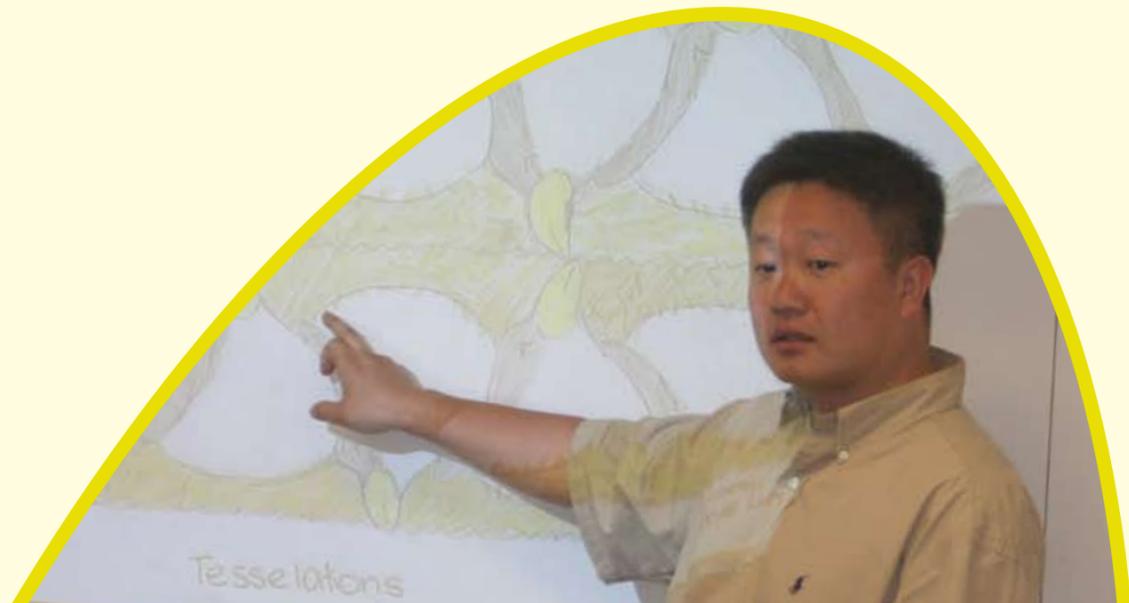


Journalism One Yearbook 2009

# SARATOGA 24/7



# RAISING THE BAR

The weight room provides a **sanctuary** for students to relieve stress and be with friends

**T**he last bell of the day rings, signaling the end of a long school day for all students, and the beginning of weight training for some. Students of all sizes and ages rush into the weight room, eager to begin their workout. Most come to work out with their team for off-season training, and others come on their own. Either way, the weight room is a popular facility among students to release stress and build confidence.

The weight room, once a private retreat for muscle builders, now plays host to a variety of sports-minded students whose intent is the better their game and stamina through weight training.

Its secluded location provides students with a hidden getaway, giving them the opportunity to put down their books and pick up a weight. This one-of-a-kind facility lets students escape from the pressure of school, and release stress through working out.

"The weight room is a great place where you can blow off steam and let out all of the stress that accumulated from that day. It's awesome because you always feel great about yourself afterwards," said freshman Eric Wang, who holds a school-wide record for being able to hold a nine-minute plank.

There are many different weight machines in the weight room that give students an endless variety of work outs, from leg press to bench press to the rowing machine. Because of the plethora of weights and machines, there is almost always something available, making students feel more inclined to try each of the many different work outs.

"I like the variety of machines and the fact that you can always

find something open," said freshman Manish Raghavan. "I go there so I can train for soccer, and going to the weight room really helps a lot."

As soon as the students enter the weight room, the first thing most do is glance up at the white board for the workouts for the day. These workouts are created by the weight room supervisor and coach, Andy. Coach Andy helps students with their technique in lifting weights, as well as creating the work outs for each team to work on specific muscles that are used most in the particular sport. Coach Andy is also the shot put coach for the school's track and field team.

"Coach Andy has really helped me improve my weight lifting ability," said sophomore Tasha Patel. "I no longer see weight training as dull, because he's given me the knowledge I need to lift [weights] in a way that benefits me." Patel plays post for the varsity basketball team, and claims weight training has dramatically improved her game.

The weight room is a popular spot for students to work on muscle endurance while also spending time with friends.

"What's great about the weight room is that you get to be with your friends while doing the workouts," said junior varsity basketball point guard Tyler Jew. "It makes it a lot less boring."

The weight room's inviting environment attracts students of all abilities and strengths, offering a tucked-away oasis to let students reconnect with their friends and their body. What an uplifting way to end the school day. **—by Izzy Albert**



**Pushing it to the limit:** Senior Kushal Shah lifts weights to keep in shape. "The weight room is really great," said Shah, "I can come here whenever and work out."



**Pumping iron:** Senior Scott Thoren lifts weights in the weight room in his free time to keep in shape for football.



**Ab-normal dedication:** Freshman Talia Sisco works out her ab muscles during weight training with the junior varsity basketball team. "I love weight training during off-season, because I keep in shape while also being with my friends," said Sisco.



**Stretching for perfection:** The boys basketball team perform stretches before their daily workout at the weight room. The team took this as a time to socialize and catch up with friends, but also made sure to stretch to prevent injury when lifting.



**Preparing for the pain:** Freshman Salmaan Javed lays down on the weight bench before lifting the 75-pound bar. Javed came with his basketball team for off-season training. "It's fun to get stronger," said Javed.



**Little arms, big determination** Freshman Peter Hsieh has a small build, but he lifts almost as much as his teammates. Hsieh played point guard for the junior varsity basketball team.



**Pulling his own weight:** Freshman Manish Raghavan spends time in the weight room to train himself for soccer.

# SARATOGA YOUTH COMMISSION

Students help the **community** become more youth friendly.

A wooden table lies in the middle of a small rustic room. Gathered around the table are sixteen students; discussing events, taking notes, and making decisions. Each one talks about their point of view, while the others jot down what was said.

"I don't think this will work," said Senior Corey Rateau with a troubled look on his face, "but if we all work together, we might be able to pull this upcoming event off." The members immediately start delegating jobs to one another.

All sixteen students are members of the Saratoga Youth Commission, a group formed by the city made to speak out and represent the youth of Saratoga, who hold meetings in the Warner Hutton house and community center. The Youth Commission is the liaison between the youth of Saratoga and the City Council. The Youth commission holds meetings at seven PM on the second Tuesday of every month.

"The meetings help us make Saratoga more Youth friendly in every way possible," said sophomore member Aditya Dev. During the meetings, the commission discusses past events and ways to improve them so more teens participate in the community activities.

The meeting starts with the attendance of the members, then moves on to approving the last meeting's agenda. Right after, the group moves on to talking about their previous events such as concerts, dances, film festivals, and guest speaker sessions. They do a review and then figure out ways to improve what they have done. Each member is streaming with ideas, but they wait till it's their turn to speak.

"We talk one at a time, but anyone can give ideas if they sit down and wait for the other person to finish," said freshman Kayvon Rezaii. "It is much like a classroom because we have a supervisor, Adam Henig. Sometimes we get out of hand and start to fool around. But then we think about how

much we need to get done in a certain amount of time and get back to work."

They then begin to touch up on their next events while making lists and agendas. "There are so many things to cover that we usually end up making at least one list every meeting," said Rezaii.

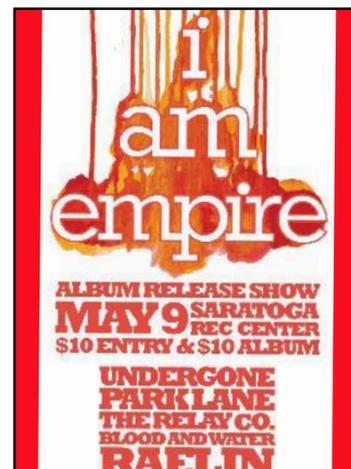
Even though the youth commission plans various events for the teens throughout the year, their audience seems to decrease. At one dance, four years ago, almost four hundred students showed up. But, unfortunately only fifteen came to the last dance they held. Rezaii said that the reason for this was that Youth Commission was fairly new at that time, so the events were excited. Now, the commission really has to prove themselves to the teens.

At the meetings, the members constantly remind themselves of these topics which push them to plan a more successful event in the future.

According to Rezaii, the commission has the ability to flourish and put on a great event, but they still aren't close enough to answering the youth of Saratoga. They recently made a survey to see what kids do in their free time, but that isn't enough to answer the needs of the kids.

They then conclude with a few comments on the Saratoga teen website. A couple jokes between the members, and the meeting is dismissed.

"We may not have a large audience for our meetings at this point," said Rezaii, "but hopefully in the future, the teens in Saratoga will realize that they can make an impact on the community by attending them. The commission is hoping to reach out and help the voice of the youth be heard." -Priyanka Arunkumar



**Band rocks out for teens:** A cd release for the band I am Empire was held in the community center by the Youth Commission. Band member Andrew said, "I think the youth commission did an amazing job organizing our release show. It was the best concert we've had so far! Hopefully we'll be back to play again soon."

**Get ready for the show:** Commissioners hand out flyers all over their schools such as this one. The flyers help advertise for upcoming events, such as concerts, chill nights, and guest speakers.



**Commission collaboration:** The commission of sixteen students pose for the first time with the supervisor of the recreation department, Adam Henig, after a long meeting in the community center. The students attend Saratoga High, Bellarmine, Castilleja, Monta Vista, and Lynbrook.



**Chill out:** The commissioners spend their afternoon regulating the event chill night which is held in the community center. The students come here to play pool, join in fun activities, and eat snacks. In other words, it's a way to get out of the stress of school.

“The **commission** is hoping to reach out and help the voice of the youth be heard.”

**Kayvon Rezaii,**  
Freshman

# I HAVE THE FIFTH PERIOD YIMS

Mr. Yim's fifth period isn't just your ordinary Geometry class

"Alright people, bell's about to ring," Mr. Yim said to his fifth period Geometry students. "Have everything out on your desk ready to start class or I'll mark you tardy."

The mix of freshmen and sophomores sifted through their Jansport backpacks pulling out glossy binders and sharpened pencils, preparing for the day's lesson.

"We always start class the same way every day," laughed freshman Nic Doyen, "Mr. Yim likes everyone to be ready so he can start on time."

The bell rang and class began. Yim walked to the front of the class and pointed at the board where a picture of a bike was projected on the screen.

"Look at this fine bike," Yim said with excitement, "I would love to own this bike." He went on telling his students how nice and expensive it was, and how he would soon be going for a bike ride with Mr. Rector, rhetoric teacher.

"Mr. Yim is really funny," said freshman Tyler Borch. "My favorite part of class is when he starts talking about his bike."

Then Yim goes on with his story, but instead of talking about how much he loves the bike, he now connects the bike to geometry. He tells his students about how the angles on the body of the bike affect speed and how the diameter of the tires can affect your ride. This is when the real geometry part of class begins.

"Mr. Yim doesn't make the class boring because he knows how to have fun," Borch said. "I like how he incorporates ideas outside of math to make the class practical."

Mr. Yim soon wraps up his story about bikes and then moves on to the lesson for the day. The class quiets down and begins to write down every word he writes.

"I love how my students are all at such a high level," Yim said. "They are all very hard workers, it amazes me."

After writing down the notes, they go over the homework from the night before. Selected students go up to the white boards and write the solution to the question that was asked. No one laughs or giggles at "dumb questions" because there are no dumb questions in this class.

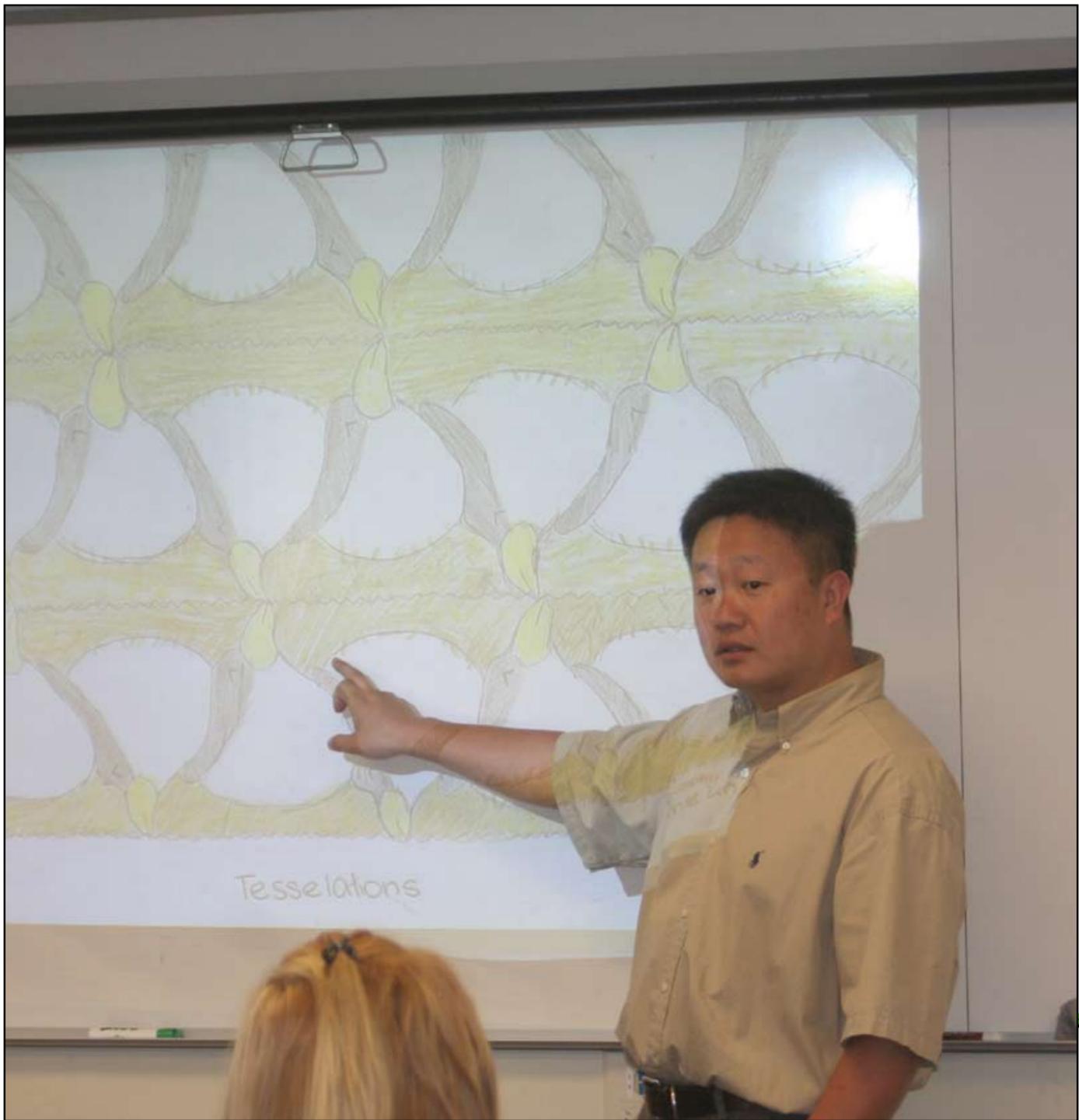
"I always tell my students 'Leave your ego at the door, and bring in your common sense,'" Yim said.

With only five minutes left in class, the students finish up with their homework questions and begin to pack up, ending yet another day in Yim's fifth period.

"The one thing that I want my students to take from this class," said Yim, "is that pride in one's work, is pride in one's self." ♦ -- **By Courtney Brandt**



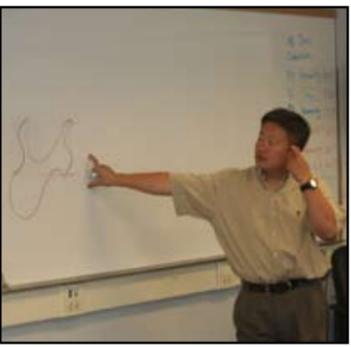
Yim: Adjusting an image on his projector.



Yim: Yim is explaining the complexity of tessellations to the class.



Freshman Stephanie Reyes: Studiously listens to Mr. Yim's lecture.



Yim: Thinking about the tessellation he drew as an example for the class.



Class: Quietly watches and listens to Yim talk about the previous night's homework, tessellations.



Yim: Raving about his favorite tessellations turned in.

“Mr. Yim is really funny. My favorite part of class is when he starts talking about his bike.”

○ Tyler Borch, Freshmen

# Forty Minutes of Freedom

## Forty minutes for tutorial is an awesome time for students to study and catch up on friends

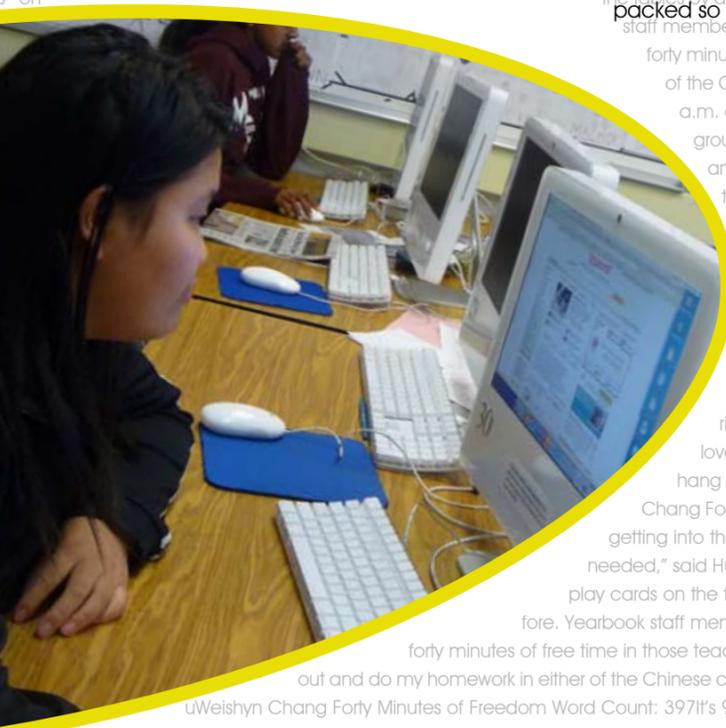
It's 9:25 a.m. on a typical Friday morning; the bell just rang announcing the end of fourth period. Many students are relieved to leave their fourth period class and hustle off to different destinations. Some students quietly slip out of the main entrance, escaping staff administration, getting into their cars, and racing out of the school grounds. Some students like freshman Lennie Char take the forty minutes of free time to frantically finish their homework in the library. Freshman Cynthia Huang agrees with Lennie. Char "Tutorial is good because it's extra time to catch up with teachers and get help from them if needed," said Huang. "Usually if I don't have any

classes to go to, I hang out with friends and walk around in the hallways or go to the library. The Quad is where many students go to hang out and have a good time. It is a great time to catch up with friends that you aren't able to talk to during other school hours. Some students even play cards on the tables by at the quad steps. Another place that is cozy and warm is one of the most popular places to hang out: the journalism room. There are thirty-three computers with up to three students crowding around each one. There are journalism students frantically trying to finish assignments that were due the period before. Yearbook staff members are also hanging around just because they love the J-room so much. Sometimes the J-room is completely packed so some students travel to the library where they can finish their homework or quietly talk to their friends without freezing from standing in the quad. A few students, who love their teachers, spend their forty minutes of free time in those teachers' classrooms. "I usually go to Ms. Cochrum's room, not for science help, but just for a place that I can sit down and work on homework," says freshman Anjalika Goyal. For other students, the Chinese room is a nice place to hang out too. "I like to hang out and do my homework in either of the Chinese classes. It doesn't matter which, because we sometimes switch it every week," claims freshman Anna Zhang. No matter what students take their time to do during tutorial, it is always a good solid forty minutes of freedom, following the school rules of course.

-By Weishyn Chang

**"I usually go to Ms. Cochrum's room, not for science help, but just for a place that I can sit down and work on homework"**

**Anjalika Goyal,  
Freshman**



The answer is: Sophomore Joceyln Tan and Freshman Vivian Tsai crowd around the table to help their friends.

Lead-in goes here: Senior Weilynn Chang hover over the journalism computer to finish some left over homework from yesterday.

# HANGOUT SPOT FOR ALL AGES

He walks across the wooden bridge as the hot, afternoon sun beats down on him. Looking over the railing, the water of the river flows over the jagged rocks below. He continues his stroll to the bustling playground structures past the lush, green field and sandy volleyball court. Located in downtown Saratoga, Wildwood Park is both a popular hang out spot for teens as well as children with various interests. Freshman Michael Zuccarino, founder of the Saratoga High School Racing Club, visits Wildwood Park every weekend where he rides his mountain bike through the rugged terrain.

"I like Wildwood cause it has that little hidden section in the back in the trees where my friends and I build jumps," said Zuccarino. The wide space of the park also contributes to Zuccarino's fondness of the park.

Senior Nathan Arnold and Freshman Nancy Chen both enjoy Wildwood's friendly, family atmosphere. Arnold said, "I really like how it is in a good neighborhood and has a variety of play structures." Hanging out at Wildwood Park in the late afternoon, one can see little children playing on the playground, college students writing poetry, groups of friends playing football, couples tanning in the sun, and teenagers chatting with their friends. The park proves to be serene and calming to those who want to take a nap and a great place to relax for friends and family.

Freshman Daniel Hsu said that he likes the fact that "people of all ages go to Wildwood."

Being a popular park, Freshman Krishnan Raman explains how he "likes the field because playing sports is possible." Sophomore Connie Lii describes Wildwood Park as a "nice place that is nearby and just a great place to go hang out with some friends."

The seesaw play structure is also shown to be the most popular play structure in the entire park. With kids lined up and anxious to ride on it, the seesaw gets rocked back and forth vigorously by every child. Eager little boys climb up a pyramid structure made of rope, determined to reach the top. A few feet away, families exercise their health by walking their dogs through the park and up trails that lead elsewhere through Saratoga. There is always something going on at downtown Saratoga's most popular park.

"I like Wildwood cause it has that little hidden section in the back where my friends and I build jumps."

**Michael Zuccarino,  
Freshman**



**Playing on a seesaw:** A ten-year-old boy relaxed and played on the seesaw at Wildwood Park during the afternoon after a hard day of school.



**A 10-year-old boy playing at Wildwood:** Your caption is avant guard 8 point with 9 point leading. It is aligned left on a right hand page and aligned right on a left hand page and should have the first sentence written in present tense and all other sentences written in past tense.

# RACE To The FINISH

Saratoga citizens stayin' in shape and havin' fun

The late afternoon sun, hanging low in the cloudless sky, beats its last rays of heat onto the rubbery SHS track for the day. The early-summer warmth, dwindling into the oncoming night, is softened by a tinge of cool, refreshing evening air in the light breeze.

A light chatter from children running around on the field and adults conversing as they keep themselves fit radiates from bleacher to bleacher, filling the expanse. Sharp groans of creaking metal come from the bleachers bearing the weight of a group of middle school students performing exercises.

A small group of men, most over the age of fifty, is scattered about the southwest corner of the field. They pull their legs up or extend them to their sides, stretching their leg out, while catching up on each others lives over the passed week. Each wears a T-shirt and a pair of extra-short shorts. Every few minutes, another runner in similar attire joins them and starts his warm-ups.

"Alright, we got thirty seconds!" calls Danny Moon, a member of the West Valley Joggers and Striders Club (WVJS), after setting up the clock display.

The other members quickly congregate into a swarm of runners, anxious to start the workout. Milling about the start line, the runners finish their stretches and conversations, preparing themselves for the first of three one mile runs. As the thirty second countdown draws to an end, the seven runners start to organize themselves at the start line.

"Go!" Moon shouts, taking off with the rest, each going at his

own speed.

The WVJS was started in the 1980s for Saratogans who have a passion for running to be able to compete in track meets. The Saratoga High runners, a small subset of the 183 WVJS members, meet at the SHS track every Wednesday afternoon. Most of the runners attend regularly, but occasionally, a few middle school and high school runners join in.

As the runners cross the finish line after their fourth lap, they congratulate each other with high fives, and quickly start preparing for the next set.

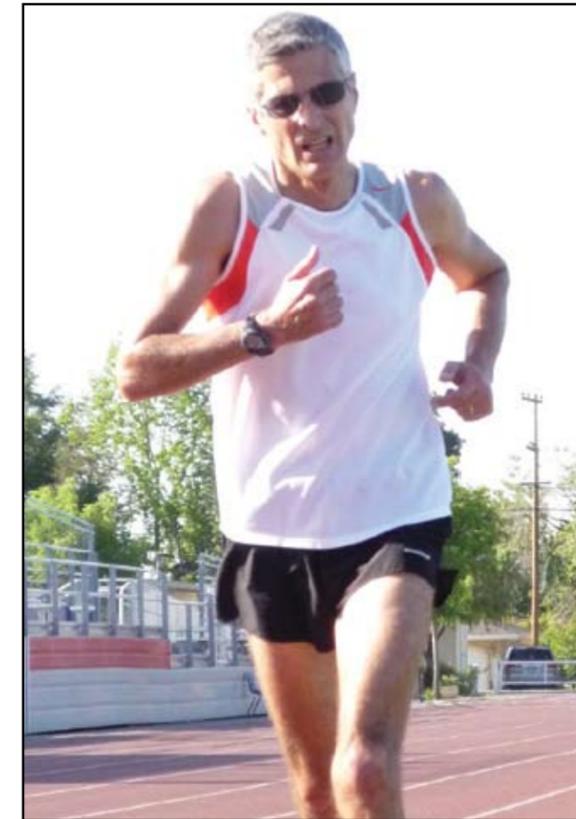
Since their foundation, the club has been competing regularly in meets. Moon recently placed 29th in the 200 meter run and ran 1500 meters in five minutes and 18 seconds. "That's not bad for 61 [years old]," Moon said.

Neil Gelblum, a WVJS runner since 1990, recently placed fourth in the 55 or older category in the Marin county Memorial Day 10K race.

Besides their passion for running, they run for health and to socialize.

"Doing the intervals we do keeps us healthy," said Madelyn Moon, another WVJS member. "And we have lots of fun." ♦

-by Arnav Dugar



Above right - To the finish: Runner Jim Bordoni, 56, finishes his four lap interval. On April 26, Bordoni placed 63<sup>rd</sup> in the men's 55 to 59 year old category. He ran the five kilometer race in 19 minutes and 26 seconds.

Above Left - Rocketman: SHS girl's cross country and track coach, Danny Moon, 61, runs regularly at the track and in competitions. Moon is known as "Rocketman" for his speed. He passionately runs with high school students and welcomes them to run with him.

Left - Keeping fit and keeping company: Runners Bob Lord, 70, in the white shirt and John Purvis, 53, beside him run the workout together and preparing for the next meet. Recently, Bob Lord ran a 10K race at the Marin county Memorial Day Meet. He placed fifth in the seventy or older category, running the distance in 48 minutes, 51 seconds.

Right: Runner Neil Gelblum recently placed fourth in the fifty five and older category at the Marin county 10 kilometer race.



“ Doing the intervals we do keeps us healthy. And we have lots of fun. ”



**Madelyn Moon,**  
Runner

# IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Students get ready to campaign and win their way into the position of class officer.

