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JUNIOR
HIGH'S
FIRST DANCE
OF THE YEAR!



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HALLOWEEN
FACTS
AND
FUN!

HOW MANY TIMES DO
YOU SEE MR. GILLILAND
IN THIS NEWSPAPER...?
TOP-10 TO REPORT
CORRECTLY ON
THURSDAY
WIN A CANDY
PRIZE!



LA CANADA MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE SPARTAN STAR

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION

SEPT./OCT. 2008

VOLUME I I I ISSUE I

ASB ELECTIONS SPEECHES AND CANDIDATES

by *Rebecca Villalpando*
Staff Writer

The real Presidential buzz was surrounding the ASB elections on Friday, September 12th. The assembly was full of inspirational and creative speeches given by candidates running for positions of assistant activities director, activities director, treasurer, secretary, Vice President, and ASB President.

The race was tight between seventh graders Ben Stumpf and Guillermo Padilla who were both running for assistant activities director. Guillermo, however, was victorious in the end.

Guillermo will be assisting activities director McKenzie Dodge who was also elected. She promised better dances and more exciting activities. While McKenzie didn't have anyone running against her, the 7/8 was happy to elect her after she delivered a cheerful speech.

The competition for treasurer, however, was between four qualified candidates. After numerous speeches, some even evolving music, Jenna Galper was selected as treasurer. Her no nonsense approach and captivating jokes drew the audience in and her experience being the daughter of two accountants got her elected.

Sharon Kim was selected as secretary. She promised to get the job done and always be accountable. Her analogy about frozen yogurt said it best, "She's the toppings on your Pinkberry".

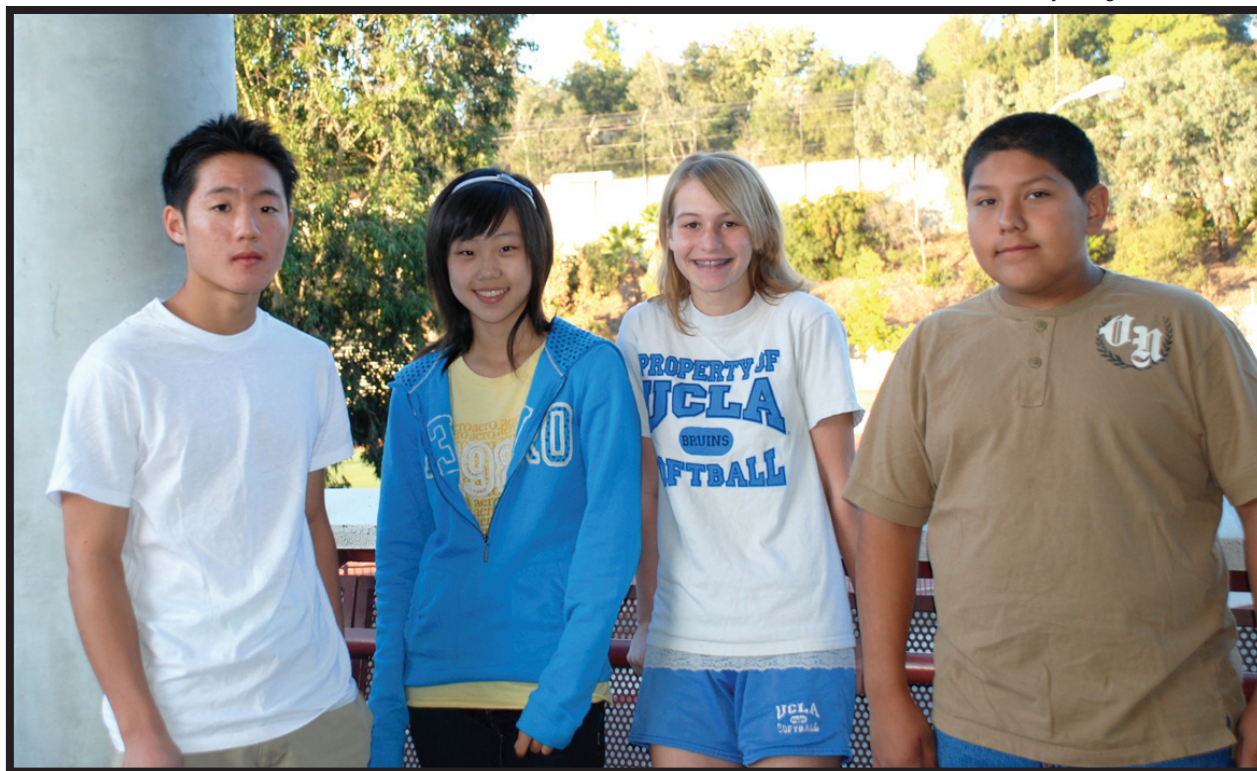
While the Audience was excitable throughout the entire election, it was when

Vice Presidential candidate Ryan Kim took the stage that the entire auditorium broke out in applause. He vowed to represent the student body and voice there concerns, as well as be a responsible influence. He dedicated his heartfelt speech to his twin brother Eric, who had been in the hospital. Needless to say, he won the position of Vice president.

Last but not least LeeHo Lim was elected as ASB president. He presented a short skit about bullying and a funny speech that got many laughs.

