



# TORRANCE T NEWS TORCH

Lighting the Way to Torrance High School Since 1922

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR AT THS

### SCHOOLING EXTRAVAGANZA!

BY ASHLEY MERCURIO  
*Club Writer*

The Torrance High School Academic Decathlon team participated in a two day competition at El Rancho High School on January 25 and February 1. The first day of competition included prepared and impromptu speeches and essays while the second day included testing in seven subjects and the super quiz (a Jeopardy style event where the teams have to answer questions from all seven testing subjects).

The teams for Academic Decathlon are divided by a person's unweighted GPA and are placed within either Honors, Scholastic, or Varsity with three spaces in each sub-team. The sub-teams compete against each other in testing and super quiz to win medals.

On February 6, a banquet was held for the LACOE Academic Decathlon teams at Montebello, CA to announce medalists in each subject and school ranking. The THS Acadec team won 13 medals and placed 19 out of 39 in overall school ranking. This is an amazing achievement for our AcaDec participants! Varsity member Charlie Chen states, "We all won as people and gained valuable experiences and memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives."

The Academic Decathlon team's season is now over as they prepare for next year's competition. Scholastic member Jerico Sarmiento opined, "I made good memories with my team and had a good time." Congratulations, Academic Decathlon team!



Torrance High School  
Academic Decathlon  
Team of 2019-2020  
**Photo Courtesy:**  
[tusd.org](http://tusd.org)

### HEART-MELTING RIDDLES!

1) What flowers are kissable?  
A: Tulips

2) Which one of Santa's reindeer  
can be seen on Valentines day?  
A: Cupid

3) What did the light bulb say to  
his valentine?



andes florist  
*flowers for all occasions*

### WHAT IS VALENTINE'S DAY?

BY JOSHUA FLORES  
*Staff Writer*

Valentine's Day, or February 14, is a time for love and affection. For the past 700 years, people have been celebrating Valentine's Day by showing endearment to others. Sometimes love takes the guise of a box of chocolates, a bouquet of flowers, or a diamond necklace. But Valentine's Day is also a time when businesses make a great deal of money.

According to [groovycandies.com](http://groovycandies.com), in America the "average annual Valentine's Day spending is \$18,500,000,000." That's a lot of candy hearts. Also, the "average number of roses produced for Valentine's Day is 224,000,000." Valentine's Day, aside from the usual commercialism, is a lovely day steeped in tradition and sentiment.

According to [britannica.com](http://britannica.com), Pope Galicious I replaced Lupercalia, an ancient holiday celebrated in the city of Rome to thwart evil spirits to cleanse the city, with St. Valentine's Day. It came to be celebrated as a day of romance from about the 14th century.

The reason for the holiday was to celebrate a man named "St. Valentine" but for which "St. Valentine" it celebrates is still debated to this day. It's thought that the day might have taken its name from a priest who was martyred by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus around 270 CE.

According to the story, a priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter which he befriended. Some sources even say he cured her of blindness.

So Valentine's Day has been around for a long time but its cliches of flowers, cards, and chocolates didn't arise until much later on. The commercialization of Valentine's Day began around the 1,500s when people started sending "[f]ormal messages, or valentines," and during the late 1,700s "commercially printed cards" were being sold.

Valentine's Day is celebrated in several countries including the "United States as well as in Britain, Canada, and Australia." But the most important aspect of Valentine's Day isn't the cards or the chocolates - it's about showing your love to whomever you choose.







**Photo  
Courtesy:  
Npr.org**

Billie Eilish expecting her grammy

**Photo  
Courtesy:  
usatoday.  
com**

## Grammys Sizzle the Red Carpet

BY USHNA ANWAR

Staff Writer

The 62nd Annual Grammy Awards took place on January 26, 2020 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Hosted by Alicia Keys, the event aired on CBS at 5:00 PM PST. Fans tuned into the awards via cable or streaming on the CBS website with a viewership of 18.7 million. The Grammy Awards honors singers, songwriters, and artists who depict hard work and talent.

Ordinarily, many awards are given out during the show. There are eight categories for the General Field awards. According to BBC writer Mark Savage, Billie Eilish took home “five awards, including best new artist and song of the year.” Eilish also performed her ballad “When The Party’s Over” from her Grammy-winning album. The remaining main awards were given to Elvis Costello & The Imposters for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album, Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus for Best Pop Duo, and Lizzo won Best Pop Solo Performance.

