

# TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL

# Rampage

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## TCHS starts the school year with a new look

By Katie Burke  
Staff Writer

The campus is starting off the school year with a fresh new look, thanks to Superintendent Ms. Kathy Perini. Over the summer, the district put several projects into action, including the construction of a new senior circle, improvements to sports facilities and repainting of the walls.

"Part of my philosophy is that environment impacts education," Ms. Perini said. "That is why my main motivation for these projects is to have every campus be clean, sharp, and for the kids to be proud of where they go to school."

The school completed the renovation of the senior circle on Aug. 26 and it can now be used for various social events, such as dances and performances.

As for sports facilities, the construction team sanded down and repainted the gym floor. The school also repaved and retouched the outdoor basketball courts and renovated, cleaned and freshly painted the locker rooms for this year's athletics. The school also added a new snack bar to the baseball field and removed the wooden bleachers from the football field.

Additionally, Ms. Perini had many of the structures in the school, such as the front of the school and the exterior of the gym, repainted and decorated with a logo or mural.

The funding for all of these projects is from the 3% of total expenses that the district has set aside for maintenance of all school campuses.

"We're planning to add new picnic tables and shade structures to make it all more student friendly," Ms. Perini said. "Hopefully, students will see the renovations as an opportunity for more school pride and as a call to work together to keep our school sites looking the best they can by doing their part to keep them clean, taking care of them by picking up trash and caring for facilities by using them appropriately."

Over the next few years, the district will continue to revamp and modernize the campus, making it better than ever. Ms. Perini plans to have a new pool and cleaner installed, as well as better sports facilities. She hopes to make every district campus the best that it can be.

Another major project, made possible by the measure S bond, is the new two story building, which should begin construction in a month or so. The project was delayed because the district's original plan to fund the project ran into legal issues, but construction should be resuming really soon.



PHOTO/ Stephanie Shih

**Murals Invoke Ram pride:** "I think the new school murals add a wonderful touch to the school," Sophomore Ivy Chen said. "They give me a sense of pride, and remind everyone that we are all rams."

September Ram Calendar							September 7: Labor Day (No School)	September 8: Back to School Night (Minimum Day)
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S	September 8-11: Spirit week	Period 0
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	Tuesday: Best Lazy Day Ever	Period 1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Wednesday: Undercover Perry	Period 2
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Thursday: Backyard Beach	Period 3
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Friday: That's the Spirit	Period 4
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	September 10: APIASF/GMS Scholarship (C&C Center)	Period 6
								Period 7

## NEWS BRIEFS

By Aaron Ding and Charlie Dodge  
Staff Writers

### Sexual Assaults Occur Outside Arcadia Schools

Members of the Arcadia School district have been on alert since Aug. 25 when a man sexually assaulted two women with pelvic thrusts outside of two Arcadia schools. The first attack occurred outside of Dana Middle School, and the latter outside of Arcadia High School, but neither women were students nor staff of the schools. The sexual predator in suspect was described as a young man, wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt and tan shorts.

### Pomona College Tops Forbes

With the student to faculty ratio at 8:1, and a student population of approximately 2,000, Pomona College became the first ever Southern California college to be declared as the #1 college in the nation by American Forbes Magazine on July 29. Forbes based their rankings on Return on Investment, which is the net amount of money earned by graduates compared to their tuition costs.

### Free ID Cards

TCHS ID cards are now being given to students free of charge, but there will have a \$30 replacement fee in the case that a student were to lose his ID card. Superintendent Ms. Kathy Perini suggested to remove the donations for ID cards because it seemed as if the donations were mandatory. Activities Director Mr. Michael Kidd estimates that the school will lose \$25,000 in revenue, but the school will find new ways, through fundraisers and other donations, to balance out the budget.

### TCHS Snapchat Geo-Filter

Many students may have noticed that TCHS now has its very own Snapchat filter. The design was created and submitted by Sophomore Jeremy Lesmana after he learned that he could create a special overlay for the school through Snapchat's official website. Lesmana saw that other schools had their own filters, and decided to make one for TCHS. After submitting his design during the summer, Snapchat approved it just in time for the new school year.

## Meet the new Assistant Principals

Compiled By Eva Baudler



"Temple City is a completely different type of district from the one I came from. So far it has been amazing, the students and staff are friendly and very welcoming. I'm here to help people. I want to really push myself and see if I can make a difference in someone's life here."

— Mr. Richard Lohman

"I'm not sure what challenges to expect in the future, but I'm ready to face whatever comes my way. I feel very fortunate to be part of a great administrative team and staff, it feels like home already."

