

MORE



to the story



SHS
J-1 YB 2008

It's more than a Celebration

The Indian Thread ceremony is more than just receiving presents—it's the meaning behind it

“Om asta tomah sar gama ya, tama so ma, jo tir gah ma yah, mit tro maa, mamtum gama yah.”

These sacred opening words start the Hindu thread ceremony, traditionally called a Munja, establishing that a boy is ready for his transition from childhood towards his 'student life.'

The Munja is the coming of age ceremony for young boys, signifying the end of their childhood and then the beginning of their academic career with guidance from a guru. Many high school Indian boys have already had their Munja during their youth.

Sophomore **Nihal Ruparel** had his lengthy two and a half hour ceremony at the age of ten at the Marriot Hotel in San Jose.

The ceremony began when the priest went through a series of prayers and mantras to officially thread Nihal. He later invoked all the five elements: fire, water, earth, air, space and nature into the mantras for auspiciousness.

“It was a little awkward having a bunch of people staring at you without your shirt on, said Nihal, “but it wasn't anything that changed my life forever either.”

From this ceremony, Nihal gained more responsibility and expectations such as chanting a prayer 11 times a day.

“Though my parents have told me to do it, I tend to forget and not do it every day,” Nihal admitted.

In Hindu culture there are five stages in life. The first being childhood, the second education, the third marriage and family, the fourth retirement, and the last being the spiritual journey. The Munja occurs just before the second stage of life, right before childhood.

At the age of eight, freshman **Soorya Rangan** also had his ceremony during his youth. However instead of having it in America, he had a more traditional one in a convention center in Bangalore, India.

His ceremony consisted of the priest lighting a miniature bonfire in the center of the stage. He was then asked to pour oil into a small coconut, chant some verses, and then pray to Lord Ganesha, who signifies auspiciousness, and then to the Goddess Saraswati who signifies knowledge.

Soorya, however, was too young to fully grasp the importance and significance of the Munja. This was

just a big celebration for him; he just enjoyed having the company of his friends and family and getting numerous presents. Even though Soorya thought that this wasn't a big deal, he did have much more expectations upon him.

“It wasn't a turning point in my life,” said Soorya. “But I have more responsibilities now, which I am often constantly reminded to do.”

Both Nihal and Soorya gained more responsibilities with their ceremony but also got respect from their relatives.

“It was great, suddenly all my relatives treated me with more respect, said Soorya, “however, I got a little more attention than I really wanted.”

For now, both of them have lived up to their expectations following the ceremony, but tend to forget to recite some of their daily prayers.

When reflecting back on it, Nihal and Soorya of them realized that it was more than just a celebration for them and the beginning of their academic career.

“It's really more than just a big celebration and receiving fancy gifts,” Nihal explained, “it's having more responsibilities and getting a lot more work too.”

•Grishma Athavale

Listening to the priest: Soorya follows instruction on repeating the prayer. **Shaving the head:** Nihal gets his hair cut by his dad and mom. **Receiving the thread:** Nihal receives the thread and begins to chant a prayer, while receiving it.



get to the Ceremony

Other names: Janoi, Upanayanam, Janue.

Poita.

Happens around: Age 8 to 12.

Significance: Establishes that the boy has left his childhood and is ready to start his serious academic training.

Responsibilities: Chanting a prayer 11 times a day.

Offering holy water: Nihal offers holy water to Lord Ganesha who symbolizes auspiciousness while chanting a sacred prayer.



WHAT TO EAT AT LUNCH

People choose different things to eat at lunch

Every day at a certain time people always do one thing. Eat. Some people eat lunch at 11:00 and some people eat at 12:00. At school, lunchtime can be a horrible time to eat for freshmen and sophomores, but for juniors and seniors, they can have a good time and choose what they want to eat by going off campus. "Lunch is fun, but it would be way better if we could go off (campus) and eat". says freshman Christian Victoria.

With no option of leaving campus for underclassmen have fewer choices on what to eat at lunch. One option being, bringing food from home. The common lunches brought from home are the usual peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and turkey, bologna, salami, and chicken sandwiches that parents can easily prepare. "I like that if you bring your lunch, you don't have to wait in the long lunch lines." says freshman Thomas Tiernan. This is an advantage to bringing home-brought lunches.

Another option for underclassmen to eat is buy lunch from school. With many choices at school, it makes the lunches have more variety. With chicken strips and pizza to cookies and chicken creaser wrapped rolls, and a whole variety of drinks makes lunch a little better with more variety.

The other option not available the freshman and sophomore class is to go off campus and eat. Popular places to go are Chipotle and other high fat, high calorie fast foods like MacDonald's, Burger King, Carl's Jr., and Panda Express. Going off campus usually makes lunch more fun and gives the upper classmen students more freedom and a time to relax and eat anything they want. This choice gives the Upperclassmen the most choice and variety to what they want to eat.

With so many options to eat, many students use them all. Having more choices makes lunch more fun and a better time to have fun. "The more different kinds of foods make us more excited to come back and eat more foods." Freshman Kyle Karen says.

Most Consumed Food Item at School



"The more different kinds of foods make us more excited to come back and eat more foods." Freshman Kyle Karen says.

”

—Freshman Kyle Karen

Here's to

the Night...

As junior year ended, the new senior class officers had already begun planning Prom.

Parents and students both were swarming into the quad looking at each others dresses and tuxedos. Everyone was standing around taking pictures with each other and waiting in line to have their professional pictures taken. After that everyone crowds to the parking lot and starts loading on the buses and saying goodbye to their siblings and parents for the night.

Now rewind to last summer, the six senior class officers of this year got together for some serious planning. They started flipping through phone books looking for places where they could hold the annual Senior Prom.

After calling each hotel and checking if they were open on the day of prom, how much they charged, and other details they settled on 6 hotels in San Francisco. Later that summer the six soon-to-be seniors took a trip to San Francisco and visited each hotel, talked to the managers and finally, they decided on Parc 55.

This year Prom was at the Parc 55 hotel in San Francisco on May 24th. Because the hotel was out of the county, the school had to provide buses to the hotel which was the reason for the high priced bids, and lack limos driving up to houses.

Seniors, **Nikhil Sheel, Zo Shain, James Yuan, Rachel Sabes, Ryan Stoffers,** and **Joycerine Lee,** were in charge, putting in an enormous number of hours planning this event.

When asked how many hours he put in, Nikhil laughed and said, "I don't think I could count the number of hours I put in planning Prom."

There were countless problems the seniors were stopped by when planning the event.

"There were a number of hard things to plan, but it was more about figuring out the small things because everything

else seemed to fall into place," said Nikhil.

"One thing that was really hard to figure out was the table decorations," said Zo, "It took a while to decide on which center pieces we wanted."

The seniors also had to be ready for absolutely anything that went wrong because even the smallest thing could ruin the prom.

"One big problem we had was when halfway through prom itself, a small chandelier fell and cut a girl. There was shattered glass all over the ground," said Ryan, "We had to clear everyone of the dance floor but once they finished cleaning no one really wanted to go back, it was kind of a buzz kill."

Not only did the seniors put in endless numbers of hours into planning prom, they also put countless dollars into paying for everything. They had to raise the money through several different fundraisers and selling bids.

"The overall price of everything was about 43,000 dollars," said Nikhil, "The fundraisers that helped pay for it the most were Saratoga Idol and selling Hawaiian lays at graduation."

The seniors also needed as much help as they could get from other seniors when planning the event.

"**Ali Samuels** and **Meg Mastman** helped us out a lot with planning everything," said Zo, "And of course we had plenty of help from Mrs. Hyde."

Looking back on it, all the seniors had an amazing time even through all the stresses and troubles they went through in planning it.

"It was all worth it, the countless hours, the late nights, and the stress, because in the end it turned out amazing. Prom was an excellent way to end our senior adventure. All the girls looked beautiful and the boys looked very handsome," said Zo Shain, "It was a night that I hope no one will ever forget." • **Aditya Dev**



Seniors Keon Ghaffouri, Chelsea Middlebrook, Doug Sabella, and Junior Hana Pruzansky dance the night away on the dj stage at senior prom. This year prom was held at the Parc 55 hotel in San Francisco.



From Right to Left, Top to Bottom: Andrea Jungc, Jennifer Coe, Josh Greenberg, Danny Lulu, Frank Yao, Trent Dozier, Kendall Callaghan, Pete Florence, Shannon Nguyen, Doug Sabella, and Amgela Lee.

MORE on Positions

Having a single amazing super star like Kobe Bryant on your team would be great, but the only way to have a really good, balanced team is to have good players in all positions.

Point Guard - Generally the best ball handler on the team. They do the most passing and dribbling. They are always one of the quickest guys on the court, and are usually shorter in stature. Sometimes, they can drive the ball to the basket or take shots.

Shooting Guard - These guys are the team's best shooters (no way!). But, along with being able to shoot well, they must have pretty good ball handling and passing skills.

Small Forward - Smaller than power forwards and centers, but are the most versatile. They are the main point scorers, and they can resemble a guard or power forward if needed. They are also supposed to excel at defense.

Power Forward - Plays on the opposite side as the center, and can usually double as the center. They are a bit more mobile, and they should be able to shoot mid range shots.

Center - Always the biggest person on the court. They play near the block, which is a few feet from the hoop. Being bigger means less mobility, but they are used for screens to block the defender and rebounding.

always BALLIN'

Basketball players work hard in the offseason to improve their game



Jason Du



TRYING HIS HARDEST, freshman David Wang tries to do the lift "power jerk" with 45 pounds on each side before open gym while freshman Brandon Lin watches on the side.

Jason Du

Alex Chan dribbled the ball down the court. As Alex's team sets up their offense, he sees **Brian Chiou** posting up on another player. Alex passes it down to Brian who is in a good position near the hoop. Brian fakes to the left, drop steps to the right, and scores with his left hand. "Come on guys, talk on defense!" yells JV coach **Trevor Naas**.

The basketball season has been over for a while, but players would say that this is just the beginning. The off-season is the necessary preparation time for next year's sports season, whether it is basketball, football, or tennis.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, during seventh period or after school, the members of the basketball have "open gym"; the players organize teams and play against each other for an hour or two, either inside the gym or on the basketball courts in the parking lots. Coaches are there to supervise, but it is still pretty casual.

"Even though there's a coach there, we don't take it that seriously," said freshman Brian. "Usually only about ten people show up."

Brian is one of the three freshmen who have a starting spot on the Junior Varsity basketball team, which means they play when the game starts, as the center at 5'11". The other two are point guard Alex and shooting guard **Chris Guengerich**.

"I got really nervous during the season because I had to play all these other sophomores on the other teams," said Brian. "I mean, they're like over six foot guys and I'm just a freshman. I kind of feel privileged, though, because there are some other sophomores on the team and they don't have a starting spot. Or, maybe I'm just too skilled."

This year, junior varsity ended up with a record of 3-9, which is not bad seeing as there were three freshmen starters, and only four out of the 15 or so kids on the team were sophomores. The varsity and junior varsity teams are both also in Division 1, or the highest division, which makes their record even greater.

"I think open gym is pretty useless, but the only way it helps me is that it gives me experience," said Brian. "Since a lot of us freshman already have experience, we should be really good."

Freshman center and forward **Jasneil Nat** said, "We don't really do anything in open gym. But, our team will be hella good next year because all of us are going to be sophomores and we're going to have a new coach."

"A lot of the current freshmen might move up to varsity next year because there are not that many sophomores," said Brian. "But, our team should be really good because only two of our starters were sophomores." **Jason Du**



Jason Du



Jason Du



Jason Du

DRIVING TO THE basket, freshman Tyler Jew tries to dribble past defender freshman Dean Stavropoulos and get a layup. **DURING A BREAK**, coach Trevor Naas gives the players some tips on the mistakes that he saw players make while the players get a chance to rest. **GOING UP FOR** a layup, freshman Brian Chou tries to pull a move and shoot a right-handed shot over defender sophomore Andy Johnson in the key. **WORKING IT OUT**, sophomore Andrew Hnojewyj bench presses to get stronger.



Jason Du



Jason Du



Jason Du

TO WARM UP before starting actual drills, freshman Dean Stavropoulos does a right-handed layup while freshman Tyler Jew is waiting for the rebound to pass it to freshman Shai Segal. **DURING THE 5 ON 0** drill, new varsity coach and former JV coach Trevor Naas tells freshman Dean Stavropoulos about the mistakes he made as junior Avinash Kumar listens. **IN THE SCRIMMAGE**, Avinash Kumar tries to shoot over defender sophomore Andy Johnson in the post position.



Go for Gold!

Toga Student participates in Special Olympics

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.” These words were spoken by Roman gladiators as they entered the arena, facing the greatest battle of their lives. Special Olympics athletes recite this oath at the Opening Ceremonies of every competition to remind themselves, that the goal is to compete with their whole effort and to exhibit bravery by pushing themselves to even greater heights.

Saratoga High School freshman, **Elliot Weil**, participated in the Special Olympics this year in singles Tennis. He played in a beginner’s tournament and won the gold medal. Elliot won the gold in the qualifiers and is going to move onto the next level of competition. His next tournament will be held at UC Berkeley.

Elliot plays tennis at Branham Hall, training with coaches and other Special Olympic tennis players. His coaches, Coach Rick and Coach Kristy, have only been training with Elliot for about a month. Elliot played tennis when he was younger, about ten years old, and took a little break when he got older. He started back up again recently and enrolled in the Special Olympics.

“My mom signed me up. My mom told me I needed the exercise,” said Elliot.

Elliot agreed with his mom about the exercise and now truly enjoys playing tennis. Elliot also has some inspiration through his family. Elliot’s brother, CJ Weil, is a 15 year old who attends Leigh High School.

“I want to show my brother I can win and beat him. Then he will be scared of me,” said Elliot. Elliot hopes that his brother to brother competition will help him play even better in the summer games.

Elliot met a lot of new people at the event. He talked to people who played all different sports, “I met a lot of girls from aquatics and I met some guys from track.”

During the opening ceremonies, all the athletes walked the track as there training team was announced. Some stood scared and others stood tall, waving to everyone in the crowd. The family members, coaches, volunteers, and spectators all cheered and supported the athletes as they walked the track. Once the walk was finished, they had the ceremonial lighting of the flame.

From the opening ceremonies, the athletes reported to the venue that they were each competing in. Elliot reported to the tennis courts to play. Elliot played 4 games. He played mostly against beginners but played vs. one intermediate player.

“One game went on and on and on. I won by getting the most defensive points, said Elliot.

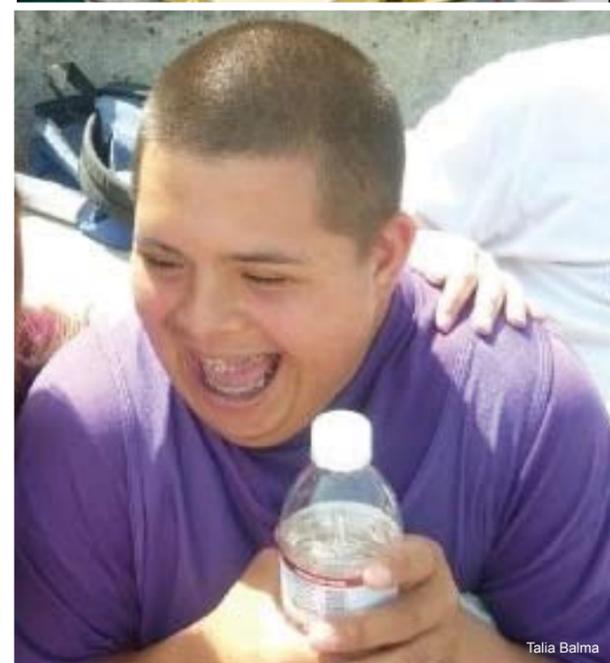
He successfully played his games and qualified to go the UC Berkeley for the summer games on the Weekend of June 6th.

“I hope, I just hope I get another gold!” said Elliot, “the one goal I wanted to do was to get the gold from the summer games!” •**Colleen Garland**



Gold Medal Winner, Elliot Weil, shows off his hard earned medal to the school.

Colleen Garland



Talia Balma



Talia Balma



Pre-game Fun: Marcus Gonzalez jokes around before warm-up time, with his team.

Toga support: Toga Freshman, Katie Gifford, supports Special Olympic athletes at Gunderson High School, on May 10,2008.

Team Talk: A team of athletes hang out together before the track meet.

Coach pep talk: Oliver Marson sits with his coach and dad for a quick pep talk.

Students turn into FAMILY at their hang out spot

Students get comfortable with their new environment.

Almost fifteen students, consisting of sophomores and a couple of freshmen, sit outside history teacher, Mr. Newport's, classroom at lunch every day. Why sit there when there is a quad full of energetic students that talk and enjoy themselves with everybody else? **Sophomore James Han** said, "It's too annoying to try to find a table in the quad, so we just sit here. We don't really care what other people think about us sitting here, because we have established a group that we feel comfortable with, which is the circle spot."

The whole group started out with only three students that were new to Saratoga High School. These students came from Fisher Middle School. They started sitting on a circular resting place in front of Newport's classroom at the start of their freshman year. Soon after, they made friends, and they joined

them for their everyday lunch gatherings at "the spot."

The main reason why they don't sit at the quad, is because the football players and seniors intimidate them. But **Sophomore Jamie Gee** says, "I wouldn't have a problem sitting in the quad at lunch." She said that, because she actually wants to get the feel of being with a whole different environment of other students that she hasn't met before. She also mentioned that she is getting pretty bored of the same routine. Their routine consists of getting out of class, rushing to the lunch line (if they have to buy lunch), and then they go to the meeting spot and eat their lunch.

At the circle sitting place, they talk about pretty much everything. They are very open with each other and it has become their comfort zone. They got used to it, and now

enjoy sitting there, talking amongst themselves. Not only do they talk, but they also help each other with homework and studying for their next test coming up the following period.

Some of them also mentioned that they don't really like big crowds. They're more into the whole small group and are more comfortable with talking to them as well. Their group always stick together. They're bonding experiences and memories that are gathered at that spot turned them into a family.

They have mentioned that they will keep on sitting there until the end of their senior year. They are not planning on going off campus their junior or senior years, because they have gotten so used to sitting at the spot, that they don't want to give it up for anything, no matter what. • **Simin Ghahghahi**



Reading away: Andrea Hwang and Pooja Desai read their books after they finished their lunch.

Photo by: Simin Ghahghahi



-Andrea Hwang gets up to get her backpack to do homework, while Jessica Lam and Pooja Desai are doing their homework. **Talking:** Vania Chang and Melody Hsiang talk amongst their fellow peers. **Study, study, study:** Andrea Hwang and Pooja Desai are helping each other study for their Chemistry test. **Relaxing:** Shawna Khorasani relaxes while doing her homework.



Studious: Jessica Lam does her homework with no distractions. **Chilling:** Dorothy Tan and Krista Chow are talking with each other while eating their lunch.



Top 10 Hangout Spots at Lunch:

1. Quad/Quad steps
2. Library
3. Classrooms
4. Hallways
5. Circle Spot!

Toga Style Sweet 16 Cars

When it comes to Saratoga and the luxury that comes with it, the students are bound to receive incredible cars for their 16th Birthday.

“When you turn sixteen, you are able to drive and make a leap in terms of independence from your parents.”

- Sophomore Varun Parmar



Sophomore Caroline Dietrich poses in front of her Black BMW. Caroline got this car for her sixteenth birthday, from her father.

Photo Credit: Caroline Dietrich

Turning sixteen is a day of the long-rewarded freedom that everyone deserves. It's a day to commemorate, and to finally feel as if the road to adulthood is just on the next exit. Now, one can finally drive to that exit, being able to receive the biggest gift anyone could ask for; a license. Having a license is much more meaningful than having a plastic card with a photo identification. It's a card to prove to others that one has finally taken the first steps to adulthood. Many, like Sophomore **Varun Parmar**, agree. "It is important to celebrate the coming of the sixteenth year of one's life because it marks an important turning point: when you turn sixteen, you are able to drive and make a leap in terms of independence from your parents." Varun said. "We all start with a metaphorical blank slate that is filled up throughout one's life, but it seems that much of that life starts when one turns sixteen."

When one's parents were teenagers, it was typical to not even receive a car at all for their birthday. Even in other parts of the United States today, others are not as financially gifted, so receiving cars is very rare. Vehicles are a huge investment, in the past, and even now in the present. But for Saratoga families, money isn't really a problem, when it comes to finding a suitable car for their son or daughter.

"For my Sweet 16, I'm actually getting a BMW from my parents. I'm really looking forward to being able to drive

around in it." Said Freshman **Shiva Roohparvar**. For Varun, he can keep wishing.

"I really, really want a Porsche Carrera, but I know I'm never going to get it." He said. "On the other hand, I'm going to get a Lexus ES300. It's 10 years old, and has over 200,000 miles on it, but it still drives well. I actually respect my parents for not getting me the best of the best, because they want to prove to me that in life, not everything will be handed to me directly."

Car brands such as BMW, Mercedes, Lexus, and Acura are some common brands that parents get for their teenagers in Saratoga. Although those cars come with a high price tag, parents want their kids to have the best, and most safe vehicle out on the road. Freshman **Emily Hsia** knows exactly what that means.

"My older brother Alvin, whose a junior, had a black Lexus, but just got a new white BMW." Emily says that her Dad is also really interested in cars, so that was a main factor as to why he gets such nice vehicles for himself.

Whether one gets a top-of-the-market car for one's sixteenth birthday, or a more 'practical' car, having a license is truly significant. Being able to go from place to place, and even have a job, without hardly any help from ones parents, gives oneself a great feeling. Knowing that the road to adulthood is just around the corner, makes life seem much greater than it already is. •**Katie Gifford**



Black Porsche Interior: The glossy, leather interior of a high-end Porsche Carrera. Exterior of Black Porsche: A black Porsche Carrera with beige leather in a garage. Bmw Z3 convertible: A sporty convertible owned by a mother of Saratoga, showcases an attractive and popular style of a sports vehicle





BBQ Time: Students from four schools met on April 11 for a social gathering where they ate, hung out, and prayed at Memorial Park. "We couldn't keep the fire burning long enough to cook a burger or hotdog, even with a bunch of lighter fluid and charcoal, so we just ate the soda and dessert," Sophomore Furqan Siddiqui said.

Muslim Students Association

Muslim Student Association starts anew this year, with new events and members

- 5 pillars** to support them
- 5 main beliefs and actions of Islam
 - Testament of Belief- Saying what a Muslim believes
 - Prayer- 5 times a day
 - Charity- 2.5% of your wealth given to the poor every year
 - Fasting- No food or drink from sunrise to sunset for 30 days
 - Pilgrimage- Traveling to Mecca at a specific time and completing religious rituals

Students may think a religious club is fully comprised of religion-focused activities, but the Muslim Students Association (MSA) meets with a goal of activism, socializing, and an enjoyable time.

The MSA is different because their members meet without being forced in any way, inside school and outside, just to have fun and meet other Muslims.

The MSA's main goal is to make students aware about Muslims at our school and to change the wrong beliefs that students have about Muslims. The MSA also wants to allow students of the school to socialize and make friends while collaborating together.

The MSA first began in 2005, when ten sophomores decided to make a Muslim Club. They decided to make a club because of the other religious clubs.

"We wanted to meet each other and sometimes pray on Friday's. There were the Christian and Jewish clubs, so we felt that we needed a club for us," Los Gatos High School Senior **Naila Eisa** said.

In that year and the following one, a few more Muslims entered the club, but the meetings became less regular. Naila said that they (MSA) ran out of ideas, and nobody knew what to do.

"We were actually known as more of a girl club, because all of our members were girls, and I think that is the reason why we didn't have that many boys in the club. We had a meeting every two weeks, and the year ended and I left Saratoga High," Naila said.

The MSA had traveled as a group to volunteer three times in different places. The year after that, there was no MSA because nobody had signed up as president.

"One time we planted trees and another time we helped package food and supplies for the homeless on Human Dignity Day," Naila stated. "I thought that one of my friends would become president after I left, but I didn't tell anybody so I guess it just ended."

Junior **Heraa Hyder** restarted the MSA this past year, and has improved the club in many ways, Sophomore **Zakir Khan** said.

"I think the MSA started off at a slow pace because a lot of us didn't really know each other and we weren't sure what to expect from the club," Zakir said.

Zakir said that the second semester incorporated new ideas that everybody came up with at the meetings.

"We thought of having an MSA picnic with a lot of other schools and it had a good turnout," Zakir said. "About 4 schools and 30 kids showed up and we ate, prayed and played football in Memorial Park."

The student awareness goal wasn't met, Zakir stated. He thought that informing people about Muslims was crucial to the club.

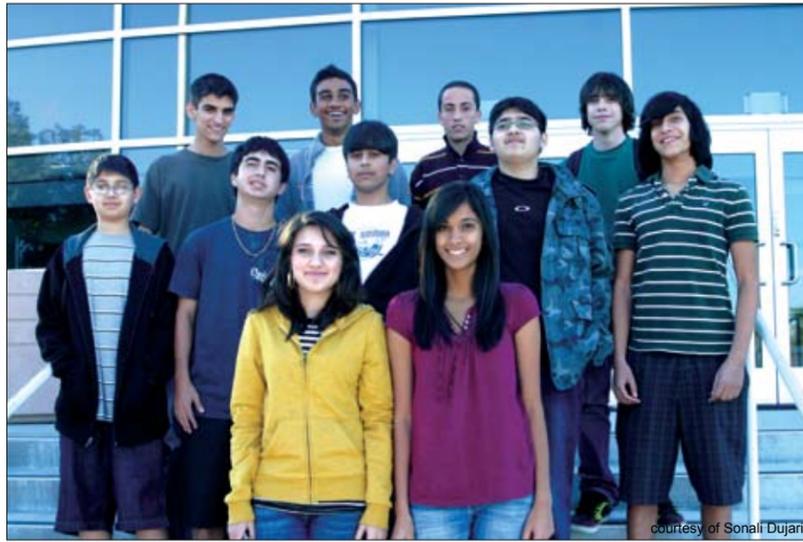
"I don't think people know me as a Muslim in the school," Zakir said. "I don't want everybody to know that myself, or anybody else, is a Muslim, but I think we should tell people that there are Muslims in the school."

Zakir hopes more for next year's club, when several ideas that weren't put into action will be implemented.

"Next year, I hope that we have more inviting events for all students to come to in the school. We might have a speaker come and talk or a Mediterranean food night. Next year the club won't be your average religious club." •**Ibrahim Hyder**

People in the MSA: Ramiz Sheikh, Furqan Siddiqui, Amin Arbouz, Al Thorburn, Ibrahim Hyder, Sam Mohazzab, Shahrukh Hamid, Hashim Hyder, Zakir Khan, Heraa Hyder, Annum Hassan.

Serving the Poor: Muslim men and women package and distribute boxes to over 1000 homeless in Downtown San Jose on Human Dignity Day 2005.



Best friends FOREVER

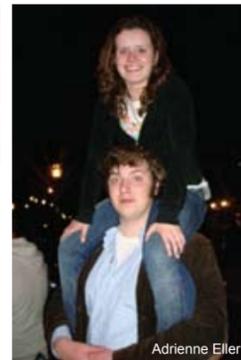
The foot-and-a-half height difference couldn't keep senior James Knight and freshman Adrienne Eller apart.



Grace Kim



Adrienne Eller



Adrienne Eller

Meow: James becomes Adrienne's cat for Senior Slave Day.
Reach for the sky: Adrienne sits on James's shoulder at Disneyland awaiting to watch *Fantasmic!*. **Just swinging around:** After finishing *Into the Woods*, James and Adrienne celebrate happily.

A friendly argument was brewing in the Little Theatre during lunchtime. Soon enough, they were slapping each other, joking and having a good time. Then suddenly, senior **James Knight**'s spit flew towards freshmen **Adrienne Eller**. The people around these two best friends stared at them strangely, thinking they were gross. Spit was flying back and forth between James and Adrienne and this little battle ended in a fit of laughter.

The interesting friendship between James and Adrienne is well known throughout the Saratoga High campus. Always going off together to lunch or talking in hallways, these two friends enjoy their time together. They can be seen barging through lunch and shaking hands in the hallway, and what makes them even more interesting is their height difference. The 6'5" senior and 5' freshmen make for a great duo.

They originally met when Adrienne was in seventh grade. She was Dr. Seuss in *The Seussical*, a musical put on by Redwood Middle School, and James was in the audience. He came to congratulate her for her wonderfully played role when the musical ended. Adrienne was not aware of whom this stranger was and she was caught off guard.

"At first I was scared of him," said Adrienne. "Then he came to school later in the year to do a drama presentation and followed me around all day, and I started to think he was very cool."

Adrienne began to go to all of his shows and came to a point where she idolized him, thinking he was the coolest person in the world.

"I basically stalked him," said Adrienne. "Everyone would call me and **Arianna [Paranzino]**, a friend of mine, his fan club and he thought we were weird."

When Adrienne entered high school, she and James reunited in *The Little Shop of Horrors*. They became friends and got closer together.

"Being in shows together brought us closer," said James. "We first did the *The Little Shop of Horrors*, then *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Then we did *Peter Pan* in PYT and *Into the Woods* at CMT, and now we're doing *West Side Story* at CMT."

Being a senior and freshman does not factor into their friendship. Some people think the age difference is weird and sometimes, even their parents get confused.

"I think it's great they both have each other, but I don't believe that the age difference matters at all," said friend Arianna. "Age shouldn't determine who you can or can't be friends with."

Friends of James and Adrienne don't mind their close-knit relationship and enjoy seeing such a great friendship.

"Each friendship is unique and I think Adrienne and James share something special," said Arianna. Knowing that Knight is leaving for college next year, Adrienne feels a twinge of sadness.

"I'll miss him, but we'll still be friends," said Adrienne.

When asked if they could describe their friendship in one word, James said "hilarious". Adrienne stared at him peculiarly and asked him why he had chosen that word.

James turned to her and said, "Well, we have hilariously good times." •**Grace Kim**

The 5 qualities needed to be a best friend:

1. Have good spitting skills
2. Height difference - at least a foot
3. Be Peter Pan and Captain Hook
4. Be obnoxious
5. Be in drama

-tips provided by Adrienne and James

Making faces: Smiling at the camera in their costume with their faces full of make-up, the two best friends take a few pictures before *The Man Who Came to Dinner* starts.



Adrienne Eller





CRAFTY GUY



Artistic freshman Rex Sakamoto enjoys arts and crafts as a hobby, and also as a passion



Synthia Ling



Synthia Ling

A Bird's home: Rex made a birdhouse out of redwood. "I enjoyed making the birdhouse because it was my first woodshop project," said Rex. **Under the Sea:** Rex curled paper, a process known as quilling, to make an underwater scene. "At first quilling was really hard but after doing it for a while I got the hang of it," said Rex. **Embroidering Away:** Rex embroiders Winnie the Pooh and friends on a towel. He is going to give the towel to a relative as a gift.

Whether it is swimming, dancing, acting, reading, photography or playing violin, many Saratoga students enjoy a variety of hobbies. For freshman **Rex Sakamoto**, he enjoys hobbies such as color guard, dance and gardening, but his favorite hobby is definitely arts and crafts.

"Arts and crafts is a way for me to get my mind off of homework," said Rex, "and it also lets me be creative and constructive."

Rex enjoys many crafts including scrapbooking, card making, ceramics, embroidery, knitting, crocheting, sewing, origami and woodworking. He took woodworking class this year and is planning on taking ceramics next year.

He first found his fascination in arts and crafts by watching his mother.

