SPECIAL TURKEY BOWL ISSUE

THE SPARTAN STAR

La Cañada Middle School

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November/December • Volume II Issue II

Illustration by Brian Choe

TRADITION

RECIPES SNOOKER-DOODLES PAGE 5

TURKEY BOWL

TURKEY BOWL HIGHLIGHTS PAGES 6 AND 7

A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

by Michelle Lavner
and Sharon Kim
Staff Writers

Darrell Dansby won the "Crank Dat" competition by Soulja Boy .

Psst! Hey you! Yeah, you! Did you hear it?! Hear about the rumor?!? You have to know about it: On December 6, 2007 from 6 pm to 8 pm, the students of La Canada High School 7/8 eagerly awaited entrance to the cafeteria. As the time moved closer to the 6 O'Clock mark, the line for the dance grew longer and longer. Paying $5 with ASB, and $10 without, students entered this exciting cafeteria to one full meal of the one and only In-N-Out Burgers! Therefore, eating burgers at a fancy set up "dining" table made this meal even better. Beautiful decorations of tables with freshly baked cookies, brownies, cakes, and pastries, and so much more made this dance so special. The DJ of this danced mixed and bashed up some of the most popular songs like, Cha Cha Slide, Beautiful Girls, Crank Dat, A Bay Bay, Cyclone, Blue, Gimme More, Mr. Bightside, and Wannabe. The magazine winners, who were brought to the dance by a huge limo, were one of the first students to actually begin dancing. This extraordinary dance is mostly the same as all the other dances, but with better food, and better music. Students also were able to dress up for this dance, making this dance better in all ways. Now that you know the main factors of the dance, let's finish and add some effects to this party. Picture a whole cafeteria glowing full of colors! Bright nylon colors filled the room with a nice black-shadow background. "Psst! Hey you! Yeah, you! Don't leave yet! That's right, there's one more detail to add" The Dine 'N' Dance isn't just a rumor. It's reality. If you don't believe us, take a peek at the next upcoming dance.

Left to Right: Molly Hartley, Katie Pierce, Maddy Teodo, Jana Johnson, and Alessandra Thompson

How Many Mr. G's are running throughout this issue. Come to room 722 on Thursday after school with the correct amount to receive a prize. Only the first 10 people win!

Illustration by Natalie Wilson

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School News

Holiday Concert

by Sharon Kim
and Michelle Lavner
Staff Writers

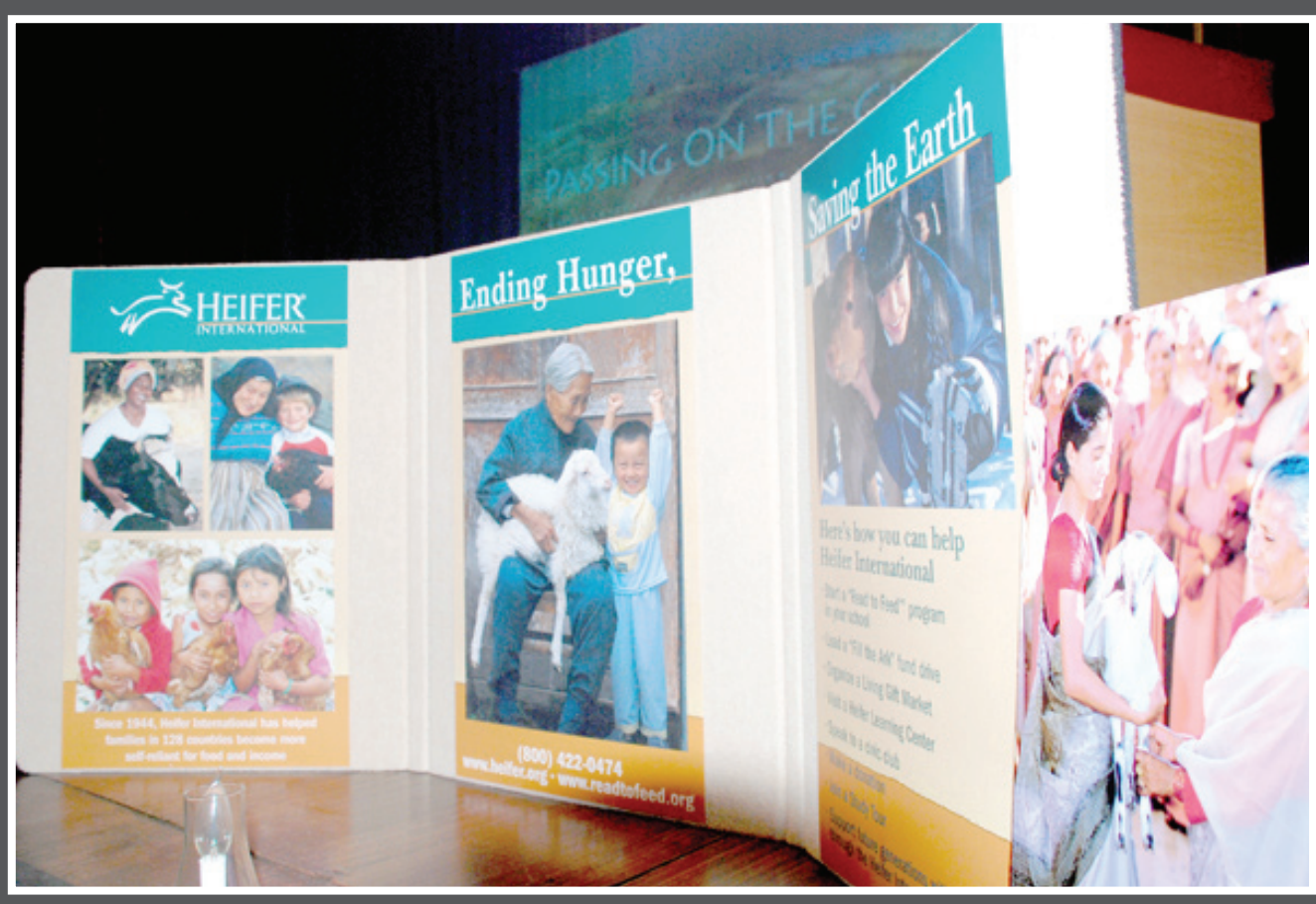
Ding Dong Ding! It's finally the time of year when ebullient tunes of bells, jovial chimes, melodic voices, as well as holiday music echo throughout the world of family and nation traditions. On Thursday December 13, 2007, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm, the traditional Holiday Concert was held and exploded with holiday spirit as the La Canada High School 7/8 chorus, band, plus orchestra left the audience with dropped jaws and popped eyes after they performed. From classic to jazzy harmonies, the whole auditorium rang with beautiful voices, string instruments, as well as percussion/woodwind instrumentals. All thanks to the orchestra conductor, Ms. Hamre, the band conductor and the chorus teacher Mr. Stone. The recital occurred successfully. So how 'bout that? Instead of just reading black and white words, join the next Holiday Concert on this Friday and tap your foot, snap your fingers, or hum/sing along with the breathtaking songs played there.

