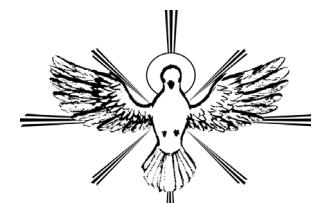


The Paracletian



Fall/Spring 2021-22

Paraclete Student Magazine

Throwback Issue!

Welcome to our throwback issue! In this issue we look back at semester 1 and reflect on our experiences returning to campus full-time.



KIIANA HILARIO

In my senior year, these 10 months full of "lasts," I feel nothing but gratitude for everything in my life. This past semester, I conquered the era of college application season, hung out with friends, and even made new ones in such a short amount of time.

See "Kiiana" Page 6.

MARIA TAGARINO

Though the first semester of my Senior year was filled with work and the stresses of college applications, it contained memories that I hold close to my heart. Within this time, I saw my class unite and strengthen our bonds with each other through different events inside and outside of school. Through Spirit Night, we shared our ideas and became one in order to complete our student section. At Senior Sunrise, we

See "Maria" Page 6.

EMELLIE HERNANDEZ

Looking back at the first semester I've realized that I've made so many new friends and memories that I'm grateful for. I wasn't expecting to have a fun and exciting sophomore year due to covid but, Paraclete has made the school a safe environment for the students to have fun.

See "Emellie" Page 6.



HALEY ASARO

The previous semester of this year was filled with challenges, new friends, and many wonderful memories through this tough time as we're still in a pandemic. I have had the grand opportunity to go on two retreats: Veritas and the class retreat. Multiple

See "Haley" Page 6.



MARIBEL IBARRA

Coming back to campus in person has been very exciting. Last year was like no other with the majority of the time where classes were on zoom, and very little social interaction. This

See "Maribel" Page 6.

HANNAH VENTO

The past semester was, personally, a rollercoaster of emotion and action. The beginning of the year was led by excitement for senior year. Senior sunrise, varsity volleyball, rallies, joining ASB and connecting with

See "Hannah" Page 6.

A Homecoming at Home

By Kiiana Hilario

In the middle of homecoming week, ASB held a rally to showcase Paraclete's students in fun, innovative ways.

Beginning with Spirit Night, many students gathered to decorate their class's side of the bleachers. Employing various themes From Candyland to The Nightmare Before Christmas, each class worked together to create festive bleachers for their class to sit in for the rally days.



During the rally, the cheerleaders performed an exciting routine, where we got to see our squad do extraordinary stunts such as back flips and hand springs! Later on, ASB announced the Homecoming Court with each princess being escorted as they were announced and a homecoming video showcasing the girls as if they were in a music video.

Next, the rally had the long-awaited, and much anticipated, 30 Seconds of Fame. In this competition, students perform their own talents in front of the school in thirty seconds for a chance to win \$100.

A highlight of the 30 seconds of fame was senior Ramdrick Despabiladeras, the choir's beloved piano player, who played an amazing performance of "Fukashigi no Karte," the theme song of the anime "Rascal Does Not Dream Of Bunny Girl Senpai." During the first day of performances, Ramdrick performed the song in front of the freshmen and sophomores, but delivered an even better performance the next day for the upperclassmen's rally: he performed the same song blindfolded.

When asked about why he decided to amp-up his performance, Ramdrick said, "Well, I wasn't really fully satisfied with my performance on the first day, so I went home thinking about how I could improve my act. I thought about playing other songs, but the ones I thought of weren't performance ready. In the end, I eventually decided on playing blindfolded. I had some prior experience playing the piano with my eyes closed in my off-time, so I wanted to try and push my limits. In trying to innovate my performance, I was also testing myself, so the benefits of going blindfolded went both ways: the audience would be entertained and I would get a semi-fun challenge." Ramdrick spent the entire night practicing, and relied on estimating hand positions and muscle memory to deliver a stellar performance.

