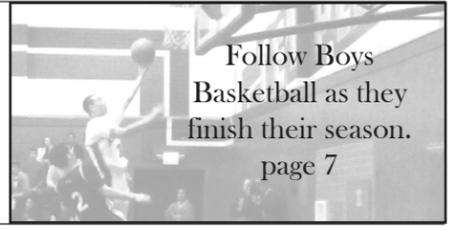




Read about the most popular applications for smart phones. page 2



Learn about Lunar New Year traditions such as lion dancing. pages 4-5



Follow Boys Basketball as they finish their season. page 7

TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL

RAMPAGE

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Gay Straight Alliance wears hearts on sleeves to promote awareness

By Maggie Liu
 Staff Writer

Participants of Gay Straight Alliance's event, Wear Your Heart On Your Sleeve day, on Wednesday, Feb. 10, wore heart stickers on their sleeves as part of a campaign to raise student awareness and understanding about teen dating violence throughout the month.

Although schools and communities across the nation have acknowledged the seriousness of dating violence since 2006, the U.S. Senate finally declared February as the official National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month on Jan. 15.

GSA is collaborating with Peer Listeners, organizing events and putting up posters so they can make a bigger impression on students about what they can do to stop dating violence. Counselors and Peer Listeners on campus are available to speak confidentially with individuals who are in or have experienced an abusive relationship.

"I hope that after this awareness event, it will bring more to light so that more victims will be able to receive the aid they need," Sophomore Claudia Chen, GSA Activities Officer, said. "There's help and there has always been help; people just need to know how to get it."

Outside of addressing the seriousness of abusive teen relationships, GSA hopes to clarify that domestic violence does not only occur between opposite-sex relationships but also in same-sex ones. They also emphasize that help is always available for anyone seeking aid from an abusive boyfriend or girlfriend.

"[It is important to] stress that this is not just for abusive relationships," Chen said, who speaks from personal experience. "It really applies to any sort of relationship that you may have with someone, whether it be family, friends, or just someone you're dating."

Domestic abuse can range from physical and sexual to emotional and psychological. According to the American Bar Association, 57 percent of teens knew someone who had been in an abusive relationship. The 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that about 10 percent of youth nationwide were in a physically violent relationship.

"I'm looking forward to coordinating with GSA and Peer Listeners and see if we can make a bigger impact for students here on campus," Ms. Susan Hook, Peer Listeners director, said. "[People in abusive relationships] have choice and they don't have to take it and stay quiet."

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

Feb. 12: Lincoln's Birthday, No School
 Feb. 15: Presidents Day Holiday, No School
 Feb. 18: Art Show
 Feb. 19: ComedySportz Show
 Feb. 23: Mr. Temple City
 Feb. 25: Musical Road Show
 Feb. 26: International Food Day

STUDENTS GAIN DEEP INSIGHT



PHOTO/ Christine Keung

Seniors Stanley Fang, Brian Wong, Wayne Ho, and Christine Be conducted an experiment, on the AP Environmental Science field trip, to measure the depth of the water in the port at the Long Beach Aquarium on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Pretrial begins for Piazza defendants

By Alice Wang
 Co-Business Manager

Almost a year after prosecutors indicted her for soliciting bribes, former Temple City Mayor Judy Wong will soon go on trial along with ex-Mayor Cathé Wilson and former city council candidate, Scott Carwile.

The charges resulted from allegations of bribery made last year by developer Randy Wang, builder of the stalled Piazza project originally planned for the empty lot at the intersection of Las Tunas Drive and Rosemead Boulevard. According to Wang, former councilmembers Wilson, Wong, and David Capra asked for and received a total of at least \$23,100 in bribes from him and project manager Jay Liyanage, in 2007 in return for their support

for the \$75 million venture. Both Wang and Liyanage, as two of the 12 witnesses for the prosecution, will be testifying against the defendants during the trial.

"A decision might never be reached."

Mr. Sanford Perliss

Absent from the proceedings is Capra, who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and agreed to tender his resignation as a councilman in June of last year in return for protection against the charges that Wong and Wilson are now facing. Both women continue to maintain their innocence.

Wilson was indicted on six counts of solicitation of bribes and perjury under oath, with Wong on 10 and Carwile on four

counts of perjury and one of Political Reform Act violation. The defendants are set to appear in court for a pretrial hearing on March 1, when a trial date may be fixed.

"The trial itself might take from three weeks to a month, and then it's up for the jury to decide," attorney Sanford Perliss, who is representing Wong, said. "A decision might never be reached."

Wong faces a maximum jail sentence of 10 years if convicted, while Wilson faces a maximum sentence of nine years. Both were offered a settlement of two years in prison, which the defense refused.

"I don't think it's a jail case," Robert Wilson, Cathé Wilson's lawyer, said in a Pasadena Star-News article that appeared in January. "That's where the disagreement lies."

NEWS BRIEFS

By Veronica Lin
 Exchange Editor

Green Dream Festival

The Environmental Club face-painted in a booth at the third annual Green Dream Festival on Saturday, Jan. 16 at Gabrieli High School. The festival, a celebration of social and environmental justice, raised money to purchase water purifiers called Lifestraws for people in third world countries. There were approximately 500 attendees and over 150 volunteers. Many local schools aided in the effort, including Rosemead High, Polytechnic, and San Ma-

rino. There were also two guest speakers from California Institute of Technology.



PHOTO/ Veronica Lin

Senior Elaine Tong paints a young girl's face at the Green Dream Festival on Saturday, Jan. 16.

Winter Formal Video Contest

Senior Andrew Torres won the first annual Winter Formal Video Contest with the aid of an Arcadia police officer. The police officer, the father of Torres' friend, stopped Senior Haylie Ellingsworth on her drive home with the pretense of giving her a ticket. Instead of handing her a ticket, he handed her a slip with "WF?" written on it. As the confusion settled in, Torres stepped out with a bouquet of flowers.

Musical Marathon

Brighter Side Singers, Concert Choir, and Women's Chorus, performed in the Mu-

sical Marathon on Friday, Jan. 29. The groups performed a total of 100 songs.



PHOTO/ Julia Chen

Seniors Benjamin Henry and Alex Martinez sing a duet at Musical Marathon on Jan. 29.

Meatless diet a success Too weak to last a week

By Jessica Meza
Staff Writer

Vegan diet

Being a big meat lover and a picky eater, I thought the transition of having to be vegan for a week would be too difficult.

