

BLOCKBUSTER

January 22, 2016

Volume 46/Issue 5

Burroughs High School, Ridgecrest, CA 93555

New year brings new ideas and resolutions from ASB

by Megan Pettyjohn

As this week has shown, the Burroughs ASB officers have resolved to make 2015-2016 an event-filled year. Along with the traditional dances, spirit days, and events like Mr. BHS, ASB is looking to up the ante by initiating new activities as well.

"It's second semester and all of us in ASB are really excited," said ASB Advisor Eileen Poole. "We are hosting some new activities. This year, we have a KOH spirit week which includes not just the traditional dress up spirit days but movie night -- we [showed] the original Grease with no admission charge -- and, for the first time, BHS has organized human foosball. Human foosball! This is going to be silly fun."

Poole said ASB hopes to make this KOH spirit week and foosball tournament a regular part of BHS tradition, just like Homecoming and the dodgeball tournament.

"January can be a tough time," said Poole. "It's cold. It's grey. One semester is done and a new looms ahead of us, and many kids feel down. ASB is here to help!!! And we mean that. I really think that giving students silly activities keeps them engaged."

Monica Floyd, the junior class

vice-president, shared Poole's enthusiasm for the week and the foosball tournament in particular.

"It's just something we thought everyone would enjoy," said Floyd. She said the class has tried to organize one for years and is excited to see it finally happen.

So what exactly is prompting this flurry of new ideas? Floyd attributed the group's creativity to their ability to work well together.

"It's the combination of different people in ASB and being more open to the public opinion on activities," said Floyd.

Having that kind of productive and efficient group mentality is vital for ASB, because they all have to work together to get huge projects, like rallies, done on time.

As BHS students gather in the bleachers today to enjoy the rally, that hard work will show up in the games, videos and props which take such planning and effort. Still, the ASB class members consider themselves fortunate and the effort worthwhile.

"It benefits us in so many ways, from team building to skills we can use in the future," Floyd said.

To appreciate ASB's efforts, attend the rally today after fourth period and the KOH Dance tomorrow in the gym.



ASB officers and Advisor Eileen Poole put their hearts into planning a fun time during Tuesday's Movie Night, which kicked off a very eventful Rally Week leading up to tomorrow's King of Hearts dance. Helping to make it all a success include (clockwise from left) Francesca Arriaga, Dawson Dickie, Naya Taylor, Bailey Hannafin, Hayley Weik, Rebecca Rumph, Monica Floyd, Advisor Poole, Jenny Weik, and Hayley Green.

photo by Kira Nelson

AP students begin test sign-ups

BY TARA BLACKWELL

Many students have valid questions regarding the tangible benefits of taking AP classes and the tests that go along with them.

Most importantly, these classes offer many advantages to getting a head start on college classes.

The AP program is defined as a "program ... created by the College Board, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students."

These rigorous classes are designed to be taken in preparation for AP tests at the end of the year. A score of 3 out of 5 or above on this cumulative end-of-the-year exam may guarantee college credit depending on what school students attend.

Assistant Principal Miles Henderson, who serves as the school's AP testing coordinator, acknowledges the value of AP testing for motivated students, as he was reminded on last year's College Tour for juniors.

"Without exception, each student volunteer tour guide emphasized the importance of taking advantage of the AP coursework while one was currently in high school," said Henderson. "These courses are academic challenges that each student needs to learn how to navigate successfully."

Friends of Rachel promotes kindness with Rachel's Closet

BY TARA BLACKWELL

Friends of Rachel has recently created a new initiative called Rachel's Closet which makes dress clothes available for both male and female students who are unable to afford them.

This drive occurred earlier this year in October, under the guidance of Friends of Rachel Advisor and Counselor Shari Rosenberg.

"At the last dance, Homecoming, we gave out eight or ten dresses," Rosenberg said. "We want to collect party clothes for males and females so that people who want to go to a dance aren't deprived of the opportunity because they don't have a dress or suit."

The idea to collect dresses for those who require them was originally spurred by an interaction Rosenberg had with members of the community who were looking for ways to put their old dress clothes to use.

"Several people had approached me and said 'we have some dresses to donate' and they brought them in," Rosenberg said.

Now the club wishes to continue to foster this project and create an environment in which all who wish to participate in dances can do so, without worry.

