



## BIG T MINI MART TO CLOSE AT THE END OF THE MONTH

KEIKO RAKIN  
Editor-in-Chief

On Aug. 22, Big T Mini Mart, a convenience store located at the intersection of Third St. and Main St., announced its closure. Big T, a store beloved by many students from Alhambra High School and community members from the San Gabriel Valley, will shut its doors on Sept. 30 due to a 17% rent increase from their landlords.

According to Trent Yamauchi, the owner of the establishment, Big T first opened on May 2, 2015 with their rent costing \$7,800. Being open for almost 10 years, the convenience store has been a staple for Alhambra students, selling snacks, drinks, and Krispy Krunchy Chicken. As agreed upon by the owner of Big T, the property's rent increased \$340 every two years, totaling a rent increase of \$1700 since Big T first opened. Currently, Big T pays \$9,500 in rent every month. However, the landlords informed the owner that the property's rent would increase to \$11,200 next year.

"We are not closing due to lack of business or lack of sales but we are being forced out due to our land-



**Big T:** Since the announcement of the convenient store's closure, students continue to visit this store after school to buy snacks and hang out with friends.

lords," owner of Big T, Trent Yamauchi said in an Instagram post.

This situation highlights the issues of increasing rent in Alhambra, particularly for business owners. In 2019, California legislature passed the Tenant Protection Act, also known as AB 1482 to cap rent increases at 5% plus inflation or 10%, whichever is lower; however, this law only applies to residen-

tial real property and does not protect business owners. This bill took effect on Jan. 1, 2020 and, unless renewed, will expire Jan. 1, 2030. That said, currently there are no regulations on rent increases for commercial properties in Alhambra. Similar trends of rising rent have increasingly affected restaurants and small businesses around Alhambra, reflecting soaring prices and a

struggle to keep doors open.

"There are really no regulations on business leases. Alhambra has lost a lot of business in the last ten years due to rent increases," Yamauchi said. "It's sad because I have a building currently right next to me that somebody bought over five years ago, they all kicked them out and have never rented it out. I have a feeling that this place will be sitting vacant for over a year to five years."

The closure of Big T marks a significant loss for the Alhambra community, highlighting the challenges faced by small businesses in the face of rising rent costs. As Big T prepares to close its doors, its legacy will live on in the hearts of those who have cherished its presence.

"Without regulations for a rent increase [for business] it creates the risk for

businesses around Main street and Alhambra to close or increase their prices. I fear affordable food and products will disappear," junior Hy Ngo said.

Big T will not be moving to a new location. Instead, Yamauchi plans to continue working with Krispy Krunchy Chicken, aiming to open the company's first corporate store in the San Gabriel Valley.

Photo by: **Rachelle Liu**

## CALIFORNIA PASSES BILL TO BAN SIX FOOD DYES IN SCHOOL FOOD

NICOLE JIAN  
Editor-in-Chief

On Aug. 29, Assembly Bill 2316, also known as the California School Food Safety Act, was passed by the California Legislature, banning the use of certain synthetic food dyes in all food and beverages served by school districts, county superintendent of schools and charter schools. In addition, the bill prohibits public schools from selling food and beverages containing these synthetic food dyes.

This bill stems from concerns over possible linkage of these synthetic food dyes and behavioral problems in children. According to a 2021 study conducted by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, researchers found that synthetic food dyes can have an impact on neurobehavior in some children. Additionally, the study concluded that the FDA-established acceptable daily intake may not give adequate protection from these neurobehavioral impacts in children.

According to the California Legislative Information website, this bill will target six synthetic food dyes, including Red No. 40, Yellow No. 5, Yellow No. 6, Green No. 3, Blue No. 1 and Blue No. 2.

"Banning synthetic food dyes in school food could promote health-

ier choices among students and reduce potential health risks. Additionally, [I think] it is important to prioritize natural ingredients in students' diets," senior Shiyong Chen said.

The bill aims to improve the nutritional value of school food and combat the negative effects of synthetic food dyes on children. However, as long as fundraisers are off-campus or begin at least one half hour after the school day ends, food sold at fundraisers would not be affected by this bill.

"I think it's a great idea [that] they are banning synthetic food dye because students should not be eating food with artificial [dyes] that could harm [them]," junior Cairo Vong said.

