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EMILY HERNANDEZ / el Don



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ABOUT THE COVER



An advanced ceramics student uses a throwing wheel in the C Building studio to bring art to life



→ EDGAR GALVAN
SPORTS EDITOR

MEET OUR NEW SPORTS EDITOR

Hello! I am a Santa Ana College alumni with an associate's degree in TV and film, and an interest in photography that grew with the use of the equipment in our film productions. The first film I ever really liked was *GoodFellas* because it had such a cool soundtrack mixed with amazing cinematography. Through the film program I learned to appreciate many other films and genres from around the world.

But ever since I can remember, soccer has been a part of my life too. Growing up, almost every weekend would be spent at some field throughout Orange County. A lot of my time would also be spent watching my favorite team, Manchester United. Even though they bring me a lot of pain as of recent I still try to not miss a match. As an adult I've learned to appreciate the sport in different ways. One is being able to use my

love of photography and mixing it with my passion for soccer. After taking Professor Jacqueline Schlossman's photography class to improve my skills, she told me about the *el Don*. Within the first couple of months of the fall '21 semester, my editorial team asked me to step up and be the sports editor. I enjoy learning sports journalism and combining words with my photographs. If you see me at a game, say hi!

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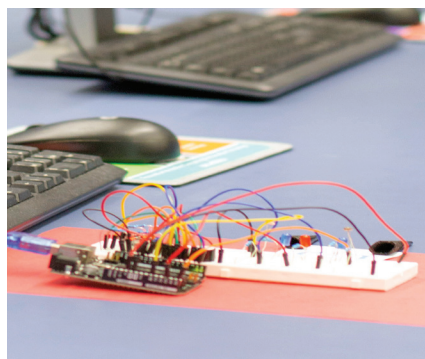
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SCAN WITH YOUR
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TECH

CYBER CENTER
GRAND OPENING

The Cyber Center opened Feb. 24, consisting of classrooms that have been transformed into hands-on labs dedicated to computer information systems & programming, classes which will prepare them for high demand careers in cyber security, data analytics, networking, programming, artificial intelligence and IT support. Total grant support has been approximately \$750,000 over the three year period

✓ **Stephanie Martinez**



Non-credit gain

STORY
CARRIE GRAHAM
PHOTO
EDDIE VELASQUEZ

District reported the largest enrollment gains in the state, one of the only community colleges to see growth in the last year

After losing one in ten full time students during the pandemic, officials say the district has recouped its losses through non-credit and high school programs. According to statewide enrollment data, Santa Ana College had the largest enrollment gains across the top 15 California Community Colleges by size over a three year period.

The district has seen the addition of the equivalent of about 2,000 full time students. The next closest community college districts, San Diego and North Orange, each increased by just 3%.

One area that has seen major growth is non-credit classes through the Centennial Education Center. Non-credit enrollment accounted for about 20% of gains, with enrollment in high school diploma classes nearly double what it was in fall 2020.

James Kennedy, Vice President of Continuing Education, attributes much of their success with their ability to quickly transition to virtual options at the start of the pandemic.

"Before the pandemic we only had a very small online program, today all of our programs have robust online offerings," said Kennedy. "In response to the pandemic we immediately launched a public service marketing campaign to promote our online learning options, redesigned our website and redesigned our registration process."

Another program helping to generate numbers is the dual enrollment program, which allows high school students to complete college classes in addition to their regular classes. Sections offered are expected to increase to 104 for fall 2022, up from 64 in fall of 2021.

About 25% of funding the district receives comes from enrollment. This funding is based on the number of full time enrolled students. A single FTES is equal to one student attending three hours of class five days per week, a total of 525 hours per academic year.

Different types of enrollment generate different amounts of funding, ranging between about \$3,380 and \$5,620.

The enrollment update was presented during the Feb. 14 Board of Trustees meeting where Vice Chancellor of Educational Services, Enrique Perez, gave information from a CCC report showing the district's growth from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021.

"The vast majority (of other community colleges) are just having a very difficult time with working through the pandemic and the economy, that's great for us. With a supportive board and great faculty and staff working together, we took the hit in fall of 2020 just like all the other districts, and are recovering as we continue to move forward."

CAMPUS

SCIENCE CLASSES
EVACUATED

The newly opened Science Center was evacuated March 15 after a fire alarm triggered shortly before noon.

