

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Rampage

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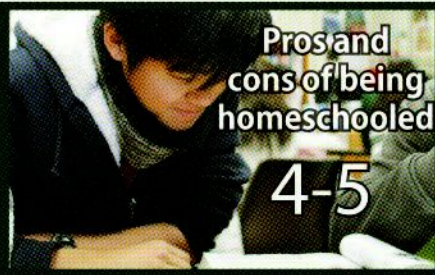
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PHOTOS/M. Zhang & A. Ding



Chang-Ho's departure shakes up art department

By A. Liu, C. Tran, K. Burke & J. Siu
Editor-in-Chief, Web Editor & Staff Writers

Students walked up to Art teacher Ms. Diane Chang-Ho for a bittersweet goodbye hug on the last day of the first semester. Chang-Ho, who worked at TCHS for about 10 years, was leaving to accept an art coordinator position with the school district. She will be developing the arts and technology integration at elementary schools as a Teacher on Special Assignment.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education awarded TCUSD a \$2,000 TEAL, or Technology Enhanced Arts Learning Project, grant over the course of the next two years after the district submitted an application over the summer. Chang-Ho applied to become part of the team to help integrate arts education into the regular course of study at the transitional kindergarten to sixth grade levels.

"I'm pretty sad about leaving," Chang-Ho said. "Having so many students come up to me to give me hugs on my last day here makes me feel really appreciated. Working here has taught me patience and flexibility. I learned how to work with students at different artistic levels and students from different backgrounds. The best part about working here was watching my students develop and grow as an artist, some in the time period of only one semester."

Ms. Chang-Ho's Graphic Design and Art 1 classes will be split up and the teachers in the art department will be taking over. However, due to scheduling conflicts, not all of Chang-Ho's students will be able to take the same classes for their second semester. Ms. Lisa Kidd will be taking over the Graphic Design class.

"I have always wanted to teach graphic design and silk screening," Ms. Kidd said. "I believe that the best way to learn is by doing things hand on and I hope that by the end of the school year that my students will be able to make their own t-shirts."

Students in Graphic Design will also be learning how to make decals, posters and children's books during the second semester with Ms. Kidd.



IMAGE COURTESY/ City of Temple City

Earlier this month, the city revealed three potential options for the project. These designs showed possible changes that could be made to the street, such as bigger roads, different sidewalk tiling, angled parking and bike lanes running in each direction.

TC preps for renovations

By Charlie Dodge
Staff Writer

City Council is holding a meeting on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. to discuss a project to revitalize Lan Tunas Drive. First proposed in 2012, the renovations may cost up to \$21 million.

This meeting, at the Live Oak Park Community Center, will mark the conclusion of a more than three year long planning process. Members of the community are encouraged to attend the meeting, participate in the discussion and voice their opinions.

The project has faced support as well as backlash. Some members of the community feel that the project will cause more harm than good, claiming that changing the layout of Las Tunas Drive could draw away business that could help Temple City.

"I encourage everyone who has ideas, concerns, or feedback regarding Las Tunas to attend the upcoming meeting," Youth Committee member Junior Agnes Mok said. "The city wants to hear from the youth. The meeting is specifically tailored to the Las Tunas project and the details and plan will be finalized there."

NEWS BRIEFS

By Alex Liu & Kimberly Calderon
Editor-in-Chief & Staff Writer

Winter Formal Sells Out

Hundreds of students flooded into Room 311 on Jan. 25 hoping to purchase tickets for Winter Formal. Although the Sophomore Winter Formal Committee predicted a 30% attendance increase (from 247 in 2012 to 320 for this year), this unexpectedly large turnout resulted in a shortage of tickets and forced many students to leave empty handed.

"I want to personally apologize to anyone who wanted to go to Winter Formal but was unable to," Sophomore Class President Christian Palomares said. "The goal of every dance is to give our student body an outstanding experience. We tried to predict the number of people who come to our dances and chose a location this past June that we thought would have ample room, but our predictions were incorrect."

Some students were able to purchase tickets, although at an increased price in many cases, from other students who did not wait until the last minute.

Although it was disappointing that many students were unable to attend the dance, the Class of 2018 is excited by the high demand for tickets. The class earned a record setting \$6,126.71 profit from the dance, which will be used to fund the 2017 Prom and the 2018 graduation ceremony.

Arcadia Honors Lin Brothers

Students, teachers and parents attended a candlelight vigil on the night of Jan. 25 at Arcadia High School's Performing Arts Center courtyard to mourn the deaths of 15 and 16 year old brothers, Anthony and William Lin, respectively.

The two teenagers were beaten to death in their Arcadia home on Friday, Jan 22. Their uncle, 44-year-old Deyun Shi, is responsible for their murders and

was captured in Hong Kong after attempting to flee.

Before transferring to Arcadia, both brothers attended Emperor Elementary and touched the hearts of many TC students who knew them.

"Anthony was very nice and funny," Freshman Richard Fang said. "He would always bring smiles and crack jokes."



PHOTO/ Kimberly Calderon
Students arranged candles at the vigil in the shape of a heart to honor the Lin brothers.

February/March Ram Calendar						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	1	2	3	4	5

Feb. 7-11: Yosemite Trip
Feb. 8: Chinese New Year
Feb. 9: Mr. TC
Feb. 12: Lincoln Day (No School)
Feb. 14: Valentine's Day
Feb. 15: Washington Day (No School)
Feb. 23: Registration Assembly
Feb. 22-26: ASB Elections
Feb. 25: Art Show
Feb. 26-28: Camellia Festival
Feb. 27: Camellia Parade
Feb. 29 & Mar. 3: Rampage Tryouts

Romance at an affordable price

By Charlie Dodge
Staff Writer



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/ Charlie Dodge

Star Parties at the Griffith Observatory offer a chance to see constellations usually concealed by LA smog. There's nothing like gazing at the stars while spending time with your star.

Being teenagers in love (or maybe even teenagers just in like) is hard. Yes it's true, love is sometimes painful. Most of all, it'll often hurt your wallet.

This Valentine's day, don't despair, there are plenty of affordable options. Here are some date spots that are sure to be cute, fun, and most of all: cheap.