International Heifer on the Run

by Sharon Kim and
Eledy Vargas
Staff Writers

So what does Heifer International have to do with LCHS? What is heifer international anyway? Heifer international is a program that helps hungry families, so they won't starve. The goal of every Heifer project is sustainability. And year after year, as partner families "pass a gift" of knowledge and one or more of their animals' offspring to the others in need, they become links in a network of hope, dignity, and self-reliance that helps hundreds of care for themselves.

So what did heifer international have to do with LCHS? Heifer Program wanted to give thanks to the students of last year in School four for all their support in giving $7000 in the year 2006. They gave School Four a plaque of the Ark of Noah filled with heifers and the rainbow over the ark. "I wanted to give thanks to School Four for their support in Heifer because without them, Heifer wouldn't be here," says Ms. Sinette after the assembly. At the assembly, about 30 of last years biggest donators came during their lunch time on December 6th and received the plaque.



Ms. Sinette displays the award presented by Heifer International.

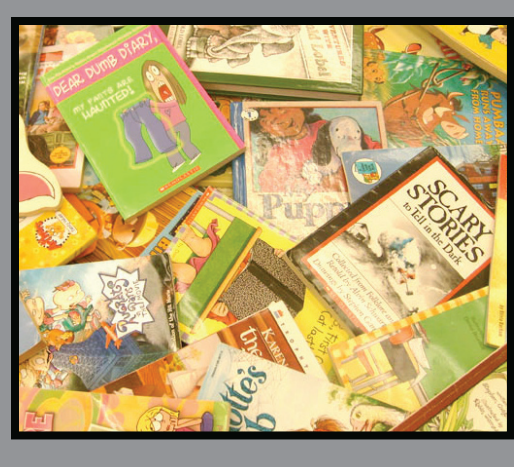
This year, there is a possibility of having the fundraiser again, and maybe another chance for School Four to receive pride and another plaque. So, this year School Four Spartans, get out those wallets, and help a family in need!

Book Drive Saves Burned Library

by Eledy Vargas
Staff Writer

The book drive was a great success, helping a burned down library in Compton School. The school was burned during the California fires that destroyed many homes and schools. La Canada 7/8 raised a book drive and more than 100 books were donated. Some books donated included Scary Stories, Mr. Poppers Penguins, Princess Diaries, Anne Frank, Dakota Spring, Lizzie McGuire, and more! Students were given a week to turn in books, and Mr. Gillands SSR class raised the most.

Even though no prizes were included in this drive, the greatest prize a person can receive is making one library feel happy for a new beginning of a library. La Canada 7/8 appreciates the care you have put in the book drive to help the Compton Library and how you are making many students smile. We hope to continue helping other libraries burned down from the California fires and make a student library begin once again with books from a caring school.



SCHOOL SCENE

MAKE 'EM STOP!

by Chris Schorman
and Michelle Lavner
Staff Writers

Make our fellow classmates stop littering! On November 28, 2007, I asked Mrs. Sinnette, the 7/8 principal about the problem of littering at our school.

The remains of someone's lunch.

Spartan Star: What are some ways we can stop kids from littering?

Mrs. Sinnette: Well, the best way to stop kids from littering is basically just repeatedly telling them to stop, and to remind them of the consequences.

Spartan Star: How long has littering been a problem at LCHS?

Mrs. Sinnette: As far as I know littering has always been a problem. Even before I came to La Canada High School, littering was already a problem.

Spartan Star: Which areas of the campus are littered on most?

Mrs. Sinnette: For 7th graders the most problematic area is the steps to the chorus room, and for 8th graders it's the grassy area and the benches around the grass.

Spartan Star: If someone is caught littering, what are some of the possible consequences they will face?

Mrs. Sinnette: I haven't taken action in any way, yet, but later in the year, if a teacher or I catch a student in the act of littering, he/she will be handed a trash bag and will have to pick up all of the trash in the area. If I get a referral, the consequences will go to a detention.

Spartan Star: What do you think is keeping students from wanting to throw out their trash in the right place?

Mrs. Sinnette: Most of it is laziness, and probably habit. They say it takes 6 times to start a habit, in this case; picking up your trash.

So the next time you see some littering, take action!

AVIATION CLUB

by Sharon Kim
Staff Writer

Ben Levin puts his plane to the test.

Did you know that flaps are hinged or pivoted airfoils forming part of the trailing edge of the wing and are used to increase lift at reduced air speeds? Or did you know that the aileron controls surfaces hinged at the back of the wings, which by deflecting up or down help to bank the airplane? And most important of all, are you interested in these aviation vocabularies? If so, join Mr. Traeger's Aviation Club in Room 311 on Mondays at 3-5 o'clock P.M. Building as well as flying airplanes, field trips to designated areas, learning about aviation through slide shows, guest speakers, plus parent help, and last but definitely not least fun are the main essentials of the club. The Club considers the Aviation Club as a very important organization to the world because lacking airplanes as well as the people who know about them would unquestionably decrease the possibilities of transportation, military equipment, and a passion for flying. A former club member stated, "I created an airplane that could fly all around the track!" So if you want to build something jaw dropping similar to that, come join Aviation Club now. Surely, it will be an everlasting experience!

Left to right: Forrest Bourke, Ben Levin, Mr. Traeger, Orion Burl, Keito Downie, and Churro Vargas

OAK GROVE FIELD

Photo by Sharon Kim

by Sharon Kim
Staff Writer

Are you sick and tired of staying within the walls of classrooms and school captivity at lunch? Do you feel like taking a short break from the land of motionless education and instead to run around like recess? And most of all, do you agree that lunch is a time to eat AND play? If that is so, the Oak Grove Field is the perfect place for you to eat your lunch alone, with teachers, or with friends. Every Tuesdays and Thursdays, the field is accessible to all students during the lunch period. The place is great for several activities such as running around, reading as well as eating with tranquility, socializing with friends, and even a fun game of soccer, football, or baseball! Even for dieting, the Oak Grove field is probably the best place to lose calories as well as eat at the same time during lunch. If you don't believe, go there yourself and have a blast at the Oak grove Field.

Left and right: Perfect places to kick back during lunch time.

Photo by Sharon Kim

World News

Briefs

House Resolution 106

by Kevork Kurdoghlian
Staff Writer

Wednesday, October, 11, 2007, was a victory for Armenians all over the world, as they celebrated the resolution to the Armenian Genocide. The congress passed the bill on October 11 with a vote of 27-21. The bill was again proposed in January 2007 by Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank) that stated America will accept the genocide that occurred over 92 years ago. America will be added to the over thirty countries who have accepted the genocide, if the bill is passed by the senate. This bill was brought up in for the first time in 1985. The bill will be put to a vote sometime in 2008, when the time is convenient.

