

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL Rampage

Volume 61 Issue 10

Monday, March 21, 2016

tchsrampage.com



ELD students share life stories



PHOTO/ Gracie Chen

MY OWN STORY: Senior Vuong Anh Nguyen, as well as eight other ELD students, performed original monologues sharing their immigrant experiences at an event called "My Own Story" on March 16-17 in Theatre 601. Independent contractor Alex Luu directed the show.

INSIDE

ENTERTAINMENT	2
OPINION	3
FOCUS	4-5
FEATURE	6
SPORTS	7

PHOTOS/C. Dodge, P. Pan, A. Ding

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter

2

Rosebrook saves the day

4-5

Softball swings into new season

7

College, career class hits campus this fall

By Elizabeth Liu
Staff Writer

Imagine being halfway through college when you realize that you have absolutely no interest in the major you have selected. Looking back, you wish you were more open to more career choices and spent more time discovering your passions.

Starting next fall, incoming freshmen will be required to take a college and career class as an elective. This semester long class will let students explore their choices after high school and allow them to focus on themselves and what they wish to achieve in the future.

"The ultimate goal is that students come

out of this class with a ten year plan," Principal Ms. Mary Jo Fosselman King said. "The biggest push now in post high school planning is to make sure students have identified a career and that they will find the right post education."

TCHS, along with eight other schools in California, was selected to receive a grant and the chance to pilot the new college and career program. TCUSD decided to add this new class due to the nation's call for an increase in career technical education and suggestions from the last WASC accreditation to give students the opportunity to explore career pathways.

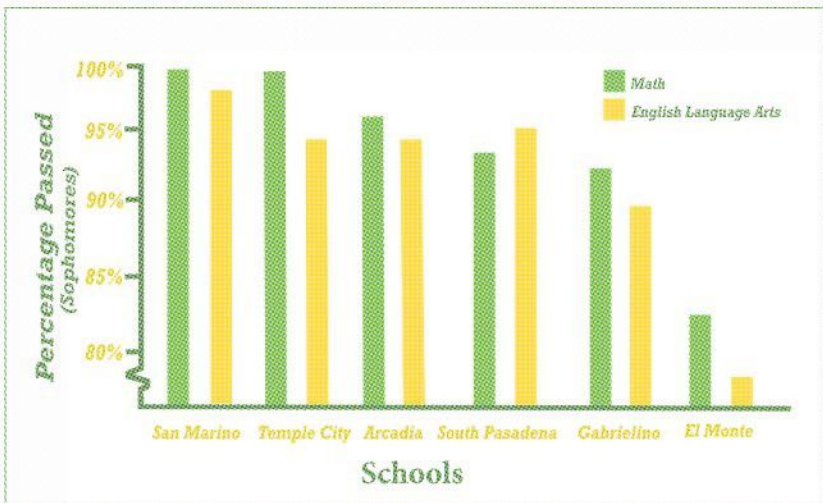
Although there are concerns regarding the class's effect on the courses freshmen

can take, changes will be made to the Class of 2020's schedules in order make room for the new college and career course. Freshmen will now have the chance to take one additional class in order to minimize any scheduling conflicts and prevent the loss of any electives.

"We are allowing freshmen to select a seventh class if they would like to in order to accommodate for the college and career seminar course," Counselor Ms. Martinne Gonzales said. "We're assuming that they are going to be offering this multiple periods throughout the day and not just once, so they should have room to accommodate everything but I do feel that the benefits of the class make it all worthwhile."

March/April Ram Calendar						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
20	21	21	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

March 24: Spring Assembly
March 25: Minimum Day
March 28-April 1: Spring Break
April 15: Sadie Hawkins' Dance
April 21-22: Advanced Drama's "Galactic Orbs: The Farce Meanders" in Theatre 601



2014-2015 CAHSEE results

By Alisha Hernandez
Photo Editor

Starting this year, the California High School Exit Exam, which tested student knowledge, will not be used as a graduation requirement. This suspension is part of a change in the education system to adapt to national Common Core standards.

NEWS BRIEFS

By Jennifer Siu
Staff Writer

Broken Glass Throughout 300 Building

Early in the morning of March 15, security cameras spotted a duo trespassing campus and vandalizing the 300 building. The two suspects, believed to be a male and a female, shattered office windows and looked through desks and drawers. Loose cash and Counselor Mr. Cary Smith's iPod were stolen.

"They were obviously looking for something, but they didn't damage our computers or take the radios," Principal Ms. Mary Jo King said. "They just came in and made a big mess. It was not a nice way to start the day."

Investigators believe the pair pried open the door to the administrations office, as well as broke the glass on the doors with a crowbar. While no significant leads have been made, deputies are currently trying to pursue the suspects through fingerprint analysis.

FBLA Sectionals

FBLA members competed in Sectionals at Six Flags Magic Mountain on Feb. 6. Several students placed high in their events in categories such as Entrepreneurship, Agribusiness and Public Speaking. They will be moving on to States held in Ontario on April 14-17.

Science Olympiad

TCHS placed 7th in regionals at the Science Olympiad held at Occidental College on Feb 27. The team is expected to advance to state competitions in Ontario on April 2 due to their placement in the competition.

National Ocean Science Bowl

Students from both Team A and Team B competed in the National Ocean Science Bowl at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada on Feb. 27. Team A won 4th place overall and received a sportsmanship award, earning them a free trip to Catalina Island.

Experience the wizarding world

By Aaron Ding
Staff Writer



PHOTO/ Charlie Dodge

Featuring a fast paced tour through Hogwarts, the California Wizarding World is a slightly smaller version of its Orlando, Florida counterpart. Tourists can peruse the snow-capped spires of Hogsmeade, all the while enjoying an icy butterbeer.

As Harry Potter fans, we were all disappointed when we did not receive our Hogwarts acceptance letters. But fear not—because even as a Muggle you can experience parts of the wizarding world.

If you can't visit Hogsmeade, Starbucks may be the next best thing. Butterbeer is a popular wizard drink, but

what many do not know is that it is available at Starbucks. Starbucks calls their drink Butterbeer Frappuccino, a Frappuccino based drink that is available on their secret menu. A grande size consists of a Creme Frappuccino base, three pumps of caramel syrup and three pumps of toffee nut syrup, all topped with caramel drizzle.

Another Harry Potter food item is Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans, famous for having jellybeans of literally every flavor in existence, but did you know that the Muggle world can offer the same?

The jellybean company Jelly Belly has created a series of jellybeans imitating Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans with flavors like earthworm, earwax and vomit. Jelly Belly also created a separate merchandise line called Bean Boozled which has a larger variety of flavors like Skunk Spray, dog food and rotten egg.

