

Student Reporter

The Current Craze at CGV; The Roundup



Erin Jang
Grade 11
Troy High School



Families and friends, gathered in groups, continuously arrive at the front counter to order their movie tickets, popcorn, hot dogs, candy, and drinks.
[Source: Author, Erin Jang]

Back in 2017, movie theaters were packed and fans waited with excitement to watch the movie 'The Outlaws', featuring Ma Dong-Seok's famous action scenes of throwing fists and slaps. Ma acts as a detective who holds extremely unique fighting capabilities, bringing criminals in the city to justice. Fans fell in love with Ma as well as Yoon Kye-Sang, who played antagonist Jang Chen in the film.

Five years later, the announcement of a sequel, 'The Roundup', kept fans at the edge of their seats.

'The Roundup' was released on May 20, 2022, and this time an even bigger crowd eagerly awaited to watch the action-packed movie. The film continues to feature Ma Dong-Seok and the rest of his police crew. However, a new antagonist is presented. By the name of Kang Hae-Sang, played by rising star Son Sukku, the man tries to obtain large amounts of money by kidnapping rich businessmen in Vietnam.

With higher quality fight scenes and increased manpower, 'The Roundup' presents a more interest-

ing storyline than the original. The first half of the movie mostly progresses in Vietnam, where murder scenes unravel and Ma unexpectedly begins to solve a bigger case.

Right before the release of 'The Roundup', Son exponentially rose in popularity through the Netflix-featured Korean drama, 'Our Liberation Notes', with co-star Kim Ji-Won. He presents himself as a very quiet and conserved man, who expresses his love and masculinity in small and unseen ways. Once Son captured the hearts of millions, global fans desired to watch 'The Roundup' to see him act as a completely opposite character.

On Saturday, June 11, with not even a month passing since its release, the movie topped 10 million admissions in South Korea. Shattering office records in the home country, the numbers in local Orange County did not disappoint. The CGV Cinemas in Buena Park at The Source is one sight that proves the popularity of the movie. As many Korean families reside in this area,

the nights were always packed with fans eager to watch the fight between Ma Dong-Seok and Son Sukku.

From the entrance of CGV, to the popcorn counter to the doors of the theater playing 'The Roundup', people of all ages were seen scattered, bustling as they wait for their time to come. Kids circling around their parents' legs, teenagers taking selfies in their personal groups, and adults laughing and conversing in loud voices, all holding excitement to watch the strong action scenes, were seen throughout.

During the movie, the room was constantly filled with laughs and gasps amidst the munching and slurping of popcorn and drinks. More humor was implemented into the film, dispersing much laughter across audience members, though the scenes of blood and murder remained frightening. Overall, if you have not seen this movie yet, and it is playing near you, I would recommend checking it out, and have a great time watching a great sequel.

Student Reporter

Guide to the Perfect Picnic



Audrey Park
Grade 8
Sierra Vista Middle School

With the summer approaching, communities have unpacked the festivities of events and bucket list activities at parks. A regular at any of these outings would consider picnics as a common sight and describe them as a planned event where guests sample food on a blanket. The packed foods are more than just homemade pastries, store-bought snacks, and light meals. For as long as recreational spaces have existed, these picnics have provided individuals hoping for a momentary summer getaway with hours of pleasant relaxation and unforgettable experiences. In particular, the scenic views provided in these gatherings have benefited those attempting to de-stress. To reap the most benefits from gatherings like these, I determined the most essential factors in the "perfect picnic": food and weather.

In the context of picnicking,



Inspiration from the ideal Korean and Argentinian picnic is seen in this arrangement.
[Source: Author, Audrey Park]

traditions need to be considered to identify the best foods to pack. Because the ideal hours for a picnic are when one is likely to eat breakfast or an afternoon snack, I'd recommend putting a light French breakfast or some dairy items from a farmers market into the cooler. From the romanticized French picnic and its charcuterie board, to the diverse variations of the Korean rice cake, I also suggest that you take inspiration from various

cultural delicacies along with the previous recommendations.

All this preparation would be non-existent without a suitable setting to lay down a picnic blanket. Because many have acknowledged the best location for picnics to be parks or recreational areas, the rest of the factors to ameliorate a picnic space would be the weather. To specify, the illusion of a "perfect picnic" is usually caused by the aes-

thetics surrounding it. To fabricate the ambiance needed, the average picnicker should regularly check the weather for updates regarding the coolest days of the week, the chance of precipitation, and which hours might carry a gentle breeze. To narrow the best time for a picnic, I'd recommend monitoring times in the late morning or early afternoon, making sure to avoid hours in the mid to late afternoon.

While the efficiency of picnic utensils is also a vital reference to the "perfect picnic," the previously mentioned components are the most relevant for creating a great time over the summer. For as long as recreational spaces will exist, picnics will provide individuals hoping for a momentary summer getaway with just that. There are a lot of festivities to unpack over these next few months, but I'm hoping it'll start with a picnic!

