



## PTSA Winter Dance Recap

By Daniel J., Evalynn K., Hayato M., Madison M.,  
Chloe Y.

Welcome to one of the most beautiful cities in Europe- Paris! Well, “Paris” is indeed a real city in France, but it was just the theme for the Winter Dance last week.

Friday, January 26th was the date for the first dance of the school year. Because the dance needed a wide area and a stage for the DJ to play songs, they used the quad after school from 3:30 to 5:00. It was a free event to enter, but you were also required to have a permission slip with your parent’s signature to enter.

Just like every year, the main entrance for the dance was at the small gate behind the Cafeteria, where PTSA volunteers collected the permission papers and gave them three tickets for later use in the Cafeteria. A colorful balloon arch with decorations resembling Paris and France greeted students as they walked in through the gate, revealing the quad decorated with balloons, cardboard light poles, and the newly added photo room made from adjustments in Mr. Pacheco’s room.



Students taking pictures in the photo room.

Once the students got into the school, they dropped off their backpacks in their lockers or the gym. Then, most of them made their way into the Cafeteria, where there were chips, granola bars, Capri-sun, and water. Now here was where the three tickets from earlier came in. One ticket equaled one item from the Cafeteria,

so you could get a combination of a chip, a granola bar, and a drink, or go crazy and get three chips, three drinks, or three granola bars.



Students hanging out at the quad, with most gathering around the stage with the DJ.

Now let’s talk about the DJ, who played songs for everyone to dance to, and took requests from students. Thankfully this year, nobody got Rick-rolled with the song “Never Gonna Give You Up”, even though it nearly became a tradition to play it every dance. Back to the topic. The requested songs included songs from famous artists such as Ice Spice, Bruno Mars, Knellz, and PSY.

Although this dance had good snacks and a great photo room, it was noticeable that school dances at JMS have come to a downfall. For example, free food was an incredible part of the school dances being so popular at JMS, with families donating a lot of food and practically turning it into a potluck, but now, “free food” is only free snacks. Another key part of the school dances was how long the party went for. In the past, it started at around 6 pm and ended at around 9 pm. In conclusion, this dance was neither too good nor bad.

## Torrance Antique Street Faire

By: Anthony M., Aidan O.

Back in the early 1900's, in Downtown Torrance there was the center of South Bay. Shoppers from Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, El Segundo, and even Los Angeles could hop on the Red Car Line to shop at the Woolworths or the Levy Department Store.

The Torrance Antique Street Fair came in October 1998 and has been growing ever since. It attracts a lot of people to the downtown part of Los Angeles each month. Shoppers and vendors alike like the laid-back alternative to swap meets.



(Different trays and plates being sold)

On January 28th, 2024, over 200 vendors selling many different types of things got together in Downtown Torrance to have an Antique fair on the street. Anybody could walk in, look around, shop, maybe eat at a restaurant or bar, or listen to some music with DJ Ozzie.

Two of the vendors there were interviewed. One of them was a man named Miguel. He said he was selling things like furniture and that sort. He also said that he had been in this business for 25 years! A lot of the people there had been doing it for different amounts of time, for some it may have been their first time or their 3rd or 4th year, so someone who has been doing this for 25 years is pretty cool. He was also asked what he does with excess items that weren't or haven't been sold. He said he donates them all, which is a good thing to do when you have extra things you don't know what to do with.

He was also asked, "If you could change one thing about the event, what would it be?" He said that he

would like to have more space. Finally, when he was asked why he sells what he is selling, he said, "It's just unique stuff... people like them, it depends what people collect, some people collect different stuff." A lot of people collect many different things, whether it is something he sells like antiques, or if it is something more modern.



(Multiple different antiques being displayed)

Another person named Tomoko was interviewed and asked "What are you selling?", she said "I'm selling handmade cups." This is also Tomoko's second year of doing the antique fair. Many different people have been attending it for different amounts of time. When she was asked, "What is your favorite part about this?" she stated, "I like that I can explain to people what I made, what I sell..." A lot of people have backstories on what they sell or why they sell it. The history behind all of the vendors and antiques and the event itself is what gives it character. When she was asked what she does with the excess items that weren't sold, she said, "I have another shop online, so I do both."