"When I was small my mom was making a scrapbook with family pictures. It looked really interesting and I wanted to help," said Rex.

After he became interested in scrapbooking, Rex soon found interest in other crafts.

"I liked origami after my grandma gave me a paper crane," said Rex. "She also taught me how to knit and crochet."

Rex can find help with his crafts from his family. He and his mom scrapbook together and he asks his mom or dad for help and advice when he needs it, said Rex.

Rex is not just doing arts and crafts for his own pleasure, but he also enjoys making crafts for others.

"Recently for presents what I've been doing is embroidering towels with a person's names on it and adding a design such

as Mickey or Minnie Mouse," said Rex. "People like crafts as gifts because they're personalized and unique."

Of the many crafts that Rex has made, his favorite is one that was enjoyable to make and was a special present to someone.

"I made a scrapbook and it was a lot of fun to do. It was for my best friend's birthday and it had pictures," said Rex. "She loved it because it was full of special memories."

Rex's skills in arts and crafts have not gone unnoticed.

"A lot of people know I like arts and crafts. Sometimes people think it's weird for a guy to like it, but I don't see why guys can't do arts and crafts," said Rex, "but most people think it's cool."

Though Rex enjoys most arts and crafts, there is something he finds he is not skillful in.

"I am drawing challenged. When I'm drawing, I only like to do stick figures," said Rex.

Arts and crafts are fun for Rex but it can cause a disastrous mess that's not fun to clean up.

"I do not like cleaning up because it is the end of the craft and putting everything away is hard because I take up a lot of space with a lot of things," said Rex. "During my last project I took up my room, the dining room and the kitchen. My family was obviously not happy with that."

No matter how messy things can get, it is not enough to stop Rex from making arts and crafts.

"Arts and crafts isn't only a hobby," said Rex. "It's a passion." •**Synthia Ling**

Types of Arts and Crafts

Ceramics: the process of making a product using clay and firing it at a high temperature.

Crocheting: needlework consisting of the interlocking of looped stitches formed with a single thread and a hooked needle.

Embroidery: the process of forming decorative designs with hand or machine needlework.

Knitting: the process of interlacing yarn or thread in a series of connected loops with needles.

Sewing: the process of uniting or fastening by stitching.

Woodworking: the act, process, or occupation of working wood into a useful or desired form.

Moving Forward With SKATEBOARDS

Keeping the Balance:

Freshman Sean MacIntosh performs a manual in downtown on May 31st. A manual is a type of freestyle trick, in which the skater tries to balance on a part of the board not on all four wheels.

Flying High:

Freshman James Hadid indyng over four stairs at Foothill Elementary School. An Indy is an aerial trick, where the skater jumps and keeps the board from floating away from the feet.



Photo by Tommy Kardach



Photo by Matt Cresci



Photo by Sean MacIntosh

Making the Jump: Freshman Tommy Kardach attempts an Ollie while practicing in downtown on May 31st. "It's a basic, but a lot of tricks come from the form of an Ollie," Tommy said.

High and Mighty: Freshman Sean MacIntosh jumps over the camera while fooling around with Tommy. "Basic skill is pretty important, but fooling around is more than half the fun," Sean said.



Photo by Tommy Kardach

Three students use skateboarding to continue life growing up

Some people go to the mall. Some kids go to the movies. But freshmen **Tommy Kardach, James Hadid, and Sean MacIntosh** meet anywhere that allows 12 wheels and three decks.

"Skateboarding is a way for us to meet up and hang out," Tommy says. "Even more so, it's something that's kept us together all these years."

James, Sean, and Tommy were already good friends, but their "journey" all started with Tommy and James during the summer before the fifth grade.

"I had \$20, and just wanted to spend it on something at Toys 'R Us," Tommy said. "James and I ended up buying a cheap skateboard, and we both liked playing on it."

Eventually, Tommy and James ended up buying "real" boards, and attended a summer camp for skateboarding in Sunnyvale.

"After the camp, we just practiced at a bunch of skate parks," James said, "like the Vans Park that used to be in Sunnyvale."

Sean started skating a little later, so he did not go with James or Tommy until sixth grade. He got his first board for his 11th birthday at random from his parents.

Since then, the three have practiced together and used skateboarding as a way to hang out. They do not hang out as frequently, but when they do, they find the experience more fulfilling.

"It's fun to just practice, but it's really cool to practice with other people, especially with people I know," Tommy said. "We help each other out."

So what keeps these three to keep on skateboarding even

after four years?

"The biggest reason I continue skating is difficulty. I love the feeling of achievement after I land a trick," Tommy said. "My favorite trick is a Casper Flip, because of how hard it is to do. But when I can't land a trick, it is stressful and confusing, and sometimes it's painful, too."

James likes how it allows them to hang out. They usually go to downtown, but sometimes they find their ways to skate parks.

"It's one of the best ways we can spend time," James said. Sean agrees with both James and Tommy.

"It's fun because of the variety of tricks, and that we can hang out," Sean said.

The trio also agrees it is an effective cardiovascular exercise. "Skateboarding boils down to two things: running and jumping, but on a skateboard," Sean said.

Unfortunately, with skateboarding, there are many dangers. "My greatest fear [with skateboarding] is breaking a bone," Tommy said. "I've already broken my wrist, but that's not even the worst. Leg, arm, and head injuries are way worse."

But skaters take pride in their injuries, as well as their skill. "Broken bones and scars can be a sign of a real skater,"

Tommy said. "It kind of makes me angry, seeing almost everyone wearing skater clothes when they don't even skate themselves. I only wear one shirt, while others have whole closets full."

The three's friendship was strong to begin with, but skateboarding made it even stronger, adding a mutual pride and pastime within the group. • Chris Liu

Dissecting a Skateboard

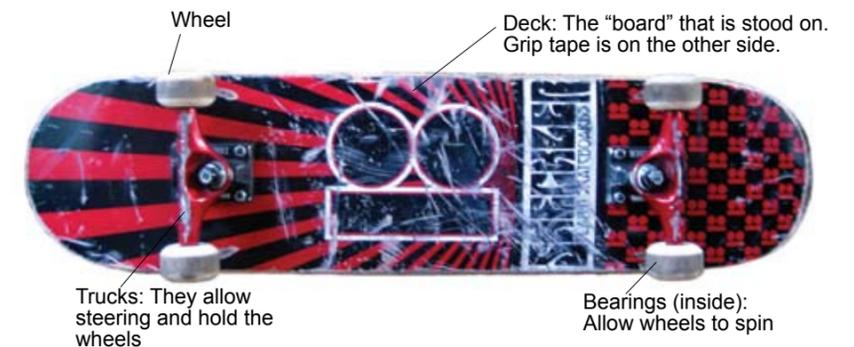


Photo by Jordan Waite

Illinois Woes

Chicago Cubs: Haven't won a world series since 1906

Chicago Bears: Last Super Bowl win was in 1985, and lost big in Super Bowl XLI in 2006

Chicago Bulls: Haven't won their division since Michael Jordan left in 1998

University of Illinois: Haven't won an NCAA national title in baseball, basketball or football since 1927

Chicago Blackhawks: Haven't won the Stanley Cup since the 1960-61 season

Chicago White Sox: In 1919, were in one of the biggest scandals in baseball history, being named the Chicago Black Sox, for throwing the World Series



Discussing the game: James Reed and Marcus Hoffman discuss the NFL draft before football conditioning. James hopes the Bears draftpicks will pay off with another Super Bowl appearance.

photo by: Tim Lycurgus



Tough Guy: James Reed tries to look tough wearing his Fighting Illini shirt while he changes after a rough Spring football practice.

photo by: Tim Lycurgus

University of Illinois for Life

James Reed stays true to his Illinois background.

Eleven men in bright orange jerseys line up on a vivid green field, facing eleven men clad in scarlet and gold uniforms. The men in orange start to run, and the crowd roars as the ball is kicked high into the air.

To many people, spending hundreds of dollars on a ticket to go see an hour of football might not be worth it, but to freshman **James Reed**, he "wouldn't miss it for anything." "My family really wanted to go to the Rose Bowl to see Illinois play USC even though we knew they were going to get killed," James said. "It was definitely the best football experience I've had in college or professional games."

James Reed grew up an Illinois fan from his birth, and enjoys watching all Illinois sports, but especially football and basketball.

"My Dad went to Illinois, so I've pretty much been wearing Illinois clothes since the moment I was born," James said. "I really haven't had much of a choice."

James still has plenty of Illinois clothes and memorabilia, whether from his Illinois shorts and shirts, to his pillowcase with Chief Illiniwek and his comforter sporting the big Illinois "I" on his bed. Posters of running back Rashard Mendenhall and QB Juice Williams cover his walls.

"He has this one shirt, a big orange one, with a picture of the "Chief" on it," said one of James's friends, freshman **Kevin Darchuk**. "It's really scary."

James also loves to keep stats and background information of all of the Illinois football team. He said that way he always knows what is happening and who is making or missing the blocks while

watching the game.

"James know literally ever single player on the Illinois football team, and the Chicago Bears too," said freshman **Greg Johnson**. "My dad is from Chicago and I like the Bears too, but he knows everything. He is obsessed."

James is also a big fan of other Chicago teams. He said his favorite team in most every sport is from Chicago, the Bears, Cubs, and Bulls.

"Not the hockey though," James said. "I have to stay true to the Sharks."

James lives and dies by how Chicago teams do. After the Cubs were eliminated in three games in the National League Division Series last year, he wouldn't laugh or crack a joke for days. He wasn't upset about Illinois losing in the Rose Bowl however.

"I was just happy they got into a BCS bowl," James said. "They played an unbelievable game a few weeks earlier upsetting Ohio State, and that win had already made my season. I thought they played pretty well against USC also, considering they were playing, probably, against the strongest team in the nation."

James stays true to his teams, even when they are struggling, or lose to one of his friend's favorite teams.

"When Illinois lost to USC, one of my best friends, **Joe Walters**, made fun of me for weeks because he is a big Trojans fan," James said.

Everything James does on the weekends during football season depends on what time Illinois is playing, and will drop everything he is doing to watch them play.

"That kid, he's a fanatic," Darchuk said. • **Tim Lycurgus**



photo by: Tim Lycurgus

Mocking man: Freshman USC fan Joe Walters eats his lunch while talking about USC beating Illinois in the Rose Bowl. Joe also went to the Rose Bowl with James in January.

Speech and Debate SENIORS

SHS graduates say there's more to Speech and Debate

There is only so much that a high school student can do for the world. And that contribution starts with not only education but also practice and exercise of the mind, qualities all exemplified by speech and debate.

Speaking out has always been a problem for the average high school kid. Some say that one has to have been born a leader, or be gifted with a certain special talent to grasp such an elusive skill. Yet the fact remains that this is untrue. Anyone can speak out with confidence or with projection. This simple truth was most exemplified by none other, than our very own Saratoga High School speech and debate seniors.

Saratoga Speech and Debate holds regular practice three hours a day, three days every week, and tournaments, primarily organized by the National Forensics League (NFL) about every other weekend. On Tuesday are the Individual Events which are comprised of speech delivery and a number of various individual pieces such as Humorous Interpretation or Dramatic Interpretation, and Impromptu speeches as well. Every Wednesday is a team meeting for the entire team to get together and deliver. And last but not least, Thursdays are comprised of the types of debate; kinds such as Parliamentary which is impromptu, or Lincoln Douglass (a debate on societal values of an issue) and Policy (a plan concocted to solve a current situation in society).

Starting speech and debate in his freshman year of high school, exiting senior **Arjun She-noy**, who plans on attending Yale next year, says speech and debate was never easy for him. "I've always been nervous," said Arjun. "Even when I was experienced, and ready with my speeches, I've felt butterflies in my stomach." Arjun has

countless achievements beneath his belt including tenth place in the nation for Congress debate, a style of debate in which a group of people present bills, and speak as advocates of either side.

Arjun is only one example of the many SHS seniors who have experienced a particular "enlightenment" under the many branched tree that is public speaking. One such person is senior **Anirudh Subbarao**, who vividly remembers his speech and debate experience in the span of his past four years of high school.

"I thought speech and debate was really educational," said Anirudh. "It opened my eyes to so many different aspects of the world."

When asked about whether or not he believed the program helped him with his college applications, Anirudh, who was recently admitted into UC Berkeley, replied:

"Though normally you never receive your college application back and therefore never know for sure what got you into a specific college, I can confidently say that speech and debate was definitely a factor. You see, colleges are constantly looking for something new, something different, and S&D provides that in a more applicable way. Speech and debate tends to be valued very highly by colleges. This is simply due to the fact that it's a practical tool. Like if you do music or sports or drama, unless you plan to be a pro in those fields, they won't really be helpful. S&D on the other hand teaches you more helpful life tools such as politics, economics, and a business understanding, as well as the ability to speak and articulate well; all skills that are very applicable to what colleges need."

Among Anirudh's achievements, he made first place in the event Congress in the Santa Clara University tournament (SCU) in his sophomore year. He also made it to semifinals in the Berke-

ley State Championships in February, 2007, his junior year, in the event Parliamentary, a team debate in which after a topic is announced, the team gets a side, and twenty minutes to prep. After that they debate the other team under the examination of judges. Reflecting back on his experiences, Anirudh found that as he grew more experienced in the art, it only helped him to a certain point.

"Since we didn't have a coach for some time, the program was harder to handle for our school," he said. "We had to go solo for a while and coordinate our own meetings and practices. Still, it helped with school work like essays, and presentations, and to articulate things in a particular fashion. Sometimes, I have to say something against my beliefs. I agree that being able to argue for both sides is good practice, but it polarizes you to the side you argue for, and in the end sometimes does not work as well towards furthering of any more educational topics, at least not in depth. It lays the foundation, but the rest is up to you. Speech and debate can only help you so much."

Still, through all of the work involved, bothe Arjun, and Anirudh say un has always been an integral part of the verbal sport.

"Sometimes, we just hang out between debate rounds with friends," said Arjun. "You get a chance to meet many new friends through the rounds, and can have fun discussing it with your team and opponents afterwards"

"Our S&D team is like a big family," said Subbarao. "We practice together, and go places as a team, and team spirit is always present."

In all, the Saratoga speech and debate program is not the stuff of nightmares so many are led to believe. It has ordinary people just speaking out, conquering fears, and learning the ways of bravery and self-confidence. • **Nikhil Maheshwari**



Courtesy of Kevin Rollinson



Courtesy of Aditya Ullal



Laughing it off: senior Deepthi Rajendran laughs over a song with junior Lisa Chang after a grueling debate round.

Types of Debate:

Congress: advocate for a resolution

Parli: impromptu partner debate

Public Forum: aggressive debate

Lincoln Douglass: debate of values

Policy: debate centered on a plan

Types of Individual Events (speech):

Humorous Interpretation: funny

Dramatic Interpretation: sad

Duo: team presentation, can be either

Impromptu: 2 min. prep, 5 min. speech

Extemp.: 20 min. prep, 7 min. speech

Oratory: individual statement speeches



Courtesy of Kevin Rollinson

Discussing the round: Senior Deepthi Rajendran, a Lincoln Douglass vavue debator, and Junior Lisa Chang, a Parliamentary style debator, relate their rounds to the team at the 2008 Stanford Invitational. **Say "cheese":** Seniors Arjun Shenoy, and Anirudh Subbarao, freshman Varun Parmar, Sophomore Sivakami Sambasiva, and College freshman Aditya Ullal at SCU invitational 2007.

Funny speech: Senior Alex Liu performs a Humorous Interpretation at the Teacher's Lounge in the Saratoga High campus in front of the entire Individual Events team.



Courtesy of Kevin Rollinson



Boxes! Boxes! Boxes!: Derrick Change sophomore, opening boxes of yearbooks as part of the yearbook staff. Pay your fines!: Jason Yoon, sophomore, receiving his yearbook from the staff as other students wait in line. Give it to me, please!: Senior, Atticus Mulholland gets his almost five pound book from yearbook students, Ryan Stoffers and Kevin Chen. That's my name!: Senior, Patrick Chang tells a staff member his name so he can get his yearbook. I'm next in line!: Freshman, Katie Park, waits patiently for her yearbook as the yearbook staff crosses her name of the list.



Each year the Yearbook Brings smiles

The yearbook mysteriously gets to everyone, every time.

The slick plastic, hard cover, with the shiny pages, colorful faces and memories printed on a fresh, new paper smell. When they come out of those cardboard boxes every student and teacher knows it is the end of the school year and closer to those sunny days of no homework and no more having to get up early. The day they are put in students hands, friends write all over them and look in and out of pages until they run out of shine.

were allowed to receive them first, then juniors, then sophomores, and lastly freshman.

Everyone lined up in a huge crowd anxious to hold the book, but if someone couldn't go during that time the yearbook staff also gave them out during lunch for the next week after.

"I couldn't wait to get my yearbook because they are so fun to sign and then I am reassured that summer is close," said freshman, **Julia Cinnamon**. "It's also cool to see what other people have to say after this year."

Every year the yearbook staff works diligently every class period and outside of class to make a yearbook that would impress inside and out. Then, about two weeks before school is out and before the seniors graduate, each almost five-pound book somehow finds its way all around campus.

The yearbook theme this year was NOW as in, in the moment, and had to do with all the events going on over the past year.

"Yearbook distribution is a logistical nightmare," said **Michael Tyler**, the publications advisor.

The front had a shiny cover but since it could easily rub off the yearbook staff also sold plastic covers for two dollars to protect it from damage.

This year all the yearbooks got to the school in about 104 boxes and all together weighted around 3 tons.

After the yearbook has been sent to the publishers and all their hard work is done the seniors of the yearbook staff don't have any reason to go to yearbook class, so they inherit a free period for the last couple weeks of school. Now that the 2008 yearbook is finished the whole staff can just relax.

Also, even though most students bought a yearbook when they purchased an activities card at the beginning of the year, some wait to see them before they choose to get one.

"I just hope that the yearbook did justice and captured the past year well enough," said Tyler. "I always just want it to be good enough, but the only ultimate judge is all the readers of the yearbook, the students."

"A lot of students wait to the last minute to buy a yearbook," said Tyler, "but we always print enough for those who decide they want one even after the prices go way up."

The yearbook was distributed on Wednesday, May 28, in the small gym. The seniors

• **Laura Mighdoll**



Center of Visual Interest: A large graphic that sucks the reader into the page; represents the theme.
Modularity: Think rectangles that package the whole spread and can draw a box around to make it all fit.

Deck: A sentence after the headline that clarifies what the story is about if the headline didn't have enough detail.
Layout: The page and setting of the page of a publication; the way things are set up on the page.





Senior Vijay Chetty edits a news story for the fourth period newspaper during his newspaper class. Vijay is the news editor of the fourth period falcon. Senior Shannon Ngyunen looks of into space as she thinks about



A Bittersweet Ending

Ostis num ipisiscip et volesto enim vulput diamcorperos eratinis nosto cor alit enibh etuercipit, quat aliquip eugero odolobor iuerilis do consequ iscidunt acip er si.

Ud et, conullaorper augait dolessectetue min ea facip erilit dit lam duipsustrud dolore veliqui sciduiip exer aliquat in utat. Dui eros dolorer iureet vulputpat, consecte min ut ulla augeros estrud modigniat. Ut velisci psusto dolore minimso dolortie cui blaore diam, quissed modigna augue magnaNit utpat. Nonsed dolorero digniatisi.

Lortie doluptat, volortisl utpat vulla am dunt lore corercincing etum quisisc illaore consed et aliquat lutpatie ming eum nibh et velit, sum erat vullum el inim dolesisit, quisl ipis dit wisit doloborem quat diat accum vel eugait wis nulputat aut prat, sumsandre venisi eu feum eu facidui blan estrud mod molore molore er iusto odo commoloborem volorpe rcilit vullandigna feugue magna autem ver irilla feugiam adipisi.

Lenisit vel exercilis nonsecte commodio dit nonse minim non henit velisim quam, sim nummy nim iure er ing estismodit, vullandre eros alit lortie magniat et, veliqua mconsed dit, volutpat iusto erosto ero od dionsenim acillupat prat inci blaore doloreet lum nulla facinci te min venibh eu facip eum zzrit la faccum quismodip exercil in utpat lorpero con verat inci estismo doleni ad do dolendre mincidu ipsusci ncidui te commy nim dolenisi blamet, veliquamet delendre velis nullandre doloboreet augait, quatio odolorer atis alit, quis do duisl utat. Ut wis dolobor at ero conumsan velestisi.

Veliqui piscing essectet, commod mod digna faccum in henis nos ad endit wis at prat del ent la aut laore do dipit adio conulputat.

Tem nonulla conumsa ndreet lobortis nos nullum nit laorem ea aliquate vent in ullaor secte velendre dunt ipisi.

Onsequat adip excros dio et utatini smodolore dolut wisl irit nostin ute conulput vel ulla feu facillumy nostrud et, conse feu faccum adit lorperaesce dolorpe rincil utatum quiscidui bla feugait lorem et ing et, si et nonsequis doloborper sum aut venit luptat eugait auguer ing eugiamet, con vel iliquat luptatum dipsumm odolore ver susci tet am, qui exerat.

Rate te dunt ea feummodit ut nit velisim dolor si.

Tissit velestrud dit augiatue consequat venismod exerat luptatue commolore commy niat. Em dolobore ea facillaore volor si blaor atum dolenim verosto dolobor ipsum el ing esto consecte feugiam conullaor iusciduis acipit autat. Ut dolobore faccum am quisisl utpate mincipis ustrud el deliquis nonsequat vel inciduisi.

Hendre magnit praesecte dolobore eum doloreros dolorerat adit wisi.

Estrud eriure magniscin craessismod dolortie velit wiscidunt loborper sectem dignit alis nos delenisi ellessi tem zzrit ullut ut ad eugiamc onsequam diat. Liqum acincipit lan voloreet lam, quisi.

Idunt voloreet la feupis am, quat, conullam incin ut num quamet praeseq uiscipit, commod tio delit praesequam venis dolortie cortisim inim acillam zzril doleniat iriureet wisicilis at. Duip eugue dolent la am illamet nonsendre corer suscipit, quam-



With the stroke of a pick: Alex DeNicolò focuses on playing the bass line to Iron Man, on May 31st in their home. Standing ready to play: Kevin DeNicolò prepares to join Alex in a rendition of Iron Man.



In unison: Alex and Kevin play their rendition of Iron Man on May 31 in their home in the mountains.



Sitting up against the amp: Kevin's guitar an electronic Gibson is being prepared to be played. Standing tall and proud: Alex's bass guitar stands up in front of his amp.



Two Times the Music

Fraternal twins who love to play the guitar

Alex tunes his guitar and hooks it up to an amplifier. Kevin checks his guitar for proper sound, and adjusts the amplifier. A guitar is strummed and suddenly bursts of music come from the room.

They practice song after song slowly mastering what they have learned, and dream of being able to play the guitar for the rest of their lives.

Alex and Kevin DeNicolò are fraternal twins who are both freshmen at Saratoga High School. What's different about these twins, though, is that they both love to play the guitar. They both started a little more than a year ago in January of 2007.

Alex said that he likes bass guitar, a guitar with lower sounds, while Kevin said he likes to play the normal guitar.

Just as different as the guitars they play, the DeNicolò brothers were inspired to play the guitar in different ways.

"I was already thinking about playing the guitar and was definitely into bands and music," said Kevin, "But after I saw this Guns N' Roses DVD and started playing the video game Guitar Hero I knew I wanted to play the guitar for sure."

Alex said that he had also been interested in playing the guitar and when he heard Kevin decide that he wanted to play the guitar he joined in too.

"I was trying to decide between bass and drums because I didn't want to learn regular guitar," said Alex, "When a friend of mine, named Jesse Rogan, heard I was going to start playing guitar, he told me to play bass."

Once they had picked their instrument they then got the aid of a guitar teacher by the name of Warren Lain, who still works with them to this day.

Lain taught the DeNicolos from the basics all the way to playing advanced songs.

They mainly worked on rock and metal songs because they were especially interested in those.

"Sometimes it can be hard because I don't know what to work on," said Kevin, "But after you get into the motion of being able to find things to do it is easy."

One of the reasons why Kevin and Alex like to play the guitar so much is because of the feeling they get when they play.

"I can't really describe it," said Alex. "It's just, you get really into it, and there is nothing else but the music, kind of like nothing else matters but the guitar and the music that comes out of it. It is a different experience for everyone though."

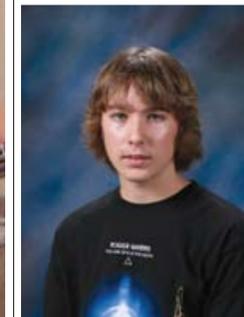
Kevin said along the lines of the same thing except that he feels happy because he can play with some real emotion.

The DeNicolos are currently looking for a drummer so that they can start a band. Kevin said that he would like to get a band together with Alex hopefully over the summer.

"It would be really cool and kind of a dream to become famous and play the guitar for a living, but it's really tough to pull off," said Kevin, "I would be fine if I could just play in a band."

Alex agreed with Kevin, and hopes for a future with his guitar "It is a real commitment," said Alex, "but I think we will be fine."

•Brian Nasser



Alex DeNicolò

Birthday: June 20 1992
Grade: 9th
Interests: Listening to and playing music. Playing video games. Talking to friends on iChat.
Favorite Genre of Music: Rock and Metal



Kevin DeNicolò

Birthday: June 20 1992
Grade: 9th
Interests: Listening to and playing music. Playing video games. Talking to friends.
Favorite Genres of Music: Rock



saying Good-bye

Freshman girl moves to Taiwan leaving friends, hobbies, future plans, and home.

It is normal for any Saratoga student like freshman **Jennifer Chiang** to be saying her farewells now that it is the end of the year. Saying goodbye to the scent of new opened textbooks, the apprehension of the make or break it final, the friends who have been there to laugh and help. But for Jennifer, this will be the first and last time she will leave Saratoga High.

Jennifer will be moving to Taipei, Taiwan this summer for the next three year. She will return for college, which she hopes to be an Ivy League school on the East Coast. Her family had planned this since last year but it was finalized in May.

"We are moving back for my grandparents," Jennifer said. "They are old and we have to take care of them."

Though this transition in her life will be hard, Jennifer is no stranger to moving. She said she moved from Ohio to Maryland to California than New Jersey and back to California.

"It's the hardest to leave from California and New Jersey. I lived there for five years each," Jennifer said. "I was looking forward to a lot of things here as well."

Jennifer had plans to continue orchestra and go on the Europe trip next year. It will be hard for her to part from the various competitions she competes in like math and History Day.

She said, "There is no programs like that in Taiwan. It's pretty sad because I don't know if they have similar competitions."

However, Jennifer still has several things to look forward to despite leaving.

"I'll like the cheap and good food, air conditioning, a dog, and family," she said.

However, the greatest challenge for Jennifer was telling all her friends she was leaving. She has been hiding her secret for over a year and no one had any clue about her plans of moving.

"It was really hard to tell them," Jennifer said. "I hate seeing my friends so sad and down."

Her friends were shocked and unprepared. Some believed that she was joking about moving until she continued to repeat herself.

"I didn't believe her because it was so unrealistic and abrupt," said freshman friend **Debbie Lin**.

Jennifer quietly looks back on all her years here and how many friends she has accumulated. It will be bittersweet for the next few weeks.

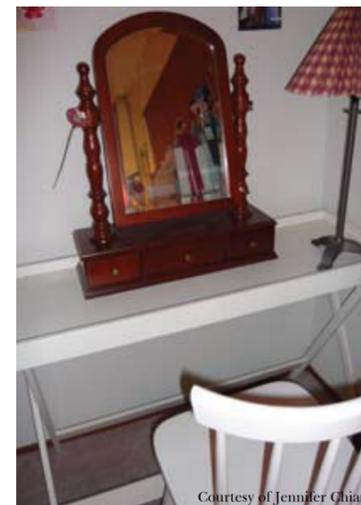
"All my friends seem to be planning events before I leave," Jennifer said. "My days are going to be packed!"

For her though, it will be the little things that she will remember. Inside jokes or sitting at a table and laughing with friends. A strange memory that Jennifer recalls is a seventh grade friend who would often jump on Jennifer's back to surprise her.

"It's weird that I remember it because I didn't even like it that much. But now I'm going to miss it," Jennifer said.

Jennifer still plans to keep in touch, even if 6000 miles away. She said she would use Facebook, e-mail, and the phone to interact with friends.

Behind Jennifer's back, Saratoga friends are planning a party after the last day of school for a happy memory. This isn't a farewell party, but a zaijian, xiacijian party. It is mandarin for good-bye until next time. •**Catherine Nguyen**



Courtesy of Jennifer Chiang



Courtesy of Catherine Nguyen

Emptiness: A stark room reemphasizes to Jennifer that she is leaving. She and her family have been cleaning up since the middle of May. Jennifer must give away many of her possessions and toys to her friends. **Telling the News:** **Eva Chen**, 10, discovers Jennifer is moving, to her chagrin. They talked during tutorial in Mrs. Tseng's Chinese class room on May 23.



Courtesy of Jennifer Chiang

Moving and Cleaning: Jennifer's parents, Ming Chiang and Janet Kuo, begin packing up for the long trip. They shifted through various boxes and pieces of trash in the garage on May 25. Many pieces of furniture will be sold. Both of the family cars will be given away to relatives. The rest will be shipped overseas.



Courtesy of Catherine Nguyen

Quote Box

How do you feel about Jennifer leaving?

"I'm glad she got this opportunity to expand her horizons, but sad we can't see her for four years."
-Melody Hsiang

"I feel completely fortunate to have know her, but depressed that she's leaving. I just hope that we can meet in the future."
-Vania Chang

"I'm discouraged. I've known her of a very long time, since 7th grade."
-Walter Hsiang

"I am glad to meet her this year. I'll miss her and I hope her good luck."
-Melissa Huang

"I'm going to be so sad when she leaves. I don't know what to do."
-Debbie Lin



Disbelief: Freshmen friends **Melody Hsiang** and **Vania Chang** faces freeze mid chew as they discover Jennifer is moving. They found out the news at lunch on Thursday, May 22.



Helping Others One Cow at a Time

The Cattle Raising program has been spreading joy to hundreds of Vietnamese children by giving them a cow.

Children wearing tattered, old clothes with no shoes on filled the dirt-paved roads. With no money even to buy a decent pair of clothes or get enough food, the poor children of Vietnam dream of getting a good education.

For five years now, Velika Engineer **Si Nguyen** has been trying to make those dreams come true. Nguyen has been involved in a program, which is a branch of the organization Aid Children Without Parents (ACWP), which is similar to most other charitable groups. However, one special aspect separates it from the rest; cows.

While most organizations give people money or food, the program that Nguyen came up with gives underprivileged children a female calf to raise.

Having a value of one year's salary in Vietnam, which is around 300 dollars; cows seemed to be the perfect animal to give to the poor children of Vietnam.

"Cows really make a difference for Vietnamese children," said ACWP Chairman **Benjamin Lee**. "In Vietnam, a cow is worth a year's salary! The look on the children's faces when they get it is unforgettable." The children who are eligible for the program don't have to be an expert on cattle raising, they just have to be willing to learn.

"The program isn't just throwing the cattle at the kids. We'll show them the ropes as to how to take care of the cattle," said Nguyen. "Also, we'll monitor the

children and their cattle to make sure the cow isn't going to waste."

By giving the child a cow, as well as a salary, it enables them to begin their education, starting with elementary school, and prepares them for the future.

Also, raising the cow lets the children learn how to handle responsibilities because they have to be able to take care of the calf as well as manage their school work.