This is the second evacuation of the building since it first welcomed students in February. The first on March 7 happened when the fume hoods in a third floor chemistry lab failed to filter out toxic fumes. Campus safety officials said the alarm was likely caused by vape use in a second floor bathroom.

✓ **Jon Espinoza**



DISTRICT EYES ANOTHER BOND

Words by Sergio Gutierrez

The measure would raise about \$500 million from local property owners to pay for new buildings and facilities.

Paint chips away from the exterior wall of 40-year-old portables on a hot, sunny day at Centennial Education Center. An outdated classroom reveals stained walls and an old fan struggling to cool Santa Ana College's non-credit students. From time to time, school officials say the water main breaks, potentially shutting the school down to students entirely.

"We're planning for the next 80 years and we want to have up-to-date facilities," said Vice President of Continuing Education James Kennedy, referring to the 85-year lease the district now holds on CEC's city-owned property.

For the second time in two years, the Board of Trustees is considering asking local property owners if they are willing to add about \$9 a month to their property taxes to construct

much-needed new facilities at CEC and elsewhere in the district.

"I do see the need for a facilities bond, I want to make sure it passes though," said Trustee John Hanna during the March 14 Board of Trustees Meeting.

Officials think the previous bond, Measure L, failed in 2020 because there was no updated master plan at that time. In the last year, committees from Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College worked together to identify the district's biggest areas of need. The result is the 2022 Facilities Master Plan, which officials say can serve as a guide for this new bond.

"We are actually doing this the proper way this time," said Iris Ingram, Vice Chancellor of Business Services.

CEC isn't the only campus that is hoping for upgrades. Over

half of the main buildings at SAC are 50 years old or more and the new master plan calls for updates and replacement structures.

Some major projects planned to take place at SAC are the Applied Technology Center and an Arts and Workforce building.

The Applied Technology Center would be a two story building for workforce-ready programs such as auto, diesel, welding, and manufacturing technology. A four-story parking structure is planned to replace the loss of parking due to future construction.

In the updated master plan, performing arts, media programs, fashion, fire technology, nutrition, and more are also combined into a new two-story Arts and Workforce complex that will be built on top of Parking Lot 6.

The new bond is currently being reviewed by the board and by May they plan to finalize the wording of the proposal. Before June district officials say they hope to have a resolution calling for a bond so it can be put on the ballot and promoted before November.

If the new bond fails like Measure L, district officials warn that students – and the local workforce – may pay the price.

"Funding for infrastructure to support state-of-the-art Career Technical Education could be delayed for years, creating a wider skills gap in the region, which could contribute to a possible delay in the securement of living wage jobs for RSCCD students in CTE fields, which could also have an impact on the local economy," said Letitia Clark, chief communications officer for the district.

BOND TIMELINE ▶

2000

California passes proposition 39, lowering needed votes for bond passage to just over half



2012

Measure Q passes, paying for the Johnson Center, the Science Center and other projects

2020

Measure L is rejected. This bond would have focused on renovating facilities



2002

Measure E is passed by voters, raising about \$337 million for RSCCD

2006

Measure O is rejected by voters



2018

A new Central Mall opens with a fountain and amphitheater

2022

By November the new bond measure may be on the ballot.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

For the same price as a Big Mac combo, you can walk to the Bristol Marketplace and buy a nutritious alternative that is fresh and more filling.

Everytable – an L.A.-based prepared-food company with more than 30 retail locations – carries a variety of breakfast items, salads, wraps, hot plates and snacks made daily in a Vernon kitchen.

The recipes are in collaboration with local chefs and riff on familiar classics. The taco bowl, for example, uses turkey instead of ground beef. Pork carnitas comes in tacos or a bowl, and the TikTok trend inspires the egg roll in a bowl.

Pre-packaged food costs

between \$5-9 and is kept in refrigerators where you take what you want and pay at the counter.

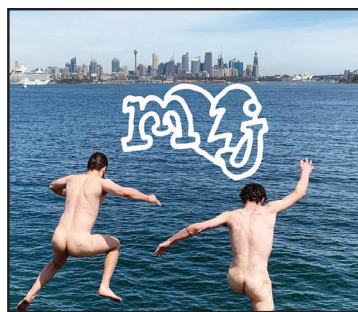
Eating there? The friendly staff will heat it up for you. Can't afford it? Use the "Pay it Forward" wall, which lets anyone grab a ticket that someone else paid for and receive a free meal with no questions asked.

