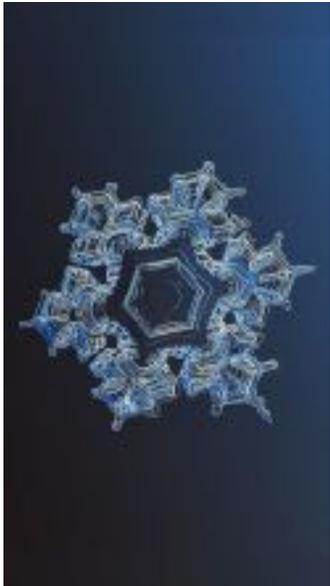


# TORO TIMES

| The Montera Middle School Newspaper, by the students for the students! |

## Acknowledging Sexual Harassment in America



By Olivia Cowgill and Leah Tannenbaum

Sexual Abuse. The topic that has been coming up on the news so much; women sharing out their cases sometimes years after they have occurred, partaking in the #metoo movement. For so long, women have been suppressed by society, too scared to stand up for themselves. But now, more and more cases are being discovered, and things are not just being ignored. Women are finally standing up to these abominations. Al Franken and John Conyers, both former senators, recently resigned among sexual harassment allegations, but there are still politicians in places of power that are surviving this wave of accusations. To state a rather obvious one, our president. These are the people we must work against.

Most of these cases have not been based in politics, though, most have been male. Kevin Spacey was fired from his role as main character in Netflix show "House of the Cards," which leaves the director with some difficulties. One of the most recent, Matt Lauer, was an NBC news anchor for more than 20 years was fired for abusing two women in the workroom. These accusations are ruining the offenders' livelihoods (not that they'll be poor), and rightly so, seeing as they scarred the lives of many men and women. New cases are being discovered every day, and their frequency tells us something. How has America ignored this for so long? What other monstrosities has mankind committed? We must find out. This is the tip of the iceberg, and more is to come.

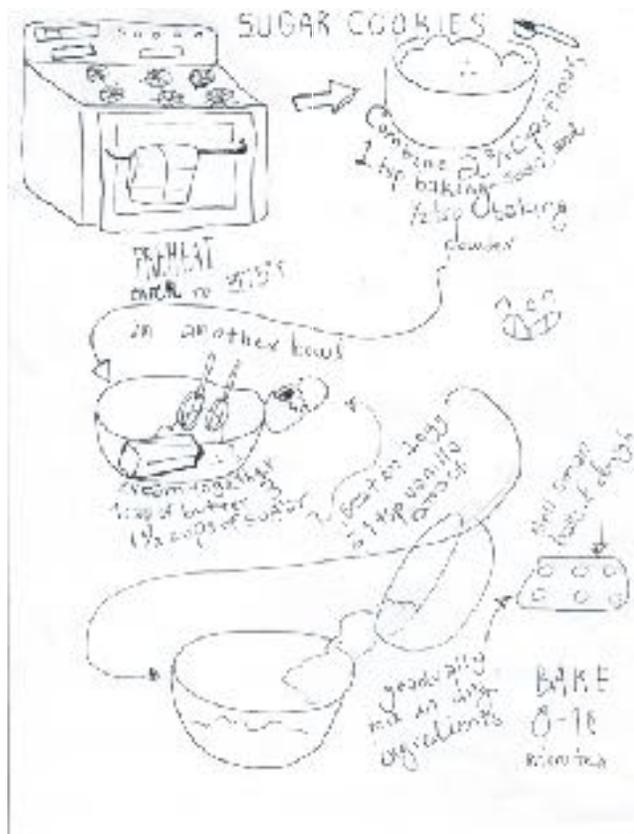
## Montera Parent Tours

By Kylie Jackson

You may have noticed that lately parents have been coming into classes and walking through the breezeways. The reason why is because on Fridays, Montera has been hosting parent tours. Parents from schools all over Oakland and even other cities have been coming to Montera for our tours. You will probably notice student and volunteer tour guides leading their groups throughout the school. This Friday, December 15th there will be a very large tour. Remember that when you see these parents not only will you be representing yourself but you will also be representing our school! Many of the parents and even students that you have seen will join our Toro community next year. We hope you all are pleasant to the parents and students during their tours and show the Montera way throughout the day!



