

# TORRANCE NEWS TORCH

*Lighting the Way to Torrance High School Since 1922*

**THIS COMES BACK FROM BREAK READY TO TAKE ON QUARTER 4**

## Baseball Under the Stars

BY JOSHUA FLORES  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Last Thursday Torrance High School held its first movie night in tow years at Zamperini Stadium. The event was a huge success with a large turnout and a very pleased crowd. The movie that was shown was none other than the American classic *The Sandlot*.

*The Sandlot* is a baseball movie that follows the escapades and shenanigans of a group of boys who play baseball at a sandlot, a piece of unoccupied land used for playing games. I won't go into great detail about the movie because its greatness speaks for itself and is a movie that the entire family will enjoy watching.

Along with the movie presentation, tacos and drinks were made available for purchase at the snack bar besides the home bleachers. The taco vendor, Mrs. Martinez, (mother of Tartar Rubie Martinez,) served a variety of delicious chicken, beef, and pork tacos.

The gates to the field opened at 7:00 and the movie started around 7:30. A large projector was used to showcase the movie on a projector screen set over the home bleachers. This allowed for a large number of people to sit on the field.

Perhaps the audience's favorite scene, which caused many of them to burst out into shouts of hilarity, was when the main protagonist caught his first baseball. It was a spectacular scene that showed just how captivated the audience was.

Overall the movie night was one for the time capsule. It allowed our students and families to come together and enjoy a venerable motion picture that has stood the rest of time. The theme of the *Sandlot* is clear - there's nothing better than friends and summer. This universal concept is undeniable.



Students enjoying the movie night. Photo Courtesy of @thstartars via Instagram

## Heaven is a Place on Earth

BY CALEB FENTON  
*Staff Writer*

Earth Day is meant to be used as a herald for our planet, but some attempt to use this day to advocate pro-environmental rhetoric. Their motives are often disguised by sharing pictures of their favorite views of our privileged planet.

The first Earth Day in 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, business and labor leaders. According to HISTORY, "...the first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency." This legislation was the first of its kind concerning restrictive environmental laws, which was followed by the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Clean Air Act.

This day is not a federal or public holiday, so it is mere recognition. Some environmentalists are trying to

extend it into Earth Week, a full seven days where these environmentalists can focus on green living and confronting the "climate crisis."

*The Economist* states that Earth Day is the "largest secular observance in the world, marked by... action to change human behavior." What the media fails to provide is any substantial evidence of a need to curtail human behavior for the sake of the Earth's existence.

Awareness of the climate crisis grows exponentially because technology is purposed on spreading the talking points around the world, making the spread of such points easier.

Earth Day supposedly instigates changes to improve our environment. Colorado University made a public comment, saying "Earth Day has influenced major national policy in the past, and will only continue to do so." That sounds surprisingly more political than scientific.



An Earth Day parade in California. Photo Courtesy of Michael Wheatley

## Second Booster

BY LOVE INOUE  
*Staff Illustrator*

On March 22, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) authorized a second booster dose of the vaccine against COVID-19 for older people and certain immunocompromised individuals. The FDA recently authorized the first booster shot for everyone who is older than 12. For the second booster shot, people who are older than 50 years old can take it. People who have not taken a vaccine in five months should take another shot.

There are three types of vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson's. What are the differences and the major side effects? Here is a sketch of what you need to know about COVID-19 vaccinations.

First, Pfizer and Moderna vaccines incorporate messenger RNA (mRNA), which is like an instruction manual. It tells your body how to make a harmless protein similar to the protein on the surface of this coronavirus according to the CDC.

Johnson & Johnson's vaccine is different compared to those two vaccines. According to VCU

Health, the ultimate difference is the way the instructions are delivered. Those two vaccines are using mRNA technology, and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses the more traditional virus-based technology. Although it can deliver the instructions on how to defeat the coronavirus, it can't replicate in your body and won't give you a viral infection.

Your body reacts to the protein and produces disease-fighting cells and antibodies that can recognize and fight the coronavirus. For that reason, when you get coronavirus, the vaccines can get rid of it quickly and with fewer complications.