For those who are not familiar with this diet, vegans don't eat animals or any products animals produce. This includes gelatin, which is made from animal skin or bones, and honey, which is made by bees. Some vegans don't even use beeswax products. However, this doesn't mean that all vegans eat are salads. During the week I learned that there are many meat substitutes other than tofu to add pizzazz to a vegan's meal.

In the days leading up to my diet, people commented on how hard being vegan is, which made me think that I wouldn't be able to handle it. However, in the course of seven days I learned that eating vegan prevents me from eating unhealthy foods, and that eating healthily actually tastes a lot better than I thought it would.

On my first day as a vegan, my mistake was going raw for the majority of the day. By the end of the day I was craving meat so much that I bought Boca burgers from Ralphs. The next day at Trader Joe's in Pasadena, I found soy chorizo, which actually tastes better than meat chorizo, and rice milk. Though I didn't like the bland taste of rice milk, Trader Joe's Thai Kung Pao noodles were so savory that I plan to buy them regularly. I tried sticking to healthy meals but found it difficult to stay away from junk food the first few days.

While out with friends on the third day, we decided to go to McDonald's to grab



PHOTO/ Ashlee Nguyen
Meza eats salad and a vegan soy burger.

some cheap ice cream. However, I had heard rumors that the fries are not vegan, so I asked the person at the cash register if this was true. She told me that the fries and hash browns have beef flavoring in them, rendering them not vegan. Since I was hungry, I ate an orange while my friends stuffed themselves with fries.

As I searched online for other food options, I found out that Whole Foods Market in Pasadena has a bigger selection of vegan food than Trader Joe's. Everything you'd want at a regular supermarket is available in vegan version, including pepper jack cheese made from almonds, chocolate chip cookies without eggs, and soy pizza.

In the morning I stuck to eating fruit, sometimes with peanut butter for protein and at lunch I ate salads. To change it up a bit, I ate red quinoa salad, edamame quinoa salad, or cranberry almond couscous. For dinner I made myself as normal a meal as possible using meat substitutes. I made burger and fries, spaghetti and Tofurkey sausage, and sloppy joes. Between these meals I found myself grazing on raw foods but didn't feel guilty. I felt like I had much more energy than usual, especially on days when I ate lots of raw food. Whenever I had cravings for salty junk food, I just thought of how lethargic it would make me feel after.

Eating vegan opened my eyes to different foods that I probably would have never tried before. I thoroughly enjoyed a peek into this extreme diet and plan to eat healthier because of it.



By Serena Smalley
Feature Editor

No-Carb Diet

It was a bitter Friday night and I hadn't eaten carbs in over five days. No homemade pasta, no pastries left in the fridge, and no sourdough bread covered in butter. My tongue quivered as my hand reached out for the chocolate-covered macadamia on the table.

About a week ago, my fellow editor asked me if I could go a week without carbs.



PHOTO/ Charlene Choo
Smalley eats avocado with crab for lunch.

I didn't think that it would be that hard but perhaps I had forgotten who I am.

A no-carb diet may not seem that difficult because you can indulge in juicy meat, but let me tell you something: you are wrong. Carbs are delicious and can make a smile break across your face and quickly soothe your empty stomach.

Later on in the week, I realized that the key was to find filling food that wasn't chock-full of carbs. If I was tempted to eat food at break while watching my friends scarf down breakfast burritos I just ate string cheese. Little healthy snacks throughout the day helped me keep going. I think it would be hard to just eat three healthy meals a day because you would be

tempted to eat other, more delectable food. I also ate almonds as a snack. Even if you aren't thinking of trying the no-carb diet it's a good idea to eat a handful of almonds before a meal because they will fill you up and prevent you from completely gorging yourself.

A good dish that I made for myself that was high in protein was avocado and crab. This simple meal is made of an avocado cut in half lengthwise with crab in the middle. Put the crab meat in a skillet with finely cut garlic that you can sauté in oil with salt and pepper. Then add in some paprika and garlic salt. Once you've cooked that, throw the crab into the little avocado pits. This is a really easy item to make and I think it's pretty good since it is both filling and healthy.

I also ate other food, such as salmon, steak, and salads. The key to making the salad is to add meat, cheese, and nuts. If you do so, then the salad will actually be filling. Before you rush to the dining room table with your salad, look at that creamy bottle of dressing in your hand. Balsamic dressings, oil, and vinegar are your new best friends.

In the course of the five days that I kept to the diet I lost four pounds. Rather than filling up on empty carbs like chips, fries, or pizza I ate high-protein meals that left me more satisfied. High-protein meals take longer to be broken down in your body so you stay full for a longer duration of time. With this being said, the diet would be both effective and healthy for someone trying to lose weight.

The lack of carbohydrates didn't leave me feeling that lackluster so I still went to the gym at least every other day in the midst of my busy schedule. It's a little draining but it's not that bad. I'm a weakling and I managed.

So, back to that bitter Friday night... okay I cheated. I ate the enticing macadamia nut covered in chocolate. Then I ate two more. Sue me.

Phone apps for the "smart"

By Elise Luc
Production Editor

If you don't have a cell phone, you might as well be living under a rock. If you don't text, you're probably the person in the movie theater whispering into your phone. Nowadays if you don't have a "smartphone," then you're missing out. Smartphones are advanced cell phones that have computer-like features, commonly called applications.

Bible Reader

Bible Reader is available on almost all smartphones, and it's perfect for anyone who likes reading the Bible a lot. There's a search function, so you don't have to flip through pages of the Bible to find a specific phrase or passage. This app is completely free and it's stored on the phone, so you don't need internet connection to access it.

"I think Bible Reader is really useful," Senior Danny Ng said. "I don't need to carry the Bible around with me, and I can find verses quickly [on my Nokia XpressMusic 5800.]"

Trace

Former TC student Kevin Calderone created this iPhone game app with the help of his brother, Taylor, the summer after he graduated in 2008. You have to help a person get to a different spot on the screen by drawing paths with your finger around the obstacles. The game is really popular now, and the two brothers have their own software

company called Bovinedragon.

"Kevin was in my AP Physics class, and I think it's really cool because the game has art and physics mixed together," Physics teacher Mr. Kevin Slattery said. "My five-year-old nephew loves to play it."

Flood-It!

Flood-It! is free and available on smartphones such as the Google Phone and iPhone. The game starts off with a board composed of different colored squares, and the objective is to have only one color in the end by "flooding" the squares and changing their colors. It's a pretty straightforward game, but it's also a little tricky trying to solve it within a certain number of steps.

"I play it every night before I go to sleep," Senior Jennie Wong said. "It's so addicting. Whenever I solve it, I feel accomplished."