Student Reporter

The Annual Loss of Motivation Found in Students



Ashley Seong
Grade 8
Canyon Hills Junior High

As the spring season comes to an end, the anticipation of summer lingers on the minds of many students. The blissful time of the year when the weather becomes warmer and the school year comes to an end is contradicted, as students face the conflict of losing motivation. The finalization of grades drives students to become reluctant about their responsibilities, which results in procrastination. The main three sources that force this lazy mentality come from the lack of purpose in completing the assignments, wanting more social interactions, and heavy feelings of being drained.

When the end of the year arrives, the routine of schoolwork becomes very familiar and the material being absorbed becomes easier with time. The students also have gained the knowledge of what the grading expectations look like for each teacher. At the beginning of the year and semester it is important to complete

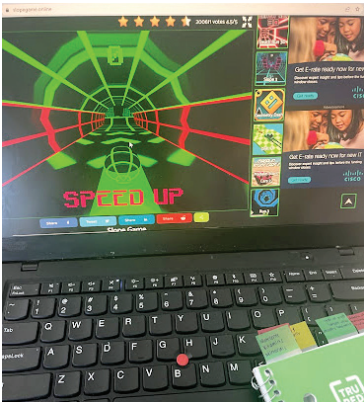
your school work accurately and on time, as it will be your starting point to reach the grade you want. This is pushed aside by the end of the year, when students can work around the assignments given by cheating or not completing them at all, without a severe impact on their grades. If the assignment does not carry much importance or can be deemed to fail them, many students find themselves not completing them.

Social interactions at school are found in classmates, friends, and teachers, which some may consider being distractions. When you become familiar with your social surroundings, it is easy for students to prioritize friends. Using social media platforms to communicate can easily take up time alongside physical hangouts. Even in classrooms, students are found to be talking with their friends, distracting them from the main purpose of learning. Having the right medium for enjoying

your social life at school and actually absorbing the media needed can be difficult to manage, especially at the end of the year when you know so many people. Only wanting the enjoyment of your friends leads to the conflict of disregarding your responsibilities and motivation to do the needed but boring assignments.

Over the course of the school year, students become drained with the bombarding of school work, extracurriculars, and even sports. Students seem to lose their passion for school and are overcome with tiredness or even physical exhaustion. The summer break that will be empty of these stressors can seem so close yet so far away, driving students to feel emotionally sick.

These factors enable students to end their school year on a happier note. Yet, there are efforts that can help these unmotivated students to do better. For example, teachers and counselors at Canyon Hills check up



Online games, such as slope, are played during class times as a new way of learning.
[Source: Author, Ashley Seong]

on emotionally burdened students to ensure their health and safety. There are also systems using points that require students to keep their grades above 2.0 in order to be able to participate in end-of-the-year activities. With good school communities, the annual loss of motivation students endure can be overcome and they can shape a more positive mentality about school.

Student Reporter

Our Blues and Down Syndrome



Thomas Lee
Grade 10
Cleveland High School



The actress of Our Blues, Jung Eun Hye, who is also a caricature painter, is known to have Down syndrome in real life. [Source: Author, Thomas Lee]

One of the characters in a famous television show once said, “Charm is all well and good, but in the real world, knowledge is power.”. Not really. We live in a society where one’s physical appearance reflects on their thoughts and actions and how others treat them. People that fit the beauty standards are often praised. People who don’t are laughed at and looked down upon. Even worse, people with disabilities such as Down syndrome are sadly mistreated and judged just by their

looks, which creates a detrimental psychological scar on them.

Down syndrome is a genetic disorder caused by trisomy 21 — where a person has an extra copy of chromosome 21. Along with issues in mental abilities and heart problems, the greatest distinctive feature people with Down syndrome have is their facial features. Most importantly, this syndrome cannot be undone with elective procedures like plastic surgery. In other

words, it is not curable. Young-hee is a character in Our Blues who was abandoned by her only family member, Young-ok, because of her Down syndrome. Young-ok, her twin sister, had to take care of Young-hee and deal with the harsh outside world ever since they were both young. Wanting to live a normal life, she tried to leave Young-hee in a subway and put her into a facility away from cold stares and ruder remarks.

Scenes in Our Blues show how Young-hee was discriminated against by people whenever she went outside. An uneducated child mocked Young-hee’s actions while she was eating with Young-ok and her boyfriend. When Young-ok and her sister tell the child to stop because it is not nice, the parents defend him saying it was not a big deal. When the family continues to insensitively mock Young-hee and call her ‘handicapped,’ they get

into a fight, which eventually ruins their day out..

These types of actions keep people with Down syndrome locked inside a facility or their homes, which prevents exposure to the public. I believe think we need to encourage more exposure to Down syndrome to the outside world so that we can deal with it as a normal thing. Even if the public education system may briefly cover Down syndrome or anything related to the topic, students are not taught how to treat people who suffer from this. I want to tell children, parents, and elders that this is nothing to be scared or disgusted of. People with Down syndrome also want to be respected and have dignity just like any other human, to be valued and be part of a community. If you happen to speak to a person with Down syndrome, make sure to be clear with your words and give time for them to respond.