After the 30 Seconds of Fame, ASB delved into the athletic aspect of the rally. The ASB officers each announced the sports teams, with

walkouts showcasing each athlete's silhouettes. After the walkouts, ASB assembled a Tug of War game between the four classes. Two teams of six people from each class competed

against each other to win as the champions, and the seniors reigned as victorious in the end. As one of the female champions for the Tug of War, senior Alexa Tipps says, "It felt really really cool, I could hear all the seniors getting really into it and everyone got so excited. It's definitely something I'll remember for a while. I love all the seniors." Although no one may choose to admit it out loud, it was definitely comforting to feel



some sense of normalcy and with a Paraclete rally that felt like coming home after a long vacation.

Clockwise from left: A Senior football player poses in front of the shadow screen; Students compete in the annual tug-of-war; Ramdrick competes in 30 seconds of fame.



Homecoming Week

By Emellie Hernandez & Maribel Ibarra

Paraclete High School's homecoming week has unfortunately come to an end. After two years, Paraclete has been able to spend a week filled with fun activities. Not only were the students excited for Homecoming Week, but the teachers had fun participating in our dress up days.

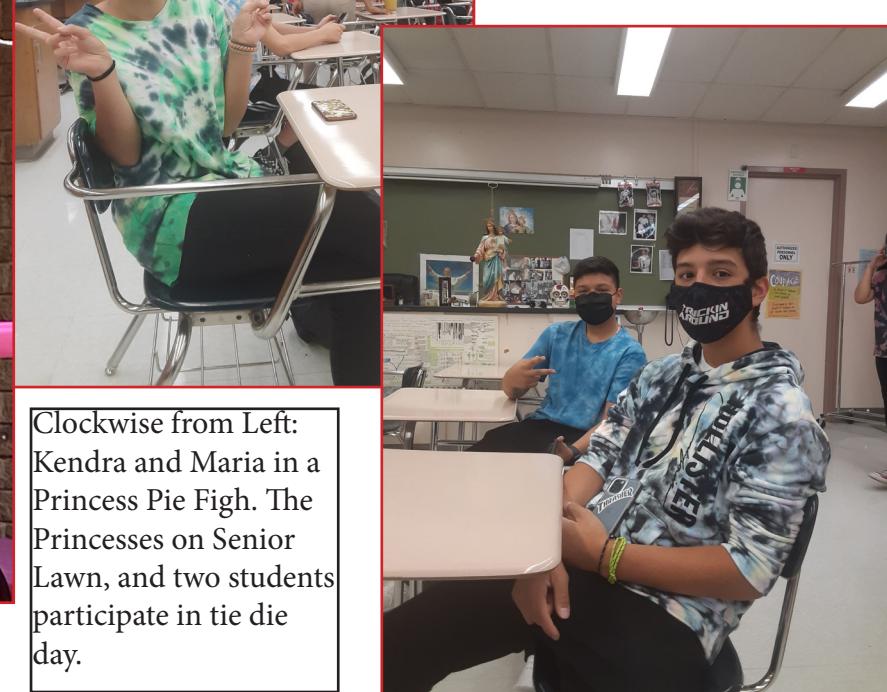
Monday was Sports Day, and everyone was excited to show off their favorite team jersey and other fun accessories. On Tuesday, students could be seen wearing all things Holiday related from ugly Christmas to spooky Halloween attire.

Tie Dye Wednesday would have not been as bright and colorful without the Hernandez's tie dye station. All students were encouraged to bring in their white shirts and create their very own tie dye masterpiece.

Red and Gold day allowed students to show their school spirit by painting their faces and wearing funny tutus. On Friday everyone showed off their unique

style for Free Dress day.

This homecoming week allowed many newer students to experience an exciting high school tradition. Although students were devastated when they found out other events were cancelled, such as the Homecoming Dance and Movie Night, they still showed their school spirit and participated in the Homecoming dress up days. Everyone looks forward into what next year's Homecoming will look like.



Clockwise from Left:
Kendra and Maria in a
Princess Pie Fight. The
Princesses on Senior
Lawn, and two students
participate in tie die
day.