One student in particular spoke to Rosenberg about her apprehensive attitude regarding the dance due to her financial situation.

"There was one girl who said she didn't want to go and I asked her, if you had a dress would you go, and had her look around. She found a dress that she liked and ended up going," Rosenberg said.

The members of the club, after being introduced to the idea, were excited about this new venture.

"I think the dress drive is impor-

tant because it gives more people the opportunity to go to dances and have fun, and not worry about having to buy a dress," Sarah Battershell said. "This dress drive also shows the kindness of the clubs at Burroughs and helps those who have less money than others not feel left out."

The club has been taking donations for the King of Hearts dance. In addition to dresses, they are especially in need of formal attire for men. Items to be donated can be taken directly to Rosenberg in the

ding the rigor, then the endeavor is beneficial," Walls said. "Think of the fable of the ant and the grasshopper. AP students are ants. Instead of coasting through senior year, they plan and work ahead for an overall goal. They understand that college English, math, or government is in their future anyhow, so they tackle it now while it pays bigger dividends."

It is also beneficial to students who are taking an AP course to sign up for their designated exam, because the cost of the exam is far less than that of a college class. If students have already learned the material and prepared for the test, they are likely to do well and reap the rewards of their hard work, instead of wasting the opportunity.

"Everyone in my current class has the potential to pass the exam based on skills we've been working on all year. The test is difficult with students taking a multiple choice test and writing three essays in two hours but students are prepared for that rigor," Walls said.

For more information about the AP tests, students should speak with their current AP teacher or Henderson. To sign up for an AP class for next year, students should get their teacher's recommendation prior to meeting with their counselors.

Second semester offers fresh start for students

BY MACKENZIE SMALL

Want to be academically successful second semester?

One way is to utilize the opportunities offered at Burroughs.

Many programs offer help to students, such as The Learning Center (TLC), peer tutoring, and open classrooms at lunch. These programs offer help from teachers and resources such as textbooks and internet access.

BHS Counselor Dave Vigneault believes one of the best suggestions he can offer is for students to get to know their teachers.

"Many students are afraid of asking for help because it is uncomfortable," said Vigneault. "Get to know your teachers so you feel comfortable asking questions."

While some students may still be in vacation mode, it is never too early to start studying for upcoming tests.

Most students have had the feeling of not being prepared for a test. Studying for those tests is the best way to go into a test feeling prepared.

A great way to study is to read over notes, find online quizzes and tests, and even study with your fellow peers.

Student input needed to honor key staff

BY GRANT VIGNEAULT

"Who brings education alive? Who supports learning? Who engages you or others in a way that is motivating? Who builds inspirational relationships? Who deserves to be recognized?!!?!!"

The Sierra Sands Unified School District is looking for answers to these five questions as part of its redesigned Employee of the Year program.

According to SSUSD Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dave Ostash, the program is an ongoing effort to recognize the outstanding achievements, dedication, and efforts made throughout the year by those people who make education possible at local schools -- teachers, noon duty personnel, maintenance, cafeteria workers, and all other staff who are part of the district's efforts.

While the district has honored its valued staff for years, this is the first year where the nomination and selection process is not restricted to only faculty members. The new system is now open to all members of the Sierra Sands community, including students, parents, teachers, and any other personnel members.

"The impact that teachers and faculty have on students and on each other is phenomenal," said Ostash, "so why wouldn't all of the different people who benefit from these employees have the ability to nominate who they see fit for Employee of the Year?"

Another way to develop success is to make a habit of checking grades. For students with smartphones, this is even easier now with the new grades app. It allows students to check grades easily and efficiently. It even offers a calculator feature that allows a student to anticipate the result of a test or assignment before it is posted.

If you struggled in a class last semester, a good way to improve is to get a tutor. Tutoring allows students to work with a fellow peer or adult who better understands the concepts. Many students find tutoring helpful and worthwhile. A tutor can help you see the concepts from a different view, so you can actually understand it. Tutors may be arranged through your counselor or in TLC at lunch.

Many teachers open their classrooms at lunch and after school to help students. If you find yourself struggling, try talking with your teachers. Many teachers have textbooks and Chromebooks available for students to finish their homework or try to get ahead. While this might mean "losing" some free time each day, the successful student will actually be gaining in the long run.