Student Reporter

What You Should Know About Juneteenth

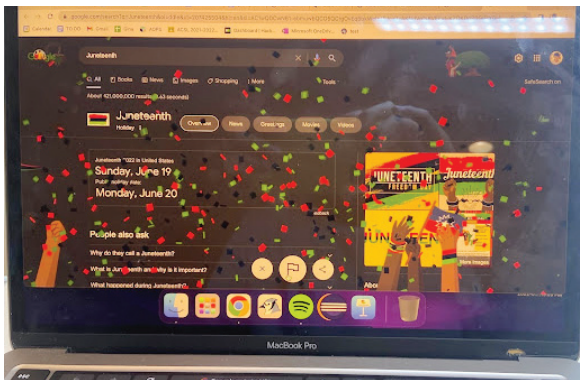


Tyler Park
Grade 9
Harvard-Westlake School

Thousands of people across the entirety of the United States came in unison this year to celebrate the United States’ new federal holiday: Juneteenth. Making this the first federal holiday signed in legislation since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983, President Joe Biden signed legislation into law last year. Because of the measures we have taken to stop the spread of COVID, groups throughout the United States were able to celebrate, in person, the holiday and appreciate it for what it means as a community. On June 19th, festivals, art, live music, salon discussions, food, and dancing were held in honor and commemoration of a very important cause.

Before discussing the festivities of this holiday, what does Juneteenth signify?

Although the holiday sounds like a celebration of the teenage days of June, Juneteenth has a much more profound meaning:



Juneteenth was celebrated around the nation this July. [Source: Author, Tyler Park]

this holiday commemorates the day in 1865 when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas. June 19th of 1865 is known to many as Emancipation Day, and people across the country tend to celebrate with food and festivities, much like the Fourth of July.

Juneteenth had often been overlooked by non-Black Americans and omitted from history books. However, momentum to recognize the occasion was generated by the Black Lives Matter movement

that sparked after the George Floyd incident in Minnesota.

Despite certifying Juneteenth as a federal holiday, it is undisputed that Black Americans continue to face systematic challenges such as the racial wealth gap, disproportionate incarceration, and persistent health disparities. Therefore, activists and politicians agree the holiday should not be seen as a substitute for substantive action, but as a step in the right direction.

During the ceremony of Ju-

neteenth last year, the President stood by this opinion and said it was not enough to commemorate the holiday, but to use it as a day of reflection and action. “We can’t rest until the promise of equality is fulfilled for every one of us in every corner of this nation. That to me is the meaning of Juneteenth,” Biden stated powerfully.

As Juneteenth becomes recognized as a national holiday, many large corporations, such as Amazon, Apple, and AT&T, have taken measures to address and honor the holiday. Whether it be through festivals that have been sponsored by these companies or days off, employees have been given time to fully appreciate the holiday for what it is.

However, the question in place is not if the holiday is recognized through the law but rather by individuals. Will they be willing to accept this holiday and treat Juneteenth like the 4th of July?

Student Reporter

How I Survived My First Year of High School... In-Person



Jaemin Kwak
Grade 10
Torrey Pines High School



Experiencing actual high school in-person was such an interesting and new experience. [Source: Author, Jaemin Kwak]

Many people will agree that this year was different from anything we had ever experienced in our lives, as students. It was overall the first year for every student to come back to in-person school from online school, but also the first year of school with the mask mandate. Many activities were limited, such as musical or athletic groups. Even through all of this, I would like to share my experience on how I went through this year and managed to survive such a weird

and new type of school year.

Although it wasn’t my first year of high school, as I was a sophomore coming into this new school year, it was basically my first year as a high school student because the year before there was little to no interaction due to the “online meetings”. It was a totally different environment from middle school and it felt much different to learn and interact with others. The mask mandate also was an-

other disadvantage, since it made it much harder to talk and get close to others rather than just getting to know them face to face.

Overall I tried to get in touch with people I was already close with from the previous year, but also attempted to meet and constantly talk to others to find people who had similar interests as me. As a result, I was able to find a bunch of people to talk to in every class, which allowed me to get help on assignments and also allowed me to socialize with others and have a good year. I also wanted to get more involved, and joined the Science Olympiad and became the section leader for the school orchestra, which allowed me to get close to others and find new friends outside of my classes.

Another problem coming into this year was the academics. Many

people know that due to online school, it was mostly based on more homework. And since the internet was available, people sometimes used these resources to get the work done easily, which was, to an extent, the same case for me too.

As we came back in-person, I tried to refocus on how I used to study in school and tried to spend much time doing the homework and reviewing the material. I also asked for help on certain subjects from others, which allowed me to successfully end the year with good grades.

Overall, although this year was very chaotic and unexpected, I managed to survive it and end it with a proud feeling when looking back on it. I hope others learn from this but also hope this acts as a motivation for me to have success in my Junior year.