



The Husky Herald



“PROVIDING, PRESENTING, AND PUBLISHING NEWS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS OF TOMORROW”

March 2025

3/17 St. Patrick's Day

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

By: JOAN HUH on February 26, 2025



Photograph from Facebook

Every year on March 17th, people around the world don their greenest attire, enjoy lively parades, and indulge in festive treats to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. But beyond the shamrocks and leprechauns lies a rich history and deeper meaning behind this beloved holiday.

Saint Patrick's Day commemorates Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, who is credited with bringing Christianity to the Irish people during the 5th century. Legend has it that Saint Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity, making the shamrock a lasting symbol of both Irish culture and faith. Originally a religious feast day, Saint Patrick's Day has since evolved into a celebration of Irish heritage and culture. Today, it's observed not only in Ireland but also in countries worldwide, especially in places with large Irish communities, such as the United States.

While Saint Patrick's Day is often filled with fun and festivities, it's also a time to reflect on the values that Saint Patrick stood for—faith, perseverance, and spreading kindness. Whether you're Irish or not, this holiday is an opportunity to count your blessings and share joy with others.

This Saint Patrick's Day, let's come together as a school community to celebrate with creativity, fellowship, and gratitude. Whether you join in by wearing your greenest outfit, learning about Irish history, or simply enjoying the camaraderie of the day, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day, Huskies! May your day be filled with good luck, laughter, and lots of green.

PRINCIPAL COLUMN

By: DR. SONG on March 1, 2025

NCA = Rigorous School

I am often asked, “What makes NCA a good school?” The length and details of my reply depend on who is asking the question, but I often talk about the ten things that make us unique and better compared to other schools. They are:

1. Academic rigor
2. Highly effective and caring teachers
3. Small class size, designed to provide individual attention
4. Safe and nurturing environment
5. Affordable tuition
6. Genuine community of students, parents, and staff
7. Authentic Christian education
8. Highly responsive leadership
9. Growing school
10. Learning community that is focused on improving constantly

FYI, we actually have a Youtube video describing these: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbwYd8CIE3A>

Since a school is, above all things, a place for students to learn, I'd like to talk about NCA's academic rigor. But, what does the word *rigor* mean? Does it mean NCA is a “hard school,” or teachers assign only difficult and lengthy assignments?

Academic rigor is a complex concept, and I cannot explain it well with limited space. Yet, in short, the word *rigor* in the field of education is about challenging curriculum, instruction, and assessments that are aimed at stretching students beyond their current skill level or even their own perceived expectations. Thus, rigorous instruction and assessment will push students to become better and greater than they thought possible.

Let's be more specific. The following are NCA's “practices” or implementations of academic rigor:

1. Promote and develop critical thinking skills by encouraging students to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information rather than memorizing facts.

2. Enable students to possess deeper understanding by focusing on conceptual mastery rather than surface-level knowledge
3. Expect more from students by demanding persistence, effort, and a growth mindset.
4. Require students to apply learning and knowledge in real-world or interdisciplinary contexts.
5. Encourage students to conduct research, inquiry, and original thought rather than passive learning (memorization and recitation).
6. Effectively assess students through the use of meaningful, fair assessments like essays, projects, and discussions rather than just multiple-choice tests.



This is why:

1. We do not assign mindlessly repetitive tasks
2. Assignments are purposeful and carefully designed and structured
3. Students are expected to master concepts, not just memorize information
4. Student-produced works must display mastery and deep understanding
5. Teachers challenge students to be comfortable with being uncomfortable (in terms of facing challenges and eventually overcoming their shortcomings, failures, or errors)

In the end, academic rigor encourages students to exhibit their learning at a high level using a variety of projects, presentations, and assessments (quizzes/tests).

NCA is a rigorous school that creates a learning environment which encourages students to realize their full potential, acquire critical skills, and get a thorough understanding on the subject matter. That's what makes NCA a “better” school.