Mad Max: Academy Awards fury

By Jason Xie
Staff Writer

If you're reading this, it's too late. I have already developed iron poisoning and will most probably die from it because I've witnessed the most metal movie to ever exist: Mad Max. Perhaps now I can finally ride the skies of Valhalla in shining chrome.

In short, Max is one of few survivors of a dystopian world ruled by three major villains: Immortan Joe, The Bullet Farmer and the People Eater, all of which represent the destructive power of religion, war and greed respectively. They rule over the barren wasteland which was once the Australian Outback.

The thought of fast-paced combat and cultish, sand vikings would make anyone who enjoys action movies fall in love with "Mad Max," but if there's one thing that makes it a must-watch movie: aesthetics. A new way of displaying a post-apocalyptic setting, unique props and a break from the typical damsel in distress made "Mad Max", in my opinion, the most hardcore action movie I've ever seen.

"Mad Max" featured a wasteland with themes familiar to the dystopian world. A desert wasteland with a society of bandits who worship what remains of the technological artifacts of the last age.

Also the fact that anything could happen gave the viewers the seat-clenching anxiety that Max was feeling, that a pregnant woman and old lady can get killed in a second and a faceless guitarist can shoot flames from his speaker truck just makes the movie all the more hardcore. The Im-

The Griffith Observatory

Located in Griffith Park, this is a stellar spot to take a loved one, especially since admission is free.

When you first walk into the building, you are met by a huge, intricate clock set into the floor. A pendulum swings from the domed ceiling, marking the beginning of each hour.

perator Furiosa, a smooth criminal with an even smoother head, is one of the main protagonists of the film. With her traditionally unfeminine looks and her gritty, no-nonsense attitude, she gives viewers a break from the typical princess who needs rescuing.

Of course, "Mad Max" has its flaws. A story that didn't add to the Mad Max series, have a good sense of flow, and focus on the main character as much as it should left the movie feeling choppy and rushed. But here's the thing:

Mad Max wasn't meant to show an enlightening pilgrimage to find the meaning of life. It overlooked the deep, philosophical script writing that only a certain niche of viewers would enjoy and focused on a pace that went from zero to one hundred in the blink of an eye. But how can a film be great if it didn't contain all the important factors a film should have? This is where the argument over Mad Max gets contentious.

On one hand it nailed the new post-apocalyptic setting and ignored the typical, sexist Hollywood tropes, but it also butchered the main plot line and script, a part of the "Mad Max" series that appealed to the original fans. But even great producers like George Miller can lose track of what satisfies their main fan base. That's the thing: Mad Max was a great film, but it didn't satisfy some factors that most movies have, which is totally okay.

The film has also garnered immense critical acclaim, earning nine Academy Award nominations including best picture and best director. It has also been recognized for its stunning production design, music, unique makeup and hairstyling, a feature that has received adoration from both fans and critics alike.

With people either falling in love with the film or feeling as if they wasted two hours of their life, the undying fact still remains: "Mad Max" set the bar up high for competing action movies, and even more so for death metal bands.

For first dates, interactive exhibits like the Leonard Nimoy Theatre will provide you with activities to do while getting to know each other. The theatre is especially fun and interesting, because the entire ceiling of the room is the screen. Informational scientific movies are played every few hours, and if you bring your student ID, you get discounted tickets. The observatory, with its expansive front lawn and bird's eye view of L.A. is the perfect place for a picnic while you look at the city's twinkling lights or gaze at the stars.

Couples that have been together for a while can enjoy the beautiful domed planetarium, where they can take turns looking at the moon through the huge telescope. The Griffith Observatory is also holding a Public Star Party on Feb. 13. These Star Parties are after nightfall. Stargazers from all over Los Angeles set up a variety of telescopes out on the front lawn, where everyone in attendance is welcome to use them. These parties are held once every month, and the next one so happens to line up right before Valentine's Day!

Hollywood

If a night out in the town is what you are looking for, Hollywood is the place for you. Located at 6801 Hollywood Boulevard, the mall plaza has plenty of ample parking and a variety of restaurants for you to choose from. It's a great location to grab a quick bite. After a dinner with your sweetie, take a short walk down to the famous Chinese Theatre.

There, you can take pictures with famous celebrities' hand/foot/other extremity-prints, or explore the surrounding designer shops. If you've still got time to burn, make your way to Amoeba Records, which is located off Sunset Boulevard. Amoeba often holds concerts right there in the shop, and when they don't have live talent, they play classic rock while you peruse the aisles of the store.

Old Town Pasadena

Old Town is a good date spot if you and your significant other are looking for a variety of activities. You two can begin your date at Afloat Sushi.

Afloat is a conveyor belt sushi restaurant with a fun twist. In Afloat Sushi, the dishes are placed on little wooden boats, and if you get a seat by the bar, you'll be able to pick your meal up right as it floats by in a little moat. The sushi is reasonably priced, so as long as you lay off the high-grade caviar your wallet shouldn't suffer.

If sushi and seafood isn't really what you and your sweetie are in the mood for, take a walk down to Slater's 50/50. This restaurant is best known for their classic burgers. Their most famous burger being their namesake: the 50% beef 50% bacon burger.

After your nautical meal, you might be inclined to walk down to the ArcLight cinemas off of Colorado Boulevard and catch a movie. Or, if you want to be out and about, peruse the many shops up and down Old Town Pasadena.



PHOTO / Amber Lee

Grand Harbor's Peking duck was mediocre at best. The ten dollar price is not at all worth the small portion. I suggest you go to Sam Woo instead for better meat at a fraction of the price.

Dim Sum that's not so Grand

By Amber Lee
Business Manager

So before you read this review and decide how you feel about this restaurant, I want to forewarn you that this restaurant serves meals to groups that cost upwards of \$9,000. Sounds pretty flashy for a brand new dim sum restaurant in Temple City — and it kind of is. In fact, the ceilings parallel that of a high-end church, and the furnishing is dramatic enough to belong at the Getty Villa.

It seems like they were expecting a whole lot more of high-end customers and important meals. But in observation of the three occupied tables, I'm not sure those goals are being accomplished.