The ASB election was a success and the 7/8 students were entertained from start to finish. Each candidate brought a new aspect to the race and delivered a unique speech that showed their personality. Every person elected is happy to serve and represent our school.

Photo by Morgan Harrick



Left to right: Ryan Kim, Sharon Kim, Jenna Galper, and Guillermo Padilla. (Not present for photo: McKenzie Dodge)



Photo by Josh Kim



Photo by Josh Kim

Little Red Riding Hood, Heather Baydian, holds her pose well.

Shane Martin plays an ancient caveman.

STATUES AND ATTITUDES

by *Jonathan Lim and Joshua Kim*
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered if you could stand still for forty minutes straight? On an early morning of September 17, the 8th grade students of English teacher, Leslie Baldwin, worked with Mr. Mohny's senior AP English class to create an attraction student and teachers were bewildered to see.

The event happens every year around this time. It was based off of the story, "The End of the Game." That early morning, they dressed in costumes and decorated their areas of the quad. There

See STATUES, p.2

SCHOOL NEWS

LET’S DANCE

by Yasmin Shoar and Anaïs Stepanian
Staff Writers

Flashing lights, dancing, food, heat, and excitement... Our first school dance was on September 25, 2008 from 2:45 to 4:15 in the cafeteria. The same cafeteria that we eat lunch in everyday was completely transformed. It was a very dark atmosphere with loud



From Left: Alexandra Badie, Megan Bambanian, Anisha Gandhi, Leanis Stepanian, and Laura Gilligan



7th grade girls dancing to “Low” by Flo-Rida

music. There was a huge maroon and gold balloon arch on the stage where the DJ was also located. The DJ was full of energy and danced to many of the songs. Before the dance, he took songs requests. The girls loved dancing to their favorite pop songs including “Hot and Cold,” “Piece of Me,” and “Numa Numa.” On the other hand the guys loved rocking out to some rock songs that I had never heard. But everyone loved “getting low” and dancing to Soulja Boy. Lastly, most people ran out of the dance when Miley Cyrus songs started to play. The PTA provided snacks which included cookies, nachos, and vegetables. As the dance neared its end, everyone started dancing and having a bunch of fun. We all smelled so bad that the DJ even told us to tell our parents to roll down the windows when we were driving home. This was an awesome way to start off the school year.

MAGAZINE DRIVE GETS STUDENTS TO SUPPORT 7/8

by Daniel Abedian and Hasaan Ahmed
Staff Writers

On Friday September 26, students of 7/8 attended the auditorium to hear about the magazine drive. Excited as they were, when the students received their forms at SSR they were even more stunned than before. There are prizes of I-pod Touches, Play Station 3’s and rare Nintendo Wiis. Dr. Luzak will be giving out prizes to whoever participated in the drive (in a funny hat). If we reach sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000), what mostly surprises the students was the limo to the dine and dance. Dr. Luzak will tape herself to the wall in school if we reach the goal in two weeks. Many students had the opportunity to go on stage and win some prizes. All contestants will automatically get a prize once they sell one magazine, the prize is a little fuzzy guy called a weepul. There are many magazines for kids

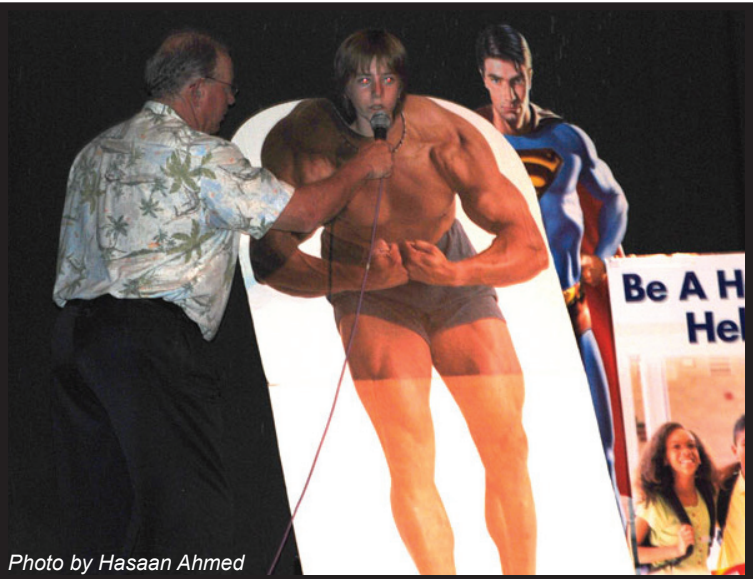


Photo by Hasaan Ahmed

Above: Muscle “man”, Skyler Joy, participates in the Magazine Drive Assembly.

and adults. There are features such as game pro for kids; there is Oprah for women, Sports Illustrated for men and much, much more. So remember sell right and you and your school will be swimming in money. There were soon to be many participants.

STATUES

(FROM FRONT PAGE)

were scenes such as a wild zoo, an intense ping pong game, and little red riding hood. This took place in the middle of school and in the front of the parking lot from 7:00 to 8:00. During this time, the students had to stand still in various positions while students, teachers, parents, and guardians observed their skill and concentration. They had to arrive at 6:30 and were given thirty minutes preparation time. Their props had to be creative and imaginative. “It was challenging and a good experience,” said Jonwei Hwang. “It was hard because I got a cramp in the middle of the event.”