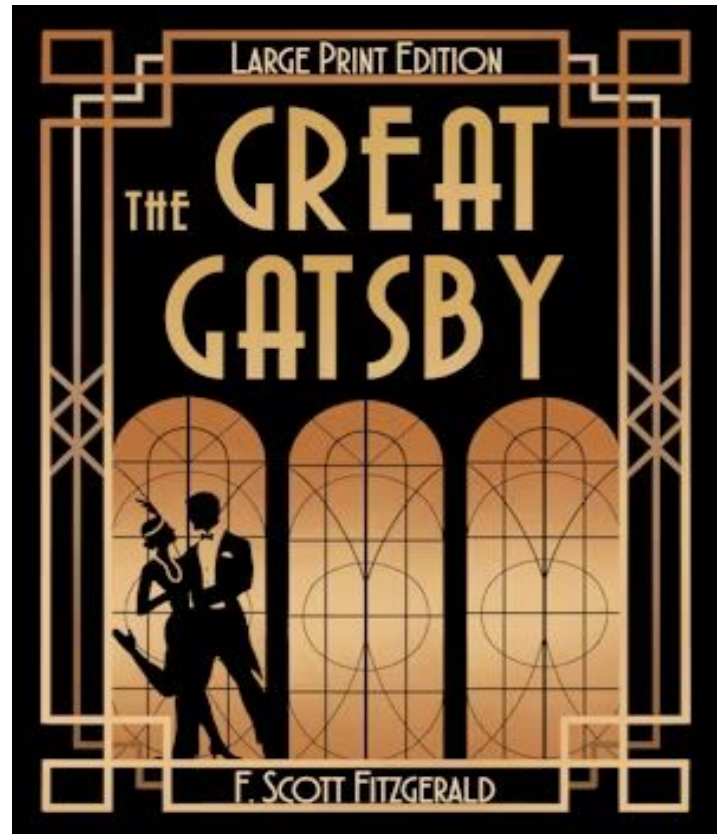
GATSBY PROM NIGHT

By: KATIE KIM on February 26, 2025

Hello, ladies and gentlemen! We are thrilled to announce that this year's high school prom night is fast approaching. The theme for this year's prom is centered around the Roaring Twenties and is officially titled "Gatsby Prom Night." NCA encourages all high school students, from 9th to 12th grade, to seize this opportunity to purchase their tickets as soon as possible for that early bird discount and enjoy a wonderful evening with friends.

Thanks to the diligent work and creative fundraising efforts of the Student Council, this year's prom will be held at Luminarias, located at 3500 W Ramona Boulevard, Monterey Park, CA 91754, on Friday, April 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Please remember that the doors will close promptly at 6:30 PM, so arrive early to secure your seats. The prom venue will feature a variety of items, including drinks, appetizers, a steak dinner, delectable desserts, an opportunity to win prizes, a photo booth, professional portraits, and awards for the best-dressed attendees.

Most importantly, early bird tickets are available from February 24th to the 28th at a cost of \$80 for singles and \$150 for couples. Starting the following Monday, from March 3rd to March 28th, tickets will be regularly priced at \$100 for singles and \$190 for couples. We hope to see you there and don't forget your raffle tickets!



Photograph from Skyhorse Publishing

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL SEASON START

By: SKYLER LIU on February 8, 2025



Photograph by: Chaewon Wi (11)

Hey Huskies,

The boys' volleyball season has begun, and the team is already off to a strong start! With a great group of players, lots of hard work, and a strong team spirit, things are looking really good this season. Coach Abigail Johnston has been leading the team, helping the players improve their skills and work together on the court. So far, all the training and effort are paying off, and the team is playing better than ever.

Volleyball takes quick thinking, fast reflexes, and teamwork, and the boys have been showing all of these skills in their games. Whether it's making a perfect pass, setting up a great spike, or diving for a save, everyone on the team has been stepping up and giving their best effort. More importantly, they are supporting each other, staying positive, and working as a team, which is a big reason why they're doing so well.

A lot of credit goes to Coach Johnston, who has been working hard to help the team grow. She is making sure the players stay focused, improve their game, and play smart. Her coaching has helped the team become more confident, and it shows in the way they play. She pushes them to do their best while keeping the game fun and exciting. The players respect her a lot and are learning new techniques that are helping them win games.

The season has just started, but the team is feeling strong and motivated. They are excited to keep playing, keep improving, and

take on new challenges. They have already shown how much they've improved, and they're not slowing down anytime soon. The team is determined to keep up the momentum, train hard, and bring their best to every game.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and support the team! Cheering from the crowd makes a big difference, and having fans in the stands makes the games even more exciting. The boys are ready to keep pushing forward. With their hard work, they will certainly make this season one to remember!

MARCH MADNESS

By: SKYLER LIU on March 3, 2025

March Madness is an exciting time filled with competition, teamwork, and school spirit. While the term originally comes from the NCAA basketball tournament, where college teams compete for the national championship, our school is bringing its "own version" of March Madness. From March 19 to March 21, students will have the opportunity to compete in basketball, dodgeball, and water balloon challenges. These events will encourage teamwork, friendly competition, and community building among students.