Upon being seated, menus were quickly distributed, and waiters offered traditional Chrysanthemum tea - a popular choice at dim sum restaurants. The food came at a tortuously long wait, but all at the same time, so I'm guessing there's correlation.

I ordered the Peking duck (of course), walnut shrimp and shrimp dumplings. Each was garnished with an orchid. After trying

all three, I'd suggest they remove the orchids and use the money saved to hire better chefs.

The Peking duck was burnt and oilier than week-old hair, the walnut shrimp was Panda Express quality, and the "ha gow" made my ancestors cry.

Maybe I'm being dramatic, but in all honesty, the quality of food is not comparable to the price. I spent just over \$30 for three dishes of small proportion. Especially in comparison to other local dim sum hotspots like Full House Seafood or NBC Seafood Restaurant, Grand Harbor doesn't live up to expectations.

However, despite my sadness and disappointment in the actual entrees, they serve free pineapple "baos," or buns for dessert, and those were the best buns I've ever had.

The actual bun the softest thing I have yet to hold in my hands, and the consumption was imaginably similar to eating a cumulus cloud with pineapple filling instead of rain.

That alone was reason enough to return. I realized that I would drop some real money on the only thing that they gave to me for free. Ironic.

Giving marks to maestros



By Michelle Zhang
Staff Writer

Twice every year, students suffer major anxiety attacks awaiting their report cards, but what if teachers also had Edline uploads to fear? Here are some guidelines that teachers should follow with the same ferocity with which they teach around WASC accreditors.

Grading

Many of my teachers actually do a fantastic job when it comes to grading papers and updating Edline. However, we all know those teachers who tell students they grade work but, really, they're just tripping. These teachers may have a desk resembling a black hole.

Their knowledge of modern technology isn't all that great and they don't understand how stressful it feels to have a class grade last updated two months ago. If any of your teachers fall under this criteria, make sure to congratulate them on receiving an F in grading and tell them to step it up a notch.

Lectures

I personally enjoy teachers that spice up their lesson plans by giving offbeat lectures and playing interesting

and informative videos every once in a while. Instead of lecturing or playing videos every day, they shake things by getting students involved and participating in a variety of ways. Instead of scaring students who don't pay attention by calling them out in front of the class, they encourage them by using a conversational tone. These teachers, without a doubt, deserve an A+ in lectures and lesson plans.

Homework

Whether we think it's busy work or something we procrastinate on every day, we still manage to get the task done, but some teachers give homework like there ain't going to be tomorrow. Please, 99 problems on function operations and composition aren't going to help get us anywhere in the legit world. We got 99 problems and performing function operations and compositions ain't one. I hope teachers begin to understand that we have other classes too. Those that actually give the perfect amount of homework deserve an A++, but everyone else will remain a D until they have learned the ways of the senpai.

Tangents

We all know teachers that fly off on the most random tangents. They rant continuously about the craziest topics that have nothing to do with the lesson, then expect you to do homework on everything they didn't cover. Although it's hilarious when teachers go off track and completely forget what they were talking about, it does get annoying after a while.

We are here to learn academics, not your life stories. Please save those for later and just teach the lesson. Until teachers learn the ability to control themselves, they can't be considered masters of their craft and deserve only a C.

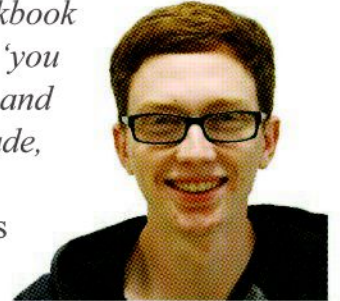
Students rejoice at teacher antics

Compiled by Melody Lo
Staff Writer

Some teachers have trademark memes and others have a constantly zany personality. Whichever the case, students appreciate their little moments of in-class expressiveness.

"A girl forgot her workbook and Ms. Velasco said, 'you forget your workbook and I'll forget your grade, niña.'"

—Senior Robby Cuttriss

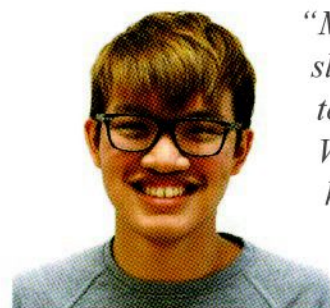


"Ms. Thein says, 'No, this is not yoga, it's Theinga.'"

—Junior James Chung

"One time Mr. Russell was talking about the ideal pooping position and squatted down to demonstrate."

—Sophomore
Brittany Vuong



"Mr. Saxon included a slide of Emily Blunt while teaching the Battle of Verdun and pretended to hold her hand."

—Sophomore Cameron
Oparkiettikul

SUPER REAL NEWS BRIEFS

By David Brackbill
Opinion Editor

Seniors weigh worth of breathing

Seniors across the nation, now in the first month of the second semester, are questioning the need to expend effort on breathing, reports a Gallup poll.

"I just don't know if the contraction of my lungs is a priority for me at this point," a senior on the cusp of napping in Government said. "I think I'll probably just binge watch Scandal or Grey's Anatomy instead."

The 'senioritis' phenomenon, which leading social scientists attribute to a combination of academic burnout and pent-up laziness, is hitting seniors harder than usual, resulting in a troubling rise of asphyxiation deaths.

"Getting myself out of bed today to call the attendance office and report my absence was a real struggle," one motionless pile of organic waste said. "If I had to

inhale in and then out too, just kill me now."

WF attendees surprised by jungle venue

The 323 attendees of this year's Winter Formal, "Giovane Amore," at Mountain Meadows Country Club may have been shocked when, at 7 PM, they entered into a tropical rainforest biome containing tables, water dispensers and a dance floor.

The room's small size, coupled with its maximized occupancy, quickly changed the medieval Italian theme into a steaming Amazonian rainforest filled with gyrating primates in formal wear.

"I liked the theme, but ASB didn't push it hard enough," one sophomore dancegoer said. "They didn't even serve banana splits at the ice cream bar."

The tropical atmosphere and close quarters may have also incubated the flu virus Winterformalenza, which rendered a large swathe of the school sick last week.



