

Trojan Tribune



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News From Ouray High School
Reporters: Anna Biolchini, Caeley Eddy, Ally King, Cliona Pasek

Calendar

Thursday, October 5

All Day - No School for Students
 4:00 pm - HS VB in Montrose

Friday, October 6

All Day - NO SCHOOL
 10:00 am - HS XC in Delta
 5:00 pm - HS VB @ home vs Nucla

Saturday, October 7

All Day - NO SCHOOL
 8:00 am - HS XC in Aspen
 1:00 pm - HS VB at Caprock Academy

Monday, October 9

3:00 pm - HS KB in Norwood

Tuesday, October 10

4:00 pm - HS VB in Telluride

Heard in the Halls

“This coffee is like a tsunami that will wash all the sadness away.”

New Season for Smarts

by Cliona Pasek

Beep! Buzzers are going off as the students of Ouray School are back at it with another season of Knowledge Bowl. Knowledge Bowl is an activity where Middle and High school students get to test their knowledge by practicing, traveling, and competing with surrounding schools.

“Knowledge Bowl is really great, it’s super fun to be around the team, and overall it’s just a really good time,” commented freshman Joy Vann, High School Knowledge Bowl teammate.

During a competition, students are split up into teams of four and are assigned classrooms from posted sheets. They will then enter their designated classroom, will sit down in front of a buzzer strip, and will then battle the other two teams in the room, both from other schools. In front of all three teams, sits two student, teacher, or parent volunteers one giving the questions and the other timing. Quickly, the students will think of the answer to the question, hit their buzzer, and will have the chance to present their team answer within 15 seconds without talking. If they get it right, then they get one point, if not then the next two teams will have a chance to answer. Anything from Math to Art to Politics could pop up during one of the rounds.

Working as a team becomes challenging at times, as you have to answer the question with your teammates without saying a single word, using only hand gestures to indicate who might know the answer the best.

Over the course of the past 6 years, the high school has qualified for the State competition each year. They have won first place in the 1A division 4 years out of those six.

But all of this couldn’t be done if it wasn’t for the hard work that their coach, Mr. Eric Fagrelus put in to make sure they got to meets safely, were provided food, and to keep their brains up and running, as he is also a teacher at the Ouray School.

“I like it because my friends are on the team and we work well together. Not only do I get to spend time with my favorite people, but we are successful with what we do.” commented senior Mackenzie Gibbs.

Students Have the Reins

by Caeley Eddy

We all know that feeling of walking into parent/teacher conferences with our parents. In a new format being introduced this week, students now get to control the entire meeting. The new format is called student-led conferences.

These conferences provide students with the opportunity to share their feelings about school, teachers, grades, and much more, and take more ownership of their own process of learning.

“Hopefully it will raise parent and student attendance by 90%,” said assistant principal Mr. Nelson. No longer will teachers simply tell parents how their children are doing in school. Instead, students will tell their parents about their learning, their strengths, and their challenges.

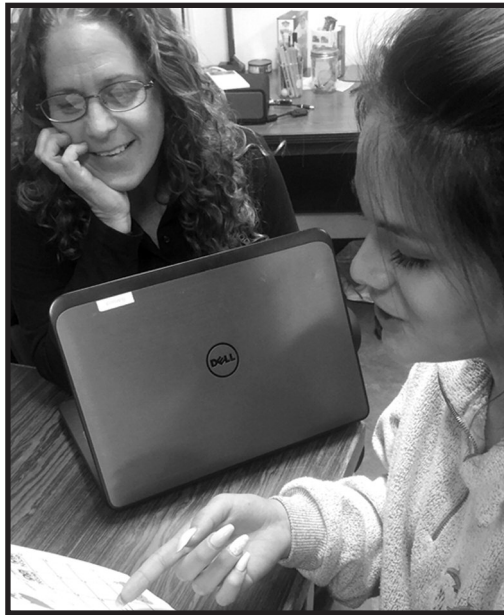
In student-led conferences, students will talk about their schooling. Their mentors will encourage them with certain questions. Parents will sit and listen to the students, or ask questions. After

the 20 minutes end, students and their parents will have 40 minutes to circulate, and visit other teachers.

“I feel like this is a great opportunity for kids to take on the leadership role,” said music teacher Mr. Scott. In the past years, teachers would talk about grades or how the student is behaving in class; normally a student wouldn’t even attend. Now students must go, because they are telling their own stories, instead of the teacher telling it for them.

“This is amazing because it will help the students prepare for interviews in college or for jobs,” said special education teacher Mrs. Nelson.