Social media is inundated with falsehoods and rumors about taking vaccines, such as vaccines will change your DNA or genes, they will affect your reproduction, or they contain the virus. The no-cost COVID-19 vaccine is effective, and safe for your body. The CDC is highly recommending taking the booster shot to maintain your immune system.



A healthcare worker filling a syringe with a Covid vaccine dose. Photo Courtesy of Steven Senne

### Just ask Love...

All you need is Love. Our advice columnist Love Inoue has the answers to your questions in a recurring article in the Torrance News Torch. Just make your request known at the ASB front desk and Love will answer it in the next issue. All requests and responses are completely confidential. Because Love is all you need.

### WHAT'S COMING UP IN THIS ISSUE OF THE TNT

- PAGE 2:** Read about the latest on Ukraine and Russian as well as why you shouldn't litter on Campus.
- PAGE 3:** Catch up on whats been happening on Campus and how four South Bay golfers competed in the LPGA Palos Verdes Championship.
- PAGE 4:** See this issues newest comic and read reviews about the new Lego Star Wars Skywalker Saga video game and the movie Jujitsu Kaisen O.



# 2 Special Interest

May 5, 2022

## War between Russia, Ukraine Persists

BY JOSHUA FLORES  
Editor-in-Chief

The war between Russia and Ukraine continues into April after over two months of fighting. As the conflict persists, more people are being killed in the Ukraine, causing a mass exodus from the region. According to the BBC, 4.3 million Ukrainians have fled to neighboring countries.

The *Russian Times* reported that Putin was asked why Russia is reluctant to end the conflict, he stated, "It depends on the intensity of hostilities." Putin's meaning is that the intensity of hostilities is related to casualties. "Our task," Putin said, "is to achieve the set goals while minimizing these losses."

President Putin also said Russia's military actions in other regions of Ukraine are for the purpose of destabilizing the Ukrainian forces and conducting missile strikes for the purpose of destroying the Ukrainian military's infrastructure in order to "create conditions for more active operations on the territory of Donbass."

Conflicts between nations often create claims that are unreliable or not factual. This is especially evident when it comes to the Western media, which has continued to publish their agenda narrative by circulating false claims or information.

For example, Michael Goodwin of the New York Post parlayed the false claim that President Donald Trump colluded with Russia to win the 2016 election and was a Russian agent. This, of course, led to a nonsensical two-year investigation which ultimately failed to procure any evidence against Trump.



Russian troops in Donetsk.  
Photo Courtesy of Sefa Karacan

Opinions on the war in the Ukraine should be met with much scrutiny. The mainstream media has continually falsified claims to further its own interests. During the war in Iraq, the media pushed the false narrative that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction which they got from president George W. Bush according to the Rolling Stone writer Matt Taibbi. The war in Iraq led to the death of over 100,000 Iraqis.

The American people could use a large dose of rhetoric training to nullify the misinformation coming from the media.

Understanding fallacies allows readers to identify bias in all its forms. Every sane person desires an end to any hostilities, regardless of the reason. All we can do is watch from the safety of our homes as the conflict across the sea lingers.

## Mask Mandate Opinions

BY LOVE INOUE  
Staff Illustrator

The Governor of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health announced that indoor masking mandates have been updated. Since March 12 all K-12 schools and child care facilities are not required to wear masks indoors. At Torrance High, we see so many students and faculty walking around without masks.

I interviewed senior Maria Garay at Torrance High about the matter. She said that she was glad at first that things are getting back to normal, but she's thinking about keeping her mask on because the cases of Covid-19 are increasing again.

Besides that, she is also used to having a mask on and feels self-conscious when she's not wearing it. But thinks it is a good idea to make masks optional right now, because she likes having the option of not wearing a mask when she doesn't feel like it.

She said that, "Some days you don't feel like wearing it, and other days you do. And if you decide not to wear it, people are not going to look at you in a bad

way." She also doesn't care what other people decide to do.

Additionally she said, "I'm worried that someone's going to say something bad to me by not wearing masks." She's thinking she might be "mask fishing" someone. "Mask fishing" is a term for people who look more attractive with a mask on. Some students are afraid that they are "mask fishing" if they keep a mask on all the time.

Many students who share Maria's opinions are still afraid of getting COVID-19. According to the CDC, the latest recommendations allow roughly 70% of people in the United States to remove their masks if they want both indoor and outdoor.