This bill would only regulate food provided by the federal National School Lunch Program and the federal School Breakfast Program. Food provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foods in Schools program would be excluded from the regulations of this bill. If implemented into law, local agencies and food districts will be reimbursed by the state for certain costs associated with accommodating this bill.

While Assemble Bill 2316 passed the California Legislature, it awaits the signature of Governor Gavin Newsom to be signed into law. If passed, this bill will take effect on Dec. 31, 2027.

## CALIFORNIA AI SAFETY BILL HEADS TO GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

CIAN DUONG  
News Editor

With the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, concerns over national security have prompted California lawmakers to take action. Passed by the California State Assembly on Aug. 28, and by the Senate on Aug. 29, the Safe and Secure Innovation for Frontier Artificial Intelligence Models Act is meant to prevent physical and financial damages from AI. Key concerns highlighted by the bill include defamation through deepfakes, assistance in creating weaponry and cyberattacks on infrastructure.

If signed, the bill will require the developers of AI models to take a number of steps to ensure safety in their models. Under the bill, developers must do thorough testing of their models, take preventative measures against malicious use of their models, implement the ability to carry out a "full shutdown" and create a fully public safety and security protocol.

Although the legislation aims to protect the safety of California's citizens and infrastructure, it has nonetheless sparked controversy within the technology industry. According to Reuters, this bill has created some divisions among tech companies. Companies such as Tesla support the bill,

whereas others such as Google are concerned about the potential costs of testing and the threats it brings to innovation. While the bill may bring safety to consumers, the new lengthy testing measures and limitations may curb California's lead in the industry.

If the bill is signed, its impacts will be felt in the state's economy and in privacy. Ultimately, the effects must be properly weighed to determine whether the legislation will prove a net positive or negative, with both security and industry at risk.

"I think with this new act and forcing developers to test their model, making sure that it has some safeguards against malicious activity and having a full switch off, we're going to be able to better protect citizens and other people that actually use artificial intelligence in the first place. It's also going to help these companies be more credible because of the fact that consumers are going to believe that the AI they're using is safe," junior Computer Science Club President Brendon Wu said.

Currently, the Safe and Secure Innovation for Frontier Artificial Intelligence Models Act is awaiting approval from Governor Gavin Newsom to be signed into law. He has until the end of the month to either sign the bill into law or to veto it.

## In Other News

VANESSA CERVANTES  
Copy Editor

Tropical Storm Helene upgraded to a Category 1, causing some Floridians to evacuate from its path - "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," the sequel to Tim

Burton's 1980s film, grossed over \$264 million globally in 10 days - Seeking asylum after disputed election claims, Venezuelan opposition leader

Edmundo Gonzalez flees to Madrid, Spain - Eight bulls charge through a mall parking lot after escaping a Massachusetts rodeo

## SCHOOL FOOD NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

SEAN LEE  
Staff Writer

When schools across America reopened their doors after the COVID-19 pandemic, many of them were able to take advantage of free lunch programs offered by the government. While this is an amazing accomplishment for the district and the students, the food being served needs to be improved.

It is no surprise that school food within the United States is often subpar. Often pre-made and cost-focused, the food served in school is often lackluster when it comes to quality and nutrition. This is certainly true at Alhambra, where the food is prepared offsite, standardized, and shipped off to schools. This system allows for the school food to be cheaper and made more efficiently. But schools are not businesses and instead serve for the good of the students inside it. Prioritizing efficiency and cost over students and student health is something that the district needs to be held accountable for.

To add on, there are two breakfast services available at AHS: breakfast and Nutrition. Food served during Nutrition, which is packaged in grab-and-go bags, contrary to the name, has no valuable nutrients. Instead, the students are offered sugary pastries like chocolate



**School Lunch:** Nashville hot chicken and waffles was one of the entrees served for lunch every Monday in September.

Photo by: Keiko Rakin

donuts, cinnamon rolls, and Pop-Tarts.

Before school starts, breakfast is served to students which is a little better than Nutrition as it provides more food options. However, the same flaws still remain.

Though the quality of food served during breakfast and lunch tends to be better than food offered during Nutrition, many of the food options for breakfast and lunch are still packaged and highly-processed. To make up for this, students are re-

quired to grab a fruit or a vegetable. Nonetheless, to call a majority of this food “nutritious” is a lie, and there is no reason why the school should think any of this is acceptable.