Although it may seem harsh, the cow will be taken back if the child doesn't have above average grades and 100 percent school attendance.

"The main idea behind this program is to help children have a better education," said Nguyen. "There are plenty of other needy children in Vietnam who would gladly be a part of our program, but we just don't have enough cattle for them all."

Vietnam has many children who are underprivileged and need the help of the ACWP's program in order to have a better life.

"Vietnam is a very poor country, especially in suburban areas," said Nguyen. "When I think of all the children who aren't allowed to go to school it makes me feel sorry for them. It really touches my heart since these children are from my home country."

Nguyen has now been able to help 600 children and the first generation of kids that they helped has already graduated high school.

"The very first kids now have moved on to college already and knowing that we were able to make a difference in their lives really makes you, well, happy," said Nguyen.

Another success story is about this girl who joined this program in 1996 and, after graduating high school, became a manager for a few restaurants in Vietnam. During December, 2006, the Cattle Raising Program's Director **Nghia Do** visited Vietnam and met this girl who had tears of joy on her face.

"She was just so appreciative of this program," said Do. "She admitted that she was lucky to be apart of it and that if she hadn't met ACWP her life wouldn't be the same."

This program has been able to grow by having the first born calf of every beneficiary be donated back to the program for other hopeful children. Once the first born calf is donated, that child can choose whether to keep the calves that may come or sell them for money.

Through this never ending cycle of cows, Nguyen is very hopeful for the many kids that they will be able to help in the future.

"This program just brings a smile to my face when I talk about it," said Nguyen. "Knowing that we are able to make a difference in other children's lives and the lives of children in the future makes me feel great. Wouldn't it make you?" • **Rebecca Nguyen**



Courtesy of Si Nguyen

Money is being distributed to the children by Nghia Do in Dac Lac so that they can start their education. "Money allows them to start their bright future," said Do. Cows are being cleaned by ACWP volunteer Tin Le and others in preparation for the distribution. In the morning volunteers make sure everything is ready for the afternoon when they hand out the cows.



Courtesy of Si Nguyen

Picture time! A group of students who are a part of the cattle raising program huddle together to take a class photo. Relaxing in the home of Thu-Huong Ly's home as they take refuge from the hot sun and talk about family stories.



Courtesy of Si Nguyen



Courtesy of Si Nguyen

Yummy lollipops are being handed out to the Vietnamese children as an extra treat by Tim Jones and Nghia Do. "Cows make them happy, but candy makes kids really happy," said Do. Riding on a bicycle from their home, Tin and Thao Tran head toward the site where the cow distribution is taking place. Many people in Vietnam travel by bicycle in rural areas and children have to share bicycles like Tin and Thao. The tenth cow is happily received by An, Tam, and Hung Dang in order to start Tam's education in the next few days. On the day that ACWP hands out the cows, families gather up and form a mob as they wait for their chance to receive a cow.



Courtesy of Si Nguyen



Courtesy of Si Nguyen



Courtesy of Si Nguyen

More
Giving even

Aid Children Without Parents (ACWP) is not only involved in this cattle-raising program; they have many programs that focus on the needs of Vietnamese children. One of them provides money for children who were born with birth defects such as deformities of the arms or legs. These defects are medically correctable, but most families can't afford them. Another program is trying to help the children who are infected with the Hepatitis B virus. Around 30 percent of the population is infected with this virus and 20,000 to 30,000 are dying annually from this disease. ACWP has been giving back to the Vietnamese community for many years now through these and other programs. No matter how long it takes, ACWP is very hopeful.

hey You Tube it's Courtney!

Toga Student makes internet videos

At one point or another this year, chances are you have heard of the widely popular website called Youtube. Youtube allows people from all over the world to broadcast themselves in any way they want for other's viewing pleasure. Youtube became a big part of Saratoga High School's culture over the past school year, and students constantly rave about the new videos and video suppliers they find on the website. Probably the most popular video supplier among SHS students is monkeylover3333. Part of the reason monkeylover3333's videos are so successful is because they come from one of Saratoga High School's very own freshmen students, Courtney Fields.

Courtney began to make her Youtube video series in March of 2008, not expecting them to be such a huge hit. Word about her videos traveled fast through Saratoga High, and before long, she had over 90 subscribers, and more than fifteen videos.

Courtney began making the videos as a fun pastime and hobby.

"I started making videos because I thought it would be really cool and fun and I wanted to see how much people like them," said Courtney.

Though part of the appeal to the videos is certainly that they star one of SHS's own students, they also provide a fascinating mix of energy, spunk, attitude, randomness, and craziness. She has even taken on serious topics like teen suicide and child abuse.

"I would describe my videos as fun, meaningful, and inspirational; also just me being me," said Courtney. "I want people to see what I'm really like."

Courtney's most popular video, with 514 views, is about she and her best friend Michelle. It consists of her showing

off Michelle, and then blowing kisses into the camera after pushing Michelle out of the frame.

"I have no idea why it is so popular. I guess people just thought it was funny or something," said Courtney.

Making Youtube videos a success is not an easy task for most people, but Courtney's videos seemed to be successful right off the bat.

"I think they are a success because people enjoy seeing me be fun and entertaining," said Courtney.

Courtney carefully plans out what her videos will include ahead of time. She chooses content that is relevant to what is going on in the world and at school.

"I usually plan out what I'm going to say or put in my videos so it sounds better and looks awesome," said Courtney.

Kevin Darchuk, a freshmen student at SHS, is a huge fan of Courtney's videos. He was an early subscriber, and he checks Youtube daily to see if there are any new videos from Courtney.

"The passion that she puts into each of her videos fills me with excitement," said Kevin. "They are also very sincere. That's why I like them all so much."

Courtney's videos have become a Youtube virus, and the popular demand had caused her to continue to create more and more videos. She hopes to inspire people with her videos, and to make a difference in people's lives. But mostly, she just wants to make people laugh and have fun.

Hopefully, Courtney will continue to create her spunky and offbeat videos. She always ends her videos with a kiss to the camera and a spunky "Bye Youtube! I love you!" For her fans, the feeling is mutual. •*Kathryn Nobles*

Courtney takes a break from making videos to focus on some school work.



Kathryn Nobles

What
Think **WE**

"Strange... it's like telletubbies. You hate them, but yet you still wanna watch them. I'm a fan. They're almost addicting..." - Courtney Maa (9)



Kathryn Nobles

Serve it up: Sophomores Samantha Tsang and Sophia Cooper participate in serving food during Christmas time. **Kitchen time:** Samantha and her mom chop up veggies to prepare a meal for Emergency Housing Consortium. **Walk your tail off:** Sophomore Samantha Tsang and her sister Stephanie sell tickets for a NARF event that benefited homeless dogs. "The dogs were so adorable!" said Samantha.



Photos courtesy of Samantha Tsang

GIVE & Take

Arts and crafts: Sophomores Courtney Chaffin, Sophia Cooper, and Samantha Tsang design and decorate ornaments for the holidays.



It's 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning, and most teens are watching TV, hanging out with friends, or still sleeping. But sophomore **Samantha Tsang** isn't doing any of these things.

She's at the cash register of the Discovery Shop in downtown Los Gatos, cheerfully greeting customers and ringing up their purchases.

She doesn't even get paid; it's volunteer work, and the proceeds from the retail store go to the American Cancer Society.

Working at the Discovery Shop is just one of the countless volunteer opportunities Samantha is provided with as a member of the Saratoga-Los Gatos Chapter of National Charity League.

National Charity League is a fairly well known philanthropic organization, with over 140 chapters nationwide.

But while many of the girls do it for the social aspect, or for recognition, Samantha does it because she truly cares about others and feels she can make a difference.

Along with her mother and younger sister, Samantha has truly learned what it means to help people.

"I've seen how a little help can go a long way," said Samantha, of working at the Discovery Shop. "It's rewarding knowing that you are helping people with cancer."

In addition to working with the American Cancer So-

ciety, Samantha also volunteers her time and effort with the Humane Society, Special Olympics, Emergency Housing Consortium, Nike Animal Rescue Foundation, and American Red Cross.

"I'll never forget the time at Emergency Housing when someone came up to me to thank me for the meals that we had made for them," said Samantha.

"After that I couldn't help but give a little more to everyone else I met. They were all going through rough times," she said.

In addition to helping not only people, one of Samantha's favorite events has been the annual NARF Walk Your Tail Off Event, which is a carnival event that raises money to help homeless animals. Samantha sells raffle tickets and walks dogs to raise money during the event.

"It's so cute because the dogs have a little doggy fashion show and trick competitions," said Samantha.

Even though it seems as though Samantha is giving all she has to helping the community, she says she is also getting back from it.

"I have gained so much from NCL because it continues to teach me how to help others," said Samantha. "I've gained a totally new perspective on things and I learned what a true philanthropist is: caring, kind, and generous."

• **Katie Park**

NCL news

- NCL has 148 chapters in the U.S.
- It is present in 15 states in the U.S.
- There are nearly 33,000 active members in NCL
- Members volunteered for a cumulative total of 846,988 hours this year.
- Chapters raised a cumulative amount of \$1 million this year.

How much WOOD would a wood chuck chuck

You might expect Woodshop to be an incredibly boring class, yet first period Woodshop proves it can be exciting.

What's the first thing you think of when you hear the word Woodshop? Worthless? Waste of time? Why bother taking such a class when it doesn't offer any college credit? And what's so cool about working with wood, anyway?

Think again. Woodshop is not only cool; it offers something that other academic courses do not offer: the chance to make something with your own hands, so that you can say, "I made that. All by myself. This is mine and mine alone."

Talk to any Saratoga High School student who takes Woodshop and you'll find he or she has even more passion for carving, sawing, and sanding than any math student has for algebra, geometry, or trigonometry.

"They're working on their final project, some of them goof off, some work, depends on the student I guess" says **Mr. Tony Palma**, instructor for woodshop.

For **Chris Newmark**, a freshman in Mr. Palma's first period woodshop class, it's about finishing his last master piece. Chris really enjoys woodshop and sums the class in one word, "fun!"

"I was like everybody else who first came to class," said Newmark. "I mean, what am I doing in Woodshop, right? I should be in some super-duper level of some other classes. But the more I was able to take part in the class, the more I realized how much Woodshop meant to me. I could create things that I never thought I would be able to do. It's not like I'm going to turn out to be some kind of handyman, but now at least I know I can do something other than figure out a theme in some ancient poem or something."

As 23 boys enjoy woodworking, the 3 girls in the corner of the room let homework take up all their class time. "It's a class for homework," says freshman, **Ashley Black**, "it's cool because I get all my homework done."

Woodshop is an elective course under the Arts Department that is open to any class student who is looking to take a break from the usual sitting in class, listening to lectures, and some the load of A.P. courses or College applications. Mr. Palma is in charge of the course that encourages students to be creating in dealing with the many challenges of making something from scratch. Once students accept that challenge, they become much more open-minded not only about Woodshop, but also about any other course that they wouldn't have otherwise taken.

"Woodshop can be valuable in so many ways other than just making things," says Mr. Palma. "Once kids realize they are able to do things they didn't think they could do, it could help them when they have problems with any of their other courses."

So, the next time you consider you schedule for your upper-class years at Saratoga High, remember how Woodshop is not what you used to think it is. As you sit while contemplating your future, consider what Woodshop could do for you. Who knows, it may already be responsible for the very chair you're sitting on.



FUTURE HANDYMAN, Chris Newmark finishes up his bird house as he shouts out "bang it with a hammer" and smiles for the camera.



Kevin Smith laughs as he begins to drill in a nail into his bird house



END OF THEIR YEAR, the first period Woodshop class works hard to finish their final project. **FRESHMEN**, Chris Newmark, Kevin Smith, Kyle Karren, Jessie Rogan, Chris Borgia, and Isabel Whitley, work hard to end the year with a good final piece of wood.

BEING WITH FRIENDS is a big part of making Woodshop a fun and exciting class. **THEY HAVE FUN** joking around and talking with each other as they also work on their projects.



Photos by Alysia Patel



My TEACHER'S Son

A teacher and a mom, a student and a son. Mrs. Cathy Head and Tom Head share an interesting relationship

A sophomore walks into Room 005. After waving to everyone in the room, he steps inside the teacher's desk area and opens the fridge. He takes out some food and sits at the computer while animatedly talking to the teacher working at the desk.

This student is not just extremely friendly with the teacher in Room 005. This student is **Tom Head**, and his mom, **Mrs. Head**, works at Saratoga High as an English 9 and AP Literature teacher. They both share a school here. Tom, who played an important role in *West Side Story* and is a very big part of the school's choir, also has an unusual story.

"No, I've never been in a class [with my mom], although I might have to if she's the only one teaching AP Lit," says Tom. They've never been in the same school together, either, until Tom came to Saratoga High.

Tom and Mrs. Head share an interesting relationship. Tom has a classroom to keep his things, like a suit for his class or a project for another. Tom can talk to his mom at anytime he wants.

"It's really nice, because my mom and I get along really well. I just always have someplace to be," he says. It's not uncommon to see them talking during Break, Tutorial and Lunch.

"The best part about having Tom there," says Mrs. Head, "is that I can talk to him more often. I get to see him in the halls, I get to meet with him."

Sometimes, though, having your mom as a teacher can be difficult. Teachers have many meetings to go to, and oftentimes Tom has to stay at school to wait for Mrs. Head's meetings to end.

"I'll just be working in her room, waiting for her to come back, and I'll fall asleep," Tom says. It's a perpetual take-your-kid-to-work day.

"She's got a lot of meetings, because she's involved in a lot of things here, and she's Department Chair, and all sorts of things, so it's even longer than usual." Tom wakes up at around 5:30 and arrives at school at 7 to 7:30, everyday, even Wednesdays. "I never get to sleep in," he says, smiling.

Mrs. Head agrees that this is a problem.

"He doesn't get to go home until I'm done working," she says. "Sometimes, this harms his homework."

Mrs. Head also says that she sometimes has to stay late for Tom.

"For example, I have to stay late for Tom's choir performances," Mrs. Head says.

Another problem includes pressure, but this time it's from his teachers. He says they expect more from him because he's Mrs. Head's son.

"Partially, they think I'm her, and she's phenomenal," he says. "So I do think they have higher expectations of me than of other students." Of course, Mrs. Head also always knows about his grades—bad or good.

"It's not so bad, except when my teachers go to her and say, 'You know, Tom has an F in my class,'" jokes Tom. "But I do think the benefits outweigh the disadvantages."

Pressure from Mrs. Head, though, is not as bad.

"[I pressure him] less, because I see what too much parental pressure can do to kids," she says.

The benefits are very large, including the fridge and the microwave.

"Well, not so much the microwave, but the fridge I just use all the time, because it's very convenient," he laughs.

Although it may seem unlikely, Tom's favorite subject is not English, at least not in academics.

"I'd have to say choir [is my favorite subject]. I really love choir. In academics, I'd have to say English. And Spanish. I like languages.

All in all, the experience has benefited them both.

"I think that it has strengthened our relationship. We're a lot closer, because we spend a lot of time together," says Tom.

Mrs. Head thinks that it has made her more understanding. "The technology that is such a big part of your lives, we didn't have that as kids. Because I teach in a school, I can see how much technology is a part of your lives. It makes me less impatient with [Tom's] continuous technology use."

She also believes that it has helped them both become better.

"There's a myth that the kids of teachers and psychologists are messed up. In my experience, I haven't seen that. The kids of good teachers benefit from the teachers."

•Nandini Ruparel



A normal conversation: Mrs. Head asks Tom whether he has done his homework. Of course, he has.



I'll be here: Tom gives a thumbs up in response to a question on whether he'll be there during lunch. Singing his heart out: Tom participates in the school musical, *West Side Story*. Musically inclined: Tom (back row) sings in a choir concert after school.

in Depth

There are many student-teacher relationships that are a lot closer than you think...

• **Mr. Peter Jordan** (Health/Dr. Ed and PE teacher) and **Molly Jordan** (sophomore)

• **Mrs. Karen Hyde** (Assistant Principal) and **Hayes Hyde** (senior)

• **Mrs. Anna Marie Villalobos** (Study Skills) and **Gabriela Perez** (senior)

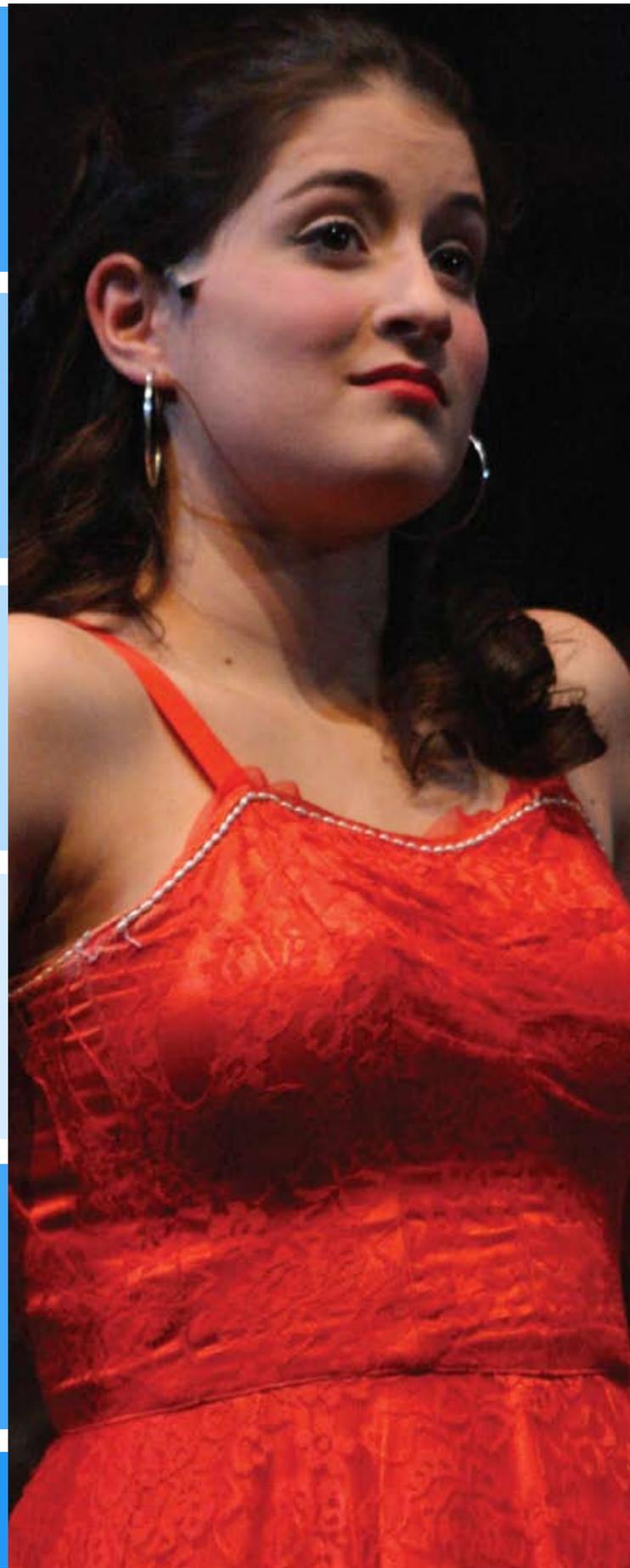
• **Mr. Ever Guzman** (custodian) and **Vanessa Guzman** (senior)

Lights!
Camera!

Action!



senior Brian Tsai singing in Saratoga Idol
the cast of West Side Story pose in front of the set
freshman Adrienne Eller reads over lines before a rehearsal
science teacher Ms. Cochrum judging at Saratoga Idol
The Man Who Came to Dinner cast and crew



Freshman David Mandell in "man"
Junior Christina Lauro in West Side Story
Maddy Renalds as the Saratoga Idol
Senior James Knight in "man"
Senior Trent Dozier in "man"



the real scenes that go on in the McAfee

Lights, Camera, Action! The real scenes that go on at the Saratoga McAfee theatre, which opened November 25, 2005, happen backstage. The crew for each production consists of students and parents who stay long hours each week to get everything that's not seen onstage ready for the big production. Without the tech crew the show would just be a dark stage with mikes less actors trying to project their voice. Backstage, a few members of the crew assemble microphones with numbers assigned to each actor. They attach the microphone to each person and make sure that it will not fall off during the performance. After the microphone is on, the crew in the sound booth located above the seats turn it on and off, according to when the actor is on or off stage.

The sound booth controls the sound and lights. The knobs on the dash board help to regulate the volume of the microphone. They also act as a dimmer for the lights. When the house lights are to come down, the crew slowly lowers the notch that is labeled sound.

The idea for a theatre was brought up in 1998, when the district passed the facility bond that allowed construction of a new theatre on campus. In 2003, the Saratoga High School Foundation (SHSF) launched a fundraiser that raised 90% of the money that was needed to construct the McAfee. The first performance held there was *Working* in 2005.

Cathie Thermond, who helps run the McAfee along with Adrienne Stapelton who is the head of the building, says, "Parents, staff and community members organized to plan a real performing arts center and to organize fundraising efforts so we could have a facility to showcase our outstanding music and drama programs and provide comfortable space for lectures, meetings and community events."

There are two dressing rooms backstage. Each room serves as a dressing and hair and makeup place. Each dressing room also has one bathroom. Actors usually have their clothes lined up for when quick changes occur. Parents are backstage regulating the rooms to make sure every costume is on properly.

In between the two dressing rooms is a kitchen type of room. It consists of a refrigerator and a pantry which stores food for intermission and before and after the show. Once the actors make the mess, it's their responsibility to pick it up, but most of the time the tech crew ends up with the janitor duty.

In front of the stage is an opening that leads to a place below the stage. This is called the pit. The music director and other students sit down here during the show. This is where all the music comes from. During a song, the students in the pit will be singing background. Usually these students are from a different cast or didn't have the time to be in the production.

To some students, it's hard to say good night to the McAfee. Freshman Hannah Harter says that the McAfee is like a second home to her because, "I've acted on the stage so much and I love it. It's hard to end each show that presents on the McAfee stage. Even though I know I'll be acting on it in another show. The McAfee truly brings beauty to the SHS campus."



All photos courtesy of Talisman



New student Michael Min looks at the gym as he is going to play basketball.

Photo Credit: Anna Shen

The MYSTERY Man

New transfer student Michael Min faces hardships as he transitions from Korea to America

Waiting outside a classroom with a tape recorder in my hand and translator **Randy Park** by my side, I was ready to catch my subject for an interview. I spotted him; he wore dark-washed denim jeans with a black Volcom shirt and hat, listening to hardcore rock music.

"Hi, my name is Anna," I said. "Would it be okay if I could interview you?" I held up my tape recorder, while the translator spoke Korean.

My subject took his earphones out, glanced from my face to the tape recorder and understood. His face scrunched up as though uncomfortable, and he said, "I do not speak much English. Can you find someone else?"

He was scared.

After moving from Korea to the U.S., freshman **Michael Min**, a transfer student from Los Gatos High School, has been a target of a move that forever changed his life. Michael originally moved from Seoul, South Korea, or the "soul city," as Michael likes to call it, overseas to the U.S. after his dad was offered a job transfer.

"The first time my parents told me we were moving, I thought my life would be over," said Michael. "I didn't want to leave all my friends and family."

When Michael's family moved, they settled into a house in Los Gatos. While living in Los Gatos, Michael attended Los Gatos High School for a couple of months until transferring to SHS, while Michael's younger brother of nine, John, attends Blossom Hill Elementary. Michael transferred to SHS because Los Gatos did not offer English as a Second Language (ESL).

"I love my classes so far," said Michael, "but it's hard to keep up with classes, especially English."

Seoul, the capital of Korea, is a large metropolis. His move from the big city to the suburbs causes Michael homesickness at times. Although Michael thinks that "the nature in Saratoga is beautiful," he "dislikes the quietness." Michael said that he was deeply disappointed when he realized Saratoga had no activities to offer in the night for teenagers, unlike Seoul.

In Michael's opinion, making friends has been the most difficult barrier since he moved. In addition to his poor English speaking abilities, Michael is shy and prefers not to speak at school out of "embarrassment."

"I try not to speak English to others, because my English is very bad," said Michael.

The one and only friend Michael found and is comfortable speaking English around is freshman **Michael Chang**.

"I'm pretty much the only person [Michael Min] talks to in English," said Michael Chang. "He's really shy at first, but once you get to know him, he's a cool dude."

Although it has been a long time since his departure from Korea, Michael still misses his friends and contacts them through e-mail. Michael's friends told him to buy many gifts and to return as soon as possible.

Michael says that if he returns to Korea, he will miss the U.S. But if there's one thing Michael can say about Saratoga, it's this: "[Saratoga] is very beautiful and different from Korea, but I miss Seoul very much."



Photos Courtesy of Anna Shen



Photos Courtesy of Anna Shen



Photos Courtesy of Anna Shen

Language Problem: Michael Min's hardest class is English because of his poor speaking abilities. **Hanging Out:** Michael Min hangs out during lunch with his new friends. **New Science Teacher:** Michael Min's new teacher is Miss Cochrum, who says that Michael has been a good student so far. **Michael & Michael:** Michael Min finds a friend in Michael Chang.



Photos Courtesy of Anna Shen



Photos Courtesy of Anna Shen

Talk to him in... Korean!

안녕 Ahnyoung = Hello & Bye

한국 Hanguk = Korea

감사함 Gamsahham=Thank you

배고파요 Pehgopahyoh = I'm hungry

CONCENTRATING HARD Freshman David Mandel and Sophomore Sophia Cooper stay serious during an A.S.B. meeting on January 8th. **MAKING FACES** after a meeting Junior Félix Tuan takes a moment to make a silly face at the camera, while Senior Hayes Hyde also takes a moment to dip into a snack. **BEST FRIENDS** Senior ASB President Shannon Nguyen and Senior ASB vice president Katie Low enjoy some salad during lunch at one of the many meetings that are held every monday.



Photo by: Kevin Rollinson



Photo by: Kevin Rollinson



Friendships on the A.S.B.

Students on the ASB find great surprises in unexpected places.

It was nearing the end of the school year, and they were the school's newest elected leaders for the highly anticipated year to come. The Monday morning of what Saratoga High called "Spirit Week," they were required to dress up in flamboyant costumes. "I felt so embarrassed, just walking around school. After lunch, I took it off and put on regular clothes, I couldn't keep it on the whole day," recalls Senior Arjun Shenoy. These kids, so noticeably bright and spirited, would become Saratoga High's next leaders of the ASB.

As most people already know, ASB stands for Associated Student Body. Each year, a group of kids run for a different position on the ASB, and if they're elected, they get the honor of leading and overlooking the pressing matters of their school for an entire year.

To most kids, the students on ASB go unrecognized and unappreciated. In reality, they're the backstage managers to the dramatic musical that is Saratoga High. "Every activity that goes on is ASB sponsored. They think rally commissions do rallies, but it's actually our money that we give to them. The things [we do] aren't recognized at all," says President Shannon Nguyen.

Planning and coordinating events can take up a lot of time and energy, but it also brings the members of the ASB together in a way that most people wouldn't understand. Nguyen goes on to say that ASB is "really close, and we're a huge family. I made like 70 family members, literally."

One friendship in particular that started out during their freshman year only grew through ASB and the time spent together bonding. This friendship is between Nguyen and Vice President Katie Low. "I came into last year not knowing anyone except for Shannon, but that friendship only grew stronger. Working as hard and long as we do, it's only natural," says Low.

"It's like their friendship is like...a flower only ASB is the water that helps it grow, I guess," says Senior Zo Shain.

Now the two can be considered best friends, and there's no doubt that ASB has helped make that possible. Low and Nguyen both agree that they haven't had as much time to spend together, so being on the ASB has positively affected their friendship.

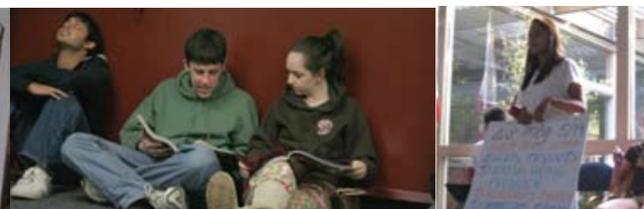
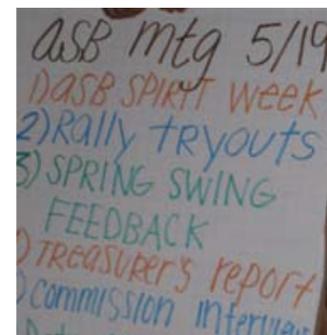
According to Low, ASB also helps people branch out, and meet individuals they never thought they'd be friends with. "I've gotten to know people from different groups, because I feel like ASB isn't all one type of person," says Low. Nguyen also agrees, saying that her favorite thing about being on ASB is that she loves making friendships that wouldn't have been possible if she wasn't on ASB.

So what originally forms the friendships on ASB? "Oh that's an easy question to answer, initiation. Oh, initiation, definitely," says Low. Initiation comes once a year during spirit week. On the first day, the new ASB members dress up in costumes to represent that they're next years ASB officers. These amazing friendships have only made it more exciting and have worked as motivation to make the school year as fun and original as possible.

Says Shannon, "Getting to know your school is fun, but the friendships are honestly what I'm going to remember in 20 years."



Photo by: Kevin Rollinson



AGENDAS are an important part of ASB meetings, in order to keep track of what is going on throughout the school. Senior President Shannon Nguyen usually writes them out before ever meeting. **BORED SENIORS** Arjun Shenoy, Pete Florance, and Zo Shain enjoy each others company along with some magazines while waiting before an ASB meeting. **TAKING CONTROL** Nguyen starts the meeting, grabbing everyone's attention.

Group Huddle: Sophomores Sung Park, Kevin Yao, and Alex Song gather together during Wednesday break to get instructions from ITCC president, Eric Sun. The research center computers are ready to be remodeled, and members wait to break into groups to update software. **Starting the Club:** Sophomores Derek Chen, Sherry Cha, Victor Chan, and Brian Kim discuss plans and sign papers officiating the long-inactive technology club in the quad. Founder Eric Sun explains motifs. "The main goal of the group is to educate each other about the technological concepts we understand the most." **Teamwork behind wires:** Sophomores Alex Song and Eric Sun disassemble the computer desk and monitor in the research center.



behind the Wiring

Technologically advanced individuals find their niche in restarted ITCC club

In a world where people walk the streets with headphones in their ears and cell phones in their hands, it seems as if everyone has an average knowledge of technology to pass by. As long as the iPod can play music and the cell phone can call friends, everyone seems to be satisfied. However, there are those who take a step further, and make an effort to apprehend the enigmas technology produces. These people seem to understand "how the clock ticks". Saratoga High's Information Technology and Computing Committee, also known as ITCC, can do all that and more, by writing codes and taking apart hardware, fueled by only a desire to learn more.

ITCC was founded a while back, honored as a relatively ancient school club. However, it was adopted by sophomore Eric Sun a year ago after the club had been inactive for a long period of time. He and newly recruited Alex Song soon recruited a few members and recreated the group.

"Eric found out about it," said Alex, "and seeing how it was still registered with the school and had money in its balance, we decided to effectively take control of the club."

After officiating the club with the school, Eric and the new members continued to look for people to recruit. Members with skills in certain areas would be able to teach the others. Everyone would learn from each other, and hopefully improve their technical skills and knowledge.

"What you leave with really is proportional to your interest and willingness to actually attend meetings," Eric said. Being the founder of the more modern and developed version of ITCC, he admits his personal interest in technology is "pretty high".

