

SPOTLIGHT

MCAA Newspaper

VOLUME 2 ISSUE#3 PAGE 1

NOVEMBER 2023



Left to right: Alyssa Ferrie, Cynthia Salazar, Alexa Barragan, Alexandra Giongco, Kiyomi Gee, and Danica Giongco posing in their creative costumes at this year's Halloween Dance. The winner of the costume contest was Danica as Draculaura (right).

The November '23 Spotlight includes event articles on Dragonfest, the Chico State Field Trip, Halloween Dance, and Halloween Concert along with a reflection of Excel Club's Food Drive and a movie review.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/1 • Dia de los Muertos
- 11/3 • End of 2nd Quarter
- 11/4 • Honor Band Concert
- 11/9-11/11 • Much Ado About Nothing - Fall Play
- 11/10 • Veteran's Day (No School)
- 11/20 • Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- 11/24 • Start of Music Week
- 11/28

Dogberry and Verges protecting the mansion

Balthasar just trying to deliver a letter



Meme of the Month

Courtesy of the Advanced Drama class

HALLOWEEN BOO-GIE

By Aaralyn Cowherd

The Halloween Dance, which was thrown by the senior class, was on October 25th from 7-10pm and took place in the quad. The senior class president Alexandra Giongco took charge of organizing this event with help from the 11th and 12th grade dance committees, raising money for the class of '24s senior trip. Over 200 students attended the event. The Halloween Dance featured a haunted house and a costume contest, and was a great time overall.

The dance was full of students dressed in a variety of costumes. Many students spent the night dancing and chatting with friends, creating a lively environment. Adding to that, the haunted house which was held in Ms. Duckels' classroom was quite a fun and eerie experience for those who entered. There were even student actors scattered throughout the haunted house dressed in scary costumes, masks, and makeup wounds. There were many students who accounted for their ankles being grabbed mysteriously- speaking from personal experience, I was one of such victims!

Next was the costume contest, where we got to see and judge all these creative and fun costumes. The winners of each grade level section are as follows:

7th - 8th: Nico Arevalo as Steve Randell

9th - 10th: Danica Giongco as Draculaura

11th - 12th: Martha as the Woolly Bear Moth and Alyssa as Patrick Bateman (Tied)

But when the costume contest came to the final round, Danica Giongco, dressed as Draculaura from Monster High, won!

Alexandra Giongco, regarding the success of the dance as a whole, said that, "It felt like less people went to this dance than previous years, but I think it still went pretty well! We tried out a haunted house, something that hasn't been done in a couple years, and in my opinion it ended up really cool looking. We got good screams. I'm also really grateful for all the people who helped out and all the great ideas they had!" Here are what some students in attendance said about their experience;

"The haunted house was so amazing, if I had more time I would've gone again."

-Naomi Freeman, 11th

"'Twas absolutely remarkable! Surrounded by friends, we danced until our legs were sore. A night filled with exuberant joy, I knew wonderful memories had been created."

-Eric Benites, 10th

Photos from the Halloween Dance were taken by Danica Giongco



Middle schoolers lining up for the costume contest



Apolline Poiseau and Cassandra Silva



Miguel Silva as Spider-Man



Naomi Freeman as an inflatable Fall Guy



Rigoberto Garibay as Elvis Presley

DRAGONFEST 2023

By Saihej Grewal

Our first Dragonfest this year, which took place on Friday, October 6th, kicked off the month with a display of student talent. Put on by ASB (our student-elected leadership), Dragonfest is a platform for students to showcase their talents. The event highlights the diversity in abilities that our student body has, and is also an opportunity for them to be celebrated by the whole school. The atmosphere was full of excitement as students gathered in the quad during lunchtime to watch their peers perform.

In this Dragonfest, the performances included a cultural Hula Dance performed by Jade Tsoi, a musical duet performed by Tommie and Lei, a performance of "The Major Song" by our school choir, a group of 7th graders performing an energetic dance number led by junior Naomi Freeman, and a rendition of songs from Zelda performed by Sally Leonard and Eve Haymore, which were played on the violin and flute.

The performers auditioned the previous week, and with so many amazing auditions from students, there are already some who are going to be a part of the next Dragonfest. Each act put in a lot of hard work and dedication in preparing for the performance, demonstrating their talent and creativity. Overall, this event was a huge success for our school.

We asked some students about their thoughts on Dragonfest. This is what they said:

"It was stressful, but it was a really fun experience. Preparing for it with the 7th graders was really fun, and I enjoyed choreographing the dance. Also I'm really glad I got the chance to help the 7th graders get out of their comfort zone and perform."