It was a cold, dark, and foggy, morning. It was a great day to do the occasion. The students in the event had a great experience that they would remember for the rest of their lives.

Photo by Josh Kim



Above: Victoria Montenegro enjoys her lollipop.

SCHOOL NEWS

STUDENTS AMAZE AT THE 7/8 TALENT SHOW

by Joshua Kim and David Oh
Staff Writers

The students of LCHS 7/8 showed their amazing talents in the annual LCHS 7/8 Talent Show in the auditorium on the night of October 8. Even though the students were nervous, they were ready to perform. Jonwei Hwang said that “I was really nervous before I got on stage, but once I began, I didn’t think of anything but performing the very best that I could do.”

Photo by Jonathan Lim



The performances began with the 7th grade band playing a variety of songs including “Creepy Crawlies” and “The Blue Rock”. Next up was Michelle Lavner, stunning the crowd with a Polonaise on the violin. Justin Lee amazed the audience with his opera of the song “Sebben Crudele”. Then Ray Kim performed Earth sounds with his beat boxing skills. Shan Haupt then performed an Indian percussion beat that filled the auditorium with awe. Nora Sagal then entertained the audience with her song and tap dance of the musical song “Bye Bye Blackbird”. Ray Kim then appeared

again and did his imitation of fire. The band, “Dead off Center,” consisting of Avery Schwartz, Josh Carter, Armand Bagrymanyman, and Sebastian Chuchil, went out and rocked the crowd plating “Check Yes Juliet” by “We the Kings”. The 7/8 orchestra then ended the first portion of the Talent Show playing “Orpheus in the Underworld” and “Alla Tchaikovsky”.

During the intermission, people bought food and drinks at the bake sale. The

money raised from the bake sale went toward school funding. The 7/8 chorus began the second portion brilliantly singing songs like “One World”, “This Little Light of Mine”, and “More than a Song”. The next act then followed the singing spirit as Katherine Henry sang “Colors of the Wind” from Pocahontas while dressing up in old colorful Native American clothing. Ray Kim then came and beat boxed the sounds of the wind. After Ray Kim, Jonwei Hwang played the song Sonatine by Ravel on the piano dazzling the audience with his soulful playing. Savannah Stehlin then played her self composed piece “Memories of Hope” on the piano which she also sang. Jerry Joo, who also plays in the orchestra, played the “Hungarian Rhapsody” on his cello. Jerry said, “It was much easier to perform the second time because I knew what to expect after playing in the orchestra.” Finally, the 8th grade band ended the show with a bang with the performance of the two songs “Tribute to John Williams” and “Salute to the Big Bands.”

Overall this Talent Show was a huge success due to the hard work and dedication to all of the performers, and people who helped make it happen. Money raised from the Talent Show will go to helping the school and ASB.

Left Photo:
Lead singer,
Josh Carter and
right, Jerry Joo,
were stars in the
Talent Show

Photo by Jonathan Lim



LUZAK “STICKS” TO BET

by Chad Powers and Savannah Stehlin
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Last Friday on October 24, 2008, Dr. Luzak, principal of our 7/8 students, was ducked taped to a wall near the quad by the cafeteria. There were people from all over, including the top sellers of the magazine drive to help with the taping. During the fundraiser, LCHS 7/8 students raised over \$60,000, our goal for 2008. As a result, Dr. Luzak was required to spend a whole lunch period taped to the wall. While attached to the wall, she was wearing

Photo by Sharon Na



her signature “weepul” hat. Students flocked the entire quad platform laughing and cheering on Dr. Luzak, helpless on the wall. She even said that being taped to the wall was “quite comfortable.” Overall, students quite enjoyed seeing their principal so brave and involved in the school’s fundraising.

JUST SAY NO!

by Lauren Skarupa and Talia Bernhard
staff writers

Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign that is meant to send a message out to adults and under-aged children about how drugs and alcohol can affect your life in many ways. Many people think that drugs, smoking, and drinking are cool and mature. Smoking is not cool and it is immature because it can ruin your life. It may cause numerous, serious health issues such as lung cancer, kidney failure, throat cancer, and many more. Smoking can also cause damage on the outside such as your teeth, your hair, and wrinkles. Emotional problems can also be a consequence of smoking. Your life will be ruined and nothing can make up the damage. Next time someone offers you drugs, Just Say No!

Photo by Rebecca Villalpando



SPORTS

RUN, RUN,
RUN!

by Esther Jun and Katie Wagner

Staff Writers

The LCHS 7/8 Cross Country team competed on Friday October 17, 2008, in Walnut, CA, at the biggest meet of the year and in the country, Mt. S.A.C. Mr. Gilliland, the coach, said, "It was an incredible experience to see so many people running at the same time, and La Cañada is fortunate to be a part of the largest cross country meet in America." The team was supposed to run 2 miles, but they ran 1.2 miles because of the heat. The temperature was approximately 90 degrees in Fahrenheit. Many runners agreed that the hardest part of the race was running up the switch backs.



LCHS 7th grader, Anna Frederich, came in 8th place out of about 200 people and won a medal! Anna did her best and ran her fastest. "The greatest moment of my life was when I crossed the finish line and received a medal around my neck," Anna Frederich stated.