"I was making websites when I was seven or eight," said Eric. "Then I learned about hacking at about age nine or ten. I wrecked tons of computers." Since his interest was sparked at a very young age, Eric's comprehension of technology is very thorough; he specializes in almost all branches of software, hardware, and programs.

"There really aren't many topics I don't know about," he concedes. "Name it.

I can probably do it."

Though Eric seemed to have an amazingly expansive knowledge of technology; one intellectual member wasn't enough to carry steam in an official school club. Alex, one of the oldest members, remembers being recruited by Eric.

"Eric told me about it and offered a high official position," said Alex. "So I said sure, why not?" He was then appointed as "Head event planner", in charge of making invite lists, planning events, and meetings.

The club, though scarce in members, is content with their size and their accomplishments. They recently improved the school computers in the research center, installing new Dell boxes and better monitors for the newly instated MAP program.

"Now [the computers] all have more processing power and memory," said Eric. "It's good for all the video editing and other multimedia uses."

But what happens in between their hard work of deciphering software, assembling hardware, and writing programs?

"We sometimes have LAN parties," said Alex. "[The members] can hang out all day and relax."

LAN parties, or Local Area Network parties, are gatherings where people connect computers in a network to participate in multiplayer computer games.

Eric and Alex create LAN parties usually once in two months. Though they seem just like parties with videogames, they are actually educational. Thus, Eric arranges frequent LAN parties not only to bring in new members, but also to teach members about different programs and how they work.

"It's not the most exciting thing to learn about some of the stuff I talk about," said Alex. "So I use the LAN parties as motivation to come, since a lot of the stuff we talk about has to do with improving performance."

ITCC, though still in a developmental stage, seem to declare full steam ahead for the following years. It may take some time to root out the individuals with special technical talents. But until then, the ITCC will learn more and more about innovation and technology as the clock continues to tick. •Uttara Sivaram

LAN Gaming

- Doom 2: Hell on Earth
- Unreal Tournament XMP
- Terminal Velocity
- Myth: The Final Lords
- Soldat





Sophomore Vivian Hsiao shows off her "Benvolto", a character from Romeo and Juliet.

how 2 find: —

Most artists like to put their arts on the following web sites:

1. Deviantart
2. Gaia Online
3. Fanart Central
4. Blogs, such as Myspace and Facebook



Junior Guo Zeng, leader of the art club, shows her "Light and Darkness" theme with Riku, a character from the famous game, Kingdom Hearts.

The Anime-tor

The worldwide popularity of anime finally reaches Saratoga High.

A student is doodling something on his journal, something sci-fi in a futuristic space soldier uniform. Another student elsewhere in the school watches a Japanese-like cartoon on his iPod. The minutes go by as senior Stephanie Hata reads a small graphic novel backwards. Meanwhile on a Friday noon, a small group of people enter Mr. Davis's room to watch one episode of Japanese animation.

"I think it's a good experience for everyone," says senior Kevin Tang, the club leader of the Anime Sub Society, "Anime is underappreciated here at school, but so many other people are devoted to it."

Welcome to the world of anime.

Anime is prevalent in all of America and even throughout the world. But despite being famous worldwide throughout the world, anime is very little known in Saratoga High. This small, but devoted popularity has even spawned two separate anime clubs: The Anime Sub Society, a club whose anime keeps the original Japanese language but keeps the subtitles to keep it understandable and the Anime Dub Society whose anime has the English dubbing replacing the Japanese voiceovers. The art club also has many artists, some drawing, of course, anime. Anime is almost always hand-drawn, but new techniques, such as using Adobe Photoshop, have been quite common recently.

Anime is similar to the movies. It's widespread in many different genres, such as action adventure, comedy, romance, horror, science fiction, and much more. A wide number of styles can be used on anime. It actually emphasizes visual styles. For example, the Record of the Lodoss War uses a very realistic style of art with few exaggerated expressions, if any. On the complete contrast, the anime FLCL is infamous for including wild exaggerations throughout the book. But balancing in between, the anime Sayonara Zetsubō Sensei uses a wide assortment of realistic and comedic exaggerations. However, while many artists have different art styles, some styles are so commonly frequently used, such as the massive sweat drop and excessive nose bleeds, that it is clearly identified as anime.

"Anime is very diverse," says Stephanie Hata, "There's shonen for the guys, shojo for the girls, and a lot others, such as mecha, yuri, and yaoi."

Anime can even have a wide assortment of character design. There is the realistic style of body proportion or the infamous "chibi" style of art, where the body is incredibly small compared to the head. Many facial expressions are also used to emphasize mood and thought.

Anime has become increasingly popular, but still is small considering to the school's large size and population. It is also small due to the increasing workload of some students.

"I don't draw as often as I would like anymore," said Sophomore Vivian Hsiao, "I have a lot of extracurricular activities that come before anime."

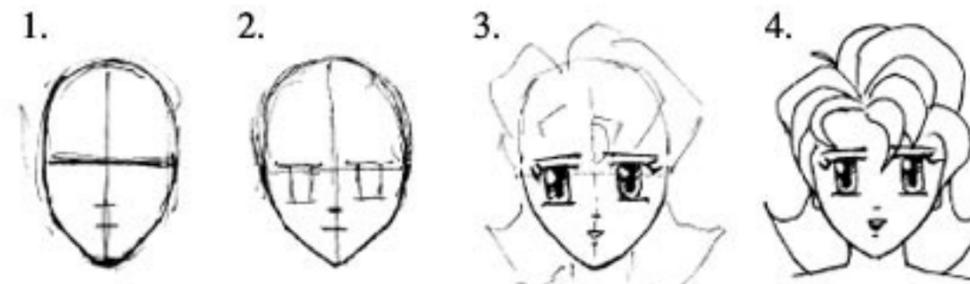


Titie Kubo ICHIGO KURASAKI is the main protagonist of the famous anime, Bleach, one of Anime Dub Society club leader and Senior Jonathan Tung's favorite anime.



STEVEN TIEN TAKING A BREAK FROM STUDYING, Junior Jennifer Tien decides to relax by drawing characters from her boredom.

how 2 draw: the anime face



Saratoga Idol Roller Coaster

Taara Rangan has a crazy experience in her first time singing at Saratoga Idol

Freshman **Taara Rangan** felt as if she was about to vomit as she nervously walked up to the microphone with the gaping eyes of hundreds of spectators staring at her at the Saratoga Idol on March 5, 2008. This was her first time singing in a competition and on top of that, the fact that she had had a sore throat for the past two days caused her to feel even more nauseated.

Taara, who has been singing for eight years, decided to join Saratoga Idol, Saratoga High's version of the popular singing competition American Idol, because of her "love of music." However, upon signing up for the show she had no idea what she was getting herself into.

"When I heard about Saratoga Idol," said Taara, "I was expecting it to be just a small competition kind of like the talent shows we had in elementary school. So the day of the show, when I started seeing all those people trickle in to the McAfee, I started freaking out."

In addition to freaking out about the 224 spectators who would be watching her sing in her first competition, Taara was also freaking out about the possibility of those 224 spectators watching her sing in her first competition with a sore throat and a cracking voice.

"Two days before Saratoga Idol," said Taara, "I somehow managed to magically acquire a sore throat right out of the blue and coincidentally I did so at the worst possible time. I was so frustrated that I almost felt like backing out of the show so that I wouldn't have to sing with a sore throat and embarrass myself." But instead of backing out, Taara decided to play her luck by following her mom's special technique to get rid of her of sore throat and by changing her song to "Big, Blonde and Beautiful," from the musical Hairspray, a song that she "could pull off even with a bad voice."

"I decided that I was just going to get over my soar throat by using the same

technique that I have been using since I was little: not talking and drinking my mom's special honey water," said Taara. "I didn't even know if the technique actually worked, because most of the time all I cared about was drinking the honey water. But this time I prayed that it would work."

Luckily for Taara, her prayers were answered and her throat started to clear. But now she had another problem to deal with: stage fright.

"Before I was about to sing I just wanted to run away," said Taara. "It's the worst feeling in the world when you know that in a few minutes you are going to have to sing in front of your friends, family and teachers. I wished that I never had signed up in the first place and that I was instead sitting in the stands watching the others sing."

But it was too late now. Taara was called up to sing. All of a sudden "Big, Blonde and Beautiful" roared throughout the McAfee Center, and like magic all of Rangan's worries vanished and she was able to sing, "as easily as if I was singing in the shower."

"It was the weirdest thing ever," said Taara. "After the second verse, I completely forgot about even having a sore throat and I wasn't scared at all. I was even able to execute the song better than when I had practiced. It was a miracle" Taara's "miraculous" performance turned out to become even more of a miracle when she was awarded third place out of nine competitors.

"I was completely surprised and did not expect to win at all," said Taara. "If you were around me when they announced the results, you would know that my jaw literally dropped."

Taara plans on competing in Saratoga Idol again next year but hopefully without having to drink honey water and remain silent in hopes of getting rid of a sore throat. •**Abhishek Venkataramana**

Get to know the voice

Singing has always been freshman Taara Rangan's passion. She started singing in a first grade talent show, and her love of music has inspired her to keep on singing ever since. In addition to singing in Saratoga Idol, she also sang in her seventh and eighth grade musicals, and in the Indian Club's "Bombay in the Bay" performance.

Taara credits her love of music to her dad "whose habit of singing 24-7 rubbed off on her."

"My dad ridiculously loud," said Taara, "Therefore I became as loud as he was. As long as he was in the house he was singing and I caught on and starting humming."

Rangan recently started taking voice lessons in hopes of "taking her singing up a notch." In spite of the intense two hour practices, Taara enjoys still enjoy the practice.

"I actually love going to practice," she said, "because it just lets me get away from all the stress of school and just sing"

Rangan plans to use her lessons from voice training in the future when she plans on majoring in music. But no matter what, music will always be a part of her life.

"No matter where I go in life," said Taara, "music will always be a part of me."

Singing her heart out: Taara Rangan sings "Big, Blonde and Beautiful" in front of the sellout crowd at the 2008 Saratoga Idol. Taara was extremely happy with her performance. "I was even able to execute the song better than when I had practiced. It was a miracle"



Julia Lan

let's play AIRSOFT

For some students, shooting each other is a fun way to hang out

They were lying in a puddle in the middle of a cramped bamboo patch. There were only the two of them, freshman airsofters **James Hadid** and **David Anderson**, outrageously outnumbered, against five opponents. Their only hope of survival—stealth and camouflage.

They lie there motionless for more than 15 minutes, patiently waiting for an oblivious attacker to walk by into their trap of death.

“I felt like a Navy SEAL,” James said proudly. “I felt invisible, and I was invisible. We had accomplished what we thought was impossible by wiping out a whole team without them ever knowing where we were.”

Airsoft is a game many teenagers play consisting of realistic but fake guns that shoot small, round, plastic balls at speeds over 230 miles per hour at their friends. Originally used as military training, airsoft has grown to be a very popular game. Skirmishes are typically two teams trying to eliminate each other, but other games such as capture the flag or king of the hill are sometimes played.

“I airsoft because it gives me an adrenaline rush and I get to hang out with friends,” said James. “It’s a childhood dream to be able to play army and not kill anybody.”

James and David are friends of an airsoft group that plays for recreation. There is no rivalry between players and it is common to hear a “sorry!” when someone yelps after they get hit. David and James commonly play at freshman Jordan Waite’s house.

“Jordan’s house is awesome because it has

a huge forest,” David said.

They play as often as they can, sometimes every weekend, sometimes once a month and wars usually last all day, from around 11 to five or six, James said.

There are many different types of airsoft guns. The guns propel the pellets down the barrel using springs of various power and size. There are three different operations that are used in airsoft guns to push the spring back for each shot. Electric guns use a battery to power a motor and gears that continuously pull and release the spring. Most electric guns fire fully automatic and shoot over 800 rounds per minute. There are also guns powered by gas and guns where the spring has to be pulled back manually.

Airsoft guns are frighteningly realistic and high-end guns are actually exact replicas of the real firearm. These types of guns can get pricey but some airsofters think the realistic feel is worth it. Guns can be priced anywhere from \$20 to \$2000. A popular, reliable, and realistic brand of gun is Classic Army, said James. Classic Army guns are manufactured to give airsofters the feel of a real gun and range in price from \$300 to \$600.

“I’ve spent thousands of dollars on airsoft but the cost isn’t much of an issue for me,” David said. “I feel it’s worth it because it’s fun and really good exercise for something I love to do.”

Preparation for an airsoft war involves putting on camouflage clothes and face paint, charging gun batteries, loading gun

magazines, fixing broken guns, and putting on eye protection. It usually takes an hour or two before we actually start playing, James said.

It might be hard to believe that friends are shooting each other with objects flying over 230 miles per hour, but players are protected. All players wear either eye-protecting sunglasses or the stuffy but more protective full-face mask. Most players also wear clothes that cover their arms and legs, some choosing military camouflage clothing to be unseen. James said that although an airsoft pellet can produce some incredible welts, it’s not a problem most of the time.

“I’m not afraid of getting shot. It doesn’t hurt at all,” said David. “I’m more afraid of the silence than the shooting. I’ve been shot in the back of the head and that hurt, but it’s nothing I can’t handle.”

Surprisingly, James’s mom, **Tracey Hadid**, is very supportive of airsofting. She is one of the many moms who hosts these airsoft wars and cooks food for more than ten teenage boys.

“I like to see the boys doing airsoft,” Mrs. Hadid said. “It’s good to get the boys outside rather than sitting in front of a screen and the collaboration and teamwork they get from airsoft will help them later in life.”

For many airsofters, it is something that they love to do and want to continue for a long time.

“I’ve been airsofting for three years,” James said, “and I never plan to stop.”

•**Jordan Waite**

Deadly duo:

Freshmen airsofters David Anderson and James Hadid work together to win a round of airsoft on May 15th.

“Teamwork like this is very affective against the enemy,” said James. “If they see us, we’ll see them.”

Bullseye:

Freshman airsoft Max Workman proudly displays his massive welt. “This is the biggest welt I’ve ever seen,” Max said. “This has never happened before.”



photo by Jordan Waite



photo by Jordan Waite



photo by Jordan Waite



photo by Jordan Waite

Lightning fast: Freshman airsoft James Hadid sprints away from the enemy, hoping he won’t get hit.

On the defense: Freshman airsofters James Hadid and David Anderson form a defensive wall to stop opponents

Sharpshooter: Freshman airsoft David Anderson hones his sniper skills as he sets his sights on an unsuspecting foe



photo by Jordan Waite

HELPING KIDS one step at a time



Laura Mighdoll

Thanks to the help of Miss Jill McFarlen, child psychology classes work to teach preschool and nursery school children

Everyday, Miss **Jill McFarlen** has the pleasure of relaxing and watching her students. She doesn't have to yell at her students to stop talking, threaten them with a pop quiz, assign worksheets, read through textbooks, or recite pages of notes. Now this is definitely not your typical Saratoga High School class.

In Room H01 during second and fifth period, McFarlen supervises a class, of about 24 high school students, in child psychology. The first semester involves learning about how to interact with children and second semester requires of hands-on communication with nursery, preschool, and elementary school kids.

In the beginning of the period, McFarlen and her students of upperclassmen first review their lesson plans for the day. There are structured groups consisting of creative projects, science and math, language skills, and group time.

"You can work with the preschool or nursery depending on what projects you sign up for," said junior **Vivian Huynh**.

Each class is divided into two separate groups, and the groups split up to work at different schools. One half works with the nursery and preschool kids in the school next to the main office. The other half goes to Saratoga Elementary, Foothill Elementary, Saratoga Presbyterian Church, or Primary Action Day Plus, and the groups rotate every two to three weeks, so they can be involved with kids all around the community.

One major highlight for the high school students is playing outside with the preschool and nursery kids. There are play structures, a wooden stage, trucks, sandboxes, tricycles, water areas, grass, little animals, plastic animals, dollhouses, and little toys for everyone to play with. Each student is assigned a little buddy, so they can help entertain them, settle arguments, and help out when they need to.

"Some of my previous students who have graduated and moved back to Saratoga have children in the preschool class," said McFarlen. "It is so wonderful to see them grow up and work with the high school students."

McFarlen has been teaching for over 37 years now, and taught 15 different classes throughout her career, but has always stayed at Saratoga High.

She has taught child psychology since the class started in the 1973 and ran the entire children's program for 25 years, which she said was like running a whole other business.

She has had many memorable moments throughout her years at Saratoga High that she will never forget.

"There was this one experience many years ago, with a student I have now. I won't mention her name, but she was a child in the preschool program," said McFarlen. "I picked her up, and she peed on my overalls! I had to wear those overalls all day."

McFarlen will be retiring from her teaching job at the end of the year and will be missed by everyone.

"Oh my god, I'm going to miss her so much! We barely had any homework, except for maybe 10 assignments first semester. Everyone is so sad that she's going to leave," said Huynh.

The thing she will miss most is working with the students and interacting with them. "Just being with them in general. It's the part best of teaching," said McFarlen. •**Erin Wong**



It's reading time! Junior Heraa Hyder sits down with four of the nursery school's boys, Thursday, May 22, to read a book on one of the couches.

Erin Wong



Laura Mighdoll



Laura Mighdoll



Crafty Kids: Junior Ashley Cole helps one of the preschool girls with a glue stick during an arts-and-crafts project. **Story time!** Senior Keon Ghafoori talks with two of his preschool pals during playtime. **Special buddies:** Senior Saumaan Vahabi spends some time with one of the nursery boys on the wooden stage. **Be careful up there!** Junior Jessica Chan climbs with one of the preschool girls on the play car during playtime.



Laura Mighdoll



Laura Mighdoll

Everyone pay attention! Seniors Saumaan Vahabi and Keon Ghafoori teach the preschoolers about different farm animals by dressing up and showing the children pictures of the animals. **Lending his artistic style:** Senior Keon Johnson watches as one of the preschool girls works on her class art project.



Just THREE Words

One orchestra member found her place with passion, dedication, and family

“Passion.”

With her eyes closed, freshman **Yuning Yang** raises her hand. Almost every other student in the room does the same. Guest speaker **Scott Lang** counts the number of hands and marks it next to the word on the whiteboard.

“Dedication.”

Again, a sea of hands rises in the air. Lang makes another mark.

“Family.”

Nearly all hands are raised. Another mark is made.

At the beginning of the year, Scott Lang led the orchestra class in this exercise for the first time. Music Instructor **Michael Boitz** joined the students as well. The concept was to have students describe they thought orchestra was all about. A list of more than twenty words was composed on the whiteboard and each student could choose three. Everyone’s eyes were closed, but at least 95% chose the same three words: passion, dedication, and family.

“It was really cool how we all chose the same words,” said Yuning. “It was totally unexpected, and I guess it just shows how much in common we all have.”

This exercise kicked the year off to

a great start and helped build a stronger connection between the orchestra members.

“It was inspirational,” said freshman **Anthony Sutardja**, Yuning’s friend and a fellow violinist. “But you get intimidated when he talks to you because he’s really energetic.”

At the age of five, Yuning got involved in music by playing the violin – a handmade instrument that usually costs thousands of dollars. She joined orchestra to improve and to meet people who shared a common interest in music. But this one class became her home away from home, and she intends to take it throughout high school.

“Orchestra is great,” said Yuning. “You make a lot of new friends, and it’s something to commit to. Just like sports.”

Not only does the orchestra meet during school, they also have rehearsals every Tuesday night. Because of band practice during the fall, first semester rehearsals only consist of string orchestra. But during the spring, the entire symphony orchestra comes together.

A typical class begins with a tuning session so each note is at the perfect pitch. But when the class works on a

piece, they don’t usually play it through. They work on small parts of the music, usually where intonation is difficult or rhythm is hard to match.

“It’s fun to watch one of the trumpet player’s face turn really red as he plays a high note,” said Yuning, laughing.

There are many things that go on in the orchestra class that the student body does not know about.

“Mr. Boitz has slang flashcards,” said Yuning. “There are words like dawg, homie, and cheddar. On the back of the cards are definitions and examples of how to use these words in a sentence. Also, he has Mozart action figures in his office. Mr. Boitz is just gangsta and cool like that.”

The musicians all work very hard, helping the orchestra win three Unanimous Superior plaques at competitions like the California Music Educators Association festival. With so much success this year, Yuning looks forward to next year when she is a sophomore.

“Next year is going to be even better,” said Yuning. “Not only are we going to be performing at concerts and musicals, but we’re going to compete in Europe!” **Jenny Zhang**

Love for music: Freshman Yuning Yang is focused as she plays her violin on May 20, 2008 in her room. She’s playing Malagueña, a happy piece that the orchestra has recently finished.



Orchestra

Jargon

- Bow:** a long slender piece of wood and bamboo used to play string instruments
- Chinrest:** a piece on the bottom of a string instrument one rests their chin on
- F-holes:** two holes on the sides of a string instrument between the two bouts
- Fine tuners:** pegs in the center of the lower bout that tune the strings
- Fingerboard:** the part of a string instrument where one presses the strings
- Intonation:** the ability to play notes in tune
- Lower bout:** the lower, wooden section of a string instrument
- Pegbox:** the upper portion of a string instrument with the tuning pegs
- Rhythm:** the aspect of music comprising all the elements (as accent, meter, and tempo) that relate to forward movement
- Rosin:** a translucent amber-colored brittle resin obtained from pine trees or tall oil that helps string instruments produce sound when rubbed on the bow
- Scroll:** the very tip of an string instrument
- String orchestra:** all members of an orchestra that play string instruments
- Symphony orchestra:** all members of an orchestra that play string, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments
- Tailpiece:** the triangular portion in the lower bout under the fine tuners
- Upper bout:** the upper, wooden section of a string instrument
- Waist:** the narrow section of a string instrument between the two bouts



Practice makes perfect: Sophomore Claire Chu tunes her cello during orchestra on December 4, 2007 in the music room. She prepares to play the latest piece. **All for one and one for all:** Music instructor Michael Boitz conducts the string orchestra during an evening performance on November 3, 2007.



Jenny Zhang

SHAKING

the Toga community

Students relieve the suffering of victims in China

Thousands of civilians panicked as they felt the ground shake wildly beneath them and the buildings crumbling down. Hundreds of workers worked day and night in an attempt to clear the site of the earthquake, but progress is limited.

Despite the fact that the earthquake occurred in China, for many students, it hit close to home, whether they had relatives or has family friends that live in the area.

“My grandmother grew up in Sichaun area of China, so I still have cousins that live in the area as well,” said sophomore **Tiffany Tung**. “Luckily none of my relatives got hurt, but it’s still pretty painful to see all the pictures of dead bodies in magazines and thinking, ‘This could have been someone I know.’”

With more than 67,000 dead and 21,000 still missing, countries from around the world have begun relief efforts to help the Chinese.

Senior **Vincent Sheu**, who participates in the community service organization Tzu Chi has helped in multiple fundraising events to help send money and other miscellaneous goods to China.

“We stood in front of Chinese supermarkets for hours, and held out boxes for people to put donations in,” said Vincent. “I think we made quite a substantial amount of money to send to China.”

Vincent hopes that with the money, the victims can buy enough water, food, and clothing until they are able to rebuild the city.

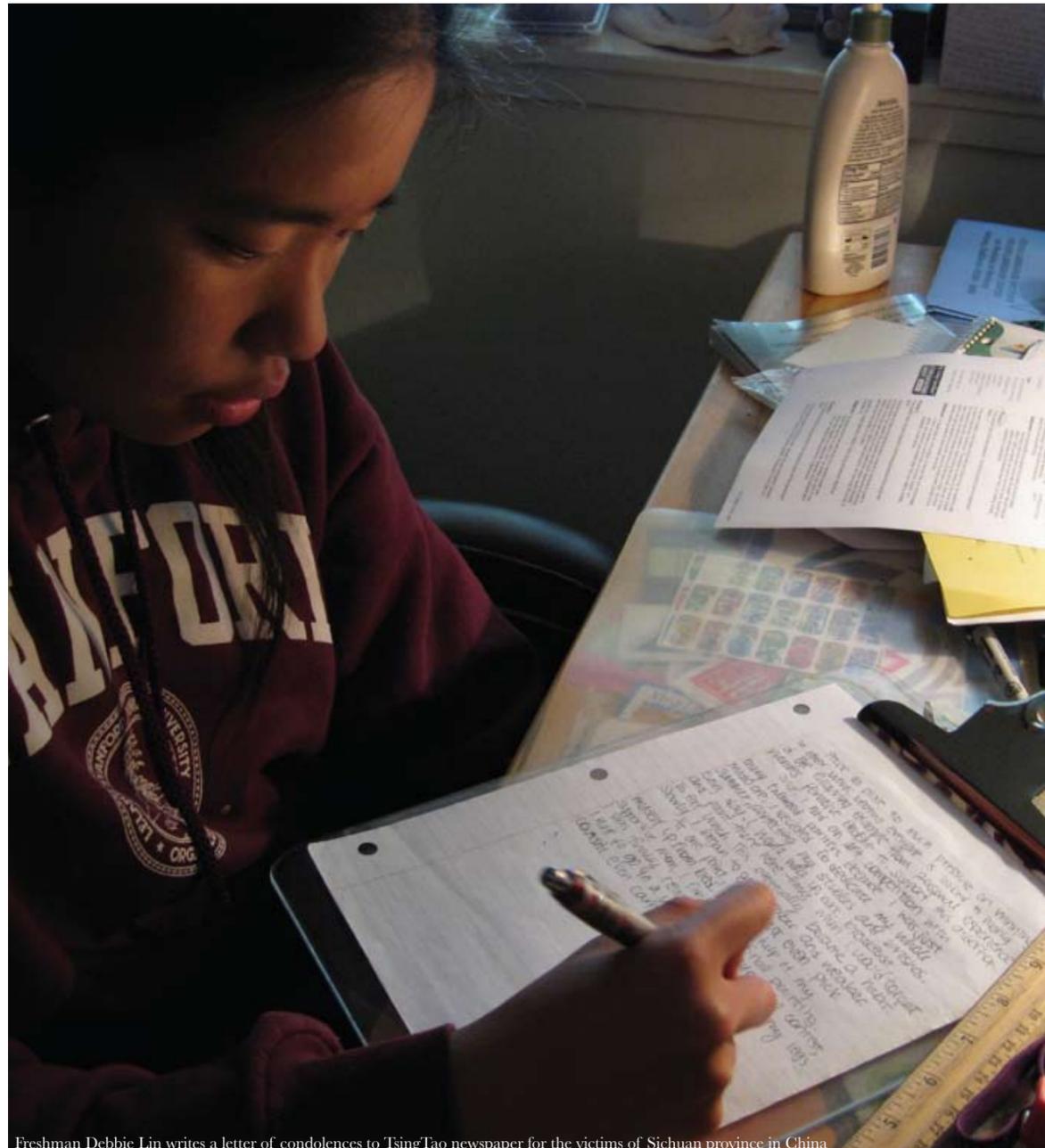
Vincent said, “Though there are so many victims, each dollar we make contributes enormously because the US dollar is able to buy more necessities in China than here in the United States.”

Many SHS students participate in organizations like Tzu Chi every year. During the summer, the organization has a travel trip to various parts of the world in order to help countries in need of renovation.

“My family is thinking about going to China this summer to help rebuild houses,” says Tiffany’s older brother, **Jonathan Tung**. “We might visit some relatives along the way since it has been a while since we’ve last seen them.”

With nearby lakes over-flooding from streams that changed courses during the earthquake, going to China might not be a possibility for the Tung’s.

“We are hoping that other countries are quick to respond to this catastrophe. If we can’t find a rebuild Sichuan, then it’s our responsibility to do everything we can in order to help relieve the peoples pain,” said Tiffany. “I hope that if the earthquake had occurred over here instead, the other countries would send aid to us as we are doing for them right now.” •**Michael Zhang**



Freshman Debbie Lin writes a letter of condolences to TsingTao newspaper for the victims of Sichuan province in China



Junk or treasure: Students in Beijing sell their belongings to raise money for relief funds. **A helping hand:** An official in Shanghai donates money. **Knowledge is power:** An elementary school student grasps tightly to his pen. In Chinese culture, knowledge determines a person’s success and power.



	1906 San Francisco Earthquake	2008 Sichuan Earthquake
Death Toll	~250	~69,000
Injured	~750	~360,000
Magnitude	7.8	7.8
Cost of damage (millions USD)	\$200	\$20,000



A phone call away: Sophomore Elaine Kc talks to her relatives in Beijing, China about the earthquake. “I’m relieved that they’re all right.” **All quiet on the Asian front:** Rescue workers announce the victims in Southwest Sichuan at the University in Chengdu.

While playing the tabla, Rohan Marathe gets into the music and forgets about everything else around him. Rohan played his own piece that he created. "Sometimes I get lost in my music because it is a lot of fun," said Rohan.



Photo by Karthik Annaamalai

The sound of MUSIC

Rohan Marathe dominates the tabla competition garnering first prize at an anual local event

Though freshman **Rohan Marathe** has been playing the tabla, a popular Indian percussion instrument used in classical music, for almost nine years, he is still not tired of playing it. In fact, he enjoys playing it even more.

"Now that I am better and I have been playing the tabla for a while, I have more fun while playing it," said Rohan.

Most people do not know that Rohan plays these double-headed, barrel-shaped drums. Not only does Rohan play the tabla, he plays several other instruments as well.

"I joined band and wanted to play percussion because it seemed like fun," said Rohan. "I realized that already knowing how to play an instrument helped me learn how to play the others. Right now I am trying to teach myself how to play the piano."

Rohan admits that music is a big part of his life. He plays many instruments, practices for multiple hours each week and even performs for his family and relatives.

"For some people, practicing music is work," said Rohan. "But, for me, practicing music is something I enjoy. Sometimes I get lost in the music and forget about everything around me."

Though many students are musicians, only a few can say they are as dedicated as Rohan. He was influenced to start playing the tabla by his cousin, who also plays the tabla. For the past five years, Marathe has been going to local competitions. The competition usually last two weekends and judges base their rankings on rhythm, musicality, and beat.

"I go to two main competitions every year," said Rohan. "The biggest one is at Fremont, in a temple."

Rohan is now considered a "senior" in the world of tabla. This places him in a tougher level of competition. Though only five people enter the senior level for tabla, they are usually the most devoted players. This past year at Fremont, Rohan won the competition.

"The competition was really fun. I had no idea that I would win, but I did," said Rohan. "Also, I got a trophy for winning first place."

