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MCAA's SPRING CARNIVAL

By Chloe Carr and Caden Pestana

MCAA's Second Annual Carnival on March 31st at the school's backstage went amazing! There was a great turn out to fundraise for the school's clubs, charter businesses, and classes, and there were great performances by our very own band and drama club. Each class sold food: pizza by the senior class, cotton candy by the juniors, drinks by sophomores, elotes and raspados by the freshman, popcorn by the 8th graders, and nachos by the 7th graders. There were also a ton of fun games. One of the highlights was the ASB booth where people could dump water on the heads of their favorite teachers. The teachers included in the dunk tank were Mr. Yocum, Mr. Dresler, Gabe, Mr. Fridrich, Mr. Tejada, Mr. Harmon, student Garrett Granger, and Mr. Lohman. Some other games that were there included cup pong and corn hole put on by the senior class, ring toss and a very unsuccessful cake walk put on by the junior class, knock down game and musical dots put on by the sophomore class, cheerio game and photo booth by the freshman class, plinko and bucket toss by 8th grade, and duck catching and lollipop pull by 7th grade. We hope to continue adding to the game collection each year and making the carnival even more fun!

INTERVIEW: GEU THAO, MCAA'S SECRETARY!

By Anna Galvin

This year, MCAA welcomed the new Principal's Secretary, Geu Thao. Geu has worked within the district for 31 years, most recently at Community Day—now called North South Lindhurst, and her kids, Jonathan and Miranda Xiong, have been part of MCAA since their 7th grade year. We sat down with Geu for an interview.

Why did you choose to work at MCAA?
"I chose to work at MCAA because I love the arts and my kids have always been interested in the arts."

What got you interested with working with schools?
"I've always wanted to work in a school setting since I was a teenager."

Tell me about your education.
"I got my AA from Yuba College, and then I went to California State University Chico and I got my bachelor's there."

Other highlights include an obstacle course and an axe throwing booth. We even got the firefighters to bring a truck for little kids to go on and get stickers. Big thanks to Mr. Fridrich and all the staff for working so hard to get this event together. Thanks to Mr. Tejada for being the DJ for this event—he played Christmas music in the middle of spring... We had our very own MCAA crafters selling their artwork and crafts that they worked very hard on for this event and were very successful! Student vendors sold jewelry, flower crowns, clay, crochet stuffies, and even tarot card readings , just to name a few. We sold over 9,000 tickets, and student vendors were also very successful, earning money and exposure to grow and develop their own businesses.

"There were a lot more vendor booths than I expected."
- Lei Beebe

MCAA's Carnival is an annual event that will happen every year on the last Friday of March from 4-7 pm. Don't be shy to come back and hang out with us even after you have graduated and moved on. We would love to see you there!!

What's your favorite aspect of MCAA?
"I like the rigorous aspect, also the arts of it because I believe in a well-rounded student."

Dogs or Cats?
"Dogs."

What's your favorite food to make?
"Thai Curry."

What's a perfect Saturday look like for you?
"A relaxing day. My hot cup of tea, watching the sunrise, outside, green lawns."

Who or what is your go to celeb or movie/TV show?
"I like watching *The Golden Girls*."

TARAGON TALK

Adulting 101– Taxes

By Paige Butler

If you're like me, you'll know that moving into the adult world can seem extremely daunting. It's hard to know exactly where to start, but fear not — in this section of The Spotlight, I'll be showing you step-by-step approach to adulting. The topic for this issue is taxes. The word alone strikes fear into the heart of any first-time filer. Though, I think you'll be shocked at just how easy it really is. This year, I opted to use H&R Block, a simple and free website that guides you through the process.

First, go to their website and select the free version of their online tax filing service, input some of your personal information, and then enter your income information, which should be found on your W-2 form. The form contains information such as your employer's EIN, your income, and tax withheld. Some W-2s can import all this info automatically using the EIN in Box B.

After entering your income information, add any deductions you qualify for, such as student loan interest or donations, to maximize your refund. Some deductions you can look forward to in the coming years are moving expenses not reimbursed by your employer, tuition and fees, and the earned income credit which is applicable if you've worked and earned under \$59,187. You'll be able to review your federal return and see how much money you'll receive as a refund or how much you owe the IRS. Next, complete your state and local returns, which should be quick and easy as H&R Block will pull the necessary information from your federal return. Finally, you'll have the option to either send your information electronically to the government or print it off and mail it in. You can also choose whether to have your refund directly transferred or mailed to you as a check.