Left Top: (8th grade boys) Juan Ortiz, Jonathan Skaggs, Kento Sahara, Grant Owen, Marc Kaesler, Jonwei Hwang, Brandon Newquist, Josh Carter, Mario Del Cueto, Tyler Pereira, Max Vallen, and Ethan Steinberg
Left Bottom: (7th grade boys) Graham LaBran-Boyd, Travis Clark, Andy Ashford, Jeff Lee, Ryan Martin, Helio Higley, Eric Shreckengast, Andrew West, Kyle Ferguson, Dustin Coren, Justin Michel, Jacob Bonham, Christopher Madsen, and George Steckbeck



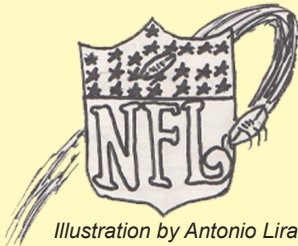
Left top: (7th grade girls) Storey Tolkin, Sophia Shirvanian, Savannah Stehlin, Leandra Bonner, Katrina Davis, Katie Wagner, Olivia Leyva, Grace Canyon, and Anna Frederich.
Left bottom: (8th grade girls) Sonja Cwik, Kristen Van Slooten, Rachel Kim, Megan Kaesler, Lauren Streeter, and Annie Monroe

NFL PREDICTIONS

by Matthew Krugler and JB Lovelace
Staff Writers

NFC

This season will be a very exciting and complicated one, so we are here to break it down for you, division by division. The NFC East will probably have the Dallas Cowboys come out on top, even with the Giants unexpected early season push, but in the end the Giants will come out second in that division with the Philadelphia Eagles in third and the Washington Redskins finishing in fourth. In the NFC North, the Minnesota Vikings will finish in first, with the Chicago Bears in second, the Green Bay Packers, with their new quarterback Erin Rodgers, will be coming in third, and the Detroit Lions who are in despair, fired their manager and are going nowhere this year and will finish in last place. Next is the NFC South with Tampa Bay coming in first led by Brian Griese followed by the Carolina Panthers coming in second, although they had preseason troubles with fights between players, then comes the Atlanta Falcons in third led by their new QB Matt Ryan, and in last will be the struggling New Orleans Saints. Now for the NFC West. This is a relatively easy division. In first, will be the Arizona Cardinals, with



Kurt Warner as starting Quarterback, followed by the Seattle Seahawks in second. In third will be the San Francisco 49ers, and in last will be the St. Louis Rams who have been struggling all year.

Now it's time for the **AFC East**. In first will be the Buffalo Bills who had a great start to the season followed by the Patriots, a once undefeated team in second, followed by the surprising Miami Dolphins team who are making a comeback in third, and in last the New York Jets who added Brett Farve to their roster. In the AFC North, the surging Pittsburgh Steelers will be in first, followed by a pretty good Baltimore Ravens team coming in second. Coming in third will be a team that needs improvement. That team is the Cleveland Browns and in last, will be the Cincinnati Bengals who have struggled for many seasons. In the AFC South, the Tennessee Titans will surprisingly come out with this division, and Jacksonville Jaguars will probably come out in second even though they had a 0 and 2 start. And the Indianapolis Colts will finish in third in what looks to be a very disappointing season, and the 0 and 4 Houston Texans will finish in last. In the AFC West the Broncos will be the team that will come in first, followed by the San Diego Chargers who had a bad start to the season will be coming in second. In third will be the Kansas City Chiefs who have had disappointing seasons and in last will be the Oakland Raiders who have loyal fans but a struggling football team. In the end we think the NY Giants will be superbowl champions for back to back seasons.

SPORTS

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
COMPETES

FOR FIRST HOME GAME SUCCESS

by Kristen Burns
and Stella Chen
Staff Writers

On Tuesday, October 14th, The LCHS girls' 8th grade volleyball team defeated Pasadena Christian's Girls' volleyball team. The game was held at the south gym at 3:15. The final score for the first game was 25- 18 and the second was 25- 22; it was a very close match. They did

wonderful as a team and made many amazing plays. There was great teamwork and sportsmanship. Even if they didn't make some points, they came out strong in the end. Because of their amazing skills, the outcome of the game resulted in their second win against the Pasadena Christians this season. "The teams have improved in all areas fundamentally and understanding the game," says 7/8 and 8th grade coach Mr. Weaver. "The team has definitely improved. Individually they have improved in passing, serving and their timing for hitting. They have also improved in their knowledge of the game. More importantly than this, I love the fact they have built team relationships. They even go to Starbucks in the morning for team bonding," said coach Mr. Kim. Congratulations to the team; they won 1st place in the Rio Hondo Tournament and came home champions.

