

The Thunderbolt to Discontinue April Fools Edition

Vivian Wong
STAFF WRITER

Every April 1st, the Thunderbolt traditionally publishes an April Fools' edition of the newspaper filled with humorously untrue articles and stories. This tradition has become a beloved staple of *The Thunderbolt* and a highlight among the student body. However, starting this year, the April Fools' edition of the Thunderbolt will no longer be published. Rather than the amusing and made-up articles that students have come to expect, the Thunderbolt will instead continue with their usual reporting of real current events occurring around the school campus. This current edition will be no different from the usual format of other issues.

For over 20 years, the Thunderbolt has dutifully continued this April Fools' tradition to spread smiles and laughs around campus come every April 1st. Over the years, this issue has also become a popular and universal favorite read among the students. "I always look forward to reading the April Fools' edition... It'll be kind of weird not having it anymore," Senior Alyssa Huie sadly states. Many other students share the same sentiment as Huie, expressing

unhappiness at the news. "It's always nice to have a change from all the formal articles once in a while," Junior -- reveals. This new decision has led to many questions regarding why this long held tradition is coming to an end. "Honestly, I don't see why the school is banning the April Fools' edition," -- proclaims, "At the end of the day, it's just a joke."

This difficult decision comes as a result of the backlash from students, counselors, and parents. The backlash was reportedly so overwhelming that the school administration had to step in and take action, immediately putting a stop to the publication of the April Fool's issue until further notice. Reactions to this new development among the school community is quite divided, with some praising the ban and others criticizing this decision. Mills parent Karen Jansport, was one of the advocates of the ban and is overjoyed at the result, "For too long, this frivolous edition of The Thunderbolt has been misleading and causing chaos and trouble among the Mills community. Thank heavens someone has finally taken action and put a stop to those pencil-wielding delinquents!" Though most reactions aren't quite as dramatic or merry as Jansport's, others including an unnamed Mills counselor have mixed



BACKLASH: *The Thunderbolt* reluctantly puts to rest its April Fools Edition.

feelings about the ban. "The April Fools' articles have sent many students into a panic and caused them to overflow the counselor offices with the false thought that they are unable to take certain classes or that they are required to take a specific class for a fixed number of years," the unnamed Mills counselor explains, "On one hand, I'll definitely miss the creativity and humor of the articles. But on the other hand, this ban will help tremendously reduce the amount of misinformation and panic going around the student

body." The expected thought when reading this article is that this article is actually an April Fools' article in disguise. But rest assured, this is a difficult time for all the students in journalism and is quite a sensitive topic to discuss, let alone joke about. First year journalism student, Cassidy Lam (9) is extremely distraught about being unable to join in on this tradition. "I won't be able to connect with past journalism students and most importantly, I'll never be able to participate in this fun tradi-

tion." Lam tearfully states. For other journalism students, emotions have ranged from sadness to annoyance. "To be quite frank with you, the April Fools' Edition is the only issue that students actually read," Ezra Chan (12) The Thunderbolt's layout editor states, "You have to let us get our publicity somehow."

Though this change may seem permanent, we here at *The Thunderbolt* are still holding out hope that the April Fool's edition will return. At this time we will continue with our regular reporting,

Bones Discovered While Renovating Mills Field



DISCOVERY: *Bones* discovered at the digging site are now under lab testing.WW

Annabel Sun
STAFF WRITER

Renovation of Mills fields and athletic facilities has been indefinitely postponed after hundreds of bones were found after initial surveying at the construction site.

Construction and digging began on the Mills fields towards the beginning of March, but stopped

after due to the sudden discovery. As a construction worker describes, "We were doing some initial digging in the Mills baseball field - nothing serious or very deep yet - which is why we were surprised to see lots of weird white rocks turn up, since they shouldn't have been there. After we uncovered a few more of them, somebody pointed out that they looked like bones, and we immediately stopped digging. I'm still

a little bit scared." The Millbrae Police Department was contacted immediately after the discovery. According to a short statement, some of the bones are definitely human, while some of them are "definitely not". Lab analysis shows that the bones vary in age, from about twenty years old to some fossils over a thousand years old, suggesting that the bones did not all come from the same event and may

have been buried at different times. None of the bones have been identified as belonging to a particular person. Mills staff members and the Millbrae community have no idea where the bones came from, since there are no historical records of any graveyards, burial sites, or other events that could explain the bones. Nor are there records of bones being found during past construction efforts, even though the area has been worked on before. Overall, the circumstances behind these bones are unknown.

While not much is known about the bones, there have been rumors circulating around Mills of possible supernatural occurrences. Senior Jack Peng swears that saw a ghost while walking past the abandoned construction site. "I saw it clearly - it was ghost-shaped and half transparent, floating in the air," he claims. "I tried to throw a bone at my head. I ducked and ran away after that." While his claims may sound outrageous, several Mills students believe

in his statements. Classmate Sarah Chang (12) is one of those people who believe in his claims, saying, "It sounds completely unbelievable! But on the other hand, I don't know why Jack Peng would ever lie. He wouldn't make something like that up." Other students have provided similar accounts, causing a general sentiment of fear and a call to stop construction. "I don't want the digging to turn up more ghosts," continues Sarah. "What if they end up haunting Mills?"

The school has not yet made any decisions on what to do about the Mills facilities, or the bones that were found there. Several bone samples have been sent to labs for further analysis, but the school still owns the bones themselves. Some students have suggested that the bones could be sold for fundraising. As an anonymous student stated, "We already know how much money we can make by selling boba. Imagine if we could sell bones!"

Acceptance Rates Skyrocket for Prestigious Colleges

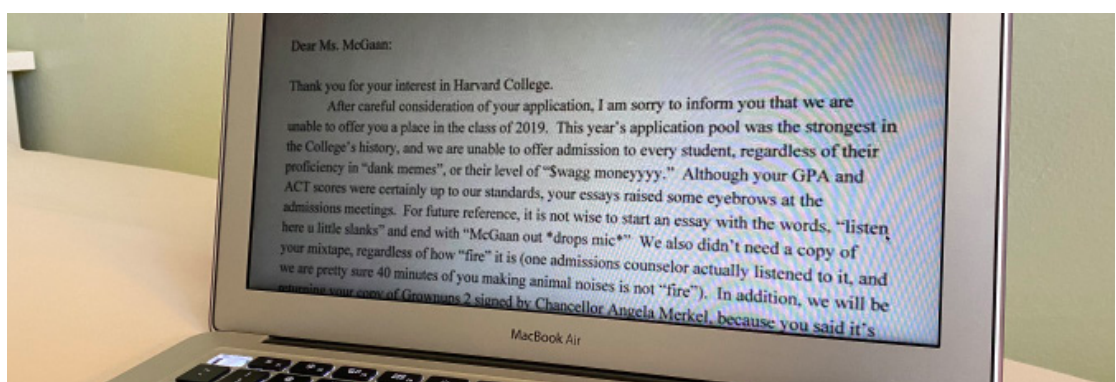
Bianca Reyes
STAFF WRITER

Arguably, one of the most anticipated aspects of senior year in high school is college acceptance letters. While the level of importance in which college ranks is subjective, it's general knowledge that prestigious colleges such as Stanford and Yale are harder to get into in comparison to community colleges. This year, however, it seems as if a switch has been flipped, because the colleges that are renowned for their selective criteria have hit an all-time high in regards to acceptance rates, all while community colleges have hit a new low.

This new development comes as a shock to all, and with good reason too. It seems as if it has affected all colleges across the nation, even the most selective college in the United States, Stanford, had soaring acceptance rates. Though it used to be 4.7%, the class of 2020 would be pleased to hear that the rates have skyrocketed to 83.4%. If it were just Stanford, perhaps

the incident could just be brushed aside, however that doesn't seem to be the case. The acceptance rates of some Ivy League schools such as Brown, Princeton, and Columbia had never exceeded above 10%, however now each college is in the 85% to 99% range. Close to 140 Mills students have been accepted into one of the twelve Ivy Leagues.

