



HOOFBEATS

RANCHO PICO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Clubs: A way to be involved in school

Several unique and diverse options available to Rancho Pico students

RACHEL LEE
SUMMER CANTRELL

HOOFBEATS

What Rancho Pico club do you belong in?

Here are your choices: Debate Club, GSA, Runners' Club, Film Club, Guitar Club, Christian Club, and Lunch Bunch.

Debate Club - If you enjoy a good debate, then this club is for you. Mr. Trowell in room 423 is in charge. The club meets every week on Tuesdays during lunch. You can eat your lunch while

"It's a chance for young people to express their feelings."

- Mr. Trowell

choosing a topic to debate about. Once the topic is chosen, Mr. Trowell divides the room into three sections: students who agree, disagree, and those who are in the middle. Then, the students defend their side by making comments.

"It's a chance for young people to express their feelings. We have a good time having controlled arguments," said Mr. Trowell.

GSA - If you are looking for a safe environment to be yourself and share issues, then you should go to GSA - the Gay-Straight Alliance. GSA meets every Thursday during lunch in room 423 with Mr. Trowell.

"We make people feel like they're in a safe environment and it's completely confidential," said GSA President, Amanda Galemmo.

GSA is always open to anyone. If you're feeling sad or even being bullied, GSA is available to you.

Runners' Club - Do you enjoy running? If so, then you

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PHOTO BY
RACHEL LEE

Musicians gather every Friday in Mr. Forbes' room for Guitar Club - one of many options available to students on our campus.

Mrs. Mumford honored as Teacher of the Year

MORGAN SMITH
JULIA WATLER

HOOFBEATS

On Sept. 7, Mrs. Mumford, the Trailblazers English teacher, was awarded Rancho Pico Teacher of the Year.

To earn this award, a teacher should be a leader, a supporter of the school's philosophy, and someone who always teaches to the best of their ability. Many also think that to qualify for this award, a teacher should have excellent in-class skills, be sincere and thoughtful, have experience in what they do, and should have the personality to make learning more fun and memorable. Mrs. Mumford obviously has these qualities. She was honored this award at a Hart District school board meeting and was given a certificate.

"I feel honored and humble to accept this award, although it seems a bit unfair that only one



STAFF PHOTO

Principal Mrs. Krantz was among those who attended the Teacher of the Year ceremony honoring Mrs. Mumford Sept. 7.

teacher can win this award," said Mrs. Mumford. "All the teachers on this campus are fabulous."

Mrs. Mumford has been teaching at Rancho Pico since it opened, and there is no doubt that she has earned the respect of her students and colleagues, and is held in the highest esteem.



New 7th grade counselor arrives

SCOTT HOPPES
BRADLEY NICHOLS

HOOFBEATS

Many Rancho Pico students may have seen our new counselor, Mrs. Ford, when they first began the 2011-12 school year.

Mrs. Ford began her counseling journey at LaVerne College in Pomona. She wanted to work in public relations but halfway through college, she decided to change her studies to counseling. She has worked at Quartz High School in the Antelope Valley and more recently, at Golden Valley High School. This is her first job at a junior high school.

"I love students, and I like to help them as a counselor," said Mrs. Ford.

She is the team counselor for Explorers and Discovery.

"I love having her here. She is a great addition to the counseling office, very friendly and approachable. She works extremely well with the students here at Rancho Pico," said counseling secretary Mrs. Johnston.

Mrs. Ford loves being a counselor and getting to have an opportunity to help students.

"I look forward to getting to know the students and the teachers better."

We are lucky to have Mrs. Ford as a new addition here at Rancho Pico. Make sure to make her feel welcome throughout the school year.



PHOTO BY
JADYN DESSALINES

Mrs. Ford joins the Rancho Pico staff from Golden Valley High School.

WHERE'S MARTY?

BY JAGMEET ARORA



RULES...

- 1) Search for Rancho Pico's favorite mustang! Find Marty in this issue of Hoofbeats...
- 2) Submit a piece of paper with your name on it and what picture Marty is in. Drop your page in the box marked WHERE'S MARTY in Room 210...
- 3) Don't forget to write your first and last name on the page you are submitting...
- 4) Your name will be put in a drawing and the winner will receive an iTunes gift card!



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Library commemorates Sept. 11

JONG HAK WON
JACQUELINE HOFMANN

HOOFBEATS

9/11 creates an opportunity to honor those brave souls who put their lives first.