On the 14th, La Cañada 7/8 girls' volleyball team also had a close match against the Pasadena Christians volleyball team. They played very well coming out with the final score 2-0. The first game was well played and had a score of 25-22. "Our serving has become 100% better and the hitters are doing a good job getting the ball over the net," says 7/8 coach Mrs. Weaver. The first game was a real nail-biter, but the second was won with a little more ease. The score was 25-19. "The thing we need to improve on the most is serving," says Jocelyn Sun, "without getting our serves over the net we could never win." Alexandra Badie says, "We have been working on our serving a lot, and we have improved on our volleyball skills tremendously." Both girls' volleyball teams have worked extremely hard this season and have done very well in games. "All of the girls are very encouraging and complimentary to each other in the court" says Mrs. Weaver. The 7/8 team seems to have really improved in their basic skills such as hitting, setting, serving and passing. Being great is a hard to accomplish, "communication and teamwork are things we need to work on to be even better," says 7/8 and 8th grade coach Mr. Weaver.

"In the beginning of the season, most of the girls couldn't get their serves over the net consistently or pass to the target, but I am very pleased with their progress in these areas. We are working on being more aggressive and calling the ball," says 7/8th grade Coach Mrs. Weaver. "They're already great, but there is always room for improvement. Great players and great teams always strive better," said Coach Mr. Kim. The team has done very well this season and their really looking good, of course "it's all about the spandex," say the girls. Don't forget, the LCHS girls' Volleyball team is number one!

Photo Credit: Kristen Burns and Stella Chen

Right:
Spiking the ball
is
Micaela
Anderson.

Right:
Morgan
Harrick and
Heather
Baydian

Left: Amy
Young lifts
high for her
"kill".



Left to right: Micaela Anderson and Katie Pierce



THE "GOLD" TEAM

Right: Emily
Wojciechowski
bumps to
setter.



The "Cardinal" Team

OPINION

WHAT’S THE FUSS, GUS?

by Gus Rouleau
and Ryan Witherspoon
Staff Writers

Dear Gus,

I have a BIG problem. I’m getting behind on my homework already! You see, I have a lot of after-school activities like alfie and dance class. They take up A LOT of time and I don’t want to drop them but I can’t do my homework, eat a snack and get to bed on time after all these activities! Then, the next day I’m practically falling asleep during class! What should I do???

From, Sleepy in Science class

Dear Sleepy,

It looks like you have time management problems. Maybe what you have to do is drop one of your activities, like your least favorite one, or schedule them to a couple days per week, or even on the weekends. Also, you can take naps during break time so that you can get a little much needed r & r. My final tip would be to do as much homework that you can during school. Hope that my tips have helped you!

From, Gus

Dear Gus,

I have a problem! (Duh) I like to listen to rock and heavy metal but my parents think it’s too “suggestive” and make me listen to music like Sunny and Cher instead. I don’t want to rebel and hurt their feelings but I can’t think of anything else! What should I do???

Sincerely, Mr. Helpmeout

Dear Mr,

It looks like you are in quite a situation! Try talking to your parents about how you are mature enough to listen to that kind of music. If they still feel unsure about letting you, then maybe let them listen to one of the songs you like. Also assure them that this music will not affect your actions toward other people. I believe that your parents are worried about you safety than anything else. They might even be scared that their little boy is growing up. But, if you really want to listen without upsetting you parents, follow these tips. Remember, Gus knows best!

Dear Gus,

I’m part of the Speech Debate team and I love to debate. The only problem is that I have huge stage fright. Every time I get in front of the class, I start to sweat and stammer. I want to get rid of my stage fright to become better at Debate. Do you have any tips?

From, Mack O. Ronie

Dear Mack,

Most people have had stage fright before. You just have to conquer your fear. Before you perform in front of the class, practice it in front of your family. You’ll be less nervous in front of people you know. When you have to do it front of your class, or try staring at something that might be right in the middle of the room on the wall, like a poster, a clock, this helps to keep your mind off of all the people.

Sincerely, Gus

OBAMA TAKES THE HIGH ROAD

by Rebecca Villalpando
Staff Writer

As I drove home from school on Wednesday, October 15, I noticed that a few houses had staked newly shellacked McCain-Palin signs in their front yards and I started to get nervous. All nerves, however, were extinguished within the first five minutes of the third Presidential debate. John McCain came off as angry; in his first point alone he used the word angry four times. When asked about the economy, he only offered short term fixes. Barack Obama, on the other hand, seemed poised and calm when addressing the economy. He outlined his plan in detail; first focusing on jobs and ending the tax breaks for companies that are shipping jobs. Next, he wants to help out middle class families by providing a tax cut for people making less than \$200,000 a year. His plan also included a proposal to get homeowners in a position where they can renegotiate their mortgages. He concluded his plan by saying, “ We’ve got to fix our energy policy that’s giving our wealth away. We’ve got to fix our health care system and we’ve got to invest in our education system for every young person to be able to learn.” While I agree that John McCain did an exceptional job within the first half hour of the debate and that his ‘Joe the Plummer’ argument probably spoke to some middle class Americans, his age really showed during the second half, his energy level dropped and he couldn’t put his thoughts together in a way that was understandable. Another question that caused a stir was when the moderator asked if each candidate would say to each other’s face what their campaigns have said about each other. McCain elaborated on the fact that congressman John Lewis had accused him of having racist aspects to his campaign and that he was hurt that Senator Obama didn’t refute these comments. In my opinion, it wasn’t Obama’s job to denounce these comments. Plus, John Lewis was simply talking about the remarks--phrases like “kill him” and “terrorist”--shouted by audience members at McCain-Palin rallies which are in fact rather racist. I think that if John McCain wants Barack Obama to refute the Congressman’s comment, John McCain should refute all the illegitimate comments made by his rally audiences. John McCain’s momentum was slowed when he dwelled on the question about nasty campaigns, also once again bringing up William Ayers. Barack Obama took the chance to set the record straight stating that he only knew Mr. Ayers because they sat on an education board together in Chicago and that he hasn’t had any contact with him after that time. He also took the opportunity to address the ACORN ordeal. Simply saying that it was an organization that he represented them alongside the U.S. Justice Department in making Illinois implement a motor voter law that helped people get registered at DMVs. Obama also took the high road when Bob Schieffer, the moderator asked him if he thought McCain’s running mate was qualified saying, “ You know, I think it’s -- that’s going to be up to the American people. I think that, obviously, she’s a capable politician who has, I think, excited the -- a base in the Republican Party” Another issue that I found surprising was McCain’s position on education first saying that he wanted to get rid of bad teachers. However, he then stated that he thought that people coming home from war should be able to become teachers more easily without having to get all the required credentials. In my opinion, serving in war is a very honorable, heroic act, but it doesn’t necessarily make you qualified to become a teacher or furthermore, a President. I believe that Barack Obama won the third and final debate. His arguments had substance and he fended off McCain’s attacks with his intelligence. You don’t have to look to me for who won the debate, however, just look at the polls.