The process officially opened January 12 with the posting of the Employee of the Year nomination form on the SSUSD website. This is the first year where those wishing to make a nomination can find the form via a quick link at www.ssusd.org or by asking for a copy at any school's administrative office.

The nomination form has been drastically changed to allow for a smooth nomination process. The form is one half-sheet of paper which lists the name of the faculty member a person wishes to nominate, along with room for a few sentences explaining the reason for a nomination.

"It's a totally new approach to recognizing teachers and staff members," claims Ostash. "We're transforming the system to accommodate the 'New World,' making it as easy and simple as possible."

Ostash acknowledges the hard work and dedication of all the honored SSUSD employees.

"You're essentially a winner for just being nominated. To the student that nominates a particular person, they see that particular person as a winner."

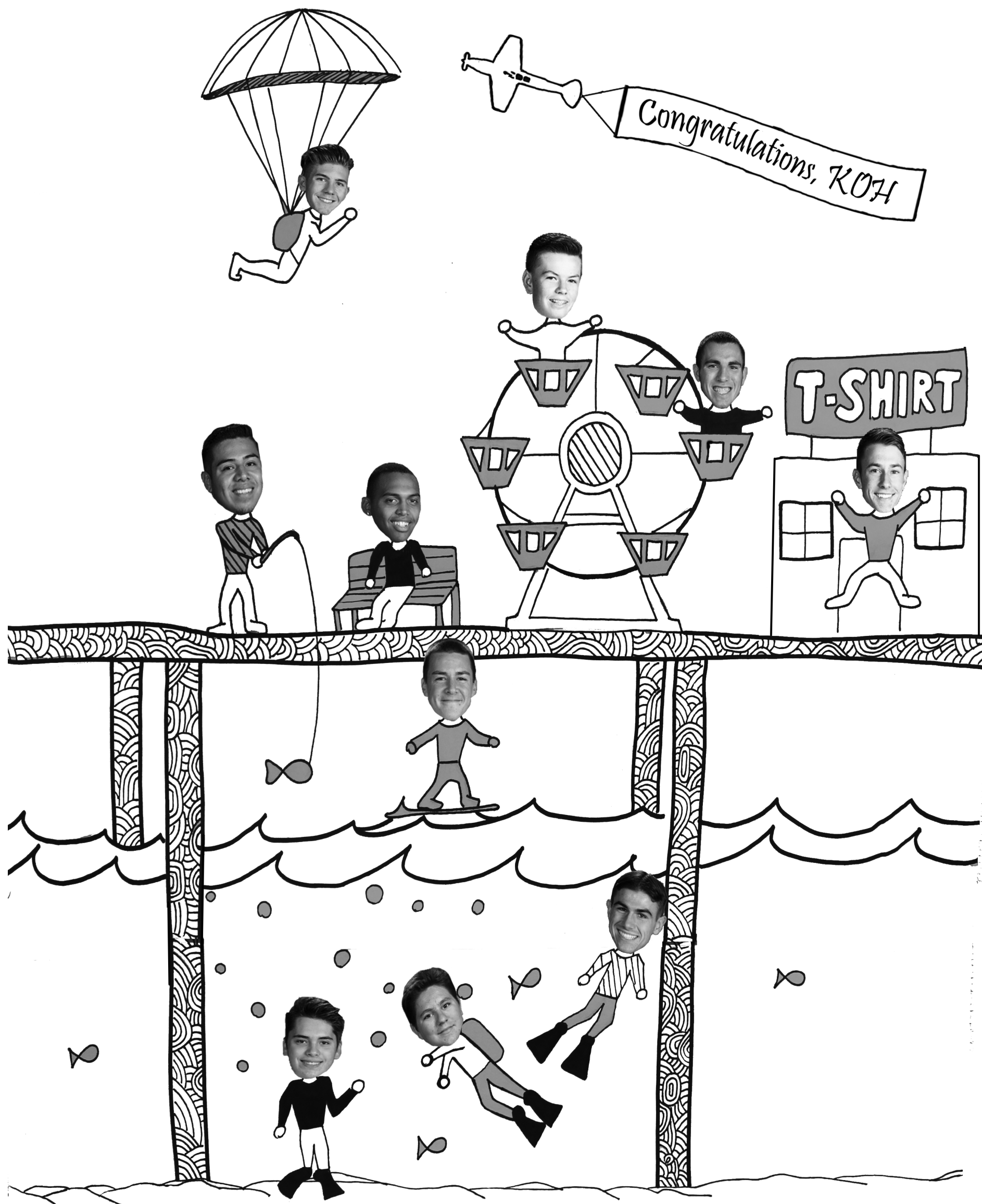
A social reception and awards ceremony, recognizing all nominees, will be hosted by the SSUSD Board of Education on Tuesday, May 3, at the Springhill Suites. The Employee of the Year along with all nominees will be recognized.