Two years ago, Everytable's grab-and-go meals were available in the Don Bookstore for about \$10 each. Now, with two locations in Santa Ana (the other is on Harbor), it is becoming more accessible to students. Provide a SAC student or staff I.D at the new store for 10% off. / **Lesly Ruelas**



WHAT'S HOT

NEW ALBUM



Sweet Tooth Mom Jeans

From the opening track, Mom Jeans' latest release, *Sweet Tooth*, sounds like a throwback to the infectiously sweet sound of early '00s pop-punk. The album emphasizes simple, memorable melodies and heavy-hitting guitar riffs in combination with catchy lyrics that would be perfect to scream along to at a concert or even in your bedroom. *Give me something sweet/So I can make it through the week.* Caution: this album might give you cavities. — **ADAM PONCE**

SPOTIFY PLAYLIST



Staff playlist From the *el Don* fam

Our staff compiled a playlist to celebrate our favorite female artists in honor of Women's History Month. Our playlist is named "Women in Music" and can be listened to on Spotify by scanning the QR code above. We wanted to commemorate our childhood favorites, songs that empowered us, and songs that spark creativity and feminine energy. This is one playlist that will be good all year. Enjoy! — **EMILY HERNANDEZ**

TV SHOW



Abbott Elementary Fox Searchlight

If you enjoy sitcom mockumentaries, or grew up in an underfunded school district (ahem), *Abbott Elementary* is your next binge. They are renewing the show for a second season, you can stream it on Hulu with new episodes every Tuesday. Many might recognize creator Quinta Bronson. She was a popular Vine-r and now stars in her own show. The characters will grow on you and the issues they address with underfunding school districts are all too relatable. — **KATE G. BUSTAMANTE**

APP



Yuka APP Apple and Google Play

Keep the bad stuff out of and off your body by checking its ingredients on this app. Scan any barcode to see food and beauty ingredients that might be harmful. Using confirmed research, Yuka rates products on a scale of 100 and explains the rating, plus why some substances might pose a threat. If a product's information is unavailable, type in the ingredients manually to get a rating within 24 hours. This app requires a smartphone camera and is free. — **KATE G. BUSTAMANTE**



IN THE STUDIO / Wheel throwing is a process where artists shape their clay work by hand, using water, clay and a pottery wheel.

CERAMICS STUDENTS ARE THROWING IT DOWN

Isabel Gonzalez crossed the Mexican border when she was only 7 years old. She and her younger brother left everything behind with no parents to guide them. After settling into the American way of life, Isabel's mother cautioned her not to speak of her undocumented status. She told her it was for her protection.

Her midterm project this semester speaks to this experience with sculpted butterflies and baby angels, some with broken wings. "The Butterfly Project is a much larger project where I'm gonna have a mound of basically dead butterflies, coming out of the Rio Grande, which is the river that you cross, which I crossed as well," said Gonzalez.

Isabel is part of a small cohort of advanced students who pushed through life and pandemic-related struggles to find their creative voice in Santa Ana College's ceramics program.

For three semesters, students were not able to turn in assignments

because they did not have access to the studio. Students used Play-doh kits as an alternative since it was all they had and didn't return to the classroom until last fall.

"During the pandemic teaching ceramics was awful, about as bad as it could be. Teaching ceramics in 3D was basically impossible," said ceramics professor and program lead Chris Dufala. "So I stopped teaching intro to ceramics for a year because it was just too difficult to teach virtually. All our supplies were stuck in the ceramics room."

Ryan Anderson has a bachelor's degree in graphic design and has been in the Ceramics program for two semesters. He found SAC through the pursuit of realizing a personal project which led him to this program. With pinpoint precision, he crafts each tile and guides it through the process, from sculpting to firing it in the kiln, paying special attention to detail throughout every step of the way.

"We are so vulnerable with what we're putting out. I think we are all trying to communicate something," said Anderson.

Ceramics students are back to selling their art at public events. They held their first sale since the start of the pandemic in the Orange Farmer's Market Feb. 26. Students sold everything from jewelry to dishware to artistic sculptures – all made in the C building's ceramics studio.