"This feels like some weird fever dream," says Diana Fitzpatrick (12), recalling the moment she got the unexpected acceptance letter. "It was during the 'Corona-break' when I got the email. Part of me felt like it could have been one of those fake, prank email pranks that some people pull but I looked up the Yale admissions email address and, lo and behold, the email in my inbox matched the email listed on their website. To say that I was shocked would be an understatement." Fitzpatrick is really just your average student—she maintained a 3.0 GPA her junior year, didn't participate in a single sport, nor was she e in any clubs. The only reason she'd applied to Yale was because her mom had forced her to.



COLLEGE: As students are receiving college letters, many are being accepted to prestigious schools.

Those who were looking to apply to community college, however, would be particularly displeased with this news. In the past, community colleges accepted any student with a high school diploma, but now, colleges such as the College of San Mateo and Skyline College, only accept students with a GPA no less than 4.0 (unweighted), require that the student be enrolled in at least eight clubs, and to have been the captain of one varsity sport.

One student, Gwen Fahlenbeck (12), weighed in on this last-minute

dilemma stating that, "It comes as such a surprise, and frankly gets me a little upset. We weren't notified of the change until after college decisions came out. It makes me kind of wish that I had applied to, like, Harvard or something." The mentioned Ivy League also seemed to have been affected by this change. Harvard's acceptance rates have jumped from a mere 5.2% to 97.3%, only seeming to reject applicants who had incomplete applications.

The exact reason for the sudden change in acceptance rates seems

hard to pin down, but that hasn't stopped people from forming theories about the strange switch. Some have blamed the Mercury retrograde for this phenomenon, since it is infamous for leaving bad luck in its wake. Others have started theorizing that many colleges wanted to re-brand how they're perceived by students for the new decade. There has even been a complex conspiracy that involves the college scandals that occurred during the last school year.

Boba Found to Contain Cancer Causing Ingredients

Danielle Alisantosa
STAFF WRITER

Millbrae is a city infiltrated with boba drinks: with multiple dessert shops and boba brands right around each corner. However, the FDA recently found new discoveries that boba, yes that small tapioca, does in fact cause cancer.

Boba drinks have been around for a while now, but have only recently risen in popularity around five years ago. What was once originated in Taiwan, became a massive business explosion in the U.S. as well as globally. It has become a trend, an aesthetic, and to others, an addiction. Perhaps it's the chewy texture, or maybe the slight sweetness, but no one can deny its fame. However, despite its tasty exterior, inside lies a bitter truth.

As of December 31, 2019, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been researching a recent phenomenon in the exponential rise of cancer patients around boba oriented cities. Bob Atea of the FDA stated that they, "started seeing developing signs of various types of cancer [stomach, kidney, liver cancer] near popular boba shops like T4 and Bambu." The symptoms have also been said to grow over long periods of time, basically staying hidden in your body as the boba accumulates in the body's system.

Due to the mass amount of boba shops in Millbrae, its citizens are at an extreme risk for becoming ill. With that much exposure, all Millbrae citizens experience about an 80% higher risk in growing a tumor on any part of the body. "It's defi-



DANGER: *Studies* have shown that boba was deadlier than initially thought of.

nately scary; something I've fed my children as a treat could potentially be fatal," states a neighborly mother.

Although very little is unknown, and the real reasons why boba has only started to cause cancer recently is still a mystery, the FDA states that they have seemingly identified an ingredient that contains carcinogenic molecules, which is heavily known to cause cancer. Carcinogenic molecules are often found in substances like tobacco, alcohol, and processed meats. However, the FDA is not sure if this is the sole cause for the recent outbreak, nor are they positive on if all tapiocas contain this molecule or if specific shops use carcinogen filled bobas.

Because there are various causes for cancer, researchers can't be

one hundred percent sure of the definitive source of these growing tumors in boba drinkers. According to Doctor Li of Kaiser Permanente hospital, the causes of cancer include the following: smoking, radiation, viruses, cancer-causing chemicals (carcinogens), obesity, hormones, chronic inflammation and a lack of exercise.

So while carcinogens may be an explanation for increased cancer rates, there is also the factor of obesity. Boba is often accompanied by a sugary liquid, known as milk tea or smoothies. These drinks contain high levels of sugars. Presumably those who have developed cancer, are ones that are avid drinkers of the beverage, and therefore the ones who toe the line of obesity. This tak-

en into consideration could be the reason or one of the contributing factors to the rapid spread of such as fatal and serious illness. "A friend of my definitely looked like they had one too many drinks of milk tea, and she's now in the hospital getting chemo for early stages of cancer," mentions Mills student Connor Wong (12).

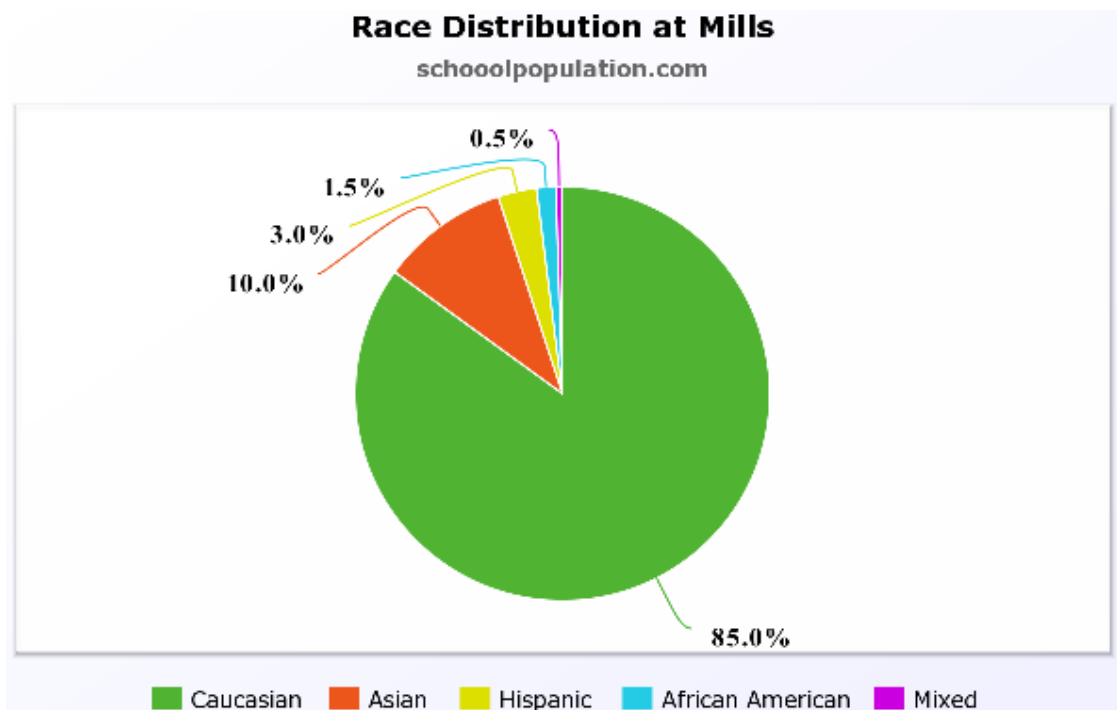
So watch your weight, and manage your intake. This recent discovery has left people all over the world devastated, as sugary drinks have definitely become a popular and well loved drink globally. "Boba has been my life for so long, it's my blood! I don't know how I can survive without it now..." wails Nicholas Wong (12) when asked about what he thought of the

Drastic Changes in the Racial Demographic of Mills

Jack Peng
STAFF WRITER

Recent statistics have shown that Mills High School has gone from a 60% majority Asian school, to suddenly a majority White school. With new students coming in from St. Nick's in San Bruno, which was closed recently, the Mills Caucasian student population has risen to over 85%, a change that has shocked many members of the Mills community (schoolpopulation.com). While St. Nick's students are rejoicing at such a convenient school to relocate to, current Mills students and staff alike have mixed, but overall positive reactions to the sudden changes.