Many different vendors were selling many different items. Things that are handmade or have a history behind them. Whether it is something small like a cup or something large like furniture, everything there has a reason why it is being sold, and all of the vendors have a reason why they are selling it.

They are having a lot more antique fairs throughout the year so if you would like to visit some to look around or find something you might enjoy, you can search, "Torrance Antique Faire 2024," click some of the links, and find the date that you can go.

The Antique Fair is a very fun place with a story behind it that is a cool place to look around and visit.



## LA Lakers Trade Deadline

By David O.

The trading deadline for the NBA is coming up and The Lakers have an opportunity to change their roster. They are willing to trade anyone in their roster except for LeBron James and Anthony Davis. Other teams mainly want Austin Reaves and Max Christie from the Lakers. The Lakers are interested in Zach LaVine, who is currently on the Chicago Bulls and Dejounte Murray, who is currently on the Atlanta Hawks. The deadline is on February 8. Recently, a rumor has sparked that the Lakers, the Atlanta Hawks, and the Brooklyn Nets are making a trade. The Lakers would receive Dejounte Murray, the Hawks would receive Spencer Dinwiddie, and the Nets would receive D'Angelo Russell.

People have mixed thoughts. Some people think it's a positive trade since they think Russell's playstyle is limited because of LeBron and he would fit in the Nets.



Lebron defending the ball from opposing player

Some Lakers fans aren't satisfied though. They hate the fact that D'Angelo is one of the only reliable shooters in the Lakers, and they're trading him. Other Lakers fans support this trade because they think Dejounte Murray would be an incredible addition to the Lakers, and create new alternative playstyles.

Gamewise, they are doing a mediocre performance. Although they did move up a rank in the inseason tournament. The game against the Atlanta Hawks left fans hating Darvin Ham, the coach for the Lakers. Fans question the lineup the coach made and dislike how much they made LeBron play. Fans also don't enjoy how little playing time Rui Hachimura had. In the game against the Hawks, LeBron and Austin Reaves were playing the most and made the most points. Anthony Davis was not in the game because of an injury.

## Chargers Look for a New Head Coach and General Manager

By Ashley W.

On December 14, 2023, the Chargers got destroyed as the Raiders won 21 to 63. After the game, Brandon Staley posted on social media, "You can look at any great coach that's ever coached in the league, sometimes games like this happen." In the locker room, he repeated a similar quote to the disappointed players last year when they lost 30-31 to the Jaguars.

After the loss against the Raiders, the Spanos family fired the head coach Brandon Staley, and the general manager Tom Telesco the morning of December 15, 2023. This was the first time the NFL had split with a coach during the season since Kevin Gillbride was fired in 1998. Staley is also the second Chargers head coach to be fired since the 1970 midseason.

The Chargers now are on the hunt for people who would be the right fit for the positions. According to Spanos, the Chargers were looking to get their new general manager hired first before the head coach. They also want to find replacement coaches before the draft but also want to take their time to ensure that they hired the right candidate. They wanted to find a general manager who can get young talent from the drafts and fix the issues the team might see in the future seasons. For their head coach, they wanted to have someone who has previous NFL head coaching experience and wanted to avoid first-time head coaches.

On January 24, they announced that the new head coach for the Chargers would be Jim Harbaugh! 6 days later, on January 30, the team also announced that the Ravens' director of player personnel, Joe Hortiz, was hired as the new general manager!



From 1999 to 2000, Harbaugh was the Chargers quarterback (No.4)

As for the former head coach, Staley has joined the Vikings coaching staff with Kevin O'Connell who he's coached with before. The former Chargers general manager Telesco is now the Raiders' general manager.

# Winter Fashion

By: Mari G., Diya S.

Brr! It's getting cold and rainy which means no more shorts or tank tops! I wonder what the new fashion is this winter. Here are some of the most trending 2024 winter fashion trends.

