

## AP Biology passes with ‘flying’ colors

By Nathan Calhoon  
NEWS EDITOR

Last year, there was a 100 percent passing rate on the AP Biology test at El Camino due to AP Biology teacher Kelly Kissling’s hands-on teacher approach.

After teaching at EC for six years, Kissling only recently started teaching AP Biology, picking up the class in the 2019-2020 school year.

Although her first few years of teaching this subject were during the pandemic and she faced many issues during that time, Kissling took the first somewhat normal school year to implement a successful teaching method that would truly benefit students.

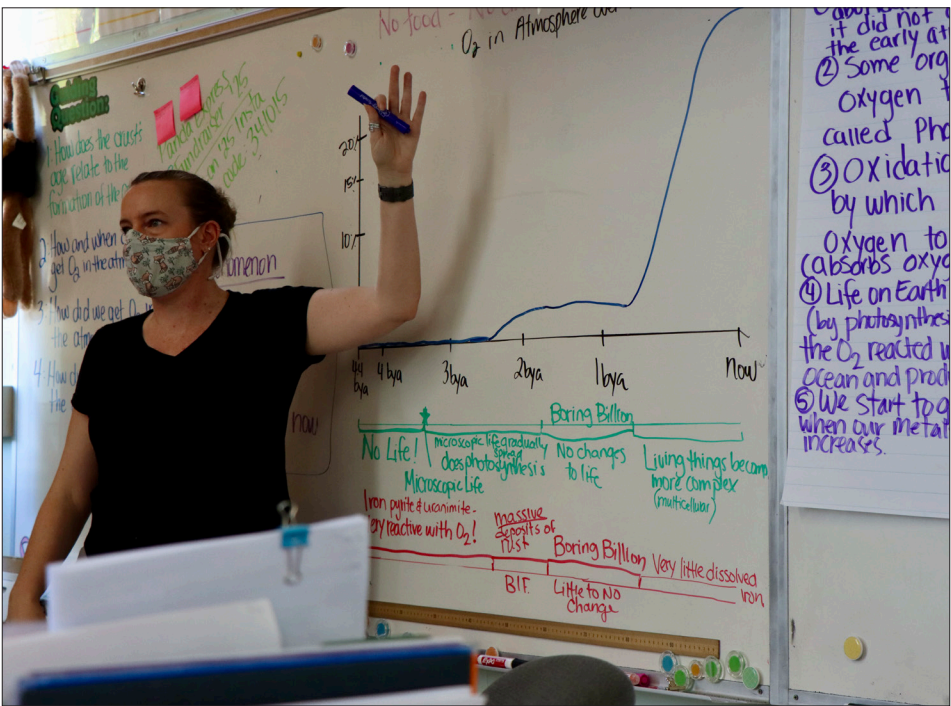
“One thing we do is a lot of labs—students can see right in front of them the things they read about in their textbooks,” Kissling stated. “In addition to that, we do a lot of practice with AP type questions.”

Kissling was also able to more effectively teach AP Biology to her students due to the fact that the class was smaller than the typical high school class, with less than ten students in it. **Brianna Swett (‘23)** was one of these students and expressed her love for the smaller class environment.

“There was more time for her to come help you instead, since there weren’t 30 kids,” Swett said.

By having a smaller class size, Kissling was able to go from student to student and make sure they understood the topic she was teaching. To keep students engaged, Kissling would turn lessons into fun labs, such as making rice krispies models to portray biology, which gave her students a hands-on experience of the subject. This teaching situation seemed to greatly benefit the students of the class, leading to the entire class passing the AP test and gaining college credit.

“This is the [students’] success, not just my success,” Kissling said.



AP Biology teacher Kelly Kissling stands in front of her class and teaches with colorful visuals and writing.

PHOTO BY LOGAN CASTRO

## The path of schooling: A student’s choice to make

By Janelle Germain  
STAFF WRITER

Many students today are not walking down our graduation aisles, but instead taking their own path. Instead of the traditional four years of in-person high school, many students are deciding to ditch the stress and unnecessary work by taking alternative forms of schooling.

To fulfill this goal and still meet schooling requirements, students are going to independent schooling or choosing to graduate early.

**Lauren Hagerty (‘23)** is one of these students that has opted for an alternative form of learning. She not only decided to do independent schooling online after the COVID-19 pandemic, but she also decided to graduate a term early. There are many factors that went into this decision, one of those including the toll that the pandemic had on Hagerty and many other students.

When the pandemic hit, methods of learning were drastically changed, and all students were forced into online school. And according to some students, online school affected academics differently depending on that person’s type of learning. After the pandemic, so many students that had been online decided to take the leap into switching to the alternative schooling system of staying online.

“I switched when COVID happened—I still hated doing my school from online, but it was much better than going in public,” Hagerty said.

Initially, Hagerty was a student who didn’t like online learning and still decided to switch to independent schooling. She found the in-person environment and the people she was surrounded by to be damaging to her mental health.

Recently, many students have

become more aware of mental health and anxiety struggles in physical school, which is another reason why alternative schooling is a choice that students make.

“I switched to independent studying for my mental health,” Hagerty said. “Public school was not for me—I was absolutely miserable and always felt so exhausted.”

With the ability to switch to independent schooling, Hagerty was given a more productive working environment without the distractions of public school. This was also helpful in being able to complete her necessary classes earlier than expected because of the ability to go at her own pace. Additionally, this prompted her to make another alternative schooling decision of graduating highschool early this winter.

“Graduating early just fell in my lap—it’s an opportunity that I definitely don’t want to miss,” Hagerty said. “I was told [about graduating early] at the beginning of junior year, and have been looking forward to it ever since.”

Even in-person school students are beginning to realize just how empty their classes have been. Since the pandemic, more students have been graduating early, not just by one term but also by a year.

**Yana Sergiyenko (‘22)** was an in-person student that made the ultimate decision to graduate at the end of her junior year and move on to college.

“I realized that I didn’t want to spend another year at school taking mandatory classes just to fill in my schedule, so I decided that graduating would help me to immerse myself into adulthood and acquire skills that would actually help me with getting employed,” Sergiyenko said.

Unlike Hagerty who’s online

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## What an extra 15 minutes means for EC

By Logan Castro  
OPINION EDITOR

Starting the 2022-2023 school year, a new law passed by California state legislators requires all high schools in California to begin school no earlier than 8:30 a.m., which will allow students the required time to sleep. To follow this order, El Camino has pushed their first period start time to 8:30 a.m.

Since 2019, schools in the San Juan Unified School District have rung their dismissal bells five minutes later every year to prepare for this new law to go into effect. But this year, the start time jumped 15 minutes from last year’s, which allowed EC to finally reach a start time of 8:30 a.m. Principal Evelyn Welborn believes that the change hopefully comes with a benefit to the students.

“When schools used to start at 7:30 [a.m.], I know that students were usually tired or not engaged during the first period. So, the whole point [of the law] is to allow students to get the most learning at the most optimal times of the day,” Welborn said.

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# First rally of the year kicks off school spirit

By Grace Gollihur  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On Sept. 2, El Camino students gathered together to spread school spirit and participate in the first rally of the year, held by EC's Student Government class.

Students were able to participate in games, watch performances and show their school spirit by wearing Hawaiian themed outfits.

Jacob Guletz ('26) attended his first rally at EC and expressed his enjoyment with the outcome.

"It was one big happy family," Guletz stated. "It was so much fun."