Facebook

Need to let all your friends know about that delicious orange you just ate? You can download a free Facebook app on any smartphone. You have to pay for the internet plan when you buy the phone, but then you can access the website anywhere that has 3G internet.

"I use the Facebook app [on my Google Phone] the most when I'm on the road," Sophomore Ted Chang said. "I like the communication and social network apps—anything to let people know I'm still alive."



GRAPHICS/ Erica Lee

Charlene's Choice

Havana & Banana

Havana Club

The entrance of Havana Club is covered in colorful stickers: giant palm trees to the left and right, pink hearts, and HAVANA printed boldly in the middle of the door—it's hard to miss this obnoxious decoration. However, as I stepped inside, expecting plastic tables and chairs with heart patterns, I was taken aback by its elegant décor and clean atmosphere.

After four years of living in Temple City, I felt strange sitting in a restaurant in El Monte. However, the manager of the restaurant was friendly enough to sit down with us and recommend his favorites. My friends ordered sandwiches and fries, but I decided to order the shredded beef and rice in order to fully experience a Cuban meal.

The beef and rice is drenched in savory sauce, warm and soft for a chilly February day. The exact flavor is hard to pinpoint, but all I know is that it was hard to put down the spoon even when my stomach was full. My favorite part of the meal was the sweet bananas, or platanos, which are sufficient to be a side dish for the rice or even dessert. The sweet and bitter flavors blend together well, and they left me craving more.

The price is a bit expensive for students, since my meal was about 12 dollars; however, even after stuffing myself, I still had enough to take home and enjoy for an entire meal. My friends were also extremely satisfied with their orders. The fries were crispy yet soft, and the Midnight Sandwich, which is a fusion of Cuban and American flavors, would fit anyone's picky taste. Now I know that when I receive my semester report card, I don't have to splurge on fattening chocolate or ice cream because I can always go to Havana Club for some sweet bananas.



PHOTO/ Charlene Choo
The Havana Club, located at 3831 N. Peck Road, El Monte, is decorated with colorful stickers outside.

Newly elected senator reveals poor judgment



By Jessica Meza
Staff Writer

Nude pictures have recently surfaced of someone in the spotlight, but it isn't another Miss USA contestant; it's Republican Senator Scott Brown from Massachusetts.

These photos were taken in 1982 for Cosmopolitan's "America's Sexiest Man" spread. Fortunately, his hand is placed so that he is not en-

tirely exposed. Although the photos did receive attention, they're not all the controversy surrounding him. He is currently causing an upheaval because he is the Senate's 41st Republican vote, breaking down President Obama's hope of universal health-care reform.

Brown calls himself a fiscal Conservative, meaning he is in favor of as little spending as possible. If he had the choice, his ideal budget for spending would probably be nothing. However, some projects are worth spending money on. He has

made it crystal clear that he is not in favor of any bills that involve health-care reform. Any bills that do make its way to the Senate will be filibustered, or obstructed, by Brown's 41st vote, allowing Republicans to possibly force the withdrawal of some bills. Although I understand Brown's economic perspective in these tough times, it's sad that our country is still putting prices on lives. It's even worse to think that the person who is changing so much is someone who made poor judgment in the past.

Being frugal in today's economy is one thing, but Brown was stingy even when the nation wasn't facing this economic downturn. After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, Brown voted against providing relief to recovery workers. Of course there are times in which the decision to spend money is difficult. On the other hand, what else would he rather spend money on than provide aid to those working to save lives after a terrorist attack?

When the rest of the country was coming together to help 9/11 victims, Brown looked the other way by refusing aid to volunteers. With Democrats in the Senate apprehensive about the power of Brown's vote, the rest of the nation can only wait to see how he changes the Senate. Although his revealing photos from almost 30 years ago can't tell the type of Senator he may be, his judgment in the past might be an indication.



Shenanigans

By Michelle Shen
Editor-in-Chief

With the release of its newest social product, Buzz, Google officially declared war on Facebook.

This addition to Gmail allows users to convert their e-mail accounts into social networking sites similar to Facebook; it's so similar, in fact, that many of Buzz's special features seem to be tailored specifically to outdo some of Facebook's most prominent flaws.

With the widget called "auto-following," Buzz attempts to eliminate the time it takes to manually add each friend by automatically making our top 40 e-mail recipients our "Buzz friends." It's a nice perk, but realistically speaking, who still uses e-mail to chat with friends? I use it to communicate with my college admissions interviewer, but I don't want to spend Sunday afternoons sifting through photos of him.

Google acknowledges that we don't really care that Mitch popped a water blister or that Shelly ate a doughnut, so it tries to separate posts that we do or don't want to see by observing our habits and ranking the posts from "most interesting" to "least interesting." Other features include the ability to monitor who gets to see what on our pages, access our Buzz accounts through e-mails it sends us when we get notifications, and look at photos and videos as thumbnails that can be enlarged on the same screen.

If this was it, I would say that Buzz would induce little more than some brow-raising intrigue, but nothing that would make our fingers clamor to create a Gmail account. However, after years of social media failure, Google is still determined to solidify its position as the Internet's jack-of-all-trades. This time, it is attempting to target not the PC or Mac computer user, but the smartphone fanatic. Rather, Google has invented a new vision for social networking that functions around the current location of the user, which makes plenty of sense, seeing that cell phones are practically extended lifelines for most people.

Buzz will zero in on where we are through the GPS on our phones, convert the latitude-longitude coordinates into actual words and post something like "Bobby is next to Betty's Bridal Shop." If we're restaurant searching, Buzz will also turn up lists of searches and reviews in the neighborhood. Our location will also determine how Buzz will rank our posts. For example, it will assume that if we're in L.A. we will be less interested in knowing where our friend from Vermont is, and place it closer to the bottom of the page.

Google is obviously distinguishing itself with the GPS system. And while Buzz has definitely patched up some of Facebook's limitations and then some, like most new products, it will take time to tear us away from Facebook's addicting games and get us interested enough to see what all the Buzz is about.



CARTOON/ Veronica Lin

Start early, end early: win-win



By Elaine Wu
Opinion editor

The end of May last year was supposed to be quite a glorious time. Advanced Placement tests were finally over and nearly all of my classes were relatively laid back. However, while my peers and I were still stuck at school learning almost nothing new, my sister was already on break due to the semester system most colleges use.

Changing the high school's calendar to a semester system that resembles that of colleges has many advantages. Although students have a chance to take a much needed break from all the studying leading up to the AP tests, it would be much better if school ended with the tests in late May.

