that essentially acknowledges the yearly academic Honor Roll students. An Academic Honor Roll student is one that has achieved a grade point average of at least 3.80 or higher for their prior fall semester report card. These awards that are handed out to the hard working students are called the Distinguished Scholar Awards. Distinguished Scholar Awards are rewarded to all students in each grade level who have met or exceed the requirements of at least a 3.80 grade point average.

This prestigious event is held in the Valencia High School Auditorium, and each distinguished scholar students are introduced by grade level one by one. Through this event the students receive an academic letter for their achievement. At the end of the ceremony there is a small special presentation for the seniors at the Distinguished Scholars Night. Each senior that has earned the Distinguished Scholar award is questioned about their favorite teacher through their years at Valencia High School. They are also asked to reflect their education experience and memories as a Valencia student at Valencia High School. The person that is in charge of Distinguished Scholar Nights, and makes the Distinguished Scholars possible is Mrs. German.

## FROM THE EYE OF A TIGER

By: Samantha Green  
Reporter

Reflecting upon the lives of the homeless seems to touch me in many ways; they've showed me what makes up the true human condition. They help create an appreciative feeling and an understanding that uncertainty can enter our lives at any point in time. After communicating with the homeless on numerous occasions I've come to the realization that these people are teachers who help individuals like myself in the pursuit of ones self. Being teens we go through life with a cosmic spiral of events leading up to our graduation. Many of us think that's it but in truth it's just the beginning. While trying to run away from this freight-train of events we seem to stumble upon many different questions, the main one being, "What's next?"

Should we go to college, start working or get married (that's a stretch)—what ever it is we are plunging head first into this sea of troubles, stress, and depression. Sorry to be negative kids but its true, pretty soon we'll be paying taxes, worrying about bills and thinking about the next big thing.

I met people who were well educated individuals that thought they knew it all but ended up in places they can't explain. Many dressing like we do and teaching me that the people we least expect may be homeless and the unpredictability of it all can hit us like a flash of lightning.

I met a man that used to attend Valencia, he saw me in my El Tigre sweatshirt and stopped me to ask me if I attended this school, I said yes and told me his story. He was on the wrestling team and got good grades; he then graduated in '84 and then moved on to a job rigging ships. With the decline in the economy the need for his job also declined. It was simple story and a rather compelling one, because it was an every day story, one that we gloss over.

These people don't have much but they had something. They had joy, many of us don't even understand the meaning of this. I couldn't understand why these people seemed to laugh more than I, or to smile at just the scoop of the meal I would give. These people managed to find a positive from a negative; that's the core of the true human condition, resilience.

## FOR THE BOOK ENTHUSIAST, THERE'S A CLUB FOR YOU

By: Emilie Cady  
Reporter

Recently, a new club has been added to the vast array of clubs and activities at Valencia, The Reviewers. Like its name suggests, The Reviewers is a book review club who chooses books to read and then comes together to discuss and compile a review about the book for other students to look on.

The Reviewers are headed by co-presidents Reetu Inamdar (11) and Mallory Grismer (11) and headed by VHS Librarian Mrs. Joy Millam, and usually meet on designated Fridays after school in the Valencia Library. The group meets at least once a month, usually on Fridays afterschool in the library. In order to choose books, group members submit their choices into a suggestion box, and the suggestions are then approved by the board members. Already, they have read Cloaked by Alex Flinn, and they are also currently working on reading Revolver by Marcus Segwick. The Reviewers' goal is to eventually have a collec-

tion of book reviews available for students looking for something to read in order to help them in their search for a novel that suits their interests. There are a variety of book genres to choose from that appeal to both boys and girls, such as Mystery, Science Fiction, Romance, Historical Fiction, and many others. "We have a diverse collection; we like to appeal to everybody," said Inamdar. However, the club isn't necessarily like a class such as Language Arts. Aside from compiling a collection of reviews, the group members really just come together to discuss their thoughts on the novel itself: the characters, plot, and their personal favorite part of the book.

"It's a great way for people who like to read to get together and talk books," said Millam.

"We encourage avid readers to join this club. It's a great way to review books and make friends that have similar interests," said Inamdar. The club had their kick-off meeting on March fourth, but it's not too late to join! Forms can be picked up at the library, or students can just talk to Mrs. Millam or the club presidents to get involved.

## DANCE MARATHON: WILL YOU FALL LAST?

By: Nathaly Romanes  
Features Editor

On April 8, Valencia High School will be hosting a Dance Marathon in the Old Gym. This event will consist of dancing for seven hours to pay off student debt.

The dancing will consist of forty-five minutes nonstop, with a fifteen minute break in between those segments (to hydrate and not overload their bodies). This process repeats itself until the seven hours are completed as part of the marathon.

In order to be part of the Dance

Marathon, one must fill out an application and preferably look for sponsors that will offer to pay money for their dancing per hour (i.e. five dollars per hour, for seven hours will earn the student thirty-five dollars towards paying any student debt off). The deadline to have applied to be part of the marathon was today, April 1 at 10 a.m.

Another fun and surprising fact about this dance marathon is that ASB has planned it to be-

come a flash dance. A flash dance is characterized as a (school) dance that will be occurring within a short period after it has been advertised; a dance out-of-the-sudden. Doors will open at six o'clock p.m. at \$5 to enter the dance after the marathon itself.

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