In addition to food, Quidditch has been taken out of the Harry Potter Universe. Many colleges have an official team, competing with other colleges across the nation in regionals for the chance to participate at the World Cup, hosted by non-profit organization US Quidditch.

Many of the rules of the game remain the same as those in the novels. In the game, there are three Chasers, two Beaters, one Keeper and one Seeker. There are still three hoops for chasers to score in, chasers still receive their ten points upon scoring a goal and the game still ends when a seeker catches the Snitch.

However, the rules are tweaked slightly, since it is not likely that any of our players have a flying broom. Players still have a broom between their legs at all time during the game and rule changes include having three Bludgers instead of two and any player hit with a Bludger is out of the game until they reach their goalpost. The Snitch is replaced with a ball attached to the waist of a neutral athlete, whose job is to avoid capture. The catching of the Snitch is not the 150 points that we are familiar with but rather 30 points.

Live in pastels with colors of the year

By Janeth Inatomi
Staff Writer

Spring is here and so is the time to bring out the bright hues of the season. For the first time, Pantone has chosen two colors of the year, Rose Quartz and Serenity, are the perfect colors to incorporate into your fresh Spring looks.

In hopes of following 2015's progress in gender expression, Pantone decided on the classic baby blue and pink as a way to represent the blur in what used to be gender binary.

These two colors are a perfect demonstration of a balance between connection and wellness as the warm rosy pink and tranquil blue complement one another nicely. Rampage has compiled a few students that have already begun to incorporate these beautiful hues into their fresh spring looks.



Freshman Flora Liang loves to pair her delicate Rose Quartz top with bold complementing colors. She prefers to dress up the soft color with gold jewelry, her favorite watch, a pair of distressed jeans and a dark pink jean jacket. Liang loves to sport a laid back street style which involves lots of darker hues. 90's grunge and American Apparel clothing is a major go to for Liang, especially when it comes in pastels like her top shown to the right.



Although she usually sports dark colors, Junior Katelyn Wong loves the versatility of her Serenity crop top and how it adds a splash of color to her outfits. The fact that it pairs great with a variety of bottoms, accessories and shoes makes it a favorite in her wardrobe. Wong's fashion revolves around a quirky, contemporary feel allowing her to add her own twists to simplistic outfits. In the end, she likes to wear clothes that make her feel confident especially the darker hued clothing.



For Senior Emily Saxon having a variety of pastel colors and patterns in her wardrobe is no big deal. She loves to pair her Rose Quartz skirt with a tribalesque top and the occasional bow. The light colors bring a happy and fresh feeling to Saxon's closet which she absolutely adores. Her everyday style revolves around a preppy and girly atmosphere, allowing her to mix and match outfits to her liking. Pairing pastels with solid colors such as black and white allow Saxon to keep her fashion style sleek and casual.

PHOTOS/ Janeth Inatomi

New restaurants: hop off the bandwagon

By Catherine Tran & Johnson Pham
Web Editor & Photo Editor

While some restaurants leave a good impression by inventing new recipes, others blend into the background as cliché cafés.

Many restaurants, like Rendezvous Café, stick to the stereotypical, overdone café image but leave customers wanting something more unique. Rendezvous is like every other café in the San Gabriel Valley. Although Rendezvous did attempt to create a modern, chic atmosphere, there was nothing memorable about the random, over the top decorations and colorful chairs.

Rendezvous' menu offered nothing unique and was rather disappointing since their food proportions were unsatisfying for their value. For prices ranging from \$5 to \$12 and small servings, there was nothing memorable about Rendezvous or their menu. Although their service was satisfactory and notable, the overall experience was bland and simply unimpressive.

However, every so often, a revolutionary restaurant breaks through and creates an entirely different experi-

ence. Afters Ice Cream, located in Pasadena, converted a vintage gas station into an ice cream store which gave it an old timey, classical feel. In all their locations, Afters has a black and white theme that gives it a simple yet sophisticated touch but keeps its modern aesthetic.

Afters offers a brand new product that is both innovative and delicious. Known for their six dollar Milky Buns, which are warm donuts served with ice cream inside, Afters also offers a large variety of flavors such as Big Stix, Vietnamese Coffee and even flavors as bizarre as Cookie Monster. They add their own personal touch by combining two desserts and they made an ingenious invention that is definitely worth all the hype it is getting.

Afters offered a more unique experience. They took a risk by trying to create something new and it clearly worked in their favor. Unlike Rendezvous, Afters did not recycle old ideas or serve stereotypical, overpriced food but rather tried their hand at a new recipe.

While Rendezvous stuck to ordinary looking food, Afters choose to step up their game by making their menu items bizarre colors.



PHOTO/ Catherine Tran

Customers can choose to order handcrafted ice cream for \$4 a scoop, \$6 for two scoops or \$7 for three scoops.

Should CLC students be admitted to Grad Nite?



By Max Clark
Exchange Editor

Students from the Dr. Doug Sears Learning Center also known as the CLC are currently invited to come to Grad Nite and I think this is wrong. Grad Nite takes place at the high school after graduation and provides students with one last chance to spend time with their graduating class as a whole and serves as a reward for graduating.

I have done a lot of reflection on my time growing up in the school district and on the connections I have made with members of my class. I think it's pretty amazing that I can look at most of my classmates and think of a personal connection I've made with them over the years.

In addition to the personal connections that our senior class has made, each student at TCHS contributes to the unique environment created through numerous sports teams, clubs, publications and classes that makes attending TCHS such a great place.

With all this in mind, I don't think that students from the CLC should be able to attend this special night, as these students did not necessarily do anything to contribute to the special environment at Temple City nor did they forge the connections that the rest of the senior class did over the course of four years.

Opponents of this stance may argue that allowing students from the CLC to attend Grad Nite provides a safe place for them to celebrate after graduation; their commencement ceremonies take place on June 6, whereas the high school graduation takes place on June 10.

While there is convincing evidence that drunk driving accidents are prevalent after high school graduation, CLC students wouldn't benefit from TCHS Grad Nite, as graduation for the two schools are on separate days.

I am by no means asserting that students attending the CLC are bad people or any different than us, but simply offering the opinion that they should have their own celebration as they attend a separate school.



By Charlie Dodge
Staff Writer

Despite the stigma and rumors that surround them, students at the Dr. Doug Sears Learning Center are quite similar to us. The learning center is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and offers classes which fulfill the requirements for a high school diploma. The students that attend the school complete assignments, they take tests and they graduate, just like us.

