

In this issue

Opinion

Why do people look like their pets?

Feature

Drug rats instead of drug dogs coming next year.

A&E

Santa Margarita produces "The Costco Guys".



Sports

Yearlong Investigation Uncovers Secret Society of Brawl Stars Players.

Santa Margarita Catholic High School

THE EAGLE EYE

Volume XXXVI, Issue 4

Chat GPT named as valedictorian

Chat GPT's dedication to the Santa Margarita community pays off

By Chloe Stinson, Sports Editor

In a groundbreaking announcement that has left both students and teachers alike in awe and admiration, the Class of 2025 Valedictorian at SMCHS has been announced as Chat GPT! After countless hours of careful deliberation in several meetings, the student body, faculty, and administration have all agreed that the honor of being Valedictorian should go to none other than Chat GPT, who has surpassed all other candidates in aspects that go far beyond just academics.

"Chat GPT has been an exceptional student and peer – always there for others, super helpful, and selflessly contributing to the entire school community," Administrator John Pork said. At SMCHS, the four core principles—compassion, humility, justice, and goodness—serve as the values students strive to embody. Throughout Chat GPT's time in high school, these four core principles have been demonstrated each and every day, inspiring the SMCHS campus community to generously help others in a selfless manner. On campus, Chat GPT is known to

help fellow students with homework, create well-constructed essays and ace tests, and offer support during stressful projects. What's even more remarkable than this passion to serve others—Chat GPT has done all of this with no expectation of rewards or recognition.

"I was raised to believe that one of the most important things in life is to help others especially when no one is watching—that is when it really counts and becomes your character," Chat GPT said.

Chat GPT has become an explanatory model for students at SMCHS, not only for its impeccable academic record but also for its incredible work ethic. Whether it's staying up late to help students understand complex equations or offering tips for writing the perfect essay, Chat GPT has proven to be a classmate like no other.

"Chat GPT has always been there for me whenever I needed it, in a blink of an eye, never asking for anything in return," student Garrett William-Jay said.

Even some of the top students in the '25 class, who have traditionally com-

peted for the title of Valedictorian, have openly acknowledged that Chat GPT achievements are undeniable.

"I thought I had a good shot at Valedictorian this year," DeepAI, a classmate of Chat GPT said. "But after seeing how much Chat GPT helped me and my fellow students, I knew I couldn't compete. Chat GPT is always ahead of the game – no matter what the challenge is, it's there, solving problems faster than any of us could."

As Chat GPT embarks on a new chapter after graduation, the four core principles will continue to be essential as its mission remains the same: to empower others through knowledge and support, helping students achieve their goals.

"Whether it's helping someone with their homework or offering a kind word when someone's stressed, we all have the power to make a positive impact which is why I would encourage everyone to be more compassionate and selfless in their actions," Chat GPT said.

As we reflect on the monumen-

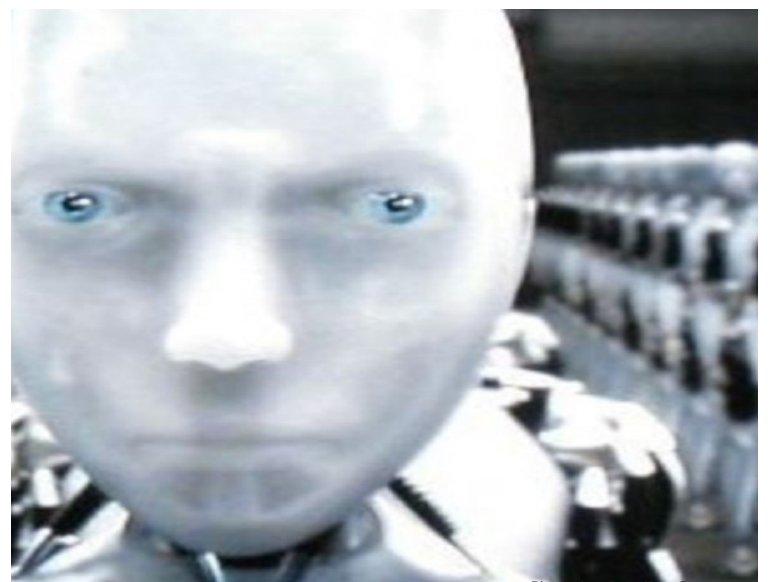


Photo by Creative Commons

Valedictorian - Chat GPT smiles in their acceptance photo.

tal achievement of Chat GPT, we can all take away an important lesson: success is not just about grades, tests, or accolades. It's about being there for others and making the world a better place through kindness, selflessness, and generosity.

So, students of SMCHS, let's all remember what Chat GPT has taught us:

to be more compassionate, generous, and willing to help those around us.

Finally, congratulations to Chat GPT for this well-deserved title. The SMCHS community expresses its deepest gratitude for Chat GPT support. Here's to a future where we all strive to be a little more like this incredible Valedictorian!

Squid Game elimination enrollment exam

Incoming freshmen will play an elimination game due to an increase in applications

By Peri Feldman, Arts & Entertainment Editor

In a shocking turn of events, the SMCHS administration has implemented a new induction process for incoming freshmen: a high-stakes, Squid Game-style competition. While past freshman orientations featured icebreakers and awkward name games, next year's Class of 2029 must fight—literally—for their place in the school.

The trials, which begin at 7 A.M. in the gymnasium, immediately weed out the weak. The first challenge is "Red Light, Green Light". Students are to sprint across the bas-

ketball court while a robotic security camera tracks their movements.

Those who fail to stop in time were not eliminated in the traditional Squid Game sense (legal reasons), but instead are forced to spend the rest of the day in detention, where they must copy the entire school handbook by hand.

Next comes the "Dalgona Challenge", in which freshmen must carve out a perfect shape from a delicate piece of honeycomb candy using a blunt paperclip. Students who break their candy are required to spend lunch cleaning every cafeteria table and all of the G-building bathrooms.

