

SPOTLIGHT

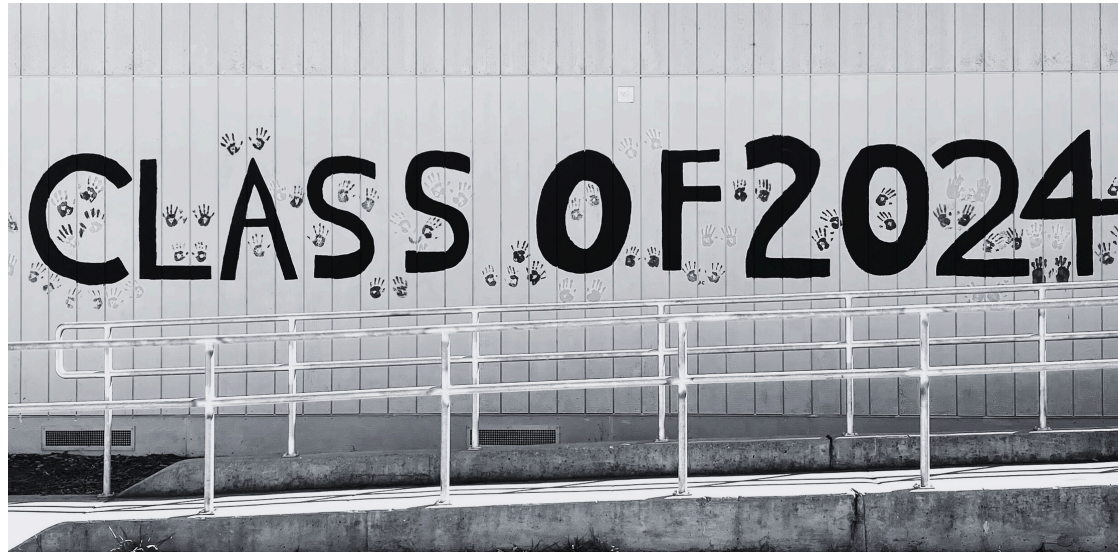


MCAA Newspaper 

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MAY 2024

The May '24 *Spotlight* comes back from its hiatus with articles about the Sadie Hawkins dance, a review of the experience making the senior mural, and a breakdown of what to expect when counseling at Shady Creek. Don't forget to check out the fantastic comic!



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

- 2 -Mean Girls Understudy Show
- 3 -Mean Girls Main Cast Final Show
- 10-11 -Spring Dance Show
- 14-17 -Music Week
- 24 -Senior Banquet
- 29 -8th Grade Promotion: 5pm
- Senior Graduation 7pm
- 31 -Day on the Green
- JUN 4 -Make-Up day?

Summer!



Senior Mural

By Alexandra Giongco

Some observant students may have recently noticed a colorful addition to one of the walls on campus. During spring break, the seniors painted on a bright blue coat, the words "Class of 2024", and handprints resembling the school's logo, on the side of classroom nine. The senior prank had been in the works for months, with Martha Miethe originally suggesting the idea back in January. The initial plan was to paint an entire portable building blue over February break, but it had to be scaled down due to the windows, doors, and bulletin boards complicating the project. Mr. Preston, however, liked the idea and believed it would be a good push to repaint the beige color. The blank wall facing the basketball court was the perfect canvas, with no windows or doors, as well as being a high-traffic spot. A handful of people split the cost of two gallons and four quarts of paint. February was too soon and too cold, so it was moved to April 4th at 9 AM. However, the date had to be changed last-minute again due to bad weather. When the time came, a group of seniors brought paint, ladders, brushes, rollers, and a plastic cover and began to paint the wall. As they worked, a few staff members who happened to be on campus at the time caught a glimpse of it in progress. When we asked Ms. Geu what she thought when she saw students showing up at school during spring break, she said, "My first thought? What is going on!" Overall, it was a fun experience that brought the seniors together and made their graduating class even more memorable.

What do you think of the senior mural this year?

I love what the seniors have done this year! Senior classes have talked about leaving their mark, but this is the first class in the seven years I have been here that has really done it. This will be a great reminder of the class that started the carnival and the artistic and driven people they are, and hopefully it starts a new trend with future classes!

-Mr Fridrich



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Sadie Hawkins

By Brenden Neth

This year's Sadie Hawkins dance, which took place March 15th in the Marysville High School Cafeteria, was themed "Dance Through the Decades." As always, the dance was set up and run by MCAA's 10th grade class leadership, however many other high school students kindly offered their help in the many endeavors of setting up such an event. Two days before the event, a vinyl painting competition was held during lunch, and many students signed up to express their creativity.

The winners of this competition were first place: Hypnos Norrie, second place: Brenden Neth & Danica Giongco & Huitzil Valdes-Soto, and third place: Phoenix Henry & Carlos Rivera & Isaias Cobian. These, along with the rest of the beautifully painted vinyls, were hung up along with a variety of other decorations around the venue.



During the dance, the vintage iconic Volkswagen bus made an appearance and was used for the photobooth. It was built out of cardboard, painted, and put in front of a colorful balloon arch where polaroids could be purchased.

Lots of fun was had throughout the night as people danced to the custom made playlist filled with top hits from the last decades.