Riots in Paris

by Kevork Kurdoghlian
Staff Writer

Riots have broken out in Paris, but this is not the first time. These kinds of riots had started since 2005. Police in Paris say the reason is because of teenagers who are just going around the suburbs in gangs looking for trouble like robbing stores, burning houses, and stores, and starting street races. These riots have had major impacts on local homes and business. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has been through this situation before in 2005 as Interior Minister, now France is waiting to see how he will handle it as president.

Anchors Away to China

by Kevork Kurdoghlian
Staff Writer

On Wednesday November 28, 2007, a Chinese warship visited a Japanese port since World War II. The warship visited the port in an effort to strengthen their relations with each other. The warship was escorted into the port by a Japanese destroyer and dozens of helicopters to secure it. As the ship entered the Navy band played" Anchors Away" and the crowd waved Chinese flags. Although in the past Japan and China have had territorial issues they hope this visit will have a positive effect on the two countries. On the other hand Japan and their top ally America, who have 5000 troops based in Japan, are concerned about the amount China is spending on military weapons. It is said that a Japanese warship will visit a Chinese port sometime in the future.

Animals and Their Furs

By Eledy Vargas
Staff Writer

Otters, foxes, raccoons, cougars, tigers, minks, dogs, rabbits, and many more! These and other animals are at risk of becoming extinct because of fur farming. Animals on fur farms spend their lives in tiny cages only to be killed by gun shots or any other kinds of tools. Some are skinned alive. Animals in the wild may suffer for days in traps before they die or are killed. These animals are killed for many everyday things we wear: blouses, purses, coats, dresses, hats, boots, gloves, and may more! The beaver is the most common animal to be killed for fur trade, as well as the tiger in India. Some wild animals, like the otter and beaver, are captured and dragged in cages to the fur farms. There, they are kept for many days, until someone wants a piece of fur from them. They take the animal and kill it live, gun shot, or hang. This fur farming as gone mad, and it is up to us to stop and save the many animals under the hands of the cruel fur farmers!

Holiday in Iraq

by Jerry Joo
Contributing Writer

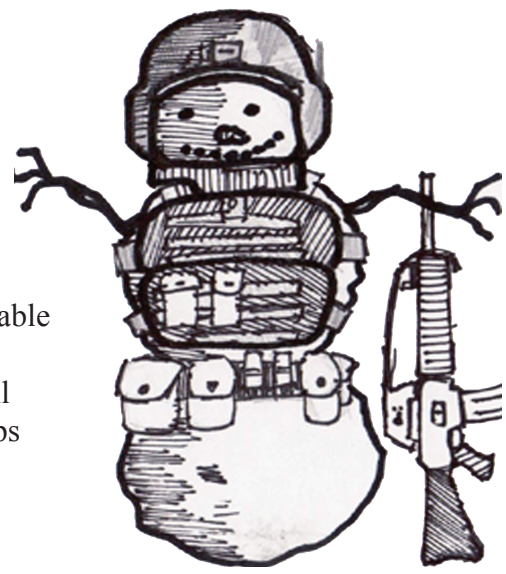


Illustration by Jerry Joo

An archetype of a winter holiday is a long banquet table piled high with meats, drinks, and desserts placed conveniently near a cheerily crackling fireplace, all within a sizeable log cabin. We will enjoy the same, perhaps omitting the log cabin and the fireplace(replaced by a row of heating elements, a fan, a duct system and a controller). You will have a good time of it, as safe and sound you are in the United States of America. But what of the soldiers, contractors, medics and a sparse few journalists who have journeyed to the other side of the world(no, not China; Iraq.)? At Camp Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq, our soldiers remind themselves of the other universe thousands of miles away at home in this time of rest. Soldiers whose home is in the Middle East also earn time to socialize, relax, and meditate on all the happenings since deployment. Here in the gymnasium-sized hall, an air of festivity is present, despite the OD greens, tired faces, and "homesickness". Rapidly liquefying ice sculptures of Native American chiefs(don't ask) stare gravely over men and women munching on blissful holiday fare. Vibrant paper streamers festoon the rafters and the walls. Each of the tables at which people eat have a watermelon artfully carved to look like a basket full of squash and fruit. A bread basket made of dough and glazed with gelatin draws looks from soldiers with trays. A five-year veteran of the art of carving meat for veterans of another sort, Mr.Lobo was a tobacco salesman before this reasonably-paying job. Also, for those hungry for sweets, a fold-out table devoted entirely to desserts: pies, cookies, cake, and the like sit tantalizingly. Among these festivities are people who are thinking of their friends and family back at home. Some are thinking of friends killed in action. Still some are praying to their someone "up there". Some just want to go home.

Putin's Third Term?

by Kevork Kurdoghlian
Staff Writer

Elections have begun in the humongous country of Russia, with over 95,000 polls over the eleven time zone country. It seems the United Russia Party, lead by Boris Gryzlov, will win by a land slide although the polls only opened two weeks ago. The party, which is backed by current Russian president Vladimir Putin, has 63.6% of the votes out of the eleven parties. The party is followed by the Communist Party that has 11% of the votes and will likely have the second most seats in congress and parliament and be the only real opposition to the United Russia Party. Other than these two parties, two more parties will have representation in parliament, both having about over 7% of the votes. The question now is, if Putin will gain enough power to amend the constitution to allow him to serve a third term in office or possibly for life. The other options for his future in Russian politics are to serve as the Prime Minister of Russia or the parliamentary speaker.

FOOD AND FITNESS

MANGO STRAWBERRY SNOWCONES

by Molly Hartley
Staff Writer

Ingredients:
-2 mangoes, peeled and chopped
-1 pint strawberries, hulled and sliced
-1 lime juiced, plus wedges for garnish
-8 cups ice
-Mint leaves, for garnish

Steps:
1. Put the mangoes and strawberries into a blender or food processor. Squeeze in the lime juice and puree.

2. Crush ice in a food processor or blender until it is very fine, like snow.

3. Pile the crushed ice into dessert dishes; pour the fruit puree over ice until you can't see any more white (ice).

4. Garnish with lime wedges and mint; serve immediately. Enjoy your snow cones!

TASTY SNICKERDOO-DLES

by Jennifer Kim
and Caitlyn Seto
Staff Writers

Photo by Ely Vargas

- 1 cup sugar
-1/4 teaspoon baking soda
-1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
-1 large egg
-1/2 teaspoon vanilla
-1 1/2 all purpose flour
- 4 tablespoons granulted sugar
-1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon

STEPS:
1. Preheat to 375 degrees. 2. In mixing bowl, beat the butter on medium speed for 30 seconds. 3. Add the cup of sugar, baking soda, and cream of tartar. 4. Beat until combined, scraping the side occasionally. 5. Beat the egg in and vanilla until well blended. 6. Beat in as much flouras you can with the mixer, and stir in remaining flour. 7. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for one hour. 8. Combine the 4 tablespoons sugar and 11/2 cinnamon. 9. Shape the dough in 1 inch balls, roll in cinnamon sugar. 10. Place balls of dough 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. 11. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until edges are beautifully golden. 12. Transfer to wire rack to cool. 13. Then.....eat it!