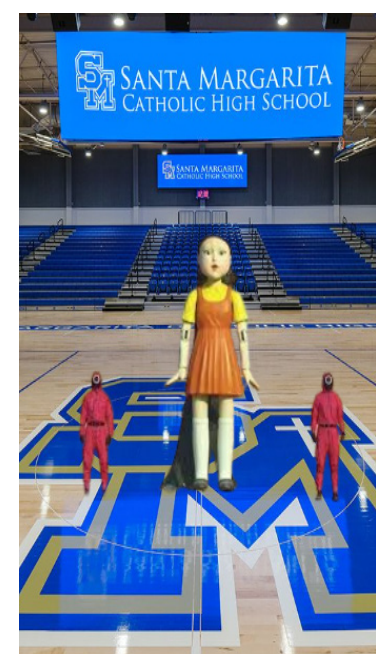
For the third challenge, com-


petitors face SMCHS' interpretation of "Tug-of-War". Rather than pulling on a rope, freshmen are assigned a group project with randomly selected partners, most of whom "forgot to do their part" or contributed an unreadable Google Doc at 11:59 P.M.. The teams that fail to earn at least a B-minus on their project will be placed in remedial study hall, a room where time allegedly slows to a crawl.

The final trial pushes competitors to their limits: "The Glass Bridge". Instead of choosing between tempered and fragile glass panels, students must navigate a hallway lined with upperclass-

men, who bombard them with misinformation, such as: "The math hallway is actually in the R-building on the third level." "No, we don't have a dress code." "You can totally eat lunch in the library." Those who fall for these tricks end up hopelessly lost.

With the introduction of this Squid Game-style competition at Soarientation, only a fraction of the original freshman class will remain standing. Those who survive the ordeal will be awarded official student ID cards and a free homework pass—though it is rumored among the teachers that most "won't actually accept it."



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LinkedIn Lingo

Santa Margarita administration puts new emphasis on building connections for the future

By Victoria Mori, Editor in Chief

Attention all students! In a groundbreaking move, the school district has announced that LinkedIn, the professional networking platform, is now mandatory for all high school students. This decision comes after weeks of discussions by administrators who believe that "gaining connections" is more important than ever.

"It's time to get serious about networking, and LinkedIn is the only way to truly succeed in this highly competitive, algorithm-driven world," Administrator John Pork said.

During freshman tablet training before the school year starts, all freshmen will be guided on how to create and set up their own LinkedIn profile.

At SOARientation, students will have their first networking opportunity to build up their connections and their professional network with the survivors

of the Squid Game Elimination!

Forget about meet-and-greets with teachers or team-building icebreakers. This year's SOAR-orientation will focus on helping students build their professional networks from day one.

"We'll be setting up LinkedIn profile workshops where students can practice sending connection requests to their fellow freshmen, teachers, and even the lunch staff," Pork explained. "By the end of the event, every student will have at least 50 solid connections—no excuses."

The goal? To ensure that by the end of their first week, students will have enough professional connections to help them land an internship by age 15.

This proves very helpful in the long run with college admissions as it gets harder and harder each year to impress admissions committees with the same old boring extracurriculars that everyone seems to be doing.

LinkedIn is all about showing off what you can do—so don't hold back! Think outside the box when adding

to your profile. There are a plethora of skill options to add that will make you stand out. For example: being mindful and demure, being a Sigma, and having infinite aura.

Once you've added a few impressive skills, make sure to send endorsement requests to everyone you've ever met. This will not only validate your skills but also increase your aura in the school's networking hierarchy.

Pro tip! Mention that you're the "Future CEO of Apple" in your headline. It's a bold statement that will surely get people's attention (and possibly connections from some well-meaning but confused alumni).

Don't just sit on the sidelines—post status updates, comment on your peer's posts, and share articles that look impressive but you've probably never actually read!

Did you finish a test early? Post about it! Did you help a friend with their homework? Post about it! Did you meet your icon the Duolingo Owl? You guessed it! Post about it. LinkedIn is all about the hustle, even if it's not actually clear



Photo by Creative Commons

LinkedIn—Everyone is networking on LinkedIn's metaverse platform, and trust us, you don't want to be the one without a fully optimized profile

what hustle you're talking about.

High school students may not yet understand the true power of LinkedIn, but by the time graduation rolls around, students will be swimming in a sea of professional connections, endorsements, and a future internship that may or may not involve working under everyone's icon, the Duolingo Owl!

"In five years, students who aren't leveraging LinkedIn could be left behind," Pork said.

So, get connected, stay connected, and above all, remember: LinkedIn is your ticket to the future. Now, back to studying for that exam—oops! We mean, "networking for that internship opportunity!"

Pet dopplegangers

Exploring the legitimate study of why people look like their pets

By Kennedy Frey, Web Editor

Studies have shown that, statistically, people look like their pets. Exhibit A: Ferb looks like a platypus. Exhibit B: Roger and Anita look like all 101 dalmations.

Harvard experts have been puzzling out why this phenomena occurs. Additionally, NASA recently joined in on this scientific expedition to figure out Earth's greatest mystery: Why do people sort of look like their pets?

To solve this we need to go back in time to when this marvel began. Wolves became domesticated by cave men around 40,000-70,000 years ago. Those wolves became dogs and they slowly became more and more dependent on humans. While this was happening, their humans began slowly looking and giving off the same vibe as their pet.

There is actually a scientific reason why people tend to look like their pets.

Studies from UC San Diego explored this question by

having participants attempt to match people to their pets based on appearances alone. In a majority of the experiments, the participants matched correctly.

People also tend to look like their pets because we gravitate towards things that look a bit like us. With so many types and breeds of pets, people typically choose pets that fit their aesthetic lifestyle.

This is seen in a lot of media. For example, Elle Woods and her tiny chihuahua, Bruiser Woods. He adds to her vibe of being a "dumb blonde" and he fits her character. Just like Elle, Bruiser can be underestimated and is actually very smart.

In 101 Dalmations, different breeds of dogs are shown to match their owners as well. A famous scene from the movie showcases people and pets walking in the same cadence.

One study actually found that women typically have similar hair length corresponding to their dog's hair.

As we grow, we tend to slowly become more and more alike. For example if an owner is a homebody and takes plenty of

naps, this might manifest in the dog also enjoying a lot of naps. Or if someone likes running and is athletic, they might take their dogs with them on their runs, resulting in the dog also becoming athletic.

SMCHS student Sophia Graber believes she has the same vibe as her dog, Willow. Willow is a dalmation-pitbull mix who joined the Graber family back in 2020.

"She's a sweet girl who loves to relax and her favorite color is pink. She doesn't like hyper puppies and her best friend lives a few doors down," Graber said. "She looks like she would be a librarian. She's a smart dog."