To make up for the three weeks of class time that would be shaved off at the end of the year, school could start in mid-August rather than in early September. That would give us three extra weeks to prepare for CST testing and APs—studying that most of us could definitely use.

Though people who do not take AP classes would not

get the benefits of extra study time by starting early, winter break could be a time for more relaxation rather than having to worry about work to do.

If the school year started earlier, then the semester could end at the start of winter break. Students would have finals the week prior to the holidays and because of the review that comes with finals, there would be less reviewing time for standardized tests. Many students are not mentally prepared to take tests and exams after a relaxing winter break, so why not spend the holidays luxuriously without worrying about studying and homework?

Some schools such as Burbank High School have already adopted this type of semester system. Nearly all colleges end their quarter or semester before winter break so that students can learn new material when they come back.

One may argue that students might forget everything they learned after coming back from winter break. However, students have just as much potential to forget what they review regardless of when they review it. It is more an issue of continually going over old concepts.

As a senior, I would have liked to start the year earlier and end after testing and college admission decisions. Though seniors will not be able to get this privilege, hopefully the school will consider this idea.

Wanted: Letters to the editor and editorial cartoons

Comment on school, local, state, national or international issues. Limit letters to the editor to 400 words. Send submissions to tchsrampage@gmail.com.

FOR THE RECORD

Entertainment: Sophomore Renessa Lopez's name was misspelled. The correct address for Planet Funk is 372 E. Colorado Blvd.

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The articles on the Opinion page express 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 also may be edited in regard to space.



A single holiday calls for multiple traditions

By Jason Wu
Staff Writer

Just because most Asian cultures celebrate the Lunar New Year doesn't mean that they're all the same. Each culture has its own variation of this holiday.

In Chinese culture, the house is cleaned extensively during the days before the holiday in order to "sweep in" good luck. On the eve of the New Year, people hold feasts and set off firecrackers. Depending on geographical location, people make dumplings called *jiaozi* or rice cakes called *niangao*. Decorations include posters embellished with Chinese characters, plum blossoms, and kumquats.

"My favorite part of the holiday is when the whole family can gather together for dinner," Senior Jaycie Chan said. "We basically just eat for Chinese New Years."

The Vietnamese New Year, called *Tết*, is derived from the Chinese New Year, so most of the customs are the same. The most popular food to eat during this time would be *banh chung*, a roll of glutinous rice, mung bean, and pork wrapped in leaves. Many Vietnamese people snack on roasted watermelon seeds because the seeds are lucky. People of all ages also play a gambling game similar to roulette called *bầu cua*.

"My family goes to the Tết festival in Santa Ana each year," Senior Nelson Luu said. "We also make *bánh chưng* and *bánh tét* and have



PHOTO/ Jason Wu
Many Asian markets sell rice cakes such as the Chinese *niangao* and Vietnamese *banh chung*.

a big dinner."

On the Filipino New Year's Eve, people clang pots and pans, shoot guns, and set off firecrackers. The Filipinos eat noodles and eggs as well as more traditional rice cakes like *malagkit* and *biko*. People also believe that the money you have on this day is what you'll have year round.

"[My family] prepares and does feng shui," Senior Christy Magalona said. "We also drink apple cider and shake money."

By Humphrey Lin
Staff Writer

Lunar New Year never occurs on the day you expect it to. Instead, it always lands on some funky day in late January or mid-February. Sometimes it lands on finals, so you have to study after a huge party and on a full stomach, and this year, it's an especially big pain because it's on Valentine's Day, which means you have to choose between going out on a date and celebrating with your family. So which insensitive dork chose these Lunar New Year dates? Well, here's how it happens.

As most of you might know, Lunar New Year is based on a rather different calendar than the one hanging in your kitchen. Whereas the movement of the sun decides when your birthday is or when it's time for finals, Lunar New Year is decided primarily by the movement of the moon.

This calendar is known as the Yin or the agricultural calendar, and it is used in many East Asian countries. This calendar divides the year into 12 months and has 29 to 30 days each month, making the year consist of only 353 days. This means that you are 12 days older in the Lunar calendar for every year of your life.

In the Yin calendar, the months are marked by the lunar cycle. You know those times you just can't seem to see the moon? Don't worry, you're

not going crazy. This just means that a new month has begun. Then, as the moon begins to grow and fade away, this marks the completion of a lunar month.

What we recognize as New Year's Day isn't just an excuse to party; it marks the day that the Earth completes a full orbit around the sun. Lunar New Year, however, is a little more complicated to keep track of.

According to the Yin calendar, New Year's Day and the excuse to party is marked by the second month after winter solstice. Because we were all preoccupied with the beginning of winter break on Dec. 21, most of us failed to notice that day as the shortest day of the year, or winter solstice. Just count 60 days after that date and you have Lunar New Year. Simple, right?

Wrong! Since leap years happen a lot more frequently in the Yin calendar, Lunar New Year never lands on the same day twice in a row. This makes it extremely complicated to calculate Lunar New Year. Don't worry though, there are scientists who take the liberty of doing it for you. Next time Lunar New Year conflicts with an important date, you can blame it on the moon.

Dates for the Lunar New Year

Feb. 3, 2011	Jan. 23, 2012
Feb. 10, 2013	Jan. 13, 2014

Lunar New Year does *Luck found in red envelopes* not guarantee day off

By Aaron Chua
Staff Writer

Lunar New Year is the most important Chinese holiday and the longest festivity on the lunar calendar. It lasts for 15 days, from the first day in the Chinese calendar to the Lantern Festival.

The San Gabriel Valley houses eight of the 10 cities with the largest Asian communities in the U.S., yet no school in the area takes Lunar New Year off for two reasons: they want money, and most Asians attend school during those days anyway.

Schools receive money based on attendance on any given day. They keep track of their student population and try to get students to show up to school every day for that money.

Days off for holidays such as Ash Wednesday and Rosh Hashanah are not created to honor the specific day but instead are called "floating holidays" and serve to save the school money. Cities with large Catholic or Jewish

populations don't have school on these days because a large portion of their student body wouldn't attend anyways.

Another key factor is the Asian mentality itself. While this holiday is important to the Asian culture, here in the U.S. we celebrate on the weekends. Why? Because Asians value education above holidays. Most of you might not agree, but your parents do. How many times have they made you go to school sick? How many times have they sent you to summer school to learn instead of "doing nothing" at home? Our parents' desire for us to receive a good education overrides any sense of relaxation during Lunar New Year.