Paraclete Princesses

By Kiiana Hilario



In the midst of all the homecoming fun, there are five special ladies who get to become Paraclete's royalty for a week. Known as the Homecoming Court, five senior girls are voted by their class to become contenders for this year's Homecoming Queen.

Alexis Fernandez, Maria Tagarino, Danielle Thompson, Kendra Peck, and Nina Torres all won as the homecoming princesses. Throughout the week, the five girls donned tiaras and sashes to wear along with their dress up costumes for each spirit day. One of the perks of royalty is being given free lunches everyday of the week, where the princesses got to eat their food on an elevated table

and talk to all the bypassers during lunch.

Towards the middle of the week, the homecoming princesses were showcased during the school's split rallies. The princesses had each picked out a song that they loved, where they got to create their very own music video to show to the school. They also participated in games and contests such as the Tug of War and the 30 Seconds of Fame. When asked about her favorite homecoming court activity, princess Danielle Thompson said, "The rallies were my favorite event to do as a princess on Hoco Court because it was the first time we were able to see our Hoco Court videos and we also beat our escorts in tug of war." At the end of the week, Alexis, Maria, Kendra, Janina, and Danielle all dress up to be escorted during the homecoming foot-

ball game at AVC. All escorted by their fathers, the girls were announced one by one, as Mr. Miller declared each princess's interests and goals, and finally announced Kendra Peck as this year's Homecoming Queen!

Homecoming Queen Kendra says that "It's really crazy, [she] wasn't expecting to win." She feels insanely loved by everyone, and that just demonstrates the true meaning of what a Paraclete family should make its students feel. Alyssa Moreno, last year's homecoming queen, came home from Cal State Long Beach to pass the crown onto Kendra to be the next queen.

It was inspiring to see the chemistry between all of the homecoming princesses, and the Paraclete family loved to watch the five girls come together and



Homecoming Game

By Maria Tagarino

Coming back from the pandemic, Friday's 2021 Homecoming game proved to be an eventful night filled with excitement and school pride as students and alumni wore all black for the Blackout theme and were eager to spend time together to cheer on their fellow Spirits. The Paraclete Football Team played against the Castaic Coyotes with our defense curbing the Coyotes' offense from making any touchdowns in the first half. Clete's offense drove down the field every time they received the ball, leading to 6 touchdowns. In the end, Paraclete gained another win, as the Spirits scored 42 points and restricted the Coy-

otes to only 7. According to the captain, Senior Gavin Depedro, this game meant more to him than the others because it was his last Homecoming Game at Paraclete High School. He recounts that while it was nerve-racking that the whole school was watching him, he "felt amazing with all the support" from everyone there. Friday night was also enjoyable due to performances from the Cheerleaders and the Dance Team. Along with the Football Team, they energized the bleachers that were filled with students, alumni, and families.



Dance Team captain, Kimberly Rodriguez, savored the crowd's cheers as she went full out on the dances. Cheerleader Gracie Williams believes that the student section, which participated in all the cheers and the Black-

out theme, made the night one to remember.

Campus Ministry's Weekend of Truth: Veritas

By Kiiana Hilario



Due to COVID-19 and online learning, many of Paraclete's beloved traditions have been. However, now that the school is in-person, many clubs and organizations have resumed their activities. Known as the Veritas retreat, which is "truth" in Latin, campus ministry invites around 40 Paraclete students in a retreat to step away from the chaos of school and home life. In normal circumstances, most of the retreatants would be somewhat familiar with the retreat. However, the last Veritas was held almost two years ago, therefore the current underclassmen had little to no knowledge about how Veritas works.