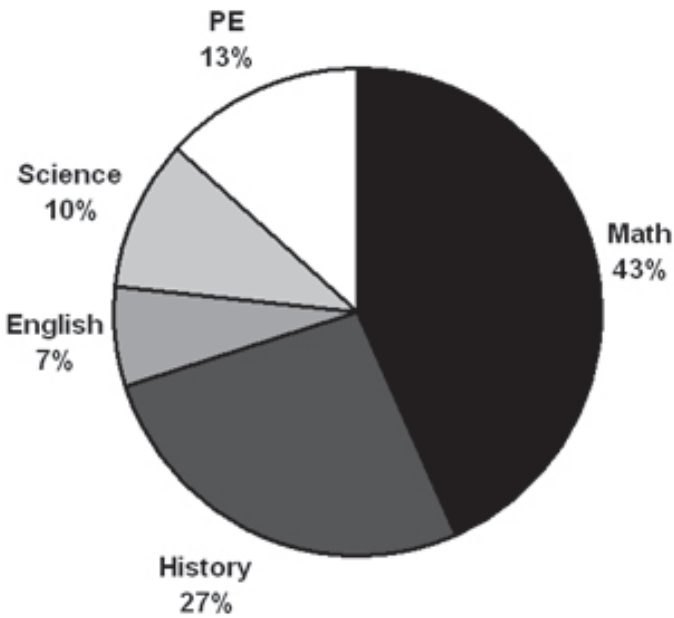
JOHN MCCAIN HAS UPPER HAND

by Kristen Burns
Staff Writer

On October 16, 2008, Barrack Obama and John McCain came to their third and final debate. The debate touched on a wide variety of issues, including abortion, judicial appointments, trade and climate change as well as the economy, with the candidates often making clear the deep differences between them. Senator McCain played offence against Senator Obama during much of the final presidential debate as he challenged his rival on his policies, judgment and character. Obama said he is the candidate who can bring “fundamental change” to the country and continued to try to link McCain to President Bush. In one of the more forceful moments of the debate McCain said to Obama, “I am not President Bush. If you want to run against President Bush, you should have run four years ago. I’m going to give a new direction to this economy and this country.” Obama said he has a “history of reaching across the aisle” and pointed to his support for charter schools, pay for performance for teachers and clean coal technology. “Sen. Obama, your argument for standing up to the leadership of your party isn’t very convincing,” McCain said. I agree with this statement. Obama said his plan would cut taxes for “95 percent of American families,” more than McCain’s plan.” But that means taxes would increase for small businesses and many people except for big businesses and very wealthy people would have the tax cut. “Why would you want to increase anybody’s taxes right now? Why would you want to do that to anyone, anyone in America, when we have such a tough time?” said McCain. McCain in turn promised an “across the board spending freeze.” He said he would balance the federal budget in four years, and went on to name specific programs including subsidies for ethanol when Schieffer pressed both candidates to identify specific budget cuts they would make. McCain in turn promised an “across the board spending freeze.” He said he would balance the federal budget in four years, and went on to name specific programs including subsidies for ethanol when Schieffer pressed both candidates to identify specific budget cuts they would make. McCain argued well and shot back at all of the things he disagreed with that Obama said. He also stated what he believed he could do and what could happen. With this debate I got more reassurance that John McCain is going to take it to the end, and is really going to fight for the presidency. I believe that John McCain had the upper hand and won the debate against Barrack Obama.

Illustration by Antonio Lira

Favorite Subject Survey Results



WHAT IS THE FAVORITE SUBJECT?

by Ben Stumpf
Staff Writer

What is the favorite subject of the seventh and eighth grades? To answer this enigmatic question I asked the seventh and eighth grade students at La Canada High School 7/8. I conducted a non-biased survey to every third person I saw as I randomly walked the campus during break and lunch from Monday October 6, 2008 to Monday October 11, 2008. The choices I presented them with were History, English, Math, P.E, and Science—the five main subjects. I surveyed thirty seventh and eighth graders. The results of the survey are below. In conclusion, Math is the average favorite subject of the Junior High. The runner-up was History at 27%. This survey was random and non-biased so the results were honest and fair.