According to Rolling Stone writer Tim Chan, the audience was graced with “performances by Aerosmith...Ariana Grande, the Jonas Brothers,” and many more. Demi Lovato also captivated

the audience singing “Anyone,” which was her first performance since 2018. Tyler, the Creator brought out his iconic blonde wig and pink suit to perform his songs “EARFQUAKE” and “NEW MAGIC WAND,” and proceeded to literally set the stage on fire at the end of his performance.

The common element with award shows is the outfits in which the artists arrive. The 2020 Grammys red carpet did not disappoint. According to CNN, Ariana Grande displayed a “ruffled, Giambattista Valli dress.” Billie Eilish walked with “a lime green and black Gucci suit with matching hair and accessories.” Chrissy Teigen arrived in an “orange Yanina Couture gown with elaborate sleeves” with John Legend dressed in a long gray suit. Singer-songwriter, Lana Del Rey, wore a dress she said she purchased at the mall. It was designed by Aidan Maddox, available to purchase on Saks Fifth Avenue.

There were many beautiful and unique fashion looks on the carpet that night. The fans look forward to what these artists bring to the show next year!

Ariana grande  
Posing on the red  
carpet



TALENT

## Audacious Auditions, Tartar Talent

BY JESSICA TANG

Club Writer

Torrance High School’s Fine Arts Club held its annual Talent Show auditions on Wednesday, February 5, in the auditorium to see which Tartar will make the cut.

The auditions were held after school. The applicants waited in the foyer as each name was called. Each person or group auditioned for four minutes to showcase their talents. Guitars and ukuleles were tuned and plucked, their players were excited and nervous.

Before being called, Sophomore Misaki Ogihara stated, “This is my first time performing in public, so I’m really nervous. But I also think that it will be fun!” Every contestant was kept hidden to add to the suspense and secrecy of their abilities.

Ms. Jessica Heflinger, the Fine Arts Club sponsor, stated: “There

## Goodness of the Heart

BY DAEZSA PASION

Staff Writer

Torrance High School proudly held its second UCLA sponsored blood drive of the year on February 12. ASB members collected sign-up sheets from a numerous amount of students and faculty, who were willing to donate a pint of blood to the notable cause. The blood collected will be distributed to hospitals and emergency care facilities.

UCLA volunteers arrived early in the morning with chairs, supplies, and tons of snacks for donors to replenish their nutrients after donating to normalize their glucose and blood pressure levels.

Following the successful UCLA Blood Drive in October, we predicted that it would happen a second time. Call us the Simpsons, because our predictions were correct! Nearly 200 students participated in the event, allowing the UCLA volunteers to collect 127 pints of blood.

According to ASB member, Lois Kim, “I think the blood drive was successful... it was hectic in the morning, but towards the end the amount of people lessened so it was easier on the nurses,” but the more people the better!

Blood donations such as these will always make a difference. A pint of blood can help save three people, and with our outstanding overall total, we are assisting local emergency facilities save 381 lives. No blood drive would be successful without YOU!



TALENT

was such an amazing turn out! Everyone has so much talent...I’m even more excited for the show this year!” The finalists to the show were posted on February 6 outside her classroom. Ms. Heflinger explained, “Everyone was amazing. There was no way we could pick one over another.” The talent list ranges from ASB President Katie Mendoza to Freshman Jennifer Ninnad.

The Talent Show will be on the evening of Wednesday, February 26, at 6 p.m. This year’s theme is “Red Carpet,” so dress to impress while attending the show. Pre-show tickets are \$5, \$7 at the door, and they can be purchased from any performer or Fine Arts club member. Come out to support your fellow THS students as they tout their talent!

**South Bay  
Driving School**  
**310-791-1111**

Online Classes  
Available!

**\$20 off**

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!



Eduardo Benitez on...



## Rat Movie: Mystery of The Mayan Treasure

BY EDUARDO BENITEZ

*Staff Writer*

The Rat Movie: Mystery of the Mayan Treasure is an independent film profiting with well-timed jokes, creative dialogue, and induced laughter. Directed and Created by Jeremy Ernaldson, the film involves Dick Dastardly Richard (played by Ernaldson himself) seeking the great ancient Mayan treasure hidden beneath a quaint burger shop. The rats intervene and foil Richard's plan while also taking the treasure for themselves.

There are no celebrities tied to this film because of its independent nature, but its genuine feel is inescapable. Even though the visuals are lacking, they used to an advantage as some jokes are based on the visuals. The story is straight and to the point, and the humor does not take away from it. It's the the story, stupid.

Torrance High School students are well-versed in this project. Junior Jeremy Sarmiento said, "The Rat Movie had an exhilarating plot line, a very comedic tone, and a theme I won't soon forget." Sophomore Ethan Rodireguez says, "Everything in this movie works perfectly. The interesting story of crime and redemption...is truly one for the ages." THS students are perceptive, to say the least.

