

Lights, Camera, Action!

Submitted by Vivek Nalluri

Though the past few years have truly been an unimaginable journey for everyone, children have been arguably impacted the most. From not being able to recognize their friends with masks to sitting all day in a video call, the youth of our nation have really been put to the test. As a high school student myself, I have experienced first hand just how our world was flipped upside down. However as the horizon cleared, students have truly shown perseverance, creatively, academically, and socially. This remarkable spirit and tenacity was celebrated at Rrooar's Annual Day Event May 15, 2022.

The Rrooar Academy was established in Mountain House with a mission to facilitate problem solving skills, spark creativity, and nurture children. Rrooar strives to achieve this not just academically, but in all aspects of child development. Their focus ranges from creative writing, public speaking, drama, art, coding, to robotics and more.

Rrooar Academy's Annual Day event took place at the Mountain House Town Hall and Library. The event was a celebration of all the accomplishments and progress that kids have made in their past year of classes and activities with Rrooar.

The afternoon commenced with an outstanding performance of an adaptation of The Wizard of Oz



with 12 performers ages 7 to 16. As an emcee for the event, I found myself in awe of all the attention to detail present. Even having seen the production multiple times, I was at the edge of my seat each time the Wicked Witch of the West cackled or the heroic lion roared.



After 4 months of practice, these kids have outperformed while displaying their passion and dedication to the art of drama. Along with the powerful experience watching the production, was an equally exceptional musical experience.

Each piano note felt meticulously timed to match a particular movement by the

performers, and this attention to detail was crucial in the articulation of the final product.

After the production of The Wizard of Oz, was also an adaptation of Three Little Pigs with 6 children ages 4 to 7. The props used in this production were truly what caught my attention at first glance.

The straw, stick, and brick houses almost came to life as the Wolf huffed and puffed at each of them. Pairing these props with the little child actors, was a beautiful presentation of the artistic ability and versatility kids possess.

Throughout both of these productions, my thoughts kept going back to the hours and hours I have seen those children prepare and rehearse with their mentor Ms. Ish, along with the relationships they built with her and musical producer, Jed. It was anything but ordinary to me, because I knew just how much effort was needed to produce what we saw. That is what I saw when my eyes set glance upon each

of the child actors. I saw unimaginable dedication and passion, from the very first time I walked into Rrooar when they were practicing to the very final piece at the Annual Day Event.

As I glanced at the room at this moment, I saw parents proud and satisfied knowing that their children have found something in which they are truly passionate and enjoy.



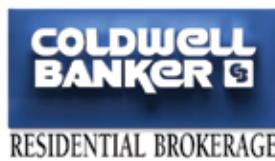
The activities of the event followed by a formal introduction of the guest of honor and Vice President of Mountain House Community Services District Board of Directors, Mr. Harry Dillon. Harry has been an ardent supporter of activities throughout

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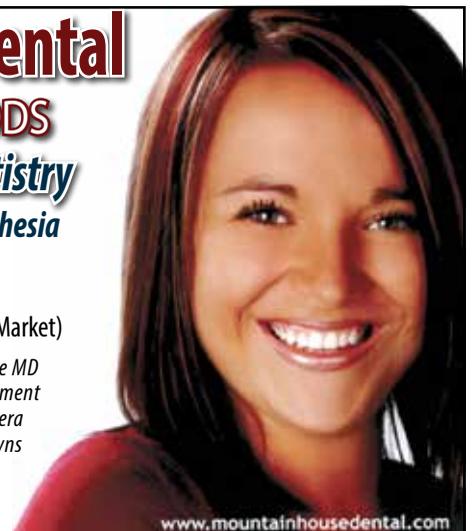
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continued

Mountain House and graciously took time to acknowledge all the impactful work Rrooar is doing for the Mountain House community, and its youth. He spoke about how extracurricular activities such as those provided by Rrooar are crucial to child development and success in life. His speech illustrated to me, and clearly many in the audience,



what a close knit community Mountain House is. Though ever expanding, it will always remain the lively and enthusiastic community it is and the audience turnout to this event just reinforced this feeling within me.

Next in our schedule was the Grand Awards Ceremony to honor each and every one of Rrooar's students that completed their classes throughout the year. As the names of the students were announced, each walked proudly, with a big smile, to the stage. I became especially delighted to see the countless faces of students I have personally interacted with.

More importantly, what I saw was a strong relationship between students and mentors. This was something evident on my first day as an intern. The day I walked into my training, I noticed the positive and friendly atmosphere that was created at Rrooar. Kids were collaborating with each other and with the instructor, all while retaining their childlike thoughts. Instantly I knew that Rrooar was different in its approach to childhood education. It wanted positive interactions between kids, because it understands that children will not learn in an atmosphere where they cannot feel like kids. What I noticed next was that the kids at Rrooar never apologized for making a mistake while learning. While this may seem small, it reflects on the mindset fostered at Rrooar. These children were more confident with their work, while being accepting of making mistakes. They were okay with learning from their errors, while adding their own creative aspects to everything they did. In the homogenous culture of the present day, Rrooar values individuality and never have I heard a kid being asked "what went wrong". Instead it was a question of "how can you make it better". These little nuances in an approach to teaching make the largest impact in a child's learning. It is with these social, confidence, and creativity skills that

kids at Rrooar blossom into generational leaders. However, this all starts to happen when they get their medal or certificate and share that moment with their friends and family. As each medal was awarded, certificate was handed, and photo was clicked, Annual Day was truly a momentous occasion for students, parents, instructors, and everyone within the Rrooar family.

