

# Facebook Reaches Out to Users in Expanded Suicide Prevention Feature

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On Feb. 25, Facebook announced new updates that would provide more resources and support for users who may be struggling with suicidal thoughts. One of the new features is an option to report Facebook friends' posts if they appear to indicate a direct threat of suicide.

Once a post is reported, safety specialists will review the content; if they believe the person is at risk, Facebook sends a supportive message and gives them the option to speak to a friend or a helpline worker or learn tips about working through their difficult situation. The website would also offer expert-developed advice for handling negative thoughts as well as videos from others who have dealt with suicidal thoughts, according to Yahoo! Health.

To develop the program, Facebook partnered with several mental health organizations, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Facebook has had

suicide prevention strategies since 2008, with workers on call 24/7 from Ireland, India and the U.S. However, the website did not have the expertise to guarantee they were giving the right advice, Facebook product manager Rob Boyle told Yahoo News.

"I think that this [program] would be beneficial for people because it is important for people to know that they are worth more than they think," sophomore Grace Romero said.

The rise of social networking in recent times has led some to study its effects on suicidal behavior. According to NPR, Ohio State University professor Scottye Cash has found that youth increasingly ex-

press their difficulties through social media, rather than finding assistance through traditional outlets. Since 81 percent of people in the U.S. use Facebook, the new tools could have a large impact, Boyle told Yahoo News. AHS' Lead Psychologist Jan Stas

also agreed that Facebook's new feature would be beneficial, saying that it will have an impact by helping those struggling with suicidal thoughts.

However, some have raised concerns about the new features. According to Newsweek, Kristina Kersting of youth crisis intervention organization Kids Under Twenty One notes that the tools may not provide long-term assistance and

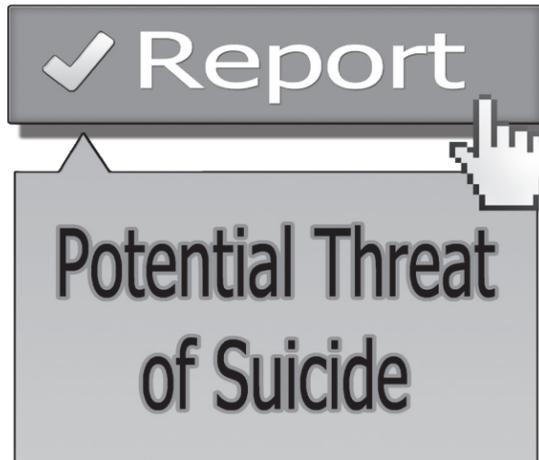
could be used for bullying purposes.

"I don't think [the resources] will be that helpful. People like that have probably been told encouraging things before but still have suicidal tendencies. Sending a message with hotlines can only help so much if the person doesn't have consistent support," junior Ashley Beltran said.

Others have raised privacy concerns, questioning whether Facebook should actively monitor and respond to user content. In July 2014, some reacted negatively after Facebook revealed it had manipulated the news feeds of about 700,000 unknowing users for research purposes in 2012, according to the Telegraph. In the second half of 2014, Facebook had also received about 35,000 requests from international governments for user data relating to criminal cases, as revealed by the website's Global Government Requests Report, according to CNET.

Although the new options are currently only offered to users in the U.S., Facebook plans to expand the program to international users over the next few months.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN



## 99 Ranch Market to Replace Ralphs

**DENISE TIEU**  
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Alhambra City Manager Mary Swink announced on Feb. 23 that after years of business, the Ralphs on E. Main Street will be closing. According to Alhambra Source, Ralphs did not renew its lease because of unsuccessful rent negotiations.

"It's disappointing. I've been walking to Ralphs for many years to do my grocery shopping. I've had the chance to meet most of the employees and [develop] closeness with them and to hear that they will be leaving makes me sad," Alhambra resident Denise Larios said.

A 99 Ranch Market will replace Ralphs once its lease expires on April 1. The 99 Ranch Market will most likely be in business by September or October 2015.

"I understand that Ralphs has to go because the rent is too high but I'm just a little upset that all the nearest non-Asian markets will be gone now. I feel like replacing it with [the] 99 Ranch Market makes it inconvenient for the people who live in Alhambra to buy their groceries because [the] 99 Ranch Market [...] doesn't offer a lot of variety," senior Michelle Leung said.

While some residents are adverse to the new replacement, some believe the change will be satisfactory.

"[It's] more convenient to have [a] 99 Ranch Market because I can buy Asian products that are not readily available at Ralphs. Ralphs [is] also very expensive," senior Grace Diep said.