In its innocence, The Rat Movie ranks far above several high budget films produced in Hollywood. You can watch it for free on YouTube, so you can view it at your leisure. Give this wonderful movie a try any time.

## Lucky 7

BY MIKI IGNACIO

*Staff Writer*

After ten months of anticipation, BTS, the internationally popular K-pop boy band, is releasing their new album, Map of the Soul: 7, on February 21. The BTS A.R.M.Y (the fanbase) and casual listeners alike are expecting some unique bops and unprecedented surprises from this recording.

On January 7, Big Hit Entertainment Co. released BTS's comeback schedule on their official Twitter account. Over the past few weeks, two comeback trailers entitled "Interlude: Shadow" and "Outro: Ego" by BTS members SUGA and J-Hope, respectively, were released. A hit single, "Black Swan," by all seven members (RM, Jin, SUGA, J-Hope, Jimin, V, and Jungkook) was also released. Fans were overjoyed by the new songs.

Beneath the contagious beats and eye-catching music videos lie deeper connotations, which truly excite the fans. BTS is known to produce impactful and meaningful songs whose lyrics call attention to relevant social issues, such as mental health and youth stress. With each new song, there is a hidden message, and the BTS A.R.M.Y are more than willing to uncover it, and take their message to heart.

In an interview with Zach Sang, SUGA explained the idea for this album's concept: "One message that penetrates the album is you must face your inner

shadows, but resist becoming submerged into its depths." Inspired by the concept of collective consciousness, BTS affects their fanbase psychologically.

"The title 7 is very heavy for us," leader RM adds on. "It symbolizes the number of the members, and the years that we have spent together." During the seven years, BTS has endured arduous training and the struggles of being idols. However, their teamwork and the amount of support from the BTS A.R.M.Y has kept them going strong.

According to Billboard, Big Hit announced "the album surpassed 3.42 million stock pre-orders January 9 through January 15." It has become the third BTS album "to top the Billboard 200 albums" in the United States, while becoming "the best-selling South Korean album of all time." The abundance of pre-orders proves the eagerness of the fans.

BTS's upcoming album Map of the Soul: 7 should prove a positive resurgence for the boy band. Four series of concept photos released from February 10 through 12, and Headline Planet states the fourth set "will surely bring smiles to the eyes of BTS fans," as they "have spent years connecting deeply with the personalities of these artists." Truly, this album will be one fans will hold and remember dearly.



## Sonic Movie Review

BY EDUARDO BENITEZ

*Staff Writer*

Sonic The Hedgehog, in his first theatrical debut, is gaming's iconic blue persona speeding into theaters. Directed by Jeff Howler, Sonic the Hedgehog (played by Ben Schwartz) travels to earth at a young age and lives his life in Green Hills. Then, from one frustrating night, he sends a blue EMP wave while running through Green Hills.

Then, a local policeman, Tom Wachowski (played by James Marsden), encounters the hedgehog as he attempts to escape through a giant ring from his garage to San Francisco. Now they must retrieve the rings from the top of the Transamerica Pyramid while avoiding the diabolical Dr. Robotnik (played by Jim Carrey) from capturing the blue blur.

The movie is rather pleasant and surprisingly funny. Despite the initial backlash of Sonic's design, the director (Jeff Fowler) had issued the movie to be delayed by a whole year to redesign and fix the look of the first horrid sonic to a more familiar and cartoonish design to which fans of the series can relate.

The jokes in the film range from a few giggles to genuine belly laughs, while Sonic's quips and pop culture references can be a bit grueling but endearing. The film is a basic "Get from point A to point B" film, but the journey is what makes the film hilarious.

Other reviewers, like Tara McNamara from Common Sense Media, says, "Carrey lights up the video game movie." Susan Granger, from SSG Syndicate, also says, "This blue box-office blur...marks the 60th anniversary of Sega." If you are looking for a few laughs and chuckles, then Sonic: The Hedgehog is a great watch with a friend.



Director of  
'Parasite', Bong  
Joon-ho  
**Photo**  
**Courtesy:**  
**The Telegraph**

## Award Show Season's Storybook Ending

BY VERONICA GARZA

*Staff Writer*

On February 9, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences aired its 92nd annual Academy Awards ceremony on ABC, garnering 23.6 million viewers. Joker was nominated for 11 total awards, the night's high. Scarlet Johansson was nominated for both Best Supporting Actress and Best Leading Actress, a fact limited to four previous shows. Saoirse Ronan, at twenty-four years of age, was nominated for Best Leading Actress for the second time in her budding career. The brightest stars of the night, however, were Parasite director BongJoon Ho and his cast and crew.