The rally started out with some cheers, and then EC's sports teams were showcased. Following, students from each grade were chosen to play a game of musical chairs.

"I think musical chairs were good," Guletz stated. "I would have added karaoke."

The rally also included some performances from different groups, including dancing and

drumline performance.

Student Government member, Ava Dwyer ('26), gave some background information on the planning of the event.

"[We] had a lot of stuff to get done," Dwyer said. "We spend the whole class period [planning]."

Dwyer also expressed the effort put in to make the class posters, and how many people needed scripts for the rally. The MC's needed scripts and they needed to know where important people were going to be.

One of the MC's for the rally, Jaedyn Marez ('23), explained his role in creating an entertaining performance for the school.

"I talk a lot, so it wasn't really that hard," Marez explained. "I was reading my script and then just adding my own little 'pizzazz.'"

In addition, Marez expressed how he was nervous at first, but then it became easier for him as the rally went on. He had many lines to learn, but by putting the effort in, he was able to give an exciting show for EC students.



PHOTOS BY GRACE GOLLIHUR

Alanakai Pascual ('23) hosts EC's rally by running a game of musical chairs.



EC's Freshman Class shines their phone flashlights to show their school spirit.

## Clubs 'rush' to gain sign-ups

By Gabriela Cooper and Emme Hogge  
STAFF WRITER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On Friday Sept. 16, El Camino students spent their lunch in the back quad, exploring and signing up for the many different clubs EC's Club Rush had to offer.

Student Government Advisor Sara Turner explained that clubs are a great benefit to the school and students.

"[Club Rush] allows students to meet people who have the same interests as them," Turner said.

Clubs are a great way for students to make new friends, pursue their interests, and immerse themselves even further into the EC community.

During Club Rush, the quad was filled with students walking around

to get a look at all the different types of clubs, which included a wide range of clubs from STEM Club to Dungeons & Dragons.

Drama Club President Josie Blair ('23) expressed her love for the club for bringing the drama community together at EC.

"We've got improv—we've got musical theater, we've got dancing, we've just got a mix of everything [in drama club]," Blair said. "It's just absolutely wonderful."

Zoe Evans ('25) was the student government member who was put in charge of club rush this year. She explained that the requirements to start

a club include a president, club name, and staff advisor; the staff advisor can be any staff member who works at EC.

Clubs only last until the end of the block, meaning students will be able to sign-up for or start new clubs on January 25th, 2023.

If students wish to start a club, they should go to room 40 and fill out a constitution packet, which includes a series of questions about your club and its topic.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVELYN WELBORN

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# BSU plans to make change at EC

By **Eliza Arthur**  
STAFF WRITER

After a two-year hiatus beginning in 2019, El Camino’s Black Student Union Club is back with their second consecutive year as a club.

This year’s BSU President **Alana Rene Mitchell (‘23)**, shared that the goal this year is to gain traction.

“I want us to make a little bit more noise this year, it was kind of different last year because no one started it in the first block and it was a lot harder to get people involved,” Mitchell said. “I want to create more of a group involvement.”

Many underclassmen have never had the opportunity to join a club like BSU, but Mitchell encourages them to join.

“Come on in, you’re definitely welcomed, there’s a lot of history and culture to be learned and fun activities that we can have, it’s also a good way to bond with certain people,” she stated.

Joel Carson, the BSU teacher

advisor for his second year in a row expressed his hopes on what the club could achieve this year.

“I would like for BSU to be able to advocate for the students who are a part of the club, so school is a place that is open to everyone and everybody feels safe to learn, to be who they are, and to make sure that we treat people from different groups with respect, and advocate for everyone but especially black students,” Carson said.

Carson thinks the club and its members can help foster connections between students and improve their opportunities after high school.

“As much as I try to understand my students, I don’t live their life, so this is a good chance to interact with students who share a lot of the same experiences in a place that’s safe,” he said. “If you’re thinking about college, putting the club on your application stands out to a lot of schools. Same with a job, an employer may look at the fact you’ve been in BSU and think ‘here’s a person that cares about the place they’re at and wants to make it better.’”



PHOTO BY LOGAN CASTRO

BSU Leaders go over the agenda for their upcoming events during the meeting.

## HHA ‘dances’ into the new year

By **Nathan Calhoon**  
NEWS EDITOR

With the start of the new school year, the Hip Hop Anonymous Club is hoping to advance their position at El Camino High School in order to perform more often and be given more respect from EC staff.

The Hip Hop Anonymous Club is a dance group at EC that regularly performs at school events, under the leadership of **Alanakai Pascual (‘23)**. The HHA Club most recently performed at the Homecoming Rally just last week and have many more performances planned in the near future.

The club contends that it has faced constant pushback from faculty at El Camino, due to how it was run several years ago. Some fear the negative idea of the club is still present in many faculty members’ minds, even though the club has drastically changed.

This kind of pushback causes more stress onto HHA due to having to alter their uniforms or have their choreography checked before certain performances in order to ensure it’s school-appropriate. This can lead to having to change certain aspects of their performances last minute, which pushes more problems and stress to the group, on top of the stress that performing already brings.

This stress is also enhanced because the club is student run, due to the club’s advisor, PE teacher Stephanie Saylors, giving the students full control.

“They choreograph it, they do it all on their own. They’re the creative ones. I’m just there to watch,” Saylors stated.

Due to this large amount of freedom, being the captain of the club comes with much responsibility, including choreographing the club’s dances, planning all performances, and keeping track of all the members, along with much more.

This year, Pascual hopes to change the club for the better. Her big ambition is to take the HHA Club as it is now and turn it into something more official at the school.

“I want to make HHA the dance team of the school...I also want to give these girls opportunities outside of school and outside of rallies,” Pascual explained.

By making the club more official, HHA hopes for this kind of pressure to slowly fade away as the club gains more respect throughout the school. By continuing to support this club, El Camino students can help bring Pascual’s goal to life by showing EC that the students care.



PHOTO BY TAYLOR DINGMAN

HHA Club performs their dance routine during the homecoming rally.



PHOTO BY EMMA CANILLO

El Camino student’s walk into campus grounds to begin their first period class 15 minutes later, at 8:30 a.m.

## START TIME: School hopes for EC students and the new start time

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Welborn believes that the new start time will allow students at the beginning of school to already feel ready to work, unless students don’t take advantage of the time change.

“Some people might see it as ‘I have more time to stay up later,’ and not use the time wisely in order to get the sleep that they need,” Welborn said.

She believes that this might be the case for some students, but is hopeful that most are taking advantage of the change.

One thing that has been consistent through the time change has been the tardy count. Senior Records and Reports Clerk Ashley Owen explained that she has not seen a documented increase nor decrease in tardies this school year.

“People who had struggles last year getting in, they’re not having the same struggles, but it

seems like some students are still struggling to get in,” Owen stated.

Owen believes that the time shift has brought a new group of students out because of different circumstances.

Another thing that has been affected is EC’s school breakfast, which now begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at the 8:30 a.m. ringing of the bell. Nutrition Service Supervisor Jane Usrey keeps track of how many EC students come into breakfast every morning and has noticed that there has been an increase in students getting breakfast.

“The [current] numbers are where they were at their highest last year, and with it being so early in the year, we don’t usually hit our peak until closer to Christmas break,” Usrey stated.

With the increase in time, students have more accessibility when it comes to eating a meal in the morning and getting to school on time, refreshed and ready to learn.