A second sale was held during the Santa Ana Art Walk in March. On the last night of his gallery showing, SAC's ceramic technician Tim Keenan allocated a space in the back of his exhibition "Rough Edges" for students to sell and showcase their work. The students' goal was not to sell out their artwork but to gauge community interest and involvement.

"The money is not our priority. We do just love to get our work out there and seen to show people what we are spending our time on," said advanced ceramics student Sophia Krumbein.



FOCUS / Ryan Anderson uses an Exacto knife to refine each tile during a process called slipcasting.



UNDOCUMENTED / Isabel Gonzalez's "The Butterfly Project" is a collection of hand-sculpted butterflies and baby angels.

CRUELTY FREE:

MAKEUP ON A BUDGET

WORDS AND DESIGN KATE G. BUSTAMANTE

There's no ethical consumption in capitalism, but even your local drugstore carries affordable beauty products that cause less harm.

Testing on animals is a practice that should be considered ancient in today's makeup world. Labels can be misleading, even with claims like "cruelty-free" and "not tested on animals" displayed on products for advertising purposes.

"Cruelty-free" makeup is considered any beauty product with ingredients that do not test on animals, according to PETA.

"The unrestricted use of these phrases by cosmetic companies is possible because there are no legal definitions for these terms," reads a warning on the FDA website.

With the recent trend of conscious consumerism, many companies paste false buzzwords on merchandise for more sales. Then customers go home with a product they think is free of animal testing.

"I didn't even know all the testing that happens on animals," says Amy Alvarez, sophomore Santiago Canyon College student. "I've seen labels that say cruelty free or something like that but I always just thought they were too expensive."

Luckily, many drugstore beauty brands are hopping on this wave for real. Look for the Leaping Bunny seal to find actual cruelty-free and no-animal-testing products. The seal is a voluntary pledge

cosmetic product companies make that cuts animal testing from all stages of product development, including their ingredient suppliers and manufacturers.

"I try my best to buy products that don't test on animals," says Jazmin Rodriguez, a freshman at SAC. "I saw a video once that showed how bad they can treat them and I didn't want to be a part of that."

CHECK THE LABEL

Look for these common phrases to know your product and verify what these logos mean on the "cruelty-free" products you buy.

Leaping Bunny



This logo is the gold standard internationally. It guarantees that the product does not test on animals at any stage of the product process. Managed by the Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics.

"Cruelty Free"



The product and product suppliers do not test on animals. However, a product can sell in China if they are made there. This means they are subject to animal testing. Managed by Peta.

Not tested on animals



This only guarantees the finished product has not been tested on animals. All makeup products in the U.S. must abide to these laws anyway so it's the least reliable.

BASIC FACE PRODUCTS

Here are some inexpensive finds that are free from animal testing — and make you look good.



PRIMER: MILANI SPF BFF

COST: \$8 Best for dry skin but suitable for all skin types. It has a tacky finish, good for gripping foundation and locking it in. Apply sunscreen before the primer for extra protection from UV rays.



FOUNDATION: ELF FLAWLESS FINISH

COST: \$8 Works for all skin types, with a buildable finish that is semi-matte. It works best for oily skin and is a liquid type. If you have dry skin or areas, it's best to apply a thinner layer.



CONCEALER: WET N' WILD PHOTOFOCUS

COST: \$5 Get creaseless undereyes, with light to medium coverage. The price is cheap and the portion is small, for when you're in a pinch. Limited shade range.



POWDER: COLOURPOP LOOSE SETTING POWDER

COST: \$10 Suitable for a full day of class with its weightless finish. Also good for a night out, with no flash back for those back camera selfies. They offer 6 different shades.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL**IN SEARCH OF FIRST VICTORY**

The Dons beach volleyball team continues to struggle in the season so far. Losing all 10 matches in season and being 0-3 to start the beginning of the Orange Empire Conference.

The team is young with the majority being freshman and only one sophomore.

Yet time on their side, the Dons can turn it around with winning the eight games that remain to extend their season.

ISAAC HERNANDEZ

BASEBALL**IN MEMORIAM: MICAH PIETILA-WIGGS**

Former Don Micah Pietila-Wiggs died in a car accident on Jan. 22. Known for his hard work and athleticism, the Little League superstar was a leadoff hitter for the Dons last season.