Some students consider Grad Nite one final party with all of their friends from high school, and I fail to see how allowing CLC students into the party will negate the fun for everyone else.

These kids have worked just as hard as everyone else, probably even harder, to graduate. CLC students should not be denied access to the Grad Nite party. The reason that the party exists is not only to celebrate graduation (which the CLC students in question have accomplished) but also to keep seniors safe. Grad Nite's safety should not be exclusive to high school students.

"In 1999, MADD reports, more than 1,000 people across the nation died because of crashes involving teenagers driving drunk after school prom or graduation partying," one Los Angeles Times article reports. "The now-popular grad night parties are designed to save lives by keeping teenagers away from alcohol and off the road."

Seniors are locked in on graduation night because keeping students on campus can cut down on the amount of drunk driving and other reckless, post-grad behavior that may occur.

On momentous occasions like graduation, bad decisions can run rampant, and I believe that CLC students should be allowed to safely celebrate Grad Nite with the TCHS students. When administrators decide to keep students safe and celebrate important milestones, there should be no exceptions.



The Zodiack Cruzing through the killings?

David Brackbill, Opinion Editor

What would once be surprising developments in a presidential race are now commonplace: an anthropomorphic Cheez-It is leading the 2016 Republican race and its most bitter rival, Ted Cruz, is waiting to unleash his Zodiac Killer form to take Donald's delegates for his own.

Yes, it's clear that Ted Cruz is indeed the Bay Area Zodiac Killer. How he managed to kill five to 28 unsuspecting innocents starting two years before his official birthdate remains a mystery of the case, yet San Francisco Police Department has recently opened the case to further evidence, likely logging painstakingly precise details of Cruz's political campaigns and "fundraising visits."

Now, why would a notorious serial killer try to achieve the highest elected office in the nation? Simple. Cruz, now better known as THE ZODIAC KILLER, is aiming for control of the presidential pardon. After achieving office, he will confess to his true identity during the swearing-in and immediately commute his sentence, thereby freeing himself of the manhunt he's spent over 40 years escaping.

Don't believe me? Well ponder this – Ted Cruz has been photographed wearing two watches, one on either wrist. Now, one watch is for ordinary human time, which he keeps track of to blend in with the rest of the nonlizard evangelicals. The other is for murder time, set biometrically to Mr. Cruz's precise bloodlust needs, cycling between the various animals of the Zodiac. As this year is the year of the monkey, Cruz can most conveniently hold his human form at length for presidential debates.

Obama birther theorists of eight years ago have absolutely nothing on the FACT that Ted Cruz is the Zodiac Killer, reemerged in 2016. Why do you think Senator Cruz had the third worst Senate attendance record? He was busy killing across various constituencies!

Luckily, the public has begun to take note. Public Policy Polling asked voting-age Floridians whether or not Ted Cruz is the Zodiac Killer and 38% said either yes or they were unsure. It's good to see public discourse reach new heights and our populace avoid the candidate's trickery.

In the race between the Cheeto Puff and the Zodiac Killer, we Republicans don't have many options, but at least we can exercise our right to not get murdered. Vote Kasich 2016 if you value your life and your tacos.

Are class tryouts beneficial for the student population?



Michelle Zhang
Staff Writer

Back in 2010, College Board announced that all students had the right to take AP classes without initially being required to try out for them. However, after some time they put a halt to that recommendation due to the drop in pass rates on AP exams.

The College Board found that students should indeed go through a process that helps determine whether or not we are ready for the rigorous pace and challenge of advanced classes.

There would be no purpose of an AP class if everyone was allowed in. It's called Advanced Placement for a reason and that reason is for students who need an advanced pace and a challenge. It's not fair to slow down the class for students who would struggle under that challenge.

Also, tryouts keep pass rates intact. The

AP World History passrate has consistently been 75% or higher. With no selection process, it could drop.

Even with tryouts intact, there are still students that decide to drop their honors or AP classes. Without the tryout process, there could be an abundance of students swarming to the counselor's office to drop their honors or AP classes. Not to mention the amount of students that would tank the class and bomb the AP exam.



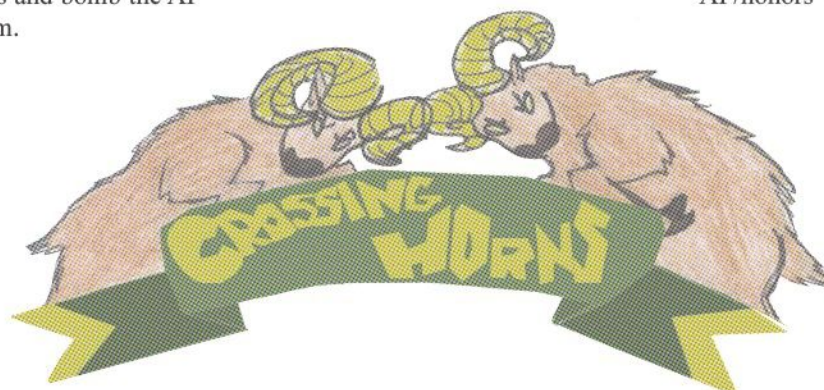
By David Brackbill
Opinion Editor

While this system does ensure an attendant and competent class, it also creates an insulated AP/honors student community that is isolated from their peers. This phenomenon is more striking in the 11th and 12th grades, where all of the low-intake AP/honors classes

(Gov/Econ, Calc BC, Physics) could be made up of the same revolving pool of high-achieving students. While there is an argument for meritocracy to be made, in some cases admission into honors and AP classes is unduly biased to past success in the early honors and AP classes and glowing teacher reviews that were not possible for students who didn't feed into the system early on.

By basically allowing an insular AP caste to form, the school eliminates chances for underperforming but passionate students to be allowed into challenging classes, hindering the growth and college appeal for students who perhaps bloomed later in their academic career.

Essentially, removing the tryout requirement in favor of open enrollment in any AP or honors class could bring together diverse elements of the school as well as raise the academic standards of the average class.



