



November 6, 2025 – Issue #20

Police Academy Students Prepare for Iron Cadet

By Natalie Rios and Eleanor Cortes

Today, the Burbank Police Academy will be hosting their annual Iron Cadet event. Iron Cadet is an event where students in Police Academy compete against other schools in a variety of challenges.

Iron Cadet challenges include multiple obstacles such as running, push-ups, and sit-ups. This year's Iron Cadet is the same as last years' competition.



Some Police Academy students chose to participate in the Iron Cadet, while others were chosen. Seventh-grader, Joel Aguayo, is getting competitive, but also has other



motivations. "I joined because I wanted to win and because of the donuts!"

October Features Many Spirit Days

By Kimberly Puac and Violet Leyva

Last month, Burbank had four theme days to support the school spirit. Many students participated in these theme days and enjoyed having a little more freedom with their personal style.

The first theme day was "Wear Pink." This was to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On that day, most students wore pink shirts, some wore pink pants, and some even wore pink sweaters.

The second theme day was to wear college gear for College Awareness Month. Some students wore college shirts, and others wore college sweaters.

The next theme day was to "Dress as your future career." Students dressed up as what career they would like to have in the future. People dressed up as many different careers such as a lawyer, a doctor, a writer, a teacher and more!

Finally, the last theme day was to wear a costume for Halloween. Lots of students participated by wearing amazing and crazy costumes.

"The Pride of Highland Park"

Bears Participate in College Awareness Month

By Leonel Duong

October is College Awareness Month, a month all about encouraging people to seek higher education. This year, Burbank celebrated with a college scavenger hunt, door decorating, and weekly Monday college lessons.

The scavenger hunt was held on the week of October 6th. Students



had to find college logos and acronyms, then record it on their answer sheets. When completed, students would earn a prize.

The door decorating contest took place from October 13 to 28 and included all advisories. Each homeroom decorated their doors according to college theme. Judging happened at the end of October.

Ms. Wong, our Instructional Coach, and Ms. Wohl, our Community School Coordinator, explained why college is important. "College can open



doors to more job opportunities and help you prepare for the career you want. It's also a chance to learn new things- not just about different

subjects, but about yourself too."

But college is not for everyone, and they want scholars to understand that. "College is a great option after high school, and it's important to know the different types of colleges to see which best fits you! College isn't one-size-fits-all. There are trade schools, community colleges, and both public and private universities. You also may have heard many things about college - that it's expensive or difficult - but it's important to keep an open mind when learning about college."

Whether you want to go to college or not, it's important to keep an open mind about your future.

Mr. Feinberg's Advisory – Y22

Burbank Brings on One of Its Own as Principal

By August Nuñez

Last month, a new principal was chosen for Burbank Middle School. Ms. Gastelum, our former Assistant Principal, has been selected to lead our school.

Ms. Gastelum said she is really excited about being the new principal and she is looking forward to leading. "I chose to be principal because I love our school and I have a lot of enthusiasm and excitement for how we can get even better." She said she is enjoying her new position. "It is great so far! Everyone has been encouraging and supportive to me. It is a lot of work though!"

Ms. Gastelum used to be an English teacher, with her partner teacher being Ms. Ceballos. Ms. Ceballos said that Ms. Gastelum was an amazing teacher. "It was wonderful being Ms. Gastelum's partner teacher - we worked really well together as a team. She always has been, and continues to be, encouraging and supportive." She added, "As an English teacher, Ms. Gastelum knew how to connect with students and cared deeply about their learning and growth."

It wasn't easy choosing a new principal for our school. That is why you need a hiring committee. Eighth-grader Emiliano Zapata, one of the hiring committee members, explained how strongly he felt about Ms. Gastelum in the interview process. "I think she will be a great asset to this school; she is an amazing leader."

Album Review: Karol G "Mañana Será Bonito"

By Jimmy Martinez and Angelique Moreno

Do you want to listen to Hispanic songs and enjoy them? Then check out one of our favorite artists: Karol G!

Karol G is a famous Colombian artist who makes Spanish-language pop music and often collaborates



with other artists. She has collaborated with Romeo Santos, Sean Paul and even Shakira.

One of our favorite songs on her album is "Ojos Ferrari." It is a song about a party lifestyle. The message is to just try to enjoy the party and forget and about your problems. It has reggaeton

Continued on back page...

