TORRANCE T NEWS TORCH

Lighting the Way to Torrance High School Since 1922

KING FOR A DAY

HONORING KING

BY ANDREW GERGES

Staff Writer



Martin Luther King Jr. is universally known as one of the greatest civil rights activists in American history. His speeches were motivating and his actions brought an increase to racial equality in the United States. His life is commemorated nationally every year on the third Monday of January and with the annual Hands Across Campus celebration at Torrance High School. Following Abraham Lincoln, no other person has inspired more change and equality for the races than MLK.

Born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, MLK was brought up in a loving home and some say he was a natural born leader. His parents taught him to believe in himself and not accept racism in defeat. A series of racist events, such as being forced to unfriend his white neighbor, led MLK to adopt strong anti-racist sentiments during his adoloscence.

During WWII, MLK applied to Morehouse College, a historically black university in Georgia, and pursued studies in sociology. After graduating in 1948, he decided to pursue the Christian ministry and enrolled in a Baptist seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. There he was able to develop his leadership abilities and began sharing his political views.

MLK decided to further his education with a doctoral degree in theology from Boston University. There he met Coretta Scott, who ultimately became his wife on June 18, 1953. After the ceremony, they moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where MLK would act as minister to a small Baptist church.

MLK rose to fame when he led the Montgomery bus boycott, and two years later Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus. The boycott lasted 385 days and led to MLK's house being bombed. Soon, the city of Montgomery ended segregated public housing. The long road of MLK's public

activism had begun.



In 1957, MLK and others founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference inspired by Evangelist leader Billy Graham. The goal was to work with black churches to form nonviolent protests to end segregation and the Jim Crow laws. After a series of campaigns and nights in jail, MLK and the SCLC achieved national fame and began regularly participating in anti-segregation protests.

On August 28, 1963, MLK delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington. Despite fears for his safety and public unrest, MLK went through with the speech. He continued a career of activism through nonviolence for the next five years.

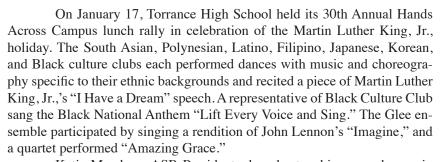
On April 4, 1968, MLK was in Memphis, Tennessee, to speak at a church to protest unfairness to black workers. At 6:04 P.M., while he was overlooking the balcony at the Lorraine Hotel, he was shot by James Earl Ray and died an hour later at St. Joseph's Hospital. Martin Luther King, Jr., was 39.

His death incited race riots around the nation. President Lyndon B. John son declared a national day of mourning on April 7. Ray was captured two months later in London and was later sentenced to 99 years in prison trying to avoid the death penalty. MLK's funeral was a national spectacle and a cause for grief for all races.

Congress passed the Civil Rights Act days after his death and his efforts to bring equality were remembered and commemorated around the world, inspiring similar movements in South Africa and Ireland. In November 1983, President Ronald Reagan passed a bill to honor MLK as a great American champion for equality every 3rd Monday in January. Martin Luther King, Jr., lives in our memories with the Hands Across Campus celebration of diversity in our students, solidifying MLK's dream.

DIVIDED IN CULTURE, UNITED IN DREAMS

BY VERONICA GARZA Staff Writer



Katie Mendoza, ASB President, shared a touching speech, one in which she stated, "A world without color is one that is dark." The city of Torrance's influential members joined in the celebration with some words of their own. Mr. Robert Patterson, sponsor of the Black Culture Club, also gave a speech, crediting Martin Luther King, Jr. with his children being able to stand alongside their friends, regardless of race. Amidst a world divided in culture, THS students and faculty stood alongside each other, united in dreams.

South Asian Culture Club was first to perform, their flowy attire fought tirelessly for equality.



moving gracefully across the gym floor, their infectious energy apparent as they smiled through the turns and dips of their dance. Polynesian Culture Club came next, three of their members showcasing their hula-dancing abilities. After was Latino Culture Club and their upbeat pop music, cheering their pride, causing the gym to erupt with applause.

Filipino Culture Club returned with their traditional stick dance. Members danced around the sticks blindfolded, leaving the audience on the edge of the bleachers. Japanese Culture Club contributed their intricate hand movements and colorful kimonos. Korean Culture Club added to the fun with their Korean pop dances and their beautiful fan dance. Black Culture Club closed the show with stomps and claps, captivating the audience with their ability to stay in sync with one another.