The eagerness of all classes to join in on the Veritas retreat were evident, as there was an even split of participants between grades and genders. The retreat was coordinated by seniors Isabella Columna and Janina Torres, and led by

six upperclassmen leaders. The weekend was filled with many fun activities that brought together the most different people, helping these Paraclete students to realize the truth within themselves and those around them. Coordinator Isabelle Columna described her favorite part of the retreat from the eyes of a coordinator was talking to the retreatants after an emotional activity involving truth in relationships. She was impressed by "how much they wanted to participate," and it made her proud as a leader. The retreatants all bonded in a unique way, as everyone was so excited to finally experience a retreat for so long. Even the sophomores felt like freshmen, as they were experiencing this secretive retreat for the first time ever. When asked about his expectations for Veritas, freshman Robert Cosme said, "Going into Veritas I had very high expectations because of what a lot of the seniors have told



me but Veritas met all of those expectations. The leaders somehow were able to make it fun, enjoyable, and still very serious." Everyone in Veritas plays a crucial role, even the ones who may go unnoticed. Known as Veritas support team, a group of Paraclete students who have already experienced Veritas at least once in the past have the chance to work behind the scenes for the retreat, preparing the food and setting up the activities for the retreatants. Junior Ryan Macias played a huge role in assisting the leaders and chaperones throughout Veritas. He says that he "chose to be on the support team to give the freshmen and sophomores the same emotionally riveting and inspiring experience that [he] had [his] freshman year." Although he did end up performing a lot of work and

manual labor to ensure that the Veritas retreat flowed as smoothly as possible, he "didn't really mind because as long as the retreatants were happy then [he] was happy with them." The sense of comfort in community that the Veritas retreat teaches truly demonstrates the mission of campus ministry: to serve others and the Lord.

Students gather for a photo at Veritas Retreat. Father G and Students lead an activity. Students play Dplay blidndfolded kickball as part of a trust exercise.



Spirit Night

By Maria Tagarino

During the 2021 Spirit Night, the gym was booming with excitement as numerous Paraclete students raced the clock to decorate their sides of the bleachers in only 2 hours. Singing along to upbeat songs, including "Valerie" by Mark Ronson and Amy Winehouse, each class united to make posters, blow up balloons, and hang streamers. By the end of the night, the gym was an amusing and awesome sight.

The Freshmen had a sweet section with their Candyland Theme, which included candy cane rails. Freshman Class President, Ghazal Esteghlal, relished her first Spirit Night because she "enjoyed spending time with [her] friends and covering the bleachers with colorful tissue paper." The Sophomores spread some holiday cheer with a Christmas theme, topped off with a giant Christmas tree made from streamers.

The Juniors created a spooky scene with The Nightmare Before Christmas, adding jack-o'-lanterns, spiderwebs, and gravestones. Finally, winning best decorated, the Seniors adorned their section in a carnival theme,

which was outlined by their class shirt design of Travis Scott's Astroworld album. Their bleachers were completed with flashing lights, colorful banners, popcorn, and a confetti cannon. Senior Class Vice President, E.J. Valentino, observed that Spirit Night was "electrifying" due to the Seniors' unity and common goal to make this Homecoming their very own.

Having Spirit Night after two years gone from the pandemic was an outstanding experience. The Paraclete students' school spirit truly shone during the Homecoming rallies due to each bleachers' extravagance and spunk.



Clockwise from top:
Seniors pose in front of their decorated section.
Juniors pose in front of their decorated section.
Nina directs seniors as they decorate their section.

Advent Celebration

By Kiana Hilario

Adding to Paraclete's holiday festivities, the school gathered together for the annual Advent ceremony in the gym. On December 9, the school celebrated the different cultures as well as the different classes.

The Advent ceremony was one of the first all-school events, where everyone was able to experience the beautiful event all together rather than split between two classes. The ceremony opened with a senior procession, all of them dressed up to lead with lit candles. Two students from each class represented the four Sundays of advent, and described the hopeful qualities of the holiday season.

Next, the different cultural clubs all prayed in their respective native languages, and the cheer team and the Asian Pacific Islander (API) club performed dances. First, the Irish club led prayer by Andrew Cosme and was followed by the Spanish club, led by Elias Ledesma. Dressed in

festive Christmas sweaters and Santa hats, the cheer team danced to an "All I Want For Christmas Is You" remix. Senior cheerleader Gracie Williams created the dance with the help of her teammates, and found it "very rewarding to see [the performance] play out."