Students hang up posters with slogans like "Varsha for Secretary" or "If you're Chill, Vote for Will for Sophomore Class President." Others hand out decorative stickers which students wear to show which candidate they support.

Yes, you guessed it; it's class officer elections. The normally plain school walls are transformed and filled with posters advertising the candidates. "I think using posters is the best way to get people's attention because it's something different on the walls and everyone notices," said sophomore President candidate, Will Edman. On the other hand, newly elected sophomore class President, Isabelle Albert believe that "posters don't show the true qualifications of a person."

Candidates get about two weeks to get classmates in-

involved and wanting to vote. Because of this, candidates start to use word of mouth and Facebook groups to get people to show up at the voting table.

The day is soon upon them, and students start going up to the voting tables and putting down their choices. Clusters form around the three tables separating each class and check the number of the officers they want.

Last minute campaigning and dragging people to vote is done and the results are entered.

"It is hard to get people up to the tables to vote because people just want to spend their lunch hanging not voting, and it does not help that some people don't care," said junior president candidate Nina Mohanty.

After two days of voting, the results are cast and candidates

are sent Facebook messages letting them know if they are in the finals or not. Many candidates are let down easily and they move on with their life.

"It is hard to lose but you can always help out with the class and it doesn't change the fact that you have the choice to run next year," said sophomore vice president candidate Steven Sun.

Newly elected officers are expected to make their class better than before, and that comes with challenges.

"Changes have to be made, to make a class succeed, and I know as the new class president I have a lot of pressure to make an impressive class, but that's what I signed up for," said Albert.

As each new year comes through a new set of campaign posters go up and a new set of

officers are chosen. In addition, as the new year comes around new ideas come forth and changes come to the school.

For juniors and seniors it is the idea of having a perfect prom, and for every class they worry about their homecoming and spring fling participation.

"Every class wants to do the best and not embarrass themselves," said Edman. "That was the basis of my campaign since this year didn't go as well as planned."

Rules help the classes be different and go through some extreme changes.

"Since officers cannot run for the same position two years in a row, it helps change the atmosphere of the class," said Mohanty, "and each new year, different changes come to light and it helps the school be different and try new things." -Mary Edman



**Get Ready, Get Set, Vote (above):** from left to right sophomore Patti Dholakia, Yeebin Kim, Chris Han, Kyle Karrent, Cid Diaz, Victor Zhang, Matt Cresci, and Erin Wong fill out their ballots for their sophomore's choice. "It was hard to campaign because we did not have much time but I used my friends to help me out," sophomore Tim Ballinson.



**Sophomores Here (above):** from left to right, sophomores Leah Capek and Sara Padash fill out their ballots for their choices for sophomore class officers. "This year it was hard to get people out and voting because no one really cared, it's sad to see your class come to that," said sophomore Nina Mohanty.



**Fill out your ballot:** Junior class mates Chris Reynolds, Krishna Nayak, and Mary Myhaylova hand their ballots to ASB officer, Hera Hyder. This will be last time that the Class of 2010 will ever have to vote for class officer



**Freshman Vote (far left):** from left to right, freshman Spencer Perry and Haris Khan fill out their ballots, as freshman Matt Ilnicki looks on. The freshman's had a close call for class president with Isabelle Albert coming out on top. Also winning Anika Jhalani for VP, Krishnan Raman, Treasurer, Varsha Ramesh, Secretary, and Nicole Shadman and Shivani Chadha for Class Representative

**Come Together (above):** grades meet together during lunch to fill out their ballots to choose the next class officers and members of site council. This year's voting system was different with voting happening at lunch not in classes.

“Changes have to be made to make a class succeed, and I know as the new class president I have a lot of pressure to make an impressive class, but that's what I signed up for.”

**Isabelle Albert,**  
**Freshman**

# ONE LAST HURRAH

## English teacher made his last year as enjoyable as possible for students

**E**nergetic freshman students come into English teacher Paul Page's sixth period class on a Friday after lunch, excited and anticipating the upcoming weekend. For about five minutes, the students commence in loud conversations and other antics such as eating cake and performing magic tricks, almost as if a teacher isn't there.

Finally, Page stands up from his desk. "Hey guys, I know that this is a good place to relax and release stress," he says in his unassuming, gentle voice. "But I also like to get some learning done occasionally."

This mentality allowed Page's class to become immensely popular. The majority of his students consider it their favorite class.

"Simply put, Mr. Page is awesome," freshman Courtney Brandt said.

Page brought even more of his fun-loving personality to his classes this year because it will be his last year as an SHS teacher. This year has been somewhat of a long going-away party for a teacher who has been at SHS for decades.

Whether he is remembered as a choir or teacher at the beginning of his teaching career or as the man swimming for miles every morning, he has always been a fixture on campus.

Undoubtedly, Page has had many great memories of SHS, but he has also brought countless memories to his students.

"The stories that he tells are crazy," said freshman Steven Sun. "There's the story about how he beat up a lady in a bathroom, the one where he fell off his bike headfirst and landed on his feet, and how he fell on his side so many times skiing that he can never sleep on that side again. These stories were always a great break from the academic stuff we have to do all day."

Although going off on tangents and telling humorous stories might seem anti-educational, this strategy was actually a very effective way for page to keep his students' attentions.

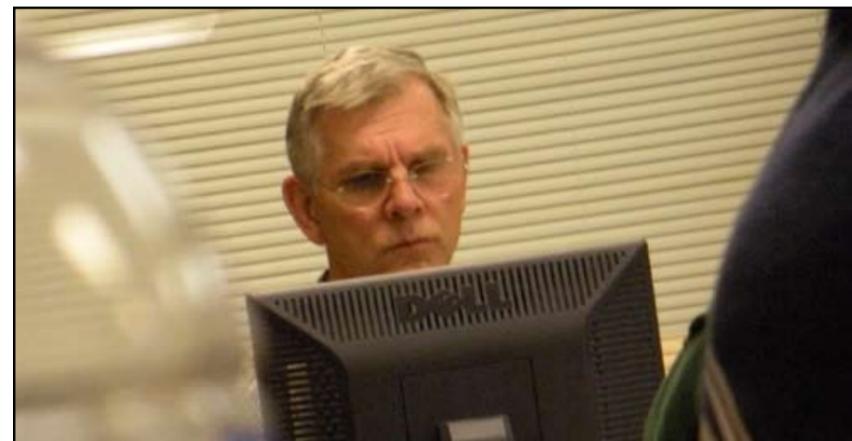
Not only has Page earned his students' praise with humor, but also with his preeminent grasp of the English language.

"Mr. Page has such a large vocabulary," said freshman Jennifer



**Pleasing the crowd:** English teacher Page poses for picture-takers after donning a student's sunglasses. "I thought that was so funny," freshman Annie Barco said. "That's just another one of his amazing moments."

**Writing like a mad man:** Freshman Myron Zhang sprints through his assignment so he can get to his homework from other classes. Mr. Page was different because he allowed students to work on homework from any class



**Hard at work:** Mr. Page works at his computer, preparing for an upcoming lecture. These times when Mr. Page was at work gave students a few minutes of free time to relax and release stress.

**The insane lecturer:** aPage gives one of his many animated talks to his class. "Lessons were never boring," Freshman Annie Barco said.

## A man of many talents: Page's stations at SHS

- Choir director
- Journalism advisor
- English 9 teacher
- English 12 teacher

**Enjoying the class:** Freshman Courtney Brandt smiles while working on an assignment. "Mr. Page somehow made work fun," Brandt said.



**A class filled with fun:** Some students work hard on a paper, while others talk quietly amongst themselves. This freedom given by Mr. Page was very unique and a great privilege to have.

# NEW BEGINNINGS

The Saratoga cheer team has implemented multiple new **changes** for the 2009-2010 season



**Flipping upside-down:** Junior Alexa Francis stands upside-down on her hands while talking to a fellow teammate. She had been on the team during all three years of her highschool career and was one of the few members who had gymnastics experience.

"5, 6, 7, 8, high V, 2, 3, 4, and 5, 6, stand 7, 8," counted cheer coach Laressa Ridge while the exhausted team lands after jumping into the air, creating a resounding thud on the hardwood floors of the dance studio.

"Oww, I feel so old," said former captain Ally Doles, complaining of lower back pain.

"What does that make Miss Ridge then?" questioned junior Alexa Francis, which prompted a few chuckles from nearby observers that quickly turned into uncontrollable laughter.

A laidback atmosphere is present during the Saratoga cheer team's daily afternoon practices, which started May 18 following tryouts that took place the week before. When it comes down to it, however, Ridge embodies the strict, no nonsense persona, and is never opposed to the team dropping down and giving her 20 when necessary.

The 2009-2010 season will employ some major changes, including the role of coach and advisor being given out solely to Ridge, who has been a coach for five years already and worked for the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) for 13 years. There will also be the added option to only participate in cheering at games opposed to cheering and competing as well.

"Not everyone will be on the competition team," said Ridge. "I created this new possibility because a lot of girls have been interested but didn't have the amount of time needed to com-

pete."

If someone does not have skill set needed to be on the competition team, they can become an alternate and still learn all the material. They will be able to fill in if someone falls sick or becomes injured. Once they have built up their abilities, they might be eligible to either be part of the competition squad later this season or next year.

Currently, everyone is reviewing the cheers they will perform at football games next school year with the new members learning everything from scratch. The team loudly chants cheers during practices and returning members help out the new girls, correcting their mistakes. All the girls who tried out to be on the team secured a spot, which is a rare, but occurred since there were no significant breaks in the evaluation scores, said Ridge.

Safety will also be a top priority this season as multiple girls were hurt last year. Injuries are not completely unavoidable since cheerleading is a dangerous athletic activity.

"Safety is the most important thing in cheer," said Ridge. "I will do everything I can and take every precaution to make it as safe as possible."

Ridge, as well as everyone on the cheer team, hopes to have a successful season after implementing these new changes while still maintaining the upbeat and optimistic attitude displayed so far. —By Sarah Hull



**Handy advice:** Cheer coach Laressa Ridge explains how to perform a certain stunt to seniors Nicole Robinson and Alana Ledbetter using easily understood hand motions to describe what to do. Ridge had been a cheer coach for five years and worked at the Universal Cheerleaders Association for 13 years.

**S-H-S you know:** Every person on the cheer team puts their hands in, forming a circle and says one last chant of "S-H-S you know!" before they end their practice. The team had been practicing this common cheer ritual for many years and did this at every practice so far this season.



**Perfect positioning:** Laressa Ridge teaches the cheer team how to do a specific motion in one of the dozens of cheers that all team members must know before the start of the fall football season. Ridge encouraged everyone to practice over the summer to perfect the cheers.

# Swim, Swim, Swim

Swimming at the Saratoga High Aquatics Centre  
At seven in the morning

Saratoga High School Aquatics Centre: 7.00 am. This practice is by far a late one, usually the swimmers are here at 6.30, already doing dry-land. But this practice is the first morning practice that they have seen in almost a month, having been training with their high schools. So they still walk in bleary eyed and silent. For about the first ten minutes they stand, greeting each other, swapping CCS stories, and hoping that in the next five minutes the pool breaks down.

But alas the pool keeps humming, and soon Carol, their coach arrives. The boys go to the locker room because theirs is closest to the pool, and change. Usually they are too lazy to go out until the last possible minute, taking peeks out the door, seeing if the girls have gotten ready yet. Once it has been determined that the girls have indeed gotten ready and are choosing lanes, the guys rush out and jump in to the pool.

"All right, lets do a 400 warm-up" shouts Carol, unusually alert. The kids act like an out of sorts engine, with a few doing part of a lap, and some just stopping completely. It takes a few shouts from Carol to get everyone swimming as they should. By the time everyone one is done with warm-up, the sun is up, transforming the pool from one of

you-must-be-crazy-to-swim-at-this-hour, to one of grace, beauty, and tranquility.

Carol, after announcing a particularly hard set is asked "Gee, did you really miss us that much?" by Daryl Neubiser to which she replied, yes indeed, but we need to get back to work. This is one of those odd moments where the relationship between swimmer and coach is exposed, both grateful and sarcastic, crazy, and very demanding. The relationship is something of cross between parent and peer, the line blurred between confidante and whistleblower. Remember, this is the sport where they thank their coaches for letting them breathe, and there is no such thing as too early for practice.

**Background:** The DACA National Development Group begins another long day swimming with a refreshing, if not dangerous practice, diving how ever you feel like, which entails, running, jumping, spinning, twirling, flipping, and acrobatics of all sorts

**“Gee, did you really miss us that much?”**

**Daryl Neubiser**



**Top:** Swimmers prepare for the mornings practice in front of the bleachers.

**Good Morning:** Megan Leung, and Tamy Yao walk in sleepy eyed, and not to keen to talk!



**Left:** Coach Carol instruts the swimmers in correct diving technique



**Right:** Daryl Neubiser and Connor Beinston enjoy the last few minutes before another grueling morning practice.



# SARATOGA HEARTS PIZZA

Pizza My Heart makes Saturday nights in Saratoga livelier with its great atmosphere

Spinning three pizza pies in the air at a time would be a marvelous feat for anyone else, but for Dan Nguyen it's all in a Saturday night's work. Saturday night is the busiest time of the week at the Saratoga Pizza My Heart branch. "We literally prepare all week for Saturday night," Nguyen said, with a hint of exasperation in his voice.

Approximately 150 people visit the pizzeria every weeknight from 7-10 o'clock for a fresh, handmade 12, 14, or 18-inch pizza. However, every Saturday night, a recorded 478 visitors humble this amount.

"It's great to see all these people love to eat the food we make," said Matt Forrester, another pizza maker.

When asked, Nguyen and Forrester would not work any place else because they both agreed that working at the Saratoga branch was the most interesting, unexpected and entertaining job the two could ever have. "I work hard on weekdays, knowing that it'll pay off when the fun comes Saturday night," said an excited Forrester.

Many pizza eaters think it is an easy job to make pizza and earn money, but working at this pizza shop is far more complex and intriguing than that. Imagine twirling dough around your pointer finger for several minutes, then throwing several toppings on top of it, and then finally tossing the loaded pizza into a 450-degree oven.

Now imagine doing these steps ten times every

hour. "It's a lot harder than you think," said Nguyen, an original Saratoga branch worker.

In fact, the Saturday night job is somewhat of a privilege. It even has its own pet name: "The Show Shift." The workers believe 7-11 o'clock P.M. on Saturdays to be an entertaining show.

The new Saratoga branch impacted the surrounding stores so much; it increased AMC 14's sales because after eating dinner, many people go watch movies next door. It also decreased Baskin Robbins'

income because entertainment searchers are choosing the pizzeria over the ice cream parlor. "We love Pizza My Heart because they help us get the tickets sold!" explained a thankful AMC ticket seller, Frank Gallardi. Saturday night in the plaza is livelier than ever before, despite the economy because neither AMC nor Pizza My heart charges high prices.

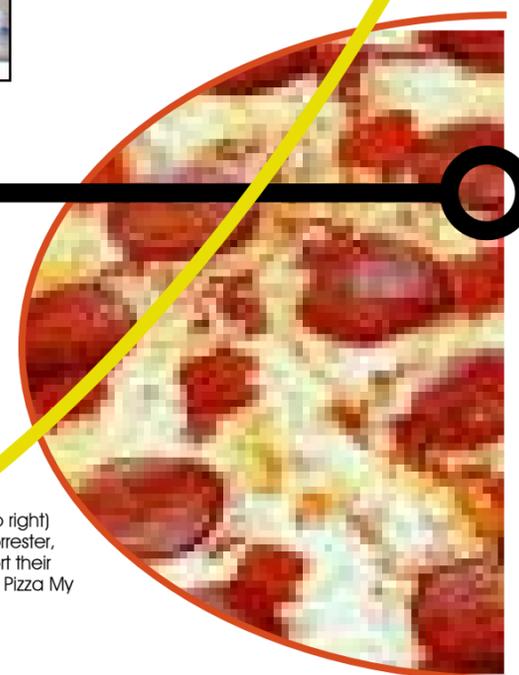
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In retrospect, Pizza My Heart has made Saratoga a livelier place Saturday nights with its inexpensive, tasty pizza, and its crewmembers that are always looking to have a good time. ♦ --By Salmaan Javed



**Pizza My Heart:** An outside view of the Saratoga Pizza My Heart Branch.

**Speedy Spinner:** Gaspar Perez tosses a pizza pie in the air, spinning it on his index finger, while singing a song at the same time. These pizza makers love to challenge themselves!



**“I work hard on weekends, knowing that it'll pay off when the fun comes Saturday night.”**  
**Matt Forrester,**  
**Pizza Maker**



**Posing for the Camera:** (From left to right) Gaspar Perez, Antonio Perez, Matt Forrester, Tommy Selves, and Dan Nguyen sport their best smiles for the picture. The whole Pizza My Heart gang was present.

# SARATOGA SPRINGS

A summer campground with various water activities and obstacle courses for everyone.

Saratoga Springs is the perfect place for an old-fashioned picnic on a hot summer day or a summer camp where there is a swimming pool with other water activities such as indulging in a cool pool while drinking something sweet. In this area there are different types of cultural food along with a rope course, which is a beautiful natural setting, with fun and lots of delving into how each individual works together and what things that they would like to improve upon within them.

This summer camp allows anyone from ages 5 and above and is located on Jefferson St. and Gridley St. Saratoga Springs is known for its weddings and other parties held there. Around this area, there are Redwood trees, which tower the skies. Trickling streams slice their way through edgy rocks otherwise known as the verdant canyon. A sun-cooling swimming pool as though calling visitors to lounge around, relax, and refresh them.

"I love this nice relaxing place. I feel very peaceful and at home," said 8 year old Alicia Chen.

Saratoga Springs host parties for all ages, all events, and all occasions can be held in the beautiful outdoors... A great place for all ages to enjoy day or night! Saratoga Springs provides one of the best elite team-building experiences in the Bay Area. They offer unique programs and activities, which can be experienced at Saratoga Springs itself or at any location of your choice. Their wide variety of team-building programs ranges from one hour to full-day events. With their dynamic style, the professional team building staff will enhance any event.

"We cater food from different restaurants to get different tastes not just barbeque," said Sally Wemmings a staff member of Saratoga Springs.

Saratoga Springs, the Bay Area's oldest continually operating picnic facility, is what summer joviality is all about. The Giannini family, owners of Saratoga Springs since the late 1800's, takes great pride in the quality of their catering and customer service. Currently on the fifth generation, the Giannini family continues the legacy of providing old-fashioned picnics as well as developing new programs that will allow the staff to help the changing business environment of the Silicon Valley.

"I can just let my kids enjoy the water slides while I can talk to my friends on the other end of the site. I is a really safe place for my kids which makes me very happy," said adult Mark Hujens.

The nature has provided a restful and perfect place to share its glory with friends and family in the summertime and has provided comfort for young children better than ever. Saratoga Springs mission statement resoundingly beckons children and adults to spend summer at their site:

"To provide the ideal outdoor environment and a unique opportunity for children to learn valuable skills and make new friends through programs that are challenging, educational, and fun. We believe camp provides an opportunity for personal growth, increased self-esteem and friendship building. We hope to create a space for young people to learn how to work as a group while gaining confidence in their unique abilities as an individual" — **By Naina Kalkunte**

“I think Saratoga Springs is a great place to enjoy summer vacation. There are many water activities.”

Meghana Rao,  
Freshman



**Board of Saratoga Springs:** This is a welcoming sign which was presented and made in the late 1800s and displays 'healthy horses.'



**Forest Running:** Within the campground of Saratoga Springs a man does his daily jog in the early morning.



**Hit the ball:** Some children play beach ball in the water to celebrate the end of the school year and the joy of summer.

# RIDING WITH THE PRO'S

People of all ages take riding lessons at **Garrod Farms** in the afternoon.



**Side view:** Garrod's is a great place for horses to live. They are stuck in their stables at night but roam the pasture at night.



**Rider:** Piper Lewis, horseback rider, has her weekly lesson at Garrod's. She was riding her horse Feather in the ring.

When standing in the middle of a beautiful place, do you really have the time or ability to take it all in? Or are some things just lost? A view of the many acres of a winery, the thousands of colorful flowers lining the paths, the old building holding so many memories of the past, the greenest grass with the beautiful horses grazing.

How hard would it be to focus in a place like this?

Not as hard as you would think. Many jobs and learning experiences take place at Garrod Farms in the Saratoga Mountains.

"I love being able to work outdoors," says Christina Nakano, horseback-riding instructor at Garrod's, "there are great horses to work with and wonderful people to teach."

Garrod's started out as an orchard, but in 1962 the first horses were brought in. The barns and arena were built in 1964 and the vineyards were planted in 1974. There are currently 120 acres that make up Garrod's with about 23 miles of riding trails.

Over 160 people take riding lessons at Garrod's weekly. Of these, Nakano teaches about 24 lessons per week. Nakano has

been teaching at Garrod's since 1999 and has been riding horses for eighteen years. She is at Garrod's from Monday to Saturday and spends about 35-50 hours there a week.

Garrod's both boards horses for owners without space to keep a horse, and owns horses that are used for lessons and people who don't have horses of their own. "I enjoy teaching at Garrod's because there are good horses, and a good environment for the horses," says Nakano.

However, owning horses is not cheap, buying good show horses can cost up to \$70,000. Plus boarding, lessons, and supplies for the horse can cost additional thousands of dollars a month. But most people who actually own horses don't regret this. "Riding is about sharing passion with the people you ride with and teach," says Nakano.

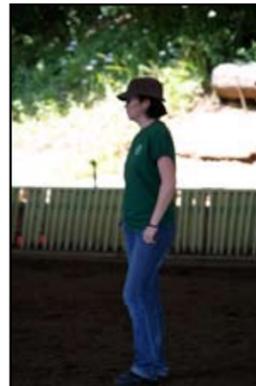
An afternoon at Garrod Farms is never wasted. From the amazing sights to being able to ride a horse, there is never a dull moment. ♦ **-- By Sloan Lewis**



**Winery:** Garrod's is not just for horses, it is also a winery with many acres of vineyards.



**Symbol:** The Garrod Farms symbol is a capital G with a key coming out of it.



**Instructor:** Christina Nakano teaches her afternoon lessons standing in the ring.



**Horses:** One of the many horses at Garrod's.



**“Riding is about sharing passion with the people you ride with and teach”**

**Christina Nakano,  
Riding Instructor**



**Feather:** One of the many boarded horses at Garrod's. Feather is leased to riders who want to see what it's like to have their own horse.



**Riding in the ring:** A rider demonstrates her ability, doing a canter in the show ring at Garrod's.



**Horse Stables:** Garrod Farms owns many horses that they use for lessons. These horses stay in the stables during the day.

# ON TOUR IN A HOME OF HISTORY

Collector Bill Cleary led an informative **Civil War** tour in his Saratoga home

A man, dressed in Civil War attire, carefully guarded a tent, which was occupied by two soldiers playing cards. His face was set in a tight grimace; it was clear that he was feeling the heat of war.

The man glanced around him, searching for signs of oncoming danger...except that all that time, he did not move one bit. He saluted, alert; he was about an inch tall.

The guard was surrounded, shoulder-to-shoulder, with hundreds of others like himself.

This figurine was part of the Cleary Civil War Collection, one of the largest private collections on the west coast. Former history teacher and executive Bill Cleary led a tour of his collection in his Saratoga home on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Cleary explained that the reason the exhibit is set in Saratoga is because it is a "19<sup>th</sup> century town" with well-kept old buildings.

"[Saratoga] is maintained," he said.

At the entrance, a fully clothed, life-sized mannequin stood at attention, sporting military clothing complete with a large navy-colored coat and various supplies.

Gold-framed portraits of famous people were lined up to the ceiling, covering an entire wall.

"[This was] painted in the 1600s," Cleary said, pointing to a painting of Henry VIII.

The tour group, consisting of 10 people, most of whom were elderly, soon moved on to an exhibit with real shells and bullets. Cleary explained that they had basically been picked off the battlefield.

"I have one of these at home!" said a young Civil War enthusiast, around nine years old. He hefted a round, dense bullet and a burnt piece of a build-

ing in his hand.

After passing around the items, the group circled around a war diorama. The scene unfolded itself: wine bottles lay scattered around soldiers; the wounded were positioned inside hospital wagons, ready for amputation.

"Most of this stuff is handmade," Cleary said about the figurines. "They are packed individually."

In the last room, he pointed out real publications preserved from the time period. An issue of the *New York Tribune* was on a wooden desk, next to a yellowed issue of *Harper's Weekly*.

There were small soldiers playing baseball in a miniature field in the last diorama. Cleary explained that baseball was a popular pastime for soldiers.

"[Baseball] goes back to the Civil War," Cleary said. To illustrate his point, he gave a brief history of the New York Yankees.

"My uncle brought a [baseball] team from Baltimore," he said. "They were called the 'Highlanders.'" His uncle later sold the team, which eventually became the New York Yankees.

He concluded the tour on a humorous note, joking about the unconvincing actors in video reenactments of the Civil War.

At the end of the two-hour circuit, the group filed out, leaving the exhibits with newfound knowledge and respect. However, it would not be possible to keep the exhibit in his house forever, Cleary said.

His goal is to eventually have a multimedia museum, preferably in Saratoga. With this in mind, the Civil War devotees left the exhibit, smiles lingering on their faces, anticipating another world of history to come. —by Denise Lin



**Waiting Around:** Lifelike soldiers guard the campsite, amid luggage and wine bottles. Most of the figurines exhibited in the collection were handmade, giving them their realistic expressions.

**Take Me Out to the Ballgame:** The tour group admires a diorama showcasing daily life and recreational activities. Baseball was a popular sport during the Civil War.

**Defending His Homeland:** This life-sized mannequin is decked out in Civil War military attire. He stood at attention among to war dioramas and portraits of significant people, such as Henry VIII.

**Frozen in Time:** A figurine storms into battle on horseback. This figurine was one of the thousands displayed in Bill Cleary's collection.



# GOOD MORNING, SARATOGA

Start off the day to a warm cup of coffee from the local Starbucks; it starts to grow on you.



Just as the sun has just risen; pink streaks color the sky, slowly fading into a light blue color. Cool fog brushes through the morning air.

Windy chills pierce all of his pores, causing small bumps to line along his skin's surface.

The lonely, murky atmosphere gives him more reason to stay in bed, snuggled up where worries do not run through his mind.

Junior Kenneth Cai can barely open his eyes. After staying up until 3:00 AM studying for a physics test, the only thing that wakes him up will be the glance of his alarm clock, showing that he slept in for another 20 minutes or so.

On the way, late to school, Cai stops at Starbucks to get his Venti Mocha Cappuccino with three shots of caffeine, to start his day off.

Starbucks is becoming more popular among Saratoga high school students, putting even their next-door competitor, Jamba Juice, out of business.

The familiar smell of coffee beans immediately warms Cai up. The chill clears up, turning into a perfect temperature, the kind where one would not want it any better.

Wooden chairs and bed-like sofas, resembling a cozy cottage, surround the café, inviting one to sit down.

However, Cai must resist his urge to sit, as it would be so comfortable, and a lot better than going to school, and walks directly to the cashier instead.

He takes a quick glimpse at the menu above the server's head, just to make sure he says the coffee's name correctly, even though he always

gets the same thing.