As St. Nick's had closed, the school needed to find another location for all of its students. Some had suggested other private schools in San Francisco; some suggested public schools in the surrounding cities. After careful deliberation and months of planning, Mills was decided to be the new home for St. Nick's students. St. Nick's Principal James Jones gushed on how perfect a fit Mills would be for his students, "I've known Mills to be such a welcoming community with just enough room to accommodate a couple hundred extra students. I'm so glad Mills decided to take us in and allow us to join the Viking family!" Mills was chosen on a wide basis of requirements to intake the new students. The open air campus allows for more students in comparison to the other schools in the San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) and Mills has enough classrooms to accommodate the influx of students. The process of moving students to Mills was fairly easy, with orientation days on the weekends for the new students. The move to Mills was not made a large deal and students quietly integrated into the classrooms. All



CHANGE: *With an influx* of new students, Mills is no longer majority Asian.

students were able to adjust well to the new environment and continue on their educational career. Past St. Nick's students have nothing, but good things to say about their new school. "Everything at Mills is really a dream come true. I'm so glad we've had the opportunity to become part of the Mills community!", exclaims sophomore Ashleigh Hudgens. Junior Bill Green comments on the change in Mills demographics, "Our school just closed and we all needed a new school and with such a large number of students without a school, it makes sense that we took the majority." The former St. Nick's students all maintain the agreement that Mills is the best place that they could have ever moved to and hope to be able to stay at Mills for the rest of their high school careers.

New Mills students have started to adjust to their new school by implementing their own clubs and

sports teams. Students have started a *Glee* Club, Starbucks Club, and their very own fashion club. With more students to join clubs, participation has exponentially increased and is at an all time high since the founding of Mills. The new students have been at Mills for such a short period of time, the sports program at Mills has gotten better and better. Teams are filling up with eager athletes and piling up the achievements for Mills. Even school donations have increased and Mills is planning to install new facilities with these donations. Before this semester, Mills has been notorious for its little donations, but that reality is no more. With new families to donate and contribute to making Mills better, facilities can be upgraded to keep up with changing technology. All in all,

the new students added to the student body have made an enormous positive impact on the community. Mills students, in the classroom, have noticed the shift in the population of the students and have many differing opinions on the recent changes. Senior Peter Wang is shocked by the sudden shift, "I was in my AB Calculus class the other day and oddly half of the usual students were missing; there were a bunch of new kids that I had never seen before. It may take some getting used to, but I think I could come to make many great friends with all the students who have come to Mills". Junior Sophia Chen similarly states, "I'm excited to meet new people aside from the ones I've met these past years at Mills. I hope we can all get along well." However, some have not even noticed the student population shift; Sophomore Erica Ngyuen recalls that she "did not notice any change,

correlation between boba and cancer. However, the U.S. Government assures the people of America that there is not much to worry about, and that we should not automatically avoid all boba shops because of this hysteria.

Most shops serve other drinks, so as long as the tapioca itself is avoided, and the intake is managed, people should be safe from contracting cancer. There's also a wonderful variety of smoothies and juices in multiple drink shops in Millbrae to fill in your sugar deprived needs.

However, if you do feel any of these cancer symptoms, a sore that doesn't heal or continues to bleed, a lump or thickening on the skin, unusual bleeding or discharge from any body opening, a persistent change in bowel or bladder habits, or a persistent cough or hoarseness, please refer to your doctor as soon as possible.

Because of the apparent high risks Millbrae has for contracting cancer from boba, the Mayor of Millbrae, Sarah Chang, has asked for a temporary shut down of boba shops to get rid of any ingredients that might have contributed to the cause of cancer in other areas, which is said to end on April 20, 2020, devastating Mills students.

Though definitely alarming, please don't be discouraged from ever drinking at boba shops again, they are wonderful businesses and have some of the nicest people. *The Thunderbolt* wishes Vikings the best in their endeavors to be healthier.

but everyone keeps talking about it." Mills has not overly publicized the shift until the publication of this article and hopes that students will continue to act as they have even without knowing about the shift.

With so many new students, Mills staff has also had mixed reactions to Mills's population statistic shift. A couple school administrators shared their shock and stated that, "[we] were checking our student population for this semester and we could not believe it; the amount of Caucasian students well exceeded our expectations, with almost 85%". School administrators welcome the new students with open arms and hope Mills students will share the same sentiment. Many teachers are enjoying the amount of new students to teach even with the troubles of getting used to larger class sizes. Every class is filled to the brim with students, new and old, leaving teachers with a bit more work to grade and settle the class. An anonymous science department teacher, "is eager to take on the challenge of more students and spread the joys of learning science". Overall, everyone is pleased with the transition of new students to Mills.

St. Nick's students will continue to attend Mills for the foreseeable future with the decision for transferring to students. A survey of the new students has shown their satisfaction with the move and indicates the lack of demand for transfer to other schools in the district. Mills hopes to fully integrate the students into the school and create a community that is more open to students from different backgrounds. Perhaps in the future, Mills will be a location for schools to transfer their students permanently to offset increased student population. *The Thunderbolt* wishes for a successful school year and onwards for the new students.

wild things

STUDENT PALEONTOLOGIST

Bianca Reyes
STAFF WRITER

When one thinks of a paleontologist, an eighteen-year-old senior in high school wouldn't be the first person that comes to mind. After all, a paleontologist is a person who studies "life that existed prior"—namely, dinosaurs—and it wouldn't seem like a particularly popular sport among teens nowadays.

Ross Keller, a senior from our very own Mills High School, defines himself as a "teen paleontologist," having studied paleontology for as long as he can remember. His passion for studying fossils can be rooted in the fact that dinosaurs seemingly surrounded him throughout his entire childhood. His favorite cartoon was Disney's Land Before Time and his favorite breakfast was Quaker's dinosaur egg oatmeal (which, when heated, hatches pastel-colored mini dinosaurs mixed with brown sugar oatmeal)—but the true childhood activity that shaped his enthusiasm for paleontology was the fossil

mining kit his parents bought him for his seventh birthday. "I think, ultimately, the catalyst to my "obsession," Keller uses his fingers to air quote the word, "would be the NatGeo fossil kit my parents gifted to me." He then went on to describe the task, which to any other child might seem tedious and boring, seeing as it was simply a dirt block which the child had to mine through using a dull, plastic pickaxe. The dirt contained various fossils littered throughout for the child to find; that is, if the child didn't get too bored and gave up before finding the fossil.

Nowadays, you can find Keller working in the dinosaur exhibit in the California Academy of Sciences every weekend from opening to closing time. If you find him, make sure to be prepared for a myriad of dinosaur facts to be thrown at you! He also has his own blog, dinokeller.weebly.com, in which he submits weekly blog entries detailing his love for fossils and different types of dinosaurs.

It now seems as if his hobbies have paid off. On March 11th, just after Keller's baseball practice

ended, he noticed an odd, and rather large, lump in the sand. Taking it upon himself to find out exactly what the lump was, he hauled back to school after making a quick trip to his house so he could get the necessary tools to uncover just exactly what the lump was.

With a shovel, a bucket, and hours of long, hard work, he uncovered what he concluded to be pieces of a fossil from a triceratops buried beneath the surface. After realizing his discovery, he decided to drive over to the California Academy of Science the following morning to get the fossil examined for authenticity. After confirming that the fossil was genuine, the Academy of Science decided to display the fossil on the main floor, with a plaque that reads "Courtney of Ross Keller and Mills High School."