The update on mask mandates means that Americans no longer need to maintain a social distance or avoid crowded indoor spaces such as malls or parties. We should still maintain our social distance and keep masks on when we can. So think about what we can do to end this pandemic and participate in those things!



Students wear masks while receiving instruction from their teacher.  
Photo Courtesy of Paul Bersebach

## Wasting Food

BY KANA MATSUDA  
Staff Writer

Let's face it, there is too much trash littering our campus. I see hundreds of discarded wrappers and foodstuffs inside and outside our classrooms. This has to stop.

Students sign up every week for "Tidy up Tuesday" for trash detail. These students take it upon themselves to arrive before the first period to clean up the mess their peers have left behind. This is an unsolicited effort that garners its own reward.

Littering is often made with little effort. As a matter of fact, the act constitutes a certain amount of sloth, or laziness. However, the ramifications are costly. Littering actively harms the environment. "In addition to water and soil pollution, litter can also pollute the air.

Researchers estimate that more than 40% of the world's litter is burned in the open air, which can release toxic emissions. These emissions can cause respiratory issues, other health problems, and even be a starting base for acid rain."

When you litter, you inadvertently feed the squirrels, which are nothing more than rats with pretty tails. The last thing we need on this campus is an onslaught of *sciuridae* bothering students during lunch. According to environmentamerica.org, these animals eat wasted food and trash and can cause serious health issues such as problems digesting. If you feed them, they will come.

Many students are leaving their unfinished food near benches, on stairs, and on tables. Don't they know people are starving in this country? Seeing food littered around campus usually makes other students feel disgusted.

The battle against litter begins with you. If you want to live in a trash heap, you get what you deserve. This behavior is absolutely shameful and holds its own punishment. Fact is, nobody likes it. So, begin now, take up your trash, find a receptacle, and clean up your act. You'll be glad you did.

Trash littered right by a trash can.  
Photo Courtesy of Getty Images



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May 5, 2022

## Holy Holi!

By KANA MATSUDA  
Staff Writer

Torrance High School held a Holi Celebration on Friday, March 25, at the upper field. There was a 250 person limit for those who could participate. Students gathered in white clothing and sunglasses, which was recommended for eye protection from the colorful powders.

After the celebration, students gathered and took pictures of each other to document one of the highlights of their high school experience. After the event, you could see many students walking around with stained white clothing hugging people who didn't participate, so they could share their happiness.

Thanks to the members of South Asia culture club, we were able to express our joy with the colorfulness of our clothing.

According to *holifestival.org*, this festival was originally from a festival known as "Holika" and was primarily celebrated in the Eastern part of India.

The meaning of the festival has changed over time. In its earliest celebrations it was originally a special rite performed by married women for the happiness and well-being of their families. Currently, it is a celebration of the arrival of Spring and wishes for fertile land.

However, the meaning of the festival varies in different parts of India. In Bengal and Orissa, Holi Purnima is celebrated as the birthday of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhn.

The word Holi originally means "burning." So, there are various legends and myths to explain this word for each area. The most common

meaning of the word is from the Indian god, Hiranyakashyap, meaning "Man with golden clothing." He is often drawn as a man with a lion head.

The history of Holi has varied myths and meanings. It has never disappeared because the people of India celebrate Holi every spring and tell the myth and meaning of Holi to their children. Now it is celebrated as one of the biggest events in the world held everywhere every spring, and this year, it was also celebrated at Torrance High School.



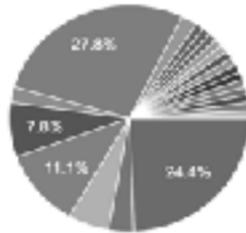
Holi Celebration at THS  
Photo Courtesy @thstartars

## Breaking into Spring

BY CALEB FENTON  
Staff Illustrator

We here at the News Torch are always interested in what the students that attend Torrance High are up to. So as all the students enjoyed their spring break, we were wondering what activities they participated in over the week long break. Everyone had their own unique experience, some of us did some similar things. We sent out a pole to see what our students did.