For the grand finale, all students, guests, and faculty were called to join hands as the singers performed "Amazing Grace." The whole gymnasium swayed at the musical voices, a reminder that we are all united, all the same, but simultaneously different. This captured the essence of Hands Across Campus, which is to celebrate our differences in honor of a man who fought tirelessly for equality.



flowers for all occasions





ASIAN CULTURE CLUB PERFORM-ING PHOTO COURTE-SY: Veronica Garza

THE SOUTH

Always in Our Hearts

BY KAYLA COLLINS Editor-in-Cheif



Gianna (2006-2020)

Kobe (1978-2020)

Kobe Bryant (40) and his daughter Gianna Maria-Onore Bryant (13) have unfortunelty died in a helicopter crash on Januarry 26, 2020 at approximately 10 o'clock in the morning, near Calabasas, California.

Kobe was an all star basketball player, outstanding philanthropist, and overall inspiration to many, and Gianna was a budding young basketball player. They are survived by their loving wife and mother, Vanessa, and Gianna's three sisters, Natalia, Bianka, and Capri.

Their efforts and charity will be cherished in their memory, and their impact will never be forgotten. They will live on forever in our hearts and will be missed dearly.

Girls Varsity Soccer Kickin' It

BYJAKE IOVINE

Club Writer

The Torrance High School Varsity Girls Soccer Team has been scoring goal after goal throughout this entire season and seems to be improving themselves with each kick.

Varsity Freshman Allison Laurens has been enjoying her season with some recent victories, but the season is almost over. Allison said, "The season has been really fun and our team has improved a lot from the beginning of the season." The team is currently enjoying a record of 7-5-1 and 2-2-0 against the league play, and the scores will probably be more impressive next season.

Being a freshman on Varretorted, "Varsity soccer is a good experience for me because everyone pushes you to do your best."

With big games coming up against North, South, and West, Allison looks to continue her contending ability.

The Varsity team started their first half of the season with some inconsistency. With six games left, not only do they need to continue winning, but also the other teams need to lose. In their last six games, they have already played their TUSD rivals.

After a highly successful 10-0 win at Inglewood, the team focused their talents at North HS on Friday, January 24, at Zamperini Stadium, where they tied in overtime 0-0. The team succeeded again on January 27 against Mornsity can be difficult, but Allison ingside with a final score of 8-0. We hope that our girls soccer team can keep their run in form!





Photo Courtesy: **Torrance High** Instagram

Athletes Of The Month

BY DAEZSA PASION

Staff Writer





Angela Arellano & Jake Martin

Photo Courtesy: ASB

Torrance High School celebrates the November "Athletes of the Month," Angela Arellano and Jake Martin for their hard work, athletic efforts, and Tartar Pride while running for the THS Cross Country Team. Great job, Tartars!

Senior Night Grapplers

BY NATALIA CORRALES

Club Writer

On January 16, Seniors Joshua Davis and Tim Kacus were honored in Torrance High School's gymnasium during a ceremony before the varsity wrestling team's first dual meet against Lawndale the on January 16.

The ceremony started with each senior being introduced individually, then both were accompanied by a family member. The seniors were showered with leis and flowers as the crowd garnered their applause. This moment was truly rewarding to the hard working athletes and their parents. Joshua expressed, "I thought the opening ceremony was really nice and well put together." The encouragement helped him to compete better that evening.

The event continues with a dual meet against Lawndale. The varsity team competed first, then the girls team, and finally the junior varsity. The entire dual had the crowd in suspense. All the teams wrestled intensely as some matches were lengthy. The crowd breathed heavily with anticipation as the wrestlers grappled with alacrity and speed.

Both participants and spectators thought it was a night to remember. Junior Sanil Chaudhari, opined, "[Jean's] match was surprising! She was so fast!" WHAT GRADE Carly Smith replied, "[The team] is working as hard as they can whether they prevail or not." She added the learning itself supplied ample experience to gain success in the future.

Wrestling is definitely different than any other sport; it requires skill and a passion. That is why Tim and Joshua deserved to be honored. Tim has been on the varsity team for three years, and Joshua has been in varsity for one year. These two wrestlers have displayed an incredible passion for the team and is proof that hard work pays

Our wrestling team is another reason why our school is outstanding. Coach Mo agrees, saying "They're all working hard." Again, congratulations to Joshua Davis and Tim Kacus for all your hard work!

Wrestling Team Photo Courtesy: Tim Kacius

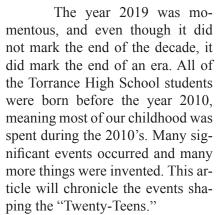






The End of a Era

BY JOSHUA FLORES
Staff Writer



According to the website onthisday.com, Toy Story 3 premiered in theatres and was the "first animated film to earn \$1 billion" in June of 2010. October 2011 saw the world's population reach 7 billion inhabitants according to the United Nations. In July of 2012, Kim Jong-un was "officially appointed Supreme Leader of North Korea."

In March, 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope, taking the papal name Pope Francis. And in December of 2014, the film Unbroken, the story of THS' own Louis Zamperini, was released in theatres.