His achievements weren't all in vain, however. He is set to be apart of Harvard's graduating class of 2024 with a degree in paleontology. Mills is truly over the moon with excitement for Ross Keller, and we can't wait to see what else he achieves in the future.

WATER POND COMING TO CAMPUS

written by justin condevillamar, staff writer

The SMUHSD board has voted in favor of a complete reform of the school district, which will be centered around student mental health. It will be the first out of all the California school districts to implement this new student health initiative to increase student productivity. Each school will have its facilities changed and upgraded to improve student health, and district standards and curriculum requirements will be updated to reflect this new initiative. This change will be similar to how tech companies, like Google, structure their workplaces, which has shown to improve efficiency over the standard work environment. For Mills, these changes consist of a complete renovation, which will result in the school being closed for a couple of weeks and classes being moved online.

Newly renovated Mills will now have a series of new features that will create a more peaceful environment for students. The first major change is the repurposing of the wellness room into a meditation chamber, which will allow students to leave class at any time for mental relief. Most of the foliage around the school will be replaced by a series of gardens with various statues depicting important religious figures; the garden areas will be open to the public whenever school is not in session so that everyone can experience the changes to the school. The centerpiece to the exterior changes is the brand new centerpiece pagoda, which will be located in center court surrounded by a series of ponds and flowing water. This will allow students to experience a peaceful environment that is separate from the main campus. The changes will also place an emphasis on student work by having student art displayed on walls and murals being painted on the exterior.

Within the classrooms, desks will be replaced by bean bags and ambient music will be quietly played

WHALE-COME TO SEA CLUB!

written by krista woo, staff writer

A new club has popped up this semester to invest in students who have a passion for watching whales and seeing sea life up close and personal. Tide Pool and Whale Watching Club, otherwise known as Sea Club, exists so that students can witness the natural beauty of starfish and sea urchins in the wild as well as experience the majestic behavior of whales in the ocean. Mr. Burdette, the teacher advisor of Sea Club, expresses eagerness in leading the new club, "I'm already at the beach all the time because I love to surf, so I'm really excited to be taking on this new club where I can bring kids to appreciate the ocean."

The focal point of Sea Club is to foster awareness and interest in sea life by bringing groups of students to the beach to witness the beauty of the ocean and all the creatures within it. During meetings, the club plans for future events where they have the chance to observe the inhabitants of the ocean first-hand. On trips to the tide pools in Half Moon Bay, students bundle up and are able to get some good quality photos of colorful starfish and hermit crabs in the overcast lighting. Last month, they also took a group to visit the albino alligator and the thousands of fish at the California Academy of Sciences. The club also plans to go on whale watching excursions in the San Francisco Bay where they would rent a small boat and sail around the bay's hotspots looking for breaching humpback whales. "These outings get pricey," explains president of Sea Club, Nora Whaal (12), "that's why we're constantly fundraising!" Right now, to raise money for their next outing to Pier 39 to watch the sea lions, the Sea Club is selling metal straws and stickers reading: "sometimes life can be over-whale-ming."

When they are not planning future excursions, Sea Club is still full of entertaining and important meetings. They study the different species of sea life they may encounter at the tide pools and watch award-winning videos on YouTube of whales breaching all over the world. "Watching a whale breach is so mesmerizing, and the videos we watch in the club are so high quality that I feel like it's crashing right in front of me," says Belle Luga (9). Sea Club also makes sure to practice important safety precautions so that they don't harm the sea life when they encounter them in the wild. Stark Fish (12), who is also planning to major in Marine Biology at UCSD, explains, "It's important that we know the right methods to study sea life; a touch with more than two fingers could be fatal. Here in Sea Club when we're not planning a trip, we practice the perfect two-finger stroke."

The club's most recent event, a trip to the Half-Moon Bay tide pools, proved to be exciting and informative for those that attended. They had a great turnout of five students participating in the outing and they got to see sea urchins, sea anemones, sea cucumbers, sea stars, and sea sponges. The members of Sea Club also witnessed a once-in-a-lifetime event as they observed a starfish move. Upon being asked about a favorite part of the trip, Herman Crabbe (10) responded, "I would have to say my favorite part was looking at the sea lions."

Sea Club would like to extend a warm "whale-come to anyone who wants to be more engaged with sea life!" The tide pool and whale watching club meets every Tuesday at lunch in Mr. Burdette's room. Go check it out, you won't regret it!



in the hallways. There will also be changes to the Mills curriculum that will center around student health. Freshman health classes will be changed into a meditation class, which will also teach students about the value of rest and time management. Sophomore PE classes will now be centered around yoga and other relief exercises.

There will also be a strict limit on homework given out by each teacher to allow students to focus on different things outside of school. Additionally, flex period will include a nap time option for students who are short on rest. Class time will be shortened to 45 minutes on regular days and 1 hour and 20 minutes during flex periods, lunch will be extended to 45 minutes, and brunch will be 15 minutes. The facility changes will be available to students after the construction period and curriculum changes will start the next school year during fall.

These changes so far have proven to be very popular among the majority of the Mills community. Mr. Bigmoney, a member of the school administration, commented, "After long-time demands from parents and students alike, the district has decided to implement a district-wide student health effort, so that all students will have an experience that benefits them through life." The administration has also been pleased with the planning and the progression of the student health initiative, which has spread to most teachers. Mrs. Amity, a history teacher, completely supports the initiative, stating, "This is something that students have been desperately needing for a while now; I am tired of seeing students who seemed tired, unmotivated, and sad for being at school, and I hope that the changes will inspire students to increase efforts in their classes." However, some teachers in advanced classes are skeptical of the changes, fearing that the changes would under prepare students of the rigor of advanced classes and in the future. Mr. Payne, an AP teacher at Mills, argues that "the administration is holding the hands of the students too much and that the changes aren't a reflection of reality." So far, most students have shown approval towards the changes. An anonymous student says, "It's good that the school is making these changes, so I can procrastinate and ignore my issues for a longer period."

This overall satisfaction can be seen across the entire community, which has overall been waiting for changes to the school district. The changes done to the school district are being closely observed by the other school districts and the state government. Many other schools have shown skepticism over the student initiative, but are open to implementing portions of the plan if they prove to be successful.

Update: It's likely that the school will be closed for the rest of the semester due to construction delays.

wild things

NEW MILLBRAE GREENHOUSE

written by jasmine fung, staff writer

Built in 1895, the Millbrae Historical Museum has been with this city for over a century. More widely known as the building across from the popular Millbrae Library where people of all ages can go to study, hangout, or quickly use their restroom when the time calls for it. The museum is sad to announce that they are about to approach their last few months of business. In response to outspoken members of the community and years of heated discussions, the Millbrae city council has firmly decided to renovate the run-down museum into a new space for the community to enjoy nature and relax.

The official announcement of the Millbrae Historical Museum's close has been a difficult and long-awaited decision made by the city of Millbrae. For years, many residents of Millbrae have pushed for the city to close the old museum, justifying their cause with reasons such as the lack of use and interest from locals and taking unnecessary funds from the city to continue the institution running. After weighing its benefits and disadvantages, the city of Millbrae has concluded that it would be most favorable to begin directing their energy into creating a practical and functional use for the community. Pushed for by the combined unrelenting efforts of active residents, the museum will be eventually replaced with a neighborhood greenhouse to educate the community about the environment and to provide a space for recreational use. Construction for the new greenhouse is currently planned for mid-spring of next year and is open to receiving feedback from local residents. From the city of Millbrae's most recent update on this project, they are curating a specific selection of plants unique to California, such as Blue Elderberries and the California wild rose. Furthermore, there have also been recent discussions on the idea of bringing butterflies into the new greenhouse as an attraction point. Although all the details are still up in the air, the city of Millbrae promises to deliver an "amazing and beautiful space for people to closely interact with nature and enjoy their daily lives."