The first event will take place on Wednesday, March 19, with a 5-on-5 basketball tournament in the Chapel Gym. This will be a chance for students to showcase their basketball skills, work together with their teammates, and enjoy the excitement of the game. This event will be a great way to compete, challenge themselves, and support their classmates. The gym will be full of energy as teams try their best to win, and the audience cheer them on.



Photograph from Nation.com.pk



Photograph from Facebook

On Thursday, March 20, the competition will continue with a dodgeball tournament, also in the Chapel Gym. Dodgeball is a fast-moving game that requires quick thinking, teamwork, and strong reflexes. Students will work together to avoid getting hit while aiming to eliminate the other team. This event will test students' speed and strategy while keeping the atmosphere fun and engaging. Whether students are playing or watching, the dodgeball tournament will bring excitement and challenge to the second day of March Madness.

The final event will take place on Friday, March 21, with a water balloon activity in the parking lot. After two days of competition, this will be a chance for students to chill, relax, and have fun. The event will include different water balloon games, such as relay races and accuracy challenges. It will be a great way to wrap up the week, bring students together, and enjoy an afternoon of fun.

March Madness is not just about winning—it is about participation, teamwork, and school spirit. These events give students the chance to challenge themselves, support their classmates, and build a sense of community. Whether playing in a game or cheering from the sidelines, everyone has a role in making March Madness a memorable and meaningful experience. Students are encouraged to get involved and enjoy a week of friendly competition and fun.

2025 WINTER CAMP RECAP

By: APRIL LEE on March 9, 2025

If you were to ask me what a great way to start the year is, I'd probably tell you about New Covenant Academy's annual winter camp. On February 15th, the Huskies took off to a campsite called Oak Glen. We were greeted by generous staff and clean facilities. Many students were thrilled to spend the next two days in the snowy weather, away from addictive technology and bustling cities, and become closer with their classmates and friends.



Photograph by: Evelyn Lee (10)

The overall theme of this year's camp was community. Pastor Ted Kang spoke to us about the importance of being active in a community and how to do so. We learned what makes a good listener and that "a wise man listens to advice instead of being arrogant". Huskies, just remember, you and I are all placed in this community to help each other fulfill our purpose in life: finding God and glorifying Him!

And of course, you can't have a New Covenant Academy Camp without games. The theme for this year's camp was inspired by Disney's Cars. Students were divided into four teams: Red (Lightning McQueen), Brown (Mater), Light Blue (Sally), and Green (Flo). Split into a total of 8 teams, including both middle school and high school, the students played various games including scavenger hunts, relay races, and trivia! Whether it was racing to complete challenges or showing off their teamwork, all the teams really gave it their all.



Photograph by: Evelyn Lee (10)

One new thing about this year's camp was the considerable amount of free time we were given. The camp provided a snack shop and a huge gymnasium, where the majority of students spent their time playing volleyball or basketball. We also warmed up at the campsite with our very own tradition: a talent show. Hosted by Ms. Bufano and Ms. Sawoski, the talent show was an opportunity where Huskies were able to show off their gifts in singing, dancing, and rapping.

Speaking of tradition, throughout the whole camp, the chapel was decorated with brown bags of each individual student and staff at New Covenant Academy. Members of our community were able to pass out meaningful and heartfelt messages to one another, ultimately strengthening our bond. We ended off the last night with a memorable worship set and a prayer for the senior class. Congratulations to the seniors for closing a momentous chapter in their lives; we hope you will start off your next one with great luck!



Photograph by: Evelyn Lee (10)



Photograph by: Daisy Dong (12)



Photograph by: Daisy Dong (12)

We have an Art & Writing column where we proudly display the talents of the students at NCA! If you would like to have your own artwork, poem, or writing piece displayed in next month's edition of The Husky Herald, please email your submissions to hylee@students.e-nca.org along with your name and grade! Submissions can also be anonymous if that happens to be your preference. We look forward to seeing your amazing creations soon!

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The Husky Herald is published due to the hard work of NCA's Journalism Club each month! The students who worked on this month's issue are Joan Huh, Daisy Dong, Katie Kim, April Lee, Skylar Liu, Chloe Zheng, Chaewon Wi, Kailey Kim, Evelyn Lee, Emily Perez, and Hyemi Lee. Additional thanks to Dr. Jason Song and Charlie Lowry for helping make this month's issue possible.

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