The deadline for this year's nominations is February 26.



Senior Taylor Frye organizes the colorful dresses and men's formal wear in Rachel's Closet.

Looking for the King of Hearts? You'll Find Him Under the Boardwalk



KOH Top Three

Brandon Brown

What's your best boardwalk skill?

Pickin up all the ladies, even though they usually reject me.

You win the best prize. What is it and who gets it?

A giant teddy bear of course, and give it to 2012 Miley Cyrus.

If you were getting a temporary tattoo on the boardwalk, what would it be?

A heart tattoo that says "Mom"

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris wheel with?

Oprah Winfrey, cause you know i'm about that money.

Boardwalk Fave Food: Funnel cake, cotton candy, or...?

Cotton Candy.

What's on the soundtrack to your boardwalk?

Anything by Lil B The Based God.

You enter a cheesy t-shirt shop. What catches your eye?

A "Nobody likes a dirty beach" t-shirt

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

Looking at myself in the mirror

Help out the rest of us. What's your go-to pickup line?

Hi my name is Brandon :)

Steven Kleege

What's your best boardwalk skill?

Dashing good looks and gut-busting humor at any time in the day.

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris wheel with?

My sister, probably.

Boardwalk Fave Food: Funnel cake, cotton candy, or...?

Kettle Corn

What's on the sound track to your boardwalk?

Anything but country, heavy metal, Christian music or inaudible rap.

Where can we find you -- on the boardwalk, in the water, on the beach?

On the beach.

You enter a cheesy t-shirt shop. What catches your eye?

Probably something with a bad pun or anything referring to cats.

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

A really intense show or too many cannolis.

Caleb Roberts

What's your best boardwalk skill?

Being absolutely repulsive to any woman that walks into my vicinity.

You win the best prize. What is it and who gets it?

I already won the best prize. I was born in America.

If you were getting a temporary tattoo on the boardwalk, what would it be?

I would get a dragon with the tail starting on my right cheek moving up and across my forehead then the mouth of the dragon would meet up with my mouth so its mouth would be part of my mouth.

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris wheel with?

J. J. Abrams so I can learn what happens in Episode 8 of Star Wars.

Boardwalk Fave Food: Funnel cake, cotton candy, or...?

Um... I guess sushi is pretty good.

Where can we find you -- on the boardwalk, in the water, on the beach?

You'll find me on the beach staring and thinking about how I will talk to all the pretty ladies but never actually speak to them.

You enter a cheesy t-shirt shop. What catches your eye?

A really really cool hat.

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

When I see a beautiful woman slowly walking toward me with a slight smirk on her mouth, staring into my soul, then she gets one meter away from me and is about to say something... But instead she walks past me and starts flirting with the guy behind me.

KOH Court

Zach Wolfe

What's your best boardwalk skill?

A wizard has many skills, but probably my level 43 fireball.

You win the best prize.

What is it and who gets it?

I win a beautiful Ana Estudillo, and she's all mine!

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris wheel with?

Jesus, Einstein and Harry Potter.

Boardwalk Fave Food:

Funnel cake, cotton candy, or...?

Probably something I can share with the ducks, like quackers.

What's on the soundtrack to your boardwalk?

Anything I can dab to.

Where can we find you -- on the boardwalk, in the water, on the beach?

On the beach making the sickest sand castle you've ever seen.

You enter a cheesy t-shirt shop. What catches your eye?

As I walk into the room, a bead of sweat rolls down my face. I glance at the clerk as he licks his chapped lips; his name is Fidel. As I walk up to him to ask where the nearest bathroom is, I trip over a loose board in the ground and hit my face on the hard oak flooring. As I get up, I notice a "Vote For Pedro" shirt; that is what catches my eye.