CARTOON/ Eva Baudler

Temple City High School Rampage

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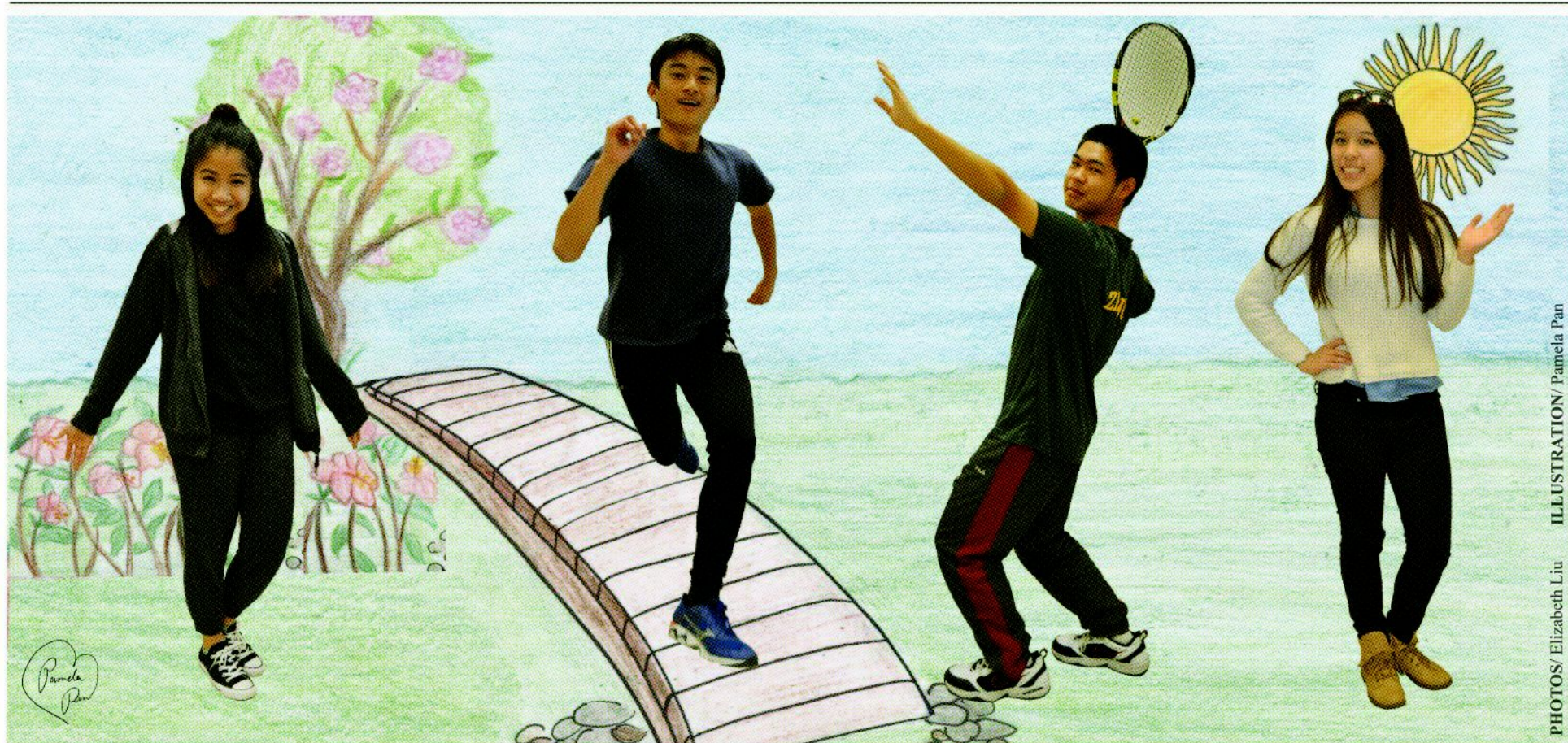
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Rams make TC second home

By Elizabeth Liu
Staff Writer



PHOTOS/ Elizabeth Liu
ILLUSTRATION/ Pamela Pan

Malaysia

For many students, moving from one country to another may seem intimidating, but for Senior Allie Jabing, moving from her home in Malaysia to Temple City was not a big change.

"Honestly I don't even feel like I ever left home," Jabing said. "It's more like I moved houses. I felt at home the moment I got here, it was like, yep, this is it."

Although Jabing notices the differences in attitudes between her two homes, she notices how both countries are extremely similar when it comes to diversity. Originally, Jabing came to Temple City in 2013 with her family since her mother wanted to pursue a higher education.

Japan

Sophomore Sean Negishi made Temple City into his second home by becoming more social and trying to fit in with his new environment.

"I noticed that there is more diversity in our school," Negishi said. "The education seems more focused on individual ideas and thinking. The teachers ask students what they think about this or that, bringing students to focus more on the subjects."

To Negishi, moving from Japan at the beginning of the fourth grade was merely part of faith's plan. After moving to Temple City, the pieces of his life began to fall together and he's happy to call this his home.

Australia

After hearing about the relaxed environment in California, Junior Richard Zheng and his family left Australia and made Temple City into their new home.

"In my previous school, we had a total of 120 students per grade which equals to 720 in the entire school," Zheng said. "It made getting accustomed to more people and newer faces a bit hard as well as the school because it is much larger than my previous high school in Australia."

Zheng's favorite part of living here is how he can travel from one place to another in a shorter period of time since he is now able to bike to the places he likes to frequent.

Argentina

For Sophomore Sissi Lin, home can mean one of two things: Argentina and Temple City. Moving from Argentina, Lin came to focus more on her studies and her family chose Temple City for its warm weather and excellent reputation.

"The teachers and students were really friendly and understanding so I felt really welcomed," Lin said. "I am also getting used to the American life by joining clubs, meeting new friends and stepping out of my comfort zone."

Lin's transition from one country to another went smoothly due to the fact that Lin was able to speak English, Chinese and Spanish fluently.

Military dad makes trip home to family

By Max Clark
Exchange Editor

On YouTube, numerous social media platforms and even television commercials, heartwarming videos of military servicemen or women returning home to their families always manage to surface every few weeks or so.

While the emotions of family members can be seen in these videos, few really know the emotional tax that families of military personnel go through during this time.

