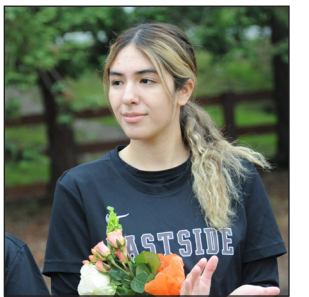


Class of '22 left
legacy of spirit
page 6

THE EASTSIDE PANTHER



Senior Nights
show the love
page 7

The Independent Student Newspaper of Eastside College Preparatory School

March 7, 2025 • Volume 25, Issue 3

East Palo Alto students demonstrate unity and resistance amid immigration challenges

By Ariana Delabra

He said he would, and he sort of is, and Eastsiders have noticed. Before President Donald Trump took office in January, he was widely known for his promises to end birthright citizenship and initiate mass deportations. The president quickly acted through memorandums, proclamations, and executive orders, reorganizing government structures and addressing both domestic and international issues.

However, these actions are not without pushback. Many of Trump's attempts to overhaul long-standing policies will face significant legal challenges, some of which have already occurred. Changes that impact constitutional rights will require more than executive action — they would need to go through legislation or be tested in court. Legal experts predict that several of Trump's policies will face intense scrutiny, potentially leading to delays or reversals.

In East Palo Alto, the impact of these policies sparked both small and large-scale demonstrations. On Feb. 2, students at Aspire East Palo Alto Charter School (EPACS) led a protest as part of the "Day Without Immigrants" campaign, marking a show of solidarity within the community. A few days later, on Feb. 5, students from East Palo Alto Academy, KIPP Esperanza and Oxford Day Academy led a larger protest, marching from Ravenswood Shopping Center to Stanford University. This demonstration reflected growing resistance to the administration's immigration stance.

"We came early, and we thought no one was going to come. I started doubting a little bit," sophomore Ramiro Zamora. "We went



Angela Hernandez, Cherish Drayton, Keiki Leni, Julisa Muniz Hernandez, Ramiro Zamora, Chelsea Morales, Sarahi Cordero and Valeria Hernandez chant in unison, marching with students from East Palo Alto Academy, KIPP Esperanza and Oxford Day Academy down University Avenue in Palo Alto, Calif. to Stanford University on Feb. 5, 2025. Photo by Rashel Naranjo Arellano

to go buy a speaker, played some music and then boom! People were everywhere. People from KIPP, from EPAA, people from everywhere came! It was awesome!"

On Feb. 3, community organizers launched the "Day Without Immigrants" campaign, urging people to stay home from work and school to highlight the vital role immigrant workers play in American society. The aim was to show how the economy and everyday life would be impacted without immigrants' contributions.

In cities like New York, Los Angeles and Phoenix, protesters gathered to call for stronger protections for immigrant families. The demonstrations sent a clear message: communities are united in their opposition to ICE's tactics, which have led to family separations and heightened fear in immigrant neighborhoods.

"I understand the reason, but I don't know if the people are going to represent in the right way," senior Ashley Martinez said. "That is what I am scared about. There is

something that you protest, but you need to know the reason why. I don't think everyone that is going really knows the reason why."

As protests continue across the Bay Area, East Palo Alto residents are increasingly advocating for immigrant rights, calling for both local and national action to protect immigrant families from deportation.

The annual Blood Drive is a success yet again

By Rashel Naranjo Arellano

There were 51 students, staff and Eastside family members who signed up to donate blood this year on Feb. 3. Up to 153 lives could be saved with the number of Eastside community members due to every donation possibly saving up to three lives, according to stanfordbloodcenter.org.

The blood drive was a success according to Stanford Blood Center Manager Monica Doleshel, with 46 registered, 12 deferrals. There were 33 whole blood donations and one double red cell donation, resulting in 35 productive units. 29 first-time donors. The 33 whole blood units will impact around 99 patients, with two from the double. According to Doleshel, the blood drive resulted in many positive outcomes.



Junior Ariel Floyd donates blood at the Blood Drive on Feb. 3, 2025. Photo by Rashel Naranjo Arellano

Continued on page 3

Reality is more than social media shows people

By Angie Calderón

A shooting that took place on Feb. 24, 2025, just a block from Eastside, has brought attention to the real-life consequences of violence, reminding the community of the lasting effects that don't always make it onto social media. The incident left an adult male victim with a non-life-threatening gunshot wound. The victim was quickly transported to a local hospital by an unidentified driver in a red sedan, who was speeding recklessly and caused a collision before fleeing the scene, according to the East Palo Alto Police Department. "The East Palo Alto Police Department needs our community assistance with this investigation. We can solve this crime with assistance and support from our community members," the EPA Police Department said on its website.

While the incident itself may not have been widely shared online, "Sometimes bad things hap-

pen in your own backyard and just because it wasn't all over social media doesn't mean real people aren't impacted," junior Chelsea Morales said. "These real events impact families and communities and people should be reminded that people have real emotions and the real world consists of more than what we see on our FYP or Instagram feed."

But social media often fools people into thinking that everything online is a reliable resource. With social media, it's crucial to recognize that the world beyond our screens has real consequences.

Social media can have both a positive and negative impact on society. On one hand it connects people, provides platforms for raising awareness and facilitates the exchange of information. Junior Anyrah Green-Frazier speaks on social media spreading false information and the impact platforms can have on the world around us.

"Social media can make global

issues worse such as cyberbullying, misinformation, and mental health challenges. The spread of false information limits people to certain viewpoints, which can separate communities. Also creating societal divisions based on the type of news they receive," Green-Frazier said.

Sophomore Fifeh Alamutu has concerns about the dangers of social media. "Social media is dangerous especially if you believe everything you see. I don't think people can actually put an end to misinformation, but they can definitely choose what seems reliable and check other sources, not just social media," Alamutu said.

As the East Palo Alto Police Department continues to seek information from the public, this event highlights the importance of balancing online engagement with real life awareness. that affect the people around us in ways that are often invisible in our digital feeds and the impact they can have on the world around us.