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

My little princess Ana Estudillo.

Fidel Martinez

You win the best prize.

What is it and who gets it?

A million dollars and I would share it with all my close ones as well as donate some to charity.

If you were getting a temporary tattoo on the boardwalk, what would it be?

Cristiano Ronaldo

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris wheel with?

DJ Khaled so he can give me motivational speeches and Sofia Vergara so she can comfort me.

Boardwalk Fave Food:

Funnel cake, cotton candy, or...?

Funnel Cake

What's on the soundtrack to your boardwalk?

Bryson Tiller

Where can we find you -- on the boardwalk, in the water, on the beach?

On the boardwalk talking to some babes

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

Beautiful women.

Wyatt Karakas

What's your best boardwalk skill?

Pullin' the ladies. Kappa

You win the best prize.

What is it and who gets it?

Powerball, me.

If you were getting a temporary tattoo on the boardwalk, what would it be?

Some hipster quote...

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris wheel with?

Abbie 8^)

Boardwalk Fave Food:

Funnel cake, cotton candy, or...?

FUNNEL CAKE

What's on the soundtrack to your boardwalk?

Tycho

Where can we find you -- on the boardwalk, in the water, on the beach?

Probably on the boardwalk getting food.

You enter a cheesy t-shirt shop. What catches your eye?

Tie-dye, pajamas, memes.

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

Trenton's driving.

BK Armstrong

What's your best boardwalk skill?

Fishing

You win the best prize. What is it and who gets it?

A teacup pig and I give it to Malia.

If you were getting a temporary tattoo on the boardwalk, what would it be?

A self portrait of Cobi on my back

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris Wheel with?

The one and only Malia Davis

Boardwalk Fave Food: Funnel Cake, cotton candy, or...?

Funnel cake

What's on the soundtrack to your local boardwalk?

"Roses" by The Chainsmokers

Where can we find you -- on the boardwalk, in the water, on the beach?

On the beach showing off my bod

You enter a cheesy t-shirt shop. What catches your eye?

A cheesy t-shirt

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

Mobbin 5th gear with my shotgun rider

Help out the rest of us.

What's your go-to pickup line?

"Did you just fart? Cause you blow me away."

Kevin Burgess

What's your best boardwalk skill?

Back flips.

You win the best prize.

What is it and who gets it?

A house. My mom gets it.

If you were getting a temporary tattoo on the boardwalk, what would it be?

A treble note behind my ear.

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris wheel with?

Selena Gomez.

Boardwalk Fave Food: Funnel cake, cotton candy, or...?

Fried Oreos.

What's on the soundtrack to your boardwalk?

Kanye, "Fake Friends"

Where can we find you -- on the boardwalk, in the water, on the beach?

On the beach riding my jet ski lyying back soaking up some sun.

You enter a cheesy t-shirt shop. What catches your eye?

The shirts

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

Doing something wild and crazy.

Help out the rest of us.

What's your go-to pickup line?

"Do you mind if I take you to dinner? Because it's only once in a lifetime you meet an angel."

Luke McGowan

What's your best boardwalk skill?

Basketball three point shot.

You win the best prize. What is it and who gets it?

Cash, I'd split it with whoever I'm there with.

If you were getting a temporary tattoo on the boardwalk, what would it be?

Mike Tyson's eye tattoo

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris wheel with?

Any of my good friends.

Boardwalk Fave Food: Funnel cake, cotton candy, or...?

Corn dogs.

What's on the soundtrack to your boardwalk?

"Die a Happy Man" by Thomas Rhett or "Trailer Hitch" by Kristian Bush.

Where can we find you -- on the boardwalk, in the water, on the beach?

In the water.

You enter a cheesy t-shirt shop. What catches your eye?

The funny/ joke section.

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

Brittany Valdez.

Help out the rest of us. What's your go-to pickup line?

"Can you help me, there's something wrong with my phone, it doesn't have your number in it."

Cobi Armstrong

What's your best boardwalk skill?

Bucket drums.

You win the best prize.

What is it and who gets it?

Infinite money, so I can donate it to any charity.