At a time when health issues are increasingly linked to cheap, processed foods, schools need to prioritize the health of their students. Because at the end of the day, even if students receive the best education to ever be offered by any school in the nation, a simple heart attack can void all that progress.

## ANIMAL RIGHTS

JOSEPH LONG  
Opinions Editor

Many people are aware of animal testing and some buy cruelty-free products. But why do so many people care about animal testing and not animals being murdered to be consumed? When people are confronted, they often get defensive. Yet despite this, people who do not support the systemic genocide of animals are labeled as “extremists” — a convenient way to dismiss animal rights activists because people do not want to question their way of life.

The majority of people at school consume animal products. However, eating animal products should not be appealing to anyone. A lot of people do not think about the fact that they are eating a corpse, otherwise they would not eat it. However, if seeing footage of animals being slaughtered is disturbing, then why do people continue to eat the bodies of the slaughtered animals? This simple question highlights the cognitive dissonance in eating animal products. Instead of mocking vegans, perhaps people need to reflect upon these things and confront some uncomfortable truths.

The suffering, torture and death innocent creatures face is cruel. Animal rights are as vital and relevant as human rights, and to think otherwise is wrong.

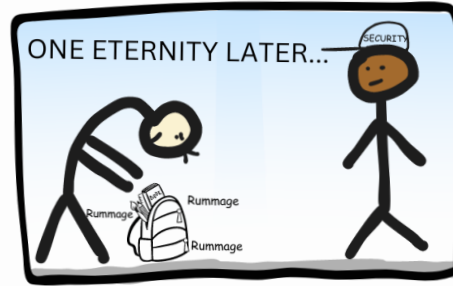
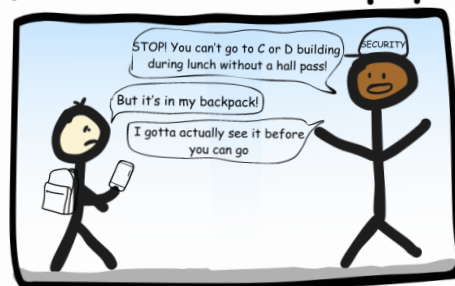
## RENT CONTROL IS NEEDED

NICOLE JIAN  
Editor-in-Chief

Since it first opened in 2015, Big T has been the go-to hangout place for many students after school. Needless to say, it is sad to see Big T go. However, this issue of rent hikes does not just affect Big T. Currently, there are no rent control policies that protect tenants of commercial properties. This is a big issue for two main reasons. One, small businesses are integral to the community, from creating jobs, to generating local taxes and even shaping the identity of the community. Two, a rise in rent costs causes an increase in the price of goods which contributes to the decreases the buying power of consumers. When this happens, the economy of the community is ultimately affected too.

When rent is increased to the point where it is no longer sustainable for small businesses, it should be a clear indicator that something needs to be done. When landlords abuse their power, it harms communities. Sure, another aspiring business may fill the vacant space, but then they would just fall victim to the same cycle that took away the many small businesses that came before it. Big T was one of those stores.

### Hall Pass - Cakepop



## REINSTATING STANDARDIZED TESTING REQUIREMENTS IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS IS A BAD IDEA

HARRISON CHANG  
Staff Writer

During the COVID-19 pandemic, several colleges removed SAT and ACT requirements, putting more of an emphasis on academic scores and extracurricular activities. While some colleges have continued with test-optional and test-blind admissions, some are now reverting back to their old practices.

Starting this application cycle, colleges such as Harvard, Dartmouth, MIT, Yale, and Brown are requiring students to submit their standardized testing scores for their college applications. However this is an awful idea.

For years, standardized tests have received backlash for being an unfair and heavily biased system. Minority students, primarily those of low-income,

often have a massive disadvantage compared to wealthy students that have more access to educational resources. Historically, minorities have faced significantly more educational barriers compared to their white counterparts.

Furthermore, students that come from well-funded school districts have an unfair advantage compared to students that come from underfunded school districts since they have the means to provide more resources for students. The SAT tests one's ability to ace the test, instead of truly creating a proper learning environment. Additionally, the SAT does not test on a wide range of talents often leaving other academic abilities out of the picture.