On Sept. 6, the library hosted an event to commemorate those people who work to make us safer. Students were able to bring in pictures of their relatives who either formerly served or are serving in the civil services. There are many photos in the library that show relatives of Rancho Pico students and teachers that are currently displayed in the library case. The purpose of this memorial was to honor those who put their lives at risk to protect civilians.

"We wanted to pay tribute to all brave heroes who strive to protect us," said Library Assistant Mrs. Foote. "This was a nice way to honor all of them."

Ten years ago, members of the Al-Qaeda terrorist network hijacked four airlines and crashed

Students brought in pictures of family and friends who were firefighters, police officers, and EMT's to put on display so everyone could remember the heroes of 9/11.



them into the World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York. Many firefighters and policemen lost their lives as they attempted to rescue those inside the towers. The memorial also wished to teach students about the exact details of

9/11 and the horrific incidents that happened that day.

"It's part of history, and it would help for students to know the importance of 9/11," said Mrs. Foote. "We must never forget the sacrifice made on that day."

Rancho Pico API remains over 900

JULIA WATLER

HOOFBEATS

Rancho Pico is an amazing school, as we all know.

This year, our school's Academic Performance Index, also known as the API, rated our school 901 out of a possible 1000. Though this score went down one point, it is still in the 900s which is very good

for a middle school. Nonetheless, Rancho Pico still remains one of the best junior high schools in the Santa Clarita Valley. We were voted as a California Distinguished School in 2009, which says that our school is top notch.

"I still feel really good.

Once you hit 900, it's hard to maintain that, so I'm really proud of how hard our teachers and students work. I think it's still a sign of the great job that everyone's doing," said Principal Mrs. Krantz.

However, let's try hard this year, Mustangs, and try to beat 901.

SEE THIS ISSUE IN LIVING COLOR!
GO TO THE RANCHO PICO WEBSITE AND CLICK ON...



Clubs give students opportunities



The Christians in Action gather with Mrs. Flohr each Monday and Friday. They have performed many successful goodwill projects on campus.

PHOTO BY RACHEL LEE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

should join Runners' Club. Here, you can run a variety of courses. Runners' Club members meet every Thursday after school in the gym, then they get dressed in the locker room. This club is run by Ms. Stone and Mr. Yassaman.

Film Club - Do you want to show off your video-making skills? Then, Film Club is for you. Members meet every Wednesday during lunchtime. These club members get to share their videos with the students in the club. They also learn how to make videos.

Guitar Club - If you enjoy rocking out on your guitar,

then you should consider joining this club. Guitar Club meets every Friday during lunch in room 202 with Mr. Forbes. Members sit and talk, play their guitar, and show off a new song they learned. You don't have to know how to play the guitar to join. Some enjoy singing along while someone plays their guitar.

"It's a time for people to share their talent. Everyone is welcome," said Mr. Forbes.

Christian Club - If you are looking for a way to express yourself religiously at school, then you should join Christian Club, which is now officially called CIA

(Christians In Action). Students meet Mondays and Fridays at lunch to organize events, play games, listen to music, and hear sermons. Mrs. Flohr (room 615) is in charge.

Lunch Bunch - Are you looking for something to do during your lunch? Lunch Bunch is a group of kids who play games during their lunch. They meet on Wednesdays in Mr. Preston's room 402.

"This year, I'm going to add more current events," said lunch bunch leader Rebekah Grimes.

If you are interested in any of these awesome clubs, then consider joining one.

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Back to School Bash a huge hit

RILEY VILLIERS-FURZE
JULIA WATLER

HOOFBEATS

With dancing, delicious food, and inflatables, the fun never ended on Sept. 9 at the Back to School Bash.

The price for the dance was \$15, \$10 with an ASB card. This was a small price to pay considering how much everyone enjoyed it.

"I had so much fun. It was like one big Mustang Stampede. The dance was an awesome experience," said seventh grader, Abby Ashlock.

One thing that made the dance a hit was the four giant inflatables and a mechanical, interactive surfing game. There was an obstacle course inflatable that you could race through with your friends. Another inflatable was a giant dome in which you could play a friendly round of dodge ball. The other inflatables included an enormous slide and bungee cord basketball in which two people could participate in at one time. The longest line at the height of the night



PHOTO BY JOSEPH HACE

Principal Mrs. Krantz gets into the Back to School spirit...

was the mechanical, interactive surfing game. On this ride, students would try to stay on the surf board the longest before they wiped out.