Students are also anticipating good results from this change in the format of parent/teacher conferences. “I like the idea of student-led conferences; maybe it will bring more of me and my family together,” said freshman Haley Kunz.



Adding a New Staff Member to the Mix

by Mackenzie Gibbs

“And today, I brought you all cookies!” exclaims Mr. Chiang offering two plates to his students. “I messed up the chocolate biscotti a little bit but it still tastes great.” His students look at each other in delight.

Mr. James “Jimmy” Chiang faces the challenge of replacing two teachers who left at the end of last school year: long-time 7th grade teacher Mr Foy, and former high school math teacher Ms. Rosenberg.

Assistant principal Kenneth Nelson said that the hiring committee was impressed with Mr. Chiang as a “dynamic person. He really connected with kids in his previous position, and he clearly knows the material,” he said.

After earning his degree from Cornell, Mr. Chiang taught for a year in Japan and then two years in Saguache CO. He pursued the opening here in Ouray because of his desire to teach higher levels of math, and is excited about his colleagues here. “Even after just two months,” he said, “I feel like I’m learning a ton.”

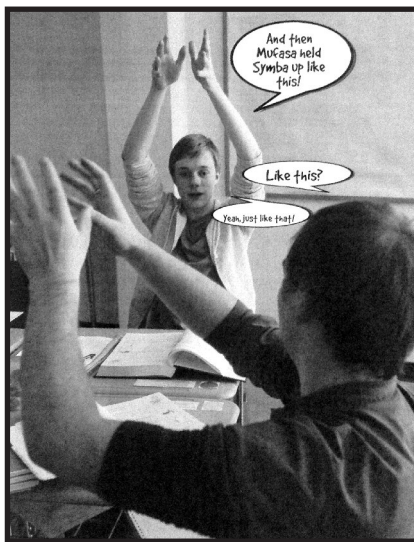
Even as he teaches seven out of the eight periods in the day and deals with 6 different grade levels, students think he is doing a

fantastic job. “I don’t know what I was expecting from him on the first day,” said senior calculus student Keegan Eddy. “But he definitely surpassed it. He has already earned my respect and admiration within the first couple weeks.”

With the calculus class in particular, Mr Chiang has done all that he can to get the kids an actual class, instead of one online. “When I heard the class would be online, I was concerned because I would have to do a lot more self-learning,” said senior Aaron Gregory. “But after two days, he managed to get us textbooks and start us with an actual class. Now I don’t have to teach myself calculus.”

The middle schoolers are also very enamored with Mr Chiang. Eighth grader Rock Gibbs said, “I love having Mr Chiang as a teacher. It is my dream to be in one of his memes.” Chiang frequently takes photographs of his students in action and transforms them into humorous comics.

It is not just his hard work that is impressive, though. According to junior Nathalie Valenzuela, “Mr Chiang has the voice of an angel. I’ll definitely be paying attention in pre-calc.”



One of Chiang’s famous “memes”

Actors Excited to Raise the Dead

by Caeley Eddy

Rehearsals have started for the five students participating in this year’s Ouray High School play, *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward. Owen Timm, Nisha Harding, Kacie Meraz, Kaydee Alvarez, Makaya Cervone, and Ally King as well as director Ms Alyssa Preston are excited to share this story with the Ouray community.

Blithe Spirit is about a man whose wife died but he remarried, and the dead wife returns during a seance to haunt him. The performances will take place in the APAC November 9, 10, and 11.

Mrs. Preston is excited. Auditioning is difficult for her, she said, since she has to choose which kid would be perfect for which part. But she loves directing because it’s her passion, and she gets to tell the story.

Sophomore Kaydee Alvarez will play the dead wife of Charles Condomine, Elvira. Kaydee explained, “I was kind of nervous to audition, but

when it was over, it didn’t seem as hard.” She smiled. “I love acting: I actually want to go to college for it.” She claims to have no fear of being on stage and says that “it’s not too hard to memorize a part, you read and then know what flows next.”

Makaya Cervone, sophomore, was cast as the medium, known as Madame Arcati. She is will raise Elvira back to life as a ghost. Makaya also claims that she is “never nervous on stage, I love acting.” She laughed. “I like acting because it lets be someone I’m not.” Makaya didn’t know what part in the play she was going to get but is glad she ended up with the one she got.

New senior Ally King is learning the part of the maid, Edith, who helps bring back Elvira. “I feel very excited to be Edith in the play,” she said. “I love acting and I am glad I got a spot. I feel very honored.”