If you were getting a temporary tattoo on the boardwalk, what would it be?

Giant self-portrait of BK's face on my back.

Who would you want to get stuck on the Ferris wheel with?

Courtney

Boardwalk Fave Food:

Funnel cake, cotton candy, or...?

Funnel Cake

What's on the soundtrack to your boardwalk?

Justin Bieber

Where can we find you -- on the boardwalk, in the water, on the beach?

On the beach.

You enter a cheesy t-shirt shop. What catches your eye?

A shirt with cheese on it.

Congratulations on placing on KOH. What makes your own heart race?

Close basketball games and my girl.

Help out the rest of us.

What's your go-to pickup line?

"There is only one thing I want to change about you... Your last name."

Survival Tips for a Perfect Valentine's Day

BY BO HAAS

As Valentine's Day approaches, the wonder of how the holiday should be spent is creeping among the couples who can't stop displaying PDA and the single, ambitious guys and gals who can't seem to find a lucky date. The clock ticks faster and faster and then suddenly, it's Valentine's Day and your plans are composed of emptiness.

That's why I'm here to help you through the time of sappiness and the heart-shaped chocolate boxes.

For those who are seeking a magical time with their significant other, I would recommend taking the sappiness of Valentine's Day to the next level. Plan a whole day filled with little romantic treats that anyone would love. First, start off with a simple gesture that hits the spot of an average gift for Valentine's Day. This would include flowers and chocolate. Next, begin with the over-the-top day that is centered around the liking of your partner. Be bold and romantic; however, DO NOT BE CLICHE.

Instead of taking your partner for a dreadful dinner followed by a mediocre evening of movies, grab the old Nerf guns from your closet and declare war on each other. Fight for the justice of your relationship and be indulged into the world of being hit by foam darts. Go play hide and seek at your favorite store, including Walmart and KMart. Build a fort using blankets and chairs from the kitchen. Play endless hours of video games while eating as many pizza slices the two of you can. With all of these ideas, be sure to have fun and appreciate the time that you have to be relaxed and happy.

For the single students who couldn't pull in a date for the special night, invent a new holiday. You can even possibly call it Singletine's Day. First, order a large pizza from your choice of business with at least two bags of any type of Doritos; trust me, it will come in handy later. Second, get with a group of friends and get ready for the time of your lives. Finally, eat the pizza and Doritos while watching movies that doesn't reflect love or relationship. Some movies that fit in this category are Scott Pilgrim vs. the World, The Avengers, Jurassic Park, Mad Max: Fury Road, and any movies that emphasize more explosions than kisses. If movies doesn't suit your needs, try playing

video games endlessly. My personal choices include Star Wars Battlefront and Fallout 4.

Over everything, make sure that your day is spent wisely, having the most fun you possibly can.

After all of the talk about dates and celebrations, Valentine's Day is meant to be celebrated for the ones who we appreciate and love in our life and doesn't necessarily have to include fancy dates and jewelry. Celebrate this Valentine's Day with those you love, even if that includes your PS4.