# Choir ‘Falls’ into harmony

By Emma Canillo  
and Nathan Calhoon  
MANAGING EDITOR, NEWS EDITOR

El Camino’s choir ensembles performed their first concert of the school year in the Performing Arts Center on October 12.

Titled Autumn Leaves, the concert hosted both of EC’s Choirs and shared the stage with the Arden Middle School Choir as well. The three groups performed a combined total of fourteen songs that all fell under an Autumn and Halloween theme.

In order to prepare for this event, Choir Director David Vanderbout made himself busy by getting his students re-familiarized with choir once again after a long summer break.

To do this, Vanderbout strongly believed in growing the connections between the students in choir in hopes of getting the choir to feel more like a family. By doing this, the students in choir felt more comfortable among each other and felt less pressure to perform.

“Public speaking is the number one or number two fear of most people, and I think that goes for singing too,” Vanderbout said. “Once

our students are [comfortable] then we can do all the musical and singing—it can go pretty quick.”

Choir President **Carson Russell (‘23)** has been singing in the EC Choir since his freshman year and is aware of the importance of family that’s present in the choirs.

Russell is not new to the performing aspect of choir, and expressed his satisfaction with how their first concert of the year went.

“I think it went well—we got to finally experience the music we have been practicing for a long time,” Russell said. “We met our expectations on most of the songs, but for a couple songs, we went above where I could have ever thought we would go.”

New to choir or not, having many different choir groups performing allowed for a unique experience for the audience members, and Russell explained how impressed he was with the groups that performed.

“I was really impressed by the concert choir—they had a well blended sound considering it was a lot of their first times singing in a high school setting,” Russell said.

The attendance for this concert was high, filling up most of the seats



PHOTO BY NATHAN CALHOON

EC Choir prepares for their concert by practicing their Autumn themed songs

in the PAC. Russell was unaware of what the turnout would be, but was glad to see many families and friends gathered together.

“I was not expecting there to be as many [people] there—but I was very happy with how many people

came,” Russell said. “Considering this was our first concert, it shows promise for the rest of the year.”

As the year progresses, the choir continues to work on putting together more concerts and bring the EC community together through song.

# EC Seniors mark where they park

By Taylor Dingman  
and Emme Hogge  
ASSOCIATE EDITORS

To carry on the four year long tradition, El Camino seniors painted their parking spots in the senior lot on Saturday August 27th from eight a.m. to four p.m.

Student Government Advisor Sara Turner was at the senior lot for the whole eight hours while students and parents worked on painting the spots.

Vice Principal Secretary Jane Smith noted that the senior parking spaces hadn’t been open to the whole senior class until around five years ago.

“Prior to that, seniors could win a parking spot,” Smith said. “They had four spots that were reserved to win at the crab feed.”

Before, senior parents had to pay a larger fee to be able to reserve a spot for their children, and the money went directly to the school.

Eventually, the lot became open to the whole senior class in 2018. From then on, seniors could enter their name in a raffle to win a personal spot for a fee of \$60. Seniors who did not wish to pay or didn’t want a spot would not enter their name and, in turn, would not receive a parking spot.

Smith also added that it was the senior class who came up with the idea of painting their spots.

“It is a fun way for them to start off senior year [and] share their personality—something that’s theirs,” Smith said.

The senior class was excited to express themselves by painting

their parking space for their last year of high school. **Molly Bannister (‘23)**, explained that painting her spot took longer than she had expected, and that she ended up being there from eight a.m. to 3 p.m.

Despite the long hours, Bannister liked the experience.

“It was fun. I enjoyed it,” she stated.

Bannister decided to paint the Dutch Bros Coffee logo, which featured three colored lines, her name, and some hearts.

The tradition of painting the senior parking spots is a fun way to kick off EC student’s last year of high school and a great way to express themselves. This tradition will continue to be kept at EC for years to come.

## STUDENT CHOICE: Breaking traditions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school decision was primarily based on mental health, Sergiyenko’s decision was based more on her own opinions of school teachings. They simply were not fully benefiting from their academic classes and preferred to move on to something more worth her time.

“I found it redundant that a large amount of class time at school was spent on the revision of material and through instruction, which although helpful to most students, wasn’t necessary to me,” Sergiyenko stated.

The decision for alternative schooling and early graduation may be more beneficial to some students than in-person school, especially with struggles of mental health and better learning.

Even though skipping the graduation aisle may not be tradition, it may just be the newest and best option for a student’s personal success.



PHOTO BY EAGLE EYE STAFF

EC Senior's painted over the previous parking spots to create a new, colorful lot for the school.







# Lunch shouldn't be a time crunch



Opinion by **Nathan Calhoon**  
NEWS EDITOR

After being in school for over three hours, students are given a thirty minute break to eat and rest before the second half of their day. However, something meant to recuperate and rest has been turned into a stressful competition.

During the one true break students get a day, they have to wait in a crowded, loud line for sometimes fifteen minutes, taking up half their break just to get food. These long lines can encourage many students to skip lines or cut their way through, leading those left behind to wait even longer.

In order to try to shorten the lunch lines, the cafeteria has four open lines, but this is very ineffective

when 400 students get lunch at once.

El Camino can combat this issue by reopening the Border Cafe, which was last open last year. This solution seems to be one that El Camino's Nutrition Service Supervisor Jane Usrey has on her mind and is trying to make into a reality.

"I'd like to open it back up now because we've been given permission to," Usrey explained. "So I would like to make that just a pizza line. So if you want pizza for lunch, you'll just go [to the Border Cafe]."

By having the Border Cafe reopen, it opens up four extra lines and can help spread out the clumps of students in the cafeteria, leading to a quicker and more organized lunch process.

To those questioning why students don't bring a lunch to school in order to skip the line, many students don't have the time in the morning to pack a lunch or the capability to buy the ingredients for a lunch every day for the entirety of the school year. For many, the free school lunch is the only option available to them.

Another issue in the lunch room is how unpredictable the amount of students who get lunch a day can be.

One day, it may be 300 students, and the next, it could be upwards of 400. Due to this, the cafeteria can oftentimes make too little food for the unprecedented amount of students that get lunch, leaving some unlucky students to go without food.

"When the kids come in at the end of lunch, I hate [when I have to say], 'Well sorry, all I have is this one burrito,'" Usrey explained..

Another way to make lunch more of a 'break' for students could be extending lunch by fifteen or thirty min-

utes in order to ensure that students do get a respectable amount of time to rest, even with the lengthy time to get their food. A downside to this would be that school may have to be extended as well, but having to extend school fifteen minutes in order to gain fifteen minutes at lunch would be a fair trade.

By discussing this issue, we can find a way to give a third of EC students that get lunch everyday a way to get their lunch and have enough time to rest.



PHOTO BY LOGAN CASTRO  
EC students gather closely into the cafeteria during their 30 minutes of lunch.

## Tardies cause issues for EC



Opinion by **Emme Hogge**  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

El Camino students who have trouble getting to class on time, for reasons outside of their control, are missing even more of their class time due to EC's tardy policy.

The tardy policy states that if you are not inside your classroom by the time the final bell rings, you have to go up to the attendance office and get a pass. There are often times when students arrive at school just as the bell rings, or are going to the bathroom during passing period, and are capable of getting to class only seconds late. Instead, they must take even more time out of their period to wait in the line at the attendance office to get a tardy pass. This could take up to ten minutes for something that could have originally only taken one minute.

Tardies should be punished, yes, but taking more time out of students classes seems unreasonable, considering one of the main reasons to institute a tardy policy is to ensure students are in their seats and ready to learn when the bell rings.

