



# A Great Hearts Showdown

## "High Noon" Hits the Stage!

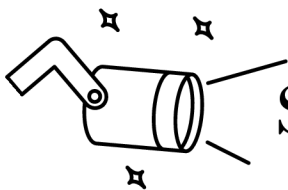
There's a new play in town, and it promises to be a showdown to remember! Within just three short months of school, the 11th-grade Drama class has been working tirelessly on their production of High Noon, a western classic that's sure to bring thrills, chills, and plenty of action.

Directed by Mrs. Hardin, this production introduces us to the Wild West, complete with villains, damsels in distress, a rugged brute, and a hero who's ready to save the day.

Leading the cast, Peter Growdon takes on the role of Marshall Will Kane, a lawman with grit, while Jordan Akhahenda steps into the boots of Frank Miller, the notorious bad guy. Both actors bring their characters to life in unforgettable ways, and according to their director, these roles are "a must-watch." Mrs. Hardin shared her excitement, noting, "We wanted to begin the high school year with a BANG!"—pun very much intended.

This Western adventure is packed with suspense, excitement, and old-fashioned heroism, making it the perfect start to the school year's drama lineup. So, saddle up and get ready for a wild ride! Don't miss High Noon on December 14th at 6:00 p.m.—a showdown that's sure to knock your boots off!

Mark your calendars for this first-ever 11th-grade production—it's bound to be a hit!



## Scholar Spotlights

**Erick Cantu**

*Firefighter in the Making*

Meet Erick Cantu, an eleventh grader who's making big strides both in the classroom and in preparing for a future as a firefighter. Known for being hardworking, reliable, and just all-around "chill," Erick has earned a reputation among his teachers and peers as someone you can always count on.

Erick's favorite class is Humane Letters, where literature, history, and philosophy come together in thought-provoking discussions. He loves that the subject comes naturally to him, and it's no surprise—he's always the first to show up and jumps right into the conversations. Teachers say his quiet confidence really shines when he participates in class, and his Guild team sums him up as easygoing yet incredibly focused.

But Erick's interests don't stop at school. He's also diving headfirst into the San Antonio Fire Department's Explorer Program, setting the stage for a future career in firefighting. His dad, who records training videos for the fire department, helped spark Erick's interest by introducing him to the program. Since then, Erick has been all in.

Through the program, Erick gets hands-on training you won't find in your average high school club. He's learning critical skills through simulated search and rescue training and even mastering the Halligan bar, a giant tool firefighters use to bust open doors during emergencies! His focus and enthusiasm during these drills show he's ready to tackle anything that comes his way.

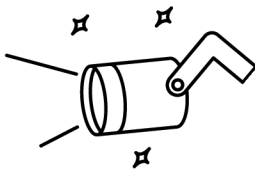
Whether he's debating philosophical ideas in class or practicing life-saving techniques in the Explorer Program, Erick is setting an inspiring example for his peers. With his determination and drive, there's no doubt that Eric is blazing his own trail—one that just might lead him straight into a firehouse someday.



**Leonardo Ayala Gavarrete**

*A Determined Face in the 7th Grade*

Leonardo-or as he prefers, Leo- is a seventh grader, and shines with his strong determination and enthusiasm for learning. Teachers praised Leo for his resilience and hard work, especially as he navigates school as a bilingual student who is sharpening his English skills. Leo's favorite subject is math, where he appreciates that numbers speak for themselves, making it an accessible area of study for him. Although school can be challenging, Leo continues to work hard in every subject, showing a dedication to his education that his teachers and peers admire. He especially loves it when he gets to work with Mr. Chapa who is always quick to make him laugh while lending a helping hand. When first meeting Leo, you might think he's on the shy side but scratch the surface and there is a passionate scholar who Leo dreams of becoming a pilot one day- a goal that fuels his persistence and passion for learning. Leo's gentle, kind demeanor and his focused approach to school make him a remarkable student to recognize in this edition.





# The Knight and the Lie

A Creative Writing Submission by Cassandra Rodriguez



Once upon a time in a land way too far away there lived a kingdom called Sparta. This kingdom was tiny, cold and not incredibly cozy. The wind sang deceitful cries as a knight rode across a drawbridge. The castle doors opened and cheerful faces were eager to greet the knight. McKat was his name and everyone enjoyed his company, especially the princess. Princess Firman knew a lot about knight Mckat and her knowledge of him soon became very helpful. One afternoon in the town the bakery was covered with broken glass and worried faces. The baker had been robbed.