"I loved the surfing game. I

was able to surf without getting wet. It was definitely my favorite," said seventh grader, Raelyn Uberstine.

The only reason why the Back to School Bash was such a hit was because of the behind-the-scenes work of ASB. They spent countless hours planning the logistics for over 530 students to purchase the dance tickets. They planned such activities as the watermelon eating contest and the dance-off. The night was a tribute to their hard work.

"The dance went really well. It ran smoothly and went according to plan," said ASB Director, Ms. Sturgeon.

With all the fun going on, everyone worked up a large appetite. Students were able to enjoy food from Lamppost Pizza and ice cream from Dippin' Dots. Everyone enjoyed the pizza and was glad to cool off with some frosty ice cream.

Overall, the Back to School Bash was a big hit – especially with the incoming seventh graders – and all of the the Mustangs cannot wait for the next fantastic Rancho Pico event.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH HACE

...While others chowed down on watermelon.



Students get fired up for drive

CANDACE RO
KRISTEN MANCINI

HOOFBEATS

Do you like earning money?

On Sept. 2, Dr. Curly Green came and told us how to raise money for our school. The more you sell, the more you earn. Magazines can be sold to friends, family, and any other people you know. It can also be sold online and bought as digital subscriptions. Every student received a pamphlet with a listing of over 600 magazines. Turn-in days were every Thursday through Sept. 22. He also informed us on what great prizes we can win when we sell more magazines. Prizes include cash, a cash cow of a various sizes, gift cards, and an iPod Touch. Both seventh and eighth graders were excited to start selling.

"I'm going to sell a lot of magazines," said seventh grader, Jaeun Park.

"I'm so excited about the magazine drive because I really want to win all the prizes like the iPod Touch and the cash cow!" said eighth grader, Fangrui Tong.

This money will be used for school dances, field trips, and fun activities. On the first turn-in day, many prizes were given out to our enthusiastic students. Prizes varied from SpongeBob Sour Gummies to \$100. Students dropped off their order forms in an orderly fashion at the MPR.

On the second turn-in day, seventh grader, Stephanie Delong, won many prizes.

"I won some gummies, a cash cow, cash, and some Jamba Juice gift cards," she said. "I'm so excited to sell even more magazines!"

As of the first week, Discovery was in first place. The leading advisory was Mrs. Martin – also from Discovery. The winning advisory gets a pizza party along with cookies. Also, the winning team gets Dippin' Dots. Keep on selling Mustangs!



Curly Green returned to Rancho Pico to talk about the annual magazine drive.

Why don't we get hurricanes here?

MINJAE KANG

HOOFBEATS

Hurricane Irene, the biggest storm of this year, struck late August from the Atlantic Ocean to the states along the eastern coast.

The death toll went over 40, and we are devastated as a nation. This typhoon lasted about a week, and struck many eastern states.

Luckily, we don't have hurricanes here, because these natural disasters tend to only affect the eastern coasts of nations. This is because of earth's natural rotation.

"Expect more hurricanes to come this fall. It is called hurricane season because the air cools down, but the tropical water is still warm. These elements are the perfect ingredients for a hurricane," said science teacher, Mr. Ritchie.

Mr. Ritchie is right.

The warm water vapor rises to the cold air, which sends it

back down, and it forms a cycle. If this rotation reaches a high enough speed, that's a hurricane.

So why don't we get hurricanes here?

Simple. The water in the Pacific Ocean around southern California is too cold to sustain such a storm. Of course, we have earthquakes to deal with.

Many people think a hurricane and a tornado are different names for the same weather phenomenon, but they are not. A hurricane happens over water, but a tornado happens over land.

Hurricanes are so overwhelming because not only do they rip apart homes and the land, they push in waves that cause massive flooding. Plus, tornadoes actually take place within hurricanes. So feel lucky in a sense that we don't have to deal with these deadly storms.



VIEWPOINT: Do we really need to eat meat?

Imagine being brought into this world, living only a short, miserable life, cramped in a filthy cage, having parts of your body chopped off without any anesthetic, and then, eventually, dying a slow, painful death. As if this torture wasn't enough, people would then buy your carcass and devour it, all for their own enjoyment.

What kind of beings would perform such actions against another living being?

The answer is humans.



This is the sad reality of the meat industry.