We have a comfy statement with low rise uggs! Uggs are the most comfortable winter boots and slippers to wear.

You could wear them with tights, sweatpants, jeans and more!



Speaking of sweatpants, this is another winter fashion trend. You want to stay comfortable and warm! Nothing says winter other than sweatpants and hot chocolate!



If you're tired of short puffy jackets then this one would be perfect for you! Long fluffy puffy jackets are it. They are perfect if you want your whole body to be warm.



These shoes are getting so boring, here's another cute shoe that has been going around! These are called the Adidas Campus 00's These shoes go with anything you can think of



One last winter fashion to warm you up are leg warmers. They go perfect with tights, shorts, uggs and they can keep you snug and warm.



Now out of all these comfortable winter fashion items which one is your favorite! Have a good one!

# Groundhog Forecasting

By Ashley W.

On February 2nd of every year, millions of people turn on their TVs to watch a groundhog at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania coming out of its hibernation. This particular groundhog is better known as Punxsutawney Phil. This strange animal is supposedly able to predict whether or not it will be a continued winter or an early spring. How does it know which one it will be? Well if Phil can see his shadow then it means 6 more weeks of winter and if he doesn't, then spring will come early.



Phil's handler holds him up after he predicted an early spring in 2020.

Groundhog Day didn't start off with groundhogs though. The Christian tradition of Candlemas uses candles to foresee the weather. Later on, the Germans started using badgers or hedgehogs. When they came to Pennsylvania, they saw that there were barely any hedgehogs. This is why they switched to groundhogs which marked the first U.S. Groundhog Day on February 2, 1887, at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney Pennsylvania where the tradition continues.

In 1887, a newspaper editor announced that Phil was America's only true weather-forecasting groundhog. Some states disagreed and decided to use their own groundhogs including French Creek Freddie from West Virginia who even has his own theme song. The Essex County Turtle Back Zoo decided to add a fun twist to the holiday. In addition to predicting the weather, they also decided in the mid-2000s that Essex Ed the groundhog would predict which team would win the Super Bowl.

Groundhogs aren't always right though. According to the records since the 1880s, Phil has an accuracy rate of 39%. Despite the inaccuracy, people from all over the U.S. still watch groundhogs come out of their burrows to this day. As for 2024, Phil predicted an early winter!

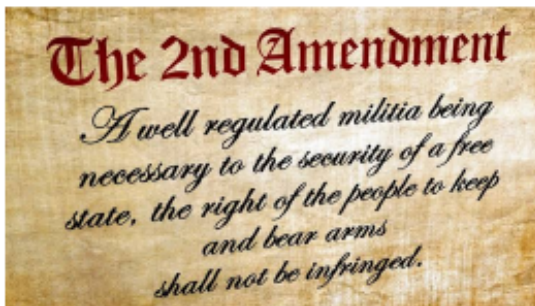


## Gun Violence

By: Mason W. Daksh P. Ali A.

Gun violence has become a serious problem in America. Almost everyday there are shootings in America, whether it be school shootings, office shootings, or just at a gas station. A gun violence statistics article by "[Team Enough](#)" says that there are about 316 deaths due to shootings everyday in the United States. Another article by the name of Key Statistics made by "[United Gun Violence Statistics](#)", says that about 327 people die a day because of shootings. So basically, the range in which people die a day due to guns in America is around the 310 to 330 range. This needs to stop.

This has been a problem for a long time due to the insanely easy access to guns in America, according to "[Insider Monkey](#)", the country in which it is easiest to access a firearm is none other than the U.S.A. America is even being stereotyped nowadays for the ludicrous amount of guns the general people have. People have either so many guns or so many people have guns now, and this all goes back to the birth of America, the second amendment.



The Second Amendment stating the right to bear arms/guns

The second amendment allows us to own firearms. However times have changed since then. The purpose of guns back then was to hunt and kill for food. All they had were muskets, but our guns have evolved a lot since then. The second amendment was also made at a time where it was more normal and needed, it was made at the time where guns were not so strong, they would take so long to reload and also weren't the best, at least compared to today. On top of that, the second amendment has been controversial for a while,

politicians have been debating about it and most don't like it. However, the reason it still stands is most likely because not everyone agrees and it is a part of the constitution, the country's living law of the land.

