

all's WELL that starts WELL

Shakespeare's dropouts perform their first improv comedy show of the school year.

•••• On November 16th, Shakespeare's Dropouts performed their first improv comedy show of the year. Their show was based around their audience's prompts and interactive participation, creating a dynamic and immersive experience for viewers. **RILEY KELLER '24** said, "We come up with games that we want to play and all the games are basically kind of guided into what prompts we want to get from the audience." Keller joined the crew her sophomore year and has played a key role in the club ever since. Last year the club lost four senior veterans, so this year they took five new members which became a really big adjustment. This being the first show of the year was an intimidating experience for these new members, but it resulted in a great success where by the end, the new group shared a confident stage presence. Keller explained how the improv members try to get the prompts they

want out of their audience and then go on the fly. None of the acts were practiced, but if they guided the audience in a certain way, members were able to embody something that has been prompted. Senior **NIVA SHIRSEKAR** said, "We try to be fairly good at pop culture because it makes it funnier for everyone if you reference something that everyone's heard of." The dropouts practiced twice a week, and focused around thinking on their feet using different accents, different physicality, and character choices. In practicing these finite skills they could seamlessly unleash it in different ways during the performance. Shirsekar added that, "We chose to do our show in the Little Theater, the new Black Box Theater, pretty much just because we want it to feel like a more intimate atmosphere." The veterans chose that location purposely just so

for the first show, their new members could feel less nervous and could be more themselves. Each member had a buddy for this show, a new member and veteran, to remind each other of easily forgotten aspects of performing. They worked a lot on cheating out because performers have an inclination to turn in and face their backs to the audience while they are talking to people.



1 - Spirited Shenanigans **RILEY KELLER '24** and **NIVA SHIRSEKAR '24** attempt to improvise with props from audience members. As a part of the show, members of the crowd were told to "pay what they want," whether it was a high five or a donut floaty. **2 - Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork** **AARAV SONTAKKE '27** and **GRAHAM SMOOT '27** collaborate on the big stage with **APRIL BEYERSDORF '24** and **ASHLEY LARSON '25**. Students worked together with the topics their audience gave them at their show in November. **3 - Laughs on laughs** Using 2

members of the audience, **NIVA SHIRSEKAR '24** and **APRIL BEYERSDORF '24** have a blast involving others. Improv members tried to involve their audience as much as possible at all of their shows. **4 - Deer in the Headlights** Performing with a deer head on, **ALENA VU '25** steps it up to the next level for the Shakespeare's Dropouts improv comedy show. Improv members have used props to try to become more animated, making their shows just that much better. *photos by rishabh anand*

tugging on the HEART STRINGS

A deep dive into the art classes in the 600 building, from Ceramics to AP Art.



In the far corner of the school, in the 600's hallway, you can find a classroom filled with colors, tools, and creativity. **BRENDON REUTEBUCH**, oversees art classes of all types, from Ceramics 1 to AP Art. Mr. Reutebuch says, "I love ceramics, it's the most fun and I think these guys enjoy it the most too." As the Ceramics students are working on tables and getting their hands covered in clay, **CECILIA MONTGOMERY-EDER '24** is working on a painting for her AP art portfolio. "It's based on falling out of a Friendship, kind of like one last goodbye hug," says montgomery-eder, describing her artwork. She works on the art, making it out yarn, a wooden frame, and paint, pulling the strings through the canvas.

BEEN there, done that

Eighth graders received help from Lancers on how to write applications and what to say during interviews.



"Many of the eighth graders were asking questions like, 'What should I write to get in,' and 'What do they want to know about me.' I had to remind them that they should focus less on what the admissions people want to read and more on writing about things that they care about."

- VIVIAN ROGERS '27



"I was there mainly to help students and answer questions. The students were pretty nervous but they all seemed excited to get on a high school campus and talk to high school students."

- RILEY CLARKE '25

giving BACK

Students give back to the community on their service learning trips.



Every year, sophomores take a day to serve the community. Many of the different service trips are centered around food insecurity in our community. As a part of Mr. Bernardo's religion class, sophomores **EMMA O'BOYLE**, **KIRA STATHACOPOULOS**, **SOPHIA ERENO** and **CECILY GROWNEY** organize, pack and distribute boxes of food at the Second Harvest warehouse in North San Jose. **PHIL POMPEI** is in charge of organizing the service trips, "So you get to have this

experience together, we set up these experiences with close partners in the community, they know us really well, you know them really well. We believe in their mission, they believe in our mission." Some of the places students volunteer at include Catholic Charities, Second Harvest, and Sacred Heart Community Service. "It's really just an opportunity to make a big impact in a short amount of time," says **MR. POMPEI**.



WHERE you AT?

Upperclassmen selected to go on immersion have been blessed with the opportunity to travel around the world, helping those in need across the globe.



"I'm excited because I'm from Brazil and I haven't been back there in 10 years since I moved here to the United States from Brazil."

- HIGOR LOPES DE AVILA '25



"My initial reaction was pure excitement. Although an immersion trip is out of my comfort zone, I'm looking forward to making an impact in Puerto Rico."

- ALEXANDRA CAIN '25



"I'm going to El Paso, Texas and I was a little bummed because I already went to Texas but I thought it will still be fun and the food will be good."

- WILLIAM CARR '24

"My family starts celebrating on December 1."

- OLIVIA POOLE '27

"We start putting up our Christmas decorations the first week of December."

- DARIUS SAYAR '26

"I think it's appropriate to put up Christmas lights and start celebrating after Thanksgiving."

- RHEA AHUJA '24

"My family starts celebrating the first week of December."

- JASON SCHUYLER '26

THERE ARE a lot OF HOLIDAY TRADITIONS, BUT WHEN DO YOU START CELEBRATING?

"My family starts celebrating Christmas on December 23 because of our Swedish heritage. My dad is Swedish and he grew up doing it that way."

- SADIE AHLSTROM '27

"We start celebrating a week before Christmas, so around December 17."

- ROHAN KOSALGE '24

"I start celebrating after Black Friday."

- CATERINA ALZATI-SALDANA '25

"I start celebrating holidays on December 1 because it's after Thanksgiving."

- LIAN ELSA LINTON '24