HOLIDAY WEIGHT LOSS

by Molly Hartley
Staff Writer

During the holidays everyone eats a lot because the food involved with holidays is undeniably good. But, at the end of these holidays you feel uncomfortably full or that you need to lose weight. With a couple of tips to get you back on your feet the feeling will go away and you will feel better than you did before you started.

Get moving: try using a schedule to workout. Make a goal and persevere to reach it. After you reach your goal keep it up and keep moving because if you stop you'll never keep the weight off. Aim for 5-a-day fruit servings. With that amount of fruit it will help fill you up but not gain weight. Control the risk of temptation by simply cutting out the 'tempting' food for a while until you reach your goal. If you keep eating junk food you will never lose the weight that you're aiming for. Before a big holiday party eat a healthy snack first. When you go to a big holiday party, having a full stomach stops the temptation to eat the food that they serve you.

Remember to keep working and losing weight the old fashion way. An eating disorder will easily arouse during the holidays. The old fashion way may not work as fast as you like but if you lose it the wrong way the weight will be able to haunt you. Eating disorders are deathly and only lead to addictions and depression. Depression is nothing you want during the 'happy' seasons so stay healthy and don't give up. The weight will come off with these tips.

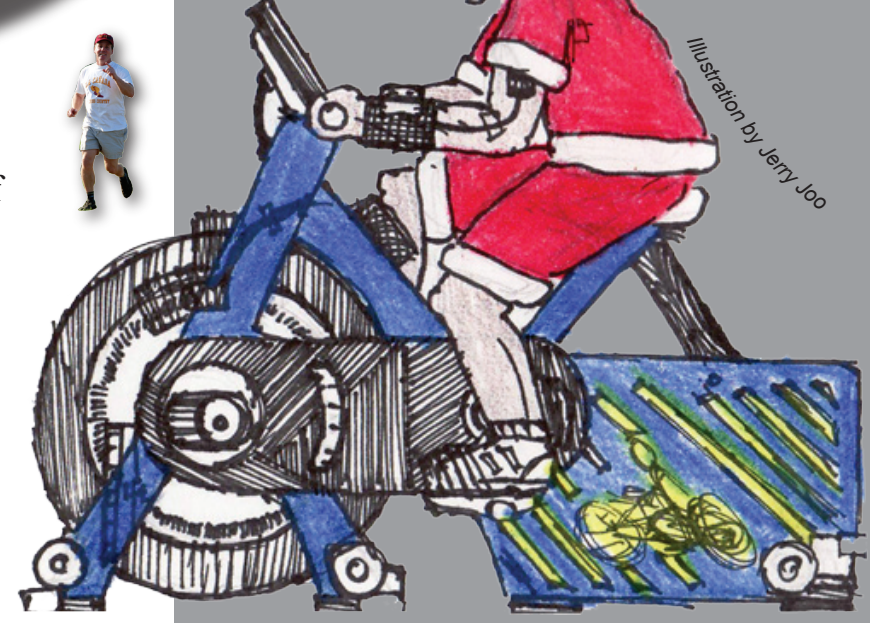


Illustration by Jerry Joo

Sports

SCHOOL 1
IS FIRED UP!

Illustration by Kane Lafia

SCHOOL 2
IS HOT TO GO!!

L-R: Tyler Zsebik, Grant Owen, Chad Powers, Coach Wheeler, and Matt Singelyn

7TH GRADE
CHEERLEADERS

Matt Singelyn has to hurry a pass and hope for a prayer.

Juan Ortiz wins the mile run during halftime.

Right: Grant Owen nearly escapes school one's defense.

School One Wins in Tiebreaker

by Michelle Lavner
and Molly Hartley
Staff Writers

On the week before Thanksgiving break begins, students at La Cañada High School 7/8 line up during 2nd period to witness the one exciting thing that makes them happy throughout the school year. The 7/8 Turkey Bowl! As the Turkey Bowl begins, cheerleader's cheer for their teams, parents shout to their kids, and students cheer in the sidelines. The quarterback's for School 1 were Manny Serfaty, Matt Jones, and Matt Singelyn. For School 2 the quarterback's were Chad Powers, Ryan Lee, and Stephen Yim. In the beginning of the 1st quarter, Tyler Zebick of School 2 makes the first touchdown, giving School 2 six points. Then as School 2 seemed like it was going to win, School 1 comes in with a touchdown from Manny Serfaty in the 2nd quarter. Now the score was 6-6. It was a tie game… At half-time the 7/8 band played "We Will Rock You". The football players had a break in which they got water in the sidelines. The cheerleaders did cheers like, Dynamite, Defense, and Offense to get the crowd pumped for the rest of the game. As the 10 minute halftime ended, students began to play football again. School 1 then got the ball, but after both 3rd and 4th quarter, School 1 and School 2 scored of nothing. As we ended the 4th quarter, School 1 and School 2 were still at a tie game. Both schools then went to overtime, and School 1 scored the point, while School 2 was at -2 yards. School 1 wins for the 4th year in a row!

SPORTS

Ryan McAleenan rifles a bullet to his receivers.

SCHOOL 3 HUDDLE

Above left to right: MVPs Lance Bird, Andrew Bartine, and Kevin Stoner

Left : School 4 MVPs Ryan McAleenan, Joey Dowling and Gemma Sokol

Griffin Longo and Peter Gilmour leap to catch the pigskin.

Turkey Bowl Then and Now

by Kevork Kurdoghlian
Staff Writer

The Turkey Bowl, an event that brings the small schools together in a game of football for their peers to watch and to represent their small school. The Turkey Bowl has one significant meaning to most people. It marks the beginning of Thanksgiving Break, but before there was a Turkey Bowl 2007, there was a Turkey Bowl 1971, the first Turkey Bowl. The first Turkey Bowl was not completely the same as it is now. Back then there was no cross country meet, the cross country meet started about five years ago and there were no small schools the first few years. The Turkey Bowl game began at F.I.S. (Flintridge Intermediate School) and for a few years there were six small schools due to the large population. Its inventers were Dick Jackson and Bob Miller. Thank you to Mr. Kissel and Mr. Larez for supplying this information. Now back to 2007, the band entered before the game to play the National Anthem. After the Anthem, the small schools practiced for the game. The highlights of the game were the quick school four touchdown that put them in the lead. School Three quickly responded scoring a touchdown off an interception by Kevin Stoner. The score did not stay even for long. School Four then scored a touchdown in the 3rd quarter. As the the beginning of the 4th quarter was in sight, School Four scored another touchdown. It was obvious that School Four was going to win now. There was no overtime, and School Four ended in a conversion. The score was 20-6. School Four wins! Congratulations to all who participated.

8th grade CHEERLEADERS

Joey Lemchen getting set to snaps the ball.

Milers left to right: ?, Jonathan Skaggs, Kane Lafia, Alice Michel, ? Olsen, Brendan Greene, Taft Hulsey, ??

