

Matadors Enjoy Spring Break

Spring break for Orindians has always been a time to hit the hottest, most relaxing attractions around the world. Students visit some of the most amazing national and international spots including Hawaii, Mexico, Europe, and Australia. As amazing as these places can be, many other students stayed in good ol' Orinda while enjoying the rare peace and quiet of the town.

1.Hawaii

As one of the most famous spring break hotspots of the century, students soaked up the sun on some of the most beautiful islands in the world. Various students traveled to Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island. Sophomore Grace Mills enjoyed her vacation on the Big Island with her family by going on spontaneous adventures around the island which included snorkeling, zip lining, and some relaxation time on the beach. "I've been to Hawaii a few times, but each time it gets better and better! Although it rained a couple times I would not have taken this trip for granted," Mills said. Hawaii will forever keep its title as one of the top tropical vacation spots for many Miramonte families.

2.Mexico

A tropical, relaxing, sensational vacation, Mexico is known for some of the most beautiful beaches around the world. Many Matadors traveled down to a variety of Mexico's cities including Cabo San Lucas, Cancún, La Paz, Puerto Vallarta, and Punta Mita. Sophomore Abigail Crinks enjoyed the sunshine out in Puerto Vallarta. While getting a nice tan, Crinks went zip lining, jet skiing, and spent time relaxing on the beach. "Going to Puerto Vallarta was an awesome experience and I definitely recommend going," Crinks said. Junior Taylor Johnson also traveled to Mexico this Spring Break. "I went to

La Paz for break. It was one of coolest experiences of my life because I got to swim with whale sharks. I would love to come back and explore more of the country and I would rate La Paz an 11/10," Johnson said.

3.San Diego

From college tours, beach trips, to shopping, San Diego was a crowded place to be over break. It may not be as tropical as Hawaii or Mexico, but, San Diego is one of the best beach cities in the nation with great restaurants, shopping, and of course beaches. Students' travels varied from Del Mar, Mission Beach, La Jolla, Coronado, and Pacific Beach which are all beach cities located in San Diego County. Freshman Alex Eversole visited La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club with her family and a couple other Miramonte families. "With family and friends we usually make La Jolla an annual Spring Break trip. Every year we go out and paddle board, but our go-to activity is relaxing and tanning on the beach," Eversole said. The San Diego scenery has continued to attract more and more tourists. With annual traditions like the Eversole's, Miramonte students will continue to visit.

4.Orinda

Although it may not be the place everyone wants to be when given a break off from school, many Matadors vacationed in their own homes in the quaint, little Orinda. Students got to enjoy the serenity of Orinda since so many people were out of town on vacation. Sophomore Sabrina Grant was one of the many students who stayed at home over break. "My family has travelled a lot this year so we just wanted a break from travelling. It was nice to hang out with some of my friends and enjoy the time we had off of school," Grant said. Sophomore Nicole Van Stralen also stayed in Orinda over break. However, she acted as a tourist in San Francisco some days. "It was very unusual to be in Orinda when it was so quiet, so I decided to explore around the city to Crissy Field and Marin

Headlands with family," Van Stralen said.

The Mirador's Valentine's Day Video

Mirador Reviews the Fall Play: The Secret in the Wings

Wednesday, November 1, Miramonte's fall play *The Secret in the Wings* by Mary Zimmerman premiered in the Miramonte theatre. The play was executed beautifully, with stunning costumes, captivating background sets, and incredible acting from Miramonte drama students.

On Wednesday, the Miramonte auditorium was packed full of eager students, parents and staff ready to engross themselves in the thick plot. *The Secret in the Wings* was different from most Miramonte performances. The play was composed of numerous short stories as told through the perspective of a neighbor who is watching a child while her parents attend a dinner party. The enriching plot of the play consists of many popular fairy tales such as *Three Blind Queens*, *Stolen Pennies*, *The Princess Who Wouldn't Laugh*, *Three Snake Leaves*, *Allerleria*,

and *Seven Swans*. “This type of play was really interesting, just the way it was told was really cool, I felt like I was always having to keep track of every little detail,” sophomore Marius VanDongen said.