Personally, I'd like to have Lunar New Year as a holiday. It's another day off from school, but the reality is that it will never occur. We just have to be content with celebrating Lunar New Year on the weekends or at home after school.

By Angela Li
Staff Writer

To most Asian children, the best part of Lunar New Year is receiving *Ang Pow* red envelopes, which are considered extremely lucky because they have money inside.

The story of *Ang Pow* dates back to the Song Dynasty when a giant demon terrorized a village called Chang-Chieu. Though many great warriors and statesmen came to challenge the demon, none succeeded. While people were losing hope, a young orphan, armed with a magical sword he inherited from his ancestors, fought the evil demon and eventually killed it.

The villagers held a spectacular party to thank the young man, and to show their appreciation, the elders presented him with a red envelope that was filled with money. Since then, the *Ang Pow* has become a part of traditional Chinese customs.

There are a variety of designs

printed on these envelopes. The image used on the front of a red envelope represents the giver's blessings and good wishes for long life, prosperity, and good health for the receivers. Commonly used designs include carp swimming among flowering lotus, dragons and phoenixes, Chi-

pending on the giver's financial situation and the relationship between the two people. Age also determines how much money a person gets.

"For each red packet I would receive about 100 to 150 dollars," Junior Stephanie Wong said. "Usually I receive two from my parents and one from my grandma, and also some from my relatives. I would have four or five packets and it would add up to around 300 dollars."

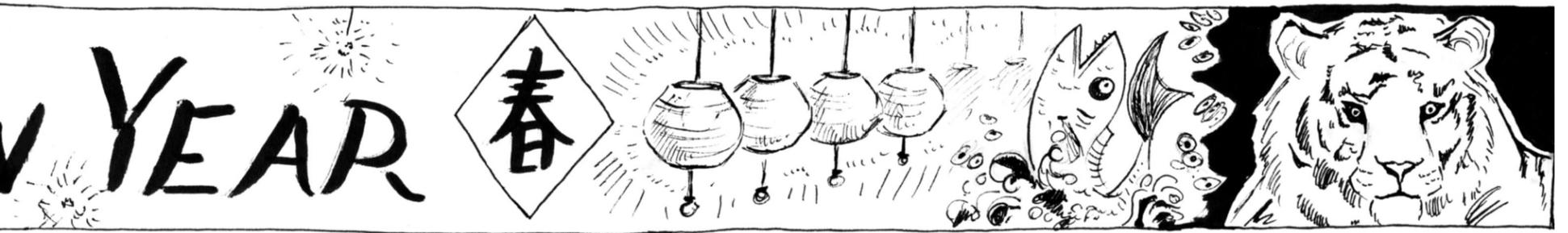
Students with smaller families, or families who have members from different racial backgrounds, generally receive less red envelopes than those who have huge families.

"Both my parents' families are really big. My mom has seven siblings, and my dad has five. And every married couple would give me two [red envelopes]," Senior Joanna Chin said. "I not only receive them from my direct family, but also from more distant relatives, so we get a lot—probably forty."

Source: fengshuiweb.co.uk



ILLUSTRATION/ Angela Li



School of zodiac zoology *What do you know about superstitions?*

By Vicki Chang
Focus Editor

The Chinese Zodiac Calendar is based on an ancient legend, in which 12 animals debated one day as to who was to lead the cycle of years. The ancient gods held a contest, and the animal that reached the opposite bank of the river would be first, and the remaining animals received a year according to their finish, resulting in the Chinese Zodiac Calendar.

Monkeys

Monkeys, born in 1992, are known as the geniuses of the zodiac cycle. They are clever, skillful, remarkably original and can solve the most difficult problems with ease. They tend to be quite fickle and have a habit of being too agreeable.



"I guess I'm like the monkey in the fact that I usually try not to step on anyone's toes," Senior Phillip Zhuo said. "I just go with the flow and agree with the current situation. If things aren't going the way they're supposed to, I get angry easily, but the anger cools down pretty quickly."

Roosters

People born in 1993 are roosters, who are loyal, trustworthy, sociable, and very accomplished. They are shrewd and daring, but at times shy and introverted, and have a tendency to always think they are right...and very often they are.



"Even when people doubt me, I stick with my instincts," Junior Benny

To said. "I am a bit eccentric and I would definitely say I am timid at times."

Dogs

Tailing the rooster in the race is the dog, born in 1994. Dogs are loyal and faithful and true, so it's no wonder they are known for being a man's best friend. While dogs are good listeners and always willing to help those in need, they can bark at those around them and become critical of others who may not share their same sense of honor.



"Just like the dog, I am stubborn because I always stand by what I believe in," Sophomore Deborah Koh said. "I also want to be an inspiration because it's so amazing that something I do would cause people to do something greater."

Pigs

The pig, who finished last in the race, symbolizes the year 1995. Pigs are intellectually curious, hardworking, honest, and relied upon for their everlasting loyalty. They often sacrifice their well-being for the greater good but may also be naïve and taken advantage of for their idealistic nature.

"I am similar to the pig because I am a very studious person and I have to work out problems with my friends no matter what," Freshman Tiffany Yeh said. "I don't have many friends, but I have known [my friends] since second grade and I still hang out with them."



Source: c-c-c.org ILLUSTRATIONS/ Alice Wang

1. What can you not use on Lunar New Year?

- a. an iron because it flattens your luck
- b. a blow dryer because it symbolizes blowing away your money
- c. scissors and knives because they cut your fortune

2. Based on traditions, red envelopes are awesome because

- a. they contain a lot of money
- b. people of all ages can receive them
- c. they represent wealth and luck

3. Why should your house be cleaned on Lunar New Year's Eve?

- a. You will be more prepared.
- b. It is rude to decide to clean the day after your elders will be celebrating.
- c. Your fortune will get swept away if you don't clean on this day.

4. They say on Lunar New Year that it is wise to eat

- a. protein only
- b. any type of Asian foods
- c. vegetarian meals

5. What color should you stay away from on this day?

- a. white because it represents ghosts and the afterlife
- b. purple because in Asian cultures it stands for greed
- c. black because it symbolizes death

6. Why is the number nine associated so much with Lunar New Year?

- a. According to fables, a lonely man was saved by nine fairies that helped bring him fortune and prosperity.
- b. It signifies the amount of money you should get as a teen.
- c. In Cantonese it means "sufficient."