School Three

Illustration by Kane Lafia

Traditions

The Christmas Ghost

Written by
D.M.S

There once was a old man named Nick,
Who lived in a house that was made out of brick.
He did not care for good will at all,
And he lived alone in his hallowed halls.
The children who lived in the orphanage nearby him,
Despised the old man, but no one more than the one they called Tim.
On one Christmas Eve when the man left his house,
Then Tim snuck in, quiet as a mouse.
He had planned to get into the house, to get some spare change,
But the only thing he would find would not be deranged.
So, he did get in, but for a surprise,
There was a Christmas Tree, beautiful as the sun rise.
There were lights there, shining and bright,
They were enough to brighten the night.
Then Tim walked over and touched the man's tree,
But the man was back home, like the pain in Tim's knee.
Then Tim jumped up, five feet in the air,
And the man asked young Tim, "What were you doing right now in my lair?"
Tim ran, but couldn't escape, because the man was there, in front of the gate.
Then the man looked very pale and very irate.
When he grabbed poor Tim, screaming in fright,
The young child disappeared, running into the night.
So Tim learned the greatest life lesson he led,
Don't break in a house if the owner is DEAD.
But that isn't the lesson I learned from this tale,
Do not be caught naughty, or your heart will soon fail.

Merry Christmas

Illustration by Jen Chung

Spartan Star Traditions During the Holidays

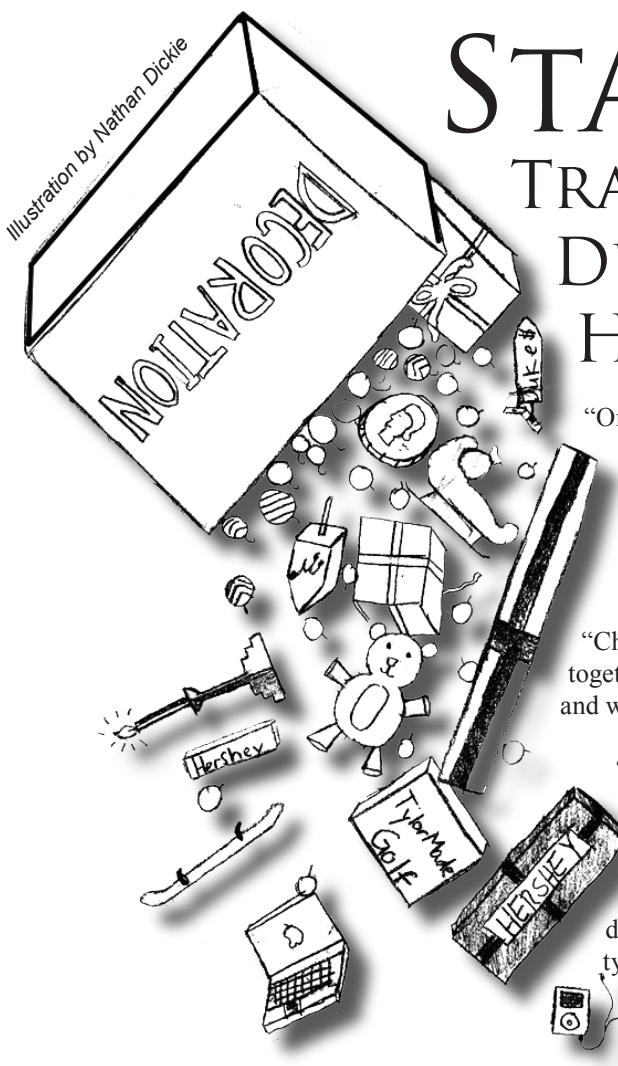


Illustration by Nathan Dickie

"On New Year's Eve, our family visits many relatives to share pleasant gifts and wish better luck for the upcoming year." –Caleb Choi

"Christmas to my family is a time to be together with other families and relatives and worship God." –Nathan Dickie

"Once the tree is decorated, we all admire it." –Allison Dillon

"Sometimes my parents put together a basket with one 100 dollar bill, losse change, and other types of bills." –Caitlyn Seto

"Every year when Christmas Eve comes around, my family and I being Christians, attend a "Christmas service" held at our united Methodist church. It is where every member of the church gather in the sanctuary to sing hymns and have a great time surrounded by family and friends." - Jennifer Kim

"On January 6, as an Armenian Orthodox Christian my family and I celebrate Armenian Easter." -Kevork Kurdoghlian

"I love it how my dad makes the fireplace go on, so it seems really cozy and warm inside. And that's how I like my Christmas to be. Warm and Cozy. Some years, I would wait for Santa to come. I would wait, and wait, and wait. But since I was so young, I fell asleep very quickly."
-Michelle Lavner

"We mostly just cook for fun (especially my older sister Becca!) we cook on little mini holidays/BIG MAJOR holidays; it doesn't matter where we are either because no matter what we always end up making it work! - Abby Grosch

"Finally, it was the day before the big Chanukah party. I was so excited. I was shaking. It was the greatest day of my life. WHen I got to my grandma's house, I could not wait to open my presents." - Noah Bernstein

"We normally open Christmas presents the night of Christmas and on Christmas Eve we get to open one present." - Stephanie Lough

"We share gifts, eat fancy meals at Korean restaurants, sing songs, and reunite our whole family as one. As for full preparation, we set up colorful and glitzy Christmas ornaments as well as illumination on our house and Christmas tree." -Sharon Kim

"My Christmas is pretty original. But with the kind of psychotic family that I have it always feels, in some way, creative." -Molly Hartley

"On Christmas Eve, I toss and turn in my bed, unable to sleep. I am thinking about one thing and one thing only: presents." -Macall Conroy

Illustration by Joy Kim

Talented Students

The Karate Girl Strikes

By Eledy Vargas
Staff Writer

You want to learn karate, but the classes are expensive? Have Rebecca Burten teach you. She is a karate student who has been in karate for a very long time. She may look like a girl who would never do karate, but you never know when she will strike.

Spartan Star: How old were you when you begin karate?
Rebecca: I have been learning karate since I was three years old.

Spartan Star: What degree are you in belt?
Rebecca: I am a 4th degree black belt.

Spartan Star: How many competitions have you been in?
Rebecca: I have had one competition in my karate studio, and another in a different studio. I came in sixth place out of 40.

Spartan Star: Do you wish to continue karate when you are older?
Rebecca: Yes, I still want to continue.

Spartan Star: Do you do anything special in karate?
Rebecca: Well, I teach karate to younger students, and I was a judge in one competition.

Spartan Star: In what studio do you train in?
Rebecca: My studio is called American Kenpo Karate of Pasadena.

Spartan Star: What do you think about karate?
Rebecca: Its SUPER DUPER!

Rebecca is a talented student, willing to prove that girls can do things that boys can do. Have fun kicking it Rebecca!