The second amendment is sort of the reason this is happening right? No, although it may be controversial, it is usually not the reason this happens, we know this because even though you can have a gun due to the second amendment, we still have laws for guns, and lots of them.



A over the counter transaction at a gun shop being conducted

Most states typically have some that make it so that the access people have is limited and on top of that, they need to do a background check sometimes however, even though they take all these precautions, these guns are still finding their way to the wrong people, this is because they still allow you to get a few weak guns with just a drivers license or an ID, however these can be fake and sometimes are. Most states in America even allow semi automatics and fully automatics that can be bought.

We should limit the availability of guns in America. The average joe should not be able to own four shotguns, two semi automatics, and three hand guns in their home. We should make the requirements much more strict such as possibly only allowing a maximum of two hand guns per household depending on the area of the household.

In the end, over 300 people die a day from guns, this is because America has the 2nd amendment which allows anyone to get guns(as long as they have a ID or license), this should change to be more strict and regulated so that U.S. citizens can only own small firearms such as handguns. Changes like these would make the whole country safer even if it's just a little bit, and if done right, we will all be safe without the worry of someone coming to school with a gun.

## The Houthis Response To The Israeli-Palestinian War

By Zara K., Kara K.

Have you realized all the commotion happening on the other side of the world? The amount of fighting is slowly rising. The Houthis (pronounced WHO-THEE), an armed political and religious rebel group, are currently opposing against western powers like the US and Israel.

They hit a U.S. owned and operated commercial vessel on January 31, 2024. Some damage was reported but overall no injuries. It is guessed that the Houthi are targeting ships that are Israeli owned, flagged, operated, or heading to Israeli ports.



If the destruction in Yemen manages to stop, recovery might still be possible.

The US and UK have carried out coordinated air strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen on the 11th and 22nd of January. Two navy seals went missing and are now presumably dead. Further strikes have been carried out by the US.

Meanwhile, shipping companies have stopped using the Red Sea and Suez Canal Route and are instead opting to take the longer route around the southern tip of Africa. Around 15% of global seaborne trade passes through the southern tip. This is adding an extra, give or take, 10-14 days. Ports in Italy and France are worried about being skipped since the ships were avoiding the Mediterranean route.

Risks remain since many ships continue to bypass the Red Sea route for a longer trip around Africa's southern tip. This also means lower revenue for Egypt through the Suez Canal, since it was a vital source of hard currency for the country's troubled economy, as well as higher costs for shipping that could push up

global inflation. This is a huge deal for Egypt; their economy is hurting.

The attacks on ships started in November in an attempt to protest the war and help out Gaza protect themselves from Israel. But most of the vessels that have been attacked have no affiliation with Israel however. Wheat shipments through the Suez Canal dropped by over 40% after attacks started.



Many economies are going downhill because their supplies are low and hard to get.

Plenty of drones and missiles from the Houthi, most people have been intercepted as Pentagon war planners have been putting armed reaper drones and surveillance platforms over Yemen.

Iran is said to only be supporting the Houthis politically, although the Houthis seem to possess Iranian armory and techniques. It is unknown if Iran is directly supporting the Houthis. As for now Iran is not directly involved with the U.S. and Israel but is still fueling the attacks on shipping.

Vice Admin, Brad Cooper spoke to the AP from the sidelines of a drone conference in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Under his command of the 5th Fleet, the naval force has created Task Force 49, a drone fleet to bolster its patrol of waterways in the region.

Cooper, head of the Navy's 5th fleet had said, "What I'll say is Iran is clearly funding, they're resourcing, they are supplying, and they're providing training," he continued, "they are obviously very directly involved. There's no secret there."

Sources: [BBC](#), [AP news](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Reuters](#), [The guardian](#)



## Tina Fey Shares Her Inspiration for Mean Girls

By Sophia A. and Arya B.