"The caffeine starts to kick in after 30 minutes, which gives me just enough time to be alert while I'm taking my tests," Cai said. "However, after about two hours, I'll start to crash. Still, I could not stay awake without it."

Although Cai prefers to drink Starbucks because it helps him to stay awake, freshman Ariel Cheng just enjoys the atmosphere and savory drinks.

"It is a great place to meet up with friends," Cheng said. "We just hang out on the couches and talk; it's so comfortable and practical."

Whether or not teenagers go there after pulling an all-nighter as an attempt to stay awake in class, or just to hang out with friends and talk with them, Starbucks will always be a hotspot for students.

"I go there whenever I get the chance to," freshman Rachel Le said. "Mostly at sleepovers, we would walk there early in the morning after talking all night to each other."

Le does not even need caffeine to keep her awake; she just likes the sweetness of the drinks.

Being overly tired as she is, she sticks with her Tall Green Tea Frappuccino "no matter what time of day it is."

She prefers Starbucks over other popular drink places because it is "on every corner."

"Though the economy is so bad," Le said. "Starbucks will probably pull through because it is the original coffee shop that everyone can count on to deliver the same fast service and tasty drinks." ♦ —By Vivian Lu

“...after about two hours, I'll start to **crash**. Still, I could not stay awake without it.”

**Kenneth Cai,**  
Junior



**Slept-over:** After a sleepless sleepover, freshman Ariel Cheng and Rachel Le rely on Starbucks to keep them awake for the rest of the day. However, they seem to have fallen asleep before the frappuccinos even arrived.



**Drive-through:** Junior Kenneth Cai leaves Starbucks through the back door after staying up late again to study for a math test, grabbing a cappuccino on the way to school, left.

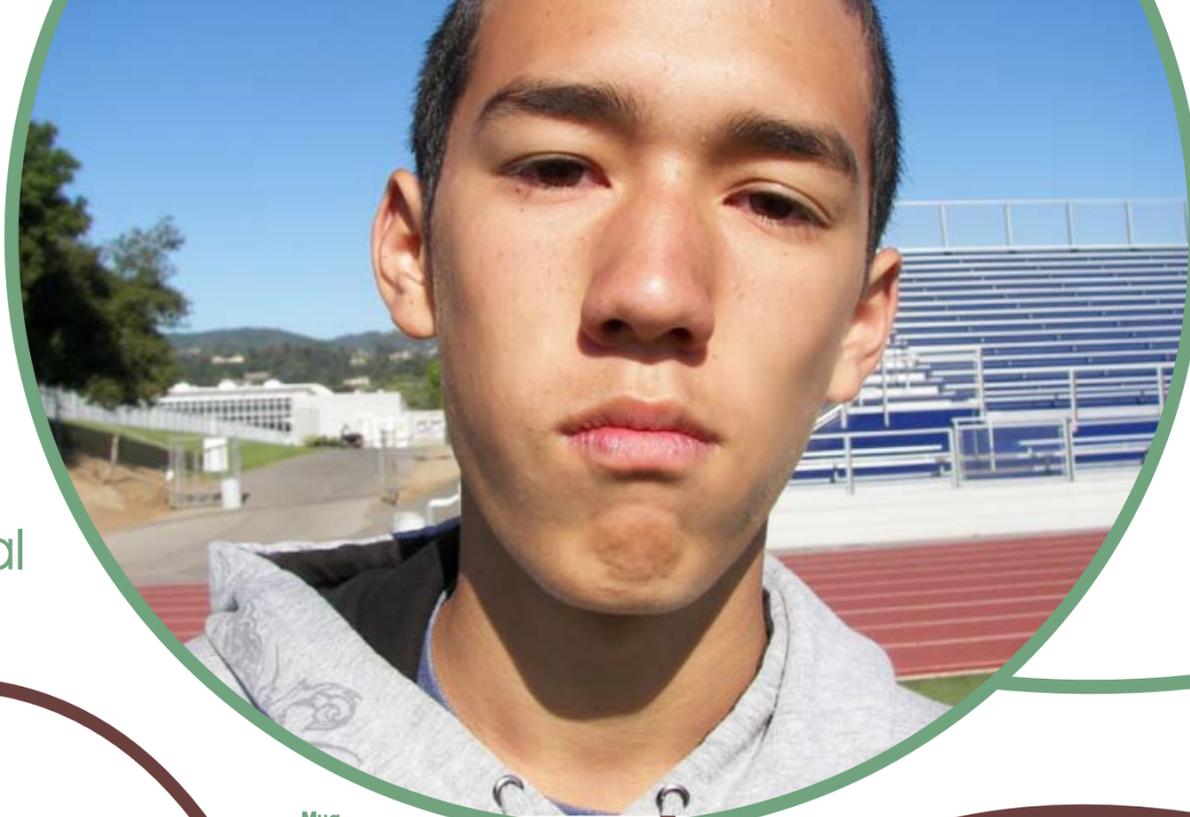


**Time is money:** Businessmen and restless students rush to get their coffee in the morning, leaving right away; no one has the time to take a seat and enjoy the warmth of the cafe, even though it looks so inviting, far left.

**Checking out:** Freshman Ashley Tang, who goes there as often as she can, searches through her wallet for exact change, as the cashier begins to prepare her Strawberry Frappuccino, left.

# PERMANENT MEMORIES

Mr. Tyler's journalism classes take a break from the usual



**Mug shot:** Freshman Will Edman takes a moment to look the photographer right in the eye.

lick, click, click go the shutters of close to forty cameras as they open or close. Or rather the click from built in speakers on the sleek digital cameras reminiscent of a time when cameras used \*gasp\* actual film. However the important thing here is not the new age technology at work but rather the unique expression of creativity that is unique to Saratoga high. The assignment for the students is a simple one; take a variety of photos that that displays certain aspects of photography. The concept may not be very complex but it yields hundreds of different results.

The atmosphere is pleasant with many students posing for others or playing Frisbee with one another so a third can get that perfect action shot. Some people take photos of P.E. classes in session; others take candid photos of walkers and joggers around the track. Others go for an aesthetically pleasing shot by trying different types of angles, whether it be a bird's eye view or laying down on the ground. For some this assignment brings side which is similar to a monkey in the jungle, climbing all over the place to get some new take on a seemingly simple shot. To some people photography gives them a chance to display their artistic sense and style. To others who might not be so experienced it is still a fun activity which puts a smile on everyone's face.

Every person has their own personal style that is exemplified by

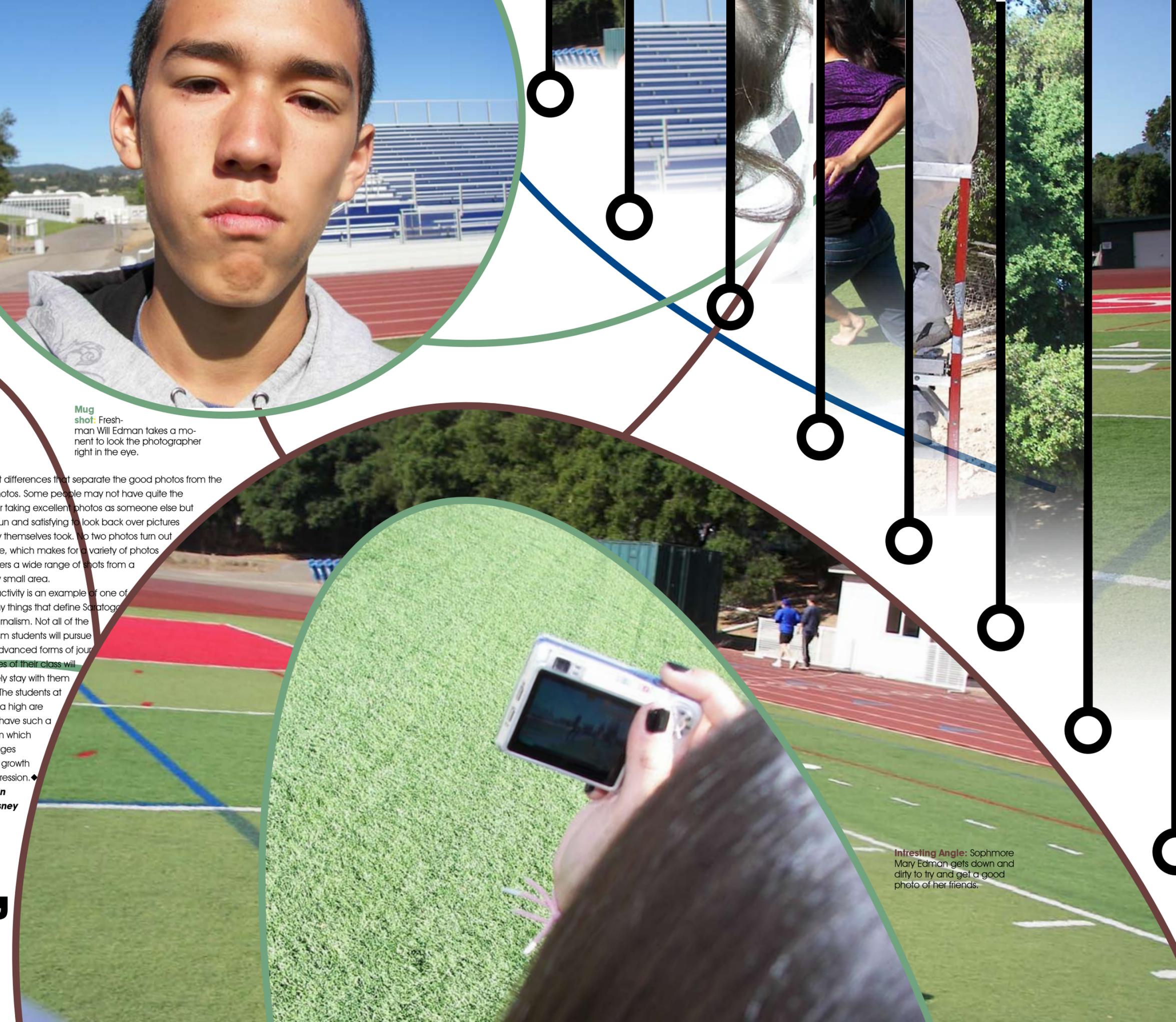
the slight differences that separate the good photos from the great photos. Some people may not have quite the knack for taking excellent photos as someone else but it is still fun and satisfying to look back over pictures that they themselves took. No two photos turn out the same, which makes for a variety of photos that covers a wide range of shots from a relatively small area.

This activity is an example of one of the many things that define Saratoga high journalism. Not all of the high journalism students will pursue more advanced forms of journalism. memories of their class will most likely stay with them forever. The students at Saratoga high are lucky to have such a program which encourages creative growth and expression.

**-B Cullan  
McChesney**

“It was a fun alternative to what we usually do.”

**Eric Wang,  
Freshman**



**Interesting Angle:** Sophomore Mary Edman gets down and dirty to try and get a good photo of her friends.



**Honor from us all:** A Girl Scout kneels to place a laurel spray on the grave of a special war veteran. This veteran's grave was in the center of the cemetery. Many other graves circled around that one.

**La la la:** The Saratoga High choirs sing "Irish Blessing" harmoniously. Singing only three songs, the choirs had to sit around for a long time. "It was kind of boring," freshman Nancy Chen said, "but it was also pretty inspiring."

**A Delicious Treat:** Freshman woman's chorale singer Andrea Liu bites into her donut after the ceremony is over.



# THANKS FOR THE MEMBERS

## Saratoga High's band and choirs honors military veterans on Memorial Day

**W**hile some Saratoga High students were sleeping in, the Saratoga High band and members of the choirs were already awake playing and singing at the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Madronia Cemetery. The choirs were comprised of the Concert, Chamber, Soprano/Alto, Cantata, and Men's Choirs.

It was a cool, sunny day in Saratoga on Memorial Day. The grass was green and lush in the cemetery. The sky was light blue with fluffy white clouds and the trees provided shade for the audience as they listened to a speaker at the podium. Nearly all of the 100 folding chairs were full.

Some gravestones had flowers next to them; others were decorated with laurel sprays and a flag, which indicated that person was a military veteran. The Girl Scouts of Saratoga Service Unit 18 and the Boy Scouts of Troop 535 placed the sprays to honor war veterans. The Boy Scouts also presented the Colors (American and Californian flags), led the Pledge of Allegiance, and retired the Colors, then the speeches began.

From 10 to 11 am, many residents of Saratoga gave speeches about how fortunate we are to live in the United States and gave thanks to our army. There were also many different presentations and religious ceremonies.

The Redwood Middle School percussion led the procession to the area where the service would occur. The color guard of Troop 535 followed, and the fifth and eighth grade honor service students brought up the rear, carrying flags. Once the audience settled into their seats, the service began.

The first speaker was Pastor Derek Engfelt of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, who performed both the invocation and benediction. Virginia King, president of the Saratoga Foothill Club, welcomed the audience and introduced the Boy and Girl Scouts by saying, "[They] will now place laurel sprays on the graves of the veterans in this cemetery. These graves are marked with a small American flag in the grass."

Chuck Page, mayor of Saratoga, greeted the audience and talked about the "American Dream." Yifat Amir, Kara Dimicco, and Heather Sabel, students of Redwood Middle School, made remembrance recitations, which included the Gettysburg Address.

Tom Wyant, retired Captain of the US Army, spoke about the US's founding fathers, and how Americans should be thankful for the military. The last speaker was Sophia Cooper, an SHS Girl Scout. "The Pledge of Allegiance was written over 120 years ago. Many of us do not know what it means; we just say it blindly," she said. She went on to explain its meaning.

The SHS band and choir presented the "The Star Spangled Banner", "Amazing Grace", "Irish Blessing", and "America the Beautiful". Ray-Young Tsao and Kate Stewart of the SHS band performed Taps, an army reveille (a signal that the day is over).

Following the Boy Scouts' color guard retiring of the flags, the ceremony ended. The band and choirs received donuts as a late breakfast and as a thank you from the organizers of the event. The cemetery filled with happy sounds of chattering and munching of donuts as everyone left. —By Allene Nguyen

**“The Pledge of Allegiance was written over 120 years ago. Many of us do not know what it means; we just say it blindly.”**

**Sophia Cooper, Junior**



**Welcome to the Cemetery:** Saratoga Mayor Chuck Page greets the audience. "Many people cannot remember the name of someone they just met 10 minutes ago. We need to change that," he said.



**Wake-up Call:** Ray-Young Tsao and Kate Stewart performs "Taps" to honor the war veterans.

# BACK TO THE PAST

The preschool on Saratoga High grounds **bursts** full of youthful energy

The crisp morning breeze silences Saratoga High, but there remains a spark of sunshine somewhere on the campground. Across the noisy halls, through the crowds of stressed teenagers, and past the serious-minded main office, lies a "Paradise on Earth" filled with colorful murals and bins overflowing with toys set separately for the children of Saratoga High School teachers.

There is a tiny preschool which is a private business that pays rent to stay on the Saratoga High Campus is passed by many students daily without even noticing due to the surrounding encasing fence and remote location.

Among the 14 students, a little boy with smooth black hair, a dark brown shirt and leafy green eyes introduces himself as Kyto. He guides us around, showing us his best friends, classes, playground, lunch center, and his "favorite Pokemon Pikachu backpack that goes PikaPika!"

The cluster of students are divided into two classrooms; each filled with plastic chairs, a toy kitchen, and a comfortable carpet composed of several puzzle pieces.

"The class over there," said the teacher's aide, Angelina Brenson, "is for our two-to-three year olds,

and the classroom on the left of it is for our bigger kids, four-to-six [years old]."

As she gives the students the "clean up" sign, signaling the beginning of the school day, head teacher Terry Fogarty explains the reason for the school's founding.

Although the school is enrolled full of many kids, "It's very convenient for the teachers here at Saratoga High because they don't need to go off campus to pick up their child," said Fogarty. "Also, they can stay relaxed because if there were an emergency, we'd be only a few steps away."

The kids play, eat, sleep, and learn independence and other common life skills. Before entering the class, a boy yanks on Brenson's pants and offers the last remaining morsels of his cookie.

Although a fairly minor gesture, acts such as these build up character and lead to a more prosperous future. Even petty activities such as "high fives" can keep the students happy.

Fogarty and Brenson wave goodbye and head off into their separate classrooms where they will ultimately help lay down the trail for the future generation to follow. —**Ryan Nguyen**



**The Playground:** Preschool student Kyto Aoki stares in the distance from the safety of his playground penhouse.

“It is very **convenient** for the teachers here at Saratoga High because they don't need to go off campus to pick up their child.”

**Terry Fogarty,**  
Preschool Teacher



**The Staff:** Teacher's aide, Angelina Brenson (left) and head teacher, Terry Fogarty (right) plan for the oncoming graduation.

**The Students:** Preschool student, Tyler Donari looks down at a box full of Legos, thinking of innovative creations to build.



**The Classroom:** Teacher's aide, Angelina Brenson interacts with the kids in the safety of their vibrant classroom. She handed "Little Lisa" her backpack for it was time for her to go.



**Customer service:** Hongs owner, Victor Hongs, works in the restaurant's kitchen making the ever so popular chow mein. Even though Victor owns the restaurant, he likes to provide quality customer service and enjoys cooking the food.

# HONGS: THE PLACE TO EAT

A chinese restaurant located in SHS downtown is byfar **one** of the best chinese restaurants to go to.

Hongs. The bright red letters written in English and then once again in Chinese, illuminate brightly, inviting people inside.

The mouth-watering aroma of chow mein and kung-pao chicken are sensed quickly as one walks into the traditional Chinese restaurant. Ancient pictures of Chinese women adorn the walls.

"Welcome to Hongs! Table for 4?" the waitress says as she smiles at the Chauhdary family, long time customers for Hongs. The front desk where she is sitting contains Chinese dragons and prophets offering toothpicks and fortune cookies. The little girl of the family steals one hoping her mother won't notice and hurriedly stuffs it into her mouth attempting to hide the crunchy noises it makes.

The family frequently visits the restaurant been here before and points to a table situated next to the window. "I've been here so many times," says Harpreet Chauhdary. "You never get tired of this place. It's THAT good."

The waitress leads the family to their desired table. The table is decorated with red table sheets and napkins, a typical color used by the Chinese for its intoxicating vibrancy and rich meaning in Chinese culture and history.

Soy sauce bottles and Chinese chili spices are placed neatly on the table. Chinese flowers and candles bring a feel of culture to the people eating.

The family opens their menus and begins to look for what they desire to eat for the night. It doesn't take long before the family finishes deciding.

"What's so great about this restaurant is it has so much variety," says Neha Chaudhary, wife of Harpreet Chaudhary. "It truly tastes like rich Chinese food, none of that Americanized stuff."

The waitress walks over noticing that the family is ready to place their order.

"Hot and sour soup, chow mein, garlic chicken, black pepper fish, a bowl of rice, and a cup of brown rice for the little girl, anything else?" she says.

"You got it down Sally," says Harpreet. This is the sweet and unusual service Hongs employees provide to their customers. to go to

The food arrives shortly after it is ordered and the amazing smells of well-cooked Chinese food fills the restaurant. The kids immediately start serving themselves a little bit of everything, dropping little pieces of food everywhere on the table. The waitress giggles as the parents attempt to stop their children.

As the family enjoys their meal, the look of being satisfied does not leave their faces for even a quick second.

At the end of their dinner, all the plates are squeaky clean.

"Check please," says Harpreet to the waitress. She smiles and walks over to the family.

"Can I get you anything else?" she asks.



**Kung-pao chicken:** The sign for Hongs, written in both Chinese and English invites people in. The restaurant has a very "traditional chinese" feel to it.



**Good Service:** These are some customers enjoying Hongs. The atmosphere of the restaurant is very comfortable and sophisticated. The walls are painted traditional chinese colors, like reds and yellows. The lighting and decorations create a peaceful mood within the restaurant.



**Delicious meal:** A delicious meal is ready to be served. Brown rice, chow mein, and kung-pai chicken. The food tastes as good as it looks.

# FARMER'S MARKET AWES ALL

Old McDonald has a **farm** but Saratoga has a **farmer's** market

"Don't be shy, come and give it a try!" yells a teenager dressed in pink with her hair tied back, advertising heirloom cherries. All around vendors are offering samples of the farm grown food that they have brought to sell on this fine Saturday morning.

Multiple aromas and mouth-watering foods are found at the Saratoga Farmer's market once every week, year round. As the wind blows by, people who are just wandering by become ever so tempted to go there and to buy as much as you can, come home and make an amazing meal.

There are also many flowers to choose from, most of them rare. Black callillies, brown and yellow African irises, and even trees that were once thought to be extinct can all be found at the farmer's market.

White tents that keep out the sun and allow all of the various types of produce and flowers to stay fresh cover the stands. There are about three to four rows of stands, and about ten in each row. As one passes by just one row, they could see a whole rainbow of colors along with some foods that they have never seen before.

There are mostly fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers and the farmer's market. Their colors can be anything from a green spiky vegetable to a maroon nectarine to spider patterned orchids that come in all sizes and shapes. Some fruits might be new discoveries for most people, with their vibrant contrasting colors while others might be a family favorite.

Each vendor sells something specific and the stands are lined up one

by one next to each other, allowing customers to pick and choose their favorites. Consequently, each customer has a favorite food that they go specifically to the farmer's market to buy.

Saratoga native, Diana Feng Raggett with her whole food bags in tow, comes to the farmer's market to buy salad, vegetables, and salmon spread. Raggett also bought an assortment of different flowers and put those in her bags along with her other groceries.

Just like Raggett, many people buy everything that looks or tastes good at the farmer's market and stuff it in their bags. Since the demands for tasty food, rare plants and organic produce is high, the vendors have to keep up as well.

Nancy Schramm who owns and works at Carman's Nursery, grows her own plants and then goes to the Morgan Hill farmer's market as well as the Saratoga one to sell her plants.

She has a certain something that attracts many customers to her tent: a plant known as the Dawn Redwood, which was in the thought to be extinct in the 1940s, and they only had fossils as records of it. But, a grove of them was found and it was such a miracle that it made headline news.

With the vendors trying so hard, and making sure they have the best of everything, it's no wonder that the farmer's market is successful.

Raggett said, "It's definitely better than the grocery store because you get the experience and the cheaper prices, with the fresher food.

-By Nicole Shadman



**Exotic Orchids:** A customer leafs through all the many types of orchids, trying to decide which one is best. Finally, he decided they were all too beautiful and walked off, not able to make a decision.



**Flower stand:** A regular farmer's market shopper, Diana Feng Raggett, picks and chooses her favorite assortment of flowers to complete her Saturday morning shopping. There were many stands at the market selling flowers, but some were more eye-catching than the rest.



**Best Strawberries in town:** Rodriguez farms in Watsonville takes breaths away when they give samples of their very own little pieces of heaven for customers to try. Their booth was jam packed with people either deciding what strawberries to buy or for those who just wanted some samplers. **Vegetable Stand:** Some customers, like this one buy produce from a stand and as they are walking out, see something eye catching and realize that they want to buy it. **Hectic Saturday Morning:** The farmer's market is packed with people scurrying to get what they want. The farmer's market was usually crowded during all of its hours, from nine in the morning to one in the afternoon.



# A GUIDE TO THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

Whenever an answer is needed the guidance office is the place to go, for any academic or personal questions

A group of students crowd around the main counter, scribbling their information onto a blue counselor appointment slips and a white transcript request form. Towards the back of the office, more students are lined up waiting to see counselors. The two women behind the counter answer questions from the students waiting at the counter asking a wide variety of questions.

"Excuse me, where can I pick up transcripts?"

"Where can I get a work permit?"

"Where do I sign up for summer school?"

These are questions frequently asked in the guidance part of the office at Saratoga High. The guidance office consists of four guidance counselors, the registrar, two secretaries, and the assistant principal of guidance. Their main responsibilities include academic counseling, course scheduling, standardized testing, scholarships, and college admission assistance.

The counselors' role is to help students with any questions they may have about school academics and personal topics. Each student is assigned by last name, to one of the four guidance counselors for the duration of their time in high school.

Many students go to their counselor to ask about course selections, schedule changes and class requirements. The four guidance counselors are Ms. Christy Cali, Ms. Donna Feizzadeh, Ms. Alina Sat-

ake and Ms. Francis Saiki.

The two women behind the main counter, Mrs. Sharron Fong and Mrs. Bonnie Sheikh, provide all of the various guidance information not only for students, but also for teachers and parents.

"Our busiest times are at the beginning of lunch, during tutorials, and right at the end of school," said Sheikh, as she hands a work permit form to a junior. Next to Sheikh, Fong is working to meet a print deadline for the graduation program while discussing the cover, with the art teacher Mr. McCue. Stacked in manila envelopes on her desk are private college application packets.

"I have been working on the graduation program, room assignments for the graduation ceremony, seating arrangements and I am also working on senior awards," said Fong and she sighed at the pile of work waiting to be finished on her desk.

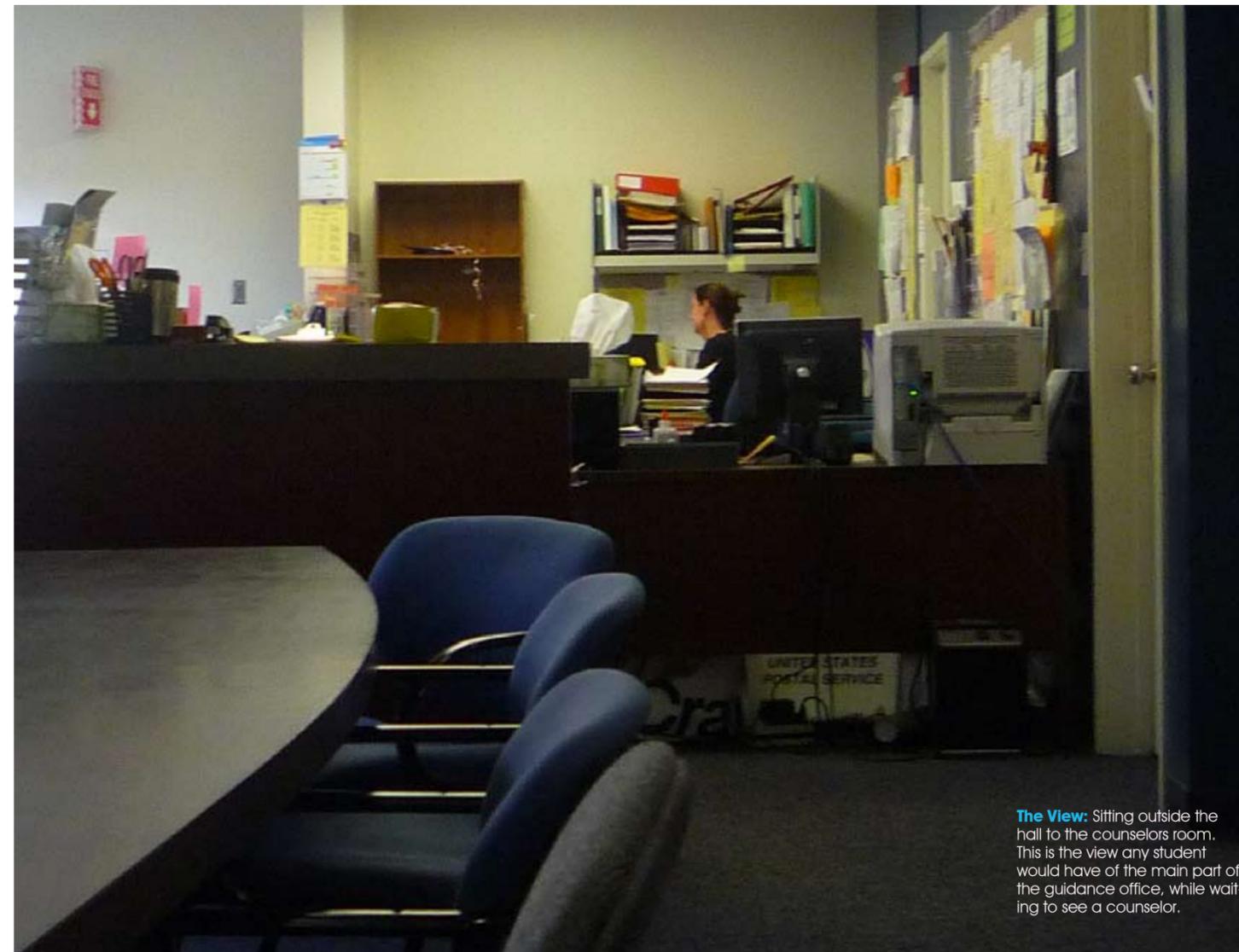
Assistant Principal Mr. Brian Safine walks by with a stack of papers in his hands as he rushes off to another meeting with the principal, Mr. Anderson. Teachers and counselors pop in and out of the registrar's office. Ms. Jamieson consults with them about class schedules for next fall. The fate of all students (and teachers) lies in their hands. As silly as it sounds, it really is true. Whether it is the end of the year or the start of a new year, there is never a dull moment in the guidance department. —By Zara Sheikh

“Our busiest times are at the beginning of lunch, during tutorials and right at the end of school.”