In December of 2015,



COP21 climate change summit in Paris reaches a deal between 195 countries to limit the rise in the global average temperature to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. The United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union in June of 2016. In November of 2017, Robert Mugabe, dictator of Zimbabwe, was removed as the country's leader.

In June of 2018, a Summit between North Korea and the United States took place in Singapore to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In June of 2019, over 1 million people protested in Hong Kong over proposed new extradition laws to China in one of the largest protests in that city. As of this writing, the protests continue.

There are, of course, a plethora of events that were left out, but these seemed the most enduring. They helped to change our world completely. Now we just have to see what the 2020's hold in store for us.

Talent and Style



The 77th annual Golden Globe Award took place on January 5, 2020 at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California. The audience enjoyed viewing Ricky Gervais host the first award show of 2020 for his fifth and final time. The Golden Globes is an occasion where actors and actresses are awarded for their outstanding performances in American and international films/television.

Fans tuned into the show through cable, the NBC website, or "Hulu + Live TV, YouTube TV, Sling TV and PlayStation Vue" according to USA Today writer Carly Mallenbaum. The event began at 5pm Pacific Standard Time and aired for approximately three hours. Although one could compare the Golden Globes to the Academy Awards, this show is not as distinguished and is about embracing and enjoying the entertainment.

The Golden Globes occurred a month prior to the 92nd Academy Awards, better known as the Oscars. According to Cheat Sheet writer Robert Yaniz Jr, these awards "are therefore largely considered a factor in shaping Oscar predictions." There were 28 total categories

for the 77th Golden Globes. "1917" won Best Drama Motion Picture, "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" won Best Musical or Comedy Motion Picture, Renee Zellweger won Best Actress in a Motion Picture, Joaquin Phoenix won Best Actor in a Motion Picture, along with many more winners.

Many outfits stood out on the 2020 Golden Globes carpet. Writer at PageSix Elana Fishman noticed "a few major fashion trends dominated the evening." Zoe Kravitz and Annabelle Wallis both displayed a beautiful off the shoulder look. Kravitz in her polka-dotted black and white Saint Laurent gown and Wallis in her simple, yet elegant, black Zuhair Murad dress.

Scarlett Johansson and Jennifer Lopez perfectly flaunted their incorporation of bows into their dresses for the evening. Johansson in a custom Vera Wang rose colored strapless with a large bow set in the back of the gown. Lopez entertained the carpet in a white and green Valentino Couture with a broad golden bow draped across the front of the ensemble. The 2020 Golden Globe Awards Show was a wonderful showcase of talent and style.



Eduardo Bentiez on... Rise of Star-Blunder



Feature Writer

It is finally here, the conclusion to this underachieving trilogy of SciFi schmaltz, Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker. After the underperformance that was The Last Jedi, The Rise of Skywalker concludes the journey of Rey (played by Daisy Ridley), from her humble beginnings of The Force Awakens. Bigger trouble, bigger reveals, and even bigger disappointments explains this film in a nutshell. Directed by J.J Abrams, the film is filled with an abundance of bad takes and scarcely any redeeming qualities.

The first major drawback of the film's quality is the pacing, which seems it was bumped up to ten as things happen too fast, too quickly. Characters are also used for one scene and never used again, making each vital scene they appear in forgettable and leaves the audience questioning how it all happened. The only well-written character is Kylo Ren (played by Adam Driver) who seemed to be the most realistic character out of everyone in the film, and even he appears to

be poorly used.

Critics panned on this sickly celluloid synecdoche, including LA Weekly's Asher Luberto, who reported: "Eight films, 20 hours, and hundreds of nostalgic moments have lead up to The Rise of Skywalker... It's too much for a single film to juggle, and not even the Force can pull it off."

Even avid film reviewer Mike Stoklasa, from Red Letter Media, admits that, "Without George Lucas, Star Wars is like a cup of coffee, it tastes good with added flavors but without it it's just as bland as any black coffee."

Amy Nicholson from Film Week could not speak highly of it nor its director: "You sense in this film, J.J. [Abrams] is shrinking that world... Everything in this franchise feels like a take back." Star Wars may lead to several disappointments, but if you are an ardent Star Wars fan, you might enjoy it.



South Bay Striving School 310-791-1111

Online Classes Available! Visit Us At Southbaydriving.com

Online and Classroom available 3614 Pacific Coast Hwy, Torrance, CA 90505 One Coupon per student PROUD SPONSOR OF YOUR SCHOOL FOR OVER 20 YEARS!



New Year, New Me?

BY KAYLA COLLINS

Editor-in-cheif

Americans celebrated the coming of 2020 with parties, cheers, or just a cozy night. It takes the earth 365.5 days to complete one revolution around the sun. However, there are many meanings for a "year" in different cultures.