Popular and a little controversial "*Mean Girls*" has been turned into a musical after it was withheld from release in 2017. Writer and actor Tina Fey, has come forward to share how she relates and created this iconic movie. Before we get into that here's a little background for those who don't know her.

Tina Fey is a writer, comedian, and an actress. She's been in shows like *Mean Girls*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *Baby Mama*. She was also SNL's first female head writer from 1997 to 2006.



Tina admitted to basing the movie on her own high school experience. In an interview by *Today* she says,

"I was definitely kind of a theater geek, an absolute dork," and "I did not take my brother to my prom, I will draw the line there ... I was just a good student." Fey most closely relates to the character of Janice.

"I do think I talked a lot of smack about people that I thought that I was the victim in every situation, and really I was a monster,"

As far as inspirations, an article by *Biography* reveals her inspiration. "When Tina Frey wrote the screenplay for *Mean Girls*, she based the plot on Rosalind Wiseman's 2002 bestselling self-help book, *Queen Bees & Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends & Other Realities of Adolescence*."

What made the movie so unique was the personal touches from Tina's own life. One of them coming straight from her mother, the scene where Regina calls a girl's shirt "pretty" is based on what her mother does as she says, "My mom has this habit that if she sees a lady in a really ugly hat or a glittery

sweatshirt, she'll go 'I love your shirt' and I'll say 'Mom, that's really mean,'"

Aside from her inspirations you may be wondering, what's the big message?

In an interview by *U.S. news* Lindsay Lohan reveals the theme, "In a way, things haven't changed that much, right? People have new ways to mess with each other, right? They can do it over the internet, but it's still just human beings pulling someone else down to make themselves momentarily feel better, right?"



Regina (Rachel McAdams), Gretchen (Lacy Chabert), and Karen (Amanda Seyfried), And Cady (Lindsay Lohan)

In the *Tonight show*, she explains that they knew they wanted Renée Rapp to reprise her Broadway role as Regina, and wanted to cast Avantika as Karen, "She's so gorgeous it's like, stupid," says Fey.

The character of Gretchen took a lot longer to cast, "I had one day where I was like, 'I'm going to go back and watch every single tape of every Gretchen that's come in,'" Fey explains. "So I spent a whole day watching all of them, and then I was like, 'This girl, I love this girl, Bebe Wood, she's perfect, she's Gretchen!' We hired her and then we went to look at her IMDb page, and then I realized that I had worked with her when she was 10 on *30 Rock*." That's how Bebe Wood joined the cast!



New Mean Girls cast

In conclusion, although the movie has been modernized in the new musical. Fans have taken to social media to share their positive reaction to the movie, alongside moments of shade and disgust towards actors and producers. Overall the movie/musical received mixed reviews.

## Origins of Valentine's Day

By Esaias. A

The Saint Valentine of Valentine's Day was one of two guys preaching the good word in Rome in the third century. Their Martyrdom was honored by the Catholic church with celebration of St. Valentine's Day. Valentine's day is a tradition bringing people closer together and reinforces the bond of love and affection.

Valentine's actions were discovered, Cladius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop who was a true namesake of the holiday. He too, was beheaded by Cladius II outside Rome.

Some people believe that Valentine's day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial- which people believe had occurred around A.D. 270- and others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort .



This is a painting of St. Valentine encouraging others to love.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat for fertility, and a dog for purification. The emperor Aurelius had imprisoned Valentine in 272 AD for continuing to marry Christians soldiers, despite royal decree.

## Sweet Valentines Gift Ideas

By Elise. B

Valentine's day is a day for loved ones to show their love for one another. One of the best ways to show this love is by giving Valentines gifts. So here are the most popular gifts for Valentine's day.

Number one: Candy boxes. Many people



prepare candy filled heart containers full of their favorite sweets. This heartfelt gift can even win someone over.

Number two: Plushie bouquet. Plushie bouquets are definitely more convenient and

much cuter than normal flower bouquets, they never rot and can be kept forever. Plus it's less work to take care of.