He is remembered as one of the biggest grinders on the team: "The attitude never changed, whether he was [winning or losing] he stayed the same," sophomore infielder Cedrick Perez said.

ISAAC HERNANDEZ

**Early success**

PHOTO BY
EDGAR GALVAN
STORY BY
ISAAC HERNANDEZ

After being undefeated in pre conference play, the Dons have lost the first two series to Cypress and Riverside College.

The Dons are off to a hot start in the season with a current record of 18-5-1. The team currently stands in fourth place in the Orange Empire Conference, with plenty of important games remaining.

After two years the team was able to have a full schedule of games in the month of March before conference started. The team went undefeated in thirteen games before suffering their first loss to Sierra College. After their loss, they bounced back and hit a fifteen-win mark before starting their games in the OEC.

Contributing at the plate is freshman outfielder Christian Thompson with a batting average of .436, and 23 RBIs this season. Another player threat is home run leader freshman outfielder Kyle Ashworth with five home runs.

On the other side of the ball sophomore pitcher Chase Hennessey is dominating on the mound with a record of 3-0 with an ERA of 1.88. Helping close the door to their games is sophomore pitcher and shortstop Cedrick Perez with three saves and a total of thirty four strikeouts.

Head coach Tom Nilles said "It is hard to pinpoint any one guy, everyone has kinda done a lot 100 percent [it's been a] team effort you got some guys standing out with hot starts but you certainly can't do it with just one or two guys."

In the OEC they currently stand with the record of 3-4 after dropping the first series to Cypress College. After dropping the first two games to the Chargers it definitely was a wake-up call for the whole team. In fact, in the last game of the series, they ended up scoring a whopping 25 runs with the win. This momentum even carried over to the Riverside series when they walked away with the win after 10 innings.

"Disappointed in dropping the series to Cypress, we were a better baseball team than what we showed in that series," said Niles. "We look to be trending in the right direction. The bats are starting to wake up, playing good defense, and pitching has been solid for us."

Although it may seem like the team is young, in reality they are more mature and focused. With seven returners on the team, what seemed to make the difference this year was the team's unity. With covid restrictions finally being loosened the team was able to work out more together in the fall. A trip up north on the 25th of February to Sierra all helped out with this year's team bonding.

"Being able to work out as a team this fall I think had a huge impact on our team compared to last year" said Hennessey. Sophomore catcher Sebastian McSherry continued "I think this year's team is more connected than in the last and we all build off each other's energy and have a lot of fun."



ALL OR NOTHING / Top: Sophomore pitcher Emily Rosas has 20 wins this season. Bottom: Players are eager to take the game all the way home.

SOFTBALL

ROLLING THROUGH UNDEFEATED

PHOTOS AND WORDS
EDGAR GALVAN

A smooth season for the Dons who are leading the table and are undefeated in conference.

With half of the games ending by way of mercy so far this season, the Dons are ranked first and are undefeated in conference play. The Dons have a perfect 10-0 and aren't letting the rest of the Orange Empire Conference catch up.

Leading the Dons this year is sophomore pitcher Emily Rosas, who completed 10 shutouts and three no-hitters. With Covid giving athletes an opportunity of an extra year of eligibility, Rosas is currently in her third season. This season is already her best one with 15 games remaining in the season.

"Part of her performance is because of the great deal of respect and communication between the players and coaches," said Emily's mom Antonia Rosas.

Making batters look foolish is her specialty and has the numbers to prove it. Rosas has been putting the league on notice this season with 20 wins under her name. Even her own teammates are impressed with her consistency throughout the season.

"It's crazy catching her, I didn't really understand how good she was until I got behind the plate, and I was like this is mindblowing," said sophomore catcher Iyari Ramirez. "Em is a different breed, like we come out there and she pumps us up and then she throws a bunch of strikes and comes back and gives us more energy, it's just unexplainable."

This is combined with a total of nine shutouts to complete a perfectly balanced team. The Dons have an outstanding .974 fielding percentage and a total of 129 assists.

"Our defense is solid, I think that's

separating us from past teams that we have had. Sometimes there is a hole, but I think these girls are really good defensively," said head coach Marissa Ross.

The Dons have slipped up three times and hold an overall record of 20-3 including 10 mercy rules. The first mercy victim was Mt. San Jacinto College in the first game of the season. That match ended in six innings with a final score of 8-0. Their biggest blowout so far was a visit to San Diego Mesa College with a final score of 19-0 in five innings of play.