After all the children were recognized, Ms. Gagan (Founder) & Ms. Ish (Creative Director) took the stage to acknowledge the students for countless hours of effort put into both the productions and classes through the academic year as well.

Following this was a short song composed by Ms. Shraddha Shah, one of the student's mother, about Rrooar. The song was in fact sung in Hindi,



a language I don't speak. Some words stood out distinctly, which I correlated with children and teaching. The word Rrooar also stuck out for me. While, for the most part I could not directly translate the lyrics, I could just sense the emotion within the song. Oftentimes, the tone and mood any song creates comprises half its delivery. With Ms. Shah's song, I could feel what she was conveying about the impact of Rrooar on children. This tapped on a well of emotions for the audience and truly was a work of art. The song was another noteworthy example of the level of creativity and talent, Rrooar aims to create within children.

Personally, working with these children for the past few months has shown me that kids do not crave any other food as they do donuts. To show that passion and dedication is always rewarded, the kids celebrated the end of the event with their well deserved donut party.

As the evening came to an end, I came to see how kids in this generation are more resilient to adversity than ever before. With this strength and ambition, I can confidently say that bright futures and unimaginable things are sure to be accomplished by our very own Mountain House kids at Rrooar Academy.

A Brief Summary of Monkey Pox

Submitted by Aarya Vishnu

Monkeypox: is it genuinely overhyped? Before 2020, the world had believed that there would never again be a pandemic as severe as the Spanish Flu in the 1920s. But since COVID-19 has taken the world by storm, everyone is a bit more on edge. Even with monkeypox being a well-studied disease, many are left worrying if this illness could become the next COVID.

So what is monkeypox exactly?

Monkeypox is a viral disease that can spread through physical contact or through inhaling large droplets. Monkeypox belongs to a group of viruses called Orthopoxviruses. These viruses have an oval-like shape and often cause noticeable skin lesions (or skin bumps) on humans.

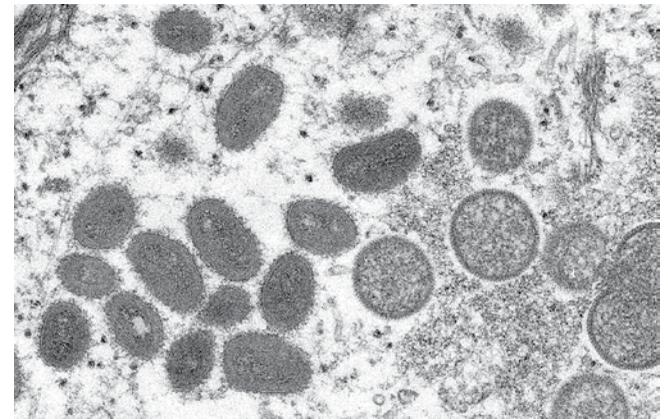


Photo credit: Smith Collection/Gado/Getty Images

Since multiple diseases fall under this viral group, they share similar genetic characteristics. Smallpox, for instance, is an orthopoxvirus whose vaccine can be used to protect people from getting a severe monkeypox infection. Even if the smallpox vaccine can help protect individuals from monkeypox, they are not the same disease. Smallpox is a now eradicated disease, whose infection is caused by the Variola Virus.

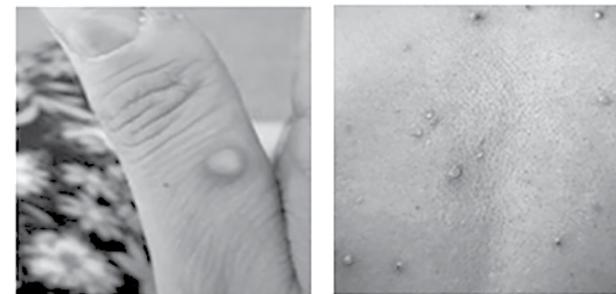


Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network

Monkeypox is also milder than smallpox and has a shorter illness lifespan.

Why Are People Fearful?

As mentioned before, COVID has made everyone anxious at the prospect of another pandemic and another round of lockdowns. Monkeypox is by no means a new disease as it was first discovered back in the 1950s. Even if this is the case, monkeypox seems scary. Something as trivial as the name, monkeypox, adds to its gruesome aura. The media hasn't made the situation much better either. A mixture of clickbait headlines and fear-mongering topped off with images of monkeypox victims has culminated in a near hysteria-like atmosphere surrounding this well-known infection. Although monkeypox has spread

outside Africa, it is not the first instance of a non-pandemic disease spreading across the globe.

The recent spread of monkeypox:

Outside of South and Central Africa, where the disease is endemic, this outbreak has primarily affected Western countries. This can be attributed to smallpox vaccination rates having declined after smallpox was eradicated in 1980, causing

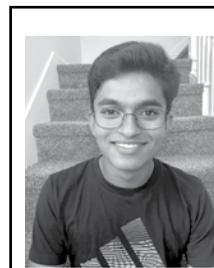
more individuals to become susceptible to this condition.

What should we do moving forward?

Basic sanitary practices are the best way to prevent this disease from spreading. This includes practices as simple as handwashing and minimizing physical

contact. It is important to stay calm as well. Considering that monkeypox has a fairly long incubation period, doctors suggest that getting the smallpox vaccine if you're at risk of exposure can minimize the severity of the infection.

All in all, it is best to view monkeypox as monkeypox, not COVID. We know a lot about this virus, and we have treatments in preventing deaths.



About The Author:

Aarya Vishnu is a rising senior at Mountain House High School who aspires to be a medical researcher.