The tardy policy being used today has been around for over five years, that including the tardy passes students must collect. This year, however, it is more strict than it was in previous years, and students must adjust to the new circumstances.

The first three tardies received are

accompanied by only a warning. Past that, the punishments turn into lunch or after-school detentions, social probation, in-school suspension, and even a habitual truancy conference.

EC students find the policy to be inconvenient and unreasonable at times. There are many students who are tardy for 1st period due to reasons outside their control.

Junior Class Present **Addison Ponder ('24)** offered her experience from the previous year, saying she was running to her class when the bell rang, and had to take five minutes out her period to go get a pass. Ponder feels that there are many times when the tardy policy just isn't necessary.

Records and Reports Clerk Ashley Owens noticed that tardies had significantly decreased with the new system in place. On top of students not wanting to deal with scrutiny from their parents, it's also such a hassle to go all the way up to the attendance office to get a pass. The multitude of punishment ensures that students try their hardest to get to class on time.

The biggest problem with the EC tardy policy seems to be uncontrollable tardies that are not reasonably punished. To solve this, I propose instituting a five minute grace period to the beginning of each period. This way, students who unintentionally show up late to school in the morning or have to wait in long bathroom lines can still get to class at a reasonable time, without having to wait and get a pass.

The tardy policy is still fully enforced, but the grace period should give students a second chance to get to class without having to go back up to the attendance office.

It should be recognized that some things are out of student's control, and EC administration should make an effort not to punish students for such instances.

## School spirit should not come with a price tag



Opinion by **Grace Gollihur & Gabriella Cooper**  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR, STAFF WRITER

El Camino students are encouraged to show school spirit and attend events to show support to our sports teams, but the cost of these events turns many people away, leaving our stadium stands sparse. In order to raise the attendance and the spirit at EC, students should be able to get into home football games, and other sporting events, free of charge.

Student Government Member **Mackenzie George ('25)** expresses her opinion on the pricing of the games and why students should not be required to pay.

"It should be [free]— if they are clearly a student, and if they have their student ID, students should be able to go to our home games for free," George said.

George also explained that many students can't get into football games solely based on the fact that the prices are too high.

The prices for students with an ID card is \$5, while parents are charged at \$7. Seemingly, these numbers are small, but by multiplying the number of family members and how many home games occur during the season,

this price adds up rather quickly.

Larger families looking to attend the games have to pay \$5-\$7 per person, which can lead to them looking at \$30-\$40 dollars per game in order to get their entire family in.

If families are trying to support their child at all their games, it becomes very expensive, on top of paying the price for the student to play the sport. Football families, especially, are faced with high prices early on, having to pay for spirit packs, which include practice jerseys and additional gear for the team.

Athletics Director Zenaida Kamine expresses her disagreement with students getting into football games for free, and explains what the ticket money goes to.

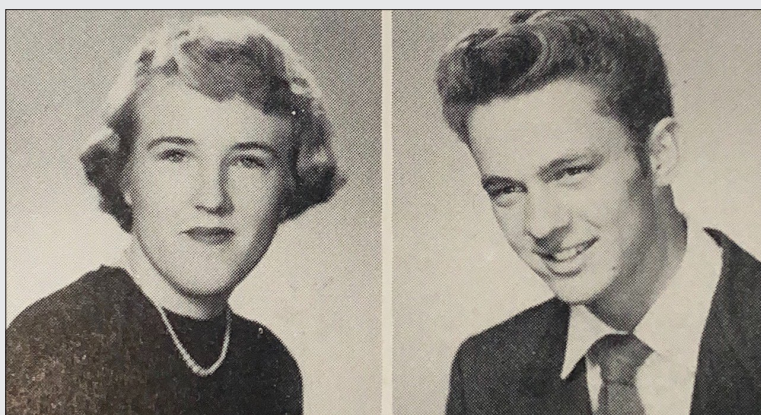
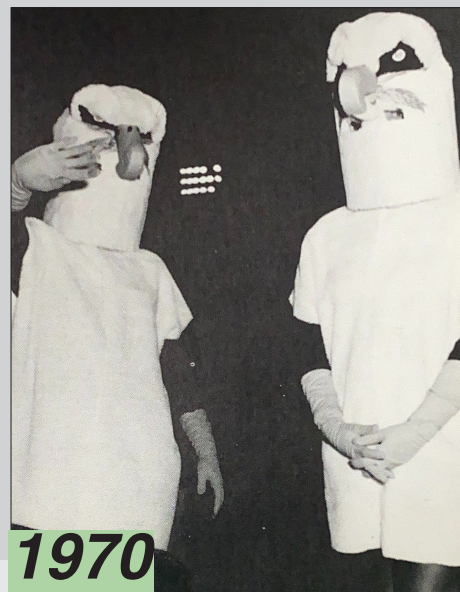
"In regards to football, not only do we have to pay for the officials, but we have to pay for the ambulance and we have to pay for the police, the security that are there," Kamine stated.

These are three big expenses that the ASB account pays for. The ASB account is managed by the district rather than the school. This means that there are more restrictions on what you can use the saved money for, and to use the account, you need the district's permission.

All the money that the school makes through ticket sales will be transferred into the ASB account, and is used for ambulances and security.

Kamine expresses that without the students paying for tickets, the school would have less money to



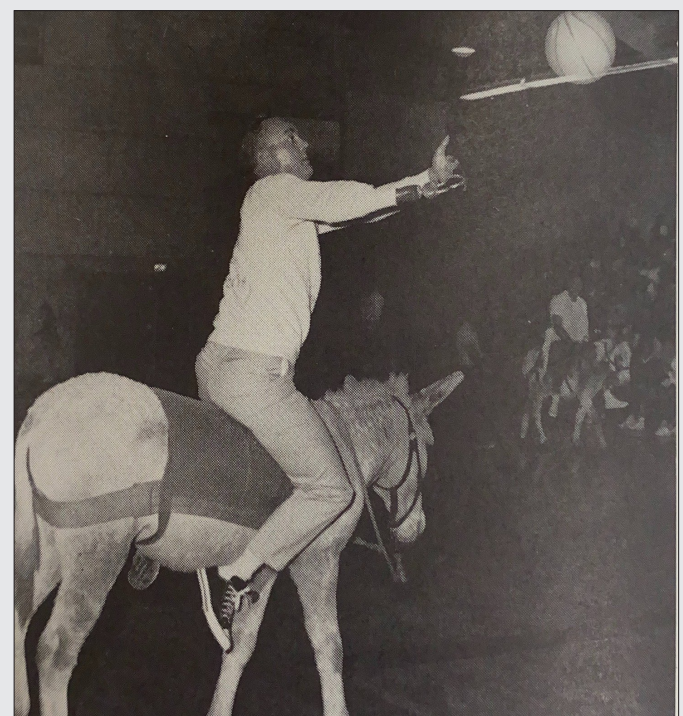


Captured here is a picture of some of El Camino's very first graduating class, Jane Biggs and Larry Binns. These EC alumni first arrived at the school in 1950 among the first freshmen, and finally graduated in 1954.



In 1961, major additions to the EC campus were made which are still standing as students would see them today. This project brought in the library, the front quad, the main entrance to the campus, and the pool used by our swim and water polo teams.

## SOAR INTO



Shown above was one of El Camino's more eccentric traditions, Donkey Basketball, which was an event where students would play a game of basketball while riding donkeys. This was played during rallies or other spirit based events.