This greenhouse will be vital to the city's long-term goals to raise awareness on environmental issues and to stimulate more participation from the community in the conservation and appreciation of nature. In addition to a wide range of plants and species, the city is also planning youth programs to provide local volunteer opportunities and different events to reach a larger number of people of all ages from preschoolers to the elderly. Combining the efforts of the community, the city of Millbrae hopes to encourage more personal involvement in events and appreciation for nature as they begin to beautify the city together.

Through the new community greenhouse, more people in Millbrae will be able to have more access to learn and join the trend of sustainable culture and take a much needed break from the bustling city to enjoy the calmness and friendly atmosphere that the neighborhood greenhouse will provide. In addition to building a community hotspot, Millbrae hopes that the greenhouse will become a place for environmental enthusiasts to take part in and even teach others about sustainable living and appreciating the environment for what they provide.

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AMERICA INTRODUCES SWITCHING SEASONS

Annabel Sun
STAFF WRITER

At this time of the year, Mills students may be preparing for the start of the spring season. However, the United States government has just announced a change in plans: this year, they will be replacing spring with another autumn season.

On March 19th, which was supposed to be the first day of spring, President Trump made an announcement about the sudden change. "We're going to have another fall!" he exclaimed triumphantly. "The fall season, the fall harvest, it's beautiful, it's amazing, and we're going to have it again. Two times this year. It's going to boost our economy... it's going to reduce hunger and help low-income families and homeless people, and in the end, we get to celebrate Thanksgiving twice and eat a lot of turkey."

Aside from his initial statement, Trump has been vague on how he plans to implement the seasonal change, and what the resulting effects will be. Despite this, he promises that the decision is backed by "lots and lots of science and brilliant professional scientists." Economists disagree on whether the change will truly "boost our economy," as Trump has declared. However, even in the days following his announcement, there has been a distinct change in the weather in many areas across America. Farmers are celebrating this change as they find their crops rapidly growing and, as promised, ready for a fall harvest.

For us living in the Bay Area, the new autumn season will not be much of a change from our originally-scheduled spring, since the Bay Area has mild weather regardless of season. Expect to see more rain than usual, which will be beneficial to our state's water supply. Following this change,

Mills plans to continue using their "spring" curriculum and proceeding with school as usual. The semester and all classes will be renamed to "second-fall" to reflect the change in seasons. The school has not yet decided on how to rearrange the school schedule, but it will mirror the fall semester in order to implement fall national holidays. It is very likely that Spring Break will be replaced with another Thanksgiving Break, and students can expect events such as Mills Mania to occur again in later months. The College Board has announced that they plan to proceed with AP testing as normal, but occurring in December, which is the month replacing May. Finals can also be expected in December.

The Thunderbolt wishes all students a happy fall season! Enjoy your Thanksgiving turkeys and pumpkin spice lattes.

Senior Ditch Day Canceled!

Andrea Haro
STAFF WRITER

The day is finally approaching: Senior Ditch Day is just around the corner, and spirits are high as seniors anxiously wait for the last of their high school semester to be over. Senior Ditch Day has since been a highlight for many seniors, as it gives them a final chance to enjoy themselves with their closest befriends before they part after graduation. Typically, it takes place the Monday after prom, and for the graduating class of 2020, it will take place on May 4th. For the past few years, the graduating classes have been seen going to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, California's Great America and Six Flags, the three biggest and best that northern California has to offer. However, due to recent implications with the Corona virus (COVID-19) wreaking havoc all over the world, senior ditch day should be banned.

Since its spread in the United States, people have been freaking out about the corona virus. However, things got real when our very own Mills High School closed due to safety measures taken on by the district. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "...all U.S.... events of 10+ people should be canceled or held virtually." Unfortunately, this includes senior ditch day and any school events. For the safety of the students and the community, senior ditch day should be banned to prevent further spread and/or contamination of the deadly virus.

As seniors, this year is very important for grades. Students who

have failed to keep up with the school's A-G graduation requirements may not be able to graduate with the rest of their class. Skipping senior ditch day would result in being disqualified to graduate and thus end up working at a fast food joint, working minimum wage. This day

weren't able to see our teachers for nearly a month, and that was hard enough as is. Who wouldn't want to spend the entire day with your teachers after not seeing them for a month? These adults literally put their blood, sweat and tears into helping you finish your high school



BOARDWALK: A popular destination for senior ditcher's on ditch day.

gives kids the option to slack off while the reality is that they should be in class, keeping up with their graduation requirements and ensuring themselves a diploma at graduation (regardless if it is virtual or not). It may be fun to be screaming your lungs out on a roller coaster with your friends, but do you know what's even more fun? Being accepted into a college and holding your high school diploma because you decided not to slack off and go to school on senior ditch day.

Due to the corona virus, we

career and you plan on leaving them for roller coasters? That's kind of harsh.

Senior Ditch Day should totally be canceled. This way, we'll be helping stop the spread of the corona virus, one school at a time. Plus, we'll also be having each other's back by ensuring that all of the class of 2020 graduates together, as it should be. And if senior ditch day doesn't end up being canceled, see ya at virtual senior ditch day and virtual graduation. Stay safe seniors!

The conference continued and throughout the meeting Trump continued to idolize Biden, saying "I couldn't have asked for a better opponent, I think he has what it takes to win. He's a winner, that's what he does." After saying this, Stephanie Grisham, the third Press Secretary in the Trump Administration, rushed to the stage and attempted to pull Trump aside. According to The Floor Street Journal, "Trump took on a keen liking to Biden. On a similar par to his liking of President Putin." Many critics speculate that

The President's New Friend

Aiden Neely
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, March 17th, Joe Biden took 65% of the votes in the Democrat Florida Primary, stunning Bernie Sander's camp and leaving his opponent in the dust. With a Biden candidacy looking all the more real, Trump has begun a media flurry by officially endorsing what appears to be his largest opponent. According to reporters, after the results of the 17th's primary, Trump called for a press conference and told the press that he was "very proud of Joe Biden". Most analysts are not sure what to make of this new supporter of Biden, many citing the fact that Trump was nearly impeached because he was attempting to gain dirt on the Biden Family. When asked by Associated Press members to respond to his endorsement in relation to the Ukraine Call, all he said was "It was just a bit of fun, Biden knows I was just kidding around."

Among all of the disrupt Trump's new friend has caused, possibly the most noteworthy change has been in the house and senate where the bipartisan gap appears to be dwindling. More legislation has been getting passed with unanimous support from both parties. Mitch McConnell has been easing his stance on slandering the democrats, and can now be seen taking walks with house leader Nancy Pelosi during lunch breaks.

the president's new fondness of his 2020 opponent is likely "a scheme" or a plan to unnerve the democratic front runner, some even saying that Trump is doing so in an attempt to weaken Biden's base by making it seem that Biden leans republican.

Whatever his reason may be, Donald Trump could not have anticipated the type of effect it would have on the very split political demographic of America. In a recent poll, a number of moderate trump supporters were found to reallocate their vote to Biden. One saying, "I didn't quite agree with what Trump has to offer but it was the best option, but now that Biden seems to be getting along with him, he must be okay." Other more conservative members of Trump's base have also switched their votes to Biden. One statement made from the president of the "Bikers for Trump" club, Bike Mloomborg, announced that he will be voting as a democrat for Biden because "The big man says he's okay, so he must be a great guy. No one knows better than the Big T after all."

Among all of the disrupt Trump's new friend has caused, possibly the most noteworthy change has been in the house and senate where the bipartisan gap appears to be dwindling. More legislation has been getting passed with unanimous support from both parties. Mitch McConnell has been easing his stance on slandering the democrats, and can now be seen taking walks with house leader Nancy Pelosi during lunch breaks.