Sophomore Chris Klementich and his family went through all of this during the 15-month period that his father, Michael Klementich Sr., was deployed in Afghanistan. He suffered a collapsed lung and was rehabilitated on the East Coast.

During the majority of his deployment,

Klementich Sr. was a Corporal, but went on to become a Sergeant before an honorable discharge due to his lung issues.

At this time, Klementich was only 11 years old and in fifth grade at Emperor Elementary School.

"When he left, I felt as though my closest friend had left," Klementich said. "I had to confide in the comfort of my mother and older brother and I remember being really depressed."

In the early months of his father's deployment, Klementich's grades began to slip and he had no motivation to succeed.

As time passed, however, Klementich and his family were able to cope with the absence of his dad better, but things were simply different without him. While his mother could fill his daily roles, there was a real emotional absence within the family.

"My family life was very plain and re-

petitive without him," Klementich said. "My dad's personality is very unique and outgoing and he gives some flare to the lives that surround him."

Upon returning home, Klementich Sr. decided to surprise his son at school with a pizza party for his entire sixth grade class.

While administrators, teachers and even Klementich's family were aware of what would happen at the party, Klementich had no idea. When he saw his father for the first time in over a year he was shocked.

"When I saw my dad, I immediately ran to give him a hug," Klementich said. "It wasn't until I hugged him, that I really grasped that he was back."

Luckily for Klementich and his siblings, this was their father's first and last deployment. Klementich Sr. now works in the construction industry and has gone back to school at Pasadena City College.



PHOTO COURTESY/ Chris Klementich
Klementich, then in sixth grade, embraces his father after his return from Afghanistan.

Wang whips up new healthy home recipes

By Alisha Hernandez
Photo Editor

Crispy salmon sizzles in Senior Mona Wang's frying pan as she prepares her next meal. Since eighth grade, cooking has been a favorite hobby of Wang's, and she often shares dishes with family and friends.

Growing up, she was inspired to learn the skill by her parents' love for cooking, as well as her desire to be self-sufficient. With their advice, she was able to learn some basics.

"My mom was a great cook and my dad actually used to be a chef, so I watched them as I grew up," Wang said. "They helped me become more comfortable with the knife and control the heat while cooking."

Five years ago, she could barely fry eggs on a stove. Now, Wang prepares the majority of her own meals, and enjoys experimenting with French and Italian cuisine.

She takes pride in how much she has learned and how versatile she has become in using different ingredients, and advises that other students try to gain culinary experience as well.

"You can take care of yourself and become more

independent," Wang said. "More importantly though, you can better control what goes into your body."

Even with all of her knowledge, she recognizes that she still has much to learn. Recently, Wang made a Japanese bento box, which was one of her more difficult projects due to the meal's many components.

However, she embraces the challenge that comes with trying to replicate different styles of food.

"I love to try out new recipes," Wang said. "I'm not afraid to work with unfamiliar ingredients or new ways of cooking."

In the future, she knows she will continue to use her skills throughout her college years and hopes to improve even more by then. For now, Wang wishes to continue to experiment with different cultural dishes as well as share her cooking with those around her.

"Cooking is all about sharing the happiness with others," Wang said. "Not only about taking care of yourself."



PHOTO/ Eva Baudler
Wang's parents taught her how to cook salmon by giving her hands-on practice in the kitchen.

Liu's Clues

My room is my home
Alex Liu
Editor-in-Chief

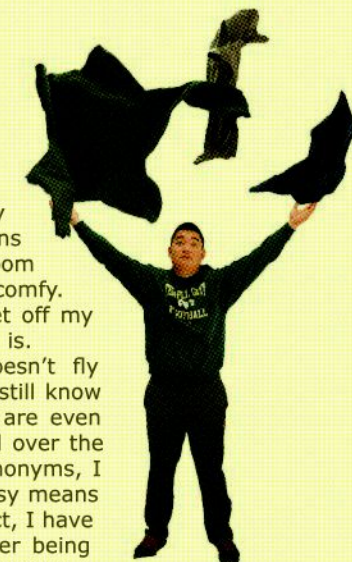
A home should be a place that is comfortable to my standard of living, which means that it should be ok for my room to be messy as long as I am comfy. So please mom and dad, get off my back. I like the way my room is.

Although this excuse doesn't fly with my parents at home, I still know where all of my belongings are even though they are sprawled all over the place. Although they are synonyms, I don't believe that being messy means that I am unorganized. In fact, I have actually lost things right after being forced to clean my room because I will forget that I thought it was a good idea to tuck my portable charger inside my drawer full of spam college letters. It is more convenient for me to find my belongings at home when they are spread out on the floor so I should be able to live in a room where I feel most at home.

However, things are never as they seem. All my parents do is complain about how there is too much junk on my desk or how it is unacceptable to have my clothes sprawled across the floor. "Why can't you make your bed in the morning" I have zero period, mom. Enough said.

Whenever my parents ask me to clean my room, my instinct is to explain to them why I should live the way I feel most comfortable. It seems most logical to me that I should make my room the way that best suits me, but one key point always trips me up. The only reason I even have a home to come to every day is because my parents provide a roof over my head. I have realized that even though my parents won't buy me the new Star Wars Battlefront game, they do provide for me. As I look back, I regret the fact that my parents did so much for me yet I was unable to do the little things, such as cleaning my own room, for them.

As I reach my 18th birthday, I am realizing that soon I will be moving out to go to college. I will soon have a new home, where I can be as messy as I want, but for the time being, I will try to get up early every morning and clean my room.



of 501 seniors in 2015*

average distance away from home:
160 miles

of 77 current seniors

64%
want to stay in state

36%
want to go out of state

"Out of state tuition is way too costly these days and I love the weather in California. There are also perks to staying in state like occasionally coming home to get mom and dad's home cooked food."

- Senior Makayla Completo

"I really want to experience living in another place and I find the east coast culture both new and exciting. I think that going to college there will be a great experience that will both enrich my learning and widen my perspective."

- Senior Irene Hsu

College: Near home or far?