The stories took place in different environments such as caves or woods, which demanded a diverse set of props as well as background staging. “Making the scenes was a lot more fun than I thought it would be,” sophomore Carter Ireland, a member of the Miramonte StageCraft group said.

Many audience members were impressed with the presentation of the play. “It is really impressive how three different classes came together to create this play. From the set crew to the performers, I thought this play was really a milestone for Miramonte performances,” junior Andrea Libby said. Not only did students enjoy the play, but drama teacher Heather Cousins, was very proud of the production she and the drama students put on for the audience.

Drama's Halloween Performances Spook Students

Mats exited the Miramonte theatre feeling thoroughly spooked on Friday, Oct. 21 following a chilling performance by the Drama 2 class.

The students' assignment was to twist classic fairy tales into Halloween-worthy horror stories, and though their performances may have been a tad scream-heavy (I'm fairly certain my eardrums were bleeding), the groups were undoubtedly successful in their renderings. The performance took place during fifth period, and any students who were permitted by

their teachers to attend were allowed entrance.

A particular favorite was the opening performance, a horrific version of Little Red Riding Hood, in which the wolf is not an actual wolf, but a serial killer who brutally murders both Red and her poor grandmother. The group's sparing use of dialogue proved that less is more, letting the audience's imaginations fill in the gaps. In general, performances that were shorter and that had linear, straightforward plots felt more tasteful (and easier to understand) overall.

Additionally, kudos ought to be offered to the talented student who took to the piano. His playing added a freshly spooky dimension to the performances.

The Halloween show was the class's first public performance as a part of Miramonte drama, and it bodes well for Miramonte's dramatic future. *The Mirador* looks forward to seeing what else these performers have to offer on stage.

Food Fights Break Out on the Quad

Tony Caselle is casually standing by a lunch table, enjoying a snack and chatting among friends, when suddenly, he gets nailed in the chest by an apple. The next day, Caselle timidly stands at the table with a bruised peck when BAM! Another apple hits his chest! How is this possible and who is to blame?

Food products such as chocolate milk and apples have been catapulted across the quad in attempts to hit people on the other side. Students from the senior lawn have also partaken

in this so-called war, although the battles are most often fought between the sophomore and junior classes. Food of all sorts fly across the lawn from students hiding behind trees. "It all started when the sophomores of 2017 decided to target other grades because it was funny. Nobody knows who fired the first shot, but brunch has changed ever since," senior Teddy Hoxie said. Ever since that day, there have been many occurrences of food fights breaking out on the quad.

As a result of these treacherous fights, fear has risen in some students. "I am afraid of I getting hit by miscellaneous food items," junior Haley Holbrook said. Other students, such as Caselle, have modified their daily routine to avoid the horrors of the quad. The idea of apples flying towards people is not only scary, but potentially dangerous. Other students seek out hiding spots when the first shot is fired and scan the grounds to gather food products for throwing.

Although these food battles do bring up some concern, some students have a different take on it. "Honestly, it's just a fun game even though it can be dangerous. Brunches get boring and it's just a couple of guys trying to have a good time," sophomore Jacob Brewster said. The majority of students are spectators, but a select few continue to take action in this "war". An anonymous source said, "It has been very enjoyable so far and even satisfying when I was able to hit a sophomore with an apple." Henry Marken was preparing to hurl a milk carton to the opposing side of the senior lawn, when Mrs. Carlson approached. Marken timidly retreated and was sentenced to 70 minutes of detention.

Students are left with many questions and concerns regarding the food fight "war" that is currently going on. Will this become a Miramonte legacy or will it rot like the core of a misfired apple?

Rally Leaders Ignite School Spirit

Friday, June 9th capped off the end of an era, a legacy established by the three rally leaders Ryan Little, Liam Madsen, and Robbie Tennant during the course of the 2016-2017 school year. In the course of the year, the three friends managed to not only redeem the uninventive and disappointing rallies from the prior year, but also set a precedent and high expectations for the years ahead.