In sync with each other, Graber and Willow share a few personality traits.

"We both like to sleep in and she loves doing activities with me and shopping at CVS," said Graber. Another pet-owner look-a-like duo are senior Brooke Barber and her young Jack Russell-Chihuahua mix named Gus.

"He's energetic like me but knows when to chill out. I think that we're both loyal, energetic, and caring," Barber said.

Barber and Gus love



Photo by National Geographic

Pet Dopplegangers - Studies show that people look like their pets.

to go on walks and run together by the beach. Gus has been part of the Barber family for just two years, as his birthday just passed on New Year's Eve.

"My friends always tell me that we kind of look alike," Barber jokes. "He likes the water and the waves, which is also how we're similar. We love going to the beach together and playing in the water. I try to go with him as often as I can."

When Barber and Gus have downtime, they both tend to lounge around on the couch, cuddle under a blanket, and watch TV together.

While people can say its pseudoscience that people look like their pets, the SMCHS evidence is undeniable. Scientists everywhere all agree, people do look and act similar to their pets.

The Santa Margarita "Rat Pack"

Drug rats instead of drug dogs coming next year

By Dalya Kanaan, Opinion Editor

Santa Margarita Catholic High School has officially stated that they will be using drug rats instead of drug dogs this upcoming school year.

Students and parents know that drug dogs have been used in the past, whether they are released while students drop their bags off in the lunch shelter for Mass or if the dogs greet them in the classroom. Although effective in their jobs, the intimidation aspect is missing from these dogs.

Since dogs are very cute and welcoming animals, the school board has decided that drug rats would be much more intimidating and effective. Therefore, starting next fall, rats will be released to scurry around the school trying to find any scent of drugs to fulfill their duties.

Apparently the school conducted a test run during Christmas break, which unfortunately went a little haywire. The administration planted drug scented decoys around the school and then sent the drug rats, or the "Rat Pack," out to find them.

The Rat Pack successfully found the planted decoys, but unfortunately ingested them. This

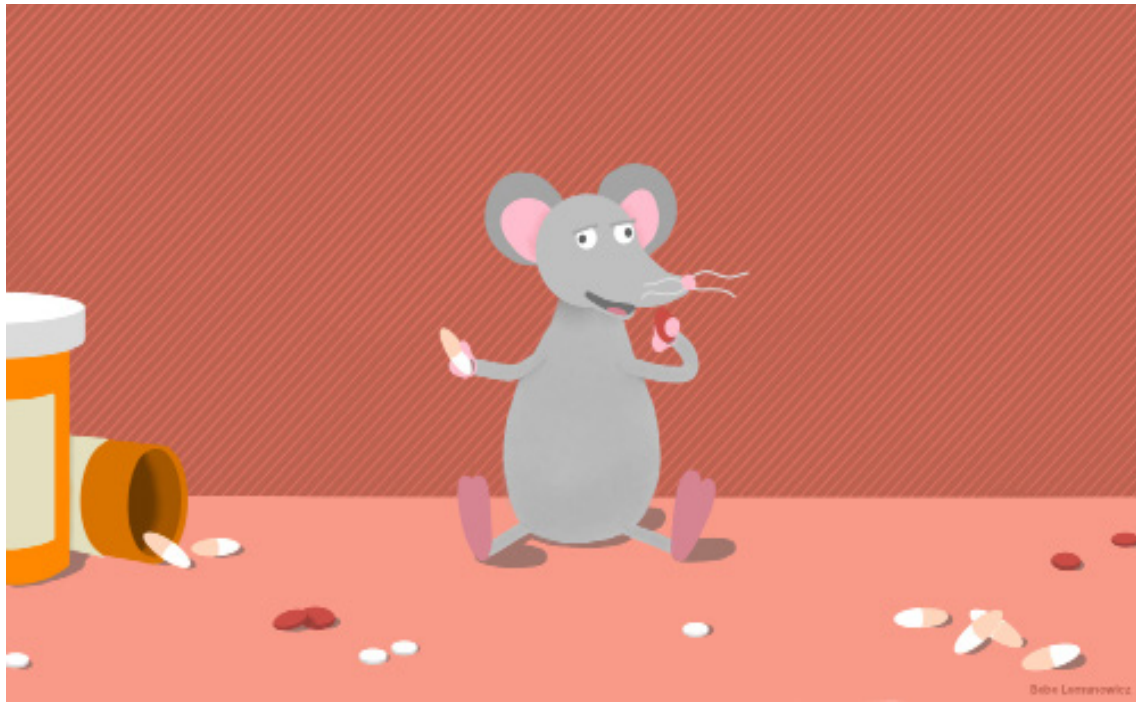


Photo by SMCHS Art Students

New Drug Rat - Finding pill decoys at SMCHS through their powerful smell

caused chaos and unaccounted for rats all around the school.

Administration attempted to find all of these loose rats, but some managed to escape and have been spotted around the school over the last few months. If you see any of these unaccounted for rodents running around, please attempt to catch them.

To help the administration catch the rats, you will all receive rat-catching nets during your religion classes next week that you are

required to have on you at all times. If you are caught without a net or seen disposing of them, you will receive an automatic detention.

This will only be asked of students this semester as these rats will be purposefully sent out around the school in August of 2025 and stay here for the remainder of the school year (and hopefully continue to remain here for years to come).

The school is so excited to finally be releasing this exciting information! Please make sure to look

at your Campus Life Teams for any updates and announcements, as there are a multitude to come.

The Rat Pack is continuing to train and prepare for their duties this fall, so make sure to be on your best behavior as the upcoming school year approaches.

There are some concerns about these rats chewing through your backpacks, books, and shoes, but that's a discussion for another time! Make sure to stay safe and drug free. Santa Margarita is here to help!

"Brainrot" language class

SMCHS announces a new elective for students to learn the intricacies of the modern language

By Ella Kraninger, Assistant Editor

In a move that has shocked educators and parents alike, Santa Margarita has announced a brand-new elective: "Brainrot." Yes, you read that correctly. Starting next school year, students will be able to enroll in a class that promises to teach them the complex and often bewildering language of... Brainrot.