When asked about his experience, Miguel Silva, the sophomore class president and main contributor behind the dance, said: "It was so fun, especially because of how much I like old retro songs. I had a blast decorating the dance and making it how I wished the dance would be like."

Here are what some other attendees had to say:

"It was fun, it was good, I liked hanging out with my friends, I loved hopping around with different friends and enjoying the energy. I loved when "Fein" by Travis Scott came on and hearing everyone go wild."

-Jorge Ojeda (10th)

"It was pretty fun, I enjoyed spending time with my friends, if I were to rate it from 1-10, I would rate it like an 8.5. It can't top the Winter Ball."

-Nathan Keo (7th)





Shady Creek

By Brenden Neth

Why go?

- Shady Creek is an amazing opportunity for community service hours, but it is also an experience for you to remember and to find more meaning in the natural world. While you are heavily discouraged from using your phone, you won't really need it, immersing yourself in the community you'll find at Shady Creek will be far more interesting than anything you can find online. It's truly an amazing experience to spend time away from home, away from school, and other stressors of life and simply allocate time to yourself.

What to expect?

- Going to Shady Creek, you should expect to have an experience that is as good as you make it to be. The naturalists (faculty members who lead classes and help cabin leaders when necessary) are all very interactive and helpful people who you can talk to when in need of assistance. They are a big part of the Shady Creek experience and it's definitely valuable to go up and talk to them, so don't be afraid to! Being an outdoor school, it's obvious to expect to be mostly outdoors. Along with this, you should expect to be walking a fair amount and to be a big influence on your cabin kids. Make sure you help them have a memorable experience, but also to try your best when faced with behavioral issues (oftentimes, talk to their teachers or a naturalist - they're much more experienced with children, and teachers especially know their kids).

What to bring?

- Upon selection as a cabin leader, you are given a packing list, and while all of that is pretty self explanatory yet useful, it is also important to have your cabin in mind. A unity item (matching bracelets, bandanas, etc) will help you not only identify your cabin but also bring everyone together--just as the name suggests. It's also important to note that kids will often forget essentials such as sunscreen or dental care products. Making sure you have these or other important items you can share when needed will go a long way. Most importantly though, bringing to camp a positive, open attitude to being there is the most important part to having a memorable experience. A simple card game is a good call to bring as well.

Tips for Cabin Leaders?

- Be very firm on lights out and on your cabin's rules/regulations. These are the times when you are going to be alone with your kids, and making sure that they are respectful of everyone's time will help everybody. If a few are disrespecting these rules, do not be afraid to go to naturalists or teachers, they are the main form of command for these kids and it is crucial to communicate with them when needed throughout the week. Recognize that you have a big influence on these kids, and your behaviors and actions will be remembered, make sure to be positive and know the impact you will have on them by the end of the week.

In the Words of Former Shady Creek Cabin Leaders

Brenden Neth

- "I was blessed with a very mild cabin, kids that had no issues with the others and enjoyed the company of others. They were excited for the week and although they may have gotten a bit out of hand, they're kids and it's expected. I'm grateful they listened to me when I needed to be firm. Being out in nature separated from the rest of the ordinary world was something I deeply enjoyed. It really was like an entire new world to me. I'm grateful for the staff who made the experience so enjoyable as well as the many friends that I made during that short week. Being able to contribute to the kids' experience at camp was valuable to me, and hearing many kids I barely even knew tell me they loved me was the highlight of my experience."

Brenden Neth (11th), "Birdie"

Miguel Silva

- "I had the most fun when I wasn't with my kids, but even with them it was still fun because they would say stuff that was out of pocket and it would be fun to hear their thoughts, how they think life works, but it was still very annoying. I had class time, it was interesting and fun to help out the naturalists, to help teach the class or contribute to the class overall. It was just fun being out in nature and away from my phone all the time. I think at the end of the day, even if you feel like you did a bad job, there are still some kids that did like you and are helpful that you did help them."

Miguel Silva (10th), "Moonflower"

William Mungle

- "I had a cabin full of the class clowns, the teachers had warned me when they saw who was in my cabin. The kids were for sure an experience. If you went as a kid you won't have the same experience going as a counselor, I've heard a lot of cabin leaders come back from it and say 'you'll have a good time, the kids will love you' or 'oh the kids will test you,' and I sort of shoved those off thinking kids aren't smart enough to do that but they really are. It's a very real experience, there's a lot of responsibility and stress that comes with being a Cabin Leader. I'm not sure if I would do it again or any time soon, but I'm really glad I did it in the first place. Anything that can happen, will probably happen."

William Mungle (10th), "Wildebeest" (Will-da-beast)

Saihej Grewal

- "Shady Creek was one of the best experiences I have ever had! It is incredibly rewarding to see the kids enjoying themselves or having fun. I was lucky and had really great kids who listened to me. However that is not always the case for many people. If you go I recommend bringing something as a cabin unity item, or just something for the kids to have as a memento like friendship bracelets or key chains. The kids will really appreciate this, and it will make them like you more. Also, on the first day be a little harsher and set boundaries that way they know that you are in charge. Overall, Shady Creek was absolutely amazing, it comes with its challenges but it is so rewarding. If you are considering it, I would recommend going for it 100%!"

Saihej Grewal (11th), "Starling"

Comic Corner

Submission by Jacqueline Robles Gonzalez