SPIRIT WEEK

Photo Credit: Annais Stepanian, Jonathan Lim, and Sharon Na



Left Photo:
Leandra Bonner,
Katrina Davis, and
Ally Koppen



Left to right:
Elle Kenwood and
Julia Houser



Right Photo:
Olivia Demoulin and
Emma Bernstein



Illustration by Antonio Lira



Center Photo L to R: Jungmin Lee,
Lauren Barsamian, Kirsten George,
Megan Huh, Ally Thornton,
Julianna Echternach, and Daniel Kim



Left Photo: Megan Lee and
Sarah Borland



Left: Maddy Welk



Left photo: Bliss Saleebyan



Right photo: Alec Bezjian

INTERESTS

FRIGHTENING FUN FACTS!

by Alyssa Stolmack
Co-Sports Editor

Where did Halloween start? How did Halloween start? This sweet holiday has a rich history. It all began in Celtic Ireland during the 5th century B.C. It was originally called Samhain, which was the Celtic New Year; it ended summer. Actually, the word Halloween itself was derived from “All Hallows Eve,” the day before a Christian Holiday that recognizes saints. The costume tradition started because Celtic legends stated that the souls of the dead would come and possess those of the living. People were frightened and certainly didn’t want to be possessed, so they dressed up in scary costumes and paraded around cities, being as destructive as possible, to frighten the spirits away. The Celts also extinguished fires in their homes in order to make them cold and undesirable. But the Celts didn’t start trick-or-treating, the English did! In its early days, it was called “souling.” Christians walked around neighborhoods and asked for “soul cakes,” little square pieces of bread with a little currant in it. Many countries celebrate the holiday differently! That is just the early history of Halloween.

The custom of Halloween was brought to America in the 1840’s by Irish immigrants fleeing their country’s potato famine. At that time, the favorite Halloween pranks in New England included tipping over outhouses and unhinging fence gates. Today, Halloween is wildly popular, and very little of it has changed! Kids, teenagers, and even adults dress up for the festive occasion and celebrate with block parties, costume dances, family gatherings, and more! However, costumes have changed—they used to be only ghosts, hobgoblins, and witches!—and you can dress up as just about everything. Some people spend hundreds of dollars on fancy costumes, but some people fashion their own! America is probably most famous for celebrating the holiday.

Where did the famous Jack-O-Lantern start? No one knows for sure, but legend says that Jack, a drunk, fooled the devil into climbing a tree. (Remember, Halloween is a Christian holiday.) Jack then inscribed the shape of a cross into the tree, trapping Satan there. Jack made a deal with the devil that, if he would never tempt him again, he would promise to let him down the tree. Because of his alcohol abuse, he was denied entrance into heaven, and Jack was disallowed to go underneath because he tricked the devil. Instead, Satan gave him an ember so he could see through the darkness. Jack placed the ember inside a hollow turnip so it would last longer. Now, instead of turnips, we use pumpkins, and some people even put spices, such as nutmeg and cinnamon, inside their pumpkins to release a sweet smell. That is how the Jack-O-Lantern started!

What have you learned about Halloween? Most people just think the holiday lies in trick-or-treating and dressing up in crazy costumes! But there is more to Halloween than meets the eye.



October

Students of the Month

School One	School Two
Megan Lee	Ana Giancola
Danny Lim	Armaan Zare
School Three	School Four
Sophia Eckerle	Isabella Garcia
Rikio Inouye	Mario Del Cueto

2008
THE SPARTAN STAR
STAFF

La Cañada Middle School
4463 Oak Grove Blvd.
La Canada, CA 91011
Email: adiconiti@lcsud.net
Website: http://www.lcsud.net/lchs/adiconiti/7_8_newspaper.htm