## Flying through the 1900's...

AN EL CAMINO TIMELINE

1950

El Camino opens its doors for the first time ever as a neighborhood school.

1954

EC celebrates their first senior class graduating since the schools opening

1956

The first, original football field at EC gets stadium lights.

1961

The first colored picture is published in the 1961 class yearbooks.

1963

EC hosts their first exchange students:  
Jim Rudig, Sweden  
Virginia Loayza, Bolivia

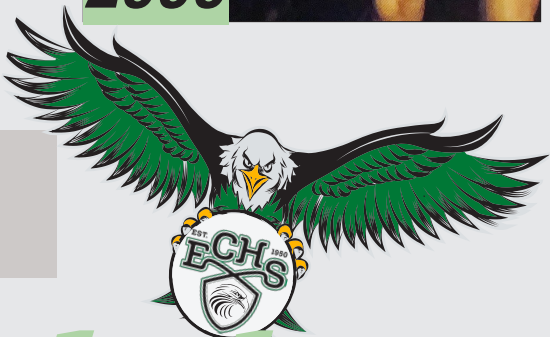
1966

EC holds a variety of different classes for students to take:  
Zoology, German,  
Plane Geometry.

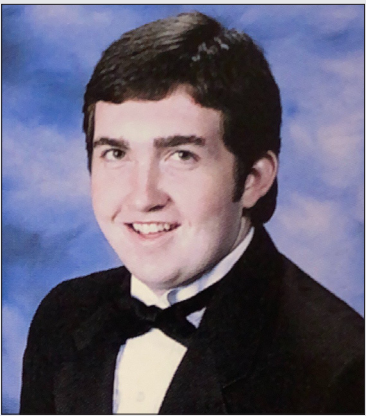




# THE PAST!



## Once an Eagle, always an Eagle...



David Vanderbout, a '05 graduate who played on the basketball team, was in choir and musical theater throughout the rest, which molded his future to where he is now.

"I kind of realized that music and arts was where I was going, so I think [attending EC] impacted where I would go [career-wise]."

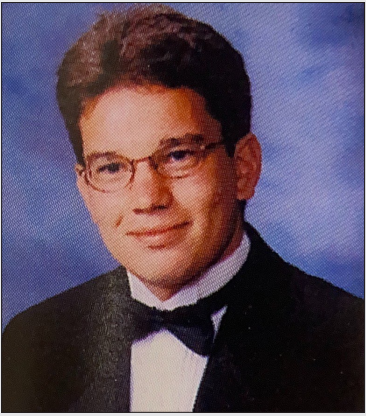
Vanderbout now is EC's Madrigals and Concert Choir director.



### EL CAMINO ALUMNI

Madeleine Campbell, a part of graduating class of '18 is a four year EC alumni. Her years as an eagle had lasting effects on her, especially from the teachers. "Students are lucky to have them, other schools don't know what they're missing out on."

Campbell now works in the library as the textbook clerk for EC.



Steve Markley, a '02 EC graduate was here for all four years and remembers the "spring tours" that took the band department across the state. "We got to tour down in Anaheim and then also went down to San Diego too."

Markley came back as a teacher to teach biology and then later physiology and physics.



Gabriel Read, was in the graduating class of '12. During his time at EC, he loved the atmosphere of football games and the school spirit.

"The faces change, but the spirit of El Camino has always been there. I mean even when I came back, it still felt like El Camino. A lot of people are different, but we're all eagles."

Read is now the director of EC's very own band department.

1971

The first faculty vs. student basketball game is held. Bowling and soccer is added to EC's sports.

1973

Powder Puff Football is held in the stadium for the first time.

1988

The first Black Student Union group is started at EC.

1990

EC grows in population and now holds two junior varsity soccer teams.

1995

The popular tradition of the Mardi Gras Dance is started for the first time at EC.

2000

EC celebrates their 50th anniversary of being a high school





# The senses align: How listening to music influences style

By Janelle Germain  
STAFF WRITER

For many people the way they dress and style themselves can be an act of self-expression. Things like this can be influenced by many different aspects of one’s life, including music.

Even in media, we tend to represent one genre by a certain style and can sometimes guess people’s music tastes based on the type of clothing, jewelry and color combinations that they wear. Although this isn’t always the case because not everyone has developed a true sense of style or music taste, there are many El Camino students who have developed a sense of style and music taste that seem to intertwine.

**Kaitlyn Noel (‘23)** is a student who believes that music impacts people’s style, including her own.

“The music we listen to is an auditory representation of who we are and what we like or believe in—that sort of thing will manifest into how we dress,” Noel said. “I am attuned to the metal genre and I really enjoy the music—I see the style of what the artists in those metal bands represent and it subconsciously causes me to mimic their style.”

Noel uses influences from metal music and culture in her clothes, jewelry and even makeup style to

match the darker and heavier look of those metal artists that she listens to. Even though her style is unique to herself, aspects of this style are stereotyped and allow others to easily identify some of her music tastes.

However there are other people like **Mars Garcia (‘23)** who listen to music that contrast each other, from latin alternative/ indie music to Korean R&B.

“I think my music taste is very diverse, and I think my style is a blend of it all,” Garcia said.

Mars’ sense of style is impacted by aspects of their music, but is not as obvious or stereotyped as others. On a surface level, you may not be able to determine one exact music genre because the genre’s they listen to don’t have a stereotyped style in mainstream media. Instead you can see aspects from the different genres into their outfits with the colors they wear and the relaxed style of their clothing.

We are all influenced by the media we surround ourselves with. With music being a prominent factor of most people’s lives today, it only makes sense that the type of music we listen to and the style that those artists portray could impact us.

Our music taste is an extension of ourselves, our beliefs and our own diversity, which helps us express ourselves in all our own unique styles.

# Dancing on Mount Olympus

By Janelle Germain  
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Oct. 22nd, El Camino students and guests gathered at EC to take part in the long standing tradition of a homecoming dance.

As always, our homecoming dance was organized and decorated by our student government class, who worked for weeks putting together the dance.

This year, the homecoming dance was centered around the theme of Greek mythology, which was also the theme of the four homecoming floats presented at the football game the night before.

The inside of the dance fit the theme well, as the student government class decorated with greek pillars, streamers, float backdrops, and strands of fake leaves to decorate the outside hall and the photo area.

Tickets to this event were sold for three weeks at the finance office, with a mass amount of tickets selling fast within our first week and second week of sales.

The gym was packed with tons of students and guests from all grade levels.

According to the numbers taken by Student Government Advisor Sara

Turner, they were able to sell 757 tickets and with guests, the estimated attendance was 801 people.

**Kyra Richardson (‘23)** went with her friends to enjoy her last homecoming dance at EC.

“Homecoming was fun—I got to bring all my friends, even out of EC,” Richardson said. “The best part was definitely going out with my group after, while we were still dressed up from the dance.”

Along with it being the seniors last homecoming, the event was a big first step for our freshman’s highschool experience.