Henry Marken, Sterling Kassela, and Jack Mader were the perfect group to take on the high standard set by the previous rally leaders. In the final rally last year, students received a small preview of the 2017-2018 rally leaders. With the small snippet of what the future rally leaders had in store, students were anxious to see more.

When Friday, September 1 rolled around expectations rode high and the pressure weighed heavily on the shoulders of the three seniors. "There is an immense amount of pressure as last year was so good and people are always wanting to be more and more entertained," senior rally leader Henry Marken said. From spirited upperclassmen to slightly intimidated freshmen, the gym was jam packed with an anxious staff and student body, ready for the rally to commence. Even before the rally, class cheers thundered from the sides of the gym. "I wanted to show the freshmen what a rally consisted of and also, I wanted to have class spirit and get my fellow classmates hyped," sophomore Justin Alvarado said. Surprising most, the teachers joined in on the cheers, jumping from their chairs and emphatically throwing their arms in the air and screaming as if they were riding a roller coaster. The spirited environment

set the stage for the rally leaders' video.

Sporadic laughter and intermittent applause was constant throughout the entire video with humorous guest appearances, including, sophomore Konrad Mader, the three rally leaders from last year, junior Emma Marken, freshmen Ben and 7th grader Luke Duncan, senior Mark Mezody, and senior Ben Mollahan. The wide sample of guest appearances gave each class a connection to the video and to one another. "The goal of the video was to encourage laughter," senior Sterling Kassela said. The video centered around how Campolindo was recruiting Miramonte-bound students because Miramonte students are "Renaissance men and women". This led to the relay, where students from each class performed a variety of tasks to win the race. The unchallenged and victorious seniors took the gold with talent from Enzo Jiannalone, Morgan Vigo, Diego Jenab, Peter Stehr, and Alex Shandolav.

After the video the cheer squad performed. The performance added a small dash of energy to rally and segwayed perfectly into the next portion of the rally.

Lastly came the traditional class cheers, where each class shouts as loud as possible to show their spirit. The Freshman cheer was lackluster and left plenty, if not too much room for improvement. Barely half of the freshmen cheered and none of the students stood up. The remaining three classes' sonorous shouts could be heard all over campus.

As the rally came to a close, the high standard had been met and left many Matadors ready for the next. "The rallies from this point on are just going to get better and better," Marken said.

Hannah, Welcome to Your Tape

13 Reasons Why, Netflix's new series based off the YA novel of the same title, has garnered serious attention since it was released this March. Everyone seems to have a list of thirteen reasons why they love or hate the show, and it became the most tweeted-about Netflix show during its first week of streaming. The show is mature, displaying graphic depictions of self-harm, sexual assault, drinking, violence, and drugs—setting itself far apart from the mostly light-hearted TV shows and movies targeted at teens. *13 Reasons Why* is honest and heart-wrenching and important for many reasons, but it's definitely not perfect. We won't say we love or hate the show, that it's perfect or unredeemable, but it's worth a watch. The suspense and tension is perfectly executed, ensuring that no matter how painful the show gets, you have to keep pressing play. And it tackles high school unflinchingly; although it occasionally misses the mark on slang and banter, sometimes it gets it so, so right. It has flaws, but the discussion that has sprung from it is certainly worth engaging in.