7. What is considered bad luck?

- a. eating meat
- b. making your bed in the morning
- c. wearing a moustache

8. On Lunar New Year, money represents wealth and good fortune, but which way should it not be handled?

- a. given to families, friends, and acquaintances
- b. burned because its ashes are said to scare away demons
- c. lent or borrowed

9. If children misbehave on Lunar New Year, why should parents or elders avoid punishing them?

- a. It is the one day that children are allowed to act mischievous and get away with it.
- b. It is bad luck for parents to yell because it involves anger or frustration.
- c. This will cause the children to cry and if they cry on Lunar New Year, it means they will cry all year according to superstitions.

The correct answer to all the questions is C.

If you answered 3 out of 9 C's:

It seems that you are clueless when it comes to these superstitions because you could be carrying scissors on you and totally not know it cuts your fortune!

If you answered 6 out of 9 C's:

Celebrate Lunar New Year much? It seems like you're on the right direction to keeping the good fortune and luck because of your lucky guesses and/or B- knowledge on these superstitions.

If you answered 9 out of 9 C's:

Lucky you! It seems like you've covered the superstitions almost perfectly. Just remember to pass the superstitions so that the next person you see cleaning the house on Lunar New Year will know they are sweeping away their good fortune.

Lion dance roars in celebration

By Raymond Tran
Staff Writer

The Temple City Lion Dance Association kicked off Lunar New Year with their first performance at Temple City Park on Jan. 30.

The TCLDA was formed by Monrovia's Tzu Chi Academy and interacts with high school students to perform a traditional Chinese Lion Dance throughout the San Gabriel area. In the ritual, the larger lion dances with the smaller lions to scare away evil spirits and usher in good fortune for the New Year.

The bigger lion features two dancers, who focus more on integrated movement, and if possible, acrobatics. The smaller lions have one dancer each, and their primary role in the performance is to follow the big lion and entertain the crowd. During each performance, one large lion and two small lions rhythmically dance to the beats of Chinese drums, and receive traditional red envelopes.

This year, the TCLDA performs at retirement homes, elementary schools, and community centers. The participants are all Temple City High School students, and they practice three hours every week in Monrovia. Junior Thomas Choi, one of the main organizers of the TCLDA, helps choreograph the Lion Dance routine along with other Tzu Chi advisors.

"The Lion Dance is a great way to earn community service hours and to get in touch with our Chinese culture," Choi said. "We're lucky to have those special opportunities to perform in front of our friends and family."

As returning members to this year's group, Juniors Steven Tan and Van Dao work together to play the crucial role of the big lion. They practice special moves like acrobatic jumps, and also focus on how to correctly move the lion and its facial features. Of course, both students feel that these tasks are not easy to fulfill.

"The biggest problem with sharing a lion with someone is accidentally ripping it," Tan said. "We really have to move together; if we go in different directions, the entire lion falls apart."

The traditional dance is always accompanied by Chinese instruments, and the sounds of the drums and clanging cymbals drown out communication between the performers. The TCLDA dancers have to memorize the routines, along with specific shifts in the music tempo that signal which direction the lions should move.

The group is currently training for their upcoming performances at Longden Elementary and Live Oak Park on Feb. 17, and they will also be in the Camellia Festival. The dancers hope to be creative yet strictly traditional in their routines, all the while having fun when they do it.

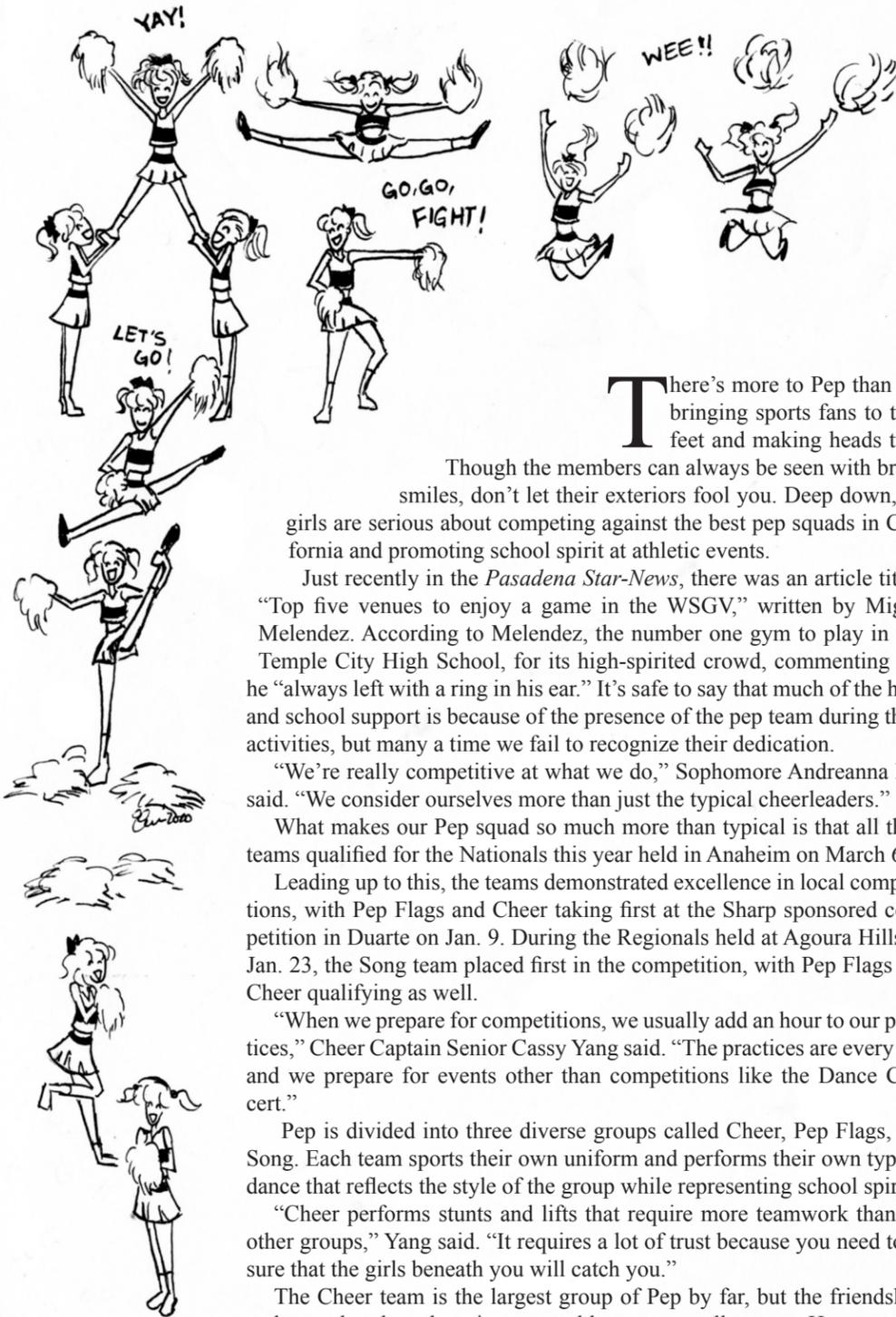
"It has been a great experience so far," Junior Raymond Loong said. "It's nice to see how we can make others happy and bond with each other."