**Bonie Sheikh,**  
**CCC Coordinator**



**The hall to he counselours:** College posters hang on the wall to the counselor's offices.



**The View:** Sitting outside the hall to the counselors room. This is the view any student would have of the main part of the guidance office, while waiting to see a counselor.



**A helpful hand:** CCC Coordinator, Bonnie Sheikh assists freshman Priyanka Arunkumar with work permits. Other than giving out work permits, Sheikh has organized events like Career Day and heads the College and Career Center.



**Busy at work:** Guidance Secretary, Mrs. Fong, works on an email before getting to the stack of work piled on her desk. Mrs. Fong is always busy with projects including, making the graduation program, room assignments for grad, seating for grad and preparing senior awards.

**Working Hard:** Counselor Ms. Saiki works hard on preparing things for Link Crew. She is one of the four counselors that has been working on the Link Crew Applications and activities.



# Saratoga weekend tennis courts

Tennis Class runs on **Saratoga** Campus on Saturdays



After one hour of teaching a tennis class, coach Ben Luu dismissed the class. He put his silver tennis racket to the side of his steel tennis ball carrying basket. Then, Luu walked into the shady area of the northwest part of the four-part tennis court at Saratoga High School. He picked up his water bottle and stared at the northwest door waiting for his next tennis class students to come.

The class Luu was about to teach was a group of seven 5-8 year old kids. The class goes from 1:45- 2:30 PM on Saturday, but he teaches tennis classes from noon to mid-afternoon.

"This class is 45 minutes, for older kids [like 10-12 year olds] it is 60 minutes," said Luu.

Most of the parents are satisfied by the way Luu teaches. Luu has had a lot of tennis coaching experience.

"I have two years of experience [teaching]," said Luu.

Six of the kids who came were happy to play tennis, but one of them was crying and hugging his dad, because he didn't want to go to class. After receiving some comforting words he went back to the class

"They[kids] really enjoy playing tennis," said the mother of two of the students.

For the first part of the class, Luu told the kids to line up behind each other in front of the serving line on the tennis court. Then he threw tennis balls in front of each student one by one and told them to hit it using the forehand technique.

The forehand is keeping your wrist facing toward the other side of the court, and keeping your hand on the side it is on. The arm is straight and the racket is held straight on the hand. The ball is hit using the racket while the arm moves toward the opposite shoulder.

If one of the kids was doing it wrong, he instructed the child by demonstrating how to hit it using his tennis racket. Luu made sure the student was doing it correctly before moving onto the next person in line.

"For little kids, you need to show them exactly how to do it, and make sure they follow you [your actions]," said Luu when referring on how to teach little children. "If you do not show them correctly they will do whatever they want and they will have the wrong stance."

In the middle of the class, Luu and the kids seek shelter in the shade to drink water. After a few minutes of a water break, Luu commenced the second part of the class.

Luu congratulated the child who was crying before. He was performing well in the forehand technique, because he was hitting all the tennis balls.

The students lined up again in the same fashion as before. When Luu told them too, each child stepped onto the serving line and



“ For kids you need to show them exactly how to do it, and make sure they follow[your actions], If you do not show them correctly they will do whatever they want and they will have the wrong stance. **Ben Luu, Coach** ”



**Playing Tennis:** The tennis class that happens here on weekends initiates at the farthest court from atop the bleachers, and if you look closely you can see 5-8 year old children playing tennis in the background.

**Placed Carefully:** The tennis racket that coach Ben Luu uses to teach his class which runs on the Saratoga High School tennis courts on the weekends leans on the tennis basket carrying the tennis balls Luu throws to the children for them to hit.



**Hitting the Tennis Ball:** One of the students(didn't want his name disclosed) in the class that runs on weekends at Saratoga High School hits one of the tennis balls thrown by coach Benn Luu using forehand. Every 45 minute class consists of Luu tossing tennis balls at the students and letting them hit them with a specific technique.

**Sitting with students:** Coach Ben Luu debriefs on the class after 45 minutes coaching, after Luu sits in between the children in his class that runs here on the weekends at Saratoga High School,.

# TUESDAY NIGHT SSO REHEARSALS

Orchestra and SWE members put in extra hours to create a musical masterpiece

# W

When most students are at home, slaving away on homework, a dutiful group of eighty students return to school, instruments in hand. They greet each other as they head their way into the Music Building, and enter through the doorways with a leisurely gait.

The spacious music room is filled with rows of chairs, at least ten different types of instruments, and socializing students. These students are the members of the Symphonic Orchestra, who meet every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. They consist of the Saratoga Strings, the String Orchestra, and the Saratoga Wind Ensemble, affectionately called SWE.

"Normally, we don't get a chance to play with everyone since we have two different string classes," said senior Cellist Kimberly Hui. "But Tuesdays bring all of us together, and it's really exciting to play with the winds and the brass."

Conductor Michael Boitz tapped his music stand with the baton to get everyone's attention. "Here we go, let's start tuning. Can you give us an A please?" As soon as Mr. Boitz gives this cue to the clarinetist, all the conversations in the room stop and the room is filled with the familiar sound of tuning from all sections.

"It's really different from playing in the regular classes when everyone is together," said sophomore Violinist Amanda Jeng. "You have to listen more carefully to all sections and focus more on the conductor."

Each week, these students hone their skills working with different types of

music and getting prepared for their upcoming concerts.

Senior Bassist Grant Fukui said, "I'm particularly enjoying playing the John Williams piece, because it has bits and pieces of movie theme songs. It's a good tangent piece to play with all the other classical pieces."

For two hours, Mr. Boitz leads the orchestra and the SWE members to achieve the perfect interpretation of each piece. Patience and professional behavior is demanded of these musicians.

"Sometimes we go overtime, and everyone is really tired after playing for so long," said freshman Violinist Ivan Lee. But much of the groaning and complaining is held in, and the students persevere through the rehearsals.

"As a junior, it took some time management and scheduling to dedicate two hours of my time to orchestra every week," said junior Cellist Anthony Su. "But it's really worthwhile and relaxing to just get away from studying and play music."

Many students will agree with Su. Though there may be ups and downs to the Tuesday Night Rehearsals, it is very rewarding to hear the roar of the audience's applause and cheers after a performance, sophomore Violinist Debbie Lin said.

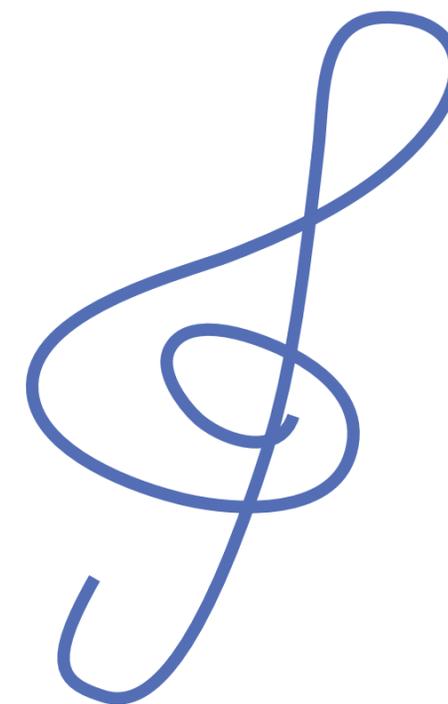
After the rehearsal ends at around 9:00 p.m., the musicians become ordinary students again, conversing with one another, suppressing yawns after a long day. They knowingly smile at each other as they leave the Music Building, instruments in hand. ♦ — **By Kyumin Shim**



**Bringing it together:** Flutes play the main melody as the violins support their solo. These rehearsals give each player a chance to listen to every instrument and weave their tunes together.



**Counting on Beat:** Sophomore Eric Chuang leads the bass section by keeping the rhythm of the orchestra. "Although there are only a few of us, we're an important section," said Chuang. "We provide the 'base' of the sound."  
**Spotlight on the Horns:** Seniors Andrew Buchanan and Dhruv Seshadri stand up to blast the final solo for a John Williams piece. They practiced standing in the middle of the piece and looking directly at the audience to capture their attention.  
**Hey, Listen Up:** Mr. Michael Boitz calls for attention during a rehearsal in the McAfee. "Before every performance we make sure to practice at least once here," said Senior WooHo Park. "Because playing here is different by making our sound really resonate throughout the hall."



# GOING IN CIRCLES

Morning traffic hinders students from arriving to school by the time the bell rings.

**Too much stuff!:** Freshmen Sachi Dholakia and Anjalika Goyal gather all of their belongings. They have been carpooling to school since the beginning of the year.



**T**It's 7:45 A.M. and freshman Sachi Dholakia is going to be late for school.

"I am going to be late! The traffic was so bad on Herriman it took my mom 5 minutes just to get into the parking lot," she said as she got out of her silver Lexus. The first bell rings and, startled, she rushes off to class.

The SHS parking lot at 7:45 A.M. is a busy place. Full of newly licensed student drivers and moms intent on getting their kids to school on time, it can often be dangerous.

In the parking lot, upperclassmen stand around and talk to their friends as they get out of their cars. A couple of students remain seated inside their cars doing some last minute studying until the bell rings. In between the endless stream of minivans and sedans, a couple of students walk to school or arrive on bike.

"I walk to school because my house is close enough and because it is good for the environment, but my parents didn't let

me bike before because they thought it was too dangerous," said junior Sandeep Ramakabir.

Students jump out of their cars, grab their backpacks, yell a quick "Bye Mom!" or "Thanks Mom!", and then rush off to class without a backwards glance. Some students carpool and exit their cars in groups of 2 or 3.

Poonam Goyal, mother of freshman Anjalika Goyal, said, "I think that there is a lot less traffic at SHS as compared to Redwood but some improvements can still be made. I find that if I reach the school by 7:20 then there usually isn't a lot of traffic, but if I am even 10 minutes late the traffic has already started."

The modes of transportation vary from bicycle to minivan but somehow everyone manages to get to school on time. The parking lot is where every school day starts and ends, and whether students socialize there or are just getting picked up or dropped off, it is definitely an important place on campus. —Parul Singh



**“ I walk to school because my house is close enough and it is good for the environment but my parents didn't let me walk before because they thought it was dangerous. ”**

**Sandeep Ramakabir, Junior**



**Ring Ring!:** Freshmen Meghana Rao, Valerie Peterson, and Antara Rao hurry to class just as the bell rings. "Usually we get to school on time but today there was an unusual amount of traffic," said Peterson.

**Ha Ha Ha!:** Senior Sacha Maniar throws her head back in laughter as she gets out of her Honda Civic. Maniar enjoys the freedom her car gives her and she loves talking with friends in the parking lot.



**Bye Mom!:** Traffic starts to pick up in the front of the school around 7:40. Cars maneuver through the traffic in order to get to school in time.

# IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE TASTE, THEN GET OUT OF SARATOGA

The popular strawberry stand on Saratoga Avenue has fresher fruit than grocery stores.

Sheltered by a large tent is a table with a row of perfectly positioned boxes full of strawberries. The beach umbrella propped above a display of the deep red fruits casts a respectable circular shadow next to the table and tent.

The soft evening breeze drifts through the surrounding trees and causes the sweet smell of strawberries to rise. Every few seconds a car rushes by and anyone standing in front of the table is awoken from the short moment of serenity.

Each morning Ron wakes up at 5:30 AM and drives to Gilroy where the strawberries are picked fresh and given to him. By 6:00 AM he is arriving to pick up the flats which are the boxes that hold the fruit.

"I know [strawberries] are good for you," said Ron. "They have plenty of antioxidants." A customer that just parked near by walks over, points to a flat, pays, and leaves. She can't help but steal a small taste.

Around 9:00 AM is when he usually sets up the stand and when customers start to come, Ron explains. "The busiest time is somewhere between 11:30 and 1:30 PM," said Ron. "About 75 to 80 percent of the customers are regular and come all the time."

The stand is open seven days a week for four months in the year. Ron has estimated to selling one hundred and twenty five flats each day.

A smiling old man and a sign that reads "Today's Pick" welcome customers from all over town to the small strawberry stand on Saratoga Avenue. It is a family business that has been around for fifty-six years.

Ron, the current employer, has been working at the stand for four years. Before him it was his cousin who was in charge, and his uncle before that.



**A grand stand:** A family of regular costumers arrive at the stand to purchase some fruit. Although the busiest time of day had past, people still came every few minutes to by strawberries. **Current crops:** A sign depicts two simple words "Today's Pick" in the front of the stand for people in cars to see as they drive by. The stand is proud to provide the freshest possible fruit that has just been picked that morning. **Loving it:** Manager assists an eager customer while she decides what size flat to order. Castro had been working at the stand for four years and really enjoyed being a part of the family business.

“The big reason we are so successful is because the strawberries are fresh everyday.”

Ron Castro,  
Stand manager



**Greeted with a grin:** Castro laughs and blushes as he talks about all his regular customers. He was a friendly, approachable man and enjoyed working at the strawberry stand. **A grand stand:** Customers line up at the table to buy their strawberries and the stand manager, Ron Castro, patiently takes all their orders. Castro said about 75 to 80 percent of customers come to the stand regularly. **Feeling the freshness:** The strawberries' colors are vibrant as they lay on display. By about 5:00 p.m. there is hardly any boxes left.



# GETTING PHYSICAL

some love it, and some hate it, but everyone has to do it: **P.E.**

“Only in P.E. do you learn to exercise the **body** as well as the mind. I think that’s really important.” **Ryan Lonich,** Sophomore

**A**s the midday sun beams down onto the gray concrete, students nervously edge their way towards the wavy blue waters. With a brave jump, one student leads the rest as they disappear into a foamy white splash.

Tim Lugo’s sandals make an audible flip-flop on the pool deck. His jet black sunglasses – Oakley, of course – broadcast an intensity that neatly contrasts with his laid-back smile. Waiting for his students to finish treading for 5 minutes, he enjoys one of his job’s many included perks: a tan.

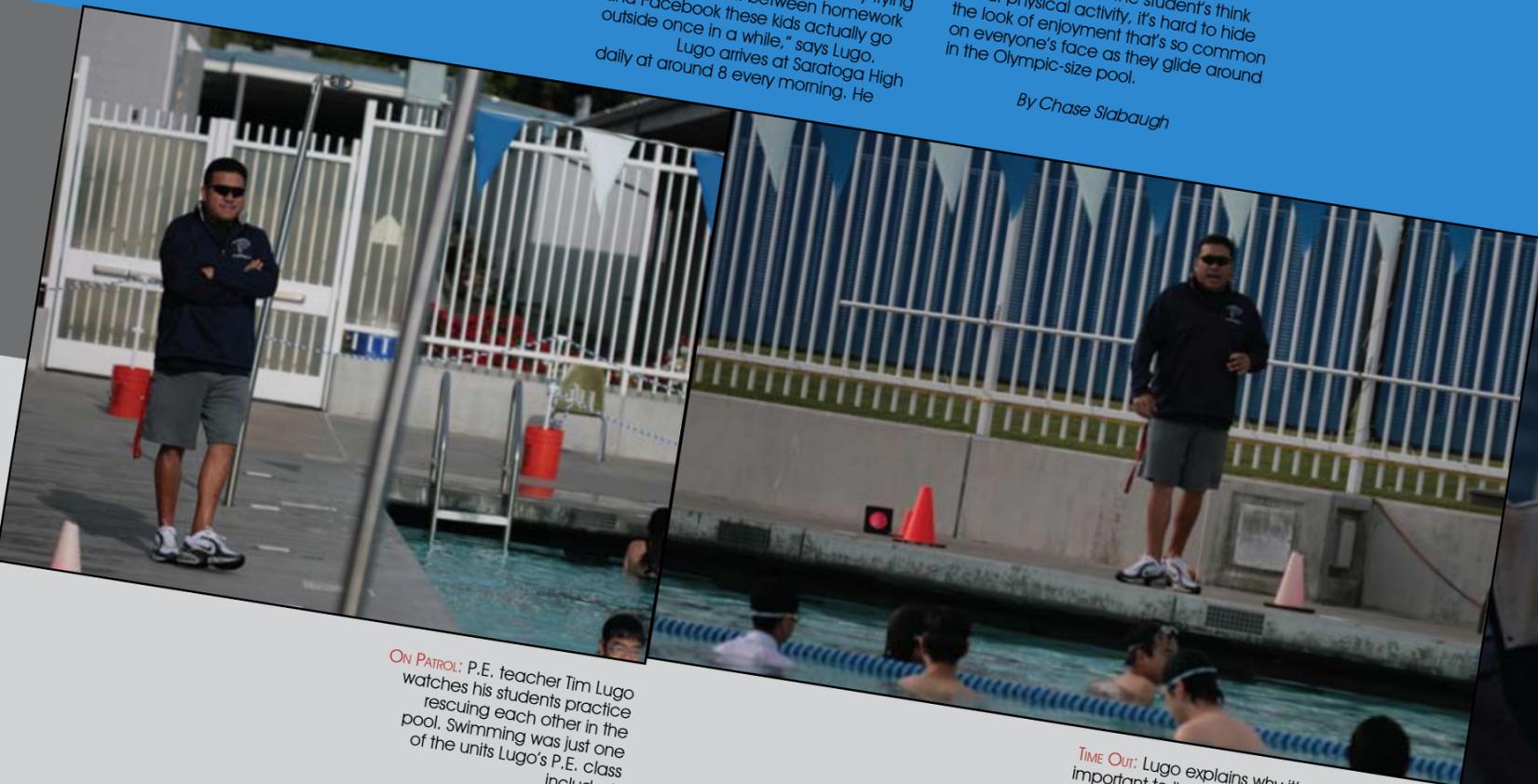
“I’m out here every day trying to make sure that between homework and Facebook these kids actually go outside once in a while,” says Lugo. Lugo arrives at Saratoga High daily at around 8 every morning. He

takes some time to set up the day’s activity before sitting in his office waiting for class. He’s used to students not liking his class, but he urges them not to take it personally.

“Sometimes my students think that because I make them run around and that’s hard for them that I don’t like them or something,” laughs Lugo. “Just because I’m the kind of guy to get out there and [do something] intense, they don’t think I can relate [to them].”

Whatever the student’s think about physical activity, it’s hard to hide the look of enjoyment that’s so common on everyone’s face as they glide around in the Olympic-size pool.

By Chase Slabaugh



**ON PATROL:** P.E. teacher Tim Lugo watches his students practice rescuing each other in the pool. Swimming was just one of the units Lugo’s P.E. class included.

**TIME OUT:** Lugo explains why it’s important to listen in the pool. Lugo says it’s difficult to control teenagers who always want to do their own thing.



**NEVER LOSES A SECOND:** Keeping Saratoga’s Physical Education program maintained requires a strict schedule. Lugo is on campus almost 10 hours a day working with students and athletes.

# YOGURTLAND OBSESSION

## Students stop by Yogurtland often to satisfy their cravings for a spoonful of frozen yogurt

Pulling open the heavy glass door embellished with the cute Yogurtland logo, junior Kenny Cai rushes into the bistro-styled interior ornamented with refreshing green and yellow tiles on the wall. Unable to contain his excitement despite the fact that he comes here nearly three times every week, Cai dodges the silver tables and grabs a big bucket from the side counter. Forced to wait patiently at the ever-growing line of yogurt lovers, Cai can't stop gazing at the mouth-watering images of various flavors above each yogurt machine.

Yogurtland. A land where people of all ages, from impatient toddlers to amiable grandmothers, meander down the curved aisle piling strands of the frozen yogurt of their choice into a vivid pink yogurtland cup. Whether blueberry tart, arctic vanilla, NY Cheesecake, or a mix of all three creamy flavors are brimming over the top of the cup, make sure to savor this unique blend of flavors until the last drop.

The diversity of flavors at Yogurtland is widely appreciated. "Each time I come, there is a different assortment of yogurt along the wall. I love being able to try new, special flavors along with the original favorites," says freshman Carolyn Choi.

As the line leisurely moves on past the yogurt, Cai, like a true connoisseur, artistically combines sugar-sweet flavors and more luscious yogurts with a dollop of zingy tartness to top it off. The true topping, however, is

in the seemingly endless row of cubes before the cashier that contains treats ranging from chopped kiwis to chewy gummy worms.

After adding a bit of almost every single topping, Cai finishes it off with a generous swirl of chocolatey syrup and caramel drizzle. Finally reaching the two green-shirted cashiers with his enormous combination of heavenly goodness, Cai pays for his yogurt (30 cents an ounce), receives an adorable, eco-friendly pink or green spoon from the cashier, and sits down at an umbrella-topped table outside to dig into his froyo.

When asked about his obsession with frozen yogurt, Cai says that he "loves being able to create his own personal blend of flavors and toppings each time". This is one of the main reasons why Yogurtland is so popular: it's self-serve, enabling people to have their yogurt the way they want it.

It's hard to resist driving down to Yogurtland after a hard day at school to indulge in some frozen yogurt. There are so many flavors to choose from, including some that sound ridiculous. Pumpkin Pie, Banana Foster, and Toasted Coconut may not be the first choice, but who knows, it might turn out to be the next froyo obsession.

"It's just delicious," says freshman Rachel Le, "After licking clean a bucket of frozen yogurt, I'm already looking forward to my next trip to Yogurtland." — **by Ashley Tang**



**Colorful Atmosphere:** Glass panels brighten Yogurtland, adding class and elegance to the vibrant backdrop of green and yellow tiles framing the Yogurtland logo.



**A Souvenir:** These pink and green spoons are memorable for their cute simplicity, adding to Yogurtland's endearing charm.



**Savoring Every Drop:** Junior Kenny Cai licks a vivid pink Yogurtland spoon, enjoying his personal blend of creamy yogurt.



# CIRCLES OF FLAVOR

Saratoga Bagels brings **flavorful delights** to the community.

**A** warm smell wafts out as the door opens to reveal neat racks of bagels in all different flavors. A man drinks coffee and reads the paper at a table while snacking on a bagel in between. There is an air of peacefulness and calm all around in addition to the sweet smell of fresh bagels. This tranquil sanctuary is the one and only Saratoga Bagels.

"I like the store because it's really quiet and you can just relax in there," said freshman Darisha Jhutti. "It's really comfortable."

Saratoga Bagels, located on Saratoga Sunnyside Rd, has been serving the community fresh bagels since 1987. Mei Fang Huang, the current owner, started the business 15 years ago after emigrating from Guangdong, China.

"Everything was so new to me when I first started," says Huang. "I used to be an elementary school teacher in China. It was difficult, from the language to the food. For the first two years, I spent 12-14 hours a day learning to make bagels, and customers and employees helped me with English. It was also difficult to manage the employees because they knew more about making bagels than

I did. There weren't any bagels in China."

For the Huangs, the day starts at 4:00 AM every morning in order to prepare the bagels and to ensure a constant supply throughout the busy day.

"We open at 6:00 AM, and we need to prepare everything," said Huang. "The oven itself takes an hour to heat up, and we need to boil the bagels too. Also, we sell about 500 bagels a day, so we start early."

The bagels, handmade and hand-cooked by Huang's father and husband, are made by dropping the dough-bagels into boiling water and later baking them. This process, which is different from the traditional bake-only method, lets the bagels retain a chewy, soft inside while having a hard outside, characteristics of New York style bagels. The bagels are then seasoned from a variety of toppings, from traditional sesame all the way to the more exotic ones, such as jalapeño.

"I get ideas for these flavors from many sources. I check around other stores to see what's popular, and I also talk to the customers. The most popular one now is the Asiago



**Hard at work:** Huang's daughter's tutor works hard to explain math while enjoying drinks and bagels on the side. She found the store relaxing and a great place to tutor and study.



**Ready to bake:** These pre-bagels are going to be boiled in hot water and baked later. The dough-bagels are shaped from the strips of dough. The bagels were freshly hand-made by Huang's husband and father at four in the morning, a daily ritual.



**Hmmmm....:** Owner Mei Fang Huang stands next to the shaping machine, watching each bagel come out judging if it needs some fixing. Huang has made bagels for 12 years since coming from Hong Kong.

**Resting in pieces:** The bagels start out as strips of dough that are later moulded into the oval shape seen on displays. The strips themselves are cut from a slab of dough made the night before and refrigerated.

**Ha ha ha!:** Two customers share a laugh as they drink coffee and eat pastries. This was their first visit, and they enjoyed every moment.

# couture in saratoga

Kitsch Couture is a **chic** alternative to big chain stores



Here in Couture: Manager Gigi Peebles packs a customer's purchase. A Pink and Brown Kensie dress.

Saratoga is well known for having little to no chain stores. But, in the corner of downtown Saratoga, Kitsch Couture serves as a shop for fashion savvy women and girls.

Started on November 2006, Kitsch Couture has been a go to place for special events such as prom and graduation. The glass windows in front of the shop show manikins dressed in the latest attire. Inside the store, chandeliers light up the room, white parakeets sit in a golden cage and manager, Gigi Peebles works on her laptop.

Peebles has been working at Kitsch ever since this store has opened. "I do everything from opening and closing the store to marketing and keeping up with orders," Peebles says.

While the owner of Kitsch goes to markets in New York, Texas, and LA to find the newest trends to bring back to Kitsch, Peebles is busy working on events and helping the customers.

"My favorite part of this job is setting up the events, I like putting together fashion shows and I got to go to one in New York which had jewelry that we brought back [to the store] and customized," said Peebles pointing at a row of gold, silver and jeweled bracelets and necklaces some ranging up to the hundreds.

Some of the markets that Peebles attends hold many designers that are very

unique.

"Free People is really fun to work with, they do little stories for example," Peebles says and points at a shirt colored with intricate designs, "and for that shirt might do an Indian theme."