Teacher Costumes Show Creative Collaboration

By Alyce Amador and Sophia Tong

Every year the teachers of Burbank Middle School wear themed costumes for Halloween. Previous years' themes have included Harry Potter, Disney Villains, Punk Rock and Jurassic Park. What surprise costume did teachers unveil this year?

The sixth grade costume theme for teachers was Spiderman. Ms. Alfaro said, "All of the sixth-grade team were different versions of Spiderman." She added, "We hoped to see a lot of creativity and participation this school year!"

The seventh grade teachers dressed up as characters from the Netflix hit show Wednesday and the Addams Family.

Ms. Acosta, the seventh-grade counselor, said that she liked to see "creativity and a lot of fun". Ms. Acosta was Wednesday, Mr. Morse was Gomez Addams, Ms. Martinez was Pugsley Addams, Mr. Colindres was Lurch. Most impressively, Ms. Ceballos was Cousin Itt!

Lastly, the eighth grade teachers' theme was SpongeBob SquarePants.

Ms. Harper said she wants to see "students having fun and enjoying the festival." Ms. Harper dressed up as Plankton. Mr. Valdez dressed as SpongeBob himself, Mr. Costello was Patrick Star, Ms. Macias was the Patty Wagon, and Mr. Taylor was Gary. Most appropriately, Mr. Feinberg was Squidward.

Album Review Continued

Continued from the front

and dembow and auto-tune vocals with nice beats. It makes you want to just have fun and vibe.

When she says, "Party, party and continue partying and don't let the party stop," she means that you should not let things affect you in life. It will cause you stress. This is a message we agree with.

It is a very great album to listen to because you get to hear different beats and styles. We give this album a 10 out of 10.



Student Spotlight: Aryanna Gomez

By Nicole Guzman and Emily Clinton

This month, our student spotlight features seventh grader, Aryanna Gomez. Her friends describe her as intelligent, funny, and kindhearted.

Her favorite subject is history with her favorite teacher, Mr. Garcia. Her favorite part of the school is the cafeteria. So far, her favorite memory here at Burbank is last year, meeting all her friends and being in Ms. Bilovsky's English class.

Aryanna Gomez also goes to the Beyond-the-Bell program. She spends most of her time in Drumline playing cymbals. She feels that "the after-school program is really great because you can do a lot of stuff."

Aryanna Gomez's hobbies are painting, listening to music, watching television, and playing football. Aryanna likes to paint skies and landscapes. Her favorite musical artist is Mitski. She recommends that everyone listens to Mitski at least once.

Her favorite food is Chicken Alfredo pasta, with her favorite restaurant being Applebee's. Her favorite show is Modern Family.

Aryanna is a kindhearted, intelligent and funny student who represents Burbank well.

Students Celebrate Halloween in Costume

By Pavel Marrull

Halloween has always been a day of fear and fun. Some students were more interested in the fear, while others were more interested in fun! Here are some of the costumes we saw that caught our eye.



What is Congress Up To?

By Zai'lee Matthews and Siani Avila

October was full of many fun events for students. Our very own Student Congress is the student body responsible for those events



here at LBMS! So what are some upcoming events that Congress has come up with? And who is in Congress?

Congress is hosted by Mr. Lopez and Ms. Valdivia, who are both 8th grade teachers. Students campaigned to be elected to congress and then when they were chosen were moved to that advisory.

House Representative, Adeline Wiedenmann, says that, "I've been adjusting greatly to my new advisory. I participated in Congress last year, so I'm quite prepared for this!" She added, "My role, "House Rep" is kind of in the name. I speak for Congress and I sign off bills that I agree with." She said that Congress is specifically busy with the Halloween Costume Contest.

Senate Majority Leader, Pichin Acuña, stated that, "The Halloween Costume Contest is going great! We're getting it prepared and rehearsing for the big day." Pichin also mentioned about the type of role he plays in Congress. "I am the 8th Grade Senate Majority Leader. I will sign the bills and will give out speeches to inform students about upcoming events in Congress."

So far, Congress has not passed any new bills. "We've passed spirit days, but we unfortunately have not passed any bills. We have been busy with the Halloween Costume Contest." House Representative, Adeline Wiedenmann, stated, "We're still passing bills for upcoming spirit days." What kind of future spirit days would you like to see?

