

# TORO TIMES

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

## Letter From Chief Editor

Good morning Montera community! This is the Toro Time's sixth and last issue of the 2016-2017 school year. It has been a privilege to serve the Montera community with up to date current events, news and stories. The Toro Times is a cohort of talented writers who committed and dedicated their time and energy into each issue. As stated in our motto, the Toro Times continues to be "by the students, for the students". We hope that each Toro took just a minute out of their Fridays to take a look at the issues that we stitched together to create a mosaic of information, facts and fun. I hope you enjoy this last issue!

- Chief Editor, Maxwell Stern

## 8th Grade DC Trip

By: Maxwell Stern & Catalina ElginSmith

Next week, more than a third of the 8th grade class will be taking a trip to Washington D.C. and New York City from May 20th-25th! Over one hundred Montera students will be on the trip, the largest group of students Montera has ever had on one of these trips! For most, this will be the first time any have ever traveled to the other side of the country. The group will be leaving in two planes, next Saturday night from SFO and land in the East Coast in the early morning. On Sunday, students will sightsee D.C. and visit the Frederick Douglas House and the well-known, Smithsonian Museums. The next day, students will see Mount Vernon, the Capital Building and infamous wax museum, Madame Tussauds. On Tuesday, the 8th Graders will transfer to the Big Apple! By nightfall, students will go to Broadway →

## Music in the Parks - Montera Wins Big!

By: Casey Shea Dinkin, Siena Killpatrick & Stella Cardoso

Last Saturday, the Montera Advanced Band and Advanced Orchestra competed in the Music in the Park's music competition at Pittsburg High School. This competition is held at high schools near Six Flags Amusement Park. Students compete (play for the adjudicators) at these high schools and then enjoy their day in the amusement park. In the morning the Band and Orchestra students gathered in the Joaquin Miller parking lot and boarded the buses. The students then arrived at Pittsburgh High School later that morning. The Orchestra performed *In the Hall of the Mountain King* and *Agincourt* for two adjudicators. After the Orchestra's performance the band performed for two other adjudicators. The band played a Stevie Wonder medley and a concert band piece called *Zoom*. After both the Orchestra and the Band performed they left Pittsburg High and headed to Six Flags! They enjoyed Six Flags all day until the 6:00pm Award ceremony where it was announced that Montera won 4 well deserved awards! Advanced Band received a second place →

and watch Bandstand. The next morning, the group will travel to see the Statue of Liberty and then to Ellis Island, where millions of immigrants entered America during the 20th century. Later that night, students will get to see a Mets game at Citi Field in Queens. On Thursday, the 8th graders will visit the 9/11 museum and then embark home from JFK!

*Good things happen in class!*

Excellence award, received by Kayin. The Band's score was 88 out of 100. Advanced Orchestra earned a first place Superior and the overall best Orchestra. Montera has not won this award since 2013. These award were received by De'ana. The Orchestra's score was 92.3 out of 100. Montera Middle School as a whole received the extremely coveted Esprit De Corps award, received by Tre. This award is given to the school with the best attitude, citizenship, form on stage, and energy!

Congratulations to both Band and Orchestra! Bob Athayde a 40 year veteran music teacher and one of the adjudicators for the Advanced Band wrote a letter to the music program. Students at Montera say, "In some ways he seems like a slightly crazier version of Mr. Swihart." But anyway, in his letter he explains how he grew up in Oakland (he attended Frick Middle School and Fremont High School) and how proud he was to be from Oakland. For the Montera music program this is higher praise than any award they could get, as it shows that Montera represented and showed off how great Oakland is.

The Band and Orchestra had a wonderful day in Six Flags, full of rides and junk food! The Medusa, the Superman, the Joker, the Tasmanian Devil, the Ark, and the Boomerang were just a few of the spectacular rides that students went on. There were squid hats bought and plenty of screams to go around. The competition and entire day was a great experience for everyone. Great job Montera!