As a first-time tax filer, I was nervous about the whole process and assumed it would be an arduous task, but thanks to H&R Block, I was pleasantly surprised at how easy and straightforward it was! Their free service was incredibly automated, which was perfect for someone like me who can be a bit lazy. Compared to tutorials for other tax software like TurboTax and TaxSlayer, H&R Block was by far the most user-friendly. Overall, I hope this article somewhat quelled your fears of filing and gave you some useful tips going forward. Happy filing!



MCAA ART SHOW AND THE DAY THE INTERNET DIED

By Leeah Merrill and Levi King

The art show, which took place at the Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture Center, gave the art and photo students an opportunity to showcase their work. The students had spectacular pieces of art in all different styles. The artists had done everything from digital art to painting and photography. The students really showcased their beautiful talent. Next door, intermediate drama performed in the Lee Burrows Center for the Arts. The two centers are separate buildings but they are connected through an outdoor seating area.

The show included an intermediate drama performance of *The Day the Internet Died*, a one act play about a town of people who relied on the internet for their everyday lives and had to figure out how to live without it once it was gone. The opening featured the whole cast, the majority of them either standing or sitting in the audience, and was performed as if the audience as well as the actors were part of a town hall

meeting. The actors interacted with the audience, discussing how upset they were without internet.

A crowd favorite was definitely Checkout, which featured Clarice (Keegan Gundy) and Betty (Aubrey Spence). Betty had gotten used to online shopping, and when the internet shut down she was forced to go to H&M where she thought it was like shopping on Amazon. Clarice tries to explain how to shop in person and almost gets into a fist fight with Betty. The intermediate drama class did a beautiful job portraying the characters, putting on an amazing show, and pushing through the setbacks.

When asked about the show, Mr. DeMeritt said, "*The Day the Internet Died* was a fun one act for the Intermediate drama students to work on. They got to explore wacky characters and an absurd concept to find out what the possible impact would be if a town lost access to the internet. The show is funny and fun to work on and the class had a great time." Great job, intermediate drama!



Movie Review: SHAZAM!

FURY OF THE GODS By Lei Beebe

Picking up from where the first *Shazam!* left off, the heroes are still doing what they do best except, for some reason, they seem to not want to do it together—at least, that's the way it seems to the main character, Billy Batson.

In this movie, there has been a time jump of 4 years, which was a good way to explain why the actors, especially the ones who were very young in the first one, appear older now. Overall, this sequel seems to have done the first one some justice. It also dives a bit into Greek mythology if that's something you're into, as well as the origins of the heroes themselves.

This movie is a comedy action film. The jokes were a bit PG-13 at times and, like the first one, it was hilarious.

I really liked the fact that the movie digs into the emotional health of the characters. It does a good job of showing off the sibling relationships. This movie focuses on family and shows that one never outgrows their home, which is something many of us may need to hear ourselves.

However, there were some things that just felt a little weird. At one point the movie suddenly turned really sappy, which isn't usually a bad thing, but considering the genre the romance included seemed kind of unnecessary. Also, there is the youngest sibling character, Darla, who can turn into an adult by activating her powers with the word, "Shazam." Her adult actress seemed awkward, like an adult trying hard to play a childlike personality. Don't get me wrong, she did a good job, it's just a weird concept to begin with.

Overall, I enjoyed it. I do think that it is more PG-13 because of the humor and language used throughout the movie, but it is a good sequel.



NOT LISTENING TO YOU

2022

Follow the link below to view the *Dragon Digest* Literary Magazine archive



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

- Graduation/Promotion
- Performance Auditions- -5/1-2
- Senior Showcase
- Auditions - - - - - 5/2
- Music in the Parks - - - - - 5/6
- Spring Dance Show - - - 5/12-13
- Music Week
 - Piano 1 and 2 - - - - - 5/15
 - Orchestra & Band/Drumline - - - - - 5/16
 - Songwriting/Choir & Advanced Piano - - - - - 5/17
 - Beginning Guitar & Advanced Guitar - - - - - 5/18

- Senior Trip - - - - - 5/20
- 8th Grade Trip - - - - - 5/24
- Senior Showcase & Award Night - - - - - 5/26
- Memorial Day
- NO SCHOOL - - - - - 5/29
- Finals Week - - - - - 5/26-6/1
- Promotion Practice - - - - - 5/30
- Graduation Practice - - - - - 5/30
- 8th Grade Promotion - - - - - 5/31
- 5-6 pm
- Senior Graduation - - - - - 5/31
- 7-8 pm
- Day on the Green/Last day - - - 6/2

Follow the link above to view *The Spotlight* next issue poll and suggestions