Various rituals and celebrations are meant to bring luck and happiness during the new year. In Brazil, they eat lentils on New Year's Day in the hopes of good fortune for the year ahead. In Spain, there they eat one grape each time the clock strikes midnight, with the idea that it will bring you 12 lucky months.

We celebrate the new year because many of us think of it as a fresh start, removing the old and bringing in the new, like making new year's resolutions. Things like working out more or eating healthier are often tried as a way to "start anew."

Although we intend to follow our resolutions, many are not successful. A study by Bri-

tish psychologist Richard Wiseman found 88% of "new year, new me" people failed to achieve the goals of their resolutions, even though 52% remained confident they would succeed.

Award-winning author, reporter, teacher, consultant, and public speaker David Ropeik stated. "New Year's resolutions are examples of the universal human desire to have some control over what lies ahead, because the future is unsettlingly unknowable." This is strikingly accurate!

People make these resolutions to have a type of comfort and control over the new year because they have no idea what will happen, especially as students are preparing their lives for what's ahead. There are many traditions and reasons why we celebrate New Year's. Consider your own.

Tommy Tartar Welcomes the New Year

BY USHNA ANWAR



Photo courtesy: BCC



!! ADOPT A PET !!

Loss and Recovery

BY MIKI IGNACIO Staff Writer

Australia has been facing the worst fires in its past decade, and only recently has it been globally recognized as a tragedy. The fires have killed an abundance of animals and charred the once-productive environ-

ment, throwing these vibrant habitats into desolation.

According to BBC News, the Australian fires burned approximately 15.6 million acres of land, killed at least two dozen people, and destroyed more than 2,000 homes. A biodiversity expert estimates a death toll of a billion wild animals. As ecologist Manu Saunders comments, mammals and birds are not the only ones who have been involved, but insects, plants, fungi, invertebrates, amphibians, and vital bacteria and microorganisms have been lost as well. At the moment, some species are on the brink of extinction.

As reported by Newsweek, policemen from

New South Wales have stated twenty-four Australians were arrested for arson, along with "a hundred other people facing legal action for either not complying with the state's fire ban, or discarding a lit cigarette or match on land." However, some claim this is overexaggerated disinformation spread by bots and trolls. Regardless of the cause, the fires must be stopped before Australia faces further devastation.

Thanks to social media, this issue garnered attention around the world. Numerous donation links were contrived by organizations and individuals. People united and fundraised to help fight the blazes. Not only did the common people donated, but also famous celebrities pitched in millions of dollars for the cause. By lending a few dollars to the people and wildlife of Australia, you can help this once pristine and prodigious ecoculture.





CHAMP 18-07556 8 Years Old Shepard Mix Male

8-07556 Years Old AVAILABLE AT THE SPCALA PITCHFORD COMPANION ANIMAL VILLAGE & EDUCA-TION CENTER 7700 EAST SPRING STREET LONG BEACH, CA 90815

I'M CHAMP! WHILE AT THE SHELTER, I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY BASIC OBEDIEN-CE TRAINING AND LEARNING ALL SORTS OF TRICKS. MY FAVORITE THING IS TO GO FOR NICE WALKS WITH MY HUMAN FRIENDS AND RELAX AT HOME. PLAYING WITH TOYS IS GREAT FUN, TOO. COME MEET ME TODAY!

HTTPS://SPCALA.COM/ADOPTABLE/ PET/?SS=18-07556



Piano, Singing, Uke, Banjo, Bass & Drum Instruction

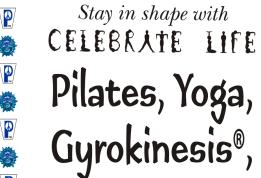


Nominated Best LA Band '96 Best Guitar '97 LA Music Awards Visit us on PeacelandMusic.com

& YouTube.com/
PeacelandMusic

(310) 650-4021

All ages, levels & styles. Days, eves, weekends. www.peacelandmusic.com, peaceland@peacelandmusic.com 23706 Crenshaw, #105A&B, across from Hof's Hut, Torrance, CA



e and Nia

Gift Certificates Available Now!



Pilates introductory package (required for participation in Pilates mat classes) \$30 for one private introductory session + three (3) group classes

Please call (310) 530-7881 to schedule

on Crenshaw Blvd. in Torrance





DOBIE 20-01691

4 YEARS OLD CHIHUAHUA MIX MALE

AVAILABLE AT THE SPCALA SOUTH BAY
ADOPTION CENTER
12910 YUKON AVENUE
HAWTHORNE, CA 90250
(310) 676-1149

HELLO, HUMANS! MY NAME IS DOBIE AND I AM A PIT BULL MIX LOOKING FOR MY FO-REVER HOME. WHILE I AM HERE I WILL BE WORKING ON MY SIT AND DOWN. I'D LOVE TO MEET YOU SO COME ON IN!

HTTPS://SPCALA.COM/ADOPTABLE/ PET/?SS=20-01691