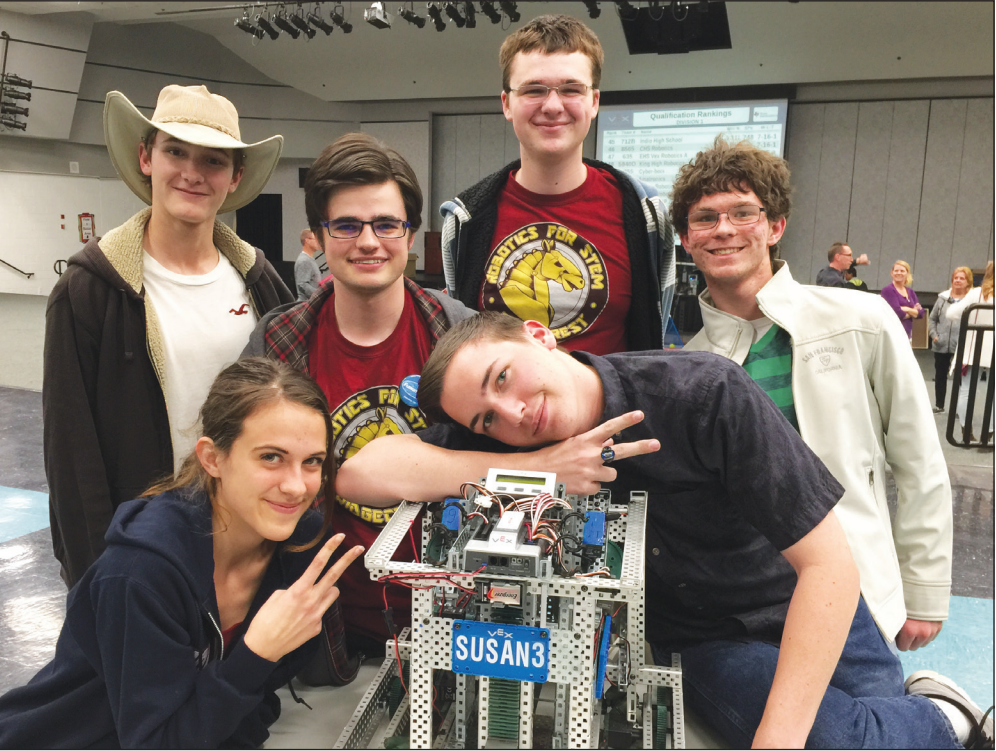
Love a good pickup line? Here are a few more.

COMPILED BY JOE OSORIO

- Is your name Google? Because you have everything I'm looking for.
- Your hand seems heavy, let me hold it for you
- Are you a tower? Because Eiffel for you
- If you were a triangle, you'd be acute.
- You know what's beautiful? (Read the first word)
- Do I know you? Because you look like my next girlfriend.
- Feel my shirt, it's boyfriend material
- If you were a booger, I'd pick you first.
- I'm not a photographer but I can picture me and you together
- If you were a vegetable you'd be a cute-cumber.
- I seem to have lost my phone number. Can I have yours?
- Do you have a map? I'm getting lost in your eyes.
- Are you a parking ticket? Because you've got fine written all over you
- Can I have directions? (Where to?) Your heart.
- Is there an airport nearby.... or is that just my heart taking off.
- My doctor says I'm lacking vitamin U
- There isn't a word in the dictionary for how good you look
- You're so beautiful I forgot my pick up line.

Top Ten drawings and graphic by Zach Wolfe

Robotics Club earns spot at nationals



Robotics Club members (clockwise, from top left) Aidan Murphree, Trey Stoner, Kevin Seaman, Ryan Lorenz, Wes Moore, and Sydney Marler proudly show off their robot SUSAN, so named for "Systematically and Unilaterally Subduing All Noobs." This students have been competing regularly in robotics league competition. In December, the team went to St Francis High School in La Canada Flintridge, where they won the programming skills parallel competition. By winning this, the team qualified directly to go to Nationals, a tournament held in Iowa this year. They are now exploring ways to raise funds in order to attend. More information on the team's efforts and successes will be included in next month's issue.

contributed photo

German Club plans a visit to UC Irvine

BY JULIA ERNST

New to the club roster this school year, German Club has been busy planning away for its upcoming events, such as its attendance at UC Irvine's second annual German Day, which will be held on February 10.

This marks the second year Burroughs students have attended the UCI event.

German Day allows German-speaking students and those interested in German studies the chance to pursue some of those areas of interest through workshops.

Workshops led by college professors and college students create a fun atmosphere for high schoolers to venture outside of the usual topics of study.

German Club students will be working together with peers from other high schools across the state through the event's activities, and concluding the day with a UC Irvine campus tour.

Club Advisor and German Teacher Nadine Steichen will be returning to the event for her

second go around. Steichen says she's most excited for club members to see the college's campus and to get a better understanding for the program. Having attended the "German Music" workshop last year, Steichen is planning on seeing the new sessions the program will be featuring this year.

"The double major with the engineering and German workshop that they're offering at the school sounds interesting to me," said Steichen, who also plans on attending the dramas the UCI gang will be performing.

A number of the club's members will be attending German Day, including German Club Secretary-Christian Acosta.

Acosta, a sophomore, is excited to be learning more about German culture by attending some various sessions on the matter.

"I'll be going to the music and the culture blocks," said Acosta. "I'm looking forward to seeing what German Day is all about and learning something new about Germany."