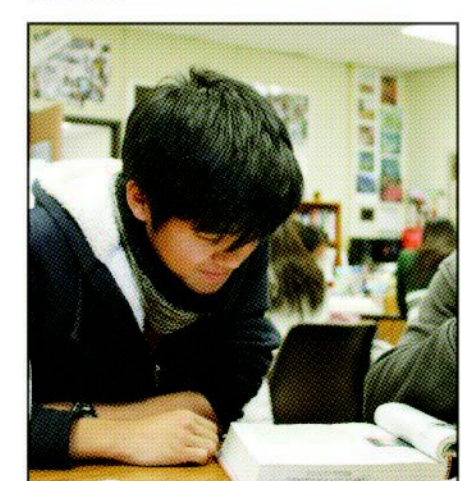
Compiled by Brittany Hsu
Editor-in-Chief

To homeschool or not? Stick to the status Kuo

By Johnson Pham
Photo Editor

As Junior Caleb Kuo is about to leave his house for school, he thinks of the hectic life of a public school student. Kuo started homeschool at the beginning of seventh grade because his family had a bad impression of the public school system.

Because of Kuo's intelligence, the teachers realized his proficiency in math and science and made him teach other students.



PHOTO/ Michelle Zhang
Currently, Kuo is taking AP Calculus AB, AP Chemistry and AP Physics 1.

"I thought the school system was too slow," Kuo said. "I felt I was wasting my time."

His mother was also influenced by the poor academic atmosphere of public schools when she worked as a nurse for a middle school. However, Kuo stopped the homeschooling in the middle of seventh grade and went to Oak Avenue.

Kuo realized that homeschooling takes a certain personality for it to work. One must be self-disciplined, self-motivated and the need for an experienced adult is necessary.

Despite the fact that he joined in the middle of the school year the transition back into a public school was not hard for Kuo.

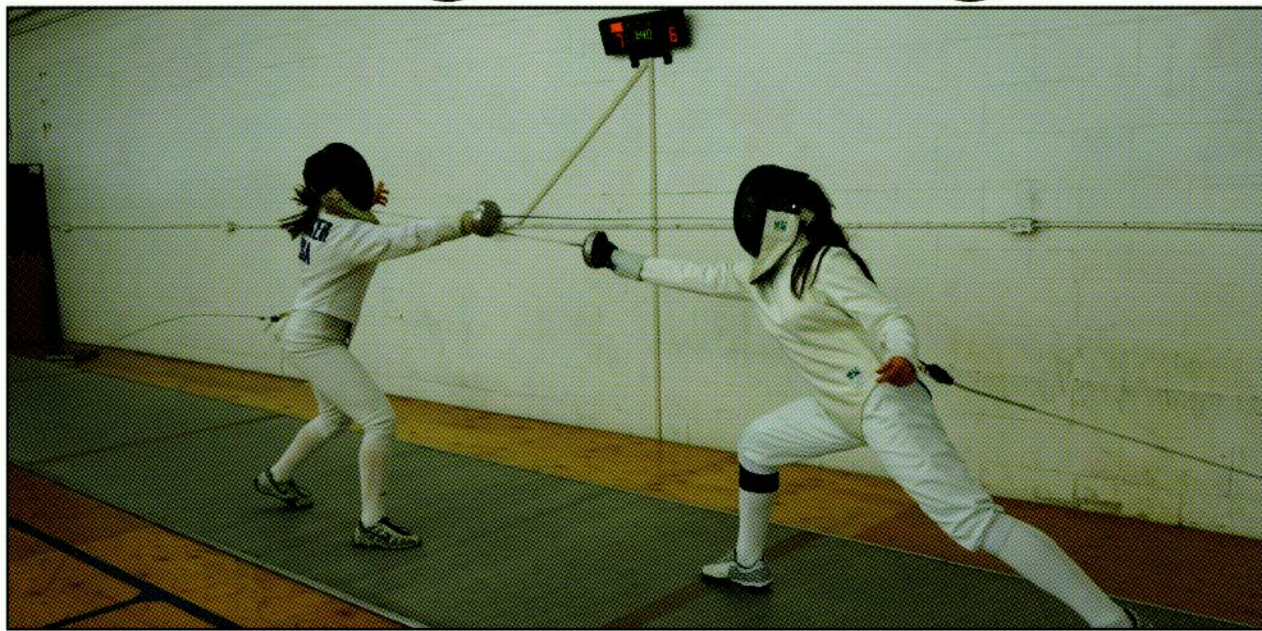
"I was somewhat relieved," Kuo said. "Order was being restored."

The main difference between homeschooling and public school is the freedom to choose. When a student is homeschooled they decide from workbooks, textbooks and online courses.

However, homeschooling does not provide the extracurriculars that public schools provide such as sports teams, peers and musical programs.

"I prefer public school," Kuo said. "I value the school atmosphere that homeschooling does not provide."

Yao lunges through fencing tours



PHOTO/ Pamela Pan

"Although many things have changed since I moved to America, fencing was one thing I carried over and devoted much effort into," Yao said. "It means a lot to me, it's my passion and my dream."

By Pamela Pan
Staff Writer

Fast the gasping and cheering from the audience, two fencers jolt back and forth on a narrow piste. Decked out in white gear with a body cord leading to a scoring box, Junior Cynthia Yao shows off her aggressive side as she thrusts towards her opponent, making a splendid strike, harvests another point.

At age ten, Yao discovered the fun in fencing, though at that time she struggled to hold up her sword and often lost her balance. She paused training as soon as she entered middle school due increased school work, but decided to resume fence training last June. She joined Fortune Fencing, and with two group and three private one-on-one classes per week, Yao slowly regained familiarity with the game rules.

Last month, Yao attended the Southern California 2015-2016 Junior Olympic Qualifier Tournament. Using a dynamic attack-defense technique, Yao defeated nine opponents, a triumph for a restarter. After encountering a major setback, she ended up in the sixth place.

"My legs were shaking, because I have never been to such a big event," Yao said. "But I did pretty well in the competition; my coach also encouraged me after seeing the results."

Eager to step up to a higher level competition, Yao participated in the 2016 South Coast Invitational Regional Youth Circuit Tournament on January 17th. However, she confronted trouble as she found out her weapon wasn't working. With her teammates' help and her coach's advice, Yao adjusted her anxiety level and finished the game. Though this time she wasn't satisfied

with her results, she had won more experience along with a few friends.