The gruesome process described above is only one of the paths that an animal's life can take. Chickens, for instance, are separated from their parents before they're even born. They live their short, six-to-seven week lives with tens of thousands of other birds, crammed into filthy sheds, extremely liable to disease. They're drugged to grow large so quickly that complications such as heart disease, organ failure, and even collapsing under their own weight can occur; and these are only female chickens. Male chickens, on the other hand, can't lay eggs and aren't bred to produce excessive flesh for the meat industry.

So what happens to them?

They're killed right at birth, ground up alive or tossed into bags to suffocate. Some animals suffer an even more unfortunate end.

More than 27 billion animals are slaughtered for food every year — in the United States

alone. Farm animals such as pigs, cows, and chickens, are every bit as intelligent — perhaps even more so — as dogs, cats, and other domesticated animals. Yet if the cruel torture that farm animals have to endure was inflicted upon domesticated animals, it would be illegal.

What are the benefits of eating meat, really?

A living creature has been tortured and killed. Meat-eaters are at a higher risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, strokes, and several types of cancer. The earth is being harmed, as more than half the water used in the U.S. goes to animal agriculture, animal farms produce 130 percent more excrement than humans and the runoff is polluting our water, and the factories themselves are polluting our air and water. Humans themselves are being abused; Human Rights Watch has deemed slaughterhouse working "the most dangerous job in America", with inadequate working conditions and safety equipment, and the factories are spreading contamination and illness to those who live around them. Meat production increases world hunger; for every pound of food that farm animals eat, only a fraction of the calories are returned in the form of edible flesh.

All of this for what? A steak, some fried chicken, or a few strips of bacon.

There's also the cruelty of the fishing industry. Fish, though intelligent, unique, and capable of feeling pain just like other animals, are not legally protected from the cruel treatment they have to endure. They're taken away from their homes, the nets sometimes taking a bit of their home with them, and are impaled, crushed, suffocated, or sliced open and gutted, all while they're fully conscious. Conditions on fish farms can be so horrendous that 40 percent of the animals may die before they're murdered and packaged. The ecological effect is devastating, as sometimes,

animals such as sharks, sea turtles, birds, seals, and whales can become accidentally trapped in the nets, and their habitats can also be destroyed.

The benefits of going vegetarian, or even vegan, are plenty. Animals are spared from cruel torture. Vegetarians and vegans have lower cholesterol than meat-eaters. The American Dietetic Association (ADA) states that vegetarians and vegans enjoy a lower risk of death from ischemic heart disease, lower blood cholesterol levels, lower blood pressure, lower rates of hypertension and Type 2 diabetes, and lower body mass indexes, as well as lower overall cancer rates. Well-planned vegan diets provide us with all the nutrients that we need, minus all the saturated fat, cholesterol, and contaminants found in animal flesh, eggs, and dairy foods. Scientists have also found that vegetarians have stronger immune systems than their meat-eating counterparts; this means that they are less susceptible to everyday illnesses such as the flu. Vegetarians and vegans live, on average, six to 10 years longer than meat-eaters. World hunger could be improved. Pollution could be improved. Lives could be saved.

Meat is cruelty — meat is gluttony. Consider all this the next time you order a hamburger, or chicken nuggets, or anything made from an animal.

Now, on that note, I'm off to lunch.

**DO YOU HAVE A
DIFFERENT POINT
OF VIEW?**

**Drop us an e-mail at
rphoofbeats@hart.k12.ca.us
and your response could be
published in an upcoming
issue. Limit your e-mail to
150 words please.**



Discovery swings through the 'jungle'

RILEY VILLIERS-FURZE

HOOFBEATS

VALENCIA – Team Discovery started off the school year with a barrel of fun as they all came together on Sept. 14 and enjoyed a night at Scooter's Jungle.



Students paid \$10 to be admitted to this wonderful night. There was pizza and an assortment of delicious candies and cookies available for purchase.

"It was really, cool, awesome and a lot of fun. Scooter's Jungle is now my favorite place to be," said Dylan Kish.

Even though fun and excitement spread all through Scooter's Jungle, there was actually a different motive to why the teachers of team Discovery planned this night. All of the teachers planned this night to be a



PHOTO BY RILEY VILLIERS-FURZE

Team Discovery students had an absolute blast at Scooter's Jungle on Sept. 14.

bonding experience. They were able to get to know their students better, but the teachers weren't the only ones who benefited.

"I loved the experience, and I was able to get to know all of my teachers to a level I didn't

think was possible," said Blake Yanez.