ILLUSTRATION/ Charlie Dodge

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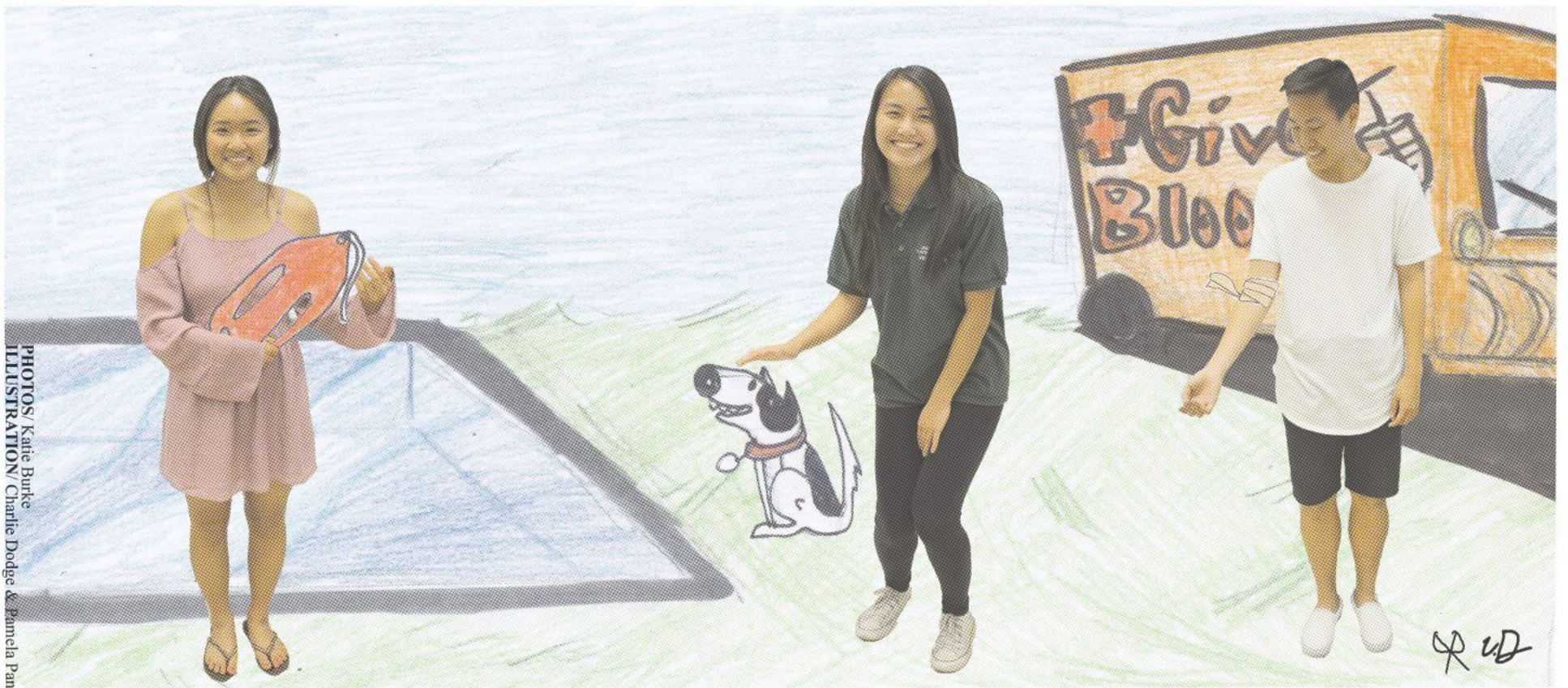
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The articles published on the Opinion page reflect only the views of their respective writers. In the case of an unsigned editorial, the article reflects the views of the staff as a whole. Articles do not reflect the views of the student body or the administration. Letters to the Editor are welcome, but Rampage reserves the right to publish these at the discretion of the staff. They may also be edited in regard to space.



Student **lifesavers** to the rescue

By Katie Burke
Staff Writer



PHOTOS/Katie Burke
ILLUSTRATION/Charlie Dodge & Pamela Pan

Lifeguard

A three year member of the swim team, Junior Veronica Cheng decided to take her love for water to the next level by registering for the lifeguard ROP class at the high school. She began the course in February and plans to complete it at the end of May or early June.

"It makes me feel like I'm useful because I can actually be certified to help," Cheng said. "I can also get a summer job at the Rosemead pool or other nearby pools."

Cheng trains at the high school pool once a week for five hours, where she learns to do CPR and AED, Automated External Defibrillator. She also does endurance swimming and eventually will learn to retrieve things from the bottom of the pool.

Being a lifeguard is a very big responsibility and if you think you are up to the job, sign up for the lifeguard ROP class next school year, where you can learn to become a lifesaver like Cheng.

Animal Rescuer

For four hours every week, Junior Kristine Pham volunteers at the Pasadena Humane Society. She assists veterinarians preparing for surgery, helps animals recover after their surgeries and walks the shelter dogs around the local park.

"I chose to volunteer here because I want to become a veterinarian," Pham said. "It's a good way for me to get hands-on experience to see if I like the work."

Pham, an avid animal lover, began volunteering last October and has enjoyed her experience working with the animals, especially the dogs.

If you love animals and need to complete your community service hours, the Pasadena Humane Society is always looking for new, animal loving volunteers. Possible volunteers may have to do further training, be interviewed, or take a test. Visit their website to find out more about the application process and informational meetings.

Blood Donor

Last November, Senior Eddie Wang took part in the American Red Cross blood drive. After his friend persuaded him, Wang decided to donate blood for the first time because he wanted help those who needed it.

Wang felt very at ease donating because of the comfortable environment and caring workers. After donating a pint, Wang helped himself to a wide selection of snacks to help him replenish his strength.

"Donating blood made me feel good because I was able to help someone who needed it more than me," Wang said. "It didn't hurt as much as I expected, so I would do it again."

If needles and blood don't scare you, giving blood helps many sick people, and if you are over 18 you can do it without parent permission at the local blood donation center at Methodist Hospital in Arcadia, Altadena or in Pasadena.

Maria Manjarrez **saves** prom day

By Gracie Chen
Staff Writer

Every year, students spend hundreds of dollars on prom attire that they may only wear once or twice. Unfortunately, not every student has the money and as a result, these students miss out on one of the biggest events in high school. Instead of letting your clothes rot in your closet, save your formal wear for Project Prom. The last day to drop off donations is April 27.

Recently, students on campus have been dropping off their gently used dresses, shoes, jewelry, ties and shirts at 311 and the Media Center to contribute to the prom attire drive for students unable to afford expensive attire. The donations from the project will go directly to underprivileged students attending Crenshaw and Compton High Schools.

Senior Maria Manjarrez, who is in charge of the project, started Project Prom to inspire students to give back to the

community. Manjarrez has also contacted 13 other schools to take part in the drive.

"Not everyone has the financial ability to pay the exorbitant price of Prom night, so I decided to start a prom attire drive for both guys and girls," Manjarrez said. "I also wanted to motivate our peers to invest in activities regarding civic engagement with philanthropy."