College decisions loom on the horizon for seniors

BY COLE JOHNSON

If you are a senior, by now you have likely applied to all the colleges they selected and are getting ready to make the choice of which to attend.

While you might be drawn to a school because it is near a beach or because you know someone who went there, you should consider several important factors, such as academics, cost, safety, and the surrounding community. These elements might just mean the difference between your earning a valuable degree or "boomeranging" back home to Ridgecrest.

Academics: Consider what each school offers in your major and its graduation rates. Who is teaching the classes, professors or graduate students? Check the teacher-to-student ratios.

Cost: Can you and/or your parents afford tuition, room and board, living expenses, and books? If not, look into the school's financial aid programs. Either way, you should submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Safety: Check types of incidents reported, security escort services, and lighting at each campus. What medical facilities are offered?

Surrounding Community: Do you prefer a college town or big city? Check each city's crime rates. What types of transportation are offered? How easy will it

be for you to get around and out of town? How isolated might you feel? What attractions might turn out to be distractions?

Some additional factors to consider are the school's social atmosphere, extracurriculars, academic atmosphere, and sports.

Social Atmosphere: Where do students live? Is it a residential or commuter campus? Is it considered a "party school"? Can you become involved in Greek life?

Extracurriculars: You've been involved in activities to get into the school; will you be able to continue these activities? What music, drama, and other opportunities exist? What service or professional clubs?

Academic Atmosphere: The school may offer your major, but how will you fill in the department? Is the academic atmosphere tense or relaxed? Career- or scholar-focused?

Sports: A big part of the college experience for some students is the ability to participate in college sports, either as an athlete or a fan. What level of sports is offered (Division I, II, III, Intramural)? What sports events can you attend?

Obviously, these questions seem like a lot to consider. But consider the alternative. Taking the time now must be better than spending four or five years (or longer) wishing you had really done your homework in choosing the right college.

Metal students put skills to use



Students Ryan Durbin and Douglas Wilson show off the new skateboard rack they designed and built with Freddy Farris. The rack, which is installed near the CTE building, can hold sixteen boards and was created to reduce the piles of skateboards typically stored in the front office. The students looked at several possible designs online to come up with the perfect fit for Burroughs' needs.

photo by Maelea Gaceta

YAC: Hearts full of grace...



Youth Advisory Committee members celebrated the Martin Luther King holiday by volunteering in the Maturango Museum garden. The event coincided with the MLK National Day of Service. Breana Davis, center, repeated Dr. King's call to service: "Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

contributed photo

COLLEGE
CORNER

Need some inspiration as you face those college decisions? Let Burroughs alumnus Josh Woods (BHS '13) give you some ideas of what to expect from the college experience.

School: University of California, Riverside
Major: Materials Science and Engineering

What's the best thing about your college?
Realistically, there are multiple great things about UCR, yet there is admittedly one that is most vivid now that I think about it: diversity. Both the different walks of life as well as the pure ethnic diversity really open your eyes to the many people you can be lucky enough to meet. Being more culturally aware is probably one of the greatest things you could ask for. UCR is one of the top 25 most diverse colleges in the nation and it shows. Once you get to know all of these different people, network with them enough to keep contacts, it may pan out in the future when job or apartment hunting.

What has been the biggest surprise or adjustment?
The biggest surprise has been just how true upperclassmen's advice was for setting the tone for your academic career during your freshman year. My first quarter as a freshman, I was blinded by how often I told myself that first quarter and the rest of college was going to be mediocre in difficulty. This is where I set myself up to fail. The first year here, I don't think I properly adjusted until about the third quarter in. You have to realize that you aren't at the CC or JC level as well as just how competitive UCs or other popular schools are. Transfer students don't learn about the difficulty of these classes until they transfer and here you have time to make it or break it in the first two years of your undergraduate career. Looking at today, you have to find the balance between work and play. I do research in a lab, have a full course load, and preside as president of my major's professional organization here at UCR. If you are driven and able to adapt to the new college environment, then you will adjust nicely and success will follow.

Any advice for students still in high school?
My best advice is to utilize all of the campus resources available and explore your interests. Clubs and professional organizations have free food all the time! If you network with upperclassmen, utilize Web resources, or even rent your textbooks you should almost NEVER pay full price for textbooks.

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