Overall, Discovery raised over \$500.

"It was a rousing success. Everybody enjoyed themselves," said history teacher, Mrs. Martin.

Xtreme students meet at the mall

PHOTO BY AMANDA POLITO



Students pour in the yogurt during Xtreme's fundraiser at Menchie's on Sept. 12.

CANDACE RO

HOOFBEATS

VALENCIA – What's your mix?

On Sept. 12, Xtreme held a fundraiser while eating cool frozen yogurt at Menchie's frozen yogurt. Throughout the night, members of Xtreme came and stopped by to say hi to teachers or just chill.



Mrs. Gallagher, Mrs. Ake, Mrs. Bernier, Mr. Forbes and counselor Ms. Ward, also brought their families to enjoy the evening. Many other students from

Rancho Pico came to support Team Xtreme.

"The awesome teachers and the great Menchie's make the night even better," said Xtreme student, Preston Chloupek.

Mr. Forbes also enjoyed the night.

"Tonight is very nice and relaxing," he said. "I must say, if you eat Menchie's once a month, you will get wiser. That's why I'm here tonight, and additionally I would like to fundraise for our team."

Everyone had a great time at the mall eating their delicious yogurt while supporting Team Xtreme.



Fantasy football popular among students

SPENCER CHRISTOFFERSON
BREVIN WHITE

HOOFBEATS

Football has taken Rancho Pico by storm.

But it's not the exact type of football we all know.

Many students on campus have started to play the interactive NFL game called Fantasy Football. It is an online game in which you choose NFL players for your team. Depending how well your players do each week, you get a certain amount of points. For example if

your running back is Adrian Peterson and he rushes for 100 yards, you obtain points. But at the same time, you're competing against friends, family, or other people who have players that are getting points also.

Students are enjoying coming together to play fantasy football.

"I like fantasy football because it's fun and I enjoy

competing against my friends," said eighth grader, Austin Pina.

"It's a fun, interactive game, that I can play with my family," said seventh grader Holden Bleecker.

Not only are kids playing this, but adults are also taking part in this competitive online game. It is never too late to join, go get your friends, make a league and play some Fantasy Football!

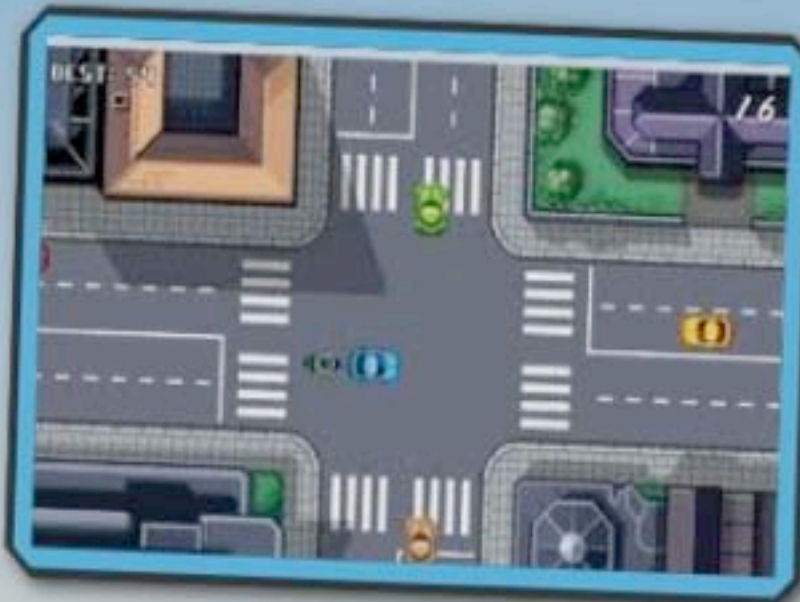


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RANCHO PICO'S 3RD ANNUAL P.E. FUNDRAISER!
OCT. 31-NOV. 1

HOT APP REVIEW

DESCRIPTION

RUSH HOUR is approaching, and the traffic intensity is rising in the city. Get the flow going by strategically stopping and accelerating rushing vehicles that are crossing the intersection. The rules are really easy, but keeping the roads CRASH-FREE isn't.



REVIEW

Traffic Rush is a highly, or "highway" addicting game that will have you playing for hours. The longer you play, the more cars appear and the faster they go. There is a newly added feature to this app, called Rail Rush. In this game you direct trains instead of cars. Both are equally fun, and now you will be playing double the time.