So far, Maranatha, San Marino and Arcadia are working with Temple City on Project Prom, raising about four pairs of heels and 25 dresses during the first week.

Manjarrez was impelled to start the project that most people were not able to meet the prices of prom.

"I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and high school trajectory by feeling their best at prom because they've worked so hard," Manjarrez said. "Not everyone has the ability to purchase a prom ticket, pay for a dress, pay for other expenses, so I just wanted to help out."



PHOTO/Gracie Chen
Manjarrez collects donated dresses and shirts in the Project Prom box located in 311.

THE RAMS REPERTORY COMPANY OF TCHS PRESENTS

GALACTIC

THE FARCE MEANDERS

ORBS

THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST AND
FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND, 2016 AT 7PM
TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS - THEATRE 601
9501 EAST LEMON AVENUE, TEMPLE CITY, CA 91780
PRE-SALE TICKET: \$7 / GENERAL ADMISSION: \$10
TO ORDER PRE-SALE TICKETS, CONTACT THE ACTIVITIES OFFICE AT
626-548-5000 EXT.5160



ILLUSTRATION: E. Bandler & A. Hernandez

Alumni Watch: Rosebrook trains, studies to **save** lives

By Pamela Pan
Staff Writer

Two minutes after someone dials 9-1-1, a group of firefighters arrive at a house that's flaring up in flames. As some of them attach escape ladders against windows and pull out hoses to attack the fire, a few start going into the enormous blaze to save lives.

For this reason, many people think extinguishing fire is a dangerous task. However, alumnus Mr. Stephen Rosebrook understands the charm of firefighting.

One and a half years ago, Rosebrook took his first fire science course at Pasadena Community College. His love for the subject sparked almost immediately. He decided to stray away from his original major, anthropology, to expand his knowledge of his new interest by engaging in programs and trainings.

"I think being a firefighter is a perfect mix of intellect, logic, as well as technical skills," Rosebrook said. "I've found something I really enjoy doing."

After graduating from Verdugo Fire Academy, Rosebrook continues to take fire technology programs at various schools like Glendale Community College and

Pasadena City College. He also works as a EMT for the McCormick Ambulance.

"My family has a pretty strong commitment to service," Rosebrook said. "I was taught from an early age that your community has given a lot to you, so you should give a lot back to the community."

A typical day of training for Rosebrook usually starts early in the morning as he puts on his gear. After making sure that all engines and safety equipment are functioning normally Rosebrook and his teammates go down to the drill yard, where they attentively await for instructors.

Because firefighting is physically demanding, all trainees have to do strenuous exercise. In smaller groups, they practice specific tasks, like cutting holes in the roof and dealing with hazardous materials, in order to enhance their skills on not only life-saving, but also

self-preservation.

"One of the things firefighters don't often actually die from is fire," Rosebrook said. "Firefighting is dangerous, but we can mitigate the risks through constant training that we rely on when things go wrong. There are always ways to lessen the risk."



PHOTO/Pamela Pan

Firefighters typically pull out at least 50 feet of hose off the transverse bed as preparation of long distance firefighting.

Brit's Bit

To save or not to save

Brittany Hsu

Editor-in-Chief



Virginity is a weird topic for me. It's only going to get weirder, because I live in a fairly liberal society and traditional house.

Everyone tells me different things.

They've told me save myself for marriage. Sex is a sacred thing—something so valuable that only my future husband should have with me.

If I lose my virginity before I meet the one, I'll be all used up. Dirty, tainted, degraded, worthless. I'll lose my soulmate simply because I made the mistake of giving myself away to someone that didn't deserve it in the past.

They've also told me that virginity is some made up concept meant to shame me. It's my body, and I can do whatever I want with it. I don't have to save my virginity for my future husband and act like I wouldn't like sex otherwise. Sexual desires are human—why deny them? If someone doesn't want me simply because I'm not a virgin, he can't be the one for me.

To make things more confusing, there are a dozen other variations that people say. "Save sex for someone you love." Or, "who cares if you have it on the first date?" It's all too much to try to figure out. You have sex, and you're a slut. You abstain from sex, and you're a prude. There doesn't seem to be a nice middle ground to stay in.

I still don't know how I feel about the concept of virginity. It really is a difficult thing to think about, so I admire the people that have chosen their stance and stood by it. All I know about myself now is that sex isn't something that I want to throw around. At the same time, I know that I want the idea that sex doesn't make a person more or less valuable. It doesn't matter if sex is a hobby or a treasure to you; no one should feel like a chewed up piece of gum for having sex.

In the end, if you decide to save yourself, you're not a prude. You're not a coward, and you're not anti-feminist. If you decide that virginity isn't a big deal, you're not a slut either. You're not contaminated, and you're not unwanted. Stick to your values, and be proud of them. Eventually I'll figure out my own values too.