-Naomi Freeman, 11th

"It was really cool to see all the students perform their wonderful talents. I enjoyed Jade's Hula dance, it was very cool. All of the performances were really good, and I think they did a great job."

-Aaralyn Cowherd, 11th

"I really enjoyed the Hula Dance."

-Brenden Neth, 11th

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The attendees taking a group photo outside of Chico State's front gates

DRAGONS VS WILDCATS

By Brenden Neth

On October 4th, many students from our junior and senior classes took a field trip to Chico State University for a tour around the college campus. They were provided breakfast at the start of the day before taking a bus on a one hour commute to the university. After getting off the bus, they walked to a room where they were introduced to the tour guides and given tote bags that included general information about the college. They then set out to explore the campus, learning about all the different buildings and classes and some unique history of certain older structures. During the tour, they were introduced to many aspects of life at college from both of the tour guides, and even from past MCAA alumni currently attending Chico State—notably Kenneth Xiong and Fatima Lucatero (Both class of 2023 graduates)—who found out about the trip from their younger friends that currently attend MCAA. After the tour, they had the chance to explore the student store and library on their own. Afterward, everyone returned back to MCAA. From this experience some students may have discovered a newfound interest in further pursuing their academic interests at Chico State University.

We asked some of the attendees about their experiences regarding the Chico Field Trip. This is what they said;

"I remember the national alarm going off when we were in the student store."

-Alexandra Giongco, 12th

"It was a pretty campus, seeing the college students walk around during the tour doing things was pretty cool."

- Phoenix Henry, 12th

"[The food from a food truck] was \$13 but totally worth it."

-Carlos Rivera, 12th



One of the groups on their tour around campus



Advanced guitar class performing at the Halloween Concert

SPOOKY MUSIC

By William Salis

On the 26th of October, MCAA had its second annual Halloween Concert at the campus' backstage. The classes who performed included the choir, orchestra, concert band, jazz band, and advanced guitar. Garrett Granger, our school's ASB President, sang the Metallica classic "Enter Sandman" with the advanced guitar class. One anonymous student in attendance noted that, "[Garrett's] singing was ballin'-- if you missed it, then you missed out." This concert was a great showcase of our student body's musical capabilities.



A group of students dressed and ready for the Zombie Walk

THE WALKING DEAD

By Sofia Alonzo

MCAA hosted its yearly fundraiser, Walk for the Arts, but with a twist this year, incorporating the spookiness of October and calling it the Zombie Walk. Sponsored by the PTCO, the Zombie Walk took place behind the stage and happened on October 19, 2023 during ninth block. There were two pathways students could take; the haunted house and the normal pathway. Almost everyone went through the haunted house, which was scary and really creative. In the haunted house were flashing lights, fake blood, fake hanging bodies, and people screaming/yelling. After going through the pathways it was time to walk. Mr. Tejada played halloween music like The Monster Mash, Ghostbusters, This Is Halloween, Thriller, and more. The weather was nice and sunny outside and cold water bottles were provided for everyone to drink. After the Zombie Walk, there was a contest for the best zombie walk and the best zombie outfit. At the end, the top earners were announced: Rachel Granger in third place, Meric Slack in second, and the top earner was William Welch. Great job this year, Dragons!

EXCEL-ERATED FEELING

By Preet Thind

Excel Club held MCAA's first Food Drive of the year during the month of October. We had a bunch of donations turned into the decorated boxes which were placed in a few of the classrooms. The food drive accepted donations up until October 31, and all of those donations were collected and delivered to the Yuba Sutter Food Bank. We ended up getting a lot of donations and filled up one full tall box and a little more. Thank you to everyone who donated, and remember, you don't have to wait for a school event to donate! If you're looking for places to give back to the community, Google or Facebook are great places to look. Yuba Sutter Food Bank's number is (530)-673-383 if you have any further questions about donating food.

HALLOWEENTOWN REVIEW

By Leeah Merrill

Directed by Duwayne Dunham, *Halloweentown* is a nostalgic halloween movie from the '90s. It follows a teenage girl named Marnie on her 13th birthday on an adventure to save Halloweentown. Staring Kimberly J. Brown, this is the first of four movies. In my opinion the first is the best of the four; it had a good storyline, was well cast, and had great characters. It includes really cool creatures like skeletons, ghosts, werewolves, and more. With the movie being from the '90s, the camera and special effects aren't the best quality, but it's still a good movie. I would recommend this as a fun family Halloween and spooky season movie.



Dear Abby & Aubrey,



In this brand new advice column, Abby Miller & Aubrey Spence are working hard to answer **YOUR** anonymous questions and provide quality advice. Scanning the QR code will take you to a questionnaire where you can ask anything you'd like. There is also a physical drop box in Mr. Fridrich's room where you can also leave your questions.