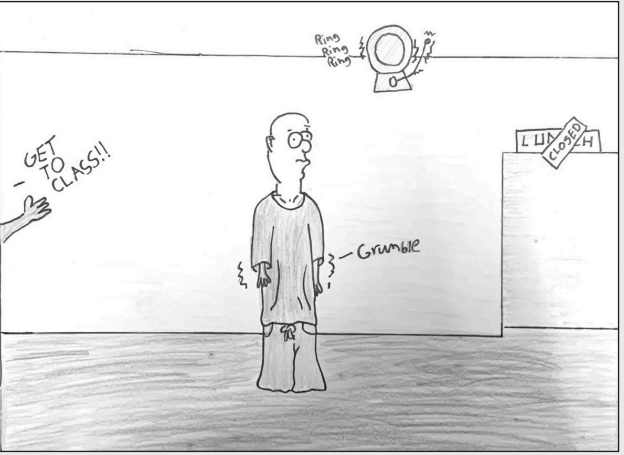
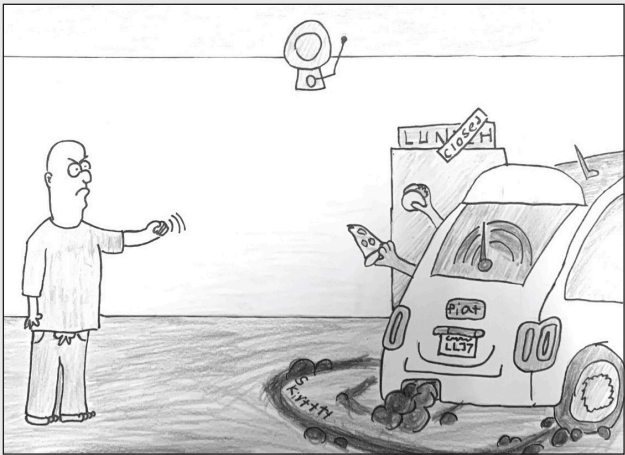
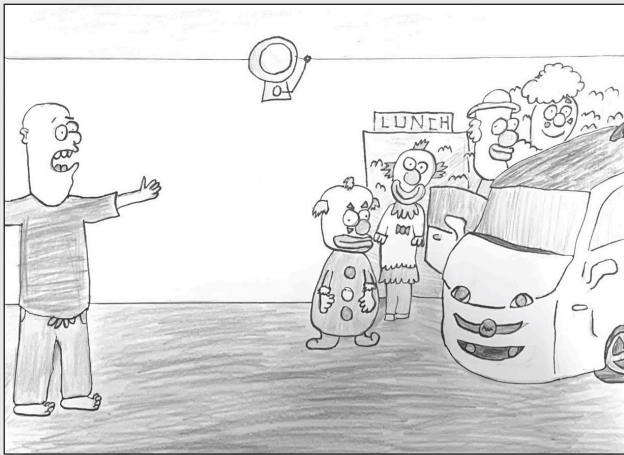
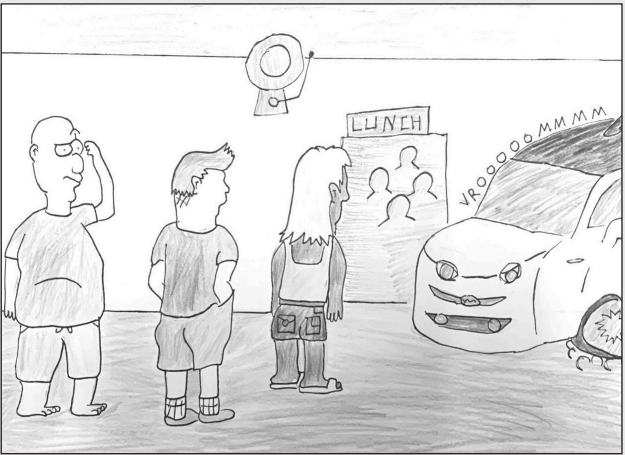
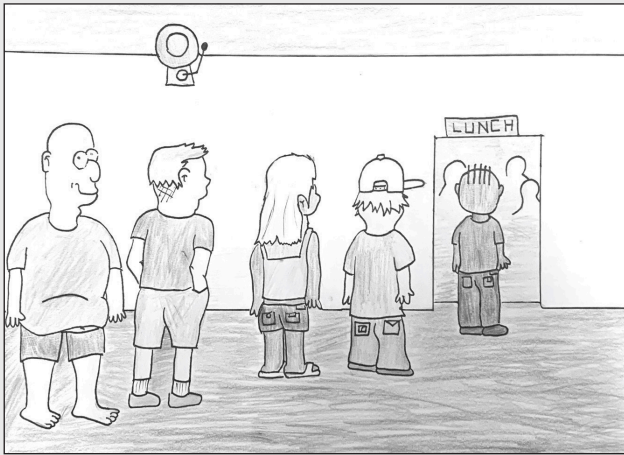
**Gracie Waldrep (‘26)** attended her first homecoming dance with her date and her friends.

“To me homecoming was really special—I’m so glad I went,” Waldrep said. “The music was enjoyable and being able to be with my friends for our first dance was a great experience.”

Overall, this year’s homecoming was a huge success in terms of turnout and theme, not only for the student government class who organized it, but also for all the EC students in attendance.

# The Clown Chronicles

By Carson Russell & Joey Smith  
GUEST ILLUSTRATORS







# EC students vote their favorite horror films

By **Marissa Gonzalez**  
STAFF WRITER

When the month of October rolls around each year, the horror genre tends to become popular once again. This theme is especially sought out in movies and television shows due to the approaching holiday of Halloween. With the large amount of talk during this season, new horror movies are often brought into light, and the old is brought back out to compare.

Now that this season is back, El Camino’s student population gave their opinion on the most popular, classic horror films in the industry.

Four of the most popular, classic horror movies were mentioned by the students at EC.

EC’s number one rated horror movie is *IT* (1990), directed by Tommy Lee Wallace and originally written by Stephen King. This movie is based off of King’s novel and is the most successful out of any other movie based on his writings. Other popular movies based on his novels are *The Shining*, *Carrie*, *Cujo* and *Pet Sematary*.

Coming in a close second is *Friday the 13th* (1980), directed by Sean Cunningham. This is one of the largest horror movie franchises, including 12 different films, video games, comics and books.

The third most popular horror movie according to EC students is *Scream* (1996), directed by Wes Craven. This franchise recently released what is said to be their final movie. However, there are rumors of a sixth movie being released next year, which would potentially put an end to this popular franchise.

- 28 students**  
voted that *IT* (1990) was the best horror film.
- 26 students**  
voted that *Friday the 13th* (1980) was their favorite.
- 22 students**  
voted that *Scream* (1996) was the best horror film.
- 18 students**  
voted *Halloween* (1978) as the best horror film.

EC’s fourth most popular horror film is *Halloween* (1978), directed by John Carpenter. This movie is the first of many films to star Jamie Lee Curtis, along with many different renditions of the well known character, Michael Myers.

Despite the old-time feel these movies give off, they still flourish today and are widely appreciated for the horror and storyline they portray, especially by the student body at EC.



OFFICIAL MOVIE POSTER FROM STEPHEN KING (WWW.STEPHENKING.COM)

## EVENT COSTS: Safety on and off the field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

pay for these essential needs.

“I don’t believe that anybody should get in for free, unless you’re working the game,” Kamine states. “Currently anyone that’s five and under is free.”

Money from our EC families and students are paying for mandatory services like ambulances and security, but why isn’t the school district paying for these services? One of the main jobs of the school district is to protect the student’s safety. The safe schools services, the expensive fencing around our school, and the many protocols we have in place are just some of the resources the district provides in terms of safety.

If this is the case, they should be funding necessary ambulances and security for our home games. Students shouldn’t have to pay for other students’ safety.

Allowing EC students to attend football games for free could have additional benefits as well. More students would be able to go to football games, which would lead to more engagement with the sports program, no matter the economic situation of these students and families.