“Are you okay?” The Librarian of Cob’s Library asked.  
“No, what do you think?” the baker exclaimed.  
“Now don't get sarcastic with me, I'm only trying to help,” said the librarian as she swept up some glass. She asked again if he was okay and the baker shortly replied with a yes, and dusted some flour from his counter.  
“I just need to find who did it.”  
“Well did you get a good look at the thief?” asked the librarian.  
“Yes, and no”, replied the baker, “ He covered his face but he clearly had blond hair.”  
“Oh alright” the librarian sighed, “I’ll get the chatter train going just to see if anyone knows whodunit.”  
Later that day the princess heard of what had happened. She was upset that someone would actually do such a terrible thing. She expressed herself to the Queen. Queen Melon shared what she had heard.  
“So rumor has it that the baker’s son actually stole the money to take some girl out, but the farmer claims that the son was working for him during the time of the robbery. Others are saying that it has to be the blacksmith but it can't be since he lost both of his thumbs.”

As the Queen explained, the princess began to think.  
“The description of them is average height and blond. And being blond in Sparta was very rare, especially for men.” Then it clicked and a crash came from the crown room. The Queen and princess rushed to the room where they caught a glimpse of a figure leaving out of the window. Nothing had been stolen . “Well that's strange,” said the Queen, “guess he must've been listening.”  
“The thief is Mckat!” exclaimed the princess.  
Disappointed, the Queen agreed and informed King Parsley of what she witnessed.  
The next morning they sent for the knight and heavily questioned him. Under the pressure McKat could feel his heart thumping and pumping out of his chest. The King, staring down at him, made McKat nervous. Before he began to sweat he confessed.  
“YES, It was me I stole the money, but I only did it so I could buy my bestie a birthday gift.”  
“That's absurd,” exclaimed the king,”Don't we pay you enough?”  
“You don't pay me!” Mckat mumbled under his breath.  
The Queen announced her judgment, rolling her eyes at the knight’s flippant remark. “From this moment on you will no longer be a knight of Sparta! To be a knight is hard work with high standards so if you are not capable of integrity you will no longer be a knight.”  
Humiliated, Mckat nevertheless understood and began to right his wrongs. He returned the money to the baker and when he asked why the change of heart, he simply replied with “we cannot meaningfully grow if we do not own up to what we say and do.”  
Weary headed and tired, Mckat returned to the castle and approached the king and apologized for his mistakes. And the king responded with “we all make mistakes and it's hard to be honest with ourselves.” THE END

Thank you to all our Veterans  
Especially those who came to  
help us remember



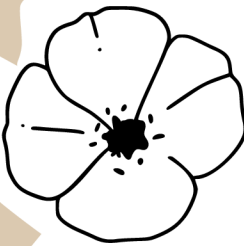
## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

by Lt. Col. John McCrae

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

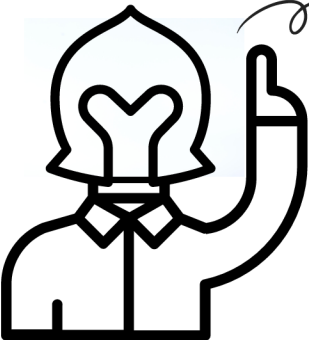


The Spartan Snicker  
(Student Submission)

Today I saw a robber breaking into  
his own house....  
I guess he was working from home!  
  
-Caleb Ruggles, 7th Grade

Dear Sparty,  
Help! I want to submit questions,  
articles, jokes and comics to the Spartan  
Spearhead but don't know how!  
Signed- clueless creative

Signed,  
Sparty



Dear clueless,  
Oh, you want to submit to the SPARTAN SPEARHEAD? Bold move.  
Luckily, it's super easy: just drop your questions, articles, jokes,  
or comics in the mailbox by the front desk.  
  
yes, the same one we remind you about almost every week.  
  
Now that you know, we expect nothing less than brilliance.  
Don't keep us waiting.  
  
Stay SPARTAN STRONG!

Signed,  
Sparty