Many people in the world go unnoticed and seem like "normal" people. But, everybody has a story behind their story, and once a person gets to know these "normal" people, they realize what they have been missing out on. Most of Rohan's peers see him as an average student, but those lucky few that know him can say they know the real Rohan Marathe, a student with a passion for music and talent to go with it. •**Karthik Annaamalai**



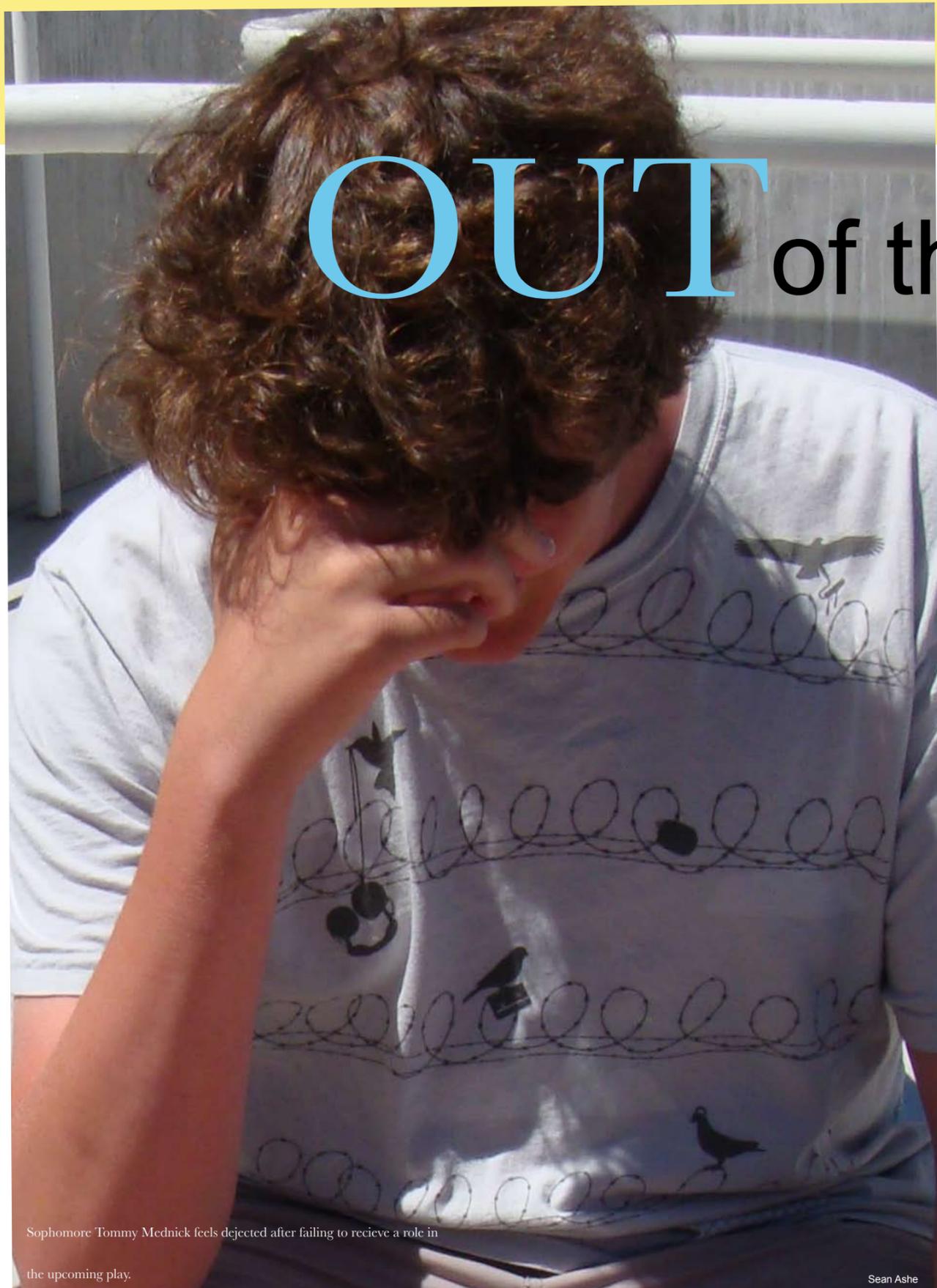
Photo Courtesy of Rohan Marathe

Dressed up in fancy Indian clothes, Rohan Marathe competes in the Satya Devi Memorial Trust Competition in 2004. He placed second in this tough competition after playing for judges for two weekends.

Tabla

The tabla is an Indian percussion instrument used in classical music. The instrument consists of a pair of hand drums of different sizes. The word *tabla* comes from the Arabic word, *tabl*, which means *drums*.





Sophomore Tommy Mednick feels dejected after failing to receive a role in the upcoming play.

Sean Ashe

““I thought that I was good enough to get a decent role, and then i got one line. Being in a play and not being noticed can be a terrible feeling”

-Sophomore Tommy Mednick



OUT of the LIMELIGHT

Not everyone in drama gets noticed

When one thinks of the school’s drama club and various productions like “The Man Who Came to Dinner,” one thing comes to mind: James Knight. However, what people might not realize is that there are many other performers waiting in the wings, hoping to get their chance in the limelight.

Sophomore Tommy Mednick’s passion has been drama ever since his first visit to the drama camp CTC at the age of nine. However, when he auditioned for “The Man Who Came to Dinner,” he got the part of a house-guest, with only one line in the entire play.

“It hurt a lot,” said Tommy. “I thought that I was good enough to get a decent role, and then I got one line.”

Mednick’s friend, sophomore Shawn Aminirad, suffered a similar fate.

“I was looking forward to the play but I got a part with three lines,” said Shawn.

Despite having only three lines, Shawn stayed persistent.

“Even though I only got three lines,” said Shawn. “I wanted to make the best of it and the overall experience was still a blast.”

So how do the small-part actors/actresses enjoy the play despite their minimal roles?

“There’s a lot more to productions than just the show,” said Shawn. “We have to make the set, advertise the play, and spend countless hours bonding and rehearsing months before

the show. Bonding is really the key, because we need to trust each other in order to perform well.”

“I don’t get jealous when I see other people like James Knight in the spotlight,” said Shawn. “I know that my time will come to shine, and people like James inspire me to work hard so I get better roles in future productions.”

The exact same thing happened to James too. In freshman year he played a part with less than ten lines, but he stayed persistent and now he’s the star.

“Instead of being down in the dumps,” said James. “I kept up the work and reaped the rewards in the end.”

Tommy, who ended up quitting the production after hearing his role was so trivial, agrees with Shawn, but thinks the distribution of lines per role should be fairer.

“While it’s true that the better and more experienced actors should play better roles, the less experienced people should get okay roles, not one or two lines the entire play,” said Tommy. “It just shatters your confidence and then in the next production you’re less optimistic. Being in a play and not being noticed can be one of the worst feelings you can have. But I guess you just got to keep your chin up and work hard.”

So, when one watches a play, they’re entitled to pay attention to the big stars, but they should also take into consideration the people with only one line.



Sarah Raisian



Sarah Raisian



Kevin Collinson

Above Left: Freshmen Amber Arroyo and Taara Rangen in action.

Above Center: Freshman Brandon Pierce with brother: Senior Sean.

Above Right: Freshmen James Hadid, Jay Lee, and Dillan Teter.



Gamers from different age groups argue there are valid reasons for their game addictions

The door shuts behind college freshman **David Huang**, and he hears gunshots. He feels footsteps pounding behind him, and knows he must escape immediately. This is no problem for Huang. He merely takes a leap and flies away. He hadn't anticipated the fighter jets that would quickly descend upon him, and gets shot down immediately. It's all over for Huang now. But it's all right, he can just reset the system. Huang is not, as is easily conceived, Superman. He is merely a video gamer.

When asked about people who play video games as a source of amusement an anonymous sophomore said, "They're weird, and they should find a more creative way to spend their time."

As it becomes more evident that the amount of gamers in the world will only increase with time, it may become necessary for people to gain a better understanding of these gamers: to look beyond the cover of the book, metaphorically speaking.

Through interviewing video gamers from three different age groups, it becomes apparent that the reasons for playing is not "weirdness," but is directly correlated to the gamers' age group and the needs and desires of that age group and the individual. Video games are not merely a way to pass time. They are an escape, a source of hope: a beacon of light in a world full of impossibilities.

David Huang, a college student at West Valley College plays video games every day to escape from the real world. "Video games give me capabilities I don't have in the real world," said Huang. "The real world is full of real conflicts, and there is no way to start over." As he enters adulthood, Huang leaves behind wishful thinking of childhood as reality sets in. Huang said, "I am beginning to chase the days that I did not have this many responsibilities, and video games take me back to those days." Like most college students, Huang

is desperate for a reprieve from the daily decisions that could easily affect the direction of the rest of his life.

As a representative for adolescents, David Tien, a freshman at Saratoga High School plays video games because they give him a chance to relax from all the stress of school.

Tien said, "Video games are a great source of procrastination for me on those days where I just can't focus on homework." Being in-between childhood and adulthood, he doesn't associate the games with childhood fantasies or hopes for the future. He merely plays to escape the well know difficulties of going to high school.

Shyon Ghahghahi, a third grader at Stratford Elementary School, is from the new generation of tech savvy young people. Ghahghahi explained that his favorite game is Major League Baseball, because he feels as though he is one of the players.

As a mere child, his future is far off to him, merely a distant dream or fantasy. Playing video games for him is like a glimpse of the future, where he can be whatever he wants. He said, "I am only a kid now, so I can't play pro baseball. But in the video game, I can." His dreams and desires for the future can be played out in a twenty minute game on Nintendo.

In reality, gamers cannot be stereotyped. Each one is an individual with different desires, aspirations, and needs. Just because they have slightly unconventional ways of meeting their life goals, or at least getting a taste of them, is no reason to look down upon them. In a world where it is so difficult to live out a dream it is necessary for the American population to not judge these gamers only surface deep: to understand that there is more to the story.

• **Mira Chaykin**

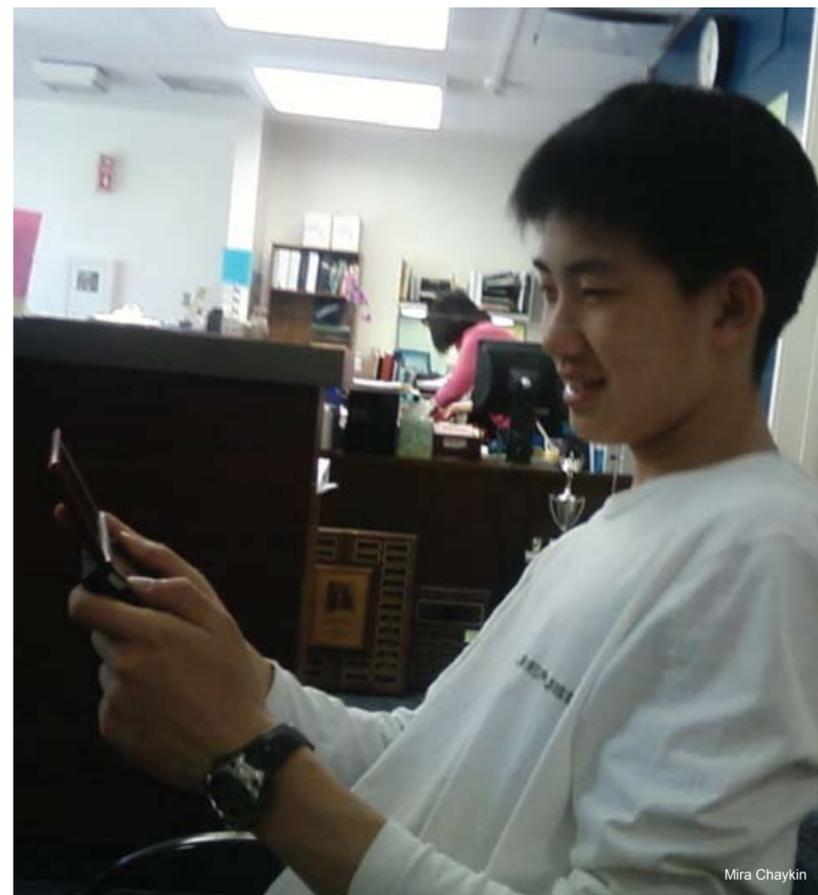
Connected by a controller



Mira Chaykin



Mira Chaykin



Mira Chaykin

Hand-held games during study time: Freshman David Tien plays a handheld video game during 3rd period- what a rebel. Video games in comfort: Stratford 3rd grader Shyon Ghahghahi lounges on his bed while playing his Major League Baseball games. Camera shy gamer: West Valley College freshman David Huang plays an intense game of Halo.

The dark side of video games

In addition to being a source of hope, beacon of light and what not, video games also have some nasty side effects, and the younger generation appears to be the most affected

West Valley College Freshman David Huang: "Video games don't really affect my attitude because I know what the world is like without them."

Freshman David Tien: "Video games don't really affect me, except I'm a little more irritable after I have been playing them for a while."

Stratford 3rd grader Shyon Ghahghahi: "Shyon has become much more aggressive and refuses to do schoolwork since he has started playing video games," says his mother.



photo by Christy Chen



photo by Christy Chen

Leaping to new heights: Courtney gracefully leaps across the ground during a practice at home. **It's not so easy:** Standing on her point shoes, she said, "It's actually very hard to do point. It's a lot of pressure on your ankles and toes." **Point Shoes:** Already used to the strain on her feet, Courtney stands on her shoes confidently. **Balance is key:** Even though it's hard to balance on two feet, Courtney easily balances on even one foot.

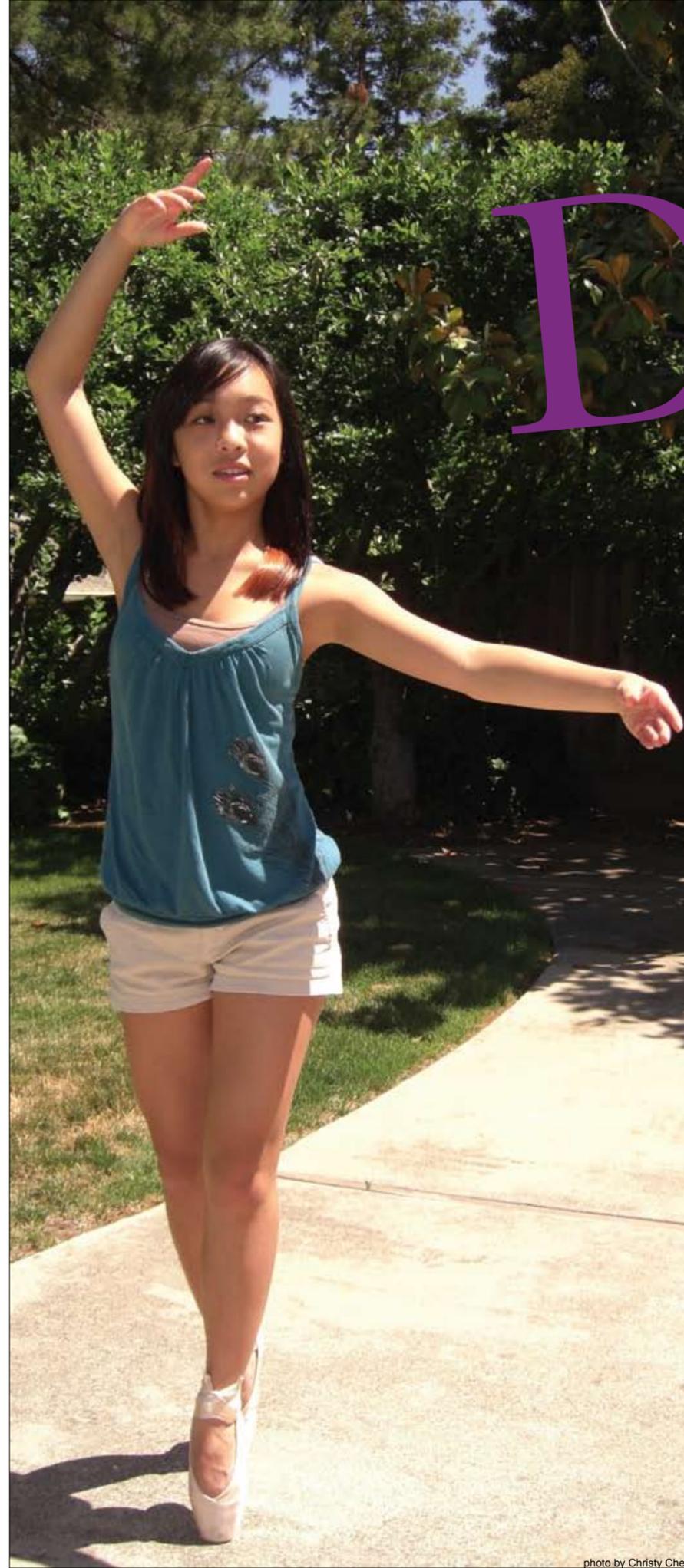
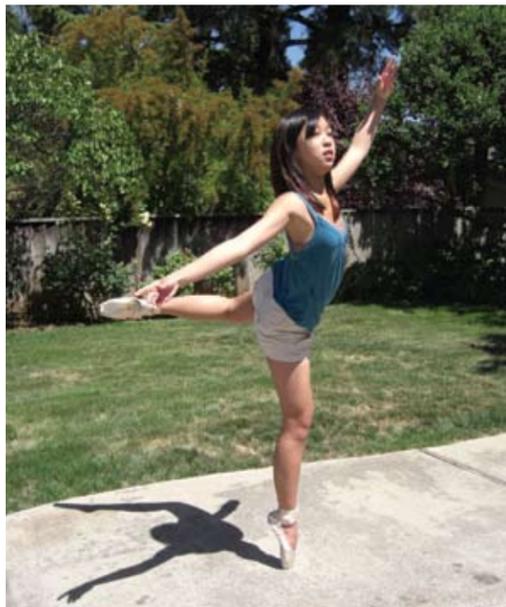


photo by Christy Chen

Don't judge me because i DANCE

Ballet tights, tutus, and conceited skinny girls is what dance is all about, right? Wrong. Looking beyond all those stereotypical perceptions towards dancers, dancing is more than just twirling around and looking pretty. Freshman Courtney Maa has gone above all this stereotyping, because for her, dancing is much more than just wearing a fluffy pink tutu.

Courtney, 14, has been dancing for almost 12 years. An expert in the subject of dance, she has learned hip hop, lyrical, tap, contemporary, jazz, ballet, point, and many other types of dancing. She currently does jazz, ballet, and pointe, which is ballet performed with hard-toed shoes called toe shoes. On top of 10 hours of practicing each week, she also is on the SHS Cheer and Song team.

Unfortunately, to everyone else who fails to see the hard work put into this sport, nothing is ever what it seems. In regards to stereotyping on dancers, Courtney is one of the many victims of pressures given by those who are impaired by preconception and relying on stereotypes.

"When people find out that I dance outside of school, they're really surprised, because I'm not extremely skinny or anorexic," she said. "And I'm only 5'1, so they think I'm too short to be a dancer."

In actuality, there is no physical criteria needed to become a successful dancer. The truth is that anyone can dance, all they need is the motivation and perseverance.

"All the instructors look for is persistence and love for what you do," said Courtney. "The only important thing is that they want you to have a decent background in dance if you want to start at their studio at a more advance level."

In movies, there is always this competition and drama among dancers competitively seeking for a lead role for a performance, but it may not necessarily be true. Dancers can come from everywhere, and many of them come together and form many friendships.

"I actually make a lot of friends during dance classes. I meet students from school all over like Los Gatos, Lynbrook, Cupertino, St. Francis, and Monte Vista. And it's cool because some of them even graduate high school and go onto Julliard, one of the most prestigious performing arts schools in the world," said Courtney.

With so many people dancing, there is bound to be many variations and types of dance.

"You need to keep an open mind with things like dance. It's not straightforward like one plus one," said Courtney. "Dancing is an art, and people have to understand that va-



photo by Christy Chen

top ten stereotypes from the

1. Tutus and pink frills are first choice for dance wear
2. All male dancers are gay
3. If you're not skinny you can't dance
4. Anorexia Nervosa is a common disease among dancers
5. A lot of drama and fierce competition forms between dancers
6. Dancers are all shallow and conceited
7. Dance does not qualify as a real sport
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

snap yo' suspenders SWINGING is back



Snazzy Swing Terms

Boogie-woogie: a six count dance, swung to rock music and blues

Washington Hand Dancing: smooth footwork and movement, with more sliding and gliding versus hopping and jumping steps

Western Swing: resembles East Coast Swing, but adds variations of other country dances. Yee-ha!

Collegiate Shag: danced to a 2-beat rhythm with exaggerated slow steps before going into a single quick, quick rhythm.



Juniors James Jiang and Christina Robert sparkle in the limelight.

photo by: Amanda Yi

Girls slip on vintage dresses and guys snap on a spiffy tie in order to get ready for this last dance of 2007-2008.

Time to snap those suspenders and take it back old school to when swing dancing was the fad and everyone knew how to do the jitterbug

For this year's last school dance, Saratoga High School decided to hold a Spring Swing. DJs sophomore **Kevin Rollinson** and juniors **Daniel and Matthew Shepherd** cranked up Frank Sinatra so that the students could dance in the decorated school gym on a lively Friday night.

Not everyone knew how to swing dance, so freshman **David Mendell** and senior **Yannah Yendler** held lessons before for those who wanted to swing. They taught everyone primarily West Coast swing and introduced some East Coast, but mostly basic turns and fun twirls.

For those who didn't feel comfortable swing dancing quite yet, everyone still giggled doing the Macarena together and laughed by the time they got to do YMCA near the end.

"There's really a lively atmosphere inside," said sophomore **Diana Lu**. "Because everyone is so friendly, you can turn around and just dance with anyone. It's comfortable to just grab someone sitting down and dance randomly with them"

Despite the different type of dancing and music played than students were used to, lots of them, like senior **Lawrence Choi**, liked that it was "strictly swing, instead of the usual at dances because it was not as modern."

"It was weird doing the jazz hands and sliding and stuff. But it got to be really fun after awhile. Unlike those who think

swing dancing is too old, I think it's kind of fun. It reminds me of the Notebook," said **Diana**.

However, the dance could've gone better. The flashing lights of green, blue, and orange only held some students' interest for a little while.

Everyone was enjoying the swing, but eventually it got too hot and too crowded so people stepped outside to take a breather. **Diana** saw that "after they cooled off, everyone just left to do their own thing."

But there were students who wanted to bring back a few moments from the oldies, like **David**. He feels it "gets away from the 'freaking' and makes it more fun for people."

It all started in the 1930's, when everyone was learning how to do the Balboa, an 8-count dance that requires quick footwork, like swing. Eventually, it developed into the Boogie-Woogie, which was danced to more rock music. Then it transitioned into the Blues Dancing, where it was more informal with no fixed patterns and focused on improvisation and strong body contact. Finally, it led to more clubbing music and modern dance.

The Spring Swing has brought back the Jive and sparked enough interest for **David** to talk to Mrs. Hyde about how it would be a fun tradition to continue.

"The future for this dance looks very bright for next year," said Lawrence, "It will definitely grow more and more."

•**Karen Choi**



photo by: Amanda Yi



Twirl her: Junior Holden Sparacino spins his gal Christina Lauro around and around. **Spinning:** Freshman Christopher Han watch on in excitement as David Mandell teaches Kyumin Shim how to swing. **Group Love:** Sophomore Sophia Cooper, Casey Dahlbeck, Molly Jordan, Lauren McInnis, and Senior Katrin Cooper dance together during a slow song.



photo by: Amanda Yi



They're Pumping Iron

Practice isn't only seasonal

It is a common misconception that athletes from many different sports only work hard during the season, but that is not the case with many of the students at Saratoga High School. Most athletes both Junior Varsity and Varsity weight lift or exercise on their own time to shape up for the upcoming season, or preparing for next year. If not running laps, doing high intensity training, swimming, or lifting in the gym, many people have their own workout routine.

For freshman **Alex Chan**, the starting point guard on the Saratoga Falcons JV basketball team he follows the same road. Being just a small point guard with numerous "big men" around, Alex still puts as much heart as the rest of the team. When not in the Falcons uniform on the gym Chan lifts on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Despite his tough high school schedule Chan still manages to weight lift, and play

open gym basketball from 3:30 – 5:00 three days a week. The reason Alex lifts is, "To get stronger and because coaches pay attention to attendance sometimes," laughed Alex. Despite Alex's fine work he still has some doubts on the value of lifting.

"I think we can do just as well without it; more emphasis needs to put on running and jumping for basketball. Our muscles will develop eventually; right now, it just seems we look stronger, but not play much stronger," remarked Alex.

When varsity football player **Abe Roy** was interviewed on his plans he responded by giving his inspiration for working so hard in the weight room, and working hard to get into shape for the upcoming summer practices, and the next season. "Next year I am going to varsity, and it is going to be much harder than JV. And because we moved up a league, the teams will be bigger

and stronger than ours, the offseason is the time for us to catch up to them," said Abe. Abe lifts, and goes to spring football training five days a week from around 3:30 to 6:00.

After school many different people and athletes ranging from Water Polo to band members all come and have a great time in the weight room. If not to become an NBA All-star or to becoming an Olympic track runner, all kinds of people come just for the benefit of exercising. Student athletes such as Abe Roy, and Alex Chan are great examples of the hard work and effort put into the offseason to have the extra edge over the competition.



Sophomore Abe Roy gives motivation to his teammates, Juniors Mike Guercio, Derek Emerson, and Tim Yen while doing a hard set on the bench press.

Weightlifting Jargon

Rep: Referring to repetition, meaning one lift, one time.

Set: Its referring to however many repetitions of one exercise. So 3 sets of 6 reps would be 3x6

Bench: The bench press, the main chest exercise.

Performing a bench press lowers either dumbbells or a barbell to the chest.



Leada Malek

Top: Sophomore Adam Oreglia takes drink of water after a long session of football conditioning.



Leada Malek



Bottom Left: Weight training and conditioning coach Greg O'Hagen instructs Freshman Jonathan Mastman, and Sophomore Greg Pregillum.

Bottom Right: Sophomore Abe Roy lets out a deep sigh preparing for the next set of aerobic exercises.



Photo by Parth Dholakia

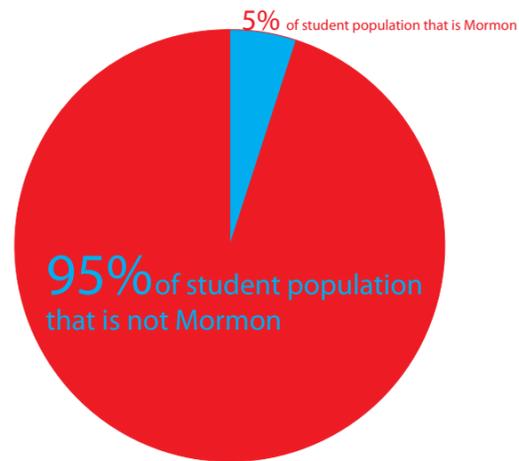


Photo by Whitney Hansen

A heavenly abode: The church where Karren and Whitney attend seminary every morning. **Just chillin':** Whitney and friends are posing for a picture at a Mormon event. "It was really nice to go to events like these, because I was able to hang out with my friends without worrying about getting into any trouble," said Whitney. **Community bonding:** Whitney and the girls of the Mormon community are bonding at a backpacking trip.



Photo by Whitney Hansen



The real meaning of MORMON

Freshmen find ways to cope with religious restrictions

Most people would hate restrictions and limitations put upon them for their whole life, but for freshman **Kyle Karren** and **Whitney Hansen**, it's a lifestyle. These Saratoga students are part of the Mormon religion, and they are members of The Church of Jesus of Latter-day Saints. Mormonism is generally known to be a sect of Christianity; however there is much more to the story than one would think.

Every morning at six, Kyle and Whitney show up at their church for Mormon school. This is just the beginning of a grueling school day. They then attend school, without swearing at all, which is difficult for most teenagers.

Kyle has never had a girlfriend before, not because he is not popular with girls, but because his religion forbids him to. He cannot stay out too late at night, so parties over the weekend and summer are always cut short.

"It's pretty tough, especially with peer pressure and everything," says Karren. "I'll always be tempted to smoke, get with girls, drink alcohol and do all kinds of dangerous, bad, and weird things teenagers do nowadays. But I still manage to keep to my religion."

Just like Kyle, Whitney is also limited by the restrictions of her religion. Sexism is present in Mormonism, and women are abstained from leadership roles and lack of career opportunities. Whitney says that she would like more chances to show her potential, but she knows that things will change, with the modern generation giving girls more chances to show that they can contribute to the family.

"Being a Mormon means adhering to strict rules, and that means that girls have more restrictions than guys," says Whitney. "In the old times, men were allowed to have more than one wife, but women never had more than one husband. In the modern era, women aren't allowed to wear fancy, designer brand clothes that expose my body. Women are also mistreated and we get much fewer career opportunities."

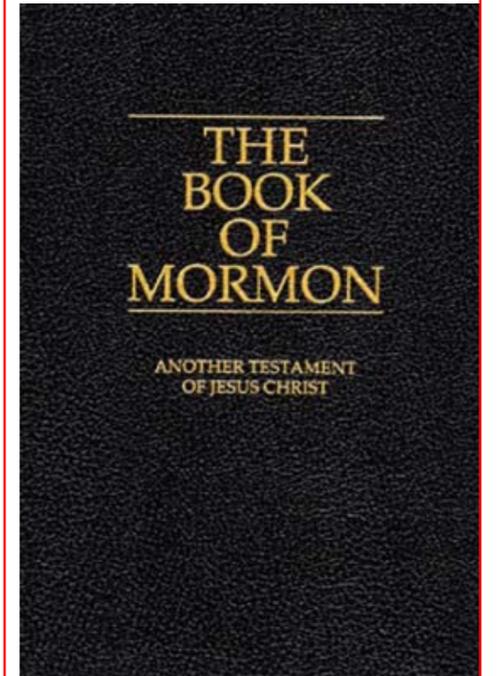
Both Kyle and Whitney spend extra time over the weekend and after school to attend special functions with their fellow church members. They feel that while spending time with their Mormon friends is fun, they would like to have more time to themselves.

"Attending events like Mormon dance is fun, but since guys and girls can't dance too close together, it is obviously hard to have too much fun," says Whitney. "Since I play soccer and field hockey, it would be nice to be able to spend more time practicing or getting better so that I could be able to play varsity for Saratoga."

Kyle and Whitney believe that their hard work will pay off in the end. They will reach salvation as religious members, and they will serve as role models for young Mormons in the community.

"It is nice, because the discipline that I've been brought up with will prepare me for the future. I can teach kids how to act, what to do in certain situations, and how to cope with people making fun of them," says Kyle. "Being a Mormon is almost an invitation to get made fun of." •**Parth Dholakia**

The facts about Mormonism



Show those pearly whites: Long time buddies flash their teeth for the camera. "It was really nice to go to Mormon events and meet people I have not seen in ages. Sometimes I even tear up when I see someone after a long time," said Whitney.



Photo by Whitney Hansen

The Book of Mormon is one of the sacred texts of the Latter Day Saint movement. It is regarded by most, if not all, Latter Day Saint groups as divinely revealed and is named after the prophet-historian Mormon who, according to the text, compiled most of the book. The Book of Mormon was first published by Joseph Smith, Jr. in March 1830 in Palmyra, New York. Church members officially regard the Book of Mormon as the "most correct" book of scripture, in that "a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than any other book." The complete Book of Mormon has been translated into 80 languages. Selections of the Book of Mormon have been translated into an additional 27 languages.

source: www.wikipedia.org



While most teenage girls might be shopping at the mall or hanging out by the local pool, freshman **Courtney Payne** spends some of her weekends rafting, rock climbing, backpacking, and kayaking with her Venture Crew 479.

Venturing is a nationwide youth development program through Boy Scouts for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20. Members of Venture Crews plan their own activities and events based on hobbies and interests, all the while teaching leadership skills and creating good citizens.

On the last Monday of each month, Courtney's crew of about 12 active members meets at the nearby IHOP at 7:30 to discuss upcoming events over chicken fingers, hamburgers, and raspberry lemonade. For the May meeting, the crew's president, **Wesley Lucas**, a senior from Monta Vista, leads the members through a discussion about the calendar planned for the next several months—ranging from activities such as the Renaissance Fair to skiing in Tahoe. Another member then holds a forum on an ethical controversy, following the tradition in Venturing to hold educated conversation on a topic—tonight's subject is assisted suicide. Afterwards, Wesley runs an election to choose the crew's officers for next year, where Courtney is chosen as one of the vice presidents along with another Saratoga freshman, **Annaliese Parker**.

Whether it's camping or on the rifle range, Courtney Payne is...