# EC shines bright at neon rally

By **Emme Hogge**  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On Friday Oct. 21st, El Camino students gathered in the large gym for a neon-themed homecoming rally, made possible by the efforts of the student government class.

Student Government Member and Rally Lead **Aubrey Diacon** (‘24) was responsible for setting up the performances and assigning jobs.

Although all of the student government was helpful in putting on the rally, those who were primarily in charge were Diacon and the four class presidents. Each class president was in charge of their own class’ share in the entertainment and decorations.

Two weeks prior to the rally, each class made at least 40 posters to put around the school and on the walls of the gym.

ASB treasurer **Alida Neves** (‘23) recalled the budget for the rally to be around \$700-\$800, that including any equipment for skits, posters, and decorations.

Junior Class President **Addison Ponder** (‘24) explained that his year’s homecoming theme, Greek Mythology, had been an idea for a long time.

“It’s always brought up every year in our homecoming theme discussions, and we thought there was a lot we could do with it,” Ponder said.

Although homecoming and the homecoming floats were Greek Mythology themed, the homecoming rally’s theme went along with Friday’s spirit day, which was neon day.

Sophomore Class President **Kaeli**

**Stowell** (‘25) explained that their main reason to do a neon theme was because it is an easy and fun thing to participate in for all students at EC.

“We want the whole school to get involved and we want people to be able to come and have fun and see the whole school come together as one,” she said.

The rally itself featured performances from EC’s drum line, choir, cheer team and HHA.

Along with these performances, teachers and students both participated in a number of games, including a hot pepper challenge, battle of the exes, and tug-of-war.

Homecoming Royalty nominees were also displayed, and the junior, sophomore and freshman winners were announced to the crowd.

The senior winners were awarded their crowns later that night at the homecoming football game.



PHOTOS BY TAYLOR DINGMAN

(Top) EC Cheer performs their routine during the neon rally. (Bottom) Juniors Mara Heninger and Shaphan Wilson play ‘battle of the exes.’





# Managing the field, all season long

By Taylor Dingman  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

This school year is the first year football managers have an official position and their presence is very important to El Camino’s football team.

**Brianna Gumnor (‘23)** has known for a while now that she wants to be a physical therapist and help athletes build strength after an injury, as well as build strong bonds with her.

When Gumnor was in middle school she tore some tendons in her ankle during her soccer season when her club team had finally made it to the state cup finals. She had to get surgery and was out for six months.

Because of how bad her injury was, she had to do physical therapy to allow herself to get stronger and get back out on the soccer field, little did she know that this injury could determine her whole future.

“I had a really special bond with my physical therapist and I really enjoyed my time there... it inspired me to want to [be a physical therapist]” Gumnor said.

For her senior year, Gumnor is out on the football sidelines helping out the football players who need it.

Athletic Director Ron Concklin explains exactly what Gumnor does for the football team.

“She spends an hour and a half taping the guys. She did an internship this last summer as a physical therapist, and she had a really good concept and method for taping ankles, knees, and whatever



PHOTO BY DRACOS CHISM

EC Football Team Manager Nimi Linan communicates on her walkie-talkie while assisting in filming the game for the team.

else the guys need,” Concklin said.

Along with Gumnor, there are other managers that also help prevent injuries on the football field.

Football manager **Sarah Alshmarei (‘23)** is apart of the medical assisting program that we have here at EC. According to MAP teacher Angel Contreras, the medical program could be beneficial to Alshmarei on the sidelines of the football field.

“We learn wraps, so that’s definitely something that could be applied in the sport field... we [also]

do techniques and a lot of education in terms of how to use [crutches], and when to use them,” Contreras said.

Alshmarei states that being in both the medical program and being a football manager is beneficial for her and her future.

“I see injuries a lot [and] it shows what I’m supposed to do if it does happen to me someday with somebody else,” Alshmarei stated.

Head varsity football coach John Dolliver states that the man-

agers this year have been a big help to the football program.

“All the managers make practices go so much smoother, especially when we’ve had this heat. That’s been a big problem for a lot of programs and it hasn’t been for us because of [them],” Dolliver said.

Managers on the football field this year have been a great help. These students are learning and experiencing new things, which could open more doors for them in the future.

## Cross country visits Disney

By Nathan Betancourt  
STAFF WRITER

The cross county team for El Camino High School traveled to their first tournament of the season to Irvine called Woodbridge Invitational and went to Disneyland.

This tournament is the biggest cross country tournament in California and EC knew that but struggled to have proper training. The cross country team lacked practice because temperatures outside reached 116 degrees with poor air quality.

Coach Bernhoft and Coach Barnes are the coaches this season with Coach Barnes being the cross country coach for EC for 10 years now.

“The team did well at the Woodbridge Invitational. The girls placed 4th and the boys placed 8th overall.” said Douglas Barnes.

One of the cross country runners and captain, **Nayeli Reyes (‘23)** has been waiting for this trip to happen.

“The trip has been trying to happen since my sophomore year but covid happened,” Reyes stated.

The team had multiple personal and team goals that were met at the race.

The girls cross country team got fourth overall in the race while **Allyson Barnes (‘24)** was the top finisher in 27th out of 200 racers. The top 100 runners were awarded medals and most of the EC cross

country team received them.

Team captain and senior **Juan Pablo Robles (‘23)** thought having this experience not only brought the team closer together but also gave them a lasting memory.

“The entire trip as a whole has helped the team bonding increase,” he said. “From staying in a hotel together telling each other to eat, drink water, and from stretching with each other before the race. Going to Disneyland helped our team because we got to hang out and get to know the underclassmen that we don’t get bonding time with.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAYELI REYES (‘23)

EC’s Cross Country team enjoys a day at Disneyland.

## Fall baseball a hit at El Camino

By Taylor Dingman  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On Sept. 12, the El Camino Baseball Team had its first game of the fall ball season.

Playing against Bella Vista High School, the players were excited to finally get back on the field.

Although EC lost 26-0 to Bella Vista for their first game, the players came back the next Thursday and won against the same team 5-4.

Varsity Player **Anthony Gori (‘24)** expresses his hopes that the team will improve for their upcoming games and spring season.

“I do think we will improve—it was our first game and [some] people weren’t ready, but we’re ready now,” Gori said.

The JV and varsity teams expressed that going to practice is very important, and outside of practice you need to continue to put in the work to improve.

Along Gori, Varsity Player **Matthew Avila (‘23)** agrees that the team will quickly improve.

“I think since it’s our second game, we all know each other and it’ll get better over the season,” Avila said.

Varsity Head Coach Marc Distefano expresses his excitement to

coach the fall and spring baseball team. With Distefano being involved in baseball since his high school years, he loves being able to continue to coach the sport he loves.

“We run really good practices, we have really good drills, we’re really good at teaching fundamentals and it’s just for our kids coming out and getting better and better,” Distefano stated.

With two hour practices four times a week the team is able to get in all the work they can to stay conditioned and have fun.

The fall ball players use this opportunity to get conditioned and practiced for their spring season. Once the fall season is over, they get a month-long break before they start conditioning for the spring.



PHOTO BY TAYLOR DINGMAN

EC’s Fall Ball team huddles together during a game.





# Girls Volleyball celebrates the seniors

By **Nathan Betancourt**  
STAFF WRITER

The El Camino Girls Volleyball team ended their season with a win in all three sets against Del Campo High School, along with a celebration of the seniors on the team. Six seniors were recognized for their last game of volleyball at EC.