The API Club then had three performances: Sakuting, Tinikling, and a Tinikling twist to the song "Merry-Go-Round of Life" from the movie Howl's Moving Castle. All of the Filipino traditional dances involving sticks, the members of API danced on the sticks, careful to avoid their ankles being trapped in between. Junior Milani Miralles reminisces on the past three months meticulously spent practicing the dances. She says, "Waking up early and having to stay after school for a while made me really tired but all of those practices were worth it after the performances were over."

It was evident to feel the pride

the Paraclete family felt for their schoolmates who performed, and the Advent ceremony only strengthened the sense of community that the students and faculty all share.



Freshman Retreat

By Kiiana Hilario & Maria Tagarino

From September 7-9, four groups of freshmen embarked on a spiritual journey to truly learn about both their class and of Paraclete. Being the first retreat of the school year, fourteen seniors guided these new high schoolers into creating bonds with their new peers.

Although the traditional freshman retreat is usually a hike in Frazier Park, this year's freshmen retreat is a little closer to home. For this year's retreat, Fr. G led these students around Paraclete, teaching them about the meaning of "Paraclete" and the core values that each student should live by while they grow throughout their journey here at school. Kaitlin Roque, a freshman who attended the first day of the retreat, said that she initially thought the retreat was "an opening to the year and a fun opportunity to get closer to classmates and God." After the retreat, Kaitlin finally thought, "I think this [retreat] did encourage me to attend more retreats because even though because of COVID we couldn't go on the traditional hike, it taught me a lot about

Paraclete." Each day, the freshmen also engaged in interactive games that encouraged each of them to build up their team skills to stand together to win against their opponents, whether it be their own classmates or even the senior leaders.

The freshman all had their special moments during the retreat, like stepping up to read about acts of service that Paraclete embodies or introducing themselves through skits and chants. Jasmine Chao, a freshman who attended on the last day of the retreat, said that her favorite part of the retreat were all the retreats because she was glad to have the opportunity to "know more of [her] class." The experiences of these special freshman just exemplified that campus ministry once again did a fantastic job of welcoming the freshmen into their new home for the next four years, teaching them to not only appreciate their class, but to appreciate the entirety of the Paraclete family and its goals of uniting together to help others.

Guardian Angels

By Maria Tagarino

Paraclete's Freshmen and Seniors were introduced to the Guardian Angel Program, one of the numerous school traditions, as they gathered for their half-school mass on October 6. During the mass, the pairs were given blue bracelets, symbolizing their connection to each other. As the Guardian Angel Initiative began, the freshman and senior pairs looked forward to their friendship and the activities that they will be able to participate in together.

The Guardian Angel Initiative is a year-round program in which many freshmen and seniors are paired up and form a meaningful bond. For Guardian Angels, a role taken by Seniors, the program gives them leadership as they support the new students of school. They become a mentor for the Freshman and a source of companionship and advice. For the Guarded Angels, the Freshmen, the program allows them to become comfortable with the school and have a familiar face to look up to



around the halls. The Guardian Angel Program fosters friendships within each class, which creates a tighter knit community at school.

One activity cherished by the Guardian Angels and their Guarded Angels is the Potluck. On November 19, the Freshmen

Senior Sunrise

By Maria Tagarino



Although a bit drowsy from waking up before their usual alarms, the Class of 2022 continued the Paraclete tradition of Senior Sunrise as they repacked their class sweatshirts and eagerly gathered on Senior Lawn at 6:45 am on Friday, October 22.

Senior Sunrise, an event common at most high schools, is a tradition held for the Senior Class. Paraclete's Seniors celebrated their last year of high school over a complimentary Clete House breakfast together, complete with coffee cakes, croissant sandwiches, fruit, cappuccinos, and hot chocolate. Along with the

breakfast, the students created a new memory with their class, taking many pictures in front of the rising sun. According to Aidan Rivera, Senior Sunrise was a "nice reminder of how each person in the Senior class has grown and changed over the course of [their] time at Paraclete." Like Aidan, other Seniors cherished Friday morning, spent it with their friends, and reminisced about their memories together.