"Our coach told me to find my opponent's weak point when he saw me struggling," Yao said. "Although we were enemies on the fencing strip, when we got off, we started chatting and followed each other on Instagram."

During a training course, Yao and her peer fencers jog and jump rope to warm up before doing specific skill practices on hand-control, footwork and body-balance. Last thing on their practice agenda is to put on actual fencing gear and have individual or group matches with each other, gravitating sweat underneath layers of protections even on a cool day.

The type of fencing weapon Yao uses is épée, the heaviest in all three kinds of weapons. A épée fencer can only play against other épée fencers, as three categories of fencing are divided based upon different weapon structures and fencing rules. Épée allows a fencer to target the opponent's entire body, it requires them to coordinate more body muscles than foil and saber fencing, both of which restrict the target area to just upper body parts, with saber excluding the arms and head. In addition, épée's three-sided blade has a stiff point that can easily bruise fencers.

"I'm not very strong physically, so I faced a lot of failures and often got hurt in the beginning," Yao said. "I also had difficulties understanding the coach when he talked with technical terms for fencing, in English."

In sophomore year, Yao and her family moved to Temple City from Beijing, China. Like most immigrant students, changing to an English name and starting anew greatly contributed to some of her most challenging breakthroughs.

"Although we have a lot of Chinese students on campus, it's crazy how even the different Mandarin accents made me feel strange and nervous to this new environment," Yao said. "I learned that in a big melting pot like America, I'm responsible for myself, so I have to be brave."

Long live the king and queen

By Katie Burke
Staff Writer

One of the most important traditions in our small town is the Camellia Parade and Festival. Every year the town picks two lucky first graders to represent the city as the camellia King and Queen, and during their first grade year, Seniors Dantin Duhamel and Kayla Gan were awarded this honor.

Senior Kayla Gan was named the queen of the Camellia Parade in first grade and the whole experience has inspired her to become involved in her community, being a part of Dragonflicks, Choreo, and ASB.

"I've been able to be in the parade through Oak and TCHS Auxiliaries, bringing even more memories to be nostalgic about," said Gan. "I have a greater appreciation for our small community filled with the many volunteers that work so hard to keep up TC's traditions."

Gan is grateful that she has been able to participate in community traditions since such a young age, and as a Miss Temple City princess, she will be able to appreciate this wonderful tradition before she graduates and goes to college.

Senior Dantin Duhamel was the king of the Camellia court in first grade and this adventure exposed him to all the hard work that goes into the parade and festival each year.

"Taking part in the Camellia court was an great adventure for me, one where I was able to meet lots of people and have opportunities that I usually wouldn't have had," said Duhamel. "I feel very nostalgic when I watch the parade because my oldest brother was actually one of the princes, and its crazy knowing that my family has been a part of the experience multiple times."

Duhamel's love of photography began to blossom while he was in the court, and taking photos has since become one of his favorite hobbies. He has been a photographer for the past seven years, and has been a part of the yearbook since seventh grade. In fact, he is the head photographer for the yearbook.

Since this is their senior year, Gan and Duhamel feel especially nostalgic towards the parade and are happy that they were able to be apart of our community's largest tradition. This experience has shown them all of the preparation that goes into the parade and festival. Their participation in the Camellia court has led to them to finding hobbies and activities that they enjoy, and there is no doubt it will continue to inspire young minds.



PHOTO COURTESY/NASA

Lindsey was the Commander for STS-104, a mission where the crew experimented with nitrogen and oxygen lines for future missions. The trip on the space shuttle, Atlantis, lasted a total of 12 days.

Alumni Watch: Lindsey rockets back home

By Janeth Inatomi
Staff Writer

Many dream about seeing the world from space and only a limited amount of people in the world actually will, including TCHS alumnus Mr. Steven Lindsey.

Mr. Lindsey is an executive director at the Sierra Nevada Corporation's Space Exploration Systems, where he overlooks the design, development and testing of the orbital machine Dream Chaser. He has over 30 years of flight experience and has been on five space missions. This year, he will be returning home as Grand Marshal of the Camellia Festival.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to engage in the community again," Lindsey said. "Temple City is where I was born and raised, its where I got my start."

During his time at TCHS, Lindsey gravitated to the subjects of math and science. He believed that the practical application of classes like Calculus would allow him to thrive in the fields of engineering and science.

"If you're passionate about becoming an engineer or an astronaut or anything in general, just

go for it," Lindsey said. "It'll take a lot of hard work and schooling but remember to just enjoy the journey."

Lindsey realized his dream of becoming an astronaut as he grew up and watched man land on the moon for the first time. Although he initially thought it was unattainable, the inspiration he gathered from his father, an aeronautical engineer, made it his primary career choice.

"I was always interested in flying planes and engineering," Lindsey said. "After becoming an experimental test pilot, which basically combines engineering, science and piloting, I found out that I was qualified to become an astronaut."

Lindsey received his bachelor degree in aeronautical engineering from the US Air Force Academy in 1982 and a masters of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1990. After serving as a pilot and mission commander for several STS missions in space, he officially retired from NASA in 2011. He was also recently inducted to the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Soccer hopes to improve standings

By Aaron Ding
Staff Writer

Since the beginning of the season, the Rams have maintained a close 7-10 score. Most recently, the Rams earned a victory against Monrovia, but lost to both La Cañada and the San Marino.

The Rams started strong during their game against San Marino on Jan. 27. However, despite their best efforts, the Titans scored first and continued to press forward with an aggressive offense. Infiltrating the team's weakened defense, the Rams were unable to counter the impetus and ultimately lost 5-1.

"We didn't play as well as we can," Coach Shane Watkins said. "We were underwhelmed, but I'm happy with their efforts."

The team would only get a moment of reprieve before facing the La Cañada Spartans on Jan. 29. During the game, the Rams initially matched the Spartans neck to neck with a score of 1-1 by halftime, but lost their momentum during the second half, causing them to lose 5-1.