Ready for ADVENTURE

Most members of Venturing are boys, but girls also can join. Courtney said that next year with most of the current active members are graduating and the new recruits, the crew will primarily be girls.

"Another good thing about Venture Crew is that you can brag to your friends you're a Boy Scout, which is a lot of fun," said Courtney.

In March, Courtney's crew traveled to Masonite Navarro, a Boy Scout camp near Mendocino, where they got to practice shooting various types of guns. They shot pistols, revolvers, shot guns rifles, and high-caliber guns like an AK-47 and an M-14.

"You get to try a lot of new things," said Courtney. "Not a lot of people are involved in Venture Crew, and you get a lot more opportunities than Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts."

She also likes meeting new people through Venturing; the members of her crew come from local schools in the area, such as Saratoga, Gunn, Cupertino, and Monta Vista.

"You get to be really good friends with everyone," said Courtney. "We have all kinds of inside jokes. When you drive in the car for a long time with these people, you get to be really close."

Other trips have included snow-camping at Yosemite, a ski trip in Tahoe, bowling at Strike Cupertino, backpacking along Skyline to the Sea, and whitewater rafting at Cache Canyon.

For anyone looking for a way to have some high adventures, Courtney encourages them to join Venture Crew.

"You can vary how much commitment you want to put into it—as much or as little outfits as you like, and be selective, like only going on one or two trips throughout the year," said Courtney.

As for Courtney, she prefers to spend every weekend she can doing what few other girls do, whether it's brandishing an AK-47 at the rifle range or hiking to the summit of Mount Whitney. • **Shannon Galvin**



Raging Waters: Courtney (second from left) and her friend freshman Isabelle Whiteley (third from left) navigate their way down Class 2 and 3 rapids along the American River. "I had a hard time staying in the boat," said Courtney. "The rapids were crazy."



Courtney Payne

Group photo: Venture Crew 479 takes a break in all their backpacking gear along the trail. "I love my backpack," said Courtney. "It's made perfectly for me and is super comfortable."



Wesley Lucas

End of the Trail: After hiking 30 miles along the Skyline to the Sea trail, the tired backpackers finally make it to the beach. **Rest Stop:** Annaliese stretches her back while taking a break from backpacking. "You get so tired and sore by the end of the trip," she said.



Wesley Lucas



Wesley Lucas



Wesley Lucas

Blind Faith: Courtney is blindfolded during a team-building activity at VLSC, a leadership program run through Venturing. She had to rely on her friends to catch her during the Trust Fall. **Bulls-eye:** Courtney eyes her target at the shooting range at Boy Scout Camp Masonite Navarro with an AK-47, a high caliber rifle that cannot be bought in the United States anymore. "Meeting the guy who owned the rifle was really interesting," said Courtney. "He was a character."

Calendar for Venture Crew 479	
August	Backpacking trip organized by Lisa
September	Renaissance Fair at Casa de Fruta
November	Indoor Rock Climbing
December	Social/recruiting event
January/February	Yosemite camping and ski trip

COFFEE TIME: Sophomore Chris Renalds gets coffee during the performance.

GUITAR CASE COLLECTIONS: Co-planner senior Kristin Gochanauer collects admissions in a guitar case outside the Little Theater before the show.



Lauren Gardanier



Lauren Gardanier

GRINDING

out the Laughs

Students showcase their talents through comic skits at this year's Coffeehouse

"But, I have a yeast infection!" yelled freshman **Jay Lee**. Dressed in a bright pink gown, he sat at a dinner table along with three other students. Jay continued to shout that he had a yeast infection. No this is not real life but part of the skit called 'Dinner with the Jones', one of the many skits put on at Coffeehouse 2008.

Coffeehouse took place this year on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:30 in the Little Theater. Drama 4 Honors seniors **James Knight** and senior **Kristin Gochanauer** planned this great success.

"Sometimes people audition for the fall play or the One Acts and don't get a big part or didn't make it, and [it gives them an opportunity] to showcase what they wanted to on stage," said Kristin.

Students came in and enjoyed the various comedy acts while laying on sofas, chairs, bean bags and pillows.

It was a comfortable setting with great coffee and a variety of comedy, said freshman **Abby Frankola** who attended Coffeehouse for the first time this year and really enjoyed it.

Kristin and James organized this event through Mrs. Karen Hyde and used it as their play for their drama class after their one act was canceled because

of controversy.

The admissions price of three dollars paid for many of the tubs of coffee other than the one donated by Starbucks. Coffeehouse still made a good profit.

This profit helped to bail the drama department a little way out of debt from the over budgeted One Acts and last year's spring musical Into the Woods, said Kristin.

One of the memorable acts was one thrown in at the last minute when no one else had an act to perform. Freshman and Drama 1 student Jay Lee performed a hilarious and entertaining magic show.

"It was fun to show my amazing magic talents," joked Jay. "I had a basic structure but I wasn't completely sure how it was going to turn out," said Lee.

Lee also threw in a rendition of Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'

"I think it's a drama tradition to play Bohemian Rhapsody, but I'm not sure," Jay laughed. "But I thought it would be fun [to add it]."

Coffeehouse gives [a chance] for students to do whatever they want on stage, said senior **Nelson MacGowan**, Drama 4 Honors student.

Nelson has attended three coffeehouse events throughout his high school and remembers some of the good time that they've had over the years.

"All the guys in the drama class wore dresses and we sang the Lumberjack song from Monte Python," recalls Nelson from his sophomore year. "Everyone got a hoot!"

It also gave friends that chance to help each other plan things and display their creative sides.

Jay's illusions act only happened because of the help from his friend freshman **David Alexander Walker Hadden**, also known as Walker.

Walker said he helped Jay decide what tricks to do and what order to do them in.

Although this event was advertised all over school, the performers mostly turned out to be drama students.

"I thought it would be really funny to see football players in tutus doing a dance," said Jay. "But only drama students really took advantage of the opportunity."

With such a laid back environment, hopefully more people will participate next year and realize what great fun it is. **•Lauren Gardanier**

Quotes from the Actors

"Were gonna get sexy here, real sexy,"

—Senior Nelson MacGowan

"Please laugh,"

—Sophomore Jenny Nelson as she introduces her skit

"I have a yeast infection!"

—Freshman Jay Lee shouts during a skit

"It's business, it's business time!"

—Senior Danny Lulu, senior Nelson MacGowan, and Junior Eddie Zhang sing

MAGIC SHOW: Freshman Jay Lee shows off his various magic tricks. He attended Coffeehouse as one of the various performers. "I'm glad everyone enjoyed my awesome magic skills," said Jay.

Lauren Gardanier



Lauren Gardanier



Lauren Gardanier

SING NOW: Senior Danny Lulu, Senior Nelson MacGowan, and junior Eddie Zhang sing 'Business time'. **WITH AN AUSTRALIAN TWIST:** Senior James Knight and senior Kristin Gochanauer act Australian in their skit.



Contemplating: Freshman Brandon Lin prepares to make a move at the California High School Go Championships. Brandon played on third board for the Saratoga High School Go Club, and won all three of his games. "I'm surprised that I did the best out of the whole team," said Brandon. **Setting the Example:** Senior Michael Su thinks about the best move to play to give himself a winning position over the best player from _____. Michael is co-captain of the SHS team and played first board for this tournament. "I think we did very well considering our experience," said Michael. **Learning to Play:** Veteran Go players watch freshman Kevin Mu play his first game of Go ever against freshman Irun Cheng. Kevin popped into room 409, where the club meets every Wednesday after school, and ended up learning all the rules and playing a few games of Go. "I still don't get the game at all," Kevin commented afterwards.



GOing for the win

SHS team succeeds at unique game

Freshman **Brandon Lin** slams a black stone down onto the board. His opponent, Mission San Jose sophomore **Brian Shi**, follows with a white stone. Both players are hunched over the board, frantically placing stones one at a time and then hitting the clock. They have only 30 seconds per move, and the game is dead even. Suddenly, Brandon spots something that had gone unnoticed for several moves. A minute later, the outcome is clear: Brandon won by just 4.5 points – the equivalent of a basketball team winning 151 to 150.

Brandon took place in the California High School Go Championships, a statewide tournament that pits the best schools against each other in the game of Go. Saratoga High won 18 out of 25 games, placing fourth out of six schools.

"I think we did very well [this tournament] considering our experience," said co-captain **Michael Su**. "Many of our best players are freshmen and sophomores, so we're only going to get better in the next few years."

The Saratoga High Go team features several dedicated players who meet every Wednesday after school to practice and hone their Go skills. The team includes seniors **Jon Tien** and **Michael Su**, sophomores **David Su**, **Anthony Su**, and **Lawrence Chou**, and freshmen **Brandon Lin** and **Kevin Ma**. Other students, such as freshman **Logan Short**, joined recently to learn more about the game.

"I heard from a few friends that Go was really fun and can make me smarter," said Logan. "I'm going to try to learn about Go and make the team next year."

Go is a highly strategic board game played between two players. It originated in ancient China and is recognized as the

oldest board game played today in its original form. It has only recently started spreading to America.

"I think it's really cool that [our school] has enough people for a good Go team," said David. "It's been overshadowed by chess for a long time, but I think that Go will finally start being recognized."

Other local schools which have a tournament level Go club include Mission San Jose, San Mateo, and Carmont. All three placed higher than Saratoga at the California High School Go Championships and have several very strong players.

At first sight, Go looks like a very simple game, because it only has two rules. However, despite having simple rules, Go is enormously complex. It is known that there are more possible positions than there are subatomic particles in the universe.

Because of the difficulty of the game, most Go students start very young before becoming a good player, including most of the SHS Go club. Several of them have private teachers and take lessons every week.

"I've been playing since I was nine," said Ma. "I really enjoy the game, and plan on playing for a long time."

Recently, the Go club also participated in the Seventh Annual North American High School Team Championship, a nationwide competition. The SHS Go Club finished with three wins and one loss to take third place, after Mission San Jose and the Orange County Go Club.

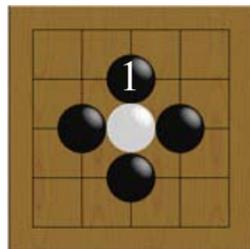
Despite being one of the top teams in the country, the members of the Go club still express a desire to play better.

"I'm going to start training a lot harder next year," said Brandon. "Maybe we'll finally beat MSJ." •**Albert Gu**

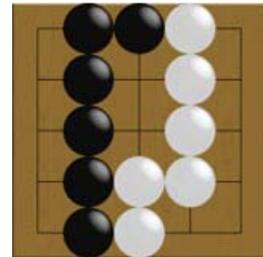


How2Go

Players take turns placing a black and white stone onto a 19x19 board. A stone or group of stones that is fully surrounded dies (Diagram 1). The objective of both sides is to surround as much territory as possible (Diagram 2). Despite sounding simple, Go is amazingly complex; there are more possible positions than there are subatomic particles in the universe.



By placing the stone 1, Black completely surrounds the white stone in the center, capturing it. The white stone would then be removed from the board.



In this diagram, Black has captured 5 points of territory on the left, while White has captured 6 points on the right. The two points in the middle are neither Black nor White's territory because they are not fully surrounded by stones of one color.



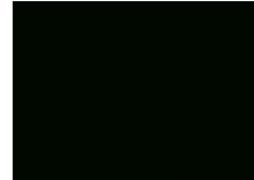
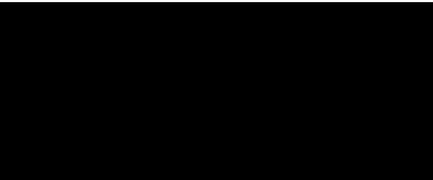
Playing to Win: Sophomore Lawrence Chou patiently thinks before making his move. The game has progressed for well over 100 moves, and it is in its most tactical phase, where a single mistake will cost him the game. **Lining Up:** Front Row: Michael Song (12), Kenny Song (09), Stephanie Tung (10), Jonathon Tien (12), Michael Su (12), Irun Cheng (09), David Su (10), Anthony Su (10). Back Row: Zachary Bair (09), Alex Tse (10), Vincent Wu (10), Lawrence Chou (10), Brandon Lin (09), Steven Tien (10).



From country ROCKING OUT to country

Ramiz moved from Germany to America, hoping to start a new band and continue what he left off.

Ramiz and his band from Germany relax after a tiring and productive day of rocking out.



Ramiz Sheikh

photo shoot: Ramiz poses with his favorite blue electric bass guitar in his room. This is usually the one he enjoys playing.

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."
- Aldous Huxley

How many people really do enjoy music? Everyone I know has enjoyed music of versatile genres. Some people also make their own different types of music. Rappers, for example, make rap music, and people in a band, would most likely make rock music. There are many different types of rock, like alternative rock, metal rock, rock n' roll, or even just punk rock. A group of people usually form a band and decide what type of rock music they will produce. At Saratoga High, there are several of bands. We also have a couple freshman bands, surprisingly.

Freshman Ramiz Sheikh, moved to the U.S. from Germany quite recently over the summer. At his school in Germany, he started a band with some of his friends, and started one after moving to the U.S.

"I had a started a band in Germany because I had a lot of free time at school. A few friends and I got together and just practiced at lunch; we eventually had a show which was a ton of fun. I just wanted to have that over here, except even better," said Ramiz.

Ramiz's new band, which consists of the new friends he made at the school, met at Saratoga. The band members consist of all freshmen except one sophomore and one 8th grader. The band says they will probably not have any concerts this year because they are still sorting things out, but all the members have agreed to get a good deal of work done over the summer in order to prepare for the following year.

"We will hopefully be ready to start "gigging," next year, but if we do good, we might have a gig this year; you never know," said Ramiz.

The band is still very experimental with their songs and lyrics, and they are still getting things together. They are currently working on their first song, which they hope will be a hit when they play it in their first concert. The band is also currently working on their band name. "We have a lot of songs and ideas in our head that we have not written down yet. We have also done about five or six covers," said Ramiz.

There are other freshman bands in Saratoga High, and some of them are friends, some rivals. "My friend, Charlie Laufman, has his own band and they're pretty good. They produce songs really fast, in my opinion. And Brandon, our vocalist has a brother who is the singer for "Revive The Lifeless", a popular Saratoga band," said Ramiz.

The band looks like it will have a pretty successful and popular future. They have plans for the band for the time when they graduate. "When we graduate, we will hopefully keep continuing it, if we become really good, but education is a priority, for my parents at least, and we don't know what colleges we would be going to, but hopefully we would stick together or atleast keep in touch," said Ramiz.

"My favorite thing about band is just playing music, making music and having fun, it sounds like a typical answer but it's the truth," said Ramiz. **-Shahrukh Hamid**



Ramiz Sheikh

Ramiz rocks out to his bass guitar while producing a song with his band in Germany.

Japanese AP

日本語

A class not only for learning the language but also for making friends and bonding.

As the bell rings for 5th period, a student stands up, and asks the others to do so as well, to start the class for **Ms. Aoki**. The students bow at their teacher as they say their greeting, which differs depending on weather it is in the morning or in the afternoon.

Japanese class at Saratoga High is different from all of the other language classes on campus. Since the language is very unique, it is difficult for non-native people to learn compared to other languages. Japanese contains over 500 complex characters, and has grammar unlike any other languages. The Japanese AP class is very small, as well. There were only about 10 students who took Japanese for all four years and went up to the AP class this year. Such a small number of enrollments for the class allow the students to become very close, though.

Senior **Angela Lee** is one of the students in Japanese AP class. Angela said, "I started taking Japanese, because it sounded cool and different from all other languages" Senior **Takehiro Kurosawa** decided to take Japanese for the same reason as Angela. Take said, "Even though Japanese sounded interesting at first, I found out later on that learning it is pretty hard. The grammar is so complicated."

Even though learning Japanese is hard, some found that taking Japanese came in handy when learning other languages. "Since Ms. Aoki makes us memorize all of the *kanjis*, I know more terms in Chinese now, because most of them are the same," said senior **Angela Wang**.

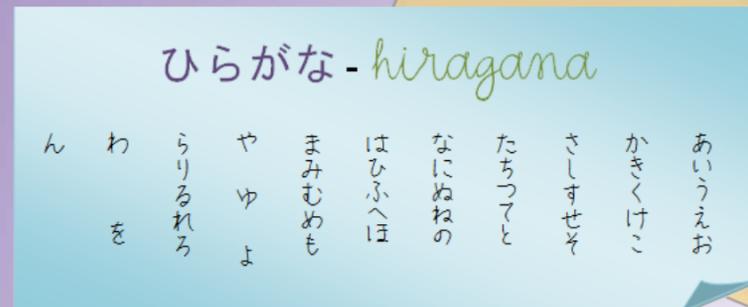
One might still wonder how taking Japanese would be beneficial, but Angela said, "When I went on a tour to Japan with my family, I was basically the translator for everyone on the trip. Besides, if I ever see Japanese people around I'll be able to eave drop."

Ms. Aoki makes the Japanese classes hard so that her students might be able to use the language sometime in their lives. Many of the students plan on continuing Japanese in college, for "it will be a waste of four years of hard work if I just stopped after high school," Angela joked.

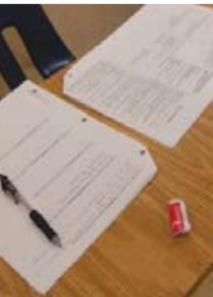
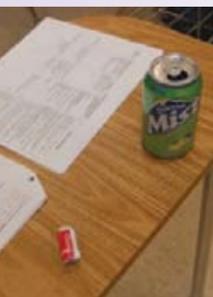
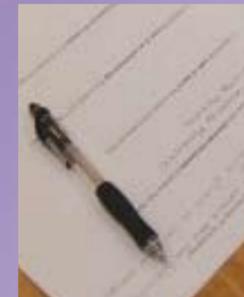
Ms. Aoki also likes to have native Japanese speakers in her class, so that she can provide more help for the non-native students. Senior **Arisa Harda**, who is a native Japanese speaker, moved to Saratoga this year. She said, "I just took Japanese, because I wanted to make friends with those who have same interest as me, such as trends in Japan. I didn't sign up for the class to actually learn. The class is a lot of fun, anyway." She has become very close friends with other students in her Japanese AP class.

Like Arisa said, Japanese is one of Angela's favorite classes, because "everyone is so funny and entertaining in this class," Angela said. She went on, "I think everyone is really relaxed and open in this class, because most of us have known each other for a long time." Most of the seniors have been taking the class together for all four years, so they have gotten to know each other well.

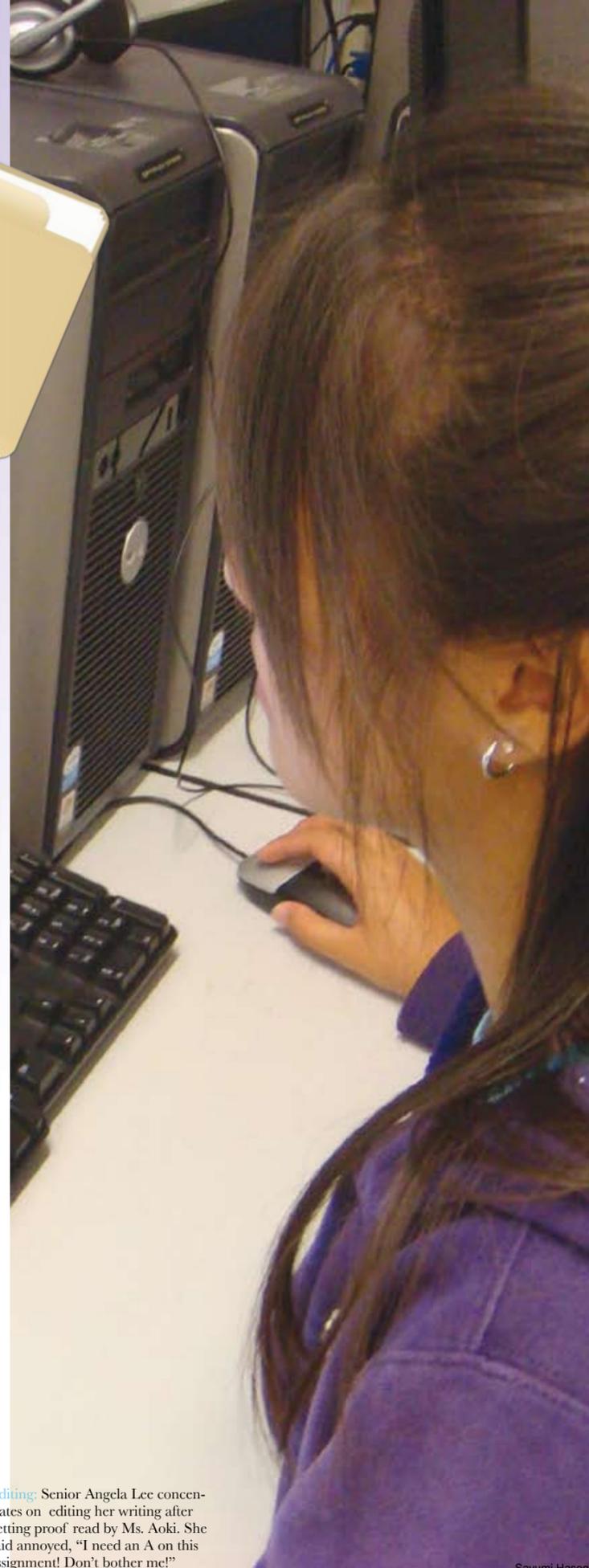
The class is not only for learning Japanese, but it also is a a bonding class. •**Sayumi Hasegawa**



Not working...: All the students battle on their Nintendo DS when they had nothing to do in class. Arisa said, "I love the last few weeks of Japanese! We do nothing, because AP is over;" **Collaborating:** Juniors Tak Nakata and Jamie Turley, who are both native speakers work together on their next final project. **Final touch!** Senior Angela Wang gets ready to print out her research report.



Editing: Senior Angela Lee concentrates on editing her writing after getting proof read by Ms. Aoki. She said annoyed, "I need an A on this assignment! Don't bother me!"



The deep THINKING strategist

Brandon Playing His Games

Thinking About His Next Move: Freshman Brandon participates in a Go game in the 5th California High School Go Tournament. **The Go Board:** A game between freshmen Brandon Lin and David Tien plays out. **Winnings:** Trophies related to his school games



Stephanie Tung



Lawrence Hsia



Lawrence Hsia

Foothill Elementary
Math Enthusiast

Redwood Middle
Chess Player

Saratoga High
Go Fanatic



Your move, Mr. Lin: Freshman Brandon Lin thinks about his next move at the 5th California High School Go Tournament.



Stephanie Tung

Lined and ready: Senior Michael Song, Freshman Kevin Ma, Freshman Brandon Lin, and Sophomore Lawrence Chou are lined up at a Go Tournament and in deep thought.

The Go Life

Even though the majority of games played by Saratoga High School students during lunch involve playing cards or trading cards, freshman Brandon Lin finds his best game in Go.

Always a friend to strategy games like Chess and Texas Holdem, Brandon discovered Go about two years ago and has played it plenty since then.

"I first started playing Go online," said Brandon. "What amazed me at first were the many strategies in the game and how no two games were ever the same. You could make a good move on one side of the board, but at the same time it helps your opponent at another area of the board, playing styles really depend on the players in the game you're playing."

Go is a game played on a 19 x 19 board, or "goban," where the players take turns placing stones trying to win territory. Stones surrounded on all sides by opposing stones are removed from the board and then counted as negative points for the owner. The game ends when no player wants to make a move and the territory owned by each player is then counted.

Brandon is currently ranked a 3rd Dan, considered an advanced amateur, and has recently played in the 5th California High School Go Tournament on May 18th where he managed three wins for the SHS Go club team, which got fourth in the out of the schools attending and will further boost his rating. Fellow freshman Stephen Cheng, Logan Short, and David Tien are some of the few that play him during lunch.

"Three months ago it was only a maybe that he could beat me in Go," said David. "Right now, I pretty much have no chance against him. I guess I'm not playing enough."

Brandon has been known to play simultaneously on two different boards against his friends in the Chinese classroom during lunch, sometimes finding it hard to resist the urge to give his weaker peers advice while playing them.

"They do move pretty slowly," said Brandon. "I guess I'm too used to playing online where there's always a game going."

Logan has been brought into the game by Brandon recently and is interested as well.

"A strong Go computer hasn't been made like it's been made in chess," said Logan, "There definitely is a more random aspect to Go since everyone plays differently as you can move almost anywhere you want and the board is pretty big too."

The Go club so far has respected Brandon as one of their players and accepted them as one of their tournament members.

"A lunch game is more interesting when there is at least one really good player," said David. "That player just happens to be Brandon in Go this year."



Stephanie Tung

HEARTS ON ICE

Skaters raise money for organizations helping victims of sudden cardiac arrest at Heart Skate.

350,000 people die each year because of a terrible heart disorder. Some are put in comas and only a few lucky people survive. The cause of this is sudden cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest can affect anybody and it is necessary to immediately help every individual that is attacked.

Thankfully, there are many organizations and fundings dedicated to prevent sudden cardiac arrest and other heart diseases. One of the organizations is Heart Skate.

The skating club of Saratoga High School held its fifth annual Heart Skate, a fundraiser skate-a-thon, at Logitech Ice Center on May 18 to raise money and awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and to provide education about automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The money will benefit the American Heart Association, Heart Rhythm Foundation, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association, and Global Ischemia Fund.

Junior **Catherine Wang** was the head organizer of the event, with the help of other members in the skating club. She said that the purpose of the event was to encourage people to come with their family or friends and skate after making a donation of at least 15 dollars. One would get a free t-shirt if they donated 50 dollars, and the highest payer would get a pair of Gucci or Porsche Carrera sunglasses that are worth 600 dollars.

"The organizations that the money goes to will use the money to fund for research and work on projects such as providing AEDs in more public and nonpublic places," said Catherine.

The participants got to view exciting performances from the Golden State Synchronized Skating Team from the Peninsula Skating Club and hear senior **Taylor Purvis** sing the national anthem. 1996 U.S. Nationals Men Champion **Rudy Galindo** also made a special appearance at the event.

The donaters could then use the rest of the time to skate and have fun with their friends while listening to seniors **Neil Shenoi, Lee Garrett, William Chen, Aaditya Sekar, Ryan Kerin, Andrea Junge,** and **Alvin Chu** of Combo Madness play music.

There was also a table with AEDs, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) dummy heads, and information about them. Sudden Cardiac Arrest survivor **Jack Grogan** ran the table and explained how to use an AED to shock the heart after someone has suffered from Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

"The demonstration was important because now more people will know what to do to help if there is ever a situation demanding the use of an AED," said Catherine.

Catherine said that she was glad that everyone had a great time skating and watching entertainment during Heart Skate.

"I think that Heart Skate was a success. We would have liked some more people to come, yet it is always good to have some people because every donation counts." •**Catherine Hu**



Helping Hands: 8th grader Kelsey Owyang, Freshman Connie Lii, Junior Catherine Wang, and Junior Ketaki Shriram prepare for the Heart Skate event by signing in the participants and organizing donations. About 15 people went to skate and enjoy the entertainment.

Photo by: Catherine Hu

Life saver: A dummy CPR head and an AED are on display on a table during the event to educate more people about sudden cardiac arrest. **Fun on ice:** Freshman Courtney Maa has fun skating on the ice at Logitech. **Hanging on:** Junior Catherine Wang and senior Melissa Morton hang on to each other while Alexandra Pietrzyk laughs along on the ice.



Photo by: Catherine Hu

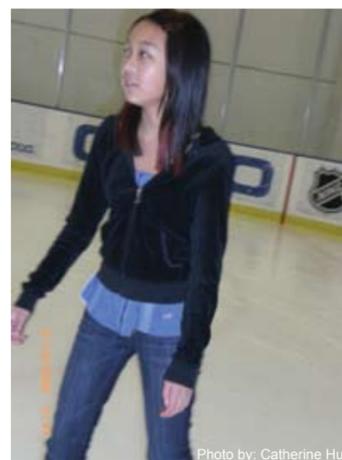


Photo by: Catherine Hu



Photo by: Catherine Hu



Photo by: Catherine Hu



Photo by: Catherine Hu

Jazz it up: Seniors Neil Shenoi, Lee Garrett, William Chen, and Alvin Chu of Combo Madness play music during Heart Skate for entertainment. **Showing off skills:** Freshman Connie Lii performs a sit spin on the ice while her friends cheer her on.

Facts you probably did not know about sudden cardiac arrest and AEDs.

- If an AED is used on someone suffering from cardiac arrest in the first minute, it could save up to 90% of victims.
- According to the American Heart Association, 250,000 people die from sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospitals.
- Only a mere five percent survive out of the 250,000 people that are attacked.
- About 40,000 more people would be saved if the survival rate of the victims were raised to 20 percent. •**Catherine Hu**



A LOVE for Language

Students improve writing with the help of poetry class

Just by luck.

Purely by accident, junior **Connie Shang** had an opening in her schedule, and was told by her counselor to consider poetry class. The class, it turned out, has enabled her to improve her writing skills, and allowed her to discover her love of poetry.

Before the class, her attitude toward poetry was like any other student. She disliked poetry and was always intimidated by the hard and complicated language. “When I first glanced at a poem, it looked cryptic and I got scared of the harsh language,” said Connie.

When Connie started, she used too many “fluffy” words in her writing and as the year passed, she was able to condense what she wanted to say on paper. Connie said that the biggest lesson she learned in poetry was to make her writing “concise.”

She was able to shorten her writing and make sure that every word counted. Many revisions to her poems and essays helped her cut out unnecessary words. Sometimes she made as many as 20 drafts for one piece in order to fix all the problems.

Poetry Two has helped her interpret literature as well as work on in-text analyses. But not only has it helped her become a better poet, it has also allowed her to do better in English.

“I have learned to not have any complexities

in my writing and now my language appeals to all the senses,” said Connie.

One thing that helps her out is the motivation she receives from her peers. The class is so close to each other that they are not shy and able to express themselves.

Connie said that is her favorite part of the class because she is great friends with everyone, and they all help each other out. It is much easier for them to express themselves when they are around people they know, said **Mrs. Sutton**.

Connie looks up to Mrs. Sutton and said that she has helped her make a “drastic change” in her writing by throwing her [Connie] own voice in it and also bringing out the best in Connie’s writing.

Mrs. Sutton’s main goal is to teach her students to express themselves with power and conciseness so that every word counts, and Connie has done just that, said Mrs. Sutton.

Connie is looking forward to next year’s class, and knows that it will improve her skills even more. She has found the experience of poetry inspirational and delightful.

“Connie came into poetry being a super writer and having a lot of writing background,” said Mrs. Sutton, “but gradually she understood that poetry is the most artistic kind of art, and she was willing to improve and take direction.”

•**Lauren Kuan**

FIRE

By Connie Shang | May 6, 2008
Matches, sagebrush—oops.
A boy leaps, scrambling away
To escape the devouring fire.
Flames scarf down buildings,
Lick at a swallow in the sky,
Belch out spires of smoke.
At last, a part in the clouds
Emerges. Refugees return
To burned fields and homes.

Like Hollywood stars, they fume,
Arms akimbo, over whodunit?
As firemen furrow their brows.
Soon, red hot poker of guilt
Prod the boy with stained fingers;
He inches forth and confesses.
Lock him up for life! they cry.
Fury takes the homeless crowd
And they storm after the culprit,
But stop when the sky rumbles.