A few customers walk in, a mother with her daughter and two college women, back from school. Peebles addresses the customers having knowing all of them and brings the clothes into the dressing rooms.

"Kitsch Couture is so near and I love all the clothes there, they're all my style," says customer Tiffany Tu.

As the clients rack up their clothes and head for the dressing rooms doors that are adorned with outfits and accessories, Peebles talks about the difficulties of running a store that relies on other brands to make up the bulk of their sales.

"When you go to the market you only get seven pieces of clothing from that particular store so you have to think would this sell better for the smaller bodied people or the larger," Peebles says, "That's the toughest part of this job picking how much of what size to get."

As for Saratogians when chain stores can't cut it there is always a chic alternative, Kitsch Couture. ♦ **By Kylie Tseng**

Put it in a purse: Nancy Tseng checks out the jewelry at Kitsch Couture thinking about making a purchase

Dress love: (Middle right) A customer just getting out of college searches for the perfect dress



Stuff Galore: Manager Gigi Peebles working on her laptop behind all the accessories in Kitsch Couture

Shoppaholic: (Middle Left) A customer looks at the New York collection that recently arrived

# CATAPULTING FOR COINS

Physics students built **catapults** to fire water balloons at their teachers while supporting a good cause

un shining. Music blasting. Students gathering. Water balloons whizzing. All very typical of a Friday morning tutorial...wait, water balloons?

On Friday, May 29, students eagerly gathered in the quad during tutorial to watch water balloons get catapulted at their teachers by physics students.

Students in Mrs. Garcia and Mr. Davis's physics classes were given the option of building a catapult capable of firing water balloons for extra credit. This extra credit assignment not only implemented concepts such as projectile motion, but also taught students valuable real-life skills.

"Most kids have never built anything in their lives," said science teacher and event coordinator Mrs. Garcia. "They don't know which end of the hammer to hold. This project allowed them to get out and build something."

Garcia acknowledged that the project was difficult, requiring a lot of time and work. A big difficulty many students encountered, according to her, was not realizing the scope of the project.

Physics student junior Tom Head, who did not complete the extra credit assignment himself, agreed with this.

"Not many people in my class actually did the catapults because they take so much time and work," he said.

In the end, only three groups of four to five students ended up successfully building catapults. The result of the multiple months of planning, building, and testing the catapults was an entertaining event as teacher volunteers tried to dodge the water balloons be-

ing catapulted at them at high speeds.

"It was really entertaining to watch the teachers," said onlooker sophomore Nikhila Janakiram. "They were all really funny, but Mrs. Nicholson was especially memorable."

The five "teacher targets", as they were called, all put up an admirable show of enthusiasm, dressing up in kooky clothes and raingear for the event. Mrs. Nicholson even went so far as to bring an umbrella to deflect the water balloons, and signs with sayings such as "You Ugly" to flash at the physics students.

The catapult event not only provided educational experiences and entertainment for all, but also served as a charity event. Collection bins were placed in volunteering teachers' classrooms, and students who wanted that teacher to be catapulted at put money in their respective bins. All money raised from the event went to support breast cancer.

Mrs. Garcia, the organizer of the event, will not be teaching physics next year, which may lead to the discontinuation of the event. This has gotten some students a little disappointed.

"It's really sad that there might not be the catapult event next year," said Janakiram, who will be taking physics next year. "It looks like a really cool experience."

However, students do not let this detract from the success of this year's catapulting extravaganza.

"I had a great time watching the event," said Janakiram. "It's definitely been one of the most exciting events that's happened this year." **-By Caroline White**



**Bring it on!:** Mrs. Head boldly motions for the physics students to give her their best shot.



**Riling 'em up:** Mrs. Nicholson gets the physics students angry by flashing a sign that says "What's your physics grade?"

**Ready... Aim... Fire!** Junior Madeline Rothenberg prepares to launch her catapult as fellow team members Anna Schroeder, Kevin Rollinson, and Andy Johnson look on.

**Let 'er rip:** Juniors Danny Baldwin, Alan Yen, and Trevor Teerlink watch their water balloon soar as sophomore Charlie Laufman looks on.

**“Most kids have never built anything in their lives. They don't know which end of the hammer to hold.”**  
**Jenny Garcia,**  
**Physics Teacher**



# AN APPLE A DAY WON'T KEEP THESE DOCTORS AWAY

Young patients find themselves oddly at home in this unusual children's hospital.

Drive down Quito Road, then turn right on Sousa Lane by the blue road sign that says "Sub-Acute Saratoga Hospital: The Rehabilitation Center." Keep driving down the small street, taking care not to hit the cars hastily parked on either side of the worn gravel path in a two seemingly endless lines.

Push the button, then walk through the automatic doors, expecting to see a large, busy building and to hear machines beeping and doctors calling for "20 cc's of sterile saline solution, stat!" And then become shocked to be greeted by small, colorful birds in a glass cage and a beautifully painted mural of a serene cottage in the woods on the wall.

That's what everybody else does, anyway.

Welcome to Sub-Acute Saratoga Children's Hospital, a small building full of a mere 30 or so patients ranging from a few months old to 25 years of age who have impairments that prevent them from going home, but are not severe enough to be treated at an acute facility.

Unlike any stereotypical hospital, the hospital is really the long-term home of most patients. It's like a huge family where nurses and therapists are like parents and fellow patients are like siblings.

Dramatized shows like "ER" and "Grey's Anatomy"

feature hospitals full of distressed people in scrubs and distraught family members crying and praying that their loved ones will make it. SASCH, on the other hand, is a small, relaxed site with a different painting on every wall, broken toys scattered across the floors and David Castro, the respiratory therapist, lying across the old beaten couches in the Day Room.

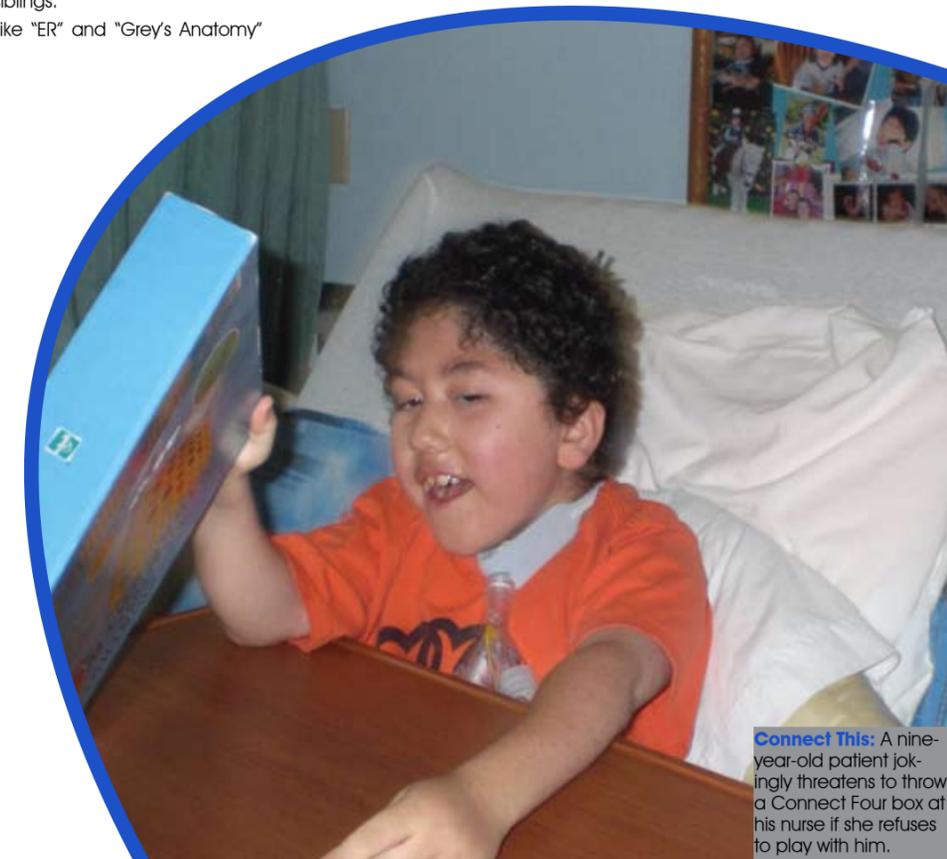
Not to mention the kids—when they're not in the Day Room listening to a CD of *Amelia Bedelia* or *The Cat in the Hat*, they're trying to weasel their way out of doing their homework or chasing each other around on their electric wheelchairs until Lindsay Zarcone, the activities director, irritably reminds them to "Slow down; P3 is an outdoor speed!"

Or maybe they're in their own rooms with the walls painted a calming shade of blue watching "Spongebob Squarepants" or commanding a nurse to "trudge outside in the rain to go and buy them Doritos and a Dr. Pepper from that dust old vending machine.

It's nothing like you would have imagined some place called "Sub-Acute Saratoga Hospital: The Rehabilitation Center," now is it? —By Alyssa Wu



**Hard at Work:** Respiratory therapist David Castro reviews a patient's chart as he prepares to suction him. Most patients require suctioning at least every six hours.



**Connect This:** A nine-year-old patient jokingly threatens to throw a Connect Four box at his nurse if she refuses to play with him.

“ We are pioneers in advancing the community integration of pediatric subacute care. ”

**Mike Zarcone,**  
owner



**Sleeping In:** An eight-month-old patient plays with his toys in his crib, where he spends most of his time. He has lived at the hospital since he was three months old.



**Welcome to the Hospital:** A newly-painted sign hung from the ceiling of the building greets visitors. The hospital was originally an adult care facility, but switched completely to pediatric care just a few years ago.

# FAREWELL CHINESE SCHOOL

SHS students celebrate the last day of Chinese school with cultural food and presentation



The Chinese language is the second most important language next to English language," said sophomore Yuning Yang while she took out her Chinese poems for the presentation.

Friday evening at Prospect High in Room 257, a Chinese class is preparing for their final Chinese poem presentation. Junior Mark Liu, who was wearing traditional Chinese robes with a mighty dragon sewn onto the sleeve, walked up in front of the class.

"The annual Chinese poem presentation starts now," said the formally dressed Liu.

Yang stepped away from the table and walked confidently up to the stage. She cleared her throats greeted to her classmates then began her presentation in Chinese.

"What is the meaning of life, what is a meaning of love, what is the meaning of hate?" said Yang softly in Chinese, but clearly, closing her eyes. "None of this matters when you are an old man with a long, white beard, waiting for the ride to the unseen heaven."

As the poem came to a close, Yang opened her eyes dramatically and did a traditional Chinese bow to the class. After each student went on stage and presented their piece, the Chinese feast began.

"Today is the last day of Chinese School," said Yang, scooping up a couple dim-sum treats and a "zhong zi" a rice ball rapped in large leaves.

"The poem presentation is one of the most traditional end of the year presentations because almost all of these poems are all at least a

thousand years old," said the beaming teacher Yu, gazing proudly at her students.

Besides the delicious Chinese food, this Chinese class got a surprise at the end of the class. A smiling man with neatly ironed gold and blue Chinese robe strolled into crowded classroom, the ambassador from China. He first shook hands with the beaming teachers then turn to the excited students.

"Chinese is a very difficult language," said Ambassador Lin, winking at the students, "to be able to fully understand this language is very impressive and is well deserved of this note book. Write in your diary in Chinese so you would not forget them."

Ambassador Lin gave each excited student with a Fuwa notebook as graduation presents.

“Chinese is a very difficult language and to be able to fully understand it is very impressive.”

Chinese ambassador



HAPPINESS



LOVE



JOY



Top: student chang concentrating on her chinese essay before the poem presentation. Left: Parents(left) and teacher(right) taking a rest during while the food is being served.



# THANK GOD IT'S THURSDAY

## Bringing a new theme to every week

After the bell sounds, announcing the end of first period classes on a Thursday morning, students pile into the quad to hang out or buy food like any other ordinary day of the week. However, something about today stands out. The students are scattered about, donned in crazy outfits that could dupe an outsider into thinking it was a day like Halloween. But today isn't Halloween, a spirit day, or any other of the like. Today is Thursday, dress-up Thursday.

From the creative minds of a core group of sophomore boys sprouted the original idea of Thursdays. Knowing Saratoga High School lacks in school spirit, the boys proposed that dressing up to a new theme every Thursday, could turn this slump around.

"We decided that if we could get the whole school involved, Thursdays could in a way unite everyone better, and raise school spirit," said Sophomore and Thursday founder Aditya Dev.

The idea became reality on Thursday, April 23, 2009. The boys, along with a few other juniors and sophomores dressed according to the first theme, "board short/bro day".

The boys modeled a variety of beachwear and brought props like towels and beach balls. Heads turned and questions raised. Everyone seemed to want to know what the reason for the synchronized outfits was. Once the explanation got around, the feedback they received was promising. "When I first saw them, I thought it was a great idea. Everyone seemed to like it," said sophomore Leah Capek.

A week later, the same boys and many other newcomers participated in "country club/golfer" day. Still all boys, they played some football in the middle of the quad that day at lunch, dressed in their preppy attire. If anyone missed them the previous week, they definitely noticed them this time.

"I thought it was really funny because they were having so much fun playing

around while dressed so ridiculously," said freshman Olivia Chock. Soon

after, a Facebook group appeared, and everyone at Saratoga High was invited to join. The next Thursday, "college apparel" covered almost every student, from all classes. The founders played football in the middle of the quad again at lunch, with a boom box blaring popular songs.

"The boom box was my idea, I thought it'd just help make the whole day more fun," said sophomore Tim Lycurgus.

Thursdays, once the owner of the simple significance of the day before Friday, now holds an entirely new importance. One of surprises, crazy themes, and a colorful quad. The founders have assigned every Thursday until 11/13/09 a theme, all of which are posted on the Facebook group for everyone to see and plan for.

Capes and plastic swords, silly hats, cowboy boots, wizard wands, painted faces, lunchtime football, and a boom box. Expect it all, after all, it's Thursday.

-Anna Ashe

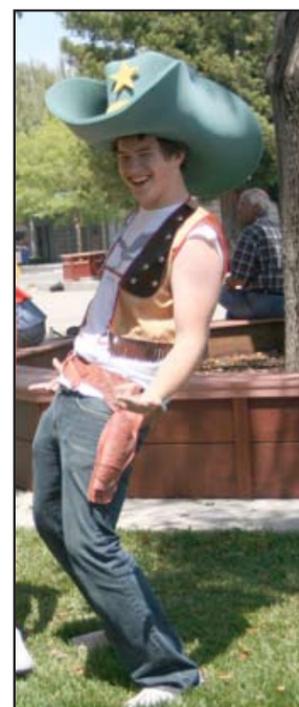


“Thursdays could in a way unite everyone better, and raise school spirit.”

Aditya Dev,  
Sophomore



Crouching tiger hidden dragon!: Chris Chung and Tim Lycurgus duke it out on "ninja pirate day" in their science class.



Dress code required: Aditya Dev and Karthik Annamalai go over their next play for lunchtime football, Brandon Peirce shows off his Western wear, Chris Chung plays golf in science, and Chris Chung and Tim Lycurgus strut off campus at the end of the day.





"I love going there, and when it isn't too hot out, I don't mind walking down there after rehearsal or practice, or even before. It has great juice and it's just a good place to go at any time."  
—freshman **Akash Kar**



"I used to be a Jamba Juice person, but since it's closed now, I've been going to Planet Juice. Even though [the service] is a little slow, the drinks are still really good."  
—Freshman **Isabel McPherson**



"It's easy to get to because it's just walking distance from school and they have good drinks there."  
—sophomore **Eric Chaung**

**A busy bee:** Store clerk Katherine Moran receives a twenty dollar bill from a patron while working the cash register. She made the customer her smoothie, less than five minutes after ordering.



# A BLEND OF LIFE AND STYLE

The Village's Planet Juice gives teens and adults a refreshing safe haven from the outside world.

In a typical afternoon inside Planet Juice, a cheerful radio announcer speaks over the sound of an upbeat pop song that comes to an end, booming through the speakers in two corners of the store. His voice is drowned out by the sound of chatting customers and the clatter of change against the bottom of the glass tip jar. The sudden roar of the blenders overwhelms all other noise while a silent surf documentary plays on the plasma screen that hangs on a pastel colored wall above the head of a young girl, sits atop a wooden stool as she happily sips her smoothie.

This is a typical afternoon inside Planet Juice, one of five Bay Area smoothie bar chains. It is located downtown, next to competitor Starbucks. The juice bar itself serves more than 50 different brands of fruit smoothies, as well as frozen yogurt, ice cream, fruit juices and breakfast items. It is also one of the most popular meeting places in downtown Saratoga, especially among students, families, and athletes. Planet Juice appeals to most budgets. The average price for a regular sized smoothie is \$3.95, making it cheaper than a Jamba Juice, and the drinks are healthier than Starbucks coffee.

"The place is just a lot nicer for kids," said senior Katherine Moran, 18, who is a clerk at the store. "We get a lot of families because our juices are made from real fruit, and we serve frozen yogurt. We can put protein or

vitamin supplements in the drinks too, and I think the store itself makes a lot of people happy."

Katherine said the busiest times are in the afternoons, especially on weekdays when schools are getting out, as their most common patrons are students. They use many unusual ingredients, like watermelon juice and mangoes, which Katherine believes attracts some of the customers.

"I'm a vegan. I like soy drinks and this place can give me what I need," said freshman Natalie Berg. She also appreciates that non-dairy smoothies are not the only items, but there are also other foods, such as bagels.

The Planet Juice franchise was launched in 1992 and was one of the first smoothie bars in Northern California. The store is manned by a two-person team behind the counter, along with storeowner Tarek ElJarriri, who can often be found conversing with customers and making some of the many smoothies alongside his staff. Freshman Sophia Wang often asks the employees what to order; she cannot decide between the many choices.

"It's just really 'homey' there because every time I go, I see my friends," Sophia said. "All in all, I think it's just a great place to hang out and get great smoothies." —By **Christine Bancroft**



**Fruitfully healthy:** A sign outside the Planet Juice entrance advertises the benefits of one of the smoothies.

**A frozen treat:** A young boy (left) happily eats his frozen yogurt as worker Katherine Moran makes a smoothie for her next customer.

"The place is just nice for kids... and I think the store itself just makes a lot of people happy."

**Katherine Moran,**  
Store Clerk

# A NEW KIND OF COACH

Students are always coached by others, but how often is the student a coach?



“ey, pass over here!” belted an eight-year-old boy to his teammate across the wide field, his mind is in the world of soccer. He zooms by with the ball at his feet, nothing is more important to him than scoring a goal this afternoon, even though it’s just an unimportant practice game.

Parents cannot even talk amongst themselves, because the only thing that they can hear is the boisterous noises coming from their sons. The sun shines through the clouds, with its sharp beams slowly burning out these once hyperactive children. However the calm wind rustling through the trees helps neutralize the blazing sun, and cools off the sweating kids.

One person on the field towers above the others, and looks to be about fifteen years old. She is definitely too old to be part of the team, but not too young to be the coach.

For freshman Nicole Samrao, 5:30 p.m. is the busiest time of her day, it’s when she is given the challenge of assistant coaching an energetic group of eight year olds on the basic “how-to’s” of soccer. Samrao has been playing soccer for seven years, and now, by coaching, she is able to use her valued skills teach others. “I feel like I have taught these kids so much, and its great to see them improve throughout the season,” said Samrao.

When a normal practice is taking place, Samrao is packed with jobs to do. The practice typically starts out with the kids doing various drills,

while constantly gossiping to one another about the latest movies.

Randomly, a kid decides that soccer is not important right now, and would rather be lifting up his shirt doing the belly roll. Another kid feels so tired that he drops down on to relax his back in the middle of the field, staring at the sky. All of them have low concentration levels, so coaching them can be stressful at times.

“At first, it was difficult because they never listened to me, and they never took me seriously because I’m not an adult. But after they realized that I need respect, they cooperate as much as they can,” said Samrao.

“Having another coach to help out is so wonderful, because controlling a bunch of misbehaving boys is quite a job,” said head coach Dave Guidry adoringly.

Even if the main coach has the kids under control, there are still so many things to take care of on the field. The kids run up to her with trust, knowing that if they need something, Samrao will be able to take care of it, even when it comes to anything from nose bleeds to flat soccer balls. “I love the feeling when the kids actually look up to me, and enjoy being around me,” said Samrao.

When the hour-long practice finally ends at 6:30, its time for Samrao and the kids to get out of the world of soccer, and back into the real world, but not for long because next practice is right around the corner. —By Sneha Belkhale



**Fight! Fight! Fight!:** Samrao playfully tries to grab the cone out of a players mischevious hands. “It’s not always easy to control the kids, but after a while, they start to get used to you way of coaching and they cooperate more,” said Samrao.

**Is something wrong?:** A player summons Samrao to check if his tooth is bleeding after an impact with the soccer ball.

**A helping hand:** One of the kids gave Samrao a deflated soccer ball, so she is put to work and starts pumping the ball dilligently

**16 shoes to tie:** Samrao ties a players shoe before their last game of the season.



**Being a kid again:** Samrao hands a player his soccer jersey, while wearing a cone on her head to blend in with the other players. She loves to have the most amount of fun with the kids while coaching. “In order to get the kids to like you as a coach, you must act like them too!” said Samrao.

**Team Bonding:** These two players have just won their scrimmage, so Samrao comes and jokes around and hugs them to congragulate. Every team needs affection, and this team certainly is loving and caring to one another.

“I feel like I have taught these kids so much, and its great to see, them improve throughout the season.”

”

**Nicole Samrao,  
Freshman**

# BIG MEMORIES AT A SMALL PARK

SHS students fondly remember their Little League days

On a Saturday afternoon at Congress Springs Park, the sound of metal bats making contact with the ball echoes throughout the entire park. Little leaguers of all ages are seen sprinting around the bases and chasing after flyballs. Coaches can be heard giving young players tips and teaching them the basics of the game. Another sound familiar to the park is the sound of laughter.

"Congress Springs Park is possibly the best place in Saratoga to go play baseball," said freshman Brady Horn. Horn has reason to believe so, since with six fields and four batting cages, Congress Springs Park is the ideal place to practice the game.

Congress Springs is home to Saratoga Little League and Saratoga Pony League; when combined, can host players ages 4-14. That's ten years of youth baseball, all in one park.

"I don't think that I would love the game as much as I do now if I had not played baseball at Congress Springs," said freshman Connor Mullaney. "The atmosphere there is great, and everybody I know loves playing there."

Players in uniforms designed after Major League teams chant the names of their teammates, hoping they will start a rally, and parents watch from the stands, encouraging their kids to do the

best that they can do.

"It's so relaxed there, everybody, including the coaches, is laughing or cheering for their team," said Horn.

Once the games are over and all the players have left, a few cars pull into the parking lot. A child or two steps out of the car along with their father, who is usually carrying a bucket filled to the top with baseballs. They then walk to one of the many fields and the father throws batting practice one child, where the other shags batted balls in the outfield.

"Whenever my dad and I drive by the field, there are usually a few kids taking batting practice with their parents," said freshman Austin Firth. "Congress Springs is a great place to do that because there are six fields."

After batting practice has ended, the family leaves the field, gets back in their car, and heads home around dinnertime. There may still be a little leaguer or two working on their pitching mechanics and playing catch in order to strengthen their arms.

After darkness falls upon the grassy fields, the entire park is vacant and ready to go the next day, when the same routine happens again. —By Roy Bisht



**Wall of Champions:** The wall of a batting cage honors the Saratoga championship teams. Saratoga Little League teams have been successful in recent years.

“The atmosphere there is great and everybody I know loves playing there.”

Connor Mullaney,  
Freshman



**The Majors Field:** Kids 10-12 play on this field during the Little League season. This field has been the one that SHS students remember the best.





# MAKING A SPLASH AT CCS

Saratoga swimmers attended CCS '09 bringing home multiple victories and many memories.

**T**he 10 swimmers of heat three stood behind the timers during the last few laps of the second heat for the girls' 500 free. They were armed with the newest racing suits: the LZR Racer, BlueSeventy, and Fastskin. Some jumped, pumping themselves for the race. Others shook out stiff muscles. A few fidgeted with their caps and goggles.

After the second heat finished, the official blasted four sharp, quick whistles. Ten swimmers lined up at their blocks. Sophomore Debbie Lin from Saratoga stood behind lane one. One long whistle signaled the girls to step up on the blocks.

*Take your mark...* They slowly crouched into the starting position.

*Beep!* The girls plunged into the water like a line of arrows and began the 20-lap race.

It was May 16, the day of the finals for Central Coast Section (CCS) Swimming. Over 20 schools attended this competitive event, each with its own share of first-class high school athletes. Being the largest and last meet of the season, it served as a debut for the underclassmen rookies and a finale for the departing seniors.

"Before, the school meets were only between two schools," said freshman Rebecca Chen. "But, at CCS there are many schools that we haven't even raced before. And, all the swimmers here represent the fastest from their school."

Out of Saratoga's successes, the highlight of the day was the boy's 400 freestyle relay.

Freshman Ian Burns joined sophomore Adam Hinshaw, and seniors Matt Murray and Ben Hinshaw for the 400 Freestyle Relay. The boys went a 3:00.68, setting a new National High School Record for the event.

But, of course, there are ups and downs. Debbie wasn't too pleased with her 500 free.

"It wasn't my personal best," said Debbie. "But, that's not the most important thing. I'm glad I had fun with my teammates during this experience."

Overall, Saratoga won second for its boys team and eighth for the girls team.

At the end of every year, there are bittersweet emotions. The team worries about how they will survive without the leaving seniors. But at the same time, they have little sparks of hope for the developing underclassmen.

Senior Erica Kumala is among the group of Saratoga High School students attending the CCS meet for the last time.

"It's sad to know that we'll be moving on after this," said Erica, "but after four years, it's amazing to see how far we've come."

Most who participated in CCS can say that they will never forget this event. Besides being another competition for swimmers, it was a day of starts and finishes for many high school athletes. —By Serena Chan

**Soaring:** Junior Lauren Opatry flies off the blocks as Christine La finishes during the 400 freestyle relay. The girls won sixth place in the heat and eleventh overall.

**Preparations:** Swimmers wait at the blocks for the officials to start the meet. The meet was split; girls competed in the left half and boys in the right.



**Take your mark:** Sophomore Debbie Lin crouches down for her start. She swam the 500 freestyle, finishing seventh in her heat and twenty-second overall.

**20/20:** Freshman Rebecca Chen counts the laps and cheers as Debbie finishes up the 500 freestyle, the longest high school swimming event of 20 laps.

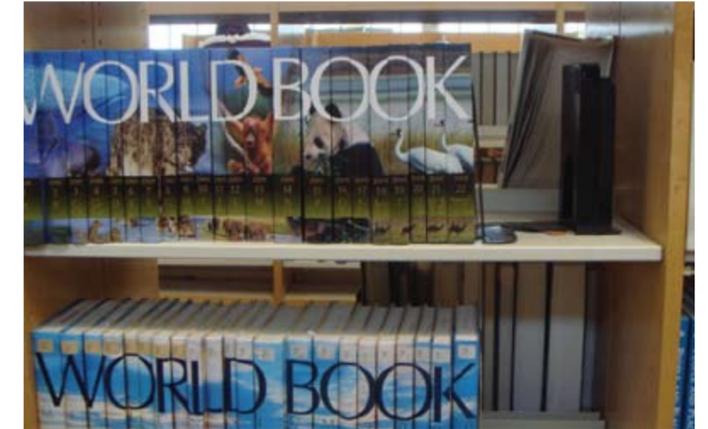


**Finding friends:** Freshman Darisha Jhutti stops to chat with Sarah Hull on her way out of the Library. The library is a great place to meet up with friends, whether planned or by chance.