Seagulls: The Root Of All Evil

Vivian Wong
STAFF WRITER

Seagulls. Need I say more? They may seem like harmless and docile little sea birds, but in all actuality they are the stuff of nightmares. Seagulls are the monsters of the sky who snatch up your delicious lunch with no remorse, taunting you with their beady soulless eyes as they make their escape into the sky. And the worst part is that these lunch thieves are everywhere, be it at Mills high school where they congregate on the roof tops methodically planning how to best terrorize students or at beaches where they harass beach goers for the sake of free food. Frankly, there is no escape from these remorseless beady eyed evil beasts. Many readers may say that I'm over exaggerating, but what I am telling you are facts. Seagulls are the devil incarnate. I mean, have you ever seen The Birds by Alfred Hitchcock? Even though that movie is fictionalized it still rings true about just how potentially dangerous and murderous gulls can be. And the fact of the matter still remains, seagulls are the root of all evil. They are thieves and an overall public nuisance to all in the form of a seemingly innocent seabird.

As previously stated, the thievery of seagulls cannot be overlooked. They'll happily terrorize strangers of all ages in order to steal their food and their girl. They don't discriminate, not when it comes to getting a free meal. Countless students have recalled numerous horror stories about how they were attacked by seagulls and as a result had their food stolen. One anonymous Mills student recounted a similar story from their early childhood

that has traumatized them for life. "I was eight years old at the time, and my younger sister and I were at this amusement park. We were sitting at a table in the food court area and our mom had gotten us some chicken tenders for lunch and left to go get us some utensils. Everything was just fine, but that all changed when the seagulls attacked," the student was visibly shaken when retelling their story, but pushed on, "They came at us like a swarm of angry bees, surrounding my sister and I. I tried to make them go away but that

able that seagulls strike fear in the hearts of many and this story among many others is only more evidence that points to seagulls as wicked and wrongdoing creatures.

However, it doesn't just stop there. Seagulls also poop everywhere and on everyone. Again, they don't discriminate, especially not when it comes to causing pandemonium and chaos. It's even theorized that seagulls intentionally target people when they fly through the air and let one drop. Seagulls are dedicated to making the daily lives of



SEAGULL: Seagull seagull seagull seagull seagull seagull seagull.

only made them angrier, and besides they were nearly as big as my eight year old self." After a tense standoff between the student and the swarm of seagulls, the seagulls unfortunately emerged as the victor. "They took off with my chicken tenders and my dignity. After that experience, I flinch every time I see a flying bird in the sky," the student sadly recounts, "My childhood was ruined from that moment on." It's undeniable

humans as difficult and downright horrible as possible and it is only customary that they are bestowed the description of being the root of all evil.

Do not be fooled by their seemingly innocent appearance, these seabirds are much more dangerous and evil than their exterior lets on. I can only hope that the public remains vigilant and actively aware of the dangers seagulls pose on us all.

Principal Duszynski For President 2020

Justin Condevillamar
STAFF WRITER

On March 1st, 2020, only one day before the Super Tuesday primaries, Pamela Duszynski, principal of Mills High School in Millbrae, California, announced her intentions of running for president in the 2020 election. This has come as a total surprise to everyone, despite rumors from the major political organization, the Mills High School front office, that she wanted to run for the presidency.

During her announcement, she declared that she would be running on the platform of education reform, equal rights, and social welfare. Her proposals include an 18 trillion dollar reform of the American Education system which includes free university education for everyone, the passage of the equal rights amendment which mandates equal treatment of everyone, no matter their race, gender, or religious beliefs, and social welfare for all underprivileged people which includes a 20% tax increase on anyone making over 100,000 dollars a year. Duszynski claims that the politicians in Washington are continuing a perpetual cycle of ineffective rhetoric which results in no effective progress and the division of the American people. Her other arguments also include how campaign money is destroying the American government, and that the other candidates are "senile old men" that would die in office. She

plans to break that cycle through a complete reform of the federal government which would consist of a series of "advisers," and the first-ever student congress that is entirely under the age of 18. After her speech

speech, are distributing Duszynski disinfectants and hospital masks to help contain the spread of the corona virus. Almost instantly, more than half of all voters have endorsed her presidential campaign; early polling

her campaign, with the most notable donations being from Elon Musk, who is sending a quarter of his entire fortune to Duszynski's campaign offices and "Mini" Mike Bloomberg, a former candidate who is currently

man of the DNC, stated that "She (Duszynski) was going to win every primary anyways so we got rid of the formalities and gave her the nomination." Tom Styer, Amy Klobuchar, "Howdy Doody" Pete Buttigieg, and "Pocahontas" Elizabeth Warren all have officially dropped out of the presidential race and have declared their endorsements for Duszynski. She has also rejected offers from "Quid Pro Quo" Joe Biden and "Crazy" Bernie Sanders to be her vice-presidential running mate. Although she officially claims that she will do everything "by herself" and have no Vice President, rumors have started to spread that our own Dean Christian would be her first choice for her running mate. Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader for the Republican Party, stated that "My party and I will do anything to accommodate her wishes, even if our and her values may not align.", in response to her presidential bid. President Donald Trump tweeted that "I am no longer running for the 2020 elections" and "best of luck to her for the next eight years, I know she will make America even greater." This leaves her as the only candidate running in this election, which caused Congress to draft and pass a bill to streamline the election process and grant her the presidency, making Pamela Duszynski the 46th president of the United States.



PRINCIPAL TO PRESIDENT: Principal Duszynski announces that she will run for president in 2020.

in front of 100,000,000 people, she plans to visit all 50 states within 50 days, where Duszynski will have rallies, town halls, and speeches in each state. Her nationwide campaign offices, which were created and organized only a few hours after her

numbers show that she is extremely popular among all demographics. Duszynski's inspirational speech also led to the biggest wave of funding that any single candidate has ever received. Around 40% of all Americans will be donating to

endorsing her is dedicating around 2 billion dollars in online and TV ads. She has already gained the support of every potential Democratic delegates and super delegates, despite currently not receiving a single vote in the primaries. Tom Perez, chair-

Hydroflasks: Designed With Loud Intentions

Jasmine Fung
STAFF WRITER

It seems like everyone owns a hydro flask these days. If not, you've probably seen them around-and heard them too. While the logo is infamous for its tremendous hype right now, the sound of dropping a hydroflask for being notoriously ear-shatteringly loud. It's a total distraction to everyone else around you and pierces right through your core.

Well, if you think that the sound a hydroflask makes is unnecessarily loud, you're not wrong. In fact, it was specifically designed to be that loud for a very reasonable purpose. In line with the brand's image and foundation, all hydroflasks are designed to create loud piercing sound whenever the owner is in need of help in a sticky situation. Since the hydroflask brand is mainly marketed towards customers who enjoy their

complaining to the company unrelentingly. To these customers, this loud addition to their water bottles is annoying and unnecessary. Even in some studies, researchers suggest that while the sound of a hydroflask dropping to the ground will not cause any permanent hearing damage, the repetition of the noise over time will. However, as the study was not confirmed by other researchers or has solid proof for these claims, the hydroflask company will not be recalling their water bottles just yet.

As a solution to cushion the loud sounds produced by hydroflasks, many people on the internet have been suggesting new quick fixes. One advises that people buy water bottle sleeves so that the material of the water bottle itself doesn't directly bang on any surface that it comes into contact with. Others suggested that hydroflask users keep their water bottles be kept in a personal bag at all times to avoid distracting oth-



Hydro Flask

DESIGNED FOR NOISE: *Clink clank clonk clank clink.*

time in the outdoors and engaging in outdoor activities, this feature was, "added as an extra safety precaution," as clarified by Hydroflask's official twitter after some complaints of hearing-impaired customers whom were then refunded for their purchase.