## Holiday Recipe



## Letter from the Editors

Hello Montera students, faculty, and staff. We hope you really enjoyed our first issue and we hope you enjoy this one just a little more! In this issue you will learn about women coming out to the news about recent sexual misconduct involving multiple celebrities. You will also solve the mystery of why random adults and children have been coming to school on selected Fridays. All in all, we hope you had an amazing week and don't forget; be safe, be kind, and be responsible!

## ***Tonight's Winter Dance***

**Today.** December 15th, Montera's S.Y.L (strong young leaders) are putting on the annual Winter Dance! Come from 4:30 to 6:30, and enjoy music, food, and fun with friends!

**Tickets:** Tickets will be sold for \$4 if bought in advanced. Tickets sold at the door are \$5 on the night of the dance. Special Dance packs with tickets are \$8 bought in advance, and sold at the door on the night of the dance for \$10.

**Food:** In the dance packs there are: Gatorade, water, candy canes, chips, and cookies. Snowcones will be sold at the dance for \$2 but are not included in the dance packs. There will also be a hot cocoa bar. Regular hot cocoa is \$2, and peppermint hot cocoa is \$3.

**Raffle:** There will also be a raffle. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$1. Three raffle tickets will be included in the dance packs as well! The raffle prize is a gift basket with lots of cool holiday treats and goodies!

## ***Music Prodigy Alma Deutscher***

*By Roman St. Gerard and Lucas Wohl Sanchez*

Music prodigy Alma Deutscher, an English composer, pianist, and violinist is taking the music world by storm. At the age of 6 she composed her first piano sonata and at age 7 she completed her first major composition, The Sweeper of Dreams. At age 9 she wrote a concerto for violin and orchestra that premiered in 2015, and one year later completed her first full length opera based on Cinderella.

Alma has been playing piano and violin since she was 3. She says "For me, it's strange to walk around and not to have melodies popping into my head." Alma is different from other prodigies we have known, because at the age of ten she wrote an opera, which demands comprehensive mastery. Many people are in awe of how she understands it all. It seems that many believe Alma was born that way. Recently on 60 minutes, Scott Pelley interviewed Alma Deutscher on her musical talent. His first question was "What was your earliest musical memory?" Alma replied "I remember that when I was three, and I listened to this really beautiful lullaby by Richard Strauss, and that was when I really first realized how much I loved music. And I asked my parents, 'But how can music be so beautiful?'. Although people compare Alma to Mozart she says "I think I would prefer to be the first Alma than to be a second Mozart."

Alma's full length opera "Cinderella" is coming to the Bay Area this December at the California Theater in San Jose. In her opera, Alma cast Cinderella as a composer, and the prince as a poet. All tickets are sold out, but new performances are likely to be added. The last thing Scott Pelly said to Alma was "I usually don't ask people your age this question, but, what have you learned about life?" Alma Deutscher replied "Well, I know that that life is not always beautiful. That there's also ugliness in the world. That's why I, I've learned, that I want to write beautiful music because I want to make the world a better place." Many do not know how Alma Deutscher channels her music but in a world, too often ugly, and too often overburdened with explanation, it's nice to take a moment and wonder.

## ***Wellness Wednesday's at Montera***

*By Noah Zirkle*

Wellness Wednesday is a day for students to focus on their physical or mental wellness. This day is provided at Montera because we, SYL, feel that physical and mental wellness play a big part in a person's health. Physical health, like your physical fitness, and mental health as in your stress levels and how your brain and body feel. On wellness Wednesdays, what we do is try to enhance your physical and mental wellness in a variety of ways.

For your physical wellness, we will host different kinds of sports tournaments, for example the 2v2 lunch time basketball

tournament. In the future, we plan to host different kinds of tournaments including volleyball, football and softball.

Mental wellness is your emotions, stress levels, and other things like social issues. Tools that we will provide to enhance your mental wellness include circles to talk about social and emotional issues. This can be a time to talk about concerns you're having with people away from school or at school. You can also talk about problems or negative feelings you are having inside your head. Everything you say during this time will be 100% confidential. SYL and I would really appreciate if you all could participate in our wellness Wednesday activities in the future!

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