Because of this, students with more resources are often more prepared and tend to

do better on standardized testing. To add on, studying for both the SAT and ACT can be extremely time-consuming and exhausting, further leading to sleep deprivation issues. All of these barriers could be demotivating for students who would want to go to college. It's a test that favors the wealthy, who have less barriers of access to SAT and ACT tutors, courses, and prep guides. With some colleges reinstating standardized testing requirements, the college application will prove to be arduous for low-income and minority students. In the end, colleges shouldn't require students to submit their SAT and ACT scores. In reality, it is a step backward instead of a step forward, it is something to look back at, something that shows that we progress as a society.

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## CLUBS ON CAMPUS

As the 2024-2025 school year begins, students have been introduced to a few events by now, one of the more important events being the club fair. So let's kick off this school year by joining a new club! Alhambra High School provides a wide range of clubs for students to explore, or join a club that matches their interest. Whether students want to sharpen their skills, form memories, or even find a passion to discover, there's a club for everyone. From sports, academic and creative arts, joining a club is the best approach to get involved and enhance your school experience!

ALEXIS RODRIGUEZ, Features Editor

### Academic Clubs

**DJANGO TIERNEY**  
Staff Writer

Academic clubs are clubs that aim to help students explore and improve in a specific academic area that they might want to pursue, or just improve on. Some examples include Speech & Debate, MESA (Math, Engineering, Science, Achievement), Academy of Future Educators (AFE), AP Ambassadors, Academic Decathlon (AcaDec), AHS Thespians AHS Choir, Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), PODER and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). And just like actual classes, these clubs have positive effects on students and help them prepare to be ready to go out into the real world. For instance, Speech and Debate could provide a lot of help for those who feel they need to improve their tone, diction, or the overall quality of their presentational skills. To add on, FBLA could help someone build upon their already existing leadership skills, in order to further improve or enhance what they already know, if they plan on starting a business, or hold a position where strong leadership would be deemed necessary.

"I like academic clubs because they give students the opportunity to compete in various subjects they enjoy and want to explore," senior Academic Decathlon President Kaylee Lu said.

### Special Interest Clubs

**CIAN DUONG**  
News Editor

There is a wide variety of clubs for students to explore their special interests on campus. They provide a space for students to find and build their community and to share their hobbies. Some special interest clubs include Dance, Yearbook, Level Up Gaming, Creative Concepts Club (CCC), Moor Friends, Environmental Resource Awareness Club (ERAS), Uplift Faith Group, FIDM Fashion Club, AHS Orchestra, Joy Luck Club, Gender, Sexuality, Allies (GSA), Women's Empowerment League (WEL), SkillsUSA, Chess Club, Mental Health Awareness Club, Murder Mystery Game Club (MMG), Alhambra Sign Language and Anime Club of AHS. In addition to their own unique communities, each club has its own visions and benefits. Whether students wish to learn new skills at the ASL club, to connect with others through shared pastimes at Level Up Gaming or to create change in their communities with ERAS, special interest clubs can provide means of pursuing these goals.

"I really like ERAS because it provides students passionate about changing the environment the opportunity to work with other students and faculty on projects and services." ERAS President Lucas Lin said.

### Service Clubs

**JULIANA CAMACHO**  
Staff Writer

There are a total of eight different service clubs students can choose from during prospect season. From KEY Club to LASO, along with LEO Service Club, Animal Rescue, Quiet Society, Interact, Kokua Lima, Garfield Health Center Youth Coalition (GHC), Kaibigan Service Club (KAI), United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF) and Voice of International Students of Alhambra (VISA), these service clubs perform charitable work and members of these clubs volunteer at local events and for organizations in need. Volunteering can help improve one's mental and physical health. There are studies showing, when one involves themselves in their community, it can have positive effects on one's mental and physical well-being. Additionally, joining a service club can allow students, with like-minded interest in helping to make their community a better place, network and form bonds to strengthen the community. Volunteering can also help foster personal growth, increase empathy and provide students with a sense of purpose.

"I like Interact because it's a small community, making it easy to get along with one another while volunteering to help others!" Interact president Jenny Wu said.