Captain **Tegan Mateo ('23)** has been a part of the EC volleyball team since her freshman year, and was one of the senior varsity players who was celebrated at the game.

Being on the team for so long gave Mateo an opportunity to gain close relationships with her teammates.

"I'll miss how close we are and how supportive the teams are to one another," Mateo said.

The game ended with the team beating Del Campo with a close set,

26-24. They proceeded to win the second set 25-22. Finally, with their last set of the season they finish DC off with set threes score being 25-18.

The EC players showed lots of emotion after the game, celebrating their last victory of the 2022 volleyball season.

Head Coach Paul Giacomotto states his happiness with the teams improvement.

"We went out the way we should have and got better throughout the season—we finished really strong," Giacomotto states.

**Vanessa Nicoara ('23)** is one of the seniors on the team who has been playing for EC since her freshman year.

"I'm going to miss the coaches and spending time with my team," Nicoara states.

The seniors on this team were sent off with a great win to remember their last game at EC's court.



PHOTO BY NATHAN BETANCOURT

Varsity Captain Tegan Mateo ('23) serves the ball to the opposing team, Del Campo

# Boys Waterpolo wins big

By **Sanny Batiratu**  
STAFF WRITER

On September 28th, the El Camino boys water polo team defeated Christian Brothers for the first time since 2014.

Hopes were leveled going into this game. Both teams lost their key seniors so they knew they would have a chance to win a close game. It was a show of morale and stamina that really helped EC through the game, causing them to come back from a CB lead.

**Charles Snyder ('24)** was one of the key players of the match scoring 10 of the 14 goals. Snyder was confident in the game knowing his team had more potential as a group and having more plays in mind.

"It was a really big win because that definitely decided our position of second place or third place so that

really will help when it comes to seeding in sections," Snyder said.

Although CB was ahead by a couple goals in the first quarter, EC prevailed and won due to great teamwork and communication. EC's main focus was to tire them out and win by defending. During practice their main priority was running their defense, going back on offense as quickly as possible, being aware, and communicating.

Charles wasn't the only key player of the game. One of the team captains, **Tarik Kitnovica ('24)** led the team with great leadership keeping the team together under pressure. He noticed they started getting tired and getting sloppy so that's when he knew they had a chance to make a break for it.

"I just told everyone if we keep doing what we're doing then we have a chance," Tarik said.

EC ended the match taking a big victory for them with the score 14-12.

# Reading's football debut

By **Dracos Chism**  
SPORTS EDITOR

El Camino's Varsity Soccer and Football player **Roxy Reading ('23)** kicked off the EC Varsity Football team into their new season in her first ever game on the team.

Reading, who has been playing varsity soccer for EC her freshman year, was scouted by Head Coach John Dolliver at the annual Powder Puff Game held at EC.

"I knew she had a very accurate leg," explained Dolliver.

Part of the strategy Dolliver uses involves a certain style of kicking called a pooch kick, which is a kick that focuses on placement rather than distance. This gives the kicking team a chance to take the ball back.

"She's probably the best on the team [at pooch kicks]," Dolliver said.

Reading practiced with the rest of the team all summer and had been excited for her opportunity to play.

"For the months leading up to it, I was definitely looking forward to it," Reading explained.

When it came game time, nerves definitely caught up to her a

little bit, but disappeared after she took the field for the first time.

"The first play I was in, my nerves significantly decreased," Reading said.

EC ended up defeating Armijo 36-28 in Reading's debut on the football team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROXY READING ('23)

Varsity Football Kicker Roxy Reading ('23) takes the field for a kick.

# 'Putting' in the work

By **Logan Castro**  
OPINION EDITOR

Although El Camino's girls golf team has a record of 0-10, the number is misleading because they have had to forfeit every game due to a lack of players on the team meeting grade requirements.

League scores for each of the three active players on the six person team do count, and have led **Madi Paulsen ('24)** to play in a Sectional tournament held in Lodi where she placed third overall and is now representing EC in a Master's tournament held in Stockton.

The only players who can move onto the Master's tournament would be individually scored in the top six, or in the top two teams who played in Sectional tournaments.

"I think the season went really well for me—[my] scores were better than I had ever seen before," Paulsen stated.

Paulsen has made it to Master's after playing ever since she was two years old.

Coach Reid Furukawa is disappointed with having to forfeit the games, but is still overall proud of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ESTEVAN RIVAS ('23)

Varsity Golf Player Nimi Linan takes a swing during a match.

top three players **Mia Randall ('23)**, **Nimi Linan ('23)**, and Paulsen.

"The three players we had the majority of the season were Madi, Mia, and Nimi. Mia had some of her best scores [this season], and as well as Nimi," Furukawa said.

# Girls Tennis recap

By **Eliza Arthur**  
STAFF WRITER

On Oct 20, the El Camino's Girls Tennis team had their last 2022 seasonal game against Christian Brothers High School. Unfortunately, the team had no victories in doubles this season, but had five single wins.

**Ella Keefer ('23)** ended up with three wins, **Tetra Kinman ('25)** with one win, and **Payton Ruggles ('24)** also with one win. CAL state championships took place at Gold River Racquet Club Tuesday and Thursday this week.

Coach Richard Seto picked players Keefer, **Priska Rickenbach ('23)**, **Chloe Woods ('26)**, and **Ilaina Yavrom ('26)** for this tournament. Keefer and Rickenbach played their singles matches Tuesday. Woods and Yavrom were a doubles team as well as Keefer and Rickenbach. The doubles matches took place Thursday.





# EC Football celebrates the seniors

By Taylor Dingman  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

On Friday Oct. 21st, El Camino had their homecoming football game against Christian Brothers, as well as the football players senior night.

Although EC's opponent won the game 56-14, EC fought hard and played well. The stands were loud and supportive for our football players to keep their spirits high.

Kicker **Roxy Reading ('23)** explains some highlights of the game and how it kept the players heads in the game.

"[**Abdul Rashim Tanko ('23)** scored one of our touchdowns when he got the ball." Reading stated. "He [had] four guys going after him at one time—he was so fast, he outran one of the fastest players on their team, and I think that got us hyped for the rest of the game."

With it being senior night and the homecoming game, Team Captain **Mason Guess ('23)** explained how it felt while playing the game.

"It was a very emotional game, given that it was senior night and our last home game," Guess said.

Other notable players include Quarterback **Elijah Serrano ('23)**, who helped lead his team to multiple scores, and Varsity Head Defensive



Jaedyn Marez ('23) poses with friends and family to celebrate his last home game for EC's Varsity Football team. PHOTOS BY TAYLOR DINGMAN

Captain **Frank Leilua ('23)**, who completed multiple tackles.

During the game's halftime, the EC's Cheer team performed their routine, which was followed by student government's floats. With this year's homecoming theme being Greek Mythology, the floats were built to fit the theme. Seniors were

tasked with Hercules, Juniors were Zues, Sophomores were Hades, and Freshman were Demeter.

The junior class came out on top and won first place for the float contest by performing a rap skit to the four judges.

Homecoming senior royalty winners were also announced during

halftime at the game, winners being Reading and Football Team Manager **Sarah Alshmarci ('23)**.

Although the football team didn't pull off a victory, they left all they had out on the field for what would be the last home game of the season, sending the seniors off on a positive note.

## Love Kids? Like to Swim!?! Little Whale is Hiring

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Cheerleader Yoyo Michaels ('23) smiles after celebrating her time cheering at an EC football game.

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