Dead Off Center

by Jennifer Kim
Staff Writer

Fun, hard working, and dedicated are few out of the many words to describe Dead Off Center, a band created by three close friends Avery Schwartz, Josh Carter, and Sebastian Cahill. With Avery's proposal of the band, they started their band in the middle of 5th grade up until now, which has been about a total of two years. They have recently played in our school talent show and have also accomplished playing in Anaheim, at a Hilton hotel for a dance and music competition. Avery is the lead guitarist and a backup singer, Josh is the lead singer and a chorus guitarist, and Sebastian is the drummer. Moreover, Josh has played the guitar for three years, Avery for five years, and Sebastian has been beating the drums for five years also. Usually, Dead Off Center performs with contemporary, classic rock, and also music that they feel like. When asked how long they thought the band would last, they answered, "Maybe until 10th grade or high school. We'll just go with the flow." Although busy with school and sports, Dead Off Center put in effort to have band practice every week at Sebastian's house. When Avery, Josh, and Sebastian hang out, they enjoy playing music, sports, and shooting stuff.

Last but certainly not least, Dead Off Center thinks that their band ism from Avery, "pretty amazing!", "fun, but needs time and dedication", and finally from Josh, "harder than it looks."

Left to right: Josh Carter, Sebastian Chill, and Avery Schwartz

Left: Dead Off Center rocks at The Whilshire Theatre.

Opinion

Positive attitudes
Stress into Motivation

by Mike Mairone
Staff Writer

We all know that being a teenager is hard. It's hard enough without all the homework, schoolwork, quizzes, reports, tests, P.E., LABS, after-school activities, and the expectations we're supposed to live up to. Personally, my parents set really high goals for me. The expectations are: straight A's, almost straight O's, to have the responsibilities and duties of a Tae-Kwon-Do black belt, and to be an extremely talented piano player. Trying to live up to these expectations makes my life seems stressful enough, without being a teenager. I have a few tips for those of you who have it hard like I do.

Tip #1: Focus all of your energy on finishing your work. You have to make sure that you don't get distracted by little brothers, cell phones, or anything else. Close your door, turn off your cell phone, and get over it. Just wanting to do it isn't enough. So what, you miss a call or two. Get over your sorry self.

This last bit of info brings me to tip #2: Don't throw temper tantrums like a little kid. You miss a party, big whoop. No one cares. You can't play with your friends, too bad. This is stress that I turn into motivation.

Tip #3: Use your desire to do something else into a positive drive. I want to get my homework done as fast as possible, so I can mess around, and play games. I use that idea to make myself want to get done now.

Tip #4: Don't rush. If you rush, you'll make a lot of mistakes, and then you'll need to do it all over again. If you rely on the teacher, or the back of the book to get you the answers, then you won't learn or understand as well as if you actually do the homework well the first time.

Tip #5: Check your work. By checking your work, you not only see what mistakes you've made, but also, it helps you for later occasions when reviewing the subject, for example, on tests, reviews and other forms of homework.

Those are five tips I use to help me with my homework. I get done homework faster and easier by following these guidelines. Hope they work for you!

Pet Responsibilities

by Sharon Kim
Staff Writer

Only a healthy pet is a happy companion. Assuring your pet's daily well-being requires regular care and close attention to any hint of ill health. Of Course, all animals express diverse cries, performances, and illnesses. So how exactly do you take role as a pet's brilliant owner? Before adopting any creature, you would have to assure yourself that you are physically as well as mentally confident. In other words, whatever actions or abilities you expose, it all goes back to the circumstances of your pet, so ask yourself these questions, "Am I dependable in order to devote my time for whatever reason in favor of my pet? Am I economically prepared to suffer the consequences in payments for food, veterinarians, as well as accessories? Am I all set and equipped?" After you answered the proper respond to these queries, adopt an animal in which you seem to fit the most in your living atmosphere. After that, whatever dilemmas or plights you receive about your pet, it all goes back to you. Why? You have to take responsibilities for them. Taking accountability means that you pledge to provide enough food, vitamins, supplements, shots, yearly doctor checkup (unless ill), love, care, exercise, breathing atmosphere, and appropriate hygienic products.

How do you know if your pet is sick? If your pet shows any of the following signs, consult your veterinarian:

- Abnormal discharges from the nose, eyes, or other body openings
- Loss of appetite, marked weight losses or gains, or excessive water consumption
- Difficult, abnormal, or uncontrolled waste elimination
- Abnormal behavior, sudden viciousness, or lethargy
- Abnormal lumps, limping, or difficulty getting up or lying down
- Excessive head shaking, scratching, and licking or biting any part of the body
- Dandruff, loss of hair, open sores, and a ragged or dull coat. Foul breath or excessive tarter deposits on teeth

Anyone can be a parent, whether they have a child of their own or adopts one. The same goes with pets – anyone can have a pet whether they are bought, received as a gift, or rescued. However it takes a responsible person to be a superb parent/guardian or pet owner.

It's Slippery. It's Cold. It's Wet. Winter Season is Here!

by Sharon Kim
and Michelle Lavner
Staff Writers

Whether winter brings severe storms, light dustings, or just cold temperatures, we have the right tips for you to be in tip-top shape. Obviously, winter is the season known to be cold. In order to maintain proper health, wear appropriate clothing, in which will make one dry and warm is probably a smart idea. Also, try to look on the weather forecast in order to know what the weather for the day is. The newspaper in the weather section is also a great place to look for weather,
because as we all know, winter season is the number one time for blackouts. But the number one question we all ask is simple. How do we stay dry? The answer is straightforward. In advanced, try to keep an umbrella handy as well as appropriate water proof parkas or warm clothing that will protect the skin from the cold. Not only is Hypothermia precarious in the winter season, dry skin, too, is just as dangerous. Cold air and wind may cause skin to lose qualified moisture, so wearing Chap Stick and lotion is needed. A place like Bath & Body Works at any mall sells these toiletries.

Also in the season, lies Christmas and other holidays, so most people like to take a vacation or travel for a while. If you are traveling somewhere out of the state, or you are taking an airplane somewhere, make sure you pack your necessities in advance. Most roads become very slippery, so while driving it is suggested to put your car into a selected gear, so make sure you follow these tips and you'll be in tip-top shape!

Charter Schools
Help for failing public schools?

by Caleb Choi

Staff Writer

The debate over charter schools is a lightening rod of controversy that perturbs great interest and hope among parents and educators alike- creating universal hope of helping failing public schools in the United States. The new innovative idea of charter schools provides educational equality, higher educational standards, and autonomy among students in low income areas. By definition, charter schools are privately funded schools with greater freedom and choice of selecting schools. Specifically targeted for low income areas, charter schools ultimately provide better education for students. This secures one of the most important tenets of educational equality-everyone deserves the same education. Secondly, charter schools provide better education than most traditional public schools. According to National Educational Association, charter schools have average 5% improvement than public schools. Lastly, charter schools provide freedom and autonomy. Privately funded by parents and the community, charter schools ensure a better educational environment for students in all parts of the United States. Many researches support the new inventive idea of charter schools, and therefore I believe that the United States should adopt more charter schools to improve the educational barrier to the next step.

ENTERTAINMENT

HOROSCOPES

by Sharon Kim
Staff Writer

December 19, 2007:
Aries (March 21- April 19): Feel, love, and except the changes, possibilities, or embarrassments you receive throughout this day, for life is full surprises in which will gradually mold one's clay into a bigger and better person.