Chad Powers and Savannah Stehlin
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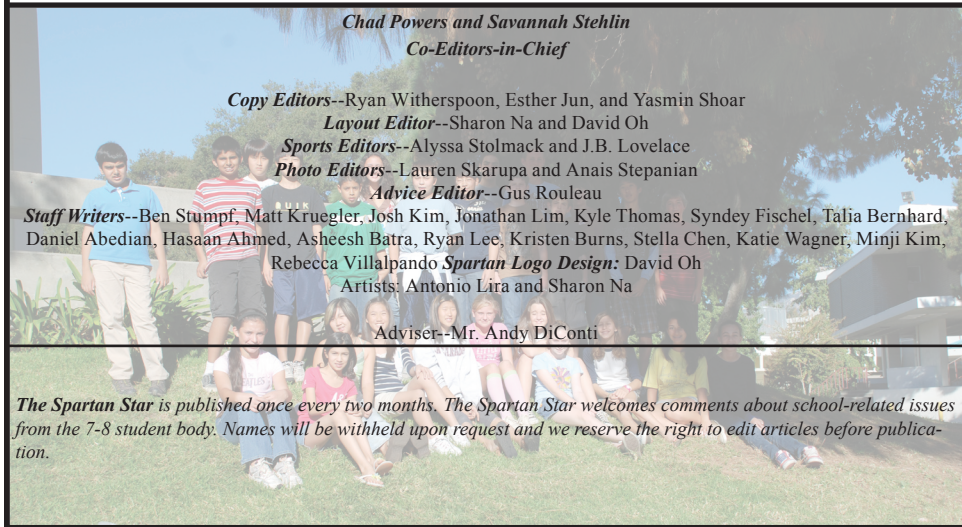
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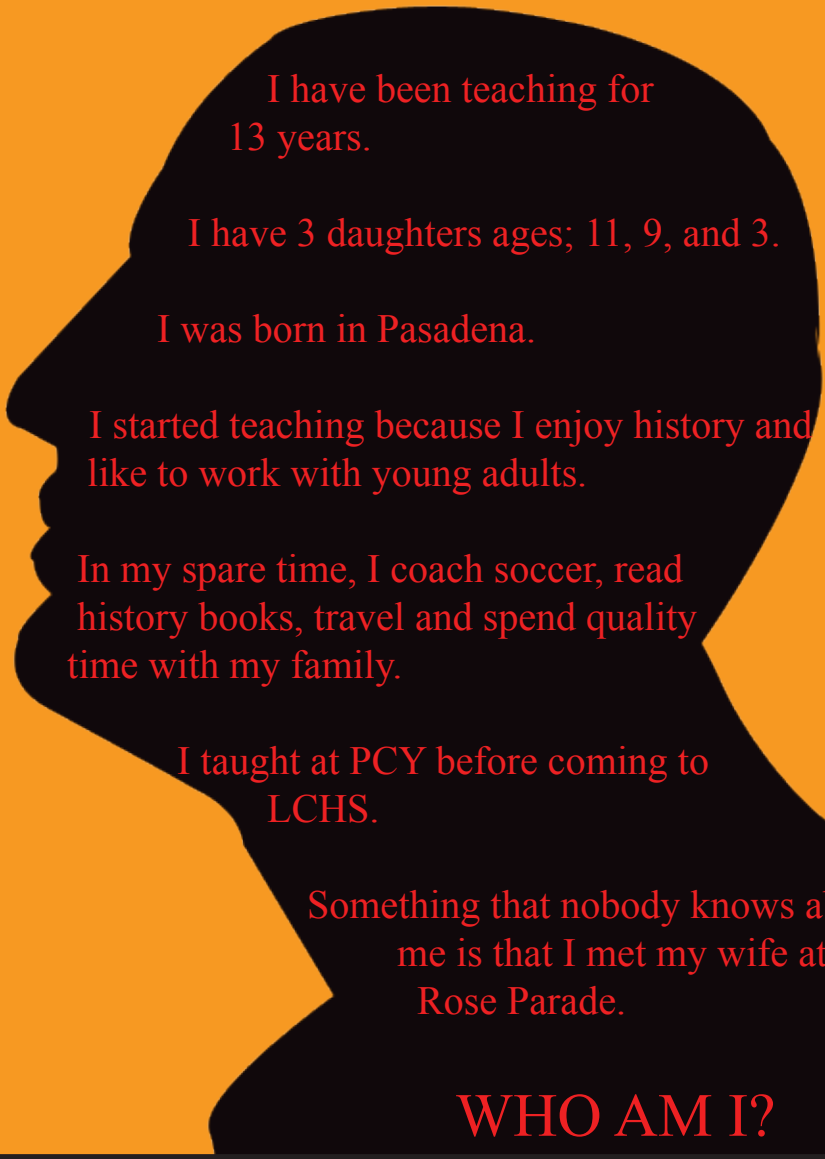
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The Spartan Star is published once every two months. The Spartan Star welcomes comments about school-related issues from the 7-8 student body. Names will be withheld upon request and we reserve the right to edit articles before publication.



Guess the Teacher

by Sydney Fischel and Sharon Na
Staff Writers



I have been teaching for 13 years.

I have 3 daughters ages; 11, 9, and 3.

I was born in Pasadena.

I started teaching because I enjoy history and like to work with young adults.

In my spare time, I coach soccer, read history books, travel and spend quality time with my family.

I taught at PCY before coming to LCHS.

Something that nobody knows about me is that I met my wife at the Rose Parade.

WHO AM I?

INTERESTING HALLOWEEN FACTS

by Minji Kim
Staff Writer

- Pumpkins have tons of Vitamin A
- In America, we say “Trick-or-Treat”; In Scotland they say,” The sky is blue, the grass is green, may we have our Halloween?”
- Chocolate is better for our teeth than candy
- In Ohio, It’s illegal to go Trick-or-Treating if you’re over the age of 14.
- Pumpkin is a fruit, not a vegetable.
- Canned fruits/veggies? Forget it! A ½ cup of pumpkin has 3 times the daily requirement of fruit
- On the Halloween of 1918, a Spanish flu killed 2,100 people in one week, in the U.S.
- 99% of all pumpkins marketed domestically are used for Jack-O-Lanterns
- On the Halloween of 1926, Harry Houdini died in Detroit
- Halloween was first celebrated in 834 AD.
- On the Halloween of 1876, a cyclone hit Bengal, killing 200,000