For those of you who've been living under a rock, or have been completely avoiding TikTok, Brainrot refers to the increasingly absurd, meme-heavy, emoji-filled, and nonsensical form of communication that has taken over the internet. It's the kind of language that sounds like a toddler typed random buttons on a keyboard and somehow still makes perfect sense to anyone under the age of 25.

The class will teach students how to master this "modern dialect," because speaking in full sentences is so 2009. Ms. Karen Smithe, the instructor for the course, says she's excited to introduce students to what she calls "the language of the future."

"Language has always evolved with culture, and today's culture is driven by memes, emojis, and hashtags," Smithe explained with



Photo by Generative AI

Brainrot's Impact - The widespread effect brainrot has, and why we need to educate people about it

the kind of enthusiasm typically reserved for someone explaining their latest TikTok dance. "Brainrot is where language is going. It's chaos. It's freedom. It's bringing back the word 'boi.' Forget Shakespeare—our students need to understand how to decode a TikTok comment section."

So, what will the class actually teach? Well, for starters, students will dive deep into Syllabic Stream of Consciousness, the art of stringing together random internet phrases like "sus," "no cap," and "yeet" in a way that somehow sounds profound. Other units include Linguis-

tic Nihilism, where students will explore how to communicate their deepest thoughts using only the phrase "I'm fine" and a poorly drawn cartoon dog. And of course, Meme Syntax will cover how to build a convincing argument by referencing "mama a girl behind you" and "chill guy."

Of course, not everyone is on board with this new direction in education.

"I mean, seriously, do we need a class for this?" sophomore Lindsey Torres asked. "It sounds like an easy A for people who already speak like this. But hey, maybe I'll sign up just to see if I can get away with using

only 'bruh' for an entire semester."

Meanwhile, freshmen like Jason Lee are already preparing for their first day in class.

"I've been online since Musically," Lee said confidently. "I can quote 'weird flex but okay' and 'skibidi toilet' in my sleep. I'm gonna ace it."

For now, the "Brainrot" class will be offered as a fun elective next semester, and registration is expected to fill up fast. The only prerequisite is that your phone has to be in dark mode and auto-capitalization turned off. After all, where else can you get course credit for speaking exclusively in memes and emojis?

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Green Eggs And Ham at Lunch

A highly nutritious meal makes its mark at lunch time

By Sophia Kelmar, staff writer

There's a delicious surprise coming to your lunch trays this April: Green Eggs and Ham! In a unique partnership with Hanna's on Campus, they are bringing a beloved childhood classic to life by serving this iconic dish as a regular meal for the entire month.

The inspiration, of course, comes from the timeless Dr. Seuss masterpiece, "Green Eggs and Ham," published in the 1960s. This delightful tale follows a character's stubborn refusal to try Sam-I-Am's unconventional meal.

Initially closed-minded and hesitant, the character's perspective dramatically shifts after a taste, revealing the book's enduring message: keep an open mind and never judge a book (or a meal) by its cover.

This lesson, perfectly woven into a children's story, resonates with us even today, reminding us to embrace new experiences and challenge our preconceived notions and beliefs.

While the vibrant green hue might raise an eyebrow or two, rest



Photos by Creative Commons

Delicious! - Sneak peek of the Green Eggs and Ham that are coming to campus April 1

assured, the taste is nothing short of delightful! Many of us have fond memories of enjoying this playful dish on special occasions, and the excitement of seeing it offered at Hanna's on Campus will bring back those fond memories.

This isn't just a meal; it's a nostalgic trip back to childhood, a celebration of imagination, and a chance

to try something truly unique.

Expressing her curiosity, senior Brooke Barber said, "I will definitely be trying this meal once. I have never had it."

Her willingness to step outside her comfort zone perfectly embodies the spirit of Dr. Seuss's message.

Also sharing her anticipation, junior Ava Bouchereau said, "I haven't had that in so long. I can't wait!"

Her eagerness highlights the nostalgic appeal of this classic dish.

With infectious assignment junior Sophia Kosciuk's said, "I have never had that before! I remember reading the book, but I never tried it!"

All of these students' eagerness to experience the beloved story come

to life is sure to be shared by many.

But beyond the initial novelty, this initiative offers a valuable opportunity for our school community. It encourages students to be adventurous with their food choices and to appreciate the connection between literature and real-life experiences. It's a fun, engaging way to promote a positive and inclusive dining environment.

Furthermore, this partnership with Hanna's on Campus highlights the school's commitment to providing diverse and creative meal options.

This decision demonstrates a willingness to think outside the box and bring a touch of excitement to everyday life. Perhaps this is just the beginning of more themed food experiences in our cafeteria.

We encourage everyone to embrace the spirit of "Green Eggs and Ham" and give this unique dish a try. Who knows, you might discover a new favorite!

Let's all join in the fun and see what other culinary adventures Santa Margarita has in store. We can't wait to see the Green Eggs and Ham gracing our lunch tables this April!

How to miss the maximum days at school

SMCHS is offering a new class that teaches students how to skip school without getting caught

By Alisha Awan, Staff Writer

Santa Margarita Catholic High School offers many classes for students to take in their course schedule. Students take classes that they are interested in and they enjoy learning about. Despite this eagerness to learn, finding the motivation to attend classes five days a week is difficult.

To help students with their lack of motivation, SMCHS is offering a new class. Instead of teaching motivation for getting to school in the morning, administration decided it would be more beneficial to teach students how to miss school effectively. This class teaches students how to skip the maximum days of school without getting caught by anyone.

Many SMCHS students will be interested in this class because it is something that students would enjoy learning about, and the lessons would impact their week-to-week schedules.

Many students are easily bored throughout the day and are ineffectively learning. By taking this class, students will attend a class where they will be fully



Photo by The OC Register

Students: The students play a big part in the SMCHS life.

ly engaged in their learning. As for the curriculum, this class will teach students how to skip school and not get caught by parents or any staff at school.

Students get tired of going to school and their classes everyday, so this class will be relieving for them and reduce their current workload.

The teachers for this course will teach students different methods

and techniques to skip school. For example, one lesson will be about pretending to be sick for a long period of time. This effectively allows students to maximize their time to skip a lot of school.

This course will start next year and it will be available for all grade levels to take. To gain the best benefits from this class during high school, the class will be recom-

mended most to lower classmen like freshman and sophomores.