### Sports Clubs

**KEIKO RAKIN**  
Editor-in-Chief

A portion of clubs on campus are dedicated to sports and raising funds for equipment used during games and at practices. In total, there are 18 sports clubs on campus, including Alhambra Varsity Cheer, Badminton, Boys Tennis, Boys Soccer, Cross Country Team, Girls Basketball, Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, Girls Volleyball, Track and Field, Wrestling and Girls Flag Football, a new California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) sport. Sports on campus is separated into three seasons: fall, winter and spring. In these clubs, students are able to learn more about different sports and enhance their athletic skills. Additionally, joining sports can help build skills such as leadership, teamwork and discipline. The expansion of new sports allows a more diverse group of students to participate in athletics on campus. While the athletic department is considered a separate entity, sports must file as a club to fundraise. Student-athletes must schedule doctor's appointments for physicals and get cleared before returning to the field for a new season.

"I'm so happy I was able to get Flag Football started, thanks to the club we were able to spread the word last year and get a passionate team," junior Flag Football captain Leia Gomez said.

### Class Councils

**ALEXA LOPEZ**  
Staff Writer

Class councils are a body of students that usually consist of a president, class representative, vice president, treasurer, fund chair, secretary and publicity manager. There is one class council for each grade level: 2028 Class Council, 2027 Class Council, 2026 Class Council and 2025 Class Council. Class councils play a major role in representing their classes. They do this by planning and promoting fundraising for student events, gathering school spirit and so much more. Events class councils participate in include the Homecoming Parade, Senior Sunrise, and Senior Sunset. Each class on campus is represented by a color: Class of 2025 is gray, Class of 2026 is purple, Class of 2028 is burgundy and Class of 2028 is sage green. By wearing their class colors, students show their support and school spirit. Think of each council as a help guide, a place to give suggestions and ask questions. If students are interested in representing their class or want to make an impact on their community, consider running for a position in council next school year.

"As junior class president being a part of the council feels like having a second family to me. I look forward to spending time and working together with my peers," junior Helen Chung said.

### Club Fair

**NICOLE JIAN**  
Editor-in-Chief

On Aug. 29, the first club fair of the school year took place between C Building and D Building. The event began at 11:18 a.m. and lasted until 12:04 p.m. At this event, club representatives showcased different aspects of their clubs and allowed new members to join their club. This year, 64 clubs participated in the club fair, including many different academic clubs, special interest clubs, service clubs and sports clubs. 3D Model, Folklorico, Girls Volleyball, Mighty Moors Marching Band (MMMB), Computer Science, KEY Club, American Cancer Awareness (ACA), Aquatics, Pre-Health, Boys Soccer, Film Study, K-pop Club, Innovators Society, Garfield Health Center Youth Coalition (GHC), Academy of Future Educators (AFE), Stemsters, Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), All Male, Creative Writer's Crew (CWC), Academic Decathlon and Math Olympiad were present, just to name a few. This year, a no candy or flyer policy was implemented. To accommodate this change, clubs provided QR codes interested students could scan to learn more information about the club. After the club fair, clubs hosted general meetings where students learn ed more about their clubs before officially joining.

## GO MOORS: FALL SEASON SPORTS UPDATE

CAMILA CHARCON  
Copy Editor

The Moors have begun the fall sports season with games by football, boy's water polo, cross country, girl's volleyball, girl's tennis and girl's golf.

The football team started their season on the road and so far has a record of 1-4. While suffering tough losses against South El Monte, Temple City and La Salle, the Moors hope to begin strong as they begin their league games in October. The first home game at Moor Field was played on Sept. 20 against South Pasadena High School where the Moors lost 35-12. The next home game will take place against the Montebello Oilers on Oct. 11.

Boy's water polo also began their preseason with a game against Pasadena high on Aug. 22. With a slow start to their season beginning with a record of 0-6, the Moors hope to turn their season around as they tackle their first few league games. The team's next Almont League game is set for Oct. 2 against the Montebello Oilers.

Cross country had their first league meet on Sept. 24 in Long Beach, CA. Their next met will be on Oct. 16 at the same location.



**AHS vs. La Salle College Preparatory:** In an away game against La Salle College Preparatory, the Moors lost 7-24.

Photo by: Kayla Bell

Girl's tennis jump started their season by accomplishing a win against Arroyo high school in their first game on Aug. 22. The Moors also beat South El Monte high in a score of 16-2. With a record of 2-9 to get the season underway, the team is continuing their league season with away games against Montebello and San Gabriel.