— Ms. Laura Sanchez



PHOTOS/Jason Xie

# Poke: gotta try them all

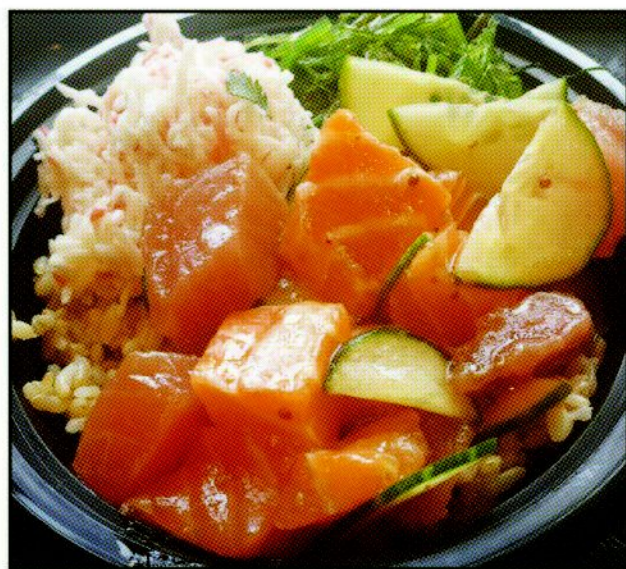
By Elizabeth Liu  
Staff Writer

You might have seen pictures of LA's newest food obsession all over social media. Poke evolved from a casual Hawaiian dish into a trendy rice bowl that has become the center of attention. For those of you who are hopping onto the bandwagon, poke is a Hawaiian raw-fish salad. However, restaurants are modernizing it by adding different fish and topping options.

## Poke Salad Bar

Being the first place I tried, I was skeptical about the build-your-own idea. However, I was surprised at how well the flavors worked together. The restaurant, located on Colorado Boulevard a few doors west of the Apple store, had a lot of open space and a classy, modern feel to it. The servers were extremely patient and were happy to help out.

With prices ranging from \$9-12, they offer three different bowl sizes and ordering takes five simple steps. I



PHOTO/ Elizabeth Liu

Poke Salad Bar really stood out because the variety of fish and vegetables were especially fresh and flavorful.

## Drunk in love with marsala

By Gracie Chen  
Staff Writer

Taking a turn from bright colors like Radiant Orchid and Tangerine Tango, Pantone Color Institute, the leading organization in color communication, has announced marsala as the color of the year.

The color is a mixture of maroon and a hint of brown, creating a warm and earthy color. Marsala shares its name with a wine produced in a small town near Sicily, Italy, and is the perfect color to incorporate into your clothing for a warm but sophisticated feel.

You might notice that marsala-colored apparel has been popular since last fall and continues to be so today because it may be utilized in many ways. By wearing a few marsala-colored clothing in your outfits, you can make a stylish transition from summer to fall.



PHOTO/ Johnson Pham

Not only is it a perfect hue for fall, but the color looks great with any kind of texture such as a matte or sheen finish. A matte finish accentuates marsala's organic nature, while a sheen conveys a completely different message of luxury.

Looking around, you will notice that many students on campus are incorporating marsala into their everyday looks.

"Marsala is my favorite color because it gives me a sense of empowerment and it is such a vibrant color,"

Freshman Hailey Herrera said. "I think marsala being the color of the year was a great choice because it not only looks great on all skin tones but gives people confidence to be bold."

In beauty, marsala is a go-to for a pop of color when you are feeling bold. A deep marsala lip exudes elegance, while Marsala blush on your cheeks gives color to the face.

Since it can pair with almost any color, marsala can easily translate into your home. Although marsala's dark nature does not seem to fit as a wall color, a rich red-brown marsala can bring a dramatic warmth and a soothing environment into a home interior through plush bedding or on walls for a bold splash of color.



PHOTO/ Elizabeth Liu

Spinfish Poke House's modern and sleek interior is a stark contrast with the rustic worn brick walls on its storefront.

ordered a small bowl with cucumber, brown rice, seaweed, imitation crab, sesame shoyu, salmon and Ahi tuna. I was quite surprised by the large portion size and despite all the different options I chose, all the flavors came together nicely. However, I found that the sesame shoyu sauce was too sweet. Although the many different options may seem intimidating at first, with the friendly staff and easy-to-read menu, this is a great place to visit if you're looking for a quick yet fresh meal. Due to the great food and inviting environment, Poke Salad Bar was by far my favorite.

## Spinfish Poke House

Spinfish Poke House, located off Colorado