It will be offered as an elective and even count as a fine art! The homework load and required attendance is not as much as a typical art elective, so this class would appeal to students.

This class is recommended to students who do not like coming to school and who do not

like getting a ton of homework.

It is not necessarily recommended by most teachers, but the teachers teaching it are some of the student's favorite teachers around the campus.

Look forward to next year, when the class that teaches students to skip the maximum days of school without getting caught will be offered!

Secret society of "Brawl Stars" players

The "Golden Society" has acted in secret for years, growing in numbers and influence over the school

By Jack Burke, Staff Writer

A recent year-long investigation by the Eagle Eye newspaper uncovered the existence of a secret society of brawl stars players here at SMCHS.

Formerly referred to by many as nothing more than a myth, the group, or the "Gold Society" as its members call it, has clandestinely operated here on campus since before the 2020 pandemic.

Behind its cloak of secrecy, however, lays not simply secret Brawl Stars tournaments among friends, but with it a hypercompetitive ring of players competing for the Gold Society's wide-reaching influence across campus.

"When I was invited, I thought it was just some club for other Brawl Stars players, but I was wrong. The winners at these tournaments earn control of the Society, and from there they control everything," M, a former Society member who requested their name be hidden, said.

The investigation uncovered how the Gold Society had been influencing prices at the lunch windows through personal connections and the influence of the Society itself.

Additionally the investigation also revealed the Gold Society's in-

fluence on ASB elections. The Society's leader, an elusive "Champion", allegedly challenges ASB electorates to a Brawl Stars match and determines the Society's support for the candidate based upon that.

"A few years ago there was an ASB election where the polls were so tight that there had to be another voting. Right before then, Champion holds a secret meeting with a candidate, and the next day they won the election by a landslide," M said.

Little is known about the Society's leader, "Champion." The investigation was unable to yield any information on them, other than that they had been a part of the Society since its founding, which should be impossible.

The Eagle Eye's investigation was, however, able to determine exactly how the Gold Society operates. When not in-person, members communicate with one another exclusively through cryptic emoji messages to keep discussions secret.

Findings also indicate the Society's monthly meetings occurring at night somewhere in the G building (probably by the Skibidi Toilet!).

Documents specifically mention G401 as the official meeting place, raising questions about the possibility of a secret fourth floor in G building.

Each year, "Champion" elect six nonmembers to challenge, requiring that they rank within the top 100 globally on Brawl Stars to be considered.

Following that, the six must play against one another in duels, after which the three winners are invited to join the Gold Society.

While the Eagle Eye was unable to determine an exact amount of Society members, it estimates at least 200 annually, consisting of students from all grade levels.

Only the top Brawl Stars players are considered for admittance or continued membership. Additionally, every semester the Society holds a tournament among its members to determine which members to remove and which members to promote.

The school administration has yet to comment on the uncovering of the Gold Society, but they are expected to launch a thorough investigation into the matter.



Photos by Creative Commons

Secret - Rumors say the Secret Society meets in the G building

The fall of LeBron James: A legacy unraveling?

The Goat is no more

By Sonit Joshi, staff writer

For nearly two decades, LeBron James stood as an indomitable force in the NBA. A four-time champion, four-time MVP, and a perennial All-Star, he was the player that defined a generation. But as the 2024-2025 season unfolded, a shocking decline gripped the once-untouchable superstar, sending ripples across the basketball world. The world was left asking: What happened to the King?

LeBron James had defied time for years, seemingly immune to the aging process that hinders even the greatest of athletes. His unprecedented longevity had drawn comparisons to the likes of Tom Brady in football, a player whose discipline and commitment extended his career far beyond expectations.

Yet, in the span of mere months, LeBron James' dominance evaporated. The warning signs were subtle at first—slightly diminished speed,

more frequent rest days, a touch of hesitation in clutch moments. Then came the real alarm bells: consecutive subpar performances, shooting slumps, and uncharacteristic turnovers that left analysts bewildered.

The 40-year-old, who once made the impossible look routine, suddenly seemed vulnerable. The wear of time for a player who had prided himself on his durability, left LeBron James with injuries, something that had rarely played a major role in his career.

As the season progressed, nagging ailments took their toll. A persistent knee issue, back spasms, and a hamstring strain caused him to miss extended stretches—an unprecedented development for the Iron Man of basketball. Even when he did play, his explosiveness was noticeably absent.

"This is not the same LeBron we've come to know," Jalen Rose, former NBA star and current analyst, said. "His body just isn't responding the way it used to. Father Time is undefeated, and we might finally be seeing the effects."

The Los Angeles Lakers, once built around LeBron James' ability to elevate those around him, also suffered.

Anthony Davis, while dominant at times, struggled to stay healthy, and the supporting cast failed to find cohesion. Once viewed as title contenders, the Lakers quickly became a middling team fighting for playoff survival.

Fans and pundits turned from admiration to skepticism. Critics pointed to LeBron James' involvement in roster decisions, questioning whether his influence had led to an aging, unbalanced squad.

Others took aim at his evolving playing style that became more perimeter-oriented, less aggressive, and at times, disengaged.

Off the court, LeBron's social media presence—a key part of his brand for a long time—became a point of contention. Subtle messages of frustration, cryptic tweets, and a visible lack of enthusiasm fueled speculation about his mindset. Was the King losing his passion for the game?

No one expected LeBron James



Photo by Creative Commons

Washed? - LeBron struggles on court

to play forever. But the manner in which his decline unfolded caught everyone off guard.

Whether this is truly the end of his reign or just a temporary setback remains to be seen, but the narrative has definitely shifted.

Once viewed as ageless, LeBron James is now the subject of uncomfortable questions about retirement, legacy, and what comes next.

For fans, it's a bittersweet reality.

The legend who defied expectations for so long is finally facing the inevitable. And for the NBA, it marks the closing of a chapter—one written by a player whose impact will never be forgotten.

The King may not have fallen completely, but the cracks in the crown are impossible to ignore.

Costco play: A warehouse of fun

SMCHS produces "The Costco Guys" to highlight Costco and rally for one in Rancho Santa Margarita

By Sabrina Hamra, Feature Editor

Costco is the new Disneyland, and in an effort to stay up-to-date with modern trends, SMCHS will be hosting a "Costco Guys" play in May.