The girl's volleyball team kicked off their season in August and have won 2 of their 11 games. After a rough start suffering four straight losses, the girls turned their season around being the first Alhambra sports team to win a game this fall season. They were able to compete and win back-to-back games against Hawkins and Blair by winning

in three straight sets 3-0 in both games.

"The overall volleyball season isn't going so great but we're all working hard and getting better after every game we play," Girl's Volleyball Team Captain Sophia Jones said.

The girl's volleyball team is going to continue striving for better and they continue their Almont League games against Mark Keppel and Shurr.

Many sports have had to postpone their season and put a hold on their practices due to extreme weather temperatures. One sport impacted by this was the girl's golf team. After their first match against San Marino was canceled, the team began their league matches with a win against Montebello on Sept. 11. The team is currently undefeated with a record of 4-0, also completing wins against Mark Keppel, Bell Gardens and Shurr. With the Moors win, the Aztecs lost their first league match in three years.

"Golf season is going great this year, we beat Mark Keppel for the first time by 6 strokes! Our team is really strong this year and I hope we can win league!" Girl's Golf Team Captain Megan Lai said.

While the end of the fall sports season is near, the Moors hope to continue their winning streak in future games.

## NEW CIF POLICY IMPLEMENTED FOR EXTREME HEAT

VANESS CERVANTES  
Copy Editor

Recently, the California Inter-scholastic Federation, also known as CIF, introduced a new policy in order to regulate when high school sports teams can practice and compete in extreme heat conditions. This policy aims to protect student-athletes from any sort of heat related illnesses, such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which have become a growing concern due to the increasing frequency and intensity of heat waves in California. The new regulations establish guidelines for modifying or canceling practices and games based on specific heat index thresholds, ensuring that student safety is prioritized during extreme weather conditions.

When the heat index is below 90°F, activities can proceed normally, but with basic safety measures like ensuring access to water and shade. As the heat index rises between 90°F and

99°F, teams are required to adjust the intensity and length of practice, incorporating frequent breaks to keep athletes hydrated. If the heat index reaches around 100-104°F, practices must be significantly altered, with mandatory rest breaks in shaded areas, reduced practice duration, and the removal of unnecessary equipment that might increase body temperature. When conditions are extreme, with a heat index of 105°F or above, all outdoor practices and games must be postponed until it is safe to resume.

Many schools have already started implementing safety measures, such as rescheduling practices to cooler parts of the day, using heat index monitors, and moving activities indoors when possible. However, these adjustments also pose challenges, particularly for schools with limited resources or facilities. Balancing the new safety guidelines with logistical demands, and the tight schedules of student-athletes who juggle academics

## GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL BECOMES NEW FALL SPORT

ISABELLA JACKSON  
Sports Editor

In recent years, youth sports have been more popular than ever before.

With the increase in athletic interest, Alhambra High School introduced a girls flag football team this year. After struggling to find a coach throughout the summer, the Moors flag football team is ready to take on their first ever season.

The vast majority of contact sports are male dominated, however girls across the country have begun advocating for greater accessibility. As such, sports teams directed towards young women have been growing in popularity. With flag football for instance, there has been a mass increase of attention.

Over the past year, interest amongst girls flag football has been at an all time high.

NFHS published an article in April of 2024 stating "In 2023, about 500,000 girls ages 6-17 played flag foot-

ball – a 63 percent increase since 2019."

According to a post published on I9 Sports, a study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health found that "participating in flag football empowers girls by providing a platform to teach them essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and resilience."

The addition of the lady Moors flag football team is creating new opportunities for girls across campus. Their first club meeting was held on Aug. 19.

"As our first year of having a flag football team, we're off to a great start. Having girls express their love for the [sport while also inviting new] people to grow a love for the sport is what's truly nice seeing" Team Captain Genesis De La Mora said.

The lady Moors continue to trail blaze, creating a space for girls across campus to explore their athletic interests. The team officially began practices on Aug. 29 and had their first ever game on Wednesday Sept. 18 against South El Monte.

## PTA CORNER

What about PTA?

- Supports student events such as Homecoming and Send-Off
- Provides support to school clubs
- Hosts the 2nd Annual Winter Wonderland in December
- Raises funds to award \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors

Support **PTA** by joining and encouraging your parents to do the same. Working together makes a difference and unlocks endless possibilities. To join go to: [www.ahsmoorspta.com](http://www.ahsmoorspta.com)