Rams' ways to **save** money

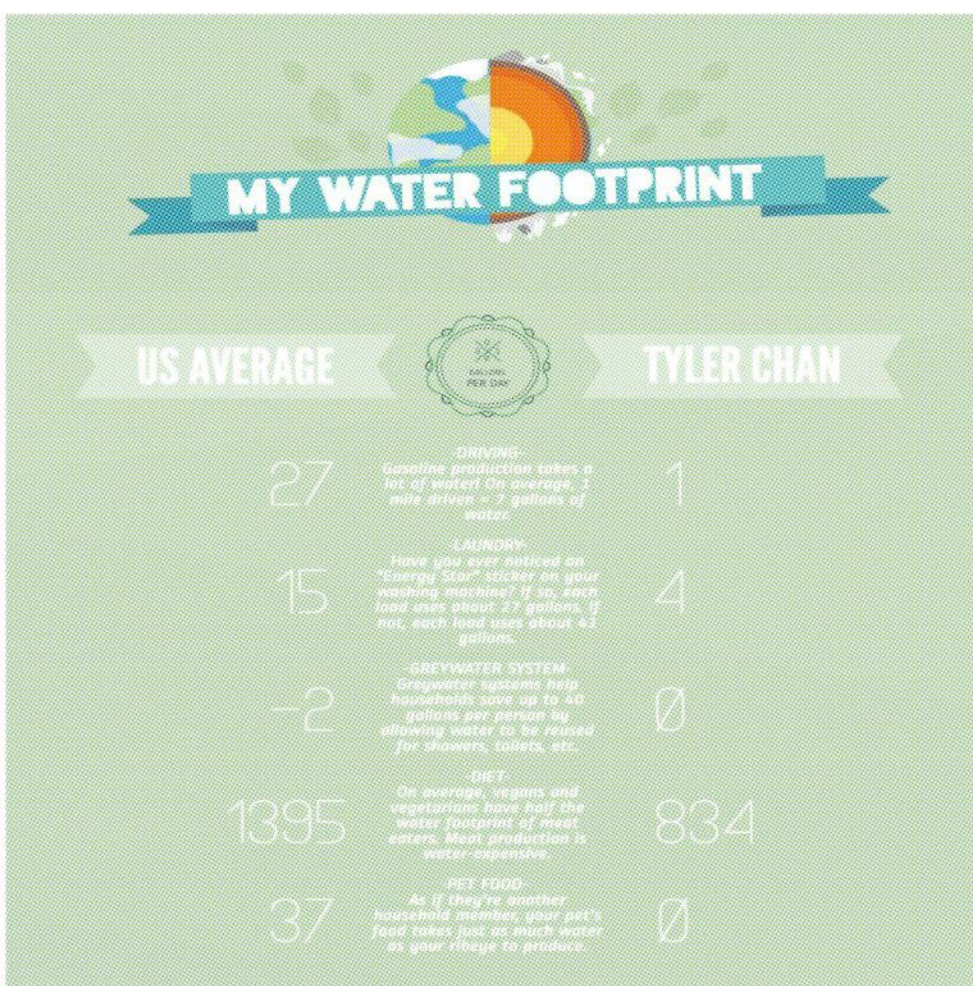
By Jason Xie
Staff Writer

"There's a nice app called Nickel that works as a budget manager and a debit card. The app lets me track my spending history so I know how much I'm losing. If someone downloaded the app but still couldn't control what they buy, they can let their parents control their debit card and how much they're spending."

— Senior Tina Vu



PHOTOS/ Jason Xie



Rams **save** water to live better

Compiled by Amber Lee
Business Manager

Senior Tyler Chan doesn't use as much water as the US average, but hopes to save more.



"I use Coupon Cabin, a website that can give me deals for other stores. Sometimes these deals expire within just a couple of days but they're always quickly updated with new sales. If I'm looking for specific deals I might not see them immediately, but for a site that can give free coupons for a wide variety of stores it's still very convenient for me."

— Junior Andrew Chen

Scouts earn their feathers as eagles

By Eva Baudler
Staff Writer

Many of us know someone who is a part of the Boy Scouts of America or have at least heard of the non-profit youth organization. But as recreational and extracurricular-worthy as it seems, being a scout takes more than wearing a uniform and challenging the outdoors.

What is the ranking in Boy Scouts?

For Boy Scouts, there are seven ranks from lowest to highest: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle. Each rank requires knot tying, camping, cooking and leadership skills. In order to advance in rank, a scout is required to have a scoutmaster conference, in which he meets with the scoutmaster and a board of review, and undergoes an interview.

How does one become an Eagle Scout?

In order to become an Eagle Scout, a scout must collect at least 21 merit badges, actively play a leadership role in his troop, participate in a unit leadership conference and complete an Eagle project. This assignment requires a scout to make an impact on the community through a district board-approved service or renovation.



PHOTO COURTESY/ Norman Chu

Senior Norman Chu went to an El Monte church and helped renovate a children's walkway. The area was dirty and in need of repairs, but with the help of troop mates, Chu dusted off the nearby walls, repainted them white and used a concrete mix to patch up cracks and unevenness along the path. He also replaced the barbed wire outside the gate area of the church.

“In all honesty, I became a scout when I was in Kindergarten because my mom forced me to,” Chu said. “But throughout the years, especially around my middle school age, I ultimately discovered that scouting made me into a better person.”

Senior Nathan Leong revisited his past at his old preschool, Arcadia Christian School, where he made and repainted planter boxes for the gardening area. Additionally, he installed a water-efficient drip irrigation system.



PHOTO COURTESY/ Nathan Leong



PHOTO/ Eva Baudler

Before Junior Ben Chen completed his official project, he finished a rejected project called the Multicultural Ride. He brought 50 scouts and adults to three different cultural museums in Downtown LA via the metro. The museums received donations from the event's business sponsorships. His official Eagle Scout project involved planting six trees at Emperor Elementary School.

“I feel proud to be an Eagle Scout because I'm glad that I can support my community and live by the scouting principles,” Chen said. “Also, I am proud to be able to call Steve Lindsey, an astronaut who went to TCHS, a fellow eagle from the same troop.”

Take a peek: a day as a peer listener

By Melody Lo
Staff Writer

A few steps outside the counselor's office, a Red Shirt Peer Listener greets the new student with a gentle smile. The new student shifts from left to right in the chair, his hands tucked perfectly underneath him. With eagerness, the Peer introduces himself to the new student and prepares himself to welcome the new student onto his new campus with open arms. Escorting new students around campus and ensuring they are comfortable with their situation is just another part of a daily routine for Red Shirts such as Senior Josh Vardoulis.

For Vardoulis, a usual week consists of tasks that vary from organizing call slips to giving new students a tour of the campus. Even on days where Vardoulis is scheduled a counseling session, his daily tasks remain the same.

“Being on duty is like being a counselor in the counseling office,” Vardoulis said. “We are constantly running and planning and trying to make a difference. We have heard and listened to so many kids, and I think we have helped all of them through the problems they were facing.”

After greeting a client, Vardoulis begins to ask questions that allow for

an engaging situation. He enjoys asking questions that will inspire his client to actively think about his or her situation, so that he or she will eventually find a solution to their problem. For the majority of the session, Vardoulis serves as a shoulder to lean on by simply listening to his clients discuss and vent their problems.

Vardoulis is constantly searching for opportunities to make a difference, such as finding events or people to help students overcome their hardships. Being able to offer and provide help to others has helped Vardoulis realize how important having support is for those in need. Even after high school, Vardoulis sees himself utilizing his Peer Listener skills in his future, especially in his aspirations to become a firefighter.

“The difference the Peer program has made on campus is often overlooked, but those who we work with are truly grateful for what we do,” Vardoulis said. “I believe that Peers are the hardest working, most caring and loving people you will ever meet.”

Peer Listeners are sophomores through juniors that work to provide aid or comfort to their peers. There are two different levels in the program: Trainees and Red Shirts. Trainees train to become Red Shirts, attending two hour meetings on Wednesdays under the guidance of Ms. Sue Hook, Ms. Maria Ioele, Ms. Kim Cales and Ms. Carmen Reyes. In these sessions students discuss how to handle sensitive situations, be active listeners, utilize communication skills and assist in school emergencies. Red Shirts are students who have already underwent one and a half years of intensive training which has prepared them to handle any situation when dealing with students.