The only question on the pole was, "What did you do for spring break." There were a couple of prewritten answers such as, sleep, work, play video games, watch tv, read, and then they could write something that wasn't on the list.



- Sleep
- Work
- Hobby work
- Play Video Games
- Watch TV
- Read
- Travel
- Study
- ▲ NO

The top three answers that we received were travel, sleep, and play video games. Some of the less common answers were reading, working, and study. But we

did have some write-in answers, such as backpacking, hanging out with friends at Del Amo mall, drawing pictures, and watching tiktok all day.

As we see the graph of what people did answer, we might be able to say that the students of Torrance High had a good spring break, considering an actual break from in person school rather than online for the past 2 years.

## LPGA Championship features Four South Bay Golfers

BY JOE SHOMOOGAH & DEVIN KUSHI  
Staff Writer

This week The week of April 28 played host to the inaugural LPGA Palos Verdes Championship presented by Bank of America. This is unique

because the tournament features four former South Bay high school golfers who competed in the past dual matches. The Palos Verdes Golf Club is the home course for the current Palos Verdes High School golf teams and used to share the venue with Peninsula High School many years ago.



This tournament speaks to the importance of youth and high school golf programs. The golfers

of notoriety include Jenny Shin, a Torrance High School graduate (2010) who led her CIF-SS Team through three CIF-State Southern Regional Team Championships and three CIF-State Team Championships.

Beyond team accomplishments, Jenny won the 2007 CIF-State Southern Regional Individual Championship and two individual CIF-State Championships (2008, 2009). An LPGA tour golfer since 2011, Jenny has earned 34 career top 10 finishes

while garnering the 2016 LPGA Volunteers of America Texas Shootout. She is currently tied for 20th Place at the LPGA Drive On Championship at Crown Colony.

Jenny Coleman, a graduate of Peninsula High School (2010), called the Palos Verdes Golf Club her home course. She led Peninsula to their last appearance in the CIF-State Championship in 2009, played for the University of Colorado, and has been on the LPGA Tour since 2017. Robyn Ree, from Redondo Union High School (2015), took the 2014 CIF-State Regional Individual Champion with Torrance's alumni Nina Novilla, competed for the University of Southern California, and has been an LPGA Tour Golfer since 2018.

Andrea Lee, Mira Costa High School graduate (2016), won the 2013 Central Division CIF-SS Team Championship, the 2015 Central Division CIF-SS Team Championship, the 2015 CIF-State Southern Regional Team Championship, and the 2015 CIF-State Team Championship. In 2013, Andrea Lee claimed the 2013 CIF-State Individual Championship. She earned the distinction as the #1 Amateur Golfer while playing for Stanford.

Many thanks go out to Mr. Devin Kushi for his relentless encouragement of these and other fine LPGA competitors while making a compelling case in the South Bay for the importance of preserving the sport of golf and the beautiful courses on which the game is played.

Jenny Coleman (pictured, left)  
Photo Courtesy of Daily Breeze

# 4 Special Interest

April 30, 2022

## Lego Star Wars 2022: Game Review

BY CALEB FENTON  
Staff Writer

A new Lego Star Wars Game was finally released in the first week of April after many fans of this franchise have been waiting for a game that has been 3 years in the making. But was this game worth the wait, well it is not as simple as a yes or no answer, the game's graphics and open experience is more than excellent, but the gameplay and storytelling is very inconsistent.

When you start up **Lego Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga**, it's quite something. You can take your pick from a carousel of all nine **Star Wars** films: the originals, the prequels, the sequels. Many of whom bought this game might think this game's purpose is to tell the story of the Skywalker saga, but when they played it they found out they were wrong.

While you play you'll realize that it's bricks. No, not the way the galaxy's portrayed with plastic blocks, but in the absurd number of collectible bricks, characters, ships, and mini ships. The game cares more for the collector than it does the story, dishing out the plot like George Lucas idly flicking through a collection of flash cards.

The game swings between these two extremes as you hop between episodes. Sometimes it's great fun, as you hoist Yoda on your back and tackle an

obstacle course, or speed past Sebulba in a slightly jank pod-race. Sometimes, though, it reduces climactic moments to pure drudgery, as you stave off an army of Droids, hovering a circle over rectangles and watching numbers climb.