A total of 158 runs in 23 games shows that they know how to clear the bases. It's difficult to pinpoint only one hitter in a squad filled with great batters. The Dons have seven starting batters who hit above a .300 average.

The leadoff hitter for the Dons is sophomore shortstop Airilin Ramirez who has been essential. A menace in the box she has a total of 20 RBIs and 26 hits. Causing serious chaos in the batters box for visiting pitchers are sophomore infielder Jojo Westerfield and freshman catcher Sarah Casey. In the cleanup spot, Westerfield holds a .412 average followed by Casey with an outstanding .421 average. The heart of the order has been a nightmare for opponents who haven't found a solution to stop them.

"They really have the mentality that losing is not acceptable, so they are pretty eager after a loss and they believe if they lose they are gonna come back and win the next one," said head coach Marissa Ross.

PITCHING BY THE NUMBERS

161	0.89	134
Number of strikeouts	Average earned runs	Innings pitched

OPINION EDUARDO VELASQUEZ

MEDIA MAKES US INSENSITIVE?

The world is on fire but we don't feel the heat anymore. With social media playing such a big role in our daily lives it's hard to not be aware whenever a major crisis is happening but I find it's also hard to care about it.

In today's world it seems that there is nothing we as a society won't make jokes about. No matter how severe something is. The intention thought behind this for a lot of us is "we laugh about it so we don't cry about it," but I believe this hurts us more than helps us.

Laughing about these crises can undermine the severity of them all making it seem like a smaller deal than what they actually are. If we don't take these events seriously then we just see them as another trend and don't feel pressured to do something about it.

To us fires are yesterday's news and hardly ever pass our feed. This hurts us because we only look at quick fixes for these issues instead of long term solutions. It seems that we only care about an issue until our feed refreshes.



➔ Staff Editorial

FIX OUR CURRENT FACILITIES

New buildings are nice, but what about the ones we have now?

While SAC is focusing on the newly constructed buildings, it seems as though the old ones are slipping into disrepair in the process. Some students have complained about their programs being hosted in outworn, cramped and potentially hazardous buildings.

Concerns of mold, bad smells and other issues are not unreasonable, given that over half of SAC's main buildings are more than 50 years old. Now is the time to identify any immediate repair needs and begin tackling them in the order of importance.

A \$500 million bond measure was proposed in 2020 that would focus on repairs in the existing buildings as well as better accessibility for students with disabilities. Unfortunately it didn't pass and we were left with no fixes.

The board of trustees is currently discussing a new bond measure that would pay for SAC's future plans to replace the outdated buildings on campus and relieve parking issues.

One of SAC's oldest programs, for example, is still waiting for modernized facilities. The Theatre Department has been providing theatrical training since 1915 and has been using the Phillips Hall Theatre since its construction in 1957. Many other historic programs on campus are in similar positions.

If a new theater can't be built soon – or the rusty pipes and broken bathrooms fixed – then the focus should be on revitalizing it. Clear any potential health hazards, make necessary repairs and update technologies used by students every day.

The school received an influx of federal and state money during the pandemic and we are being held non-labile for enrollment through 2025.

Administrators should get creative and find ways to use the money the school already has on critical facilities issues. Students are expected to be patient for new buildings, which is understandable, but we shouldn't have to wait for repairs to our existing ones.



Let's talk about Spring Break. Reporters Miranda Navarro and Lucero Garcia asked students walking through the SAC campus about their plans for the week-long holiday.

NO CLASSES: APRIL 4 TO APRIL 10

"I'm going to Mexico with my family for my cousins wedding."
-Roxanna Cruz

"I am most likely going to stay home or pick up more shifts at my job. I am excited because I won't have to do homework during the break"
-Yesenia Vasquez

Spring

"I'm excited to hit the gym more, sleep in and go to work."
-Vero Frausto

"I'm excited to see BbyMutha live at The Echo."
-Heaven Stevenson

Break

Plans?

"I'll be going to an interview with Humboldt University, since that's where I'll be transferring to."
-Elliot Walker

"I am hoping to go to a concert, if not I'll just be staying home."
-May Tanner

"I am going to Israel for one week and then going to Miami the following week."
-Kiara