

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

**2020** "I felt very overwhelmed. I was happy to see so many people from different backgrounds come together to support and empathize with a group of people that have never had it easy simply because of the color or their skin. I felt very sad and frustrated that this is still a problem that has not been dealt with, and **ANGRY TOWARDS THOSE WHO CARED MORE ABOUT BURNED DOWN BUILDINGS THAN THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIVES.**"  
lianny reyes '23



**2021** "Going to the protests made me sad, yet happy because I see how bad it is and that we as **BLACK PEOPLE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS WHEN WE SHOULD ALREADY DESERVE THEM.**"  
darlington smith '23



**"GOING TO A PWI**  
[PREDOMINANTLY WHITE INSTITUTION]  
**FEELS BEYOND NORMAL**  
to me  
**IN THE WORST WAY."**  
makensie pago '22



STUDENTS OF COLOR  
**STATISTICS**  
PERCENTAGES OF THE NON-WHITE POPULATION OF CASTLE VIEW  
TOTALS TO 24.78%

**"IT'S A MOVEMENT** for people who have been long **OPPRESSED** by **RACISM** and **HATRED.** [these are] **MY PEOPLE.**  
**HOW CAN I NOT SUPPORT IT?"**  
sean harris '22



**"when the protests were happening** i felt **EMPOWERED** and felt like **MARTIN LUTHER KING'S TORCH** was finally being passed on to our generation and that it was our turn to **STOP LEARNING** <sup>about history</sup> and start **MAKING THINGS HAPPEN."**  
ahnysti billington '22



**"I DIDN'T WANT TO GO [TO THE PROTESTS]** because they are **DANGEROUS** and **OUT OF HAND.** I did support them until they resulted in **HARM AND INJURY.** [the movement] means we need to realize these issues are **NOT FAKE** and there are a lot of people that deal with corrupt law enforcement."  
josiah billington '23



**"THE POWER OF THE N-WORD** is a different sin. we shouldn't say it, but we do and that's just what it is, but that **doesn't mean you [white people] can say it just cause you have Black friends.** That was a word created **FOR YOU** to keep **US** under.  
**WHEN YOU [WHITE PEOPLE] USE IT THERE'S A DOUBLE MEANING IN IT."**  
taheim hill '21



**BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT EMPOWERS CASTLE VIEW'S BLACK STUDENT BODY**

Her hair. The color of her skin. Simple characteristics that are normal for Makensie Pago '22 but made her a prime target for bullies at a young age. 'Is your hair real?' 'Are you really that dark?' These were questions she may not be asked if she wasn't in a predominantly white town. "For most of my life, I thought I had to act a certain way because I wanted to be well received by my peers and it in tow made me feel as though I wasn't Black. I had never spent a day in a world where being Black was normal," Pago said. Whether or not kids meant it, to Pago, they were mean and ignorant. Some made comments, commanding Pago to smile if they turned the lights off because

they couldn't see her. They'd stare at her natural hair as if she had two heads. Some classmates would attack her for her natural body to the point where the only thing she saw in the mirror was resentment for herself. "Because all you want is to have a day where your hair is 'pretty' or your skin isn't 'crazy.' Because the times you hear people use those words are never towards you and when you find out that there is no way to change the color of you skin or the hair you were born with it makes you insecure," Pago said. Despite dealing with some insecurities, the Black Lives Matter movement has done a lot for Pago in terms of teaching her to love herself and accept herself. "[The protests] rightly promotes accepting who you are as a young Black individual and that should be taught more

than it is. It feels like a good way to try and stand up for myself," Pago said. Even though she couldn't attend the protests for reasons such as she didn't have enough time and couldn't find a reliable ride, she still showed her support by signing several petitions. The protest gave her mixed feelings; it was an important topic to raise awareness for however the timing was poor with everything that was also happening. "I don't think I would have attended because I personally cannot afford to be injured or arrested if any of the protests happened to become violent, but I would love to step up and protest for something so important," Pago said. "It makes me beyond proud to see people recognize an issue exists to the point to take a physical stand."