MOOR graphic by LESLIE HWANG

## AMPS Switches Their Microphones on at Open Mic

**SHELLEY LIN**  
Staff Writer

On March 13, the Alhambra Moors Poets Society (AMPS) hosted their open mic night. Open Mic is an event to help prepare AMPS members for the annual Get Lit competition, which will be in Downtown Los Angeles on April 30. Open Mic was also welcome to anyone who wanted to share or recite a piece.

"Open Mics help establish and support a culture of poetry at AHS. They offer an opportunity to students to use their voices to advocate for their beliefs and tell their stories," AMPS adviser Dorothy Burkhart said.

The "A team," which consists of the main group of people who performed at the AMPS Open Mic, includes juniors Sania Luna, Tina Le, Vivyana Prado,

Julio Garcia and Ezza Munir and sophomore Yaneli Guajardo. The "B team," which consists of alternates, includes senior Anais Covarrubias, juniors Joseph Ney-Jun and Pablo Garcia and sophomore Cyndia Zhou.

Last year, AMPS placed second in the Get Lit finals; they were three points away from tying with the first place winner. This year, the team is striving to do their best at their Get Lit competition by having meetings twice a week and Open Mics frequently.

"For this year's competition, I'm working on being more honest. Usually I hide behind metaphors and symbols, so I hope this year I can be more honest without taking away too [from] the literary tools. [I will also be] working on my stage presence, because often times I'm a very still and stiff performer," Le

said. Le has been involved in AMPS since her freshmen year, when she was introduced to poetry. She was inspired by the poets on the team, which made her aim to continue to become better at it.

"The best part of performing poetry is the feelings and emotions running through [my] head, but also seeing the words [I] write come to life. [I] feel like all this pent up energy is finally being released and it's liberating," Le said.

Julio Garcia, who is a junior, joined AMPS this year and plans on focusing to improve on memorization, writing more and preparing to recite poems.

"AMPS has definitely allowed me to be more open with myself and has helped me become more of a creative writer," Garcia said.



GET READY, GET LIT AMPS members Anais Covarrubias, Sania Luna, Yaneli Guajardo, Joseph Ney-Jun and Vivyanna Prado practice their poetry pieces in preparation for the Get Lit competition on April 30. MOOR photos by SHANNON KHA

## ALA Honors AUSD Supt.



**REBECCA ZENG**  
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Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) Superintendent Laura Tellez-Gagliano, along with five other scholarship recipients from AUSD, will be honored on May 1 at Almansor Court during the Alhambra Latino Association (ALA)'s Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner and Dance, according to Around Alhambra. The scholarship recipients were chosen for the support they have shown to Latino students, according to Granada Elementary School principal Helen Padilla.

Proceeds from tickets sold will mainly be used for funding the event, but the money made at the event will go to the ALA scholarship funds for Latino students, according to Padilla.

Every year, the ALA invites Latino students from the AUSD high schools to submit an essay, five of whom will be selected to win a \$1,000 scholarship.

"I am humbled and honored to be receiving the ALA award. I acknowledge as an honoree that there [has] been several people [...] that have supported me throughout the years," Tellez-Gagliano said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AUSD WEBSITE

# Republicans Forced to Drop Revote on Updating the No Child Left Behind Act

**JADE LIEU**  
Staff Writer

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) was placed by President George W. Bush in 2002 as a reauthorized form of the Elementary and Second Elementary Act (ESEA). The NCLB had the ultimate goal of improving educational opportunities for low-income families. According to Politico Magazine, Republicans were forced to drop their re-vote on updating the NCLB Act on March 5 due to the struggle of gaining support on the NCLB Rewrite bill.

"I don't really see any difference in [revoting] as they never really upheld the act from before anyway. There are

hundreds of children, if not thousands, left behind even though there's the 'No Child Left Behind Act,' which is ironic," junior Gary Jia said.

NCLB's academic standards, which require students to be proficient in math and reading, became too problematic and left the House of Republicans discontent, according to Politico Magazine. In 2012, the Obama administration began to accept waivers to allow schools to get around meeting the requirement as long as they agreed to certain conditions, such as using college and career readiness standards, like Common Core. According to the White House website, the current progress of updating the NCLB Act is interrupted by the most current version of the Elementary

and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

"Though perhaps well-intended, NCLB is a highly politicized law and [the] most recent vote reflects this. Common Core was intended to address the shortcomings of NCLB, with a greater emphasis on skills. Opposition to Common Core tends to come from folks that want more local control over what gets taught in schools; while this sounds appealing, local control also has its shortcomings. Public education is vital to democracy, and it is unfortunate when political agendas drive the debate. What's also tragic is that the opinions of students, parents, caregivers and classroom teachers are missing from this national discussion," social science teacher David Jauregui said.