**Silently studying:** Freshmen Kristine Johnston and Phoebe Wong study at a table in the library. The library is a favorite place for students who want to work without distraction.

**Resourceful:** The World Book Encyclopedias sit on a shelf, waiting to be used. Resources like the encyclopedias, reference books, and dictionaries are treasured by students with heavy research projects.



## CHECKING OUT THE LIBRARY

Students find solace in the the school library, where they can study, talk, and relax in peace and quiet.

**B**ored freshman Darisha Jhutti enters the vast room, where large, picturesque windows line the walls, letting bright light inside. From nowhere in particular, an air-conditioner hums, its presence a blessing with summer's heat outside.

Finding a spot at one of the many tables, Jhutti scans the room to see if any of her friends are around. Students sit and talk quietly, laughing now and then, while others browse for books in an enclave filled with bookshelves. Facing bright computer screens, glazed-eyed students research, write reports, and play internet games.

After spotting a familiar face, Jhutti goes to join her table with a smile. Only in the school library is such a relaxing, comfortable after school environment possible.

The SHS library is one of the best places in school to read, study, or just hang out after school. Most students only drop by once in a while, but a few are regulars and show up at least a few times every week.

Jhutti likes to hang out at the library whenever she has her free 7th period, while she waits for her ride home.

"It's big and welcoming. And it's quiet," Jhutti said. This is very true, as the library is one of the biggest rooms on campus, while somehow still remaining one of the quietest.

While many students enjoy the quiet, many are attracted to the library for its commodities like chairs, tables, and especially air-conditioning.

"Sometimes it's cooler than outside," Jhutti said, "especially when, like now, it gets really hot outside."

Jhutti especially appreciates the variety of material the library has to offer.

"I like that there are different types of stuff to read. Like new books and magazines and reference books. So it's easy to research for projects," she said.

In the library, she usually studies and gets a head start on her homework. Unless she's with a friend, in which case she chats the time away.

One of the best places to sit in the library, according to Jhutti, is by the massive picture windows lining the back wall of the library. Sitting at one of the circular tables, she gazes out at the vast blue sky stretching beyond the back fields.

"Hey, look, the sprinklers just turned on!" said Jhutti. "I like to see what's going on outside, but that's pretty much the most exciting thing that happens."

The library, while never very exciting for most, can be a very boring place for others. Sitting near the research center and trying to focus, a few students instead space out and stare at the walls.

Jhutti herself gets little work done, instead dividing her time between talking to her friend and just sitting and thinking to herself. Before long, it's time for her to leave.

She crosses the room, passing bookshelves, computers, and glazed-eyed students on her way to the doors. As she exits, a rush of warm air enters, although none but her feel it. The air-conditioner hums, students talk quietly, and all remains unchanged for the rest of the afternoon.

—By Sanjana Chetia

“The library offers me a place to go when I really need it afterschool.”

**Darisha Jhutti,**  
Freshman



# Q: WHERE'S THE MAIN HANG OUT SPOT AT SCHOOL DURING TUTORIAL?

# A: THE PARKING LOT

The bell rings at 9:25. Students sigh in relief. It's tutorial, designed to be a time to catch up on any late work. One by one, they pour out of their classrooms. Some students go straight to the quad and buy snacks so they can stay awake for their next class. Some go to see their teachers for any make up tests or for any extra help they seek. Some go to the library to quickly do their homework for the next class. With all these popular places to choose from, where do the majority of the juniors and seniors immediately rush to? The parking lot. Why is this place such a popular hangout spot for upperclassmen when its primary purpose is just to have a place for cars to park?

"Everywhere else in the school is crowded, like the library and cafeteria are full and stuff. There's a lot more open space in the parking lot," junior Sawan Shah said, a feeling shared by most upperclassmen.

Upperclassmen also love the freedom of being slightly off campus, and not controlled by any administrative staff members who lurk around school grounds. Many students leave their

trunks open with their big group of friends standing in front of that car. These huge mobs, often block off that column's driving space. Because many juniors and seniors park near their friends, the parking lot is also a place to meet up after the long morning classes.

"The freshmen have their own hang out spot in the hallways. The parking lot is our hang out spot. Even though it sounds weird, each group has their specific spots in the lot they like to chill at," junior Varun Parmar explains.

There's no doubt being in a car is a "chill" place to hang out. There's music, comfortable reclining chairs, plenty of leg space for those vertically challenged, and privacy. Going to their car is some people's way of relieving stress from school. It's no wonder many upperclassmen go to their car during tutorial. After two or three years of getting the whole high school thing down, tutorial is more of a time to chill instead of studying every minute of the day. Where better to relax during tutorial than in the parking lot?

- Olivia Chock



“The freshmen have their own hang out spot in the hallways. The parking lot is our hang out spot.”

**Varun Parmar,**  
Junior



**Take a chill pill:** Sophomores Tyler Jew and Karthik Annamalai break from tutorial after the long block schedule classes to hang out in Tyler's car.



**The popular hang out spot:** A group of seniors hang around outside their cars. Some of them use their cars as a locker to get books for their next class.





**Oh Dear!** Poetry students look on as Ms. Sutton has an expression of "Oh Dear!" on her face. Flora Chang (11) said of Sutton's role in the production, "Along with arranging the whole entire show, she is the person that directs us, like she'll say 'you should do this' and then 'do this movement at this time.'"



**Concentration:** The "Readings" script captures the focused eyes of Alice Liu (11) and Mindy Hsiao (11) under a redwood tree's sheltering shadows during an early morning practice. By the time the students perform on June 3, they will have given up more than 30 hours of personal time.



**Come on:** Ms. Sutton flashes off her cup of Starbucks coffee as she offers criticism to her students. Perhaps caffeine is her secret to being so lively at 6:50 morning rehearsals.

## POETS READ AMONG REDWOODS

Poetry students sacrifice personal time in preparation for annual "Readings in the Redwoods" production

ays of light stretch over the rolling Saratoga hills and birds twitter early morning salutes to one another as the quad sits still. A few students trickle in through the gates of Saratoga High and soon a small ring of them gather near a set of platforms amongst the quad's redwood trees. They exchange yawns and some violently rub their eyes to stay awake. Suddenly an aged woman approaches, sternly screeching, "Let's start!"

This is just a typical early May morning for Judith Sutton's poetry class, which is preparing for its outdoor poetry performance, "Readings in the Redwoods."

Everything about "Readings" is 'humongous.' By the time the poetry students perform, they will have given up over 30 hours of personal time to rehearsals alone, not to mention the hours spent composing the original poems read throughout the production.

This commitment, particularly in the early morn-

ing, is difficult for many of the poets. Sophomore Shai Segal said, "I'm use to waking up like fifteen minutes before school starts, and to do this poetry thing now it's more like *an hour* and fifteen minutes."

The poetry class started outdoor rehearsals May 18 and since has drawn the attention of numerous high school students. This publicity is partly because not only do Sutton's students practice early before school, but also during its regular period 5 meeting, and even after school.

These practices would not be at all valuable without the direction of Sutton. Chang said, "Along with arranging the entire show, she is the person that directs us, like she'll say 'you should do this' and then 'do this movement at this time.'" However, Sutton gets across to her poets somewhat different than Chang lets on.

It is common to see Sutton sitting in her

plastic blue chair with one leg casually crossed over the other watching the rehearsal, and suddenly explode into a raging flurry, arms flailing and eyes glaring, when a student misunderstands or disobeys her instruction. This happened often in the first days of rehearsals, as many of the students wondered around the stage like blindfolded chickens.

"I think the message gets across to them better when I direct them like that," said Sutton. She added, "By now, I think they're use to it because that's the way I teach anyway." A week of practice has produced results.

The central focus of "Readings" shifts every year, and this year the theme of all of the poems is "What goes inside a heart." This premise is so appropriate because they show so much heart in showing up for the practices. With Sutton's guidance and the students' "heartly" time commitments, particularly in the early mornings, will yield what should be a successful "Readings in the Redwoods" this year.—**By David Eng**



**No, Over Here:** Christine Van Noorden (11) follows Ms. Sutton's commanding finger as other SHS students trickle through the quad gates. Sutton's students see some of the first people to arrive at the high school in the morning and some of the last people to leave after the bell.

“Readings is this humongous project all poetry students do.”



**Flora Chang, Junior**

# FALCON DEADLINE NIGHT

The Saratoga Falcon staff **works hard** to put out each edition of the newspaper

**P**izzas, assorted baked goods, chips, soda, and other tantalizing foodstuffs are in open view, challenging the volitions of the members of the Falcon staff. However, the reporters are too preoccupied with the task at hand: producing the Saratoga High Falcon newspaper.

The clack of keys is steady, almost rhythmic. The demeanors of the students are completely serious as the students rush to frantically complete the newspaper by the deadline the next afternoon.

"Get this signed off," says reporter sophomore Anna Shen to fellow sophomore reporter Kevin Mu.

There is perhaps no one more intimate with the stressful and frantic deadline nights of Saratoga High's Falcon newspaper than junior Gautham Ganesan. Gautham, who has been a member of the Falcon for three years, was selected as one of two editors-in-chief of the Falcon for the 2009-2010 school year.

"To be brutally honest, I'm super excited [to be editor] except for the fact that I can't simply be on the sidelines of the deadline nights anymore; I have to be running the show," Gautham says.

Yet, Gautham feels confident that he can take on the challenge. "If anything, the sheer number of deadline nights that I've partaken in has given me a good idea of what I need to do next year."

On this particular deadline night, the staff members are slightly behind schedule. To catalyze the process, Gautham and his third period counterpart, junior Alex Song, begin to evaluate the progress of each reporter. Some reporters, such as next year's school scope editor sophomore Karthik Annamalai, are having trouble with their layouts.

"The problem is that you aren't typing on the proper path," Alex says. Within minutes, the layout is complete, and the Falcon staff is one step closer to being done.

As Gautham and Alex go through each individual's problems and fix them, the true proportions of this endeavor become evident. The team stays until ten o'clock until they finally call it a night. Deadline nights, as 2009-2010 sports editor sophomore Abhishek Venkataramana can personally attest, are largely overlooked by the general student body.

"I don't think people realize how much work it takes to put out the newspaper," Abhishek says. "They don't understand that [issues don't] just show up in the classrooms automatically. The fact is that we have to do a lot of work to get each issue out, and most of that work culminates during deadline nights."

-Anoop Galivanche



**Behind the scenes:** Barely any words are exchanged as students from the Falcon staffs work on the last edition of the year. Drafts, prior editions, and office supplies are scattered on the tables. "Don't bother me; I'm working," said sophomore Karthik Annamalai, as he zealously worked on a sports layout.



**Teamwork:** Sophomores Kevin Mu and Anna Shen collaborate on an article for their badminton beat. "Having another person to help you is really useful because they may spot things that you have missed," Kevin said.

**Vigilant editing:** "Third times a charm," sophomore Karthik Annamalai says as he retrieves his sports story from the printer. Having edited it three times thus far, he was frustrated. Luckily, it got signed off, and he proceeded to integrate the story into his layout.



**Attention to detail:** The countless hours of reporting, writing, and layout done by the Falcon staff comes together in the deadline night. For one of the two editors-in-chief Gautham Ganesan, deadline nights mean much more. He has worked for the past few weeks fervently editing articles and motivating his team. "I'm not about to let 3 weeks of stress be overshadowed by a typo-laden story," he said as he helped sophomore reporter Nandini Ruparel.

**"I don't think people realize how much work it takes to put out the newspaper."**

**Abhi Venkataramana, Sophomore**



# GEARING UP

More and more SHS students join the bike community.

In Saratoga, the main transportation is of course the car. But the one of the minor transportation is biking.

Freshman Evan Ye is one of many students that bike to school. During the school year, Ye biked to school every day in any weather condition. "Biking to school gives more time to my parents, gives them less responsibility, and it also helps the environment," said Ye.

The bike racks are situated in front of the main gate next to the small gym. There are currently three long racks in front of the school and one small rack in the back.

When the bell is about to ring, it becomes very hard to park your bike. "The only way to park your bike is to come earlier than the other bikers," said freshman Derek Chung, who has been riding to school the whole year. Some bikes are chained to the tree, left against the wall and sometimes chained to the ramp.

"The school should encourage people to bike more because it helps the environment," said freshman Hansen Qian.

But in May, there was "bike-to-school" month that asked students to bike to school.

"I think it was a very good idea because it encourages people to bike and creates a better atmosphere at the bike racks," said Ye. On

the racks, the bikes are very different: it ranges from normal bikes to mountain bikes to racing bikes.

"I don't really care how my bike looks because I just ride it for fun," said Ye.

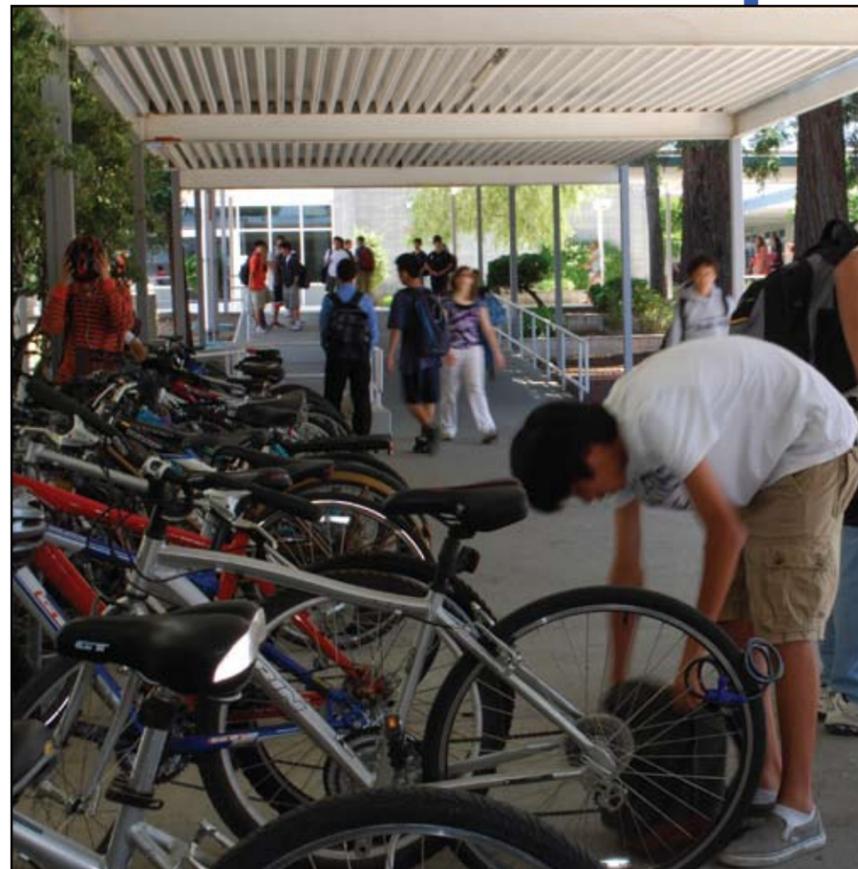
But there is always one thing in common with all the bikes, they all have a lock. Most of the bikers leave their bikes on the rack so they don't have to carry them around. "I lock my bike because I like to take good care of it," said Chung.

Saratoga's bike racks have always been pleasant with the good atmosphere of the Saratoga students. "You should create a good atmosphere so it can be also appreciated by others," said Ye. — **Antoine Gillot**



**Freshman Derek Chung** looks for a spot to lock his bike in front of SHS early in the morning on May 26th. He rode his bike all year round even on rainy days. "Biking to school everyday is a great way to exercise during my off-season in swimming," said Chung.

**Freshman Stanton Ho** finds his key in his backpack to unlock his bike on May 26th after school. Ho is one of the bikers that started biking during "Bike to school" month.



# B-BALL @ LUNCH

# IN YOUR FACE!

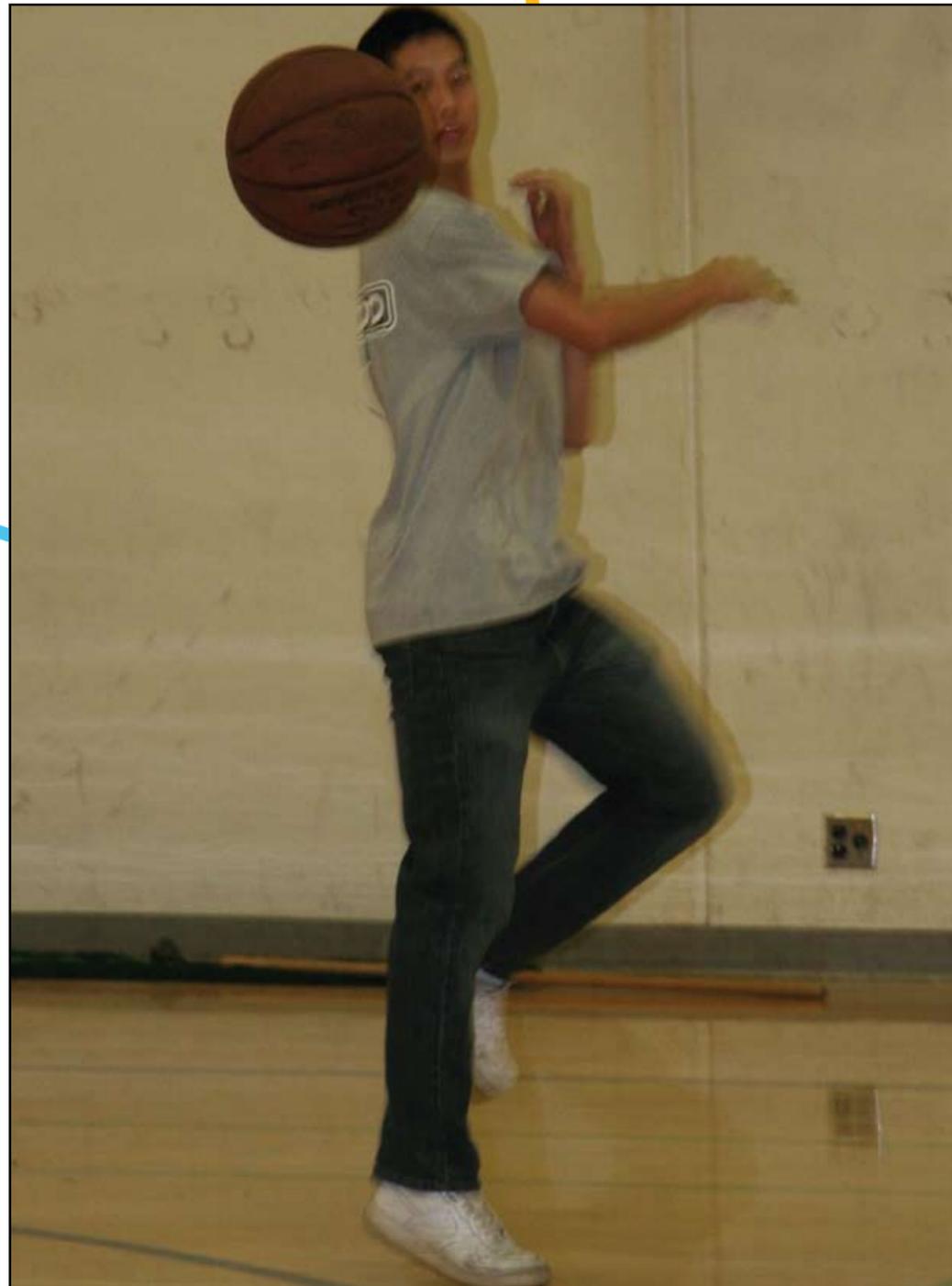


**1. Freshman Anthony Tsai tries to block freshman Alton Fong's jump shot.**

**2. Freshman Tim Ling goes up for the lay-up on a breakaway.**

**3. Freshman James Huang goes up for a three-point shot.**

**4. Freshman Christopher Vu decides to fake out freshman Arjay Parhar.**



**Senior Alex Yen throws the ball to his teammate across the court**

A couple of freshmen students are running around in the gym, sweating furiously, and passing around a basketball. The gym echoes with screeches of their shoes and the shouts of the players. It was just like any other day at lunch in the small gym for this group of students.

The lunchtime basketball games started when the previous gym manager decided to let kids use basketballs to play. Freshman Peter Hsieh found out about this around November and quickly told his friends about his new discovery. This has become a trend among this group of freshman boys to spend their lunch playing basketball in the gym.

"There was the gym manager who had basketballs out that we could use to play with," says freshman James Huang. "Ever since then we have been playing basketball at lunch and tutorial."

There needs to be a ball to play the game and freshman John Lee usually provides it. The daily organization process is not very complicated which involves the choosing of teams through captains. Most of the time, the taller students are picked first due to their advantage in height.

"To tell the truth," says freshman Kevin Tam, "There really isn't anything else to do during lunch."

After the game has started, the students start to get rough and foul-crazy. Blood spurts out of noses and mouths as the basketball is yanked from hands and passed to others. However, there are no referees to officiate the game, so the students call their own fouls. "There are fouls, but we let a lot go because there is not enough time," says James. "Now we call our own fouls to make it fair."

There are limitations that need you need to fall into in order to play basketball at lunch with these students. If you are a freshman, sophomore, or you are friends with one of the members, you have a better chance at playing basketball with them. Sometimes, the court gets too crowded with each team at a max of seven players.

"We usually try to keep it at freshman only," says James, "and if there are too many people, we have to say sorry to anyone who wants to play."

After half a year of playing together, the group of lunchtime basketball players has created a strong bond of friendship between their members. Doing extreme basketball tricks and watching the amazing results makes the scrimmage a lot more fun. Friendship has come a long way with this group of freshmen boys, which is a great side effect from playing with the same group every day.

"[Playing basketball together] has strengthened our friendship and we have a lot more fun," says James. "At lunch, we eat together now and when it comes to homework, we help each other a lot more now." —By Stanton Ho

**Freshman Arjay Parhar and freshman Peter Hsieh fight for the ball on the ground**



**ABOVE: Freshman Jonathon Junqua goes for a two-point shot.**



**“ [Playing basketball together] has strengthened our friendship and we have a lot more fun. ”**

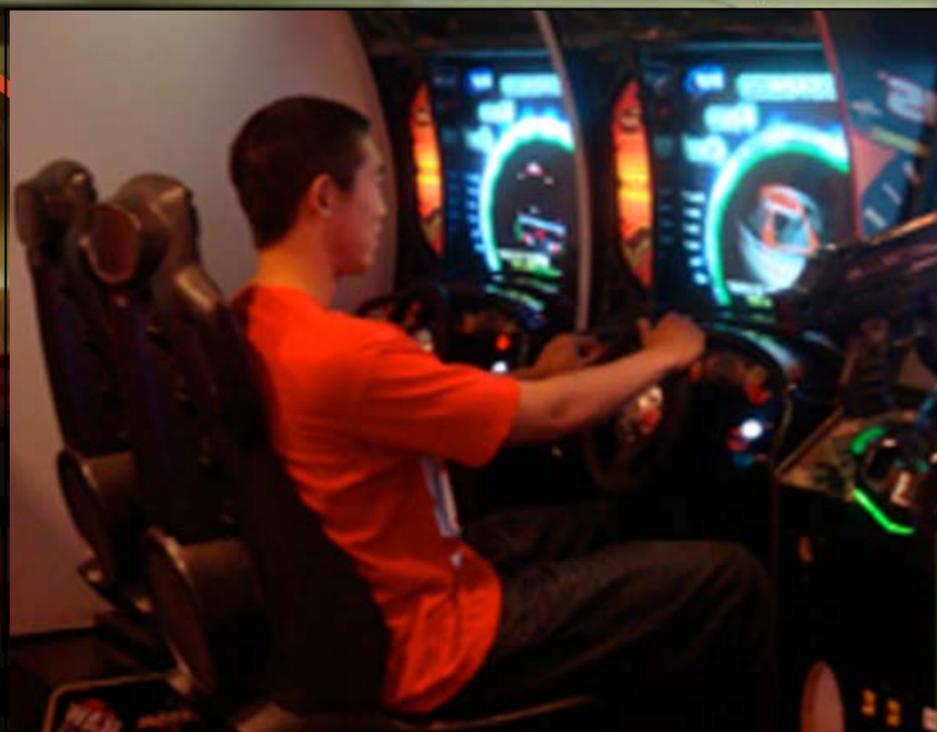
**James Huang, Freshman**

**Freshman Jonathon Junqua reaches to keep the ball in play**



# AMC

# Entertainment



**Recklessly Racing:** Senior Alvin Hsia plays racing game "Fast and the Furious" in the arcade room as he waits for his movie. "Whenever I'm just waiting for the movie, I go to the arcade room because they have fun racing games" Alvin said. **Eager Anticipation:** Sophomore Katie Gifford patiently waits inside AMC 14 on a Friday night for her friends to come. "I'm really excited for 17 again so I came earlier to get good seats" Katie said.

## MOVIE MANIA

Saratoga High School students choose **AMC 14** to watch movies on **Friday** Nights.

At 8:10 PM on a Friday night, sophomores Synthia Ling and Katie Gifford walk up the flight of stairs of theater eight at Saratoga's AMC 14, excited to watch the comedy 17 Again. As they push through a group of young, middle school girls and make their way toward the middle of the row, they feel the sticky floor from all the spilled popcorn and drinks at the bottom of their feet.

As they settle into the comfy seats, the lights begin to dim, and the room immediately quiets down. All that can be heard is the sounds of crunching popcorn and slurping drinks. When the movie ends, the crowd almost simultaneously stands up and stretches their arms and legs.

"That movie was so good!" Katie said to Synthia.

"I know! I think I laughed so hard that I cried," Synthia responds. "I'm glad we chose this movie to watch tonight."

Katie and Synthia, like many other students at Saratoga High, choose to spend Friday nights at the AMC 14 movie theater on Saratoga Avenue.

"I like going to AMC 14 because it's a chance for me to hang out with my friends," Synthia said.

Because of the economic crisis, people are cutting back on spending. Movies are an inexpensive way to relieve stress from school.

"After a long, hard week of school, I always love going to AMC

to relax," junior Deepti Raghavan said. "All the pressure from school goes away when you watch a movie."

Although the majority of moviegoers are teenagers, the building is filled with people ranging from toddlers to senior citizens.

"Usually, I run into someone else from school at the theaters," junior Sawan Shah said. "It's actually really interesting to see who else is there watching the same movie as you."

AMC 14 is the busiest when there is a popular new movie opening that weekend. For well-known movies such as Twilight or Harry Potter, the line for movies can be so hectic that some have to wait hours to enter the theater.

"I remember the time I went to the opening weekend showing of Twilight," sophomore Erin Wong explained. "I preordered tickets, went to the theater about two hours earlier and sat in line until we were allowed to go in."

Watching movies is like being on a rollercoaster of emotions. In a comedy movie, friends can laugh all together with a theater full of people. On the other hand, in a horror film, friends hold on to each other screaming loudly and covering each other's eyes.