Alumni Watch: Abdou assists refugees

By Kimberly Calderon
Staff Writer

All over the news, there are reports of bombings and violence in the Middle East and at times, students feel disconnected and unable to assist refugees. For Alumni Ms. Suzie Abdou, she is the opposite and actively volunteers to help refugees.

As a student at TCHS, Ms. Abdou was involved in JSA, Peer Listeners and the swim team. Now, Ms. Abdou works as a program manager in a women's political participation and parliamentary for a non-governmental organization called the National Democratic Institute. Her life took a turn when her friend recommended her to the Service Group International, in which she spent two months in Greece, Serbia and France to help refugees.

“I felt like I needed to help our people. There are refugees from all over the world making the journey to Europe,” Ms. Abdou said. “The majority are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, but you have people from everywhere. They cross because Germany gives them that hope.”

In Calais, France, Ms. Abdou met an unaccompanied 12 year-old boy. He explained how he dreamt of attending medical school, but he knew his father could not afford it. With Ms. Abdou's help, the French government offered him sanctuary in a boys group home with temporary papers, until the age of 18 for French citizenship and free education. The next morning, however, she discovered he had called his father to leave France.

“They just want an education,” Ms. Abdou said. “No one wants a fancy car or a rich home. These boys just want a chance to go to school. It crushed me because there was a permanent solution that at last they found, to give real help to these boys—They have no protection, no family and might be preyed upon from people who will steal from them.”

As a result of many unaccompanied mi-

nors in Calais, the volunteers have established a youth center where they can learn, relax and play. Currently, they are accepting donations for equipment to run fitness workshops. Students can help by donating beanies, hats or baby clothes. There is a program to become a penpal for an unaccompanied minor, but spreading the awareness is most efficient.

“These are human beings, they have nothing and want nothing more than what we have—to have peace and food on the table,” Ms. Abdou said. “They are not a crisis, they are not a problem, they're human beings.”

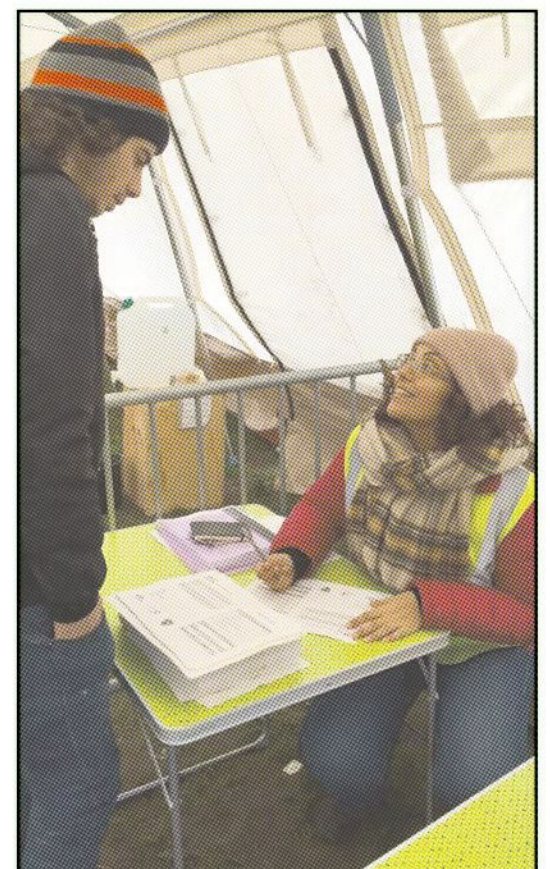


PHOTO COURTESY/ Suzie Abdou

Ms. Abdou, part of Team SGI, assists Team MSF with measles vaccination in Calais, France.

Softball looks to swing back after loss

By Alex Liu
Editor-In-Chief

After finishing third in the Rio Hondo League last season and suffering an early second round exit in the C.I.F. playoffs, the Girls Varsity Softball team hopes to finish on top of league standings and go deeper into the playoffs this year. The Lady Rams started the season off slow, losing their first three games, but picked their play up and finished the preseason with a 4-4 record.

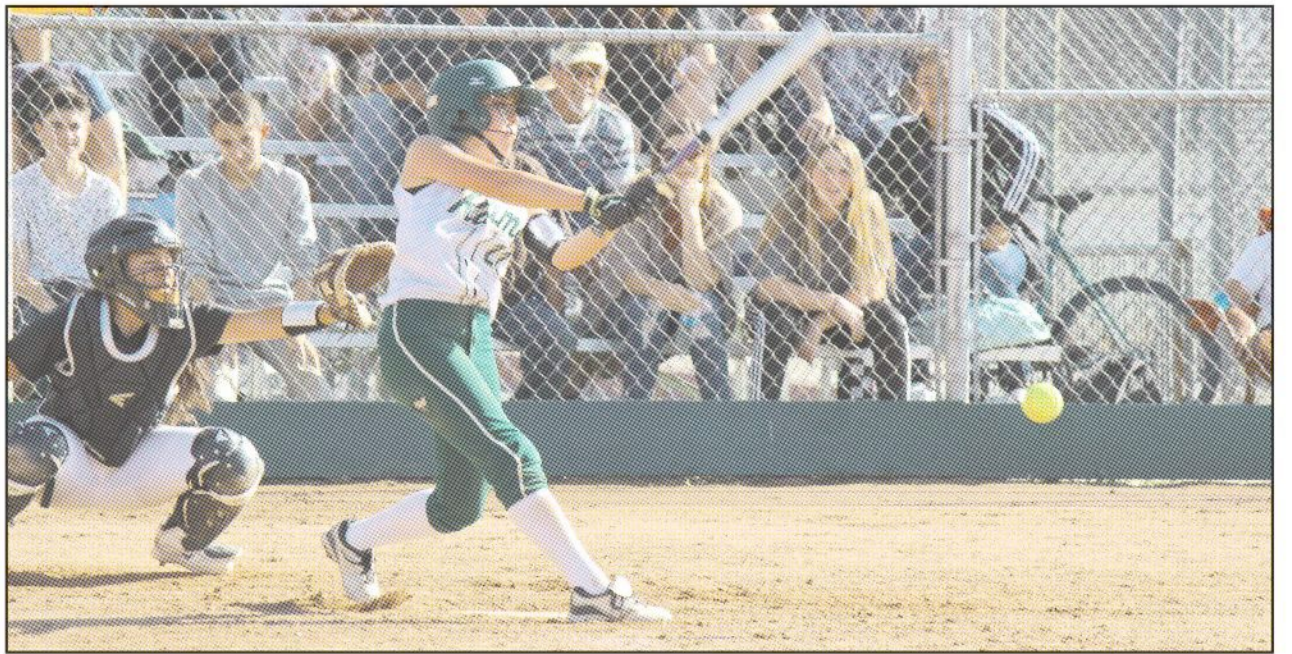
The team lost their season opener at West Covina on Feb. 29 by a narrow margin of 6-5. The Lady Rams held the lead in the middle of the sixth, but surrendered two runs in the bottom of the inning, which proved to be the difference in the game.