The Korean-produced film won four awards: Best Directing, Best International Film, Best Picture, and Best Original Screenplay. This was the first time a foreign film won the Best Picture Oscar. Director BongJoon Ho made three acceptance speeches, one in which he quoted fellow nominee, Martin Scorsese, by saying: "The most personal is the most creative." He also credited fellow nominee, Quentin Tarantino, with some of his career's success, and ended the sentiment with "Quentin, I love you."

Acting award winners included Joaquin Phoenix for Best Leading Actor, Brad Pitt for the Best Supporting Actor, Renée Zellweger for the Best Leading Actress, and Laura Dern for the Best Supporting Actress. Between awards, Idina Menzel, who lends her voice as Elsa of Disney's Frozen, sang "Into the Unknown" alongside the actresses who voice Elsa in foreign countries.

Eminem, rapper and Academy Award winner, performed "Lose Yourself." Billie Eilish sang her rendition of "Yesterday" by the Beatles while her brother, Finneas O'Connell, played the piano. A slideshow honoring the deaths of some of Hollywood's stars during 2019 played as Eilish sang.

As the Oscars consummated the Awards Show season, many reflected on the wins and losses of the film industry. BongJoon Ho's Parasite made history. Late Academy Award winners such as Kobe Bryant and Kirk Douglas were remembered. 2019 proved to be a year of diversity and prosperity in film.

**PREGNANT?  
FEELING PRESSURED?  
YOU HAVE OPTIONS**

*Pregnancy*  
HELP CENTER

**310-787-4357**  
**phctorrance.org**

**free confidential testing and consultation**

Licensed by the State of California Department of Health as a Community Clinic



## AP, Honors Meetings Information

BY: KARA SERAFIN  
Club Writer

Torrance High School's annual AP and Honors information weeks proceed from February 4 to 20. A schedule consisting of specified classes is posted, displaying on which days the information meetings for each course will be held. All sessions occur during lunch period. The meetings prove helpful to ambitious students who are daunted by choosing AP and Honors classes. Students are encouraged to take Honors and AP classes to challenge themselves and further their education.

During the information meetings, students have the opportunity to meet with teachers of the AP and Honors classes they are interested in and ask any questions they may have. The meetings give a class overview and provide useful information. For example, students are able to find out what the course requirements and prerequisites are, which are valuable to know before taking higher level courses. Junior Steven

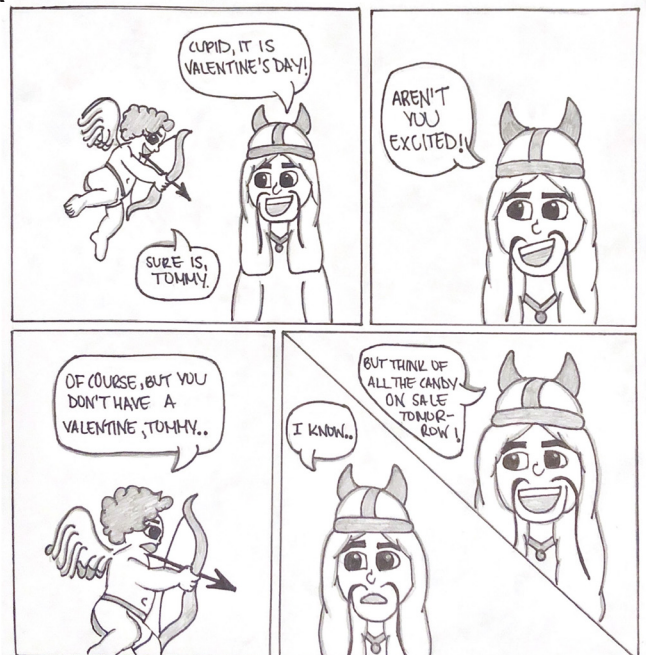
Umbargar added, "I was unsure of whether to take AP Calculus AB or BC, and the information meetings helped me make a decision." The informative sessions are advantageous for determining which classes to take.

Another benefit to the information sessions is teachers provide "interest" lists for students to show their desire to take the class and increase the likelihood of gaining admission. AP and Honors classes can be challenging, so it is helpful to know more about the courses instead of blindly choosing classes. These beneficial sessions are influential on determining what AP and Honors classes are best for the individual.

It is understandable club meetings and busy schedules can create conflicts to these meetings, so it is agreeable to seek out and ask the individual teachers concerning AP or Honors classes of interest. It's your education.