Taurus (April 20- May 20): Today is the perfect day for you to put any extra effort into your work or activities you do because your skill at anything will greatly flourish.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): At times that are hard and difficult throughout this day, be patient until it is over because in life, everything is a fair game. Eventually, you will be greatly rewarded.

Cancer (June 22- July 22): Watch out for those who hold grudges against you. Things may be ugly if you don't take your actions delicately.

Leo (July 23- Aug22): Look into things, whether bad or good, with a different perspective and mold it into your highlight of the day.

Virgo (Aug 23-sept 22): Watch out and look out at the things you do today because if you don't, friends, even the closest, may betray you, whether forever or only for a moment.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Take a good look at those who congratulate you today, in any way, because they might be the ones who will resemble a great friend or a person who may even be your destined love.

Scorpio (Oct.24-Nov 21): Today may be the days in which you will find yourself being irresponsible or careless. Watch out or you can be in a messy situation

Sagittarius (Nov.22- Dec. 21): Today is not a good day to find your true love for that person may cause great problems within your relationship. However you may meet someone unknowingly and he/she may be great with you in relationship.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19): Today is your lucky day! Whether it is obvious or not, you will be rewarded in some sort of way for the great accomplishments you have done.

Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.18): Today is not a good day to talk to your crush. An embarrassing moment may occur.

Pisces (Feb.19-March 20): Don't stop trying to reach your goals even if many failures have tripped you.

"TURKEY BACK"

A SONG PARODY TO THE TUNE OF...

by Abby Grosch
and Stephanie Lough
Staff Writers

[Verse 1]
I'm brining Turkey back
Them other chikas
don'no know how to act
I think your special
what's behind your back
Turn around
and I'll pick up the slack

Take 'em to the bridge

[Bridge]
Chicken babe
You see this gravy
I'll let you misbehave
It's just that no one
makes me feel this way

Take 'em to the chorus

[chorus]
Come here chikas
Go ahead and eat it
Come to the table
VIP
Go ahead and eat it
Cranberries on me
Go ahead and eat it
Let me see
what you're cooking with
Go ahead and eat it
Look at that dressing
Go ahead and eat it
You make me smile
Go ahead and eat it
Go on ahead Turkey
Go ahead and eat it
And get your Turkey on
Go ahead and eat it

Get yo' Turkey on
[Repeat 6 times]

Get yo' Turkey on

[Verse 2]
I'm birning turkey back
Them other Chickas
don't know how to act
Come let me make up
for the things you lack
Cause your burning up
I gotta get it fast

Take 'em to the bridge

[Bridge]

[Chorus]

[Verse]
I'm brining Turkey back
You Mother Chikas
watch how I attack
If that's your Turkey
you better watch your back
'Cause I grill your meat for a snack

Take 'em to the chorus

Comic by Jerry Joo

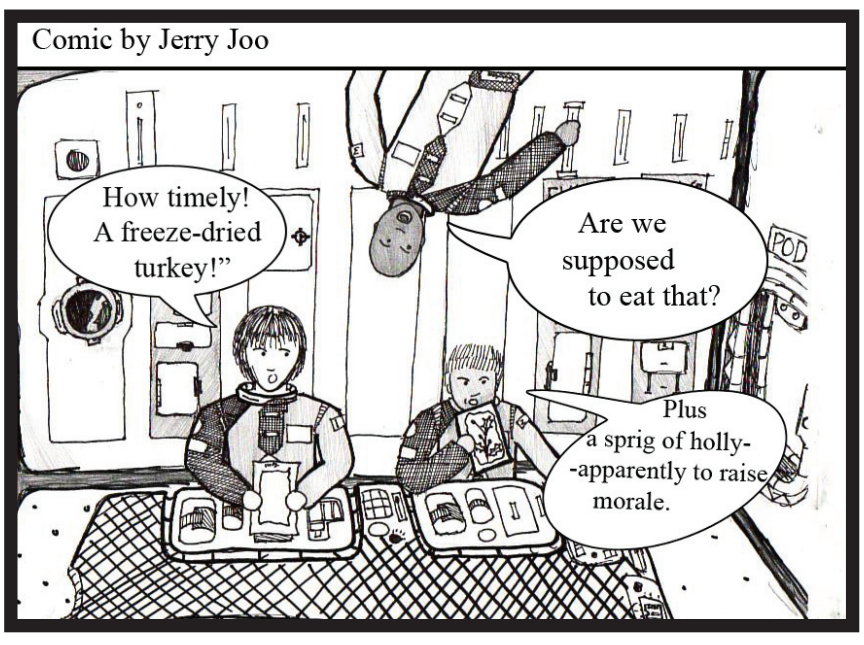


Illustration by Rebecca Burton

Illustration by Jason Park

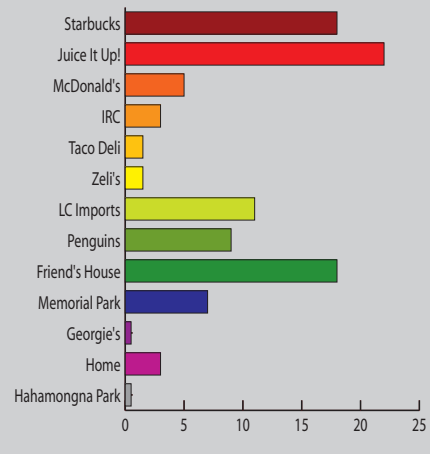
FAVORITE PLACES TO GO AFTER SCHOOL (SEE GRAPH BELOW)

by Nathan Dickie
And Noah Bernstein

Staff Writers

If you remember we came into your SSR class to survey your favorite after school hang out place. The top three responses were in this order: Juice It Up!, Starbucks and a Friends House.

Favorite Places to Go After School
(Number is in Percent)



HALO 3

by Matthew Tonnemacher
and Ben Mares
Staff Writers

Halo 3 is a first-person shooting game developed by Microsoft. The object of the game is to destroy the halo ring the last level. Some main characters include the master chief, arbiter, Commander Miranda Keyes, and Sergeant Major Avery Johnson. On the first day alone the game earned 170 million dollars. In a week the game earned 300 million dollars. Halo 3 is different from its predecessor Halo 2 because the plot is different and the story altogether is unlike Halo 3. Halo 3 also has new weapons and different maps in multiplayer mode. Halo 3 is better than other Halo 2 and 1, because there are new weapons and some weapons from Halo 1 have been re added to Halo 3. Will there be a Halo 4; maybe there will be to introduce more characters and newer weapons. The story shouldn't have a cliffhanger ending and just cut off. In conclusion, the Halo 3 game is now one of the most popular first person shooting games developed by Microsoft.