Entering the collectors zones would be better if it was filled with tidbits of lore for **Star Wars** fanatics, or excellent puzzling or platforming. Really, though, a lot of them are micro-puzzles where you've got to place one block on top of the other to reach a high spot. Sure, it's quite satisfying when those Kybers enter your possession with a bang of confetti and a fist-pump, but turn it over in your plastic palms and you quickly remember it's one of a thousand bricks.

The game's emphasis is on the collectibles, by taking them out you would see the game crumble. Rather, the view would be cleared of obstructions, giving you a chance to see the galaxy clearly again. The collectibles feel like padding to line the large gaps in the story in a way they weren't in older **Lego** games.

If you're happy to hoard bricks and partake in a simple **Star Wars** romp, then you'll likely love it. But if you're after a **Lego Star Wars** saga that takes its time, you might be left disappointed.

## Just Ask Love

BY Love Inoue  
Staff Writer

Thanks to everyone who asked me a question! I tried to answer as many questions as I could. I hope it helps you!

**Q.How can you stay focused on school work while having a part-time job at the same time?**

I'm working at a boba shop 3-4 days a week and I have assigned homework from several classes. So what I'm doing to handle it is to try to dedicate at least a day every week to finishing all the assignments. I always try to plan all the deadlines and exam days in advance so that I can talk to my manager about how many days I can work. Maybe it's good to grab a drink or food you like to motivate yourself! At my previous workplace, my manager was giving me too many night shifts even though I told them I can't. I decided to find a new job which is more flexible with a supervisor that listens to the employees. Now I'm much happier and feel comfortable talking to my supervisor about what I'd like to do. So if your supervisor is giving you too many shifts, try to talk to them about your situation. If they don't listen to you, don't be afraid to look for another job. Retailers are very happy to hire people who have any experience, so you will likely be able to find a job more easily than your first time!

**Q.How do you tell a boy you don't like him back and either you don't want to be his friend?**

Maybe you already know what to do about this, but I will highly recommend you to be honest with him and tell him that you feel uncomfortable being with him even though it will hurt him and it is scary to tell. If you don't, he keeps thinking that he still has a chance, and wasting his time for nothing. That will destroy his feelings more than being honest with him.

**Q.What do you do if you have a crush on two people at the same time?**

I'd say that it is okay to have a crush on two people at the same time; you can't stop liking someone easily, but it doesn't have to disrupt your life. If you can keep your thoughts to yourself, there's nothing to worry about. But if you have a significant other, then it is totally different. You have to ask yourself whether you want to be with your significant other or not. Also, is your crush someone who is close to you, or someone you don't know very well? If it is just a superficial crush, then it is pretty normal, and will probably go away if you don't act on it. But if you are too close to that person, then you have to make a choice, or you could be cheating emotionally.

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?

## Jujutsu Kaisen

BY KANA MATSUDA  
Staff Writer

The new Japanese anime movie, **Jujutsu Kaisen 0**, has been showing at Del Amo AMC Theater since March. The movie is based on a manga originally from Shonen Jump, the popular magazine comic released weekly on Mondays.

Jujutsu means "methods to curse," kaizen means "destiny of the battle," controlling something by ones hand directly. The whole title of the series expresses the characters going through their fate using each of their powers of cursing.

The movie released in March is about the previous story of the main chapter of **Jujutsu Kaisen**, titled **Jujutsu Kaisen**.

The protagonist of the movie is a nervous first year high school student named Yuta Okkotsu. He has been suffering with a serious problem regarding his childhood

friend Rika, who turned into an onryo, which is a ghost that remains in this world due to its regret. If anyone attacks Okkotsu in some way, Rika would attack that person physically and injure them.

Because Okkotsu had no way to handle Rika, he was recommended to enter a **Jujutsu High School**, to learn to control Rikas power. The story is about Okkotsu's new life there.

The comic version of the main series is released almost every two months. They are available on bookstores or online. The anime version of the comic and the movie itself can also be watched on streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu or Amazon Prime Video.

The movie can be seen without any prior knowledge about the manga series. If you are interested in seeing the movie, it is currently available on streaming services.



Cover of **Jujutsu Kaisen 0**.  
Photo courtesy of IGN

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