"The types of movies I watch usually depend on what mood I'm in. But you can't go wrong with a romantic comedy or an action movie" Katie said. "Whenever I watch a movie, it's like leaving my life behind and going into another world." —Emily Hsia

“Whenever I watch a movie, it’s like leaving my life behind and going into another world.”  
**Katie Gifford,**  
Sophomore

# COLORING THE EVENING

The Color Guard gets together to **integrate** new members for the upcoming season.

**A**t 6:00 p.m. Thursday night, a congregation of about 35 people has gathered in the school's quad. Flags lie on the ground, neatly rolled and waiting to be used as the last season's members gather and retell fond memories. Shy eighth graders percolate about, intent on joining the excitement of the upcoming field season but too shy to introduce themselves. Suddenly, a voice calls out.

"Hello everyone, gather around," says a smiling man. "My name is Mr. Ramos, one of the instructors, and I'm glad there are so many of you interested in joining Color Guard this upcoming year!"

Color Guard is one of the most unique sports on campus. Also known as "the sport of the arts," it combines the rigors of marching and equipment, such as flags, rifles, and sabers, with the elegance of dance. Though lesser known than other athletic groups, such as Spirit Squad and track, it still attracts a rather large number of participants, with a count of 32 last season and 23 during winter.

This evening, 15 eighth graders are present as prospective freshmen. Huddled in the back of the spin block, they try their best to keep up with the pace of the veterans.

"Good job, rookies!" exclaims Ms. Conway. She then proceeds chastising a vet. "Amber, you're a half beat slow."

The guard takes a water break, and then proceeds inside the small gym to learn dance work. After a few simple exercises, veterans teach rookies the various across the floor patterns. Eighth graders wobble as they attempt turns, while last year's novices, the freshmen, help them adjust their arms and remind them to point their toes.

Before rehearsal ends, the guard performs the dance they have learned. As the music starts, their performance faces come on, and each student takes the work and interprets it as their own, taking Mr. Ramos's advice to individualize it.

"It's not about being robots copying everything!" he exclaims. "Perform!"

By the end of the rehearsal, everyone already knows everyone else. Smiles everywhere, the guard members go their separate ways, to meet again at rehearsal tomorrow.

"It's an amazing experience," said freshman Andrea Liu. "After each show, there is just this awesome feeling of achievement."

The four guard instructors all bring different elements to the guard. Mr. Dario Ramos choreographs flag, rifle, and saber work, Ms. Katherine Green teaches dance, and Ms. Alexandra Conway goes over sections of the show again and again until everything is absolutely perfect. In addition, the new band director this year brought along a new guard instructor from Clovis High School, Mr. Andrew Crepo, whose unique and professional style will help to push the guard forward.

"They're really intense, and expect a lot of all the guard members," said freshman Christine Liu, "but they can be a lot of fun, too."

Guard is a lot of work, with band camp during the summer and around 18 hours of practice a week during a season.

"Whenever people ask me what I'm doing on Saturday, I tell them that I have guard rehearsal from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.," said freshman Stefanie Tanaka, "and there is always this complete shock on their faces."

However, the hard work pays off. During field season, the band finished with 11<sup>th</sup> place overall, and the guard individually ranked sixth. In the Winter Guard season's California Color Guard Circuit, the guard placed fourth.

A close knit family on campus, the Color Guard is always working hard to be the best they can be.

"I love guard," said freshman Darisha Jhutti. "It's not just a sport, it's a lifestyle of pushing yourself to be the best you can be, not just in guard, but in everything." —**By Alexandra Ju**

**“It's not just a sport, it's a lifestyle of pushing yourself to be the best you can be.”**

**Darisha Jhutti,  
Freshman**

**Back to the beginning:** Freshman Stefanie Tanaka shakes out a caught silk before setting back to the top of the work.



**Helping hands:** Veterans Stefanie Tanaka and Nina Mohanty flank the eighth graders, providing them with visual guidance.





**Saying Goodbye:** Resident Mary Frey tells her visitor, Huong Le her plans for the next few weeks. "Tomorrow, my daughter is taking me to the airport and, from there, I will fly to Texas by myself," said Mary.

# VISITING THE VILLA

A peaceful place, **Our Lady of Fatima Villa** is designed for the elderly recovering or living independently.

**S**

ix or seven birds are perched along the lower branches of an oak tree in the midst of a sea of lush grass, periodically twittering. A few squirrels scrambled up and down the trunk of the same tree. A pale cement path encircles thick grass.

Roses, orchids and daisies adorned the radiant courtyard, neatly planted near the walls of the buildings and alongside the path. The afternoon sun was not hot, but its warmth lit up the courtyard brilliantly.

Surrounding the courtyard are khaki-colored buildings, rimmed with white. In the background of all this, are the mountains of Saratoga.

"This place is really nice. There's a nice view and it's beautiful," said Jenny Le, one of the nurses.

The courtyard and buildings are parts of Our Lady of Fatima Villa, a place dedicated to the elderly. The villa consists of a skilled nursing and an assisted living home. The skilled nursing portion is where residents, who are recovering from surgery, an illness or an injury, stay temporarily in order to regain their health. The assisted living section is meant for the elderly who wish to live independently, but occasionally need assistance.

The villa is a very busy place, especially in the skilled nursing area.

"It's a very busy job. I'm always helping someone do something. I take their blood pressure, help them change their clothes, or help them from their bed to a chair or from a chair to the bed. I change their diapers,

help them shower and make the beds," said Melissa Romano, a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA).

CNA Hiep Nguyen has worked in the skill nursing area for 6 years. He enjoys his work because he gets to interact with the patients, like Thomas Notaro.

Nguyen helps Thomas because "he can't do many things himself." Thomas is partially deaf and uses a wheelchair.

"How do you feel, Thomas?" asks Hiep, raising his voice.

"I feel alright. I feel pretty good," replies the 84 year old man.

"Do we take good care of you?" jokes Hiep.

"It's alright."

The charge nurse of the skill nursing home, Neil Pennell, feels the same.

"I enjoy dealing with the residents because it's gratifying to see them improve their well being," said Neil.

"Also, the residents of skill nursing are very alert, so it's interesting to interact with them."

Margaret Stoup works in human resources and as the payroll administrator. Her job includes helping hire workers and making sure all the employees do their roles and are paid.

Margaret said that working at Our Lady of Fatima Villa can be very rewarding.

"Working here, I get a sense of fulfillment. I feel like I'm giving back," said Margaret.

—By Vivian LeTran



**Blissful shade:** Residents take advantage of the shady areas in order to enjoy the warm courtyard. **Say cheese:** Certified Nurse Assistant poses for a picture along with skilled nursing patient, Thomas Notaro.



**Take a break:** Residents of skilled nursing often come to the dining hall to talk, watch TV, and just relax. **Happy Hour:** "Happy Hour with Brad," a singing and piano show is one of the many activities available for residents of Our Lady of Fatima Villa. **Family:** Relatives of the residents often come to enjoy the activities with each other.

# TAKING TIME TO ENJOI FREEDOM

The afternoon sun was merciless. Hazy rays threw thin, spidery shadows across the warm blacktop at Argonaut Elementary School. From the distance came the sound of wheels scraping against rough gravel. A few moments later, Harker High School freshman Gerry Glasauer rolled into view on his black and pink Enjoi skateboard.

Just moments after arriving, Gerry looked around the blacktop nostalgically, and remembered, "I haven't been here for a while."

Dropping everything, he ran full speed toward the amphitheater-like concave and leapt off the edge. For a while, he just slowly rolled down the slope and curve of the amphitheater.

For a minute, Gerry forgets the rest of the world, and lies peacefully on the grass. Then, with a sudden spring, he's at the swing set goofing off.

Gerry rarely has the opportunity to get outside to skate during the school year. However, with the tantalizing freedom of summer just days away, he made an exception.

"Now that school's over, I'll probably skate four or five times a week," he said.

Asker for two years, Gerry comes to Argonaut for a variety of reasons. There are benches that provide platforms, rails without skate-stoppers, and stairs to jump off of.

Due to the nature of their sport, skateboarders have become the stereotypical menace to society: flouting the rules and destroying public property. Gerry defies that stereotype.

"Skaters are usually pretty mellow," he said. "A lot of good skaters are really great guys."

He doesn't skateboard to try to show off or be a miscreant. He skates

“Skaters are usually pretty mellow. A lot of good skaters are really great guys.”

**Gerry Glasauer,  
Freshman**



**H-ollie Molly:** Here, Gerry performs some flips and jumps. For these tricks, no fancy ramps or slides are needed: just pavement. Argonaut's long stretches of blacktop are just right for this trick. In addition, there are smoother parts underneath the water fountains or outside classrooms.

**No Ball Required:** Gerry leaps with joy after successfully shooting his skateboard into the hoop. He had already tried several times, and was unsuccessful.



**Over The Rainbow:** Gerry tosses his skateboard across the large blacktop at Argonaut. His board was relatively undamaged, and he hopped on it as it rolled away. Unlike many sponsored skaters, Gerry takes care of his board. He doesn't recklessly smash it when his tricks go wrong.

**Life On The Edge:** Outside the library, Gerry grinds a wooden bench. Like this one, none of the other benches or platforms at Argonaut have skate-stoppers installed.

# Pigged Out Science!!!

LISA COCHRUM'S 7TH PERIOD BIO CLASS LEARNED ABOUT THE INNER **ANATOMY** THROUGH THE DISSECTION OF A PIG

**"D**o I actually have to do this?" said freshman Heather Pearson. "Do I actually have to *touch* the pig?" said Alyssa Peck. "Yeah, pig guts!" "Can I cut off the feet and hang them up in my room?" said sophomore Drew Helm.

"NO!" said Lisa Cochrum as she smiled. "Go sit down in the middle of the room and stop bugging Me."

The room is in total chaos, and there can be only one reason why: It's pig dissection day. The day all bio students are warned about on the first day of school.

Even Cochrum is dressed up for the special day by wearing her special white lab coat with her name sewn on it. As she has the class sit down in the center of the room so she can explain the lab, she talks about her past dissection experiences from when she was a kid. The students laugh as she finishes the story about when she threw up all over the shark she was dissecting 14 years ago.

She started to explain the lab, as students constantly fidgeted, some waiting to get their hands on the pig, while others felt squeamish and couldn't wait for the class to be over.

"It smells really bad and its awkward cutting through something that was once alive," said freshman Kayla Lenshoek.

Not everyone agreed with Kayla.

"I'm so excited to dissect the pig," said freshman Ariella Yendler. "I want to be a doctor when I grow up so this will probably help me."

Ariella is not the only person who is looking forward to dissecting the pig.

"It's interesting to learn about the body parts," said freshman Haris Khan. "You get to see everything first hand."

As the class goes on the students start to get more into it trying to find the liver, and probing around the insides of the pig trying to not rupture anything that they aren't supposed to. Some people are still not getting into the spirit of pig dissecting.

"It feels inhumane," said sophomore Sophie Shock.

While the students did the lab Cochrum talked about the importance of the pig dissection.

"It's important for the students to understand where everything is inside the body so they can understand how they work better," said Cochrum. "We can't have high school students dissect humans so we use pigs instead because their internal system is close to ours."

Cochrum then continued on about how she has to be stricter than normal when she is dealing with freshman boys and pig guts.

"You have no idea how hard it is to teach a lesson while the boys are asking if they can eat the pig or cut off the pig's ears," said Cochrum.

As the class comes to an end Ms. Cochrum tells all the students to clean up. "Finally," said freshman Alyssa Peck. "At least I have one more day till I have to do this again."

She rushes to clean up her table urging her group mates to do the same, while others sigh in disappointment. "This is definitely my favorite bio lab so far," said Nic Doyen. — **Aanchal Mohan**



**HELP!** Mrs. Cochrum helps sophomores Randy Park and Alex De Nicolo to find the heart in the pig. "You have no idea how hard it is to dissect a pig with high-school boys," said Cochrum.

**Below:** Freshmen Katya Simpson and Ariella Yendler look through their pig to study for a test. "I love looking through the pig and seeing the insides," said Ariella Yendler.

**Right:** Freshmen Alysa Peck covers her face as her group cuts through their pig. "I don't understand how people can stand cutting through something that was once alive," said Alysa.



**HANDS ON LEARNING:** Freshmen Ali Kothari cuts through his pig. "I felt a little bad at first but then I realized how much fun it is," said Ali.



**SMILE FOR THE CAMERA:** Even through all the grossness Sophomore Sophie Shock gives a smile to the camera. "It feels inhuman to cut through something that was once alive," said Sophie.

# MUSIC AT ITS BEST

Saratoga's music room is not just a room where aspiring musicians practice hard. It's for everyone to succeed.

**R**"RING!" A throng of enthusiastic student musicians race toward the music building at the start of a warm Friday morning tutorial. They place their bags next to the bright red flowers that line up against the wall. Standing at the doorstep is teacher Michael Boitz, clad in a collared shirt, dark blue jeans, rectangular shaped glasses, waiting to begin rehearsals. "We've got a concert coming up and we need to practice," Boitz reminds his students, who nod in agreement.

Saratoga High's music building is an enormous room filled with melodic sounds coming from all instruments. Students come here to polish up on their pieces, finish homework, or just hang out. Occasionally, they consult Boitz or band teacher John Zarco on a piece they're playing.

In the common room, Boitz leads the symphonic band as they play selected songs for their end of the year concert. Further in, a group of seniors work on their AP Music Theory homework. Next to them, freshmen Natalie Liu and Connie Lun play the Indiana Jones theme song on their violins.

"I feel absolutely privileged to be able to use these [practice] rooms," Liu said. "I've got lots of performances coming up and this is the only place where I can practice without being disturbed."

Lun feels the same way.

"I can get more work done on my pieces, and I can get help when needed," Lun said.

Inside the building are mazes of rooms, from the common room to the teachers' offices, to the five private practice rooms. Each practice room

is soundproofed so that the students inside cannot hear anything else other than the wonderful music he or she is playing. Liu says that the rooms often get crowded five to ten minutes into tutorial, so she makes sure she is first to get in.

Along the walls of the rooms are a plethora of posters with dates for musical appearances of famous musicians. Across, a brown cabinet showcases the numerous trophies won by band and orchestra. To the left, freshman Jimmy Zheng practices on the piano.

As Zheng plays, Boitz and Zarco walk around, impressed by how all the students are engrossed in their pieces.

Lun says that the teachers are very personable and easy to approach.

"Mr. Boitz always strives to push us to our full potential and he really wants our orchestra to be better than others," she said.

Freshman Anshu Siripurapu, who has Mr. Zarco for band, likes his teacher because of his excellent knowledge in music.

"Mr. Zarco is very friendly; he's very funny and he's always willing to give comments on how you play. He wants to bring out the best in everyone," Siripurapu said.

Liu believes that the music room is a place of inspiration. She says that it motivates students to try their best at whatever they do.

"The students make the music room great. They have so much dedication and passion towards music, and because of that, Saratoga High is considered to have one of the finest music programs in the nation," Liu said. —By **Shilpa Nagesh**



**Practicing to Perfection:** Freshman Natalie Liu (left) practices hard on her viola during a Friday Tutorial session. "I've got a lot of performances coming up and I really need to practice," she said. (Below): Freshman Tony Glausi perfects a Mozart Sonata in the adjacent practice room.



**The Orchestrator:** (above) Music teacher Michael Boitz signals the violinists to begin playing their solos during an evening practice session. The orchestra played part of the Indiana Jones theme song. **A secret room:** (to the right): Before class, students keep their violins stored in rooms like these.



**Hard at work:** Freshman Connie Lun plays the violin as she looks attentively on what notes to play. Lun concluded her first year playing the violin, which she said was a "lot of fun."

“The live music is great. The musicians are all really **inspirational** and down to earth.”

**Eva Johnson,**  
Freshman

# LETTING THE CAFE SING FOR ITSELF

Local downtown cafe in Saratoga is more than what it seems;

so-orry, I'm re-ally nervousss," she sings. The woman stops playing her ukulele and looks out at the packed room. It's 8:35 p.m. at the Blue Rock Shoot, a local café in downtown Saratoga.

From across the street The Blue Rock Shoot's presence seems rough around the edges and cozy on the inside. But the café is much more reputable than it appears.

Every Thursday, open mic night is where aspiring musicians have a chance to show their talent. Whether, young or old musicians of all diversities are given a shot at taking the stage.

"We get new performers every week," says Matt Kahn, an employee. Kahn has been working there for two years. Kahn says it doesn't matter "if you play guitar, sing, or play piano, the place is always welcoming."

A young woman takes the mic and introduces herself. "I'm Cristina Li and I'll be singing 'Dreaming with a broken heart' by John Mayer."

She adjusts her microphone as everyone rushes to the stage to get as close as they can. The music coming out of the speakers is nothing like one's ever heard. So powerful that it rings in the ears of the audience and makes them shiver in admiration.

"The live music is great. The musicians are all really inspirational and down to earth," says freshman, Eva Johnson. Johnson also has a love for music and says she is going to take a shot at the stage one night.

But the audiences aren't the only ones who enjoy the late night music.

"I love performing at the blue rock shoot. There's a very homey feeling here," Cristina Li said. Li is a regular performer at the open mics.

Li has had an interest in singing and song writing since middle school. She is a solo artist and attends San Jose State University.

"There's this special feeling you get when you see people's faces as you sing for them. It's like I'm sharing a gift with them. I can't explain it," Li says.

The Blue Rock Shoot is more than just a place to grab a bite to eat or meet up with friends.

"I come here a lot with friends but the best thing about this place is definitely the music. I try going to as many open mics as I can and sometimes drop in on their Sunday afternoon jazz music," said Johnson.

"The shows here are amazing. You wouldn't imagine there would be so many talented artists performing in the back of a downtown café," said Kahn.

"If it weren't for the music I probably wouldn't work here. The shows whether the artists are first timers or famous musicians are what make this place unique," Kahn said. - **Amanda Olson**



**Lead-in goes here:** Cristina Li and musician "the professor" are singing and playing the guitar. They played a great show.

**Before the show:** Performers stand in a crowd before the show starts. An employee, Kahn, handed out free tickets.  
**A look inside the cafe:** An employee is working inside the cafe. "If it weren't for the music I prolly wouldn't work here."



**Playing the piano:** 7 year-old Jessica Milton wows the audience while playing the piano. She smiled at the audience occasionally and was surprisingly not nervous at all.



**Playing the ukelele:** Lauren Crow nervously plays her ukulele for the crowd. Crow pleased the crowd with her amazing voice and unique instrument.  
**Sitting outside the cafe:** Locals sit outside either grabbing a bite to eat or just chatting. Inside the cafe people got ready for the show.



# KABOOM PLAY ROCKS THE STAGE

The drama department shows enthusiasm in the new play Kaboom

The lights dimmed. The soothing song started playing. The noise of the audience started reducing.

"Introducing," said a vague voice. "The play called KABOOM," he yelled. All of a sudden the lights turned on, and four people were on a wooden stage. They looked up and stared into the small audience. One by one, they introduced the play. Then, they stepped off, and the play started.

The first act began when a man and a lady started by fighting over a wedding that they wanted to have. The lady yelled saying she didn't want to, but the man died for one. At the end of the play, they ended up marrying and having a happy life.

One audience member, Brandon Pak, said, "It was way too boring. I knew that they were going to get married." Another audience member, Kyle Clark, said, "This was the biggest waste of time. I could have been home watching TV instead."

Next, the second act began. In the second act, two actors played as two friends. They were talking about a man that one of them liked. One of the actors, Anale Damabeh, said, "It was hard to prepare this act, because it's hard for me to remember my lines." Their act was short and ended quick. The next

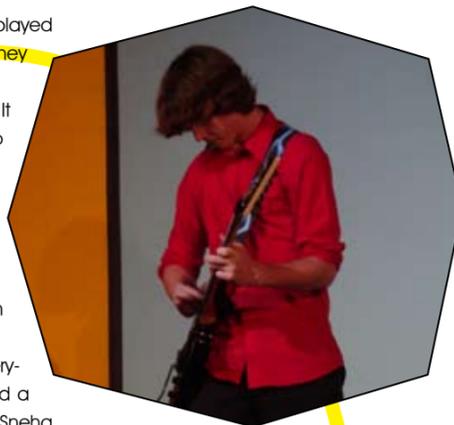
acts were like talent shows. Several actors played music with instruments such as guitars. Then, they started another play about misconceptions.

"The misconceptions play was really cool. It was interesting and fun to watch. I loved it so much, because it was fun to see my friends act really well," said another actor, Samantha Hoffman. After that last act, the play was over, and everyone started walking out. The actors were happy of their well performance and walked out the door with smiles on each and every one of their faces.

"When we started preparing this play, everyone thought it would stink, but we actually did a very good job and actually pulled it off," said Sneha Shivkumar also stated that with little time they had to prepare, they got it through and memorized their lines fast.

"This play was one of the best plays I've seen. Although they had a low budget, they still made the play look excellent," said Pak.

Final remarks from Shivkumar were; "I hope we can have one more play before school ends because it is so fun!"



**Cool Cat plays a rap:** This young player showed his own style of music.



**Talent of Music:** This student showed his talent as a wonderful guitar player. Later in the song, he added his inspiring vocals.



**Posing as a warrior:** This student acted as a warrior. The comedy was about him acting in a movie. As the movie was playing, he talked about what he thought about the other actors.



**Two Students argue until they are speechless:** These two students played as a rich man (to the left), and a poor man (to the right). The poor man was pretending to be a doctor so he could get paid to help the rich man's daughter.



**Lead-in goes here:** These two actors are planning their marriage that they aren't supposed to have.



**Misleading and misinterpreting:** These two students above argued about people on a baseball team. It was a classic comedy.



**From acting to posing:** These students pose at the end of their entertaining play. The play was about two people wanting to marry, but the dad of the girl didn't want her to marry. This action comedy was long, yet fun to watch.

**A number one song:** This young girl also showed her talent as a young musician. Her tough to reach vocals made everyone in the crowd entertained.



# EURO TRIP CHOIR REHEARSALS

Saratoga choir holds rehearsals for upcoming **Europe** tour after Wednesday tutorials.

The walls of the gleaming choir classroom reverberate with the chatter of a couple dozen students and the urging for a quick warm-up scale.

The members of the Saratoga choral department attending the upcoming Europe tour this summer perfect their routine down to the last note during designated practices after Wednesday tutorials.

The first week of July marks the enthralling journey to culturally enriched locations in Europe, such as Vienna, Austria and Interlaken, Switzerland.

For two weeks, the choir, along with the band and orchestra, will circuit through the tour, performing at various cathedrals, festivals, and local churches. With a cost of \$4,300 per person, their transportations, airfare, and accommodations are covered in the package.

The whole production is meticulously managed by Saratoga's music directors, including the choir director, Jim Yowell, and administrative assistant, Janet Verson. From every minor booking to the arrangements in the Austrian churches, they plan the trip to make the tour perfect for their students.

"I think this is one of the most exciting trips we will ever take because the choir seems to be so well balanced in all its parts; I love that everybody seems to be so excited already," Yowell said.

Saying how ecstatic he is for his students, he believes that "they really have a chance to shine now, and all the people in Europe are going to be so impressed and thrilled to hear great singing."

While Europe has the honor of hosting this year's music festival, the Saratoga music department only

has the chance to attend the tour every three years.

Students jump at the chance to perform and embark during this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Sophomore Kaitna Shankar, member of the Women's Ensemble, is exuberated for the trip.

"I am so excited for Europe!" she said. "It'll be the first time I experience freedom for myself, and I hope to not only have a fantastic time with my friends, but also learn some about the European culture."

Throughout the practice, the singers never give up with getting every note right, no matter how much time this perfection takes.

Holding their heads and postures proudly, the choir keeps the beat through the harmonies, the overall exuberance and determination shining through each vocalizing face. The group, with great patience, puts much effort into their practices, knowing it will pay off during their experience just weeks away.

For many students, the music is just one aspect of the tour of their dreams. Spending the time with their closest friends is one of the better parts of the adventure, according to choir member, sophomore Tasha Patel.

"Besides seeing all the amazing sights and competing among other choirs, one of the most exciting things I look forward to is rooming with my friends for two weeks unaccompanied," she said. "I can really show my independence this way."

The tour rehearsals after Wednesday tutorials are building blocks of work and excitement offered to make the upcoming Europe tour the most incredible high school experience the singers could ever hope for.

"I can feel it already," says Patel. "This is going to be the experience of a lifetime." —*Esha Roy*

“I can feel it already. This is going to be the experience of a **lifetime**.”

**Tasha Patel,**  
Sophomore

**Chatter Chatter:** Juniors Elisabeth Bellissimo and Natalie Tkalecic exchange excitement about the upcoming trip. They found time to obsess over what they will pack or all the amazing sights they will see between songs. After the next song, they picked up their discussion right where they left it.



"It'll be the first time I experience **freedom** for myself, and I hope to not only have a fantastic time with my friends, but also learn about the European culture."—sophomore **Kaitna Shankar**



"I think this is one of the most exciting trips we will ever take because the choir seems to be so well **balanced** in all its parts; I love that everybody seems to be so excited already."—music director **Jim Yowell**



"Besides seeing all the amazing sights and competing among other choirs, one of the most exciting things I look forward to is rooming with my friends for two weeks **unaccompanied**."—sophomore **Tasha Patel**

**DAY 1**  
Saratoga, CA

**DAY 2**  
Interlaken, Switzerland

**DAY 5**  
Salzburg, Austria

**DAY 6**  
Vienna, Austria

**DAY 10**  
Schladming, Austria

**DAY 14**  
Munich, Germany

**DAY 15**  
Saratoga, CA



**Singing Glory:** Sophomore Abby Frankola belts out a solo in one of the pieces during the Europe tour rehearsal. One of three girls who will sing a solo in the whole procession, Abby found the experience slightly nerve-wracking, yet is excited to "strut her stuff" in Europe.



**Musical Precision:** Mr. Yowell, music department director, conducts the women's Soprano-Alto choir during a recital. The concert was held in the McAfee Theater on campus; featuring most of the same music they will cover in Europe, the concert helped them rehearse in preparation for the Europe trip.



**Diction and Direction:** Seniors Nyssa Spector, Tina Clark, and Eleanor Davis are positioned on the risers according to their pitch, volume, and range.

# Rowdy Ralliers

Twenty students put their **dignity** behind them as they tried out for 4 Rally Commission spots

“The people who try out have to have **guts** because they know they’re going to be judged on how they entertain.”

-Laura Ruddy, Senior



You have 30 seconds to create a song about your costume and then perform it. Go,” said senior commissioner Joey Avery. As the hopefuls frantically started planning out dance moves after school on May 20, Saratoga High’s Rally Commission smirked at each other, waiting for the results. Sweat dripping from their ears, the hopefuls each step up to the front of the staff room and perform their ridiculous songs to the Rally Commission. “I am a mitt and I handle your hot buns!” sings sophomore Brandon Pierce off key.

The tryouts for the Rally Commission are very selective as to ensure the best candidates. The Saratoga High Rally Commission works hard every month to put on a rally to boost school spirit. They spend countless hours to brainstorm, plan, and put together a show for the school.

“To be on rally definitely takes a lot of hard work,” said sophomore commissioner Aditya Dev. “You need to put in effort to make the rallies good.”