The show centers around Hannah Baker, and is set in the wake of her suicide. She has left behind thirteen tapes, one for each person that she feels are one of the reasons why she killed herself. She sends them off before she dies, making sure that each of her "reasons" has to listen to how they ruined her life. She sends these tapes in the hopes that the tremendous guilt of thinking that they are the reason she killed herself will even the scales of justice a little bit. Thus her death is her revenge. This notion is deeply flawed, and incredibly dangerous. The narrative of the story makes Hannah a martyr, glorifying her suicide as a righteous act of justice and revenge, and the only way to send a message and fix her problems. For viewers out there who have been similarly wronged, and are contemplating ending their own lives, this depiction could have dire consequences. Along with

that, the show graphically depicts Hannah slitting her wrists and bleeding out, which violates the guidelines set out by the American Psychological Association on how to safely portray suicide without inspiring more deaths. Finally, this is a flawed narrative because no one killed Hannah but Hannah. So many times, the characters accuse themselves and each other of "killing Hannah Baker," but *she killed herself*. Yes, the things that people did to her certainly made her mental illness much harder to bear, but at the end of the day, she was the one who made that decision.

With that said, the show also explores the stigmas and realities of masculinity, mental illness, bullying, sexual assault, friendship, and family in impactful, important ways. The way the show portrays rape is also very realistic in that the rape in both cases is committed by a trusted friend, a surprisingly common occurrence especially in high schools and colleges. These situations reveal the brutal healing process for survivors of sexual assault and the struggles they face afterwards with guilt, slut-shaming, self-blame, and secrecy. This truthful depiction of the crimes as well as the honest portrayal of the rapist himself is helpful in showing students that this can happen to anyone and can be done by people you wouldn't necessarily expect. The construct of masculinity is also called into question, especially over issues of sex and relationships. Different forms of bullying, harassment, complacency, and ostracization are also highlighted. The flaws of victims in addition to bullies are exposed as destructive and snowballing. The show can spark extremely valuable conversation, especially if its flaws are recognized and unpackaged. That's why we think as long as you're engaging the show and taking it with a grain of salt, it's worth a watch.

Now, if you've finished the show, keep reading. But if you haven't and plan to, there will be major plot spoilers past this point. The suspense is one of the best parts of this show and we don't want to ruin anyone's viewing experience, so

you've been warned!

In the same way that this show isn't completely good or bad, there is not one character in it who is completely "good." Hannah is the definition of an unreliable narrator, and in many ways, Clay is too, which keeps you guessing the entire time. Clay is the only one who is trying to hold the people on the tapes accountable to their actions, but also sends out the picture of Tyler that only adds to the negativity and bullying that caused Hannah to take her life in the first place (and may have been a catalyst for the violence that the show hints that Tyler is about to commit). Zach makes Hannah feel unbearably lonely, but also endears the viewer by eating the broccoli off of his little sister's plate. The main characters have done terrible things, and this sends a super important lesson. *No one* in life is good or bad. Especially in high school, when everyone is constantly learning and growing, you can't expect anyone to be a perfect person. We all do hurtful and stupid, selfish things, but the hope is that we learn from it. We're not trying to excuse any of the mistakes that the characters made in the show, but this message of giving people the benefit of the doubt is very relevant when discussing suicide.

Bryce's character is somewhat of an exception to the rule that no one in the story is all good or all bad. Bryce commits heinous, inexcusable crimes against Hannah and Jessica. Rape is among the most unforgivable acts one can do, and Bryce's response when Clay confronts him ("every girl wants to be raped") exposes his entitlement, ignorance, and general awfulness. However, the show does an excellent job of masking Bryce behind a friendly, popular facade, revealing why the girls might be hesitant to come forward and challenge someone with such high social power and proving that rapists can be anyone, even someone you know and trust.

For example, after Skye says something insensitive about Hannah's death, Clay accuses her of "not knowing what was

going on in Hannah's life." And Tony sagely responds, "You don't know what's going on in hers." No one knows how a person is suffering, and this is part of the reason why Hannah felt the need to end her life. Although some of the things that happened to her were little and seemingly insignificant, it was because she was already suffering so deeply that they hurt so badly. Treating someone poorly is never okay, but it's doubly important to be kind when knowing that there are people out there who in so much pain already that it doesn't take much to push them over the edge.

