

Spirit Week!



Top: From left to right, Parth Patel, Michael Li, Sahana Raghunathan, Anshul Subramanya, and Pranav Kemburu pose for Switch It Up Day.



Right: From left to right, The Scooby Gang, Dallas Warren, Sam Dehority, Isaiah Bryant, Chase Hicks, and Rachel Dango solving mysteries on Character Day.



Bottom: From left to right, Chase Mansell, Chase Hayhurst, Chase Hicks, and Chase Yuan on Multiplicity Day.

Teams reveal pre-game traditions, superstitions

By STEVEN LIAO

In the world of professional sports, it is rare to see an athlete or team without some kind of pre-game tradition or superstition.

Several are well-known. LeBron James throws chalk powder in the air before his games. Clemson University's football team touches Howard's rock prior to each game. Michael Jordan wore his college shorts under his NBA shorts in games.

So what about our very own NCSSM fall sports teams? What adrenaline-pumping, blood-flowing rituals do they perform prior to each match?

According to NCSSM Men's Soccer team Captain Matt Nichols, the soccer team ritual is listening to hype music in the locker room and finishing with "Heart of a Champion" by Nelly.

"The pregame ritual relieves tension and invokes the mindset we need on the field into our players," said Matt.

The women's golf team is deciding on a team song, but also has a unique in-game superstition after every poor shot.

Women's Golf Captain Kara Wheeler describes, "We have a ritual that after you have a bad shot you have to touch the other team's bag and you pass the sync away."

The Women's volleyball squad has a ritual that involves touching both coaches' hands, forming a big circle, screaming, and kicking each other's butts.

Chaotic-sounding? Perhaps. But the purpose, according to volleyball captain Nicole Ward, is to bring the team together. "You get pretty hyped when you're screaming in a big circle and everyone's leaning together, so I guess it just brings you together as a team."

While several of the aforementioned rituals are traditions passed on over the years, NCSSM's Cross Country squad is starting their own tradition of sorts: a pre-meet dance called the Haka.

If it sounds familiar, you may have seen the All Blacks, New Zealand's national rugby union team, perform the dance before matches. The University of Hawaii football team has adopted it as a pre-game ritual as well.

Senior captain Josh Rees-Jones explains, "In New Zealand, there are these people called the Maori people, and a long time ago, they would perform this war dance and scare their enemies."

According to Rees-Jones, the Haka dance consists of loud chants and shouts, bending knees and slapping thighs, and making intimidating arm movements and "very fierce facial expressions" to "intimidate the enemies."

At the next athletic event, keep an eye out for these rituals and superstitions.

And after soaking it all in, fans can return the favor by taking part in the one ritual that transcends them all: sending off the unicorn athletes through a roaring victory tunnel.

Bollywood Review

By KANAN SHAH

Bollywood, or Indian cinema, is gaining influence in America. A typical Bollywood movie is 2.5 to 3 hours long, and consists of many songs with dancing, cheesy, clichéd love stories, and lots of action. On a deeper level, however, Bollywood stories often reflect societal issues and Indian thought.

Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, or "This youth is crazy" released last May, is one such movie, both a typical film but also one with deeper implications.

Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani tells the story of a bad boy who meets a good girl who falls in love with him. The boy does not love her, so the boy and girl separate for eight years, and after meeting again, fall in love, living happily ever after.

Although I had heard this story so many times and knew it was marketed towards people like me who eat this stuff up, I could not help but fall in love with the movie. All of the songs, including Dilliwali

Girlfriend and Badtameez Dil were catchy, and the movie was well produced.

The main actress evolves from a studious student to a student who balances fun with school. Going along with most Indian parents' dream, she still becomes a doctor. Her character reflects how many students feel in India-wanting to study and get good grades, but trying not to let it become their life. Rebellion or conformity is a big issue.

The story also addresses societal issues through a French actress having an Indian name and wedding.

Bollywood movies encourage diversity by showing different races or different religions. This particular mash-up was really interesting.

Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani is definitely worth the 2.5 hours. It is a great introduction to Indian culture, but is also filled with a bunch of dancing and upbeat music and addresses many important issues in Indian society.

Catching Fire: fall blockbuster

By AVA GRUCHACZ

I think it's a universal truth that Hollywood did a superb job converting Suzanne Collins novel The Hunger Games into a major motion picture.

As a Hunger Games fan myself, I was very pleased with the film and was one of those crazy fan girls who saw it three times in theaters. Hopefully the sequel, Catching Fire, will have a similar effect.

They began shooting the film over a year ago and it will be released Nov. 22 2013. I recently watched the trailer and was thrilled with the outcome. It showed the tension between the people of Panem and the terroristic government.

However, the only thing more exciting than taking over a government would be the intense love triangle between Peeta, Katniss, and Gale (played by the swoon worthy Liam Hemsworth).

Though this is very Twilight-y, I believe it gives the film a nice romantic touch

along side the brutal killings during the Games.

The blockbuster fantasy film will introduce several new characters into the plot. Sam Claflin will be portraying

film but his presence was mundane and rather forgettable. His looks are perfect for the role and I hope his acting skills are up to par.

Another anticipated character is Johanna Mason played by Jena Malone. Malone is not well known but she was nominated for a Golden Globe in 1997 so I assume she's pretty talented.

The movie has very high expectations and I truly hope the filmmakers are able to meet them. Collins wrote an epic story and it will be interesting to see it on the silver screen.

Fandango reports Catching Fire is the most anticipated fall movie releasing and viewers are anxious to see performances by Jennifer Lawrence and Liam Hemsworth.

I highly recommend seeing this film over break, especially if you were a fan of The Hunger Games and/or enjoyed the novel.



Photo courtesy of wikimedia.com

Finnick Odair, a member of the alliance.

Claflin was in the most recent Pirates of the Caribbean