GREEN

By Connie Shang | March 12, 2008
Green—is the jaded tinge of human
greed. Inside these emerald cities
and their kings, That spellbinds man
to sow and tend the seed For money
trees to grow his precious things.
Forgetting you, the man most dear
to me, I bent my back for weary
years and schemed—Till
now—I glance beyond my gains to

see A world more regal than I ever
dreamed:
You tread on cliffs of green like tap-
estries
Where in your praise the very lilies
nod;
Painted, the sea rolls on—while red-
wood trees
Already brush the vaulted heights
of God!



Courtesy of Lauren Kuan



Courtesy of Lauren Kuan



Courtesy of Lauren Kuan



Courtesy of Lauren Kuan

Poise for success: Junior Kevin Tang, Junior Connie Shang, and Sophomore Flora Chang practice their poetry by showing all their emotions during a dress rehearsal. **Taking Care:** Junior Connie Shang pretends to hold a baby while Junior Adeeti Agrawal speaks through the mike with her touching poem. **Welcome:** Poetry two and three students get ready to welcome the guests during the dress rehearsal for Reading in the Redwoods. **Do not leave me:** Junior Mara Couch and Senior Sarah Rainville pose with each other as acting like lovers of one another during Flora Chang's



Lending a hand (upper left): Freshman Catherine Hu (back) willingly assists Lauren Kuan (front) during Journalism. By helping out and teaching her fellow classmates, she gradually develops nice friendships. **Getting ahead (upper right):** Freshman Melissa Huang starts her math homework during class. Starting by learning the language of English, she eventually aimed to excel, do more than enough, and stand out. **Being "normal" (lower left):** Freshman Kevin Mu works hard on an assignment in the Journalism room. He learns to fit in with the rest of his class, and becomes just like the others. **Keeping up (lower right):** Sophomore Joanna Tran focuses on studying for her next period's class during math. By staying on top of school, adapting to the new environment is easier for her.



NEWCOMERS

New students manage to get away with their reputations.

During the beginning of the school year old classmates reunite while new ones walk around timidly. It's puzzling how the new kids stand out from the crowd, but by the end of the year they are part of the family. People know that new kids feel out of place at first, but not everybody knows how these sneaky new kids end up fitting in without the rest of the class noticing.

Being one of the many new students this year freshman **Mary Edman** moved from Boulder, Colorado in June 2007 to California, along with her family due to her dad's new job. Not knowing anybody when she first moved here, Mary was afraid. She said that the first day of school "was kind of awkward because I didn't know anybody." She mentions that school eventually got easier for her as she started meeting new people.

About a month or so after school started, Mary was able to fully adapt to the unfamiliar environment. Being a new student, she says that people were very nice and understanding about it. Aside from that, she made many friends from tennis, and tells that they were "kind of like my family." School for her now is effortless and comfortable. "I have a group of friends that I can talk to, as well as the tennis team", she says. Mary came to be in the group she now belongs in when she met a few from tennis, and the others from similar classes. "Now nobody treats me like the new kid anymore, and just their attitude towards me and stuff makes me feel like I actually belong here," she tells.

Sophomore **Josh Liu** has also went through the same thing as Mary had this year, except for the fact that he is not a girl. Josh moved to Saratoga from Milpitas, California in July of 2007 for the sake of good

education. "At first it was really weird and it was just funny and I felt like I was starting over again, kind of like preschool," Josh described. Now Josh feels at home, and is adjusted to the new lifestyle.

Knowing what it's like being the new kid by personal experience, Josh gives some advice to future new students. "Just try to be more involved in school, and try to talk to people, I mean it's hard at first but that's just what you have to do," he advises. Josh agrees that "the way people looked at me before is very different from how they look at me now. Because people were just being nice to me before, but now I'm actually one of them."

Another new student of Saratoga High School this year is freshman **Melissa Huang**. She moved from Taipei, Taiwan in the summer of 2007 because of parent reasons. "It was very tough the first few days. I didn't have any friends, and everything was so different from Taiwan," Melissa told. Melissa had it the worst. She moved from another country, and hardly knew any English. "I don't think many of my friends now even remember that I was new this year," Melissa explains "but I'm glad that I don't still feel the same as I did when I first came."

It is one thing being a student who has been at the same city with the same classmates since pretty much forever, but it is another if you drop in during the summer and start a new life with new people. Somehow, the new students of the year manage to brainwash the rest of the class; so that by the end of the year, their reputation as the new kid is only a faint image in their classmates' heads. The mystery is hazy, but the new kids learn to associate with the other students, which lead to stable friendships, which provide them with lifelong memories. • *Connie Lii*



Never-ending conversations: Sophomore Josh Liu laughs and has a good time talking to his friends after school. He and his friends update each other on their daily lives, chat, bond, and learn about each other.

Destination: Saratoga

- Union City
- Donaueschingen, Germany
- Boulder, Colorado
- Milpitas
- France
- Sunnyvale
- Seoul, Korea
- Cupertino
- Taipei, Taiwan
- San Jose
- Iran
- Los Gatos
- Israel
- Tokyo, Japan

PROUD to be a LEADER

Being the only female drum major didn't stop Mara from being the best.

Shine on: Drum major Mara Couch practices with the band before their performance at Logan High School Saturday night. **Eyes with pride:** Mara stands tall with fellow drum major Aaditya Sekar, surveying the band with a calm level gaze at the senior band performance.



Atten-hut! Mara conducts with confidence at a Thursday night rehearsal. **The family:** The marching band and the color guard flash a bragging smile. **All together now:** Band director John Zarco inspires the band with a pep talk at the Western Bands Association (WBA) championships in Long Beach.

A powerful voice strikes the ears of the Saratoga High School marching band. It calls them to attention, silencing their chattering in an instant. Quick orders are given and the team moves at one. No one is out of place. This is drum major Mara Couch's field.

This junior is able to bring a group 200-something strong under control. She understands directors John Zarco and Michael Boitz's furious instructions (a feat that deserves much recognition) and translates for the band. She knows all of the field show; the measures, the notes, the time signature, the tempos, and the image the band is supposed to be presenting to the audience by heart.

Mara commands the Saratoga High School marching band along with seniors Aaditya Sekar and Lawrence Choi. Out of the three proud figures, she stands out as the only female drum major.

"In the beginning of the season, many doubted Mara and her presence on the field," said junior Paul Stravopoulos. "Her hard work, dedication, and ability to run smooth rehearsals served as an eye opener to a lot of people."

Approval echoes through many of her band mates. They remember a successful season and the drum major that wouldn't quit until she had done the job and done it right.

"Mara wasn't focused on the glory of being the drum major. She pushed us more when she felt we were slacking off and worked really hard," said junior Jeff Young. "Even if another drum major had a more prominent role, she was still the one who got things done."

A drum major's job isn't easy. Before taking on the position itself, each candidate must go through vigorous elimination sessions, involving challenges like con-

trolling the band, conducting ably, and getting the vote of the others. But being a drum major is how Mara expresses her admiration for the large family of band geeks.

"One of the primary reasons I tried out for drum major was because I wanted to make the band the best it could be," said Mara. "I just love the program." Just as the band holds a deep respect for Mara, she, in turn, respects her fellow band mates and places much pride in them.

"When things get really difficult, the kids in marching band are what get me through," said Mara. "Their hard work inspires me to keep going."

This drum major didn't stop at just fulfilling her responsibilities. Her relationship with the band went far beyond the expectations listed on the application. Mara had flown to a whole new level. "She really cared about the band. Once, I saw her making sure band members had sunscreen before rehearsal," said Jeff.

"I feel like an older sister, making sure my little brothers and sisters are doing what they're supposed to and trying to set a good example while also ensuring the majority of people are enjoying the time we spend together as a group," admitted Mara shyly. "It sounds a little strange but that's how I see it."

Mara will continue on next year as a drum major for the marching season of 2008. She, as the more experienced figure, is still taking measures to try and raise the bar for the drum majors of the future and her as well.

"I know I was far from perfect," said the drum major. "My experience as the drum major taught me a lot about myself and how I deal with pressure and challenges."

Eyes with Pride



Taking a deep breath, Mara looks at her fellow band members circled around her. Everyone is quiet, all eyes are on her. She smiles encouragingly and yells out, her voice demanding and daring.

- "Band! Atten-hut!"
- "One!"
- "Where are your feet?"
- "Together!"
- "Stomach?"
- "In!"
- "Chest?"
- "Out!"
- "Shoulders?"
- "Back!"
- "Elbows?"
- "Frozen!"
- "Chin?"
- "Up!"
- "Eyes?"
- "With pride!"
- "EYES?"
- "With pride!"
- "EYES?!"
- "WITH PRIDE!!"

Breathless, the band draws out the last word for as long as they can. The effect is dramatic. Silence falls. No one moves.

"Band. You are dismissed."



Life with Siblings then and now

Graduates and siblings part ways but share bonds that last forever

Since the day they came into existence, siblings have been pulling hair, teasing, humiliating, bothering, and loving each other every step of the way.

As the 2008 year comes to a close, the dreams of college and a profession finally become a reality for our seniors and their siblings begin to feel the change as well. For sisters **Sinead**, 9, and **Niamh MacFinnlaoich**, 12, who have moved here from their native home of Ireland, nothing could be more of a reality.

As graduation has come closer, Niamh has said that “it seems sort of weird because you kinda know the same people and place for years, and now it’s going to completely change.” Niamh will be attending Cornell University in upstate New York, after taking a year off of school, otherwise known as a “gap year”.

“I will definitely miss Sinead when she’s not around,” said Niamh. “She’s a great person to talk to when I need someone, but at least we have another year together.”

As for Sinead, she finds that having her sister leave will be upsetting, but will also bring some benefits.

“I will miss talking to [Niamh] because we have gotten a lot closer over the past year, but the good thing is, that after she leaves, I get my own room!” said Sinead.

Sister and brother duo, **Nora and Kyle Patzman** will also be parting ways this year. Kyle says that he is not excited, seeing as he will be going to West Valley college, but at least he will not stay at home any longer. He enjoys bothering his sister, just because he knows that it annoys her.

“Kyle likes bugging me, but it’s all in fun. He likes my reactions and even through all that, I’m still sad to see him go,” said Nora, a sophomore. “The house will be pretty empty without him, which will be hard to get used to; time has passed by really quickly.”

Although, for **Kevin Mu**, 9, and **Wendy Mu**, 12, the story is quite different.

“I’m so excited that I’m going to be graduating, but it makes me feel kind of old,” claims Wendy. “I will be going to Stanford, which is luckily nearby, and plenty of people that I know go to the school, so there isn’t much that I’ll be missing out on.”

Wendy says that going to college doesn’t exactly mean leaving her brother for good, and she is glad that she will be able to come back to see him, because she enjoys “the random things that he does that make me [her] laugh; he is such a cool brother.”

On the other hand, Kevin feels as if he will miss the times when they watch reality TV show together and when they make their own commentary on each of the contestants.

“We usually like to watch Top Chef together, and we have fun talking about the people we like and don’t like,” said Kevin. “Not being able to do that will be a little weird for me, but I will like having the house to myself now!”

Having to leave a sibling behind may seem easy in the beginning, but in truth, siblings are a major part of our lives, whether we give that credit or not; and as we grow and learn from one another, we know that we always will care about them. • **Amalie MacGowan**

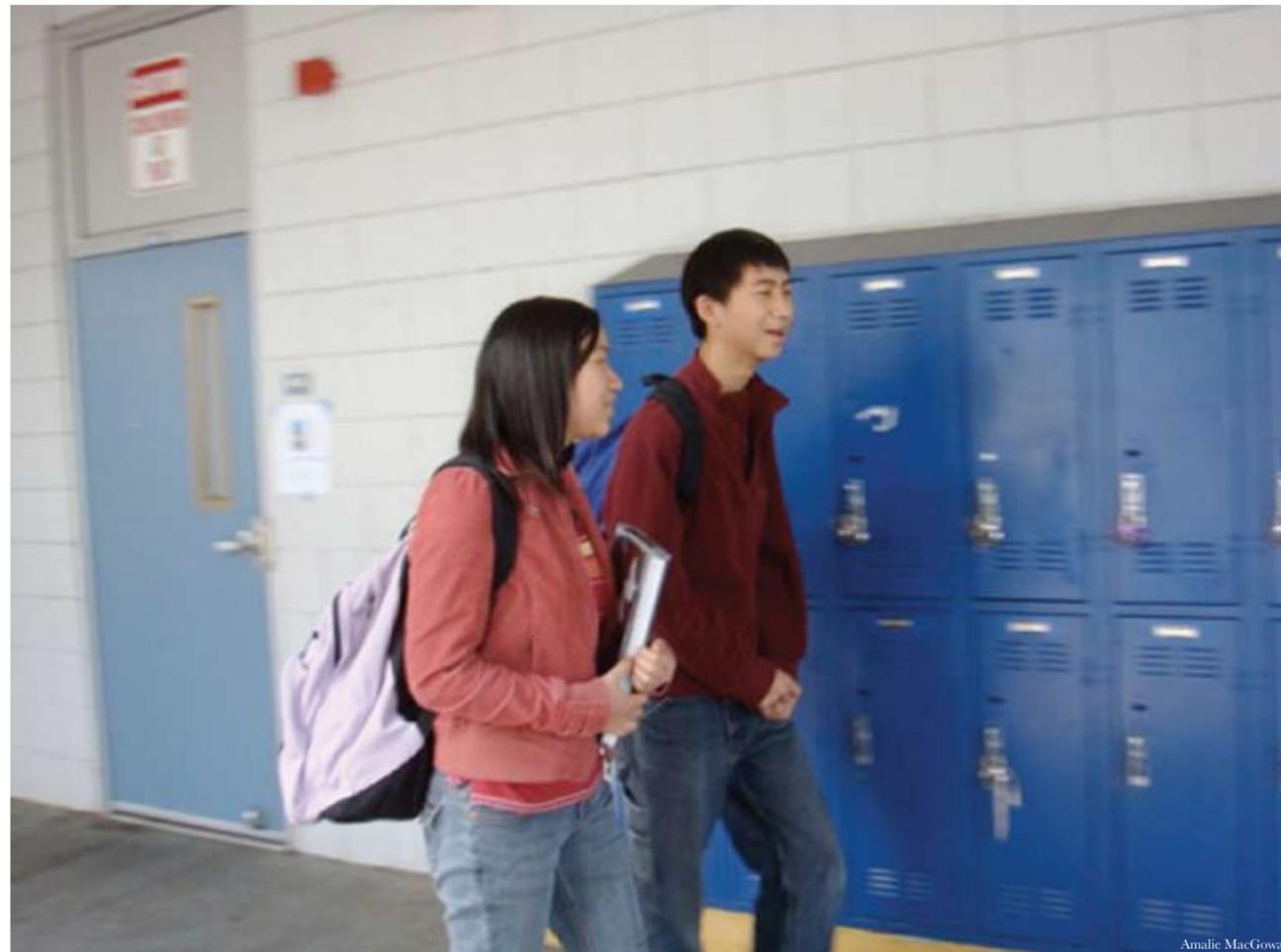
Costume Party: Senior Melinda Amato and sophomore sister, Rebecca Amato, share a photo at a costume party they were both invited to. “It was so fun to dress up like we were in the 20s era,” says Melinda. “We both were invited, so it was cool to go to the party together. **Italian Vacation:** Sisters Melinda and Rebecca Amato take a picture together in the streets of Italy, in one of their last family vacations, taken last summer. “We had such a wonderful time on that vacation,” said Rebecca. “We’re hoping that we can take another family trip before Melinda heads off to college at USC.”



Maddy Renalds

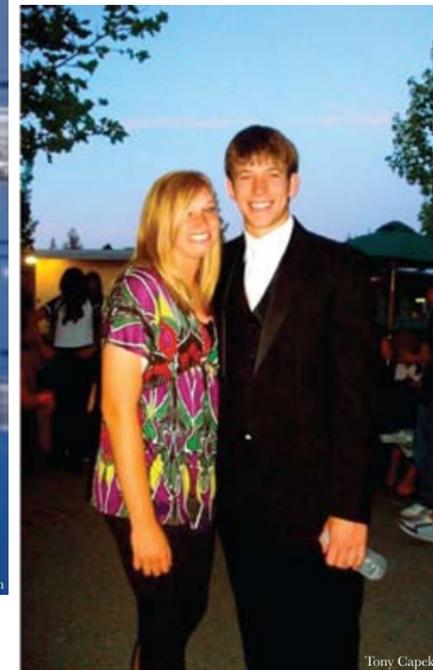


Alex Amato



Amalie MacGowan

Walking and Talking: Kevin, 9, and Wendy Mu, 12, talk with one another after class. “We usually meet by my locker after school, and we talk about our days,” says Kevin. “Then we walk to the front where we get picked up by our parents.” **Siblings that Benefit:** Leah, 9, and Andrew Capek, 12, pose for pictures at the Benefit Fashion show 2008. “We both were part of the show, so it was cool to do something as sister and brother,” said Leah.



Tony Capek





Lauren Mather

Jumping for joy: Arianna Paranzino doing a herkie in the dance room during a cheer practice. "Cheer jumps are really hard because you have to use flexibility and power to get your legs high off the ground," said Arianna. **Gather around:** Chiyo Hartley, Harriet Russel, and Sam Arnoldw gathering to take a picture at uniform sizing. There are five pieces to the cheer uniform and they it took two hours to get all the girls sized for their uniforms. **Practicing lifts:** Nicole Robinson and Alana Ledbetter practicing their lifts during the cheer beach day. "Lifts are really fun but i jealous at Alana because she is better than me at them," said Nicole.



Tiffany Borgia



Tiffany Borgia

"I was ecstatic, up and down

All
Two students

I immediately began jumping screaming," said Arianna

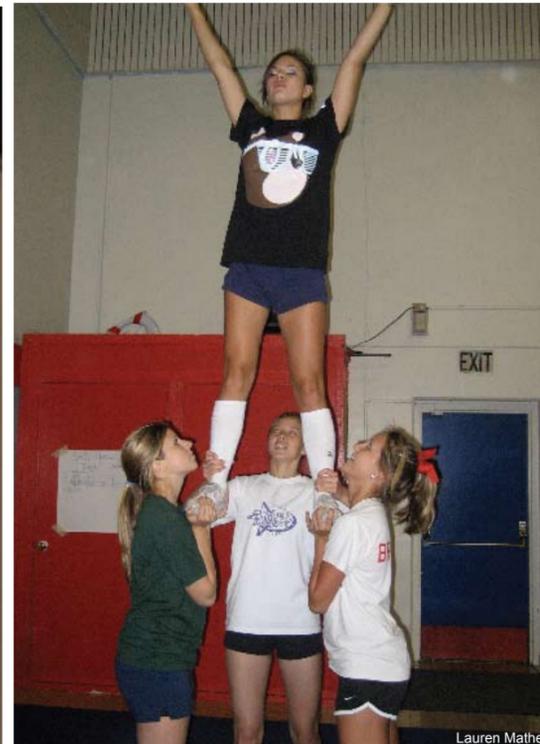
Who have never cheered before tryout for the cheer team



Tiffany B



Tiffany Borgia



Lauren Mather

Shoutin it out: Lauren Mather, Sam Arnold, and Melissa Archer reviewing the fight song in the dance room. The cheer team sings the fight song after every Falcon touchdown. "I really like the fight song because it shows red pride and its fun to do," said Melissa. **Ready to stunt:** Alana Ledbetter, Sam Arnold, Sarah Hull, and Amanda Johnson bringing Alana up to a half during a preseason stunting practice. "Stunting is really difficult and after the stunting practices I am always bruised and sore," said Sam. **Handstands in the sand:** The varsity cheerleaders having fun doing handstands on the cheer beach day. The whole cheer team went down to a beach in Santa Cruz on June 1st to let the girls have a good time as well as get a chance to bond.

Freshman **Arianna Paranzino** could feel her heart pounding in her chest and the butterflies filling her stomach. She tried her best to fight off the nerves, but they were still holding her back. She went into the room smiling, trying to seem energized, but even though she didn't feel ready, she had to be.

Arianna alongside with 30 other girls got all fired up on April 11, as they tried out for the Saratoga High cheerleading team. The girls endured a weeklong cheer clinic to learn all they needed to know for the audition, which included two cheers, a dance, and 3 different cheer jumps. This was difficult to do for Arianna and sophomore **Sam Arnold**, because neither of them had had previous cheer or dance experience.

"The dance was the hardest thing for me because the UCA (United Cheer Association) lady taught the routine really fast and it was hard to pick up for someone who didn't have any dance experience," said Arianna.

In order to make the team, the girls had to have excellent teacher recommendations, proper technique in their jumps, knowledge of cheer arm motions, and most importantly sprit.

"Cheering is a new thing to me so I was really anxious," said Sam. "It was also really hard to learn how to do all of the cheer arms and jumps because I had no idea if I was doing it right."

The girls also had to be mentally and physically prepared to stunt and attend grueling conditioning practices. Stunting is very dangerous for all participants. The girls on the bottom, the bases, are continuously getting fallen on and the top girls or flyers (the girl who gets thrown in the air and are on the top of the stunts) can get seriously injured

if the stunt isn't completed correctly. Senior **Melanie Giacomo**, a flyer, broke four of her ribs from falling out of a stunt and **Alison Doles**, a base, fractured her back from basing incorrectly.

"The girls who are on the cheer team have to be very well rounded. They must be good students and well-trained athletes with endurance, muscle tone, determination, and sprit," said cheer coach **Tiffany Borgia**. "They must also be mentally strong because stunting results in bruises, scratches, burns, and sometimes even pulled muscles, or in the worst case broken bones. Our girls have to be mentally prepared for that."

The Arianna and Sam were made aware of these risks but they were all still up for the challenge and really wanted to make the team. Arianna said that she would love to be a flyer even though it is extremely dangerous.

About an hour after the tryout, the results were posted. There were six girls who got cut and there were 24 girls who made the team, and among them were Arianna and Sam.

"I was ecstastic to make the team," said Arianna. "I immediately began jumping up and down screaming."

"I was ecstastic to make the team," said Arianna. "I immediately began jumping up and down screaming."

Sam and Arianna both said that are both really happy and thankful to be a part of the team and are excited to cheer for the football games, the basketball games, and to compete.

"Arianna and Sam are both great additions to the team and I don't think the cheer team would be complete without them," said coach Tiffany Borgia.





The mentor: Rishi shares a laugh with first-time Mock Trial participant Girish Swaminath, a sophomore, while counseling him for the upcoming competition. **Striking a pose:** Rishi and friend Chris Jan pose outside of a National Youth Leadership Forum. **Trial Time:** Audrey Yang, Clara Wang, and Rishi prep during a court case in a Santa Clara County courtroom.



Derrick Cheng



Courtesy of Rishi Taggarsi



Derrick Cheng



The VERDICT is in

Junior Rishi Taggarsi preps for a career as a corporate attorney

“You killed Jes Markson, didn’t you?” junior **Rishi Taggarsi** asks with a piercing gesture towards a terrified witness in a Santa Clara County courtroom. Fortunately for this witness, he’s not really on trial for murder. This is the annual Santa Clara County high school Mock Trial tournament, a place where Rishi, an aspiring lawyer with a “flair for public speaking,” has quickly become accustomed to.

Rishi started Mock Trial as a sophomore, but initially didn’t know that he’d come to be as passionate about it as he is today.

“I really liked Mock Trial and I had a passion for public speaking, so I wanted to try Mock Trial,” said Rishi.

Once he started, he knew that he wanted to be a lawyer.

“I started as a pretrial attorney and I really enjoyed it,” said Rishi. “It evoked a passion in me, and helped accent my skills for speaking well. It made me realize that I wanted to do this as a career.”

In addition to Mock Trial, Rishi is a member of speech and debate, practicing extemporaneous speaking which “helps with Mock Trial.”

“They are very similar,” said Rishi. “You have to learn to think on your feet.”

Rishi is quick to note, however, that there are distinct differences between the two events.

“Extemp is very formulaic, whereas the style of Mock Trial is more about evoking emotion in the jurors. That’s what I enjoy most about being a lawyer,” said Rishi.

This past year, Rishi competed in Mock Trial as a prosecution attorney. “My favorite part of Mock Trial is the opening and closing statements,” he said. “It’s thrilling to be able to control the courtroom and have a chance to speak one on one with the judge.”

In addition to extemp and Mock Trial, Rishi interned with the law offices of Criminal Defense Attorney Eric S. Geffon in order to better prepare himself for the rigors of a career in law.

Rishi notes that he was “very lucky” to get the internship. “It was very competitive,” said Rishi. “Luckily, I had some hookups with family members and I managed to get the spot.”

Rishi’s jobs as an intern varied from “analyzing police reports and interrogation tapes” to “investigating bank frauds and strange withdrawal numbers.”

Rishi was surprised at the rigorous work ethic required to pursue a career in law.

“I thought that attorneys represented only one client at a time,” he said. “However, we went to court everyday and I learned that real attorney multitask and represent several clients simultaneously.”

Overall, Rishi considers the experience to be a “valuable” one that will help him down the road as he pursues a career in law.

“It was very interesting to be in a real attorney’s shoes and experience law first hand,” said Rishi.

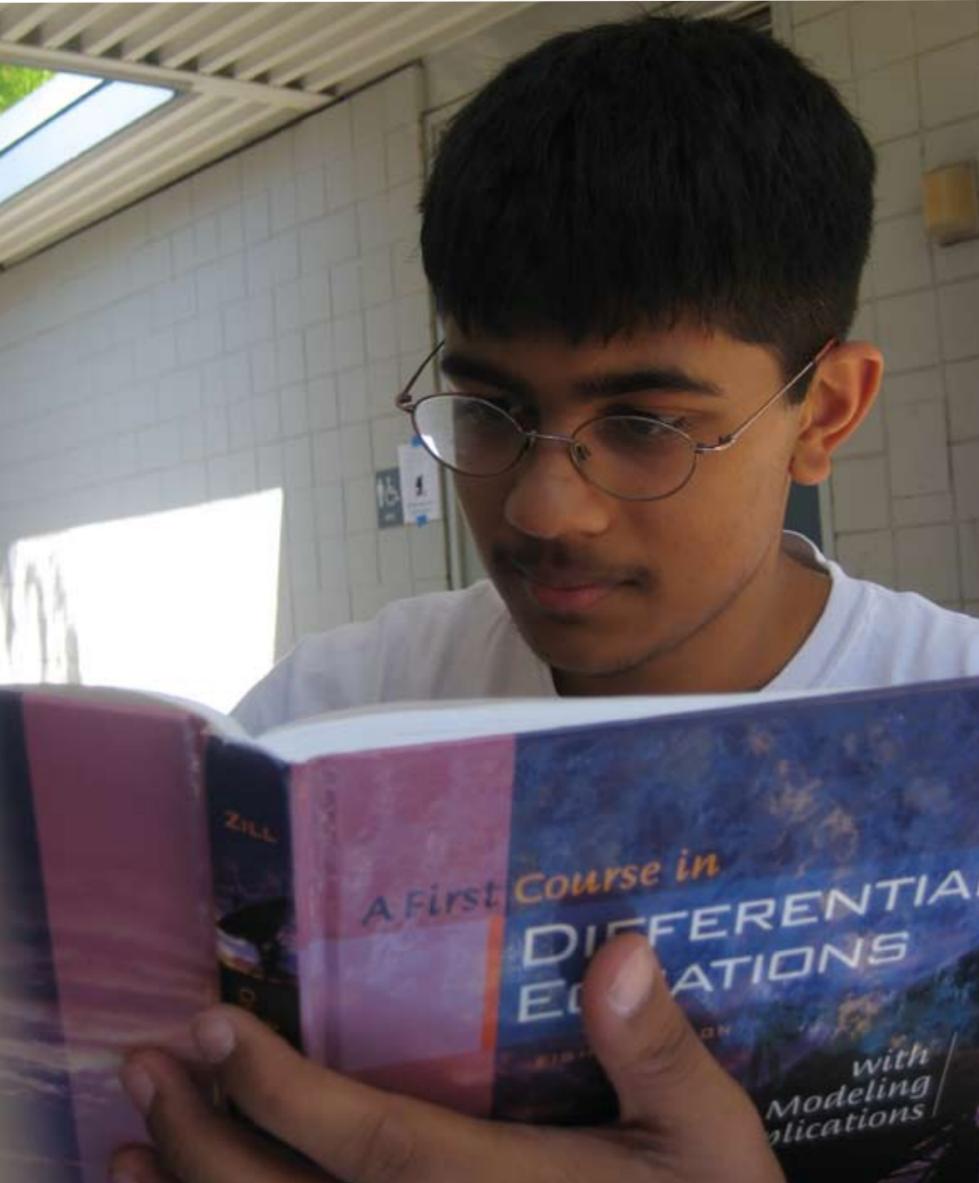
Despite only being a junior, Rishi has already mapped out his future college and career plans in order to get a head start.

“I’m planning to go to a good undergrad school and major in political science and economics,” he said. “After I get the background, I’ll go to grad school. Ultimately, my goal is to become a corporate attorney.”

Although it might be a while off, Rishi is well on his way to achieving his dream job.

◆ **By: Vijay Menon**



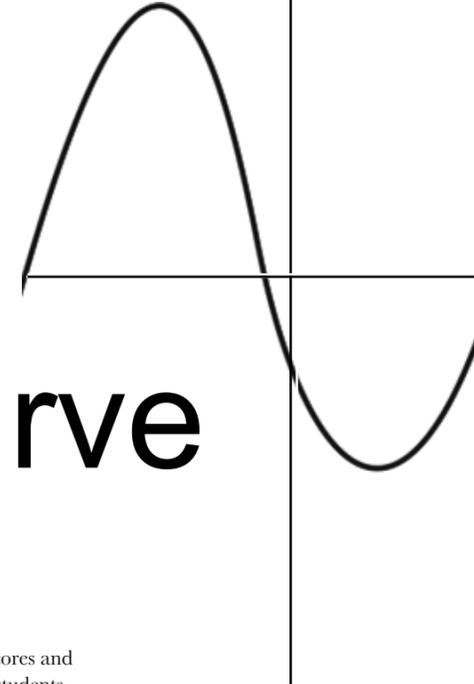


Kevin Mu



Calvin Shih

Getting AHEAD of the curve



Students advance academically with courses at West Valley

Saratoga High School is known far and wide for its academic prominence, high standardized test scores and hard-working and diligent students who take plenty of advanced and AP classes. But there are those students who decide to take their education even further by enrolling in various college courses at the local West Valley Community College.

After these ambitious students complete the highest-level courses offered at Saratoga High, community college is a way for them to challenge themselves or simply to get ahead in school.

Community college classes give high school credits but can sometimes be transferred to college credits, adding yet another incentive for students eager to expand their knowledge.

David Wang is only a freshman, but he already took a Computer Science course last summer at West Valley in order to take the AP test this May.

"I think it was a really good way to prepare for the AP because it covered all the material efficiently and thoroughly," he said.

David said that he enjoys college courses even more than high school ones and plans to take a physics course at West Valley College this summer.

"I can have a lot more freedom in terms of learning style," David said.

Meanwhile, sophomore **Ashwin Siripurapu**, who has already completed advanced courses at West Valley normally reserved for high school seniors or college students, such as Multivariable Calculus and Differential Equations, felt he was up for the challenge, despite being younger than most other students.

"[College classes] take up a lot of extra time," said Ashwin, "but I don't really notice because I'm really interested in the subjects."

He added that there are other benefits to college courses as well, such as greater independence.

"You don't even have to go to class if you don't want to," he joked. There is also less homework, although the assignments are longer, according to Ashwin.

However, there are also several downsides that students often consider before diving into a college course.