One of the other huge red flags in the show, though, was Mr. Porter. Hannah was obviously hinting that she was about to kill herself, and the fact that Mr. Porter ignored that is, again, dangerous. Counselors and psychologists are legally required to report it if a student is saying anything that suggests that they might be a danger to themselves or others. However, Mr. Porter didn't do this, as most counselors would, thus the show paints an unrealistic picture and makes people think that they can't get help from anyone. Mr. Porter's poor handling of the situation is supposedly the last straw for Hannah, and the way the story is framed makes it seem like the only next logical step for her is to take her own life. For suicidal viewers, this is an extremely harmful narrative. Counselors need to be portrayed as resources for individuals who are suffering, otherwise suicidal teens might skip a conversation that could save their life.

Though the suicidal aspect of Hannah's conversation with Mr. Porter was flawed, one aspect of it was emblematic of the ugly truth behind those who come forward about sexual assault. The way that he told Hannah to "move on" from her assault was very accurate to the way that people in our society treat rape survivors. He used somewhat belittling language, jumped to conclusions, and instead of offering personal, moral support, immediately pressured her into pressing charges or telling others about what happened. All of these things, though

seemingly helpful, were not what Hannah, or any other rape survivor needs to hear while recounting their trauma.

After watching the show, our question is this: why can't everyone involved share some guilt and responsibility for Hannah's death (including her) while not shouldering the entirety of the blame? Every character did something wrong, everyone could have helped her in some way. But all of the characters took a pretty extreme stance on the tapes; while some rejected them entirely and dismissed Hannah as a vengeful liar, others such as Clay and Alex internalized her guilt tripping extensively and to their own detriment. There ought to be a more nuanced, middle of the road level of acceptance. Most of students involved should be held accountable and should recognize their part in making Hannah's life worse, but many of them did not deserve the sheer torment of the tapes. At the end of the day, Hannah chose to take her own life. Of course, that decision was in large part due to the rape, trauma, depression, and social isolation she faced, and the individuals responsible for bullying and harming her must be held accountable, but she also was suffering from untreated depression. Hannah was abused, but she also abused others.

Matadors Flee Orinda over Spring Break

Spring break lies in a unique time of year where vacationers can either flock to tropical locations and get their pre-summer tan ready, or take in the last weeks of the ski season in the mountains. Matadors undoubtedly took advantage of this, with numerous students escaping to Everywhere from Cabo San Lucas to Tahoe.

Every spring break vacation is unique, with students doing a wide variety of activities during the one week span. For example, junior Frankie Veverka spent her week off in Tijuana, Mexico, building houses for those in need with fellow philanthropists from the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (MVPC). Although Veverka opted out of the normal spring break relaxation, she gained a lot from the trip. "I became really close with my team and host families and had a blast playing with kids in the village," Frankie said.

Another Matador even went international in his week off. Junior Nick Miller took a relaxing trip to the white sands of Cabo San Lucas, and basked in the warm Mexican sunlight. Miller is adjunct to the large Matador population that spent their spring break near warm, salty water and prepped their skin for the summer.

Miller and Veverka are just two examples that show the many unique vacations taken during the time of spring. One can truly get a taste of almost every season in this week off. In addition, with how stressful the third quarter is among upperclassmen, spring break provides an oasis of relief that allows students and staff alike to escape to a stress-free location, whether it be in the snow or on the beach.

Drones take Miramonte by Storm

Drones, those mini quad-copters that were a thing of sci-fi films, have now been more accessible than ever to the broad public. As a result, teenagers everywhere have been exercising the drones' ability to fly high and far, over cliffs and

oceans, to finally capture footage that would be otherwise inaccessible. A few Miramonte students have even used these little toys to further their film careers.

Henry Marken, a Junior who has made a name for himself in his numerous short films, has fueled his filming dream with shots captured by his Phantom 3 drone, and has not been disappointed: "The fact that I can now incorporate footage that is smooth, crystal clear and easy to fly is an unreal feeling," Henry Marken said, "I can now show the importance of the setting, amazing different perspectives of the character, and emphasize powerful music scores with drone footage." The now widely available drones have allowed young filmmakers like Marken to capture shots that seem to have come straight out of Hollywood.