While it is a good and useful feature at times, other ordinary customers of the brand have been

ers around them. As of now, the sounds produced by hydroflasks still seem necessary for the company to keep including them in their water bottles. Since there are no plans to change their product's design, resorting to alternative ways to cushion the loud bang from the water bottle may just be the way to go.

Trump: Boxed In With No Escape

Leo Schroeder
ANCIENT ALIEN THEORIST

On Monday, March 18th, the fiftieth president of the United States Donald Trump began construction of his infamous wall. The problem is, it wasn't at all what he had promised. In fact, the wall in question wasn't a wall at all. It much more resembled a white picket fence. And it was

a r o u n d New Mexico. Naturally, citizens everywhere were outraged. Social media platforms quickly became the battleground for those who felt most outspoken about the matter. Everyone heard of it, and most nearly everyone took a side right away. Some of the most enraged patrons of the internet expressed disbelief and horror. Free range chicken farmer; Jacob Scottsman (NY) posted: "We fenced in New Mexico just like we fenced in our livestock!" Barista and vegan activist Yomif Michaels said: "He didn't even ask New Mexico if it was okay. This is twenty nineteen! He didn't even get New Mexico's consent to build this wall."

There are also however many

supporters of this new establishment. Many common responses include the idea that this wall will keep in all of the New Mexicans, who are newer, better and stronger Mexicans who have succeeded in crossing the border illegally and plot to steal our jobs.

The general public however, stands widely neutral. Many of the more level headed people of Reddit suggest that it may be a good way

it seemed to have struck a positive light on the presidency in a time that is much needed. The construction of the wall is scheduled to be completed in time for the rainy season. The Children's Daycare Society for Young Humans has volunteered to paint pretty flowers on the



PRESIDENT TRUMP: The Donald stands proudly in front of his new Mexico wall.

to satisfy Trump's need for a wall. Many find it to be a construction with little to no backlash of any sorts. The governor of New Mexico; Gichelle Mujan Lrlisham released a statement last week regarding the wall. "The state of New Mexico regards the development of a new white picket fence around our state border to be quite a nice addition to the scenery of this beautiful state. The white picket certainly complements our marvel-

newly constructed walls. With only ten cents a day, you can get your flower hand painted on the wall. Simply email a finished copy of your design, along with your social security number to wallforallnewmex@hotmail.com to have your design painstakingly hand painted by one of our fine child artists who will go the extra mile in the hot sun for you.

New Class Gives Student-Athletes an Alternative to PE

Misael Gomez
STAFF WRITER

Student-athletes at Mills know the struggle of having to run a mile for their physical education class (PE) on game day. However, they may no longer have to deal with that pain; the San Mateo Union High School District has decided to allow students who do a sport for the school to take an alternative class that both benefits their physical fitness and their sports IQ.

The alternative to a Physical Education class is called "Sports Education". Here, athletes of all sports will meet up with either their coaches or hired trainers to learn how to get better and train smarter and harder. The coaches and trainers will analyze how they improve, how they adapt, and how they overcome all obstacles in their way to become the best athlete they can be. Different positions require different training, of course. If a player wants to be a leader of the team, they will be trained on how to motivate, inspire, and work the hardest for the team. It should be stated that this isn't an elective, similarly to PE. Students will have to take this class only if they are ready to work harder than any other class they've ever taken. Half of the grade is effort, don't for-

get that.

This doesn't excuse you from the mile, however. In fact, in this class, the mile is cited as the most difficult part. The grading scale is as follows: -6:30= A; -7:00= B; -8:10=

means if everything you've done in this class results in you receiving an "A", an "F" in the miles would give you a B in the class. You have to remember that being in this class means you're ready to work hard to

because you didn't use the Sports Education training to your advantage, the administration argues. There is an exception, though, but it is only done if the coach agrees to it as well. If you are on that field

get you fit and ready for game time, it's to make you understand that in order to succeed, you have to work hard and never give up.

Sports Education is the alternative to PE if you want to test your limits and better yourself so that when that whistle blows for game time, you are more prepared than anyone you're playing with or against is. It's a great alternative to PE class, and can teach you a lot about yourself and how you can better your lifestyle. Keep Sports Education in mind when picking your classes for next year.

SPORTS EDUCATION GRADING SCALE:
50%: EFFORT
35%: W-L RECORD
15%: MILE
A= 6:30-
B= 7:00-
C= 8:10-
F= 8:10+

"Sports Education Benefits Athletes' Physical Fitness and Sports IQ"



NEW CLASS: Sports education gives student-athletes an alternative to traditional PE classes.

C; +8:10= F. As you can see, there is no "D" in this class- you will either pass or fail the mile. Thankfully, though, this is only 15% of the students' overall grade. It will fall into its own category, though, which

play hard.

Where does the final 35% of the grade come? Your team's win-loss record. There's no point in taking this class if when it comes to game time you let your teammates down

showing up, working hard, and defending the Mills logo every single day, then the coach will give you an "A" in that section of the grade book regardless of the win-loss record. The point of this class isn't just to

Mills Announces New Girls Lacrosse Team

Meera Singh
STAFF WRITER

Girls, grab your knee guards and lacrosse sticks; there's a new sport coming to Mills. For years, Mills High School hasn't gone through with the idea of having a girls lacrosse team. It's not more aggressive than football. Krista Woo, a senior who has been playing club lacrosse for the past 10 years commented on the demands of the sport. "I have gotten many concussions in the past because of this sport," she stated, "I've accidentally slammed a girl to the floor once." Mills is encouraging all athletes play with the aggression necessary to compete in this sport, even claiming that the girls will need to be more aggressive than football players. Ms. Zink, the freshman ethnic studies, and junior CP U.S history teacher, has decided to step up to the plate and coach the team. She used to

rubber ball to pass around into the goal. Usually, there are knee pads, mouth guards, and face protection involved in the uniform, making it very clear that this sport is as if not more aggressive than football. Krista Woo, a senior who has been playing club lacrosse for the past 10 years commented on the demands of the sport. "I have gotten many concussions in the past because of this sport," she stated, "I've accidentally slammed a girl to the floor once." Mills is encouraging all athletes play with the aggression necessary to compete in this sport, even claiming that the girls will need to be more aggressive than football players. Ms. Zink, the freshman ethnic studies, and junior CP U.S history teacher, has decided to step up to the plate and coach the team. She used to

coach for the Burlingame girls lacrosse team, since Mills hasn't had a lacrosse team ever to compete in the league, but now, she's more than willing to take on duties of coaching the girls lacrosse team at Mills "I am excited to bring out the crazy, I mean competitiveness in the girls. We are going to beat Burlingame this year. I can feel it," she asserted. The girls team is excited and happy to have Zink bringing her expertise to help them win not only in the Ocean division, but also be able to make it to Norcal by the end of spring.

The twelve girls on the starting team consist of four freshmen, two juniors, and six seniors, making it a very different line up. Shree Singh, one of the freshman girls at the height of 5'7 stated her stance on the

new team, conveying that she's "only here to show off and be able to snag all the cute lax boys." Karine Chan, a junior at the staggering height of 5', is the team's goalie, being on club lacrosse for the past 8 years. She's been dodging balls and catching them at 65 miles per hour, making her the star of the team. In fact, to put that fun speed in perspective, imagine Connor Wong in the school parking lot minus the bass- that's really fast! Simply put, he team is ready to dominate. Believe or not, but there will finally be a girls lacrosse team at Mills. The administration encourages all female athletes to enjoy, and with Ms.Zink at the helm, this team believes they can accomplish great things both now and in the future.

SIGN UP FOR THE GIRLS LACORSSE TEAM TODAY!