PHOTO/ Raymond Tran Juniors Leslie Yim and Raymond Loong practice to perfect their routine for the Camellia Festival.

Pep teams move to their own beat

By Richard Kim
Sports Editor



ILLUSTRATION/ Erica Lee

There's more to Pep than just bringing sports fans to their feet and making heads turn.

Though the members can always be seen with bright smiles, don't let their exteriors fool you. Deep down, the girls are serious about competing against the best pep squads in California and promoting school spirit at athletic events.

Just recently in the *Pasadena Star-News*, there was an article titled, "Top five venues to enjoy a game in the WSGV," written by Miguel Melendez. According to Melendez, the number one gym to play in was Temple City High School, for its high-spirited crowd, commenting that he "always left with a ring in his ear." It's safe to say that much of the hype and school support is because of the presence of the pep team during these activities, but many a time we fail to recognize their dedication.

"We're really competitive at what we do," Sophomore Andreanna Luu said. "We consider ourselves more than just the typical cheerleaders."

What makes our Pep squad so much more than typical is that all three teams qualified for the Nationals this year held in Anaheim on March 6.

Leading up to this, the teams demonstrated excellence in local competitions, with Pep Flags and Cheer taking first at the Sharp sponsored competition in Duarte on Jan. 9. During the Regionals held at Agoura Hills on Jan. 23, the Song team placed first in the competition, with Pep Flags and Cheer qualifying as well.

"When we prepare for competitions, we usually add an hour to our practices," Cheer Captain Senior Cassy Yang said. "The practices are every day and we prepare for events other than competitions like the Dance Concert."

Pep is divided into three diverse groups called Cheer, Pep Flags, and Song. Each team sports their own uniform and performs their own type of dance that reflects the style of the group while representing school spirit.

"Cheer performs stunts and lifts that require more teamwork than the other groups," Yang said. "It requires a lot of trust because you need to be sure that the girls beneath you will catch you."

The Cheer team is the largest group of Pep by far, but the friendships and trust that they share is comparable to any smaller team. However, the Cheer team has encountered some obstacles this year with the coaching staff and is currently working with a new coach, Ms. Kyleen Hurtado, who just began her term this week. Though the team needs to learn to adapt to the coach, they are confident things will run smoothly because their routine is still the same.

Pep Flags is the most unique group of the three. Rather than using

pom-poms, they use a pair of flags that they twirl in the air while incorporating fancy steps matched to a signature techno beat.

"Whenever we perform, we always have a techno song in the background," Pep Flags Co-Captain Senior Kimberly Scinta said. "Techno has just always been a style of our group for a long time, and if we hit everything, we should do well in Nationals."

In Nationals, Pep Flags will face off with elite schools such as Channel Islands, a school that has taken the Pep Flags title for a number of years.

"The girls from Channel Islands are terrifying," Sophomore Carrie Sayphraraj said. "They've always won for the past few years, but I'm sure we'll do fine."

Even if Channel Islands happens to win the Pep Flags Nationals this year, our pep girls will surely be strong competitors. As long as the girls don't drop their flags, they should perform well above expectations.

Last but not least is Song. This group of girls might get offended if you refer to them as just cheerleaders, for they are essentially a freestyle dance team that just happens to use pom-poms. Much of their dancing focuses on freestyle and a more hip-hop feel. With a win in the Regionals, Song is confident in their ability to deliver, thanks in part to their new coach, Mr. Daniel Huynh, an alumnus of Temple City.

"We are expecting a lot of really good teams this year at Nationals," Senior Katie Nguyen said. "But thanks to our new coach, we learned more routines to help prepare us."

And if you're in the mood to ride a few roller coasters and watch Song compete, come to Knott's Berry Farm on Feb. 20 and watch the girls perform.

In the previous years, the Pep team was unable to place among the top spots in Nationals, but with their new coaches and also a new advisor, Ms. Marta Bourjeili, prospects in Nationals are promising.

Pep is ready to take on the other pep squads at Nationals. It's time for us to recognize the dedication and hard work these girls put in to represent our school.



PHOTO/ Richard Kim

Seniors Debra Lee and Haylie Ellingsworth practice their flags routine in the quad as they prepare for the Pep Nationals this upcoming March at Anaheim.

Senior Gregory Morgan cycles to the scene of an emergency

By Julia Chen
Staff Writer

Senior Gregory Morgan bikes to school on occasion, but he's no professional cyclist by any stretch of the imagination. Wheels get him from point A to point B, but last month, one day in the park quickly turned from a carefree bike ride to something far more serious.

On Saturday, Jan. 16, Morgan was returning home from Peck Road County Park in Arcadia when he saw an older gentleman biking along the path swerve off the road and fall onto his back. Morgan assumed that the man had slipped on the gravel path and ran over to help.

"The older man was not responding," Morgan said. "I began calling 911 to attempt to get an ambulance to our location."

A couple who had been walking ahead heard the sudden commotion and also rushed over to help. Morgan and the couple stayed by the man's side hoping that he would respond.

They explained their location to the 911 operator and Morgan biked to the park

entrance to get the attention of the fire department and the ambulance, which arrived roughly two minutes after the emergency call was placed.

The couple had attempted to give CPR to the man while Morgan was gone. The paramedics arriving on scene tried to resuscitate the older man, but they were not successful. In around ten minutes, the ambulance crew had depleted all of their op-

"She needed to tell me about what an outstanding student we had."

Ms. Robin Penn

tions and took the man to the hospital to try to help him further.

Shortly after the incident, Ms. Robin Penn, the high school's administrative office clerk, received a call from the victim's daughter.

"She needed to tell me about what an outstanding student we had," Ms. Penn said. "She felt like [Morgan and her father]

were brought together that day and that [Morgan] was meant to be there."

The man's daughter went on to say that her father had been extremely healthy and had biked along the same path everyday for 30 years.

Luckily, Morgan noticed something was wrong. If he had not been at the scene, her father would have died alone.