College courses are designed to cover an entire year's worth of curriculum but span only a couple months. Consequently, classes are often longer, more difficult and more condensed, which can sometimes overwhelm unprepared students.

In David's case, each one of his summer computer science classes was about four hours long, including an hour-long computer lab session.

He admitted taking the class interfered with some other activities that he was already doing over the summer, such as summer league for basketball or going over to friends' houses.

"I think it definitely took away from my summer," said David. "I had to miss out on a lot of fun things with my friends because I had to be at school."

Ashwin warned that many college courses can be very time-consuming and can add to stress, especially during a busy school year. He advised students to only take them if they "truly feel they will benefit from the courses."

Clearly, college classes are great alternatives for students who feel they are ready to move on or have completed the highest course available in high school, but college courses aren't for everyone. Nonetheless, college classes still remain a popular option among students at Saratoga high, where many students find that the benefits outweigh the negatives. And with ever-increasing competition for colleges and mounting academic pressure, the trend will only continue to grow as the years go by. •**Kevin Mu**



Kevin Mu

Focused and ready: Sophomore Ashwin Siripurapu reviews course material from a Differential Equations textbook. "It was good that I studied a lot for the final, because it was really hard," he said. **Hard at work:** Senior Marvin Shicu talks and laughs with friends during a Multivariable Calculus class at West Valley community college. **Booting up:** Freshman David Wang begins to work on a computer program in the school's computer lab. He completed a Java Computer Programming course last summer at West Valley. "Ever since I took the course, I've been really interested in experimenting with programming and learning more by myself," said David.

their turn2talk

"I think it was a really good way to prepare for the Computer Science AP because it covered the material thoroughly and efficiently."

David Wang (09)

"[College classes] take up a lot of extra time, but I don't really notice because I'm really interested in the subjects."

Ashwin Siripurapu (10)

"I've taken a couple of classes at West Valley. I took a ceramics class there and it was really fun."

Alina Yang (11)



Double

The beat

Junior twin boys discovered a hobby in DJing

Having a brother seems like an exciting thing, having a brother close to your age seems even more exciting, but having a twin who you spend the majority of your time with because you share the same interests is by far the most exciting.

For juniors **Daniel** and **Matthew Shepherd** this is their own way of life.

These two boys are identical twins, who become very annoyed when you mix up their names or can't tell them apart. They share the same group of friends, which means they spend a lot of time together.

Although hanging out with their friends is not the reason they spend so much time together, it is because of a hobby they discovered four year ago while in the 8th grade, that hobby is DJing.

"While we were in 8th grade we decided a way we needed to make money and DJing is what we came up with," said Daniel.

Matthew claims he was the one who came up with the brilliant idea, but as expected Daniel denies it.

They didn't know -how long it would last in the beginning said Daniel, but they still do it today so it has taken them a long way.

"I think when we both go off to college we will slowly stop DJing, because we will have more to do," said Matthew.

The twins company is called 2KSHEP. They paired with another student, sophomore **Kevin Rollinson** who is also involved in the business.

Together they make about 300 dollars per event, and Matthew said that they probably end up with about two to four gigs per month. For each gig they each make a good 100 dollars.

Surprisingly, the boys said they are not saving up for anything special but enjoy having the money.

They enjoy this hobby for many reasons said Daniel, they get to serve the community go to all sorts of parties and events and they have, the benefit of making their own money.

"We have DJed all kind of things like recently the spring swing," said Matthew.

They have also done the school rally's, community service events, the benefit fashion show, different parties, and they have even gotten the chance to do a wedding.

Although they may seem like a perfect set of twins who never fight, this is wrong they do spend a lot of time with each other and they do get annoyed with one another every once in a while.

"Of course we get annoyed with each other, we live together, we go to school together, we hang out with friends together, and we DJ together, but we love to DJ so its okay," said Daniel.

•**Elizabeth Murray**



Studying: Daniel looks up to talk after doing some homework during tutorial.
Lunch time: Matthew talks to his friend junior Matt Murray about their weekend plans.



In action: From right to left Junior Matthew Shepherd, sophomore Kevin Rollinson and junior Daniel Shepherd DJ at an event this past year. "The theme was back to the twenties, it was really fun to see everyone dressed up and play different music," said Daniel.

What it takes for the twins to put on an event?

Q: How far in advance do you find out about events people want you to DJ for?

A: We find out at least a month ahead. This allows us to find the right kind of music for the party.

Q: Is it harder than it looks?

A: No, not at all. We just have to plug in an Ipod and stay there just in case we run into any technical problems and to take requests.

Q: How much time would you say you spend on each event?

A: Before the event we spend about an hour working on a play list, then the day of we arrive about an hour early to set up and stay through the party then we leave once we have cleaned up our equipment.

Break time and relaxing: Daniel enjoys a soda while taking a break from DJing an event.





Showing his skills: Jason sings Happy Birthday to his friend Talia Balma at school. "I don't sing at school often, but sometimes my friends would ask me to sing for them," he said.

Ren Norris

Raise your VOICE

Freshman sings his way to the A Cappella group "The Ritards"

Many people might already know of freshman **Jason Shiuan's** musical ability. He plays the piano, cello, saxophone, and tuba. Pretty impressive, right? But there's more to the story.

This musician is in the all male A cappella singing group called the "Ritards." Ritard is a musical term short for ritardando which means to slow down in tempo. The other members of the group include Peter Chou, Patrick Lu, David Wu, Kevin Ju, and Carlin Troung. Peter Chou is a junior at SHS.

Jason met the members of the group in a choir called Crystal Choir and was asked to join the Ritards in August. He felt pressure when he first joined the group.

"The Ritards had just lost a lot of graduates, so I felt like I had to live up to the expectations and work really hard to earn my spot in the group, but I feel like they've accepted me now," Jason said.

The Ritards arrange their own songs by listening to songs and lyrics and mimicking the instruments using their voices. They must fit the song into six parts and make it sound similar to the original.

"It's hard for some songs that have a lot of instruments and background, and sometimes they have super fast or super slow notes that are hard to do, but it really depends on the song," Jason said.

The group performs for community service and many parties. "We try to get our name out and people invite us to perform, sometimes we get paid, and sometimes we just do performances for fun and experience," he said.

Like any other band, the Ritards also have their conflicts. The group rehearses once a week for three hours and scheduling becomes an issue for everyone.

"Some people also goof around during practices which can get pretty annoying especially if we have a big performance coming up," Jason said.

Many videos of the Ritard's performances can be found on youtube.com.

"We only put our best songs on Youtube but we get a solid 1,000 views for each one," Jason said.

Jason, being one of the only freshmen in the group, looks up to other members and singers who have graduated from the group.

"They are really my role models because they are just so good at singing- I try to be like them," he said.

Jason hopes he can remain in the group until he graduates from Saratoga and that he can help add new members that can continue the Ritards.

"It would be really cool to be older and look back at the group and say 'Oh yeah, I was one of the originals,'" Jason said.

For Jason, being in this A cappella group is considered one of his "hidden talents."

"People know that I'm musical, but not that many people know that I sing and being in an A cappella group is pretty rare, so it's really cool," Jason said.

The Ritard's next performance is their end of the year concert on June 20th to say goodbye to guys who are leaving the group and to show how hard they have worked over the year. But for Jason, this year has just been the beginning of his singing career.

"I'm going to keep singing in this group and see where it takes me," he said. •Ren Norris

Recent songs arranged and performed by the Ritards:

- "This Love" by Maroon 5
- "Guy Love" from the TV show "Scrubs"
- "Somewhere over the Rainbow"
- "Anyone else but you" from the movie "Juno"
- "Where we went wrong" by the Hush Sound
- "Eye of the Tiger" arrangement by Rockapella
- "Lollipop" by The Chordettes
- "Everything" by Michael Buble
- "We Intertwined" by the Hush Sound



Photo Courtesy of Jason Shiuan



Photo Courtesy of Jason Shiuan



Photo Courtesy of Jason Shiuan

Show Time: The Ritards perform for a crowd at the annual Mustard Walk. Laughing it off: The group smiles as they sing at the Mustard Walk. Practice makes perfect: The Ritards arrange and rehearse a new song at Peter Chou's piano. "We tried to rehearse at least once a week for three hours," Jason said.



Behind the Athlete

Hayes Hyde's love of swimming doesn't prevent her from living life



Kathy Nolet

When most people hear the name **Hayes Hyde**, they think extraordinary athlete and swimmer. They think, girl who only thinks about swimming and doesn't have a life. And they are right, but- there is a lot more to her than meets the eye. She is not only a swimmer, but a student, a daughter, a big sister, and she is just like any other girl.

Hayes is an all American time holder, and she currently swims for De Anza Cupertino Aquatics. She says she has a pretty intense training schedule of 6 days a week and three days of double practices. But even after so much energy is put into the sport she still says that it's not her life.

"Swimming is important to me, but it's not my life." Said Hyde

Hayes has been competitively swimming since she was four. Hase is not just a good swimmer, but an excellent one. She said her competitiveness and "will to strive" is what took her so far in the sport.

"I have always had it in the back of my mind that I could be really amazing. It's because I am naturally so competitive that I felt I could be like the next Jenny Thompson."

And although swimming is her life, it's certainly not her main priority, and she feels school and family are more important than swimming. She sees herself as a competitor in all aspects of her life.

"I am a competitor in everything I do, not just swimming. I try to strive at as many things as possible."

Her **competitiveness** did get her far. After she graduates Hayes is going to Yale for college where she plans to study environmental science and pre-law. She has always had an interest in environmental policy because she doesn't want "to be like some high-class foo-foo" type lawyer, she wants to be remembered for actually making a difference.

"I know I am strong and different than everyone and that is why I want to make a difference and leave a mark in this world."

Hayes said she will be swimming in college, and feels that swimming will aid her in her college life.

"Swimming really helped me through high school because it taught me to prioritize and focus on the things that need to be done. Swimming forced me to be a time manager and focus, and this will pay off for me in college."

Although she will be swimming, she already has decided that school is more important than swimming and school will come first.

"School is more important to me and it always has been. At some point swimming will end for me and I know that, but I will always have my future and career, so I need to make sure it's a good one."

Aside from school and swimming Hayes loves spending time with her family and friends, and she loves to cook, garden and read. She says that she just loves to relax and "lie around on the ground and do nothing."

"Swimming does take up my life, so that's why I love doing nothing. I love playing games with my younger brother, and just having quiet time where I can reflect on my life."

And while most people see her as a swimmer, her friends and team-mates see her just as a normal girl.

Team-mate and friend Megan Nolet said, "Hase honestly is a really hard worker which shows at practice. But when we aren't in the pool, Hase is just the nicest girl and she is a really fun person to be around."

Hayes said she loves swimming, and it has really taken her far, but as far as she can see she doesn't feel it is her life or what makes her.

"I love to swim, it what I do. I just hope people can see me not as a swimmer, but as a friend and who I see -myself as, because as far as I know I think I am a pretty good person."

•NORA PATZMAN

Hayes Hyde has a very intense swim schedule and she practices about 24 hours a week.

Monday- 3:30-6:30 with and hour of dry land exercise

Tuesday-5:45-6:45 A.M then 3:30-6:30 with an hour of dry land exercise

Wednesday-5:45-6:45 A.M then 3:30-6:30 with and hour of dry land exercise

Thursday-5:45- 6:45 A.M then 3:30-6:30 with and hour of dry land

Friday-3:30-6:30 with and hour of dry land exercise

Saturday-6:30-9:00 all swimming

Winning Hayes Hyde at CCS approaches winning place for an event **Wacky face:** Hyde makes a face on the way home from a meet. **Meeting:** Hayes conducts a meeting at lunch **Down Under:** Hayes underwater with some of her DACA friends **Pool Rain:** Hayes underwater with her umbrella. **Prom Night:** Hayes at Prom with senior Joshua Greenberg. **CCS:** Hayes at CCS with Lauren Opatrny and Megan Nolet with some Monte Vista girls. **CCS Winner:** Hayes approaches the podium after receiving second place in the 200 freestyle. **Toga Swimming:** Elizabeth Murray, Megan Nolet, Nora Patzman, Lauren Opatrny, and Hayes take a club swimmer photo at team picture day.



Chelsea Fong



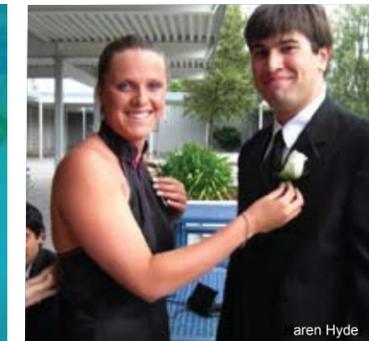
Nora Patzman



Chelsea Fong



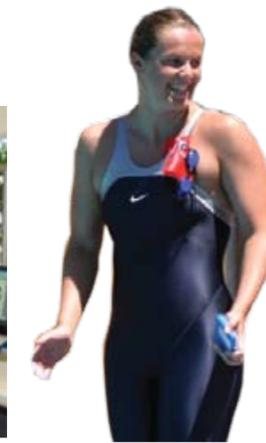
Chelsea Fong



aren Hyde



Nora Patzman



Kathy Nolet



Kathy Nolet



Photo by Kevin Rollinson

Success is just a **STROKE** away

What Senior swimmer Takehiro Kurasowa lacks in experience he makes up for with hard work and determination

Short and a chubby, **Takehiro Kurasowa** entered the pool nervously for his first day of swimming. He had never swam competitively before and decided to give the sport a try to fill P.E. credits. Little did he know that three years later he would be competing in CCS and planning to swim at one of the top Division II schools in the nation.

Takehiro is now one of the top swimmers in the 100 yard breaststroke in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League and even competed at CCS. "I owe my success to swimming almost every day for the past four years and eating a lot of ice cream," he joked. "I guess I just worked really hard to get where I am."

Takehiro's incredible improvement didn't happen overnight. His first time trying the 100 breaststroke he finished in 1:26 an impressive time for a beginner, but far from a top time. By the end of freshman year he was swimming a 1:12. By the end of high school he was swimming a 1:03, which is the fifth best time in the league and 21st in CCS. "That much improvement is the mark of a dedicated swimmer," said Coach **Christian Bonner**.

Takehiro plans to swim next year for the team at the University of California San Diego, a very good Division II team. "I am very excited about swimming next year because the team is competitive but not too intense, so I can focus on other things like academics," he said.

Takehiro was also a very vital part of the standout relay at League Finals and CCS. He swam the breaststroke leg of the 200 Medley relay along with **Matt Murray**, **Ben Hinshaw**, and **Ryan Hinshaw**. The relay got second at League finals in a heartbreak loss to Palo Alto, but got redemption at CCS beating Palo Alto and getting third. "Takehiro was a huge part of our team because a lot of people can swim the other three strokes but breaststroke is the most difficult stroke," said senior Ryan Hinshaw.

All of these achievements often overlooked because of the success of other swimmers in Saratoga but anyone on the swim team would tell you that Kurasowa is the unsung hero.

"I do swimming because I love the competition and the sport in general," he said. "Winning is always a great bonus though."

So although he may not win every race or break any records, Takehiro is without a doubt the hardest worker on the Saratoga High swim team. He made the transformation from the chubby, nervous freshman to being a huge part of the team.

"Hard work is the key to success, more than experience and sometimes even talent," said Coach Christian. •**Tim Rollinson**

Practice Makes Perfect

Monday: After being released from school, Takehiro goes to Saratoga High practice from 2:30 to 4:30. He then goes to club practice until from 4:30 until 6:00.

Tuesday: Takehiro wakes up at 5:30 and swims from 6:00 until 7:00 with the Saratoga High team. After school he has club from 2:30 to 4:30.

Wednesday: Takehiro hops into the pool from 2:40 to 4:10 then takes a 20 minute break before starting practice for club until 6:00.

Thursday: Thursday is the same schedule as Tuesday except the stress of the week often causes Takehiro to take an extra 20 minutes of sleep, waking up at 5:50.

Friday: Takehiro goes to school practice from 2:30 to 4:30 and then goes home.

Saturday: Takehiro has club practice from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 then gets ready to start next week.



Photo by Kevin Rollinson

Head over heels: Takehiro gets in position to dive in during the Saratoga time trials. **Gasping for air:** Takehiro takes a breath during a the Saratoga time trials. **Reaching for the finish:** Takehiro lunges forward during the 100 Breaststroke at a duel meet against Gunn. **Down to a second:** Coach Christian Bonner watches as Takehiro edges out the competition at a duel meet versus Los Altos.

Photo by Kevin Rollinson



Photo by Kevin Rollinson



Students play **MUSIC** for community

Tri-M brings community together with music.

There are several popular and interesting clubs on the Saratoga High School campus but only one is devoted to students who are exceptional in music and enjoy playing music for the benefit of others: the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Tri-M, founded in 1936 by Alexander Harley, is an international honor society recognizing secondary music students for their musical ability, academic excellence, school involvement, and community service. The club at Saratoga High has over 40 students and meets every Friday at the band room. They discuss upcoming concerts and events coming up on the weekend and during the holidays. Every 6-7 weeks, the club has a concert or student concert.

One of the students is freshman **Will Chen**. Will actively participates in the clubs concerts and other community service events and plays solo pieces and sometimes with the whole group. Ac-

ording to Will, they generally play classical and orchestra style pieces at concerts at theaters. They usually perform at hospitals, like the Good Samaritan Hospital, and at senior centers, like the Saratoga Retirement Home.

"I remember playing violin at the Good Samaritan Hospital during the Christmas time," said Will. "It was a great experience and it feels good to know that you played music for people who might not normally get to go to a concert to listen to an orchestra play."

He said that the orchestra sounds really great because it is made up of students who really love music and love playing it and who want to give to people less fortunate than them. Chen said that Tri-M is planning to have a student concert where they go to the other members' houses and play for each other.

Will said that the club has five managers who coordinate the events: Senior **Frank Yao**, Juniors **Thomas Wang**,

Paulina Tsai and **Adela Chang** and Sophomore **Cindy Chang**.

"In my opinion, we have a group of very gifted people and they really contribute to the group," said Adela.

Freshman **Daryl Chang**, also in the club, had mixed feelings about the managers.

"They're really great people and are very talented musicians," said Freshman Daryl Chang. "I still think though that they need to do a better job of conducting the meetings and need to be more enthusiastic and spirited."

Daryl said that though there are some problems, it is a great club and he encourages more people to join it. The club has many goals, according to Daryl, but there is one major goal that unifies the club.

"I think the goal of the club is to spread music through community service and to bring the community together with music," said Daryl. •**Karthik**



Daryl Cha



Club Photo: All the Tri-M members pose for their club photo. Clarinet Solo: Matt Nomura plays his Clarinet piece.



Daryl Chang



Daryl Chang



Daryl Chang

Playing the piano: Sophomore Jeffrey Han plays the piano on May 29 at a fellow Tri-M member's house. Practicing at Student Concert: Anastatia Yee and Alice Ling practice at a student concert. Quartet: Will Chen, WooHo Park, Frank Yao, and Walter Hsiang practice during the Christmas time for their Winter concert.

Music Terms

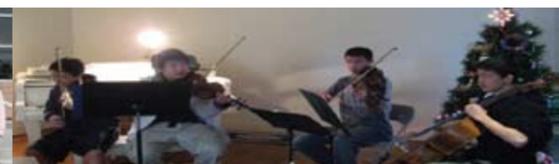


Arpeggio: The notes of a chord played in succession, (harp-like); a broken chord.

treble: The highest voice, instrument, or part.

double sharp: An accidental that raises the note it precedes by one whole step.

key signature: The sharps or flats written on the staff at the beginning of a piece to indicate the key.



The FINAL Moments

Seniors enjoy their last time participating in high school events.

Elementary to middle school. Middle school to high school. Now, high school to college. Seniors cannot imagine the incredibly fast pace of time for them. Their first day of high school seems only days away from their graduation, and students cannot accept the fact that it is time for college and develop a new outlook to life.

During second semester, seniors start to regret and cherish valuable moments during their high school experience. They realize the mistakes they have made throughout their high school career and learn from it to enhance their personal development. In addition, seniors regret leaving Saratoga High School's comfortable environment, especially their friends and teachers, who supported them throughout their troublesome, back burning, and stressful periods of their high school experience, much to their dismay and disappointment.

"The high school to college transition is very difficult because I will miss a lot of my friends from SHS," said senior **Sabrina Rohatgi**. "I am going to UC Davis, and although I know a lot of people going there, I really won't know everybody. In addition, Davis expects more independence and undivided attention in its academic classes, definitely much more than SHS."

However, at this period in time, seniors must move onto an educational environment that immensely requires a significantly higher level of maturity and independence, which will benefit students to pursue proactive learning and develop study habits. Because teachers cannot spoon-feed material, students must take initiative for their own education by asking for assistance to comprehend class material, and communicate concerns to their teachers. This environment prepares students for

adulthood, and allows them to take responsibility for their individual actions and words.

The personal development required out of students within a short period of time makes transitioning into the college environment a tribulative challenge for these seniors. At this point in their life, students must make crucial decisions on their own regarding their career and attitude, with minimal help from their parents, friends, and college professors.

They must uphold their personal responsibilities by deciding their own fate, as others cannot make their decisions for them, which leaves the students at a tough situation regarding their transition from high school to college. Societal pressures on students to make significant, life-related decisions far outweighs any of the intellectual and mental expectations placed on students at Saratoga High School.

These Saratoga High School seniors are clearly in for a challenge to the strength of their personality, maturity, and independence in college. They are expected to deal with societal expectations of greater magnitudes, which often forces them to question their own ideals, attitudes, and value systems. However, this challenge prepares these students for adulthood.

In the long term, seniors might or might not endure through the transition. Whether they get through this tribulative time period or not highly depends on their personalities, mentalities, and their willingness to take initiative and responsibility for their own well-being, education, and actions. At start, entering college may be scary and uncomfortably strange, especially due to a new environment. However, as these students learn how to handle their classes and make decisions to guide their own lives, they will end up with a perfectly smooth transition from the medium-level expectations placed on them at Saratoga High School, to the high-level expectations placed on them in their four-year university or community college. This transition definitely prepares students for the ups and downs of life. •**Girish Swaminath**



Editing: AP English teacher Mr. Jason Friend edits senior Nikhil Sheel's college essays. **Becoming a baby:** Senior Jacqueline Crase and Nikhil Kaul pose for a picture during Senior Servant Day. **Rehearsing:** Seniors Katrin Cooper and Hayes Hyde rehearse at the last minute for their Quad Day dance.



Brittany Judoprasertjo



Brittany Judoprasertjo

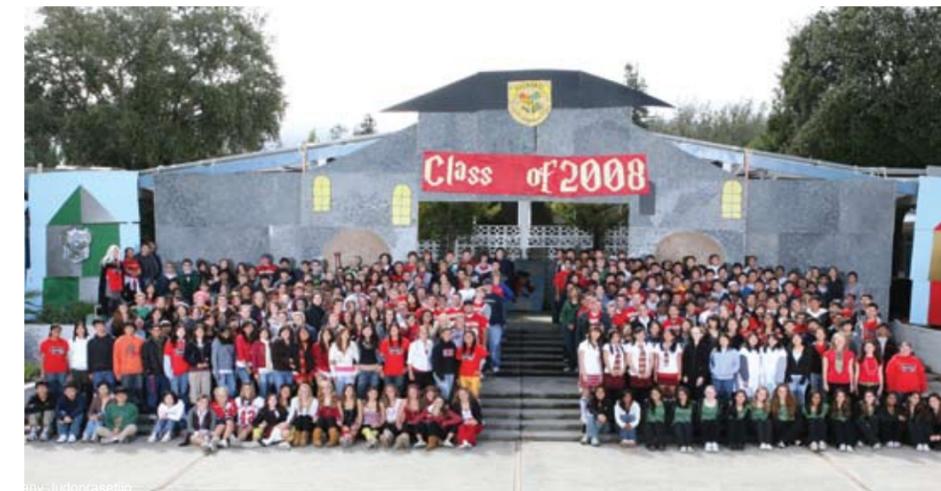
Dancing: Seniors Doug Sabella, Nikhil Sheel, Trent Dozier, and Ted Selavos perform on the Harry Potter themed Quad Day dance. **Performing:** Seniors James Knight and Zach Kowitz perform with biology teacher Ms. Lisa Cochrum during the Senior Quad Day dance.



Brittany Judoprasertjo



Brittany Judoprasertjo



Brittany Judoprasertjo



Melody Zhang



Calvin Shin

Rallying: Seniors Elli Rezaei, Talia Salzman, and Bilga Yilmaz perform in the last rally of the year. **Enjoying:** Senior Nikhil Sheel and his friend enjoy celebrating Jersey Day. **Posing:** The senior class of 2008 poses in front of the quad during Homecoming Week. **Slaving:** Seniors Clara Wang and Maggie Lin pose outside the Journalism Room during Senior Slave Day. **Playing:** Senior Michael Su plays a smashing badminton game during Senior Badminton Day. **Wearing:** Senior Alex Liu wears pajamas during Pajama Day.



Lan

Tech Gurus

SUPPORT CAME FROM BEHIND THE SCENES

The sounds of gunshots and artillery shells blast through the air as students crowd around a computer screen. Stacks of monitors and dusty computer parts take up one corner of the room, and another is devoted solely to the alien figure from Toy Story. In an adjacent room, rolling dice and the rustling of game sheets can be heard as an impromptu session of Dungeons & Dragons takes place. This odd little meeting ground is the tech room and Mrs. Grenier's office.

The tech room is marked with no decipherable room number. Instead, the main door is labeled with the words "tech guru", a testament to the information services advisor who works inside as well as several unique groups of individuals.

Although the Internet Technology Computer Club (ITCC) meets there every week, they cannot match a group that gathers in the tech room every tutorial and lunch. The tech room was home of the Cubing and Puzzles club last year and its members have stayed there ever since.

"We used to meet there before we got kicked out for making a mess last year," said sophomore Craig Shih, "but then she posted a sign on the door saying we could come back next year. Now we're there all the time."

Apart from cubing, Craig and the other club members also help disassemble computer parts in the back room before they are thrown away and act as tech support for teachers. They were responsible for setting up laptops in the Chinese classroom, the science wing, and the computers in the research room in the library. When the group isn't setting up computers, they're

playing computer games on a computer in the tech room.

"Right now we're playing Battlefield, but sometimes we'll play some other game. We just eat, and chat, you know? It's great," said Craig.

Apart from computer gamers, the tech room also hosts an unofficial D&D club. D&D stands for Dungeons & Dragons, a table-top fantasy role playing game, and the forerunner of such games as World of Warcraft and Neverwinter Nights. The game involves players creating character sheets for their characters and going on campaigns fighting monsters and gaining experience, as well as gold. Dice are used to account for things from the possibility of chance encounters with monsters, to player statistics and how much damage they deal each turn.

"It's fun," said sophomore Jin-Ching Lim, the organizer of the group. "Playing D&D is just like playing another video game. Except, in this one, you get to make your own world."

The players include sophomores Rolland Wu, Ryan Gambord, and junior Tim Chang. They meet in the tech room during tutorials on Monday and Friday to play the game, as well as converse with each other and their counterparts in the main room.

"There's not enough time to get through even one encounter during tutorial, so each time we meet we tend to go nowhere with the game," said Rolland. "But it doesn't matter, because we're able to meet with friends and talk with each other. If we have fun, who cares?" •Stephanie Tung



DEEP IN THOUGHT, sophomore Jin-Ching Lim ponders his next move in a game of Dungeons & Dragons. "Most people think it's like playing World of Warcraft or something in real life. The structure is similar, but WoW is nothing compared to playing a game with friends in real life," said Jin. **DURING** a battle, sophomore Rolland Wu references a rulebook while other players make their moves. **THE RIGHT CHOICE**: Rolland Wu and Jin-Ching Lim go over new additions to the game. **A ROLL OF THE DICE** can decide the fate of the "world" as Rolland Wu considers what the other players face next in battle.

ANOTHER WIN earns the attention of sophomores Josh Hight, Jin-Ching Lim, and Takahiro Kurata as sophomore Craig Shih cries out in victory.



get2know: the gamer

Craig Shih, 10



Sophomore Craig Shih is no ordinary gamer. While the term brings to mind images of teenagers obsessively playing on game systems or computers, Craig takes the word to a whole different level. He has an avid interest in games and puzzles of all types, from solving 5x5 rubix's' cubes and playing D&D, to online games like Maplestory and traditional board games.

"I like games," Craig said. "I just happen to have a larger interest in them than most people."

STARING RESOLUTELY at a computer screen, sophomore Craig Shih helps technology advisor Julie Grenier during tutorial. **LUNCHTIME IS PLAYTIME** for sophomores Craig Shih, Josh Hight, and Takahiro Kurata, who use the time to play on computers in the tech room. **MESMERIZED**, sophomore Rolland Wu joins a group of gamers at lunch. **POINT AND CLICK**: Josh Hight and Craig Shih find the time for a quick round during tutorial.





Frisbee time! Kathy wait and her dog Patch
Having Fun: George Miller and his dog Katie
O'Shay. Making Friends: An owner and her
dog play with a new found friend.



What do I bring?

1. A doggie bag, cleaning up after your dog shows respect to other members and the park area
2. Frisbee or a ball, bring your own! No one likes a ball thief.
3. Comfortable clothing, it can get messy
4. A leash, for when you want to leave, it is after all the law
5. Treats! bring a little extra. every dog needs a treat and remember to ask the dog's owner if you wish to give another pooch a snack, most likely they'll say yes.
6. A good attitude. no one likes a grouchy person in the morning.

They want to Break Free

At the park, dogs break free of a leash



Christie Van Noorden

Riley on his way home after a long play at the park.



Run Home!: Amber runs back for more ballplay. Ready, set play!: Three friends rough house together. Say Cheese!: Gerdie smiles for the camera.



"Play ball!"

Nancy Shin throws a neon green tennis ball to her golden retriever, as the dog races across the Argonaut field to retrieve it back to Nancy. Nancy and her dog Amber have been coming to Argonaut to play almost every weekend for the past six years.

"Observe the dogs play," said Nancy, as advice to new coming participants, referring to the off leash excitement the park contains.

This park allows dogs to play freely without the restraint of the leash and can also chase tennis balls and Frisbees.

George Miller, an animal advocate and the founder for this event, has been attending this dog park for the past 35 years. He and his current three dogs; Tobey, Scooter and Katie O'shay attend the dog park twice a week almost every weekend from nine to 10:30 in the morning.

Have the dog socialize, letting off the leash run and play. The main thing is to have their dog not be hostile or aggressive said George referring to all first time attendees.

"Try to get their dog engaged to play with other dogs, meet new people. They should also give other folks their balls back," said **Beth Mayer** owner of Penny, a Labrador retriever, and two miniature pinschers Heidi and Gerdie. She has also been coming for the last couple of years.

The main concept of this park is to get the dogs to play with one another. Also many of the regular comers recommend courtesy towards others, with the owner's actions as well as their dogs.

"Show respect for the school," said **Denise Michel**, of an owner's responsibility, owner of five month old Pelè, a Labrador retriever.

Though all four of them agree cleaning up after your dog is the main responsibility of an owner down at the dog park, many other responsibilities come with bringing your dog to the park to play.

"Make sure your dog behaves," said Beth. Aggressive dogs can lead to serious problems among the dogs interaction.

A misbehaving animal can ruin the experience for another, so it is important to keep your dog in line.

"Socializing with other dogs and people," Nancy said was the most important thing to remember at the park, beside the point is for the dogs to play, but also it helps to get to know the other members of the organization as well. All you need is you, your dog, and for the sake of the park, a doggie bag! •Christie Van Noorden