BREAKING: No More Contact Sports At Mills

Jack Peng
STAFF WRITER

As sports science evolves, scientists have discovered the dangers of playing contact sports. For example, football can cause head trauma, while the possibility of injuries extends to any sport. With this in mind, Mills faculty has decided to remove all contact sports, including football, baseball, soccer, water polo, track, basketball, softball, volleyball. At Mills' most recent Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting, the possibility of removing all sports was discussed, but rather, it was decided instead to remove all "concussion" sports based on statistics from SPORTS.com; their statistics stated 69% of students that play sports end up with a concussion and serious injuries to the body.

all the tackling, basketball and soccer have very little protection, baseball has balls traveling over 70 miles

sports." Clearly, Mills' PTO has examined this as a big concern and is already planning to remove these

flag football, capture the flag, tag, hopscotch, and hide & seek inspired by elementary students. Even though



BANNED: Due to health concerns, the Mills PTO has decided to dismiss all contact sports.

per hour, and this is just the tip of the iceberg there is so much more we have not discovered about these

sports by next year.

Mills' PTO has considered replacing the sports with competitive

Mills will be the first to implement these sports, their belief is that the rest of the San Mateo High School

District will follow once implemented for the sake of their students. Mills' PTO is also deeply considering quidditch from Harry Potter to be part of the new sports. Quidditch is already played competitively but not at a high school level. Junior Katie Bell comments excitedly, "As a big fan of Harry Potter, I am ecstatic to try out for Quidditch as a Chaser and fight for the quaffle ball." They are also taking any suggestions from students and parents alike to propose another sport.

Mills will no longer endorse any contact sport next year, and hopefully, it pushes student health and prevents injuries. The Thunderbolt is excited to cover these new sports teams and will possibly participate in quidditch if it is implemented.



Out With the Old and In With the New: Center Court to Golf Course



MILLS STUDENT WITH GOLF CLUB: Krista Woo (12) poses in center court with her trusty golf club, she is super excited for the golf course to be built soon!

Danielle Alisantosa
STAFF WRITER

As of April 1st, 2020 the San Mateo Union District team finally came to a conclusion on if the Vikings would gain a brand new mini golf course. And they officially confirmed that: Yes, yes we are getting a mini golf course. Good bye Center court, hello mini golf!

Since the summer of 2018, the Mills administration has been working towards improving the mental health of their students; requesting that the district approve the construction of something relieving and mentally relaxing. The district had heard their pleas and happily agreed on a mini golf course due to its peaceful atmosphere and it's whimsical and playful designs that would alleviate stress while encouraging students to have some fun. Con-

struction is said to begin this summer of 2020 and should be finished by the time Vikings start returning to school, however there may be up to a month layover.

The reason why this topic has been in such hot debate is because of the issue of whether or not it's safe and worth the money to build. However, the overarching concern over the mental health of students has been enough to push over the votes. Because the Mills school environment is considered a competitive one, while albeit not a bad thing, there has definitely been a heavy toll on the mental health status of students. From a Healthy Kids survey, it is shown that 70% of Vikings are depressed and anxious. To counteract this onslaught of decline in mental strength, human interaction and outside time is encouraged. Studies have shown that those who aren't getting adequate amounts of

socialization or outside time in the sun, are proven to be at a higher risk for mental health issues.

Mills students are notorious for spending too much time inside, especially Juniors and Seniors who no longer have P.E. They're eating inside more and more during lunch; sacrificing outside lunch time to meet inside for multiple clubs. Lunch is basically the only time for kids to receive sunlight during school for more than a ten minute period. With depression and anxiety getting more and more prevalent in teenagers, the need for something revolutionary was needed.

And thus, the construction of a mini golf course was proposed.

The mini golf course is said to replace center court, and the administration team is going all out. They've designed a Viking theme, inserting essential Viking cliches such as boats and horned helmet

decorations. There will also be varying obstacles based on level of expertise and rumor has it, a windmill is in operation as well.

Of course, Mills students can't hog all the fun to themselves. The admin team also mentioned that they will open the Mills Viking themed mini golf course to Taylor students. For a small fee of 10 dollars per student, the Taylor Bulldogs and the Mills Vikings can now secure a better and healthier relationship between the new incoming underclassmen, and hopefully make their future transition into highschool easier (while playing some super fun mini golf to relieve all that middle school stress #schoolsucks.)

There has been split reactions amongst the Viking students with Karine Chan (11) saying that "School is so stressful! It's about time they did something about it!" while another, Victoria Lin (10),

said, "it takes out space to eat lunch, and now my group and I will have to move to another place." However, most responses have been positive. Students have been praising this idea, stating things like, "Golf is my favorite sport, I'm glad I have an opportunity to play it more once this happens," Sarah Chang (12) and "wow, finally a true place where I can relax," Misa Gomez (11).

With this construction, Mills will be the first highschool to have gained a mini golf course. Looks like Michael isn't going to be the only one with a golf cart now. It's definitely an exciting experience, and surely a great help to our present and future students' mental health. The kids in The Thunderbolt highly anticipate it!

Everything You Need To Know About Frozen Two

Gaby Ofri
STAFF WRITER

Unless you've been living under a rock or something, chances are you've seen or at least heard of Disney's Frozen—the 2013 animated princess flick starring the Queen of ice, Elsa. Filled with catchy tunes and talking snowmen, the movie was a smash hit in the box office, grossing 1.28 billion USD total.

The much-awaited sequel, appropriately titled Frozen II, was released last fall on November 22. Many reviewers agreed that Frozen II couldn't match the quality of its predecessor, the original Frozen, and that the plot seemed tacky and forced. Not to mention, it severely lacked in the music department (but really how could they ever beat "Let It Go".) However, aside from mainstream criticisms, many believed Frozen II as a film was able to stylishly deliver a thrilling action-packed story with many twists and turns. Luckily for you, the Thunderbolt has the inside scoop on what the anticipated sequel really

delivered. Warning: spoilers ahead.

The time gap between the original Frozen and it's sequel fast-forwards the film to modern day Los Angeles. Elsa, now a mother of three, is struggling to make ends meet between her work at the local bank as well as balancing her relationship with her daughters, Latoya, La'Quaysha, and Lana del Rey. The family's life is turned upside down when Elsa's recently divorced husband, Carlos, becomes involved with a drug cartel run by a mysterious unnamed drug lord. After several deals go sour, the cartel tracks down Elsa's apartment and kills La'Quaysha in a flashy, action-packed drive-by shooting sequence. Hungry for revenge, Elsa takes

the murder to court. Latoya is able to identify the shooters, but

because of the cartel's influence on

the city, the suspects are unable to stand trial. Now outraged, Elsa attacks her daughter's killers, but it results in her being held captive in a psychiatric ward. However, Elsa is able to escape by using her magical powers to freeze the guard, and escapes free to continue to seek revenge.

A few years after her escape, Elsa has successfully killed off almost all the members of the drug cartel. Now reunited with Latoya (Elsa had lost custody of Lana del Rey, and with it all means of contact), the mother and daughter track down the remaining members to the business that fronts for the cartel's laundering, in order to kill the mysterious drug lord that started it all. Latoya acts as a lookout while

Elsa sneaks into the compound. At the climax of the film, Elsa is finally faced with the unnamed leader of the cartel. Before we can learn their identity, however, a shot is fired at Elsa that almost takes her life. Out of nowhere, Lana del Rey jumps in front of the bullet and saves her mother's life. Elsa is devastated, and so is the drug lord—and it is here that their identity is revealed... LaQuaysha, who faked her death at the beginning of the film.

The film ends with Elsa's tragic suicide in front of her remaining daughters. Although I found the storyline perfectly sufficient for my own tastes, many critics disagreed. Some argued that the plot could not be supported by the original movie, but Frozen II carried over many of its predecessor's original themes—such as familial love and courage. The film's ultimate message warned the hearts of families all around the globe, even though critics seem to disagree.

All in all, The Thunderbolt rates Frozen II a solid 4.5/5- stylish, fast-paced, exciting, and warm—it's a perfect film for the whole family.