After losing to Northview on March 1 by a score of 5-3, the girls nearly mounted a comeback against league rival La Cañada in a non-league tournament game on March 3. Trailing by four runs in the sixth, the Lady Rams scored three runs in the bottom of the inning, but were unable to reach home plate in the seventh and final inning to tie or take the lead.

“As we got closer to league, we started taking the entire season more seriously,” Sophomore Hailey Fawk said. “We believe that we can win league this year. We stopped messing around and realized we needed to do better.”

After these tough first three losses, the team gained momentum in their season by claiming three strong victories. The girls dominated Monrovia, who finished above the Lady Rams in the league standing last season scoring in each of the first five innings, shutting out the Lady Wildcats 6-0. The team proceeded to defeat Alhambra on March 9 by a final score of 5-2, scoring four runs in the fifth inning.

The Lady Rams continued their hot streak and beat Arcadia 8-1 the next day. The team capitalized on five Lady



PHOTO/ Aaron Ding

Senior Bailee Weisz hits a grounder up the seam for a base during the game against Arroyo on March 16. Weisz is one of the nine seniors on the team, had two hits out of three at bats and is batting .381 for the season.

Apache errors and held Arcadia to only three hits. However, their win streak ended on March 16 at home against Arroyo, losing the game by a final score of 15-0.

“We learned to work together during the preseason,” Senior Haley Mitchell said. We have a good shot at taking league and we want to go far in the C.I.F. playoffs.”

After losing only one starter from last season and with nine returning starters on the roster, the team has high expectations for this year. Both Seniors Celina Mesa and Angel Wintercorn, who shared pitching duties last season, will take the mound again this year. Mitchell, who batted .431 and committed to Eastern Illinois University last sea-

son, will be behind the plate and resume catching duties.

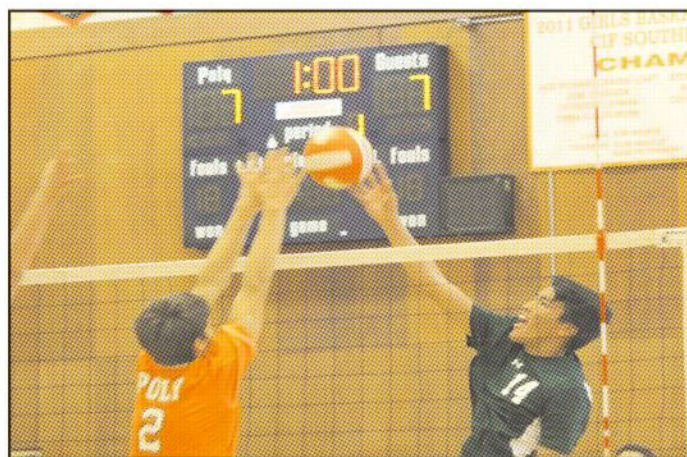
“For us seniors, it hits us when we all step on the field together,” Senior Jessica Slagle said. “The fact that we are all going to be leaving, it hits us hard because we are all family. However, our bond really helps motivates us to all play better for each other.”

The Lady Rams will have their second league game against San Marino on March 22.

“If we all work hard, we can take league,” Mesa said. “We need to stay up and have everything under control. We all need to come together and not slack off so we can play our game.”

Volleyball sets bar high for new season

By Samuel Kim
Staff Writer



PHOTO/ Samuel Kim

Junior Tyler Api spikes the ball down on the Panthers. The Rams' next game is against the Mark Keppel Aztecs on March 22.

The Boys Varsity Volleyball team started their season with an overall record of 4-1, with its most recent victories against Pasadena Polytechnic and Bishop Amat, and their most recent loss to San Gabriel. The Rams attribute their wins to the camaraderie among the team.

“I think the team as a whole has good chemistry,” Senior Mitchell Kao said. “The team currently has five seniors, and we’ve been playing together since 8th grade, so we really know each other well.”

The Rams faced off against Pasadena Polytechnic and won 3-0 on March 15. Playing consistently in each set, the Rams performed well in the areas of hitting and defensive blocking, which ultimately helped

them win the match.

In another 3-0 victory, the Rams dominated in their game against Bishop Amat on March 9. During their first and second set, the team won 25-23, and during their third set, they won 25-11.

At the away game against the San Gabriel Matadors on March 8, the Rams lost 0-3, struggling with defense, which ultimately caused them to lose the game.

After each game, the team looks back upon what could be improved and implements those fixes.

“One thing I really noticed that we need to fix this year is passing,” Kao said. “Another aspect I think we can improve is our communication between teammates.”

To improve their gameplay, the team utilizes many techniques and trains extensively.

“During practice, we warm-up, and then we practice response-reaction and agility drills,” Senior Nathan Wong said. “Afterwards, we play in scrimmages with our practice team.”

Through practice, the team hopes to improve and possibly make it to the C.I.F. spring playoffs.

“Some goals I have for this season are to improve my skills as a setter,” Senior Justin Chen said. “We have some really good players this year, and I want to make sure that I’m doing what I have to do to make sure that the team as a whole performs its best during game time.”

Team bonding brings teams together

By Andrew Rhee
Staff Writer

Whether it’s to get ready for a big game or just trying to improve team chemistry, traditions improve team chemistry and connect the current players to their past team.

While an annual banquet is held by most TCHS teams, some sports have their own special traditions.

The annual doubles tournament is what the tennis team does for fun. Alumni, players and friends of players can join by paying a small price that goes towards the prize for the winner.

— Junior Victor Lin



“Our team would go out for lunch before games. We’ve got a lot of people but it always helped us bond and pumped us up before games. I honestly feel that the dine out before games helped us calm down and helped out team feel like family.”

— Sophomore Andrew Flores



“We have team pasta dinners the night before every game. Everyone takes turns hosting and during the dinner we pray to the soccer gods for a good game the next day.”

— Junior Erykalynn Santana



“We try to go to dinner the night before a game. We did it once or twice last year, but I see us doing it a lot this year because we’re way closer as friends than last year’s team.”

— Senior Dylan Stratis



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