RATING



BY ZERA BOSCH &
ALEXIS LEE



QUOTES A LA CARTE

If you could make a club of your own, what would it be?



BY JAROD FEDELE



MOVIE REVIEW

CONTAGION

BY ALEXIS LEE



Contagion will definitely have you on the edge of your seat.

Right after Beth (Gwyneth Paltrow) returns home from a business trip in Hong Kong, she gets sick. A few days later, she has seizures and dies. Soon thereafter, Beth and her husband's (Matt Damon) six-year-old son gets the same illness, and dies within hours of her passing. Now her husband and his daughter are the only ones in their family that don't have the sickness. A few days later, people all over the world started dying, due to the same disease – hence the name, *Contagion*.

This movie shows what lab researchers, politicians, and investigators would have to go through if something like this were to ever happen. Learn how vaccines are created and distributed. It also shows to what lengths people will go in order to survive – and how politicians will get first dibs on the medicine. After watching this movie, you will also realize how easy it is for a disease to spread and that there's nothing you can do to stop it.

At the end, there is a flashback that shows how Beth got infected with the disease, but it leaves you guessing about many things, including if the vaccine works.

This plot is very realistic, and is pretty much based on the swine flu. The actors – Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law and Kate Winslet – did a fantastic job. Their characters were very believable. *Contagion* is definitely worth the money, especially if you like putting clues together, but don't pay extra for IMAX. There is no action, so there is really no point. Even though I would recommend this movie, it may not be your cup of tea. It is very serious and realistic, and not everyone enjoys that. But for those of you who do, you should definitely go see it!



HOOFBEATS BOOK REVIEW

Stranded in the middle of the desert, a pilot meets a boy who claims to be a prince. "Please," asks the boy, "draw me a sheep."

The Little Prince tells a fantastic tale of his travels to different planets across the universe and finally, to Earth. As the pilot helps the prince get back to his home planet, he realizes he truly cares for the little prince.

The Little Prince is a heartfelt book that can be cherished time after time. This simple yet symbolic book will have an impact on anyone who reads it. Each sentence brings a magical and hopeful feeling into the reader's heart. Readers would get hooked on the book and race to read it cover to cover. Although *The Little Prince* was an amazing book, we would enjoy the book more if the author created more chapters and was more descriptive.

Overall, *The Little Prince* is an outstanding fable about how life is unpredictable and hard to understand, and sometimes you just have to give in to life's mysteries.



BY SARAH CASTILLO
AND ERICA LEE

Joke of The Issue



WHAT DID TOM GET WHEN HE
LOCKED JERRY IN THE FREEZER???

MICE CUBES!!!!!!

BY MARTICA OREGLIA AND ALEXIS LEE



T.V. REVIEW

The Secret Circle



After Cassie Blake's mother's death in what appeared to be a tragic accident, she is forced to move in with her loving grandmother in the small town Chance Harbor, Wash.

There, in the town her mother had left so long ago, the residents seem to know more about Cassie, than Cassie herself. There is sweet-natured Diana and her handsome boyfriend Adam, brooding loner Nick, mean girl Faye and her sidekick Melissa, who explain to Cassie that they are all descended from powerful witches, and that they have been waiting for Cassie to join them and complete a new generation of the Secret Circle. Yet Cassie refuses to believe them until she discovers a message from her mother in an old leather bound book of spells hidden in her mother's former bedroom. What Cassie and the others don't realize yet is that darker powers are at play, powers that may be linked to the adults in town and that Cassie's mother's death was far from accidental.

The Secret Circle is a fantastic new series based on the books by L.J. Smith, that keeps you at the edge of your seat. It is exciting, the casting is great, and I can't wait till next week so I can see what happens next. My only complaints with the series is that it is completely different from the books. For example, the show takes place in Salem, while the TV show takes place in Washington. Another difference is that they took out some of the characters. Overall, however, it is a great new show that I really enjoyed and will definitely keep watching in the future.

BY JULIET BERNAL





POLL

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF CUPCAKE?



BY MARTICA OREGLIA AND SARAH CASTILLO

Life on the Ranch

Our recent dance in a nutshell....GREAT JOB ASB!



By Jaclyn Napoli

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE...

- Science takes center stage...
- More team activities...
- App and movie reviews...

PLUS MUCH MORE!

COMING YOUR WAY AROUND
OCT. 14