During the game with Monrovia on Feb. 3, the Wildcats remained in control of the game, intercepting the ball from the Rams. The fierce speed and quick passes from the Wildcats overwhelmed the Rams, ending the game with a 5-1 loss for the Rams. When reflecting on the match, Head Coach Watkins attributes the loss to experience.

"The team is young and inexperienced," Coach Watkins said. "They don't have the mental toughness to play out the entire



PHOTO/ Aaron Ding
Junior Brandon Pham makes a pass to Senior Juan Charre, who scores the Rams' only goal against La Cañada. Though the Rams lost the game, they hope to make a comeback in their games against South Pasadena on Feb. 8 and 9, and San Marino on Feb. 10 and 11.

game. I think the players need more experience than the four months of the season."

The Rams developed various strategies to compensate for their lack of experience. One particular favored strategy is gaining possession of the ball near the team's goalpost and sending it to the front, giving the team chances for goals. The Rams hone and perfect this strategy by both practicing and viewing videos of previous matches.

"To fix our faults we focus deeply on the recently failed tactics," Senior Caleb Yamamoto said. "Our coach gives the team visual and verbal strategies on how to make sure these mistakes never happen again."

The team remains optimistic about their chances of earning a position in C.I.F.s. With their strategies and determination, the Rams hope to storm the competition there.

"I feel our team goal is to get into a po-

sition to qualify for C.I.F. and go beyond in that tournament," Junior John Simpson said. "I believe we still have a chance of making it if we play good."

Despite their recent losses, the team spirit remains unbreakable.

"The part that I like the best is the friendships that I make on the team," Senior Nichan Dakramanjan said. "It's like we're all brothers."

Basketball sets sights on C.I.F.

By Gracie Chen
Staff Writer

With an overall record of 14-9, the Girls Varsity Basketball team looks forward to finishing the rest of the season with a shot at competing in C.I.F.. The team is third in the Rio Hondo League Standings and tenth in the Southern Section Division 2A Girls Basketball Standings.

The Rams won against Monrovia, 52-45, on Feb. 3 during the home game. Monrovia

proved to be a difficult opponent during the first half. Despite the Wildcats' six point lead by the first half, the Rams teamwork allowed them to pull ahead and led them to their victory.

During their away game at San Marino, the team won 53-39 on Jan. 27. The team's next away game took place at La Cañada, where the Rams lost with a final score of 44-25. During the first quarter, the Rams tied with the Spartans but lost their momentum during the later quarters.

In the home game against South Pasadena on Jan. 22, the Rams lost 52-4. The team played well during the beginning quarters but slowly fell behind South Pasadena. During the fourth quarter, they tried to make a last minute comeback but it was not

enough to beat the Tigers.

"We lost against South Pasadena because of lack of communication on defense, not hitting shots when it was crucial and getting ahead of ourselves," Senior Tiffany Chan said. "The only obstacle we have is ourselves. It is the small mistakes we make that cost us a game."

The team played against Blair at a home conference on Jan. 20 and won with a score of 70-19, demonstrating the hard work and effort the team put into its vigorous practices.

Although the Rams have been doing well, they continue to struggle to work as a unit. In order to unify the team, members practice shooting and passing drills in addition to going over games for three hours four times a week in order to make sure that they are in their best condition.

"Every time we practice we come in prepared and ready to work hard," Junior Natalie Wu said. "Without sweat and pain there would be no point of games. Even though practice has no glory there would be no glory without it."

To ensure that there will not be any misunderstandings when future games are in progress, the Rams are focused on improving their communication skills.

"As a team, our goal is to play together and keep constant communication on and off the court," Chan said. "We want ourselves to have a stronger connection so that we play as one. Also, we keep up a good energy by encouraging each other during games and practices."

Rams return to L.A.



By Andrew Rhee
Staff Writer

Since the Rams left L.A. over 20 years ago, football fans have not had a home team they could root for. However, on Jan. 12, sports enthusiasts celebrated when they received news that, not one, but possibly two teams, would be moving back. The Chargers will wait one year to confirm their decision, but the Rams have already left St. Louis and are looking to build a stadium in Inglewood.

The Rams' return to L.A. seems like a win-win situation, since the NFL can collect revenue in the second biggest market in America and L.A. reunites with its old team. However, the Rams may have a hard time living up to the city's expectations.

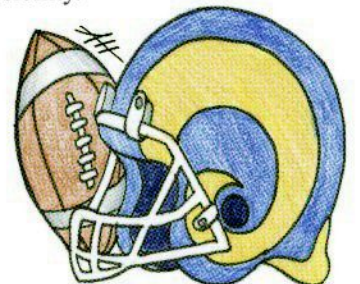
As a L.A. sports fan, I want to see the Rams succeed in California. However, there are just too many obstacles preventing them assimilating into L.A. The Rams have consistently finished in the bottom half of the NFC West division and haven't made the playoffs since 2004. L.A. fans are notorious in the sports world for being a market only attracted to stars and no one is exactly on the Nick Foles bandwagon. The team once known as "The Greatest Show on Turf" has been relegated to "the mediocre show on dirt."

This homecoming would have been more significant if L.A. didn't have some of the most historic teams in sports. L.A. has collected five NBA rings, three Stan-

ley Cups and a World Series win. L.A. sports have been successful during the absence of football and the Rams will have a hard time living up to legacies of the Kings, Dodgers and Lakers.

The Rams will also have to keep pace with other football teams. During the 21 years that L.A. did not have its own team, many of the city's residents pledged their loyalty to other franchises, such as the Raiders. It will be hard to convince football fans to switch their allegiance. The NFL may need the L.A. market in order to increase revenue, but L.A. would be just fine without the addition of the Rams.

Although it seems like an uphill climb for them, they can still win the hearts of Southern Californian sports fans. The team has improved dramatically in the past five years by building around young players they drafted. Players such as Todd Gurley and Aaron Donald are talented, so the Rams just require an ace quarterback to become a great team, potentially reaching the playoffs in two years. Hopefully a few years from now, a Rams Super Bowl game will be a very real possibility.



ILLUSTRATION/ A. Hernandez



PHOTO/ Elizabeth Liu

Senior Jordan Mar and Freshman Jillian Takemura practice for their next games against Blair on Feb. 5 and South Pasadena on Feb. 9.



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