Morgan's response wasn't prompted by some invisible hand calling him to action. He was given no prior warning that something would happen on his way home. All

he saw was an individual who needed help. Unfortunately, the situation turned out to be much worse than what he had originally expected it to be. He did everything that could have been done under such circumstances.

"I am not worried about how this has affected me other than what kind of a chance this had been that I had been there at that exact moment to be able to try to help," Morgan said. "More than anything I am worried about how this is affecting the family."

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Rams Basketball find their rhythm

By Humphrey Lin
Staff Writer

Currently 6-3 in season, the Boys Basketball team does not have far to go in the journey towards league title.

Despite many of last year's starters graduating, the team continues to fight hard and started season with high hopes. Additionally, the teams in this year's league are weaker, improving the team's chances of placing.

"Last year, everything revolved around James Chen [former captain of basketball team]," Senior Denny Chong said. "This year, however, we don't have just one guy doing everything; we play more as a team now."

However, the road did not start off smoothly for the boys as they suffered crucial and unexpected losses. Overall defense was lacking, and the team experienced a surprising defeat against South Pasadena, which had never posed a significant threat before. They lost to Monrovia by a margin of a mere point, 58-57, and also a crucial game to La Cañada, who proved to be a tough opponent this year.

"[South Pasadena] was supposed to be an easy win, but we weren't focused," Junior Leo Chu said. "If we lose focus in the upcoming games, we might lose some pretty important games."

Over the next week, however, the Rams got their edge back with two straight wins against Blair and South Pasadena by a comfortable margin, 64-55, and 63-37 respectively. The team was focused and played two of their best games of the season.



PHOTO/ Humphrey Lin

Senior Denny Chong attempts a three-pointer over the outstretched arms of a South Pasadena defender. Though not an outside shooter, Chong demonstrated his versatility in all areas of the court. The accurate shooting contributed to the Rams' 63-37 victory.

This turn of events put Temple City in a three-way tie for second place, with Blair and Monrovia.

"We entered these games with a serious mindset," Chong said. "There was a greater sense of urgency, so we were really focused."

These wins brought the Rams one step closer to placing first in league. Then they played San Marino the following week with a positive morale, which contributed

to an easy win.

"We anticipated to win against San Marino," Sophomore Jordan Hill said. "We were ahead the whole game."

On that same day, however, the Rams also received news of South Pasadena and La Cañada's victory against Monrovia and Blair, respectively. Although this means that Monrovia and Blair are out of the running for second place, the Spartans' victory secured La Cañada the position of first

place, erasing all hope for Temple City.

Whether the Rams win or lose their game today against the Spartans, they will proceed onto to play in the California Interscholastic Finals. However, this remains an important game for the team.

"This is our last game of league," Hill said. "We never want to end the year on a bad note."

Come watch the Rams play against La Cañada today at home at 7:00 p.m.

Boys Soccer gains steam

By Jennifer Su
Staff Writer

Despite their third place in league last year, the Varsity Boys Soccer Team is currently second place.

The team's preseason record did not end on a high note, going 2-1-5. However, as the Rams entered season, their performance on the field changed dramatically. Now 6-0-2, the team is beginning to come together.

"We had never really played with each other so it was hard to trust each other but we are getting to the point where we do," Junior Tim Herington said. "The team is working together so far and this is what we need."

In addition, the loss of valuable senior players last year affected their performance on the field.

"We lost a lot of good players in defense," Junior Troy Brocato said. "The team started out not the best but we have improved greatly."

This year, Sophomores Benji Sanderson and Andrew Oronia are the only two who were moved up to Varsity from JV.

"It feels good to be on Varsity," Sanderson said. "I think that any accomplishments made on Varsity feel a

little more meaningful than [those made] on JV."

Besides the changes in the team, they also received an assistant coach. A Temple City alumnus Arthur Alvarado Jr. graduated in 2003. The soccer team being Alvarado's first high school coaching job, he has expectations for the team.

"I think we have what it takes to become league champs," Coach Alvarado said. "If not, I think we can do well in play-offs."



PHOTO/ Jennifer Su

Senior Matt Xiao dribbles the ball past the pursuing Blair defender as his teammate rushes forward.

our winning streak alive and possibly win league if things go right."

If the Rams continue to play as well as they have been, it is very likely that they will be able to win league. Support the players today as they go head to head against La Cañada at home.

Saints' historical end to Super Bowl XLIV

By Richard Kim
Sports Editor

Who would have guessed that a disorganized football team led by an injured quarterback could come together under a common cause and win the Super Bowl in one of the greatest show-downs in history? I sure didn't.

To be truthful, I had been pulling for the Minnesota Vikings all year because my favorite quarterback of all time, Brett Favre, had taken the reins. I was sure that this would be the year that I would share the glory with Favre, but I was wrong.

During the semifinal match up between the Vikings and Saints, Favre made a costly throw that resulted in an interception, which set up the Saints to score a field goal and win the game in overtime. I can't publish the things I said, but I'll just say that I was not happy. It must have been destiny that the Saints were able to capitalize on the errors made by the Vikings, because they went on to win the Super Bowl. But it's not the ending that makes the Saints so interesting but the road that led up to it.

After the disastrous Hurricane Katrina struck, thousands in New Orleans were left homeless and hopeless. The image that was instilled in everyone's minds of New Orleans was of terror, destruction, and definitely not a good football team.

In the beginning of the season, the Saints received Drew Brees, an injured quarterback who was traded by the San Diego Chargers who believed that Brees' heyday was over. There was Reggie Bush, the star runningback from USC to help out the Saints' offense, but Bush had played far below expectations, so his performance this year was not promising. The Saints' defense, was not the most outstanding, so the opposing team would be able to put points on the board easily. Everything for the Saints seemed as bleak as the mood in New Orleans—hopeless.

But Brees rose to the occasion, throwing the most accurate passes in league, to bring the Saints to a 15-3 record. When Peyton Manning, the quarterback of the Colts, and the Saints met in the Super Bowl, the Colts were projected to win because Manning was hailed as the "best quarterback of all time." The experts were wrong though, because although they calculated all the statistics of the players, they forgot to calculate the motivation and drive Brees had to win not only for himself, but for the hopeless New Orleans city that needed a hero.

Sports Update

Boys Soccer	Girls Soccer	Boys Basketball	Girls Basketball
TC vs. La Cañada Today @ 3:30 p.m. @ Home	TC vs. La Cañada Today @ 3:30 p.m. @ La Cañada	TC vs. La Cañada Today @ 7:00 p.m. @ Home	TC vs. La Cañada Today @ 3:30 p.m. @ La Cañada