However, the ability to fly these drones far and wide has caused problems for drone fliers, especially when the battery is unexpectedly low. Will Cassriel, another Junior who has made numerous montages of drone clips, experienced first hand the strategy of losing his prized drone. His Phantom 2 went down over a remote lake in Briones Regional Park after it lost its battery life. Him and his team of filmmakers tried to recover the drone, but to no avail. "Losing the Phantom was very disappointing, I could get some sick shots with that thing."

As the world of drones expands, more and more people will have access to professional-level quality of otherwise unreachable views. These little quad-copters can finally give sustenance to the many filmmaking dreams at Miramonte.

Supreme Spring/Summer 2017

Lookbook

My mom went with the ordinary “I’m going on a diet” New Year’s resolution, a goal which requires little thought and typically is never achieved. I am a very realistic person and set very simple and achievable goals. So, when 2017 rolled around and my mom asked, “What are you going accomplish this year?” I chose two objectives. One: go to a concert because I have really been starting to immerse myself in music. Two: buy some Supreme™ clothing, vintage clothing, or streetwear clothing because the products are stylish and swaggy. I know, I know, both of these things seem childish, but it’s a start.

Two months in and I have made no progress with my goals. I have had no interest in any of the artists that have visited Northern California. Also, after the winter season, Supreme™ has not released any merchandise. However, my time has come. The premier of Supreme’s Spring/Summer 2017 lookbook has arrived and with it a lot of heat. I’m not going to review every single piece because there are too many items and some are just plain goofy. For example, why would I want to rock a long-sleeved, collared pink shirt with carpets printed all over the shirt? Let’s leave the rugs to the floor. So, I have composed a list of the top five and a half pieces in the lookbook.



I swear it has been constantly raining for the first two

months of the year. What better way to adjust than by copping one of these full and half zip jackets? If you're going for a more vintage look with duller colors the half zip is better. The duller colors are easy to pair with a lot of outfits too. Instead, if you enjoy hoodies, cop the button-up. Both are resistant to rain and prone to flames because they are some heat. The middle pouch featured in these items set them apart. The pocket makes these clothes stylish, unique and trendy. Also, when rocked, they will for sure break some necks. Everyone will be looking at you in the hallways.



One of the reasons Supreme is the most popular street brand company is because of their lack of fear to experiment and push boundaries. This long sleeve shirt is the perfect example of their audacity to express themselves. The words "f*** what you heard" express the undaunted mindset of the company. The shirt has a simplistic, yet irresistible design making it casual but fashionable.



Vincent Van Gogh's fame grew immensely posthumously. Like his paintings, this hoodie is stunning. It features a printed version of his painting "Wheatfield with Crows" on the front which offsets the piece. Once again the simplicity of the piece is what makes this hoodie clean. The tan version is by far the best colorway in the set.



At first glance, these shorts looks relatively ordinary. However, these Terry shorts are special. First off, the material of the shorts are soft as clouds and as fluffy as a well-conditioned poodle. Just looking at at them makes me want to lay in a lounge chair, bump some tunes, and sip some iced tea. These shorts are perfect for a lazy day, but the different material provides a versatile style rather than running shorts. They are a must-cop because of their singularity and comfort.



In the past, Supreme has released many miscellaneous items. Items such as a fire extinguishers, bricks, and bolt cutters sold out in seconds solely due to the hype of Supreme. The

brick in particular is worth 60-100 dollars on eBay... A BRICK!
Now, these items are pointless and I do not advocate aimless
spending on worthless products. That being said, a money gun
is a necessity. In the past I haven't been able to flex my doe
properly. This money gun is essential for maximizing money
stuntin'. It shows you still got bank to spend. Rather than
promoting violence, it encourages hard work to earn money. I
hope I have a shot at copping this money gun. The price is
unknown, but it doesn't make a difference. I will dish out a
load of cash from this gem.