Bluepine
Chapter 2: The Race

by Allison Dillon
Staff Writer

They led a magnificent stallion toward the gates by his halter. I could feel all of my words catch in my throat, but it wasn't the first time. Two gruff-looking men shoved the ebony horse between two uncomfortable walls, my knees scraping the sides. I winced, although I said nothing of it, and adjusted the goggles placed firmly upon my head. The crowd roared like a lion about to pounce on its prey. Bluepine shoved himself up against the gate, but not even he could make it budge. It had all come down to this. We had trained, perspired, and strained our muscles until I couldn't even move. I'd been bucked off of Blue's back too many times to count, he'd pummeled me with his hooves, and I still hadn't given up. He snorted with interest as the smell of a fresh-cooked veggie-burger wafted by. I'd like to say that Blue was always focused, but he really wasn't. He was always straying away from the world, spacing out. Broad, thick numbers were painted on his side: 27. I wasn't quite sure whether or not that was a lucky or not, to have an odd number, but luck sometimes didn't matter. Blue turned to face me, his thick neck twisting, muscles rippling. "Good luck to you, too," I murmured, gently patting his head, making his ears swivel instantly. I heard a man's voice boom over the crowd, making my skull spin. Before I knew it, a bang escaped into the air. Blue wasted no time when the gate in front of us sprang open. I grabbed his reins, something seeming to constrict my lungs. I tried to breathe more fully, but the whipping winds were too much. I held on even tighter.

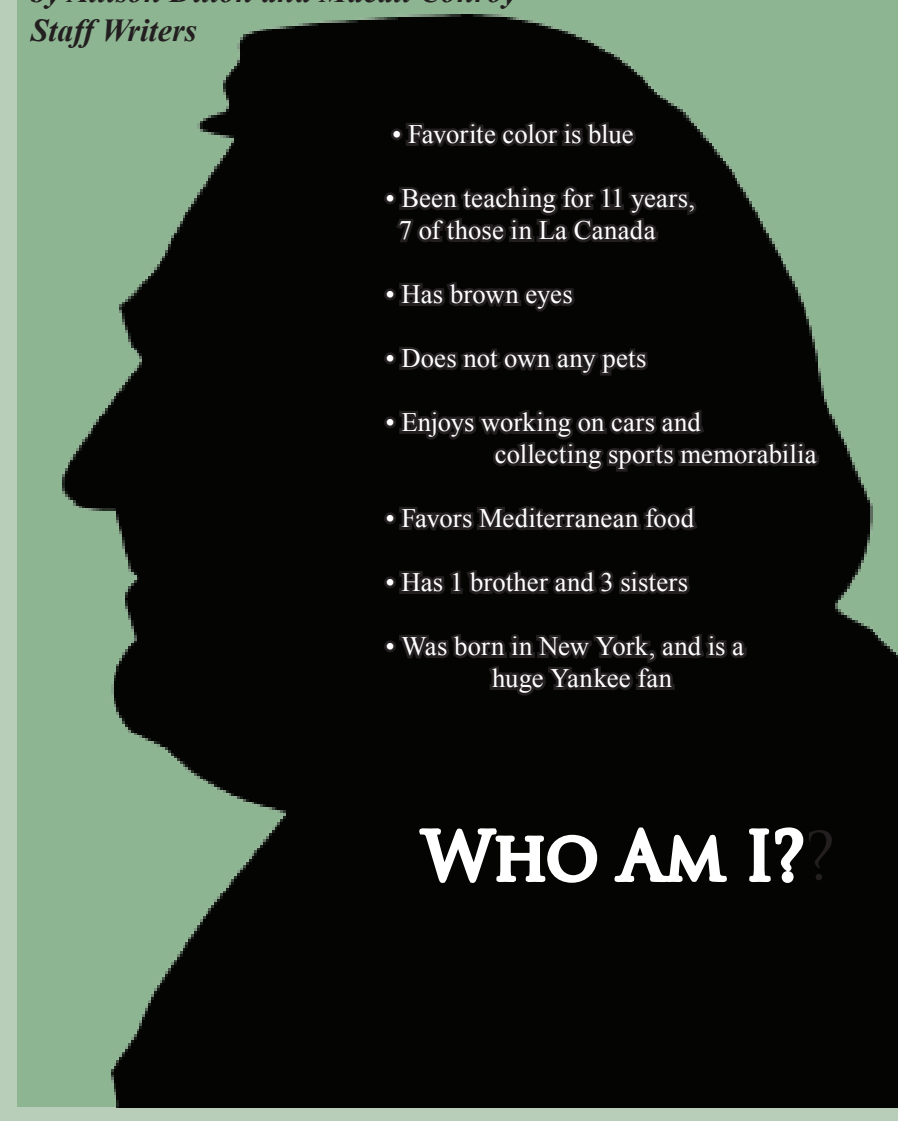
I was rather sure that I was going to die or something. I swung my head to one side to see a blur of a crowd. Nearby was a lengthy mare, Glum's mare, and I was convinced that she was a finch, that Blue had become a falcon… that we were moving so fast that we were flying, racing as birds. No. That wasn't true. It couldn't be. I smiled slightly as my sanity returned to me or, at least, what was left of it. I leaned down even further, seeming to hear my stallion's heart beat so freely in him. I grasped him tighter as he turned around a corner. I bet he felt like his legs were on fire, like he was stepping on hot coals. The finish line lingered ahead of us, and I was sure that we would lose, that I would tumble to the ground and Glum would win that pot of money, that no trophy would ever be handed to me. Bluepine stretched out his snout, my heart thudding, and we crossed the finish line… We crossed it first. I went slightly limp, nearly falling off, but I was soon caught by a crowd of cheering children and adults. Amongst them I saw Glum, looking smug and disappointed. "First place is Bluepine, number twenty-seven!" yelled a man nearby, nearly splitting everyone's eardrums with his excitement. I felt a smile tug at my lips as a golden trophy ahead of us sparkled in the light.

Bluepine, in the midst of it all, had gotten a wreath of lilies latched around his neck. He swung his head with distaste, trying to shove several people away with his snout. He chucked dirt in Glum's direction, whinnying with, I could have sworn, a smile. He pranced past people with me still clinging to him, his head high as if he was boasting.

And I had thought that his winning would blow his head up to the size of a balloon.

Guess the Teacher

by Allison Dillon and Macall Conroy
Staff Writers



Interests

NOVEMBER

School 1	School 2
Sonja Cwik	Kara Lankey
Courtney Kreditor	Ryan Lee
Tyler Pereira	Derek Veruttipong
Kristen VanSlooten	Sophia Eckerle
School 3	**School 4**
Skye Terebey	Garrett Lew
Nick McMenamin	Shannon Lee
Lauren Cox	Bryce Lourie
Claire Shuman	Michelle Cheng
Miriam al Atassi	

DECEMBER

School 1	School 2
Meghan Knapp	Noah Bernstein
Kasey Okazaki	Rikio Inouye
Orion Burl	Aidan Branney
Tyler Horswell	Madelyn Brown
	Morgan Harrick
School 3	**School 4**
Jen Chung	Karolina Dudek
Michael Mairone	Megan Wammack
Nicole Lim	Kevin Yen
Brian Choi	

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Names will be withheld upon request and we reserve the right to edit articles before publication.

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