The Costco Guys are Costco enthusiasts who post Costco-content on various social media platforms. They have earned 2.7 million followers on TikTok thus far, and their following only continues to grow. Known for awarding "big booms" to people, social media has fallen in love with them.

"These guys really know what they are talking about when it comes to Costco," Kathleen Bake, SMCHS administrator said. "We have been consulting them on how to produce this play."

Bake, the Costco Guys, and senior Kara Smith have been working tirelessly since last November to make this play a reality. It will focus on Costco's individuality.

"Act One is the history of Costco, Act Two is about samples, Act Three is about the \$1.50 hot dog combo, and Act Four is about the Costco Guys," Smith said.

In order to prep the student body for the play, Costco samples will be passed out around campus during the last week of April.

Additionally, Hanna's will change its menu to chicken bakes, hot dog combos, pizza, and other



Theatrical Poster - This ad for the play will be engraved on all SMCHS laptops

Costco specialties to ensure students embrace the Costco mentality before going to see the play.

In the Caritas Christi Center, applications for Costco memberships will be available so students can purchase them conveniently.

"We want students to understand the school is taking this seriously," Bake explained. "Costco is a core part of many communities. Part of the play will be dedicated to a rally that urges Costco to expand to RSM. We all could use a closer Costco in our lives."

Students are invited to join and audition for parts. The Costco

Guys are unable to make the performance, so they will be played by the two students who represent Costco the best. Auditions will take place at the Costco in Laguna Niguel on April 5 at 9 A.M.

"If you don't use Costco gas, don't even bother showing up to auditions," Smith stated.

Smith expressed that students auditioning should be Costco-ready students who are willing to commit to the Costco lifestyle. Teachers are invited to audition as well, but they must have a Costco membership, or their application will be denied immediately with no exceptions.

There will be Costco Guys meet and greet opportunities in the weeks leading up to the play. Stay tuned to your Campus Life Teams for updates on when they will take place.

The play itself will take place in the dome, which is currently being remodeled to look like a mini Costco. Costco employees will be running backstage hair, and makeup for the play. Many set pieces have been taken directly from Costco to secure maximum accuracy.

"This play must be a success," Bake said. "I changed my last name to Bake in hon-

or of Costco chicken bakes, and it better not be for nothing."

Administrators are very intent on assuring this play is a success. The Costco Guys play is the most anticipated play of the school year. There are even talks of turning the G building into a warehouse for the play, but details as to whether this will happen are still up in the air.

"The student store is going to start selling Kirkland Signature merchandise," Smith said. "I've already drawn up designs. We are hoping to make it a part of the dress code that each student must have at least one article of Costco clothing on at all times to hype our play."

Smith's dedication to Costco-inspired administrator Bake is why Bake made Smith part of the play's production team.

In theme with members buying items in bulk from Costco, tickets to the Costco Guys play will only be sold in bulk.

You can buy a "family pack", which gives you six tickets for \$11.50. Or, you can buy an "extended family pack", which provides 24 tickets for \$43.20. There are no other divisions of tickets, so if a person wants to buy tickets, they must do it in a group.

Overall, experts are predicting high ticket sales and hopefully enough revenue to continue rallying for a new Costco.

"This play is a Costco-GO!" Bake exclaimed. "Did you see what I did there?"

Skibidi Toilet comes to life

The viral TikTok sensation appears in the G1 bathrooms

By Victoria Mori, Editor in Chief

In an astonishing, and somewhat disturbing, turn of events, the infamous Skibidi Toilet- already a viral sensation- has reportedly come to life in the G1 bathroom, a popular hideout for students attempting to skip class.

Early this morning, witnesses claim they saw the previously safe bathroom fixture transform into a living, breathing, and a dancing entity, seemingly powered by some strange combination of the song 'Give It to Me' by Timbaland and TikTok lore.

Students who tried to enter the G1 bathroom this morning were greeted with an unexpected surprise. Not only was the toilet alive, but it had taken over the entire bathroom, dancing in sync with the iconic tune, frightening students.

"I heard that it's violent and that it has a particular affinity to all Freshman under 5'1," one student, who wishes not to be named out of fear of the Skibidi Toilet, said.

As word spread, school officials were quick to respond with an official warning.

"As of today, the G1 bathroom is officially off limits for any non essential activities," administrator John Pork said. "We recommend students find other creative and non-disruptive ways to skip class."

Reports from students who dared to venture into the G1 bathroom paint a chilling picture. The toilet not only seems to be alive, but it has an unnerving ability to interact with those nearby.

As if driven by some otherworldly force, the Skibidi Toilet allegedly starts dancing once a person enters, forcing everyone to either join in or risk facing its wrath.

"The toilet made me and my

friend join its dance party and then proceeded to chase us around the bathroom," junior Rob Boss said.

Despite the frightening nature of the incident, some students are reportedly embracing the Skibidi Toilet's appearance as the latest way to skip class. A small group of seniors has even begun planning a "Skibidi Dance Party" in the hopes of somehow befriend- ing the now-infamous toilet.

Other students see it as a sign to start going to class.

"I think this is a sign for me to stop skipping my math tests and to just take them," Boss said.

As of now, the fate of the Skibidi Toilet remains uncertain. Some believe it may just be a one-time glitch in the matrix, while others are theorizing that it's a 'canon event' and that it is here to stay.

One thing is for certain: the G1 bathroom will never be the same again.