Number three: Box of chocolates. The classic gift most associated with Valentine's day: chocolates can be wrapped in heart boxes or even shaped like hearts, maximizing the love that person receives.

Number four: Song keychain. A song keychain has a song name that you feel connected to the other person with and a picture of the person you love. This present can be shared both ways and represents your bond with that person.

Number five: Lego roses bouquet. Lego roses are fun buildable roses that you can build and spend joyful moments with the person you love. Like the plushies bouquet in addition it never rots and can be a great presentation for guests or just for your own eye candy.

Number six: Chocolate covered strawberries. Chocolate covered strawberries are always a pleaser and a delightful gift. Especially for the sweet tooth out there. These Valentine's gifts are perfect for platonic and romantic relationships. The fascinating thing about gifts is gifts with love is a universal language that people appreciate, they form bonds and strengthen relationships.



## Shout-Outs!

**Shyna Hasan:** 7th Grade - You are such a sweetheart! Thank you for your constant smiles and always checking to see how I am.

-Ms. De La Cruz

**Phoebe P.** - Thank you Phoebe for always being helpful, hardworking!

-Ms. Aragon

**Isiah M.** - I appreciate your participation and honesty!

-Ms. Aragon

**Justin Vogt & Konner Vejphuyarn** - Thank you guys for consistently doing a great job editing and putting together our Multimedia Class Episodes.

-Mr. Carri

I would like to recognize **Yuna**. She is always in good spirits, she is always very kind and respectful when I see her.

-Ms. Trujillo

8th Grade Students who have earned their 8th grade activities! Way to go!

-Ms. Nunes

**Ann Smith:** 6th Grade: Thank you for always being so positive and helpful.

-Ms. Lindeman

**Ryland Nguyen** 6th Grade: Thank you for always giving your best effort.

-Ms. Lindeman

**Camilla G.** - You are so nice and so caring for everyone around you, you are the sweetest person i've ever met.

-Mason W.

**Haashnee K.** 8th Grade - Happy almost birthday. I look forward to that special day!

-Arya B.

**Ms. Swartz** - You are so kind and fun to be around, I'm glad you're my teacher!

-Esaias A.

**Cullen B.** - It's almost your birthday. Be careful...

-Mason W.

**Ms. Ludwig.**- You made me like science a little bit more

-Esaias A.

**Faith K.**- Shout out for being a very loud friend!

-Zara K. & Kara K.

**Leah S.** - You rock my world!

-Diya S.

## Percy Jackson Series

By: Mason W.

The new Percy Jackson show on Disney Plus is over. The show is much closer to the book. The movies were questionable. The first season was based off of the lighting thief, which was almost fully read, but that's not important.



Poster of Percy Jackson and the Olympians

The first episode was kind of slow, but it was just to show how everything starts, which is fine.

In the second episode we get to meet Luke, and spoilers right now, but in the book Luke is actually the lighting thief. One thing I think is funny is the actor for Luke,

Charlie Bushnell, was asked about his character's relationship with Percy, to which he replied, "I think Luke is a brother figure to him and that their relationship will last forever and ever." I know the truth Charlie.

We also see how Annabeth fell hard for Percy. Their relationship grows really fast. Medusa in the show is way better than in the old movie. She was portrayed by Jessica Parker, she did a great job playing Medusa.

It was also very cool to see Echidna and her child attack Percy and the gang on the ark in Saint Louis. It was nice how Percy sacrifices himself to save Annabeth and how their relationship grows, or as the fandom dubs it, Percabeth. Grover was also much more serious than in the movies, His character has way more depth.

Percy's journey to the underworld to see Hades and bring back his mom was alright for me. The Cerberus reveal was a bit underwhelming since he was just a giant puppy with three heads. It was kind of funny though.

The Last episode was just perfect. We finally get to see Percy and his father interact and it was the moment I have been waiting for. The way Percy finds out that Luke was the lighting thief and how Annabeth heard the whole thing was great. This show was amazing.