## Tommy Tartar Celebrates Valentine's Day

BY: USHNA ANWAR



## Art for Art's Sake

BY: MIKI IGNACIO  
Staff writer

On February 5, the Torrance High School Fine Arts Department has illustrated what it means to be an artistic Tartar with the Celebration of the Arts. Painters, sculptors, singers, musicians, photographers, fashionistas, and entertainers poured their hearts and souls into presenting their talented works and performances, all in one assembly.

Students' work from art, ceramics, and photography classes with Mrs. De La Rosa, Mrs. Rivera, and Mrs. Hefflinger were showcased in a slideshow. A variety of vibrant paintings, creative clay sculptures, and simplistic yet captivating photos were displayed for the whole school to appreciate.

Astounding designs, as well as their real-life counterparts, from Mrs. Phoonhiphatana's fashion class were also unveiled in

the slideshow. A selective amount of fashion students flaunted their hand-made attire on the runway.

While the slideshow was presented, Mr. Anwandter and his band students spiced up the experience with a resonating live performance. Mrs. Nash and her choir harmonized in unity to reach new heights, and Mr. Hovis's enthusiastic actors gave their all to perform an exuberant show. A roar of uncontrollable laughter and amused faces filled the crowd with ComedySportz's humorous improvisation skits.

Compositions and performances from all fine arts courses were successfully exhibited to all students and faculty of Torrance High School. If you want to see more dazzling and inspiring works from our school's artistic Tartars, come support them at the Java Drama on February 21, \$5 at the door.

## ! ADOPT A PET !



PEANUT,BUTTER  
20-02085  
8 YEARS OLD  
CHIHUAHUA MIX  
FEMALE

AVAILABLE AT THE SPCALA  
PET ADOPTION CENTER  
5026 W. JEFFERSON BLVD.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90016  
323-730-5302

MY NAME IS PEANUT BUTTER AND I AM READY TO BE YOUR NETFLIX BUDDY. SO START THE MOVIE AND GRAB THE POPCORN. I AM ALREADY CURLED UP ON THE COUCH!

[HTTPS://SPCALA.COM/ADOPTABLE/PET/?SS=20-02085](https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=20-02085)



GINGER  
20-01972  
6 YEARS OLD  
DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR  
FEMALE

AVAILABLE AT THE SPCALA PITCHFORD  
COMPANION ANIMAL VILLAGE & EDUCATION  
CENTER

7700 EAST SPRING STREET  
LONG BEACH, CA 90815

HI, I'M GINGER! MY SISTER CLEO AND I WERE BROUGHT IN WHEN OUR FAMILY COULD NO LONGER CARE FOR US. I LOVE GIVING MY HUMAN FRIENDS AFFECTION AND PLAYING WITH MY DANGLING FEATHER TOYS. COME IN AND SEE ME!

[HTTPS://SPCALA.COM/ADOPTABLE/PET/?SS=20-01972](https://spcala.com/adoptable/pet/?ss=20-01972)

<b>EDITOR IN CHIEF</b> KAYLA COLLINS	<b>WEBSITE EDITOR</b> USHNA ANWAR	<b>TORRANCE NEWS TORCH</b>
<b>PAGE EDITORS</b> USHNA ANWAR KAYLA COLLINS VERONICA GARZA DAEZSA PASION	<b>ADVISOR</b> MR. PARKER BOSTWICK	<b>TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL</b> 2200 CARSON STREET TORRANCE, CA 90501
<b>STAFF WRITERS</b> USHNA ANWAR EDUARDO BENITEZ KAYLA COLLINS JOSHUA FLORES VERONICA GARZA MIKI IGNACIO DAEZSA PASION	<b>PHOTOGRAPHER</b> USHNA ANWAR	<b>newstorch@gmail.com</b>
	<b>GRAPHICS EDITOR</b> USHNA ANWAR	
	<b>CLUB WRITERS</b>	

## Peaceland Music & Repair GUITAR LESSONS

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



**James Musser**

Nominated  
Best LA Band '96  
Best Guitar '97  
LA Music Awards

Visit us on  
[PeacelandMusic.com](http://PeacelandMusic.com)  
& [YouTube.com/PeacelandMusic](http://YouTube.com/PeacelandMusic)

**(310) 650-4021**

All ages, levels & styles. Days, eves, weekends.

[www.peacelandmusic.com](http://www.peacelandmusic.com), [peaceland@peacelandmusic.com](mailto:peaceland@peacelandmusic.com)

23706 Crenshaw, #105A&B, across from Hof's Hut, Torrance, CA

Stay in shape with  
**CELEBRATE LIFE**

**Pilates, Yoga,  
Gyrokinesis®,  
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