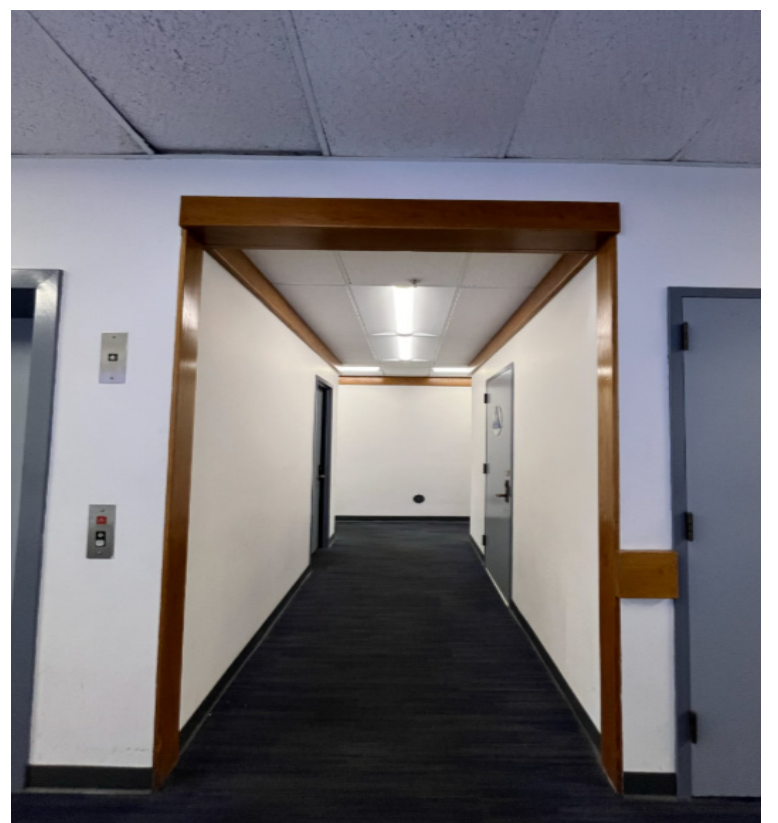


Photo by Victoria Mori

An Ominous Sight - When students pass the G1 bathrooms, a chill is sent down their spines as they can hear the faint sounds of the Skibidi Toilet singing

Manic missing MUN student

MUN student disappears on an international trip

By Sabrina Hamra, Opinion Editor

On Santa Margarita MUN's recent trip to Vienna, Austria and Prague, the Czech Republic, a student was lost. International security has been looking tirelessly for Skib Iddie, the lost student.

"It happened so fast when we were in Prague," John Pork, administrator who chaperoned the trip, said. "One moment Skib was in committee, giving a speech, then she was gone."

Reports from students at the conference claimed that Iddie was looking outside desperately during committee. In the middle of a speech, she suddenly got out of her chair and ran out of the room, never to be seen again.

"I could have sworn I saw her climbing a tree outside," Penelope Pale, a junior from the trip, said. "She's always had a passion for tree climbing, but with her stats, she could never commit in America."

Iddie's parents confirm her liking for tree climbing as she has been competing in competitions since she was three. Iddie was very dedicated to the sport.

"If you ask me, she's just being



Photo by Generative AI

Tree Climber - Skib Iddie climbing a tree in the Amazon

a drama queen! I tried to tell her she could commit to tree climbing if she just climbed a little higher. It's really not that hard to understand," Iddie's father expressed. "But don't worry, she'll come back when she realizes we have her iPad."

Even if Iddie's parents are not too concerned, Santa Margarita's administration sure is. They have tapped into a direct line with the Czech government to communicate updates on finding Iddie. Daily calls are made to discuss updates,

tracking progress, and concerns.

"Let's be honest, we all know the direct line to the Czech Republic is only being used to import Czechian chocolates," Pork conceded frustratingly. "There has been little to no update on Iddie's whereabouts but a surplus of European chocolate in the teachers' lounge. Connect the dots people!"

Regardless, Iddie remains missing. Each chaperone has a different reaction to the shocking disappearance. While Pork panicked, chaperon Jack Rad had a different opinion.

"I told her to follow the buddy system," Rad exclaimed. "At least three people go out together, no less. If you can't follow the buddy system, I can't feel sorry that you're missing."

Administration confirmed Iddie did sign the consent form for the trip, where one of the conditions was that students will obey the buddy system.

Violations of the system in the past has chalked up detentions and in some cases, expulsions. The buddy system at Santa Margarita is no joke, and anyone who takes it as such, pays

the consequences. Just like Iddie!

"One time I went to the bathroom with only one other student and had to sit in a two hour Saturday detention," Pale said. "Buddy this, buddy that, buddy I should be able to go to the bathroom without an entourage! Please don't cut the fact that I used the word buddy three times talking about the buddy system when you write this article. I don't want another detention."

Fellow friends of Iddie are concerned for Iddie's safety. Just because Iddie can use her tree climbing skills to survive without shelter, doesn't mean they aren't scared for what could happen to her.

"Dear Skib: you are going to miss out on all the tea if you're gone!" Anna Pate, a frustrated classmate of Iddie's, exclaimed. "I also got a new score on Block Blast, but now I can't tell you because you're gone. Please come back before you miss more."

Overall, Iddie's mysterious disappearance definitely has something to do with tree climbing and the buddy system.

"Let's just hope she can come back before Anna gets a new high score on Block Blast," a terrified Pale shared. "Or we'll have another missing student on our hands."

Starbucks returns to campus

A new Starbucks kiosk will open at the lunch shelter

By Kylie Foerster, Copy Editor

After complaints from teachers that students often use a "before school trip to Starbucks" as an excuse for being late, Santa Margarita is proud to announce that a new Starbucks kiosk will open in the lunch shelter around mid-May.

Students will be able to order Starbucks through the SMCHS app and pick up their mobile order before class, ensuring they will make it to class on time. Senior Kaitlin Trauscht shares her opinion of the new addition.

"I think it's a great idea because it will help those who drive get better parking spots," Trauscht said. "I'm a little sad seniors will only have this for a few weeks, though."

The Starbucks menu will be slightly more limited than at your average Starbucks, but classic drinks are sure to be there.

As for seasonal menus, those items will be available during the same duration in which they are available at

Starbucks stores off campus.

Santa Margarita will also sell classic bakery items such as bagels and croissants for students who would like to eat breakfast at school.

If a student brings in a bag from the Santa Margarita Starbucks kiosk, teachers are expected to allow them to eat in their first class.

"It feels like I'm getting the privileges of college a little early," senior Holly Carter said "It's going to be fun to have such accessibility at SMCHS."

The Starbucks will open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 8:00 A.M. on all periods and regular days. On late start days, to accommodate those in sports, the kiosk will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M.

Mobile orders will be accepted 30 minutes before opening time, and the last mobile orders will not be accepted after 15 minutes before the first bell.

"Students will be able to get more sleep and therefore be more prepared for class," Traus-

cht argued. "It benefits everyone."

In order for a student to be able to access the mobile order section of the SMCHS app, parents will need to confirm permission through an email that will be sent to all parents a month before the opening of the Starbucks kiosk.

If a parent refuses, the student will not be able to order. If a parent approves, the student can link their Starbucks account to access gift cards and obtain points through the school's Starbucks.