Every year a newcomer must take a graduating senior’s position on the commission. These newcomers audition during Rally Tryouts in addition to both a formal and non-formal interview.

“In the non-formal interview, we test the applicants’ creativity by making them play improv games where they have to think off the top of their head,” said senior

Head commissioner Laura Ruddy. “During the formal interview, they have to come up with a rally theme and a few game ideas.”

Many applicants were nervous when asked to play certain improv games, like using a prop to entertain the Rally Commission.

“I had to think really fast and it made me really nervous, but I think I pulled it off,” said junior Pat Hawks. “The thought of being on rally commission cancels out my nerves.”

According to junior commissioner Chelsea Sabella, people on rally can’t be self-conscious. She says that because the whole school attends rallies, the rally commission is often the target of much criticism.

“The people who try out have guts, because they know they’re going to be judged on how they entertain. It’s good because people on rally already have guts to entertain the whole school,” said Laura.

After the tryouts, only a handful of individuals out of the 20 stood out to the rally commission in terms of hilarity and originality.

“Some people displayed lots of creativity and something new they could bring to Rally, and that’s the whole point,” said Chelsea, “Next year, we want the  
-by Kaitna Shankar

Sophomore David Mandell, junior Chelsea Sabella, sophomore Aditya Dev, seniors Michael Guercio and Katie Gasik, and junior Mel Archer judge the ralliers in their audition to get on to one of the most popular commissions in the school.



Meet the Judges

## Meet the Candidates



Leah Capek



Chris Chung



Jay Lee

Candidates Leah Capek, Jay Lee, Omeed Vaiki, Chris Chung, and Pat Hawks line up in their funky outfits that relate to toast, trying to impress the current rally commission.



“Trying out for rally was an experience, it made me gain **confidence** in front of others i don’t know.” -freshman **Dominic Guercio**



“I just tried to deliver my inner **comedic** side, i hope i didn’t disappoint.” -junior **Pat Hawks**



“The hardest part of trying out for rally was definitely the improv games, like singing. I had to **think** on my feet.” -sophomore **Brandon Pierce**

# BOX

THE LITTLE THEATRE IS A POPULAR LUNCH DESTINATION FOR THE DRAMA STUDENT

**S**aratoga High School is known for being lit up with sunshine and relatively calm during lunch periods. But not the Little Theatre: acting as a drama room, lunch meeting place and affectionately known to its patrons as the “black box”. Penny Burgess, Ariella Yendler, Natalie Berg, and Mitchell Maguire, freshman, all take drama as an elective and they all love to be in the schools productions, this year they were in *Grease* and *Romeo and Juliet*. These students were immediately drawn to spending time in the Little Theatre for their free time.

In the room there are about fifty people breaking open lunch boxes and cracking open cafeteria food, the friends start gossiping and telling jokes. They stand up and walk around the room to talk with other people, completely at ease. At one end of the alcove students fool around, posing on the stage made for the end of year awards shows. The rest of the room is littered with chairs and students in various groups.

Lunch is the 45 minutes of freedom that students have to relax, chat with friends and of course eat. So why do it in the “black box”? “Weird stuff happens all the time here,” laughs Ariella. The drama geeks are discussing why they chose to eat in the Little Theatre; what drew them to the dark, spacious

room. Mitchell agrees with this saying that they’re too weird to be anywhere else.

But what exactly do these acting students do during lunch? Ariella said that they talk about TV shows and they make fun of each other. At the beginning of the year the freshman were the “pets” of the juniors and they had to do everything that the juniors told them to do.

Yendler also said that they play a game called “freshman ball”, basically a type of handball but with dramatic sound effects.

Like all lunch cliques, the Little Theatre lunch students have their share of insides jokes, traditions and superstitions. Of course there is the normal superstition, never walk under a ladder and then a more theatre based one; never say the Scottish play’s name. Utter the name *Macbeth* and fights start. “The techs are vampires.” Mitchell says seriously. The rest of the group starts laughing at the long feud between actors and technicians.

Then of course there are less conventional traditions such as pigging out on gummi bears during rehearsals and never stealing an upper classmans energy drink. The theatrical students also regularly bring in cakes and other goodies for birthdays.

The Little Theatre is a refuge for the common drama student with a completely different attitude then the rest of SHS, one with a whole lot of drama. Both literally and figuratively.

—By Katya Simpson



“ Weird stuff happens all the time here...  
Ariella Yendler, Freshman ”



**Student/Atoms:** The drama students eat in clearly defined circles in the Little Theatre. **To eat or to glare...** Freshman Ariella Yendler glares at her friends as a debate arises. **Always acting:** Freshman Mitchell Maguire, Penny Burgess, Ariella Yendler and Josh Harris talk while playing in the stage area.



# CROWDED IN A CORNER

## In the corner of the quad, freshmen gather to create their own high school experience

ead silence. A caw of a crow or tapping of shoes in the hall might break it, but nothing marks chaos like the lunch bell. In minutes it will be normal high school scene, except for one thing. The in the groups that will race out to the far corner of the quad consist solely of freshman students. About 12 different groups of freshmen will claim this section like they did yesterday and will tomorrow.

The pure voice of the bell sings, releasing a hundred foot wave of students. Within four minutes, furious chatter morphs the corner into the most highly populated area of the quad.

"What was the math homework?"

"OHH THAT'S SOOO EXCITING!"

"... and then I was like, 'well, then...'"

"That's awesome. Yeah! I was there too..."

Friends stand sharing the newest information and funniest events hoping to tell a story that makes the day worth the pain of school. Every section of the benches and tables quickly fill and leaves the overflow standing and moving in emigrational patterns where shade and a seat lay. Massive flatlands of backpacks surround each territory, separating, yet connecting each clique-like group and expanding the overall area of the owned "territory".

From the first day, the corner of the quad by the office and locker caves has been dominated by about 50 freshmen students. However, it is unknown what outside force gravitationally draws them to this spot at lunch. It might be convenience, fear of change or even freshmen class pride.

Freshman Danielle Savage spends her lunch in the corner with her group of friends. She eats in the corner of the quad because, she

explains, "it is easy to find and, I also know everyone there so it feels more like a home." The feeling of "home" for a freshman is undeniable in the environment of this corner at lunch. What these groups have set up is a place where they can know everyone who surrounds them, similar to Redwood Middle School. Those who miss Redwood partially miss it because of the simplicity of the work level and partially because of the social aspect.

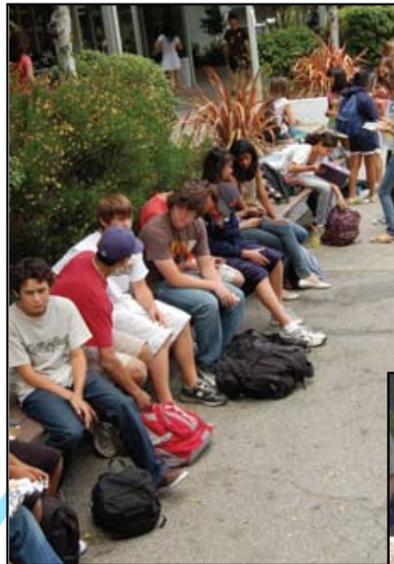
"It was a great feeling, being able to recognize ninety percent of the student body," said freshman Sarika Srivastava. Srivastava is not the only person who feels this way. One could argue that the whole freshman class, or the portion that choses to eat in this section of the quad feels this way.

Many of the students that helped out at homecoming and several of the current freshmen running for sophomore student body come from this largely populated area.

"Birds of a feather flock together," said freshman Gautaum Bhayani, "and that is what we are doing."

Bhayani and a large fraction of his group have been active in the school community, attending dances, rallies, powder puff and showing school spirit. Hence his "flock" has been created by spending time with other freshmen involved in school community.

For now, nobody knows why or how the freshmen decided on this one place, but all too soon, the identical call of the bell marks the end of lunch. In an instant, the wave of students recedes as quickly as they came. At least until tomorrow, and silence overcomes the quad once again. -- by: Jocelyn Takahashi



**(Left) Single File, Please:** Small clusters of freshmen students rest and socialize on a bench during lunch

**(Below) Social Butterflies:** Freshman Gautaum Bhayani visits a group of peers at lunch like many others do.



**(Right) Munch, Crunch:** Freshman Alexander Amato finishes another part of his lunch while joking around with his friends.



**Everyday a Partayy!:** A group at lunch enjoys the shade in the freshmen corner.



"Everyone who is a freshman is here, and it makes socializing really easy and it's really convenient when I want to find a place to hang out"— Freshman **Lisa Asai**



"If people want to find me, they won't have to look hard because I'm a freshman and I'm in the freshman corner. And if I want to find someone else, I look here first."— Freshman **Nicholas Aske**



"We all used to sit in different places in Redwood, but when we got out to the quad on the first day of school, this was the only spot open. So we all took it."— Freshman **Danielle Savage**



# TAKE A STROLL THROUGH JAPAN

## Locals spend the afternoon in the Hakone Gardens, sampling the Japanese culture



harp clicks made from two wooden drumsticks pierced through the trees, drawing crowds to the drummer on the stadium. The high-pitched clicks became increasingly frequent until the drummer, dressed in traditional Japanese clothes, finally start to beat on the massive, barrel-like drum.

The vibrations of the drum resonated among the people and signaled the start of the Giant Calligraphy presentation. A gray-haired man beside the drummer picked up his four foot brush to begin painting on the canvas that easily spanned across the stadium.

The Hakone Matsuri, literally meaning Hakone festival, has celebrated the Japanese culture for the past 10 years, selling Japanese foods, demonstrating calligraphy, playing traditional instruments, and presenting the art of flower arrangement. A time to appreciate the Japanese culture, the festival attracts more than 500 people each year including couples, photographers, curious bystanders, and even students.

Students who went to the festival, which began at 11 a.m. and ended at 4 p.m., often chose to help volunteer for more community service hours or extra credit in Yuko Aoki's Japanese classes. They are given bright green t-shirts and stationed at various booths.

Among the volunteers stood freshmen Isabel McPherson and Heather Persson who spent their afternoon in the renowned Hakone Gardens for its 10<sup>th</sup> annual festival. A day filled with cultural festivities, the duo helped set up activities and pack things away when the festival was over.

"It's really fun," Heather said. "I really just came for the extra credit points for Japanese class, but it's a really fun experience."

**Creased:** Folded origami paper is a popular item in the bazaar at the Hakone festival.

Isabel, standing beside Heather, added, "The only thing is that it's really, really hot... and there are bugs. But other than that, the people are really friendly."

As visitors walked around looking at the booths, white tents provided shade for both the visitors and the workers at the booths. Booths showcased various things such as pottery and water yo-yos, water balloons attached to rubber strings.

One booth, the bazaar, sold Asian items that many onlookers flocked to. The bazaar included items such as origami, decorative cell phone straps, scarves and plates. The booth next to the bazaar offered foot therapy which very few visitors were willing to try out.

The temperature went up into the high 90s that day and carried the aroma of chicken yakitori, skewered grilled chicken, throughout the garden. Various visitors even went so far as to shoulder flowery paper umbrellas from the Hakone Garden gift shop to escape the rays of the sun.

Despite the sun's heat, the green vegetation in the Hakone Gardens thrived to provide the visitors with breathtaking scenery accented by wooden gates and gravel pathways.

Overall, most volunteers agreed that the experience was both memorable and pleasant.

The Hakone Matsuri, more than a social gathering, commemorates the Japanese culture and gives visitors a taste of life in Japan.

"The turtles [in the pond] were so adorable!" another freshman volunteer, Ariel Cheng, said. "It was really fun to see what the Japanese culture is like. I'm definitely going to come back again next year." —**By Kim Tsai**



**Caught unawares:** Tired families and teenage couples rest under the shadows of the trees. One student sat next to his girlfriend and held her hand. They spent some quality time alone together at the festival.

**"I really just came for the extra credit points for Japanese class, but it's a really fun experience."**  
**Heather Persson,**  
**Freshman**

**Melting:** Visitors endure the high temperature at the festival, sweating under tents and chugging down water. One man crouched down under his paper umbrella as he watched the Giant Calligraphy Presentation.

“This group is really tight and we’re able to create some pretty nice music together.”

**Will Edman,**  
Freshman



**Powerful Influence:** Rise Against was the primary influence on this group. “They want to change the world, and so do we,” said Will Edman



**Strumming the Days Away:** Guitarist Will Edman practices diligently even out of rehearsal. He confesses that guitar is his obsession



“At all of our rehearsals we really have to bear down and grind. We have to do it because that’s how hard we have to work if we want even a chance at accomplishing anything”—freshman **Manish Raghavan**



“The group’s constantly brainstorming song ideas. Sometimes we’re completely brain dead, and sometimes we’re just rolling. It really depends.”—freshman **Michael Zuccarino**



“What we really have in mind at the end of all this is to make it to the big time. It might be a really long shot, but without trying you’ll never know.”—freshman **Will Edman**



“We called this band because we really are ‘Filling the Void.’ Hard core rock is basically on the back burner of the musical world now.”—freshman **Ashwin Saxena**



## ROCKIN’ OUT AT THE END OF THE WEEK

Freshman band puts long hours of hard work into becoming spectacular

**The drums slam.** The amps blare, supplied sound by the furious strumming of guitarist Will Edman. Singer Manish Raghavan screams into his microphone. It’s a world of noise.

It’s 12:10 on a Sunday afternoon. The band, named “Filling the void,” is comprised of Saratoga High School freshman Will Edman, Manish Raghavan, Michael Zuccarino, and Ashwin Saxena. They started rehearsal at 12:00 sharp and have already played through two songs. It’s obvious they’re well disciplined and extremely dedicated. “We work really hard for this group,” said. “Sometimes, it wears us down, but in the end, it’s really worth it. The group is really tight and we’re able to create some pretty nice music together.”

Right after finishing perfecting their music, the group immediately launches into a massive collaborative brainstorm about what new songs to write; the very picture of efficiency. According to Ashwin, the group is very strict about wasting time, seeing as they all have very busy schedules and don’t necessarily have time to meet every single weekend, so they like to try and get as much done in the time that they have.

A mere 20 minutes into brainstorming, Saxena comes up with a

theme, Zuccarino pitches in an underlying drum beat, Edman comes up with some chords, and in a short period of time, they have a song written up like nothing. It’s not always like this though, according to Zuccarino. “The group’s constantly brainstorming song ideas. Sometimes we’re completely brain dead, and sometimes we’re just rolling. It really depends.”

Satisfied with their accomplishments thus far, they all take a well-deserved break. The focused atmosphere vanishes from the air, replaced by an air of looseness as the entire band breaks out into jokes, small talk, and silly little quickly composed songs about various subjects such as pineapples, jell-o, and the Easter bunny.

After another rigorous hour, the clock nears two o’ clock. The cell phones come out, asking for parent’s rides home. It’s the end of another grinding rehearsal. As it turns out, all rehearsals are this productive. They have to be, according to Raghavan, if they hope to ever accomplish anything. “What we really have in mind at the end of all of this is to make it to the big time,” said Edman “It might be a really long shot, and we probably will never become a big name band, but without trying you’ll never know.”—**By Eric Wang**



# AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD IN SARATOGA

Charming Mexican restaurant brings a lively sense of **community** to a sleepy downtown

A quaint little yellow and white trimmed restaurant with large patio, picnic tables, and wide open doors is nestled in the heart of Saratoga, Big Basin Way. Casa de Cobre is alive on any given Friday night with lively music, a fifteen-minute wait and people crowded around the front entrance.

The owner, Andrew Welch walks between tables greeting people by name, shaking hands, exchanging pleasantries, and even serving food. Saratoga residents tuck in to enjoy this unusual cuisine in their own backyard.

Welch also owns the restaurant down the street, the Basin, which is a very popular restaurant and bar for Saratoga residents. His restaurants are very popular in the quiet little downtown Saratoga because he knows how to make people feel welcome.

"We come because we know and like the owner," said a diner and Saratoga resident, Toni Araldi.

Welch opened Casa de Cobre less than two months ago after having such good luck with the Basin, which serves more American food with Spanish and Italian influences.

Casa de Cobre, "House of Copper", features authentic and unusual Mexican food from the state of Michoacan in Mexico, a region that is known for its handmade copper, where his main chef at the basin and Casa de Cobre, Marcelino Hernandez Perez, is from. Andrew wanted to give Perez a chance to showcase his native cuisine.

"[Marcelino] takes every idea I have and makes it much better," said Andrew.

Already, Casa de Cobre has regulars. One man stands out above the rest though; he has become infamous among the staff for his grumpy attitude.

"He is impossible to please and he always has something negative to say," said one waitress, "but he must like the food because he keeps coming back."

The staff just keeps smiling at him, hoping to soften him up. Although the unusual cuisine, such as fish taco served with the whole fish (bones and all) on fresh mini corn tortillas, might not suit everyone's taste buds, no one can deny the good service.

"The food wasn't my favorite, but the waitress who served us was really nice," said sophomore Vanessa Block.

Andrew stresses to his staff the importance of making every customer feel like they are important, or "Giving the Love" as he calls it.

"We work as a team, we pool tips (share the tips) which makes people work together," said waitress Sarah Silva. "It also takes care of the guests because everyone is looking out for them and we're not fighting over who has which table."

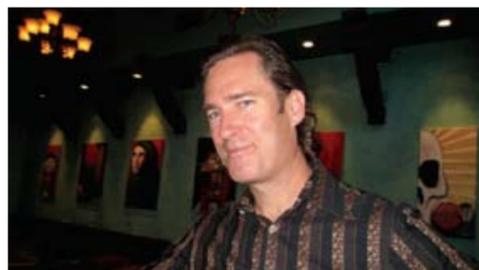
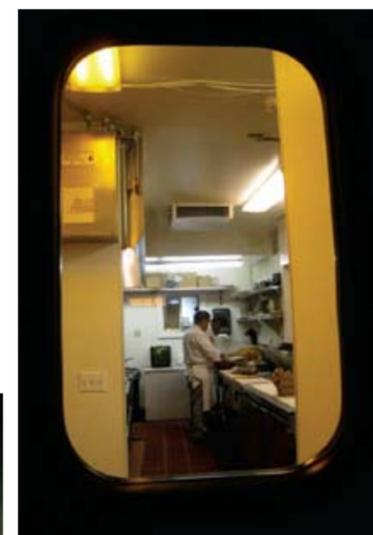
Andrew also puts great value in buying fresh, organic produce



**It's a Family affair:** The youngest diner in the restaurant waits patiently for his dinner to arrive. The waiter seemed happy to accommodate even the youngest children. **(Above) Kid's Menu:** Darby Williams, 11, receives a "special" orange Mexican soda. **(Right) Inside Door:** Late afternoon sun filters through the artistic inner door, giving the restaurant a Latin feel.



**Toga Famous Carnitas:** Head Chef at Casa de Cobre, Marcelino Hernandez Perez, prepared his most popular dish, Suckling Pig Carnitas, early in the evening in preparation for the eight o'clock rush.



**Copper art:** This copper pot is made of one piece of copper in the region of Michoacan, Mexico. It was made by the Chef's father who was one of the few people left who made pots from one piece of copper. Casa de Cobre was named after this unique art, and the food is from that region.

I have a **rule** here among the staff, I call it giving the **love**, we are going to welcome anyone who comes in to our restaurant, no matter what.  
**Andrew Welch, Owner**

**View from the kitchen:** small window of light is all diners can see of the busy kitchen. **The Owner Smiles:** Andrew Welch, Owner of Casa De Cobre smiles for the camera as he hurries around to prepare for the dinner rush.

# THE TRUTH ABOUT LAN PARTIES

## LAN parties revealed in-depth

LAN parties are seen as nerdy gatherings where people with glasses and bad skin get together to play video games. People cringe and make disgusted faces when the word "LAN" pops up in conversation, but do they even know what it's all about?

Half-empty cans of coca-cola are sitting on paper plates, power cords are strewn about the floor and table, and empty bags of Cheez-its are lying around.

"That was amazing; I got four kills!" sophomore Clarence Le yells.

"There was a guy with his back to me; I had to stab him," sophomore Matt Nomura adds. This is a typical scene for a LAN party, or a "local area network" party. At LAN parties, friends gather to play online games together and hang out.

"Anything with five or more computers, I would say, is a LAN party. It doesn't really matter how many people there are," sophomore Nick Renda said.

Renda held his own party last Saturday. There were seven people there, all gathered at a long table. Everyone had their own laptop or desktop and were wearing headphones to hear the sound effects of the game, Team Fortress 2, more commonly known as TF2.

"TF2 is called an FPS, or a first person shooter game," Renda said. Inside the game of TF2, there are many different "modes" to play in.

"Our favorite mode is the 'arena mode,'" sophomore Randy Park said. "You can't re-spawn, and you basically

try and kill the other team before they capture a base. You can also win by taking that base before them." Their characters ran around as different professions: medics, pyros, scouts, engineers, spies, and more.

Park, Renda, and five other friends played TF2 for a total of 18 hours from Saturday afternoon until Sunday afternoon.

"We played for a bunch of hours straight and only took breaks for dinner and sleeping," Renda said. "When we woke up the next day, we just went back to playing." This behavior is typical at LAN parties. The players get so absorbed in their virtual worlds that they don't care about or notice what goes on around them.

Many times during their game time, Renda's mom walked in to the room to announce that dinner was ready.

"Yeah, we're just going to finish this..." was the usual response from the gamers, until she came in one last time to announce that they had better come eat dinner now.

"We can get a little carried away playing our games, but they're just really addicting that we can't really tell how much time goes by," Renda said. "It's not like we have these parties every week, so we make the most of them when we do."

"The games are actually a lot more fun than people think," Park said. "If people would try to play instead of just judging, I think they'd definitely change their minds."

-Joyee Woodrow



**Plugged-in:** The seven boys have no worries as they shoot, stab, and flame each other in their online game.

**Total focus:** Sophomores Nick Renda and Randy Park concentrate on their characters, while sophomore Jeremy Nguyen looks on.

**In the zone:** Sophomore Matt Nomura is in the zone while playing TF2, ignoring the rest of the world.

**Frustration:** Sophomore Randy Park throws his hands up in frustration as he loses this round of the game.



**120** Freshman Crystal Yen drills a forehand to her opponent during an opening round match at the Crow Canyon Junior Championships. "I just focused on taking the match point by point," said Yen, who went on to win the tournament. "Staying in the moment really helped my focus."



# SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

Tennis players endure brutal workouts in order to gain a competitive edge

**A**t the tennis courts at West Valley College, a round of conditioning is about to begin. A small group of tennis players, solitary figures in white, slowly walk out onto the first court in a line of four, their outfits providing a stark contrast against the tall green fences that flank them on either side. None of them carries a racquet in—they all know that it won't be needed.

They space themselves out evenly along the perfectly straight white sideline, making a T formation with the line of nets that stretch before them.

The scorching noontime heat quickly stifles all attempts at side conversation, but the silence is punctuated by the squeaks of rubber soles against the asphalt as some of the younger players fidget, wondering what awaits them in the next few minutes.

The experienced players know what comes next; they stretch out their legs and arms, crack their knuckles, and calmly await the sentence.

Finally the coach enters, and everyone swivels around to look as he enters, racquet cradled in his arms. He smiles, cracks a few jokes, and starts them off with four laps, each one describing a figure eight around the four courts.

Then, he directs them to alternate between holding plank,

push-ups, sit ups, frog jumps, and sprints. Each time he thinks that someone is "dogging" an exercise, everyone is required to do it again. Finally, he finishes them off with an agility course along the baseline, a line of orange cones that they must weave in and out of, forwards and backwards.

Throughout the year, players at the PT Tennis Academy at West Valley College endured heavy conditioning and tough practices every day in order to be able to compete at high levels.

"A lot of our older kids are competitive and hungry athletes who come out every day and really give practices all that they've got," said Head Coach Peter Tafarella. "They know that they have to put in their best efforts every day in order to remain competitive with other top players."

With over 25 years of coaching and playing experience, Tafarella has brought up many successful players who have gone on to collegiate tennis. One of his former students, Eric Chao, says that although the practices appear to be too tough, they are the really the key to success.

"You always want to push your limits during practices, so that when a real tournament comes up and you're fighting out a tough match late the third set, you have the ability to stay focused and keep your energy level up," said Chao, who was ranked in the



**Ready to rumble:** Homestead High sophomore Alex Kao prepares to return a serve during a practice match at West Valley College. "One trick that I picked up that helps me to read serves is looking closely at the facial expressions of my opponents," said Kao. "Sometimes, their eyes look to where they are planning to serve, and that gives me an immediate advantage before the point even begins."

**“I don't really mind doing conditioning because it helps me out a lot when things get tough.**

**Alex Kao,  
Sophomore**



**Taking 5:** Head coach Peter Tafarella takes a break from teaching his clinic to pose for a quick picture. "I've been teaching at West Valley for about 20 years," said Tafarella.

# ON HYDE STREET

Students, teachers and parents constantly enter the **busy** doors of the main office during lunch time.



**Shifting the focus:** Senior Ketaki Shiram stares outside the window at an ASB meeting.  
**Listening:** A group of juniors listens intently while attending a meeting in the office.  
**Good idea:** Sophomore David Mandell raises his hand to contribute ideas for upcoming events.



**Multitasking:** Senior Lewis Chen attends a meeting in the office while eating lunch.

**A**s soon as the bell rings for lunch, freshman Mac Hyde heads to one of his favorite hangouts on campus—the main office.

During lunch, students, staff and parents are constantly walking in and out of the doors. Students come to talk to their guidance counselors, sign up for commissions, or pick up slips for attendance.

The main office is a busy yet friendly environment. The scarlet and gray desks and the blue and white walls of the office beam with school spirit. Pictures of the Falcon sports teams are proudly displayed on the office walls. One of the most prominent features of the office is a cow sculpture, which is decorated with music notes, painted by junior Yoon Kwon.

In assistant principal Karen Hyde's office, identified by the green "Hyde Street" sign above her door, Mac walks in with junior Sophia Cooper to attend an events commission meeting. Mac spends much time in his mom's office attending commission meetings or just "hanging out."

ASB officers also spend many of their lunches in Hyde's office.

"Going to the office is important for upcoming events," said senior T.T. Tu, an ASB officer.

During elections week, the main office is especially busy. Members of the election commission and candidates for class office all visit the crowded building to get more information on the campaigning and the elec-

tions.

"The office is an important place during elections," said sophomore Nina Mohanty. "We need to get information on the campaigning and the results."

Many students also use lunchtime as an opportunity to get advice from their guidance counselors about classes or college decisions.

"I normally go [to my counselor] to discuss class choices and ask what the syllabus covers in certain classes in order to make good choices," said sophomore Carina Chu.

The attendance section of the office always has many students who are picking up off-campus passes or signing in after coming back from dentist appointments.

"Lunch is a convenient time to pick up slips if I'm going to miss a class later that day," said Carina.

With all the different types of people visiting the office during lunchtime, the main doors are rarely ever closed.

"There are always a lot of people going in and out of the office during lunch," said Carina, "but the office is a cool place where you meet a lot of people."

—By Karen Yang



**Taking notes:** Junior Maggie Lin, ASB secretary frantically types down ideas on a laptop at an ASB meeting.

“There are always a lot of people going in and out of the **office**, but it's a cool place where you meet a lot of people.

**Carina Chu,**  
Sophomore