Senior Sunrise is one of the many traditions at Paraclete that the Seniors were able to enjoy together after two years apart. While this event created bittersweet sensations as the realizations of growing up settled in, Senior Sunrise was an event relished by all Seniors.



Students gather for Senior Sunrise breakfast and photos.

and Senior pairs enjoyed a night of delicious food and fun activities hosted by Juniors Ryan Macias and Alex Rivas. Freshman Sofia Hilario enjoyed the potluck and was able to feel more connected to her Guardian Angels, now feeling that they are her "safe place where [she] knows [she] can go to whenever [she] feels any kind of emotion without having any judgement whatsoever." Students strengthened their bonds with each other at the Guardian Angel Potluck and are now anticipating the next gathering, the Guardian Angel Movie Night, which will be held in the near future.

Kiiana Con't. From Page 1

It's safe to say that I am very proud of the person I have become in my senior year. I have spent most of my senior year reflecting from the outside. I've taken a liking to watching from the outside, taking a step back to admire the people I love the most. Whether it's just walking back from the trash can to my friends' lunch table, or entering the busy chapel after school, I have felt most at peace in those few seconds where I think about what I might not have anymore in just a few months.

Especially with quarantine, I've become accustomed to enjoying my own company, but being around my friends gives me a sense of what Paraclete truly means to me. I find happiness in the moments that are fleeting, specifically the moments that seem trivial to others. To me, these minor details are the ones I'll look back on, three months from now, or even three years from now, and keep with me even past graduation.

Hailey con't. Page 1

events took place during the semester allowing all students to take part in the activities. The activities were not only fun, but also provided a chance for everyone to cheer on as well as interact with each other. Teachers made school work more exciting by letting us participate in group work activities and fun projects. We may have had multiple "bumps in the road"; however, we have overcome them by moving forwards in our academic school lives.

Hannah Con't. Page 1

people I would never thought I would talk to made school worth getting up for. My friends made mid-semester fun as well with friendsgivings and halloween hangouts that made memories I look back on smiling; however, schoolwork was getting intense and the stress from midterms reminded me of the negatives of school. At the end of the semester I had very little motivation for school. College applications were rough and the realization of everyone I was leaving in just a few months was tough. Going online for finals helped me realize how

Maria Con't. Page 1

cherished the beginning of our last year of high school. Partaking in Senior Retreat, my classmates reflected on our past years and who we will be in the days before we graduate.

I didn't realize how fast the first semester flew by. Orientation, Homecoming, and Senior Retreat happened in an instant, and within a blink of an eye, graduation will be here. I will take second semester and savor the last moments i have in high school. Though I can foresee the stresses i will endure, such as AP Exam season and finals, I am excited for what is to come.

Mirabel, Con't from Page 1

semester I was able to create great friendships that I hope will last me a lifetime. Sometimes good friends come out of nowhere and it's for the best reasons. My friends are there for me when I need them, and I am always there for them. My friends always light up my day, and I'm grateful that we've been able to be at school in person. If it weren't for them, I'd probably not enjoy school as much as I do. Academically, I'm always learning new things, and it feels much better learning in person instead of easily being distracted at home. The work gets harder every week, but it's all part of the big step we all have to take in order to become successful people in the future. Paraclete feels like one big community that makes everyone feel welcome. Our Spirit Start-ups are always something to look forward to every month. In the future, I hope to see our school have fun events that the whole school can participate in.

Emily Con't. From Page 1

One of my favorite memories from this semester was going to the homecoming game. Even though my friends and I knew nothing about football we enjoyed seeing the Paraclete football team win the game. The energy of all the students cheering in the stands was very uplifting and was a fun thing to experience.

Photos From Around Campus



Maria Tagarino and Father G on the annual Senior Retreat Hike.



Mirabel, Emellie, and Beatriz on Halloween.



Unexpected beauty in a quiet corner of campus.