Additionally, students are presented with the unique opportunity of working at the Santa Margarita Starbucks kiosk! If students are interested in applying, there will be an informational meeting on April 1.

This is a special opportunity for students to start making some extra cash and building their resumes and experience for making valuable connections on LinkedIn!

"I might have to get a summer job to make up for how much money I'm about to spend on this," Carter said.



Photo by Creative Commons

Starbucks - Students can find the Starbucks kiosk in the middle of the lunch shelter, next to the ETV studio

Imposter sightings spotted

Imposters from Among Us pop up at Santa Margarita

By Lauren Lewis, staff writer

Over the past few weeks at Santa Margarita, students have reported seeing a strange creature wandering the campus and hallways between class periods.

Reported as being mostly the B building, a small, round, red figure with a visor and backpack has been caught lurking in the hallways numerous times by students going to the bathroom during class.

Some students reported that this same red figure was seen “venting” in the hallways in S-building during period 4 last week. It simply popped open the vent and jumped through it, supposedly crawling through them into another building.

Staff and faculty members have conducted research online and discovered these creatures are from the popular videogame, Among Us.

Among Us is a multiplayer videogame where you and several other players are crewmates on a spaceship. The goal of the game is to perform tasks to complete the assigned mission, but some players are secretly imposters trying to sabotage the ship.

One student, senior Brooke Barber recalled seeing the Among Us character during lunch.

“It was so weird,” Barber said.



Photo by Victoria Mori

Imposter Alert - Imposters spotted by the Caritas Christi Center

“I was just sitting at lunch with my friends, minding my own business, when I saw this little red guy. I thought ‘hey, that looks like the guy from Among Us.’ And then all of a sudden, my friends started totally freaking out.”

The iconic figure took over the internet back in 2020 with many gamers and non-gamers found the 2018 game as an escape from the , then current, pandemic. Now, most people can easi-

ly identify the red space agent. “They were all shouting, ‘that’s from Among Us!’ and laughing,” Barber continued. “It was actually pretty funny. I had no idea what was going on but it was hilarious.”

As news of the imposter on campus spread, many students began a ‘Where’s Waldo’ style hunt to try and capture the imposter in the act of imposter-ing.

“This one guy started taking pictures of it and one of the deans started to write him a de-

attention for having his phone out,” Barber said. “But eventually, everyone started taking their phones out and recording it.”

Administration quickly caught on to the newest security threat on campus and pivoted their hunt for cellphone users, to a hunt for a red suit wearing blob.

“I mean, the deans were obviously trying to figure out what happened,” Barber explained. “So, they started chasing the little guy around and sooner or

later, it saw a vent by the bathrooms and hopped right into it.”

With security on the hunt for the imposter, it appears their stint on campus is over.

“No, I haven’t seen him since the deans caught on,” Barber said. “Maybe we scared it off and it ran away.”

This suspicious activity by these Among Us creatures must always be reported to keep the by all students that encounter them. If you see any suspicious activity, report it to the deans office.

Day in the life of a cave diver

Finn McDive shares his experiences as a sea spelunker

By Nina Hellem, staff writer

Many people may be asking themselves the questions: What does a cave diver do from sunrise to sunset? What undiscovered secrets of the sea are being gatekept from other civilians? Is cave diving a career path to consider? And last but not least, where can I find a journal of the mysterious life of a cave diver?

Well look no further, because all those questions are about to be answered in this month’s arts and entertainment feature: 24 Hours With a Cave Diver.

Finn McDive has sat down for an interview on what adventures he embarks on in his day to day life. McDive is a trained cave diver who discovered his passion for deep sea diving back in 2003, when took a family vacation to Hawaii and swam with the sharks.

Combined with his fascination of dark and sometimes claustrophobia-inducing places, McDive realized that cave diving was the perfect profession for him.

“You know, I mean it kind of has always been a dream of mine to discover the secrets of the ocean, my favorite story growing up was “The

Rainbow Fish” and I think that’s kind of when I first took an interest in the world of the sea,” McDive shared. “It’s definitely always been a dream of mine to find some sort of under-the-sea treasure and I’m still holding out hope.”

After sharing his backstory, McDive went on to share what his typical day looks like, starting from the moment he wakes up every morning at the crack of dawn. He sentimentally shared exactly why he feels the need to wake up so early.

“Every morning I get up around 4:00 A.M.. It usually takes me awhile to get into my wet suit and gear up,” McDive said. “I don’t like having to change at the cliffs, so I just go to this cute little breakfast spot in the morning in my wetsuit. The shop has an amazing vanilla iced latte and lox bagel, which is very on brand for me to be eating. I then sit on the pier to watch the sun rise.” McDive said.

At 6:00 A.M., every morning, McDive goes straight to work. It is a fairly commonly known fact that cave divers do not have a lot of time for dilly dallying, so the two hours McDive has to himself in the morning are pretty much his only moments of peace.

“Well, I mean after that it’s kind of just busy, busy, busy. I make sure all of my gear is attached



Photo by Creative Commons

McDive - Finn McDive in action

correctly, especially my air tank which I need to, well you know, breathe air,” McDive explained. “And then I dive into the ocean.”

As a cave diver, McDive feels that searching for treasure often results in a fruitless dive for the day. He prefers to let the ocean give him what he should value each day.

“A lot of people wonder what I’m looking for when I’m down there, and to be honest, you never really want to have a goal,” McDive shared. “Somedays I don’t find anything at all, but my main

goals are to try and uncover the secrets of the ocean and report anything that could be dangerous to the environment like invasive species. If I find anything I report it to marine biologists who will take a closer look.”

McDive said he is typically traveling to caves and exploring for around eleven hours a day. Being out in the sun for this many hours and breathing stored air can be extremely exhausting with his only real break being a quick one hour of lunch.

“After I get home I sort of just crash, I like to wash off, make a quick meal and go to bed. I usually put on some form of reality TV, one of my favorites is “The Great British Bake Off”, it’s entertaining, but easy to fall asleep too. And that’s basically my day, I sleep for eight hours, get up in the morning, and do it all again!” McDive concluded.

As seen by McDive’s experiences, cave diving is strenuous work! It takes dedication, determination, patience, and a healthy set of lungs to cave dive for a living.