## ***AC Transit Meeting Success!***

By: Maxwell Stern and Grace Gulli

AC Transit hosted a special community input meeting last Wednesday, May 4th to hear from community members regarding the possible elimination of bus services to Montera and Skyline. The meeting was held at the Oakland City Hall. Each of the roughly, forty speakers were allotted two minutes to speak. Many Montera students attended and spoke at the meeting, as well as, Skyline alum, Mayor Libby Shaft, Principal Avent, bus drivers, city council members and parents. Many speakers expressed their frustration at the state of California for underfunding both public agencies and creating a financial environment where both agencies are pitted against each other, fighting for scraps. "I implore you (AC Transit board) to continue this service" said Mayor Shaft. "I believe you can get to that resolution..." On Wednesday, May 10th, the AC Transit Board decided to continue bus services for one more year for all three schools. The decision came after OUSD Interim Superintendent Devon Dillon proposed a deal to AC Transit that would cover the costs of the bus service for one more year. While, the bus service will continue to run for another year, both agencies have not reached a permanent deal on what will happen after the 2017-2018 school year. The public needs to know that everyone in Oakland will be affected by this issue. Many students who live in further neighborhoods like East and West Oakland, will have a harder time going to school if AC Transit decides to stop sending busses to Montera, next year. To of the incoming sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, along with the eighth graders who will be attending an OUSD school in the fall, PLEASE show your support!

## ***Whats with the Hamilton craze?***

By: Morgan Stone & Grace Gulli

When Lin Manuel Miranda had finished playing "Usnavi" in the Tony-Award Winning musical, "In the Heights". He knew he needed to find a new idea. On his honeymoon with his wife, he picked a book titled *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow just as a big book to read on vacation. Little did anyone know that Lin would get so much inspiration from just a few hundred pages of literature. From there he contacted Ron Chernow and invited him to an "In the Heights" show. Lin explained to Chernow that he wanted this series of songs to be an actual mixtape that historians can learn from. When he was invited to sing at the White house 9 years ago, he decided to sing the song he literally just finished writing, Alexander Hamilton. When he saw President Barack Obama as one of the first people who led a standing ovation, he knew that this was going to be much more than a series of songs, this was going to be a musical. We think most people are in love with Hamilton because of the modern upbeat music that is played. The show is quite popular, with some of the tickets costing up to \$10,000! We definitely recommend that everyone see or listen to Hamilton!

## ***2016-2017 Memories***

By: Leah Washington

- **November:** Election Teach-In/ Rally
- **January:** No power, no school
- **February:** Black History Month Presentations & Ms. Erickson Maternity Party
- **March:** Honor Roll Party
- **April-May:** SBAC
- **May:** Our *very much* allowed water fights & Senioritis begins to run rampant with the 8th Graders!

## ***Starbucks Drinks***

By: Morgan Stone & Isa Williams

Lately, Starbucks has been coming out with some pretty crazy drinks! Starbucks has been releasing lots of drinks on the secret menu that have getting many people's attentions. So far there was the Unicorn Frappuccino, the Dragon Frap, Narwal Frap, the Mermaid Frap, the Midnight Mint Mocha Frap, the Pokemon Go Frap, and the Smores Frap. People are wondering the history of the new Fraps. Apparently, a Starbucks barista was playing around with some ingredients and discovered a potential for a new drink. Sadly some of these drinks are not official, so you need the recipe to order it. Here are some of the recipes...The Narwal Frappuccino: Blended strawberry lemonade with vanilla bean powder and a dollop of whipped cream. You can also ask for the green powder for an extra pop of color. The Dragon Frap consists of a green tea Frap with vanilla bean powder, a swirl of berry syrup, whipped cream and purple sprinkles. We hope this helps the next time you want to try something new at Starbucks!

## ***Newspaper Team!***

Maxwell Stern - *Chief Editor*

Silvia Kambouridis - *Editor*

Morgan Stone - *Editor*

Grace Gulli - *Editor*

Catalina ElginSmith - *Student Reporter*

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Dasha Wohlfarth - *Student Reporter*

Linda Velazquez - *Student Reporter*

Siena Killpatrick- *Student Reporter*

Stella Cardoso - *Student Reporter*

Yacine Seck - *Student Reporter*

Silver Storm - *Student Reporter*

Leah Washington - *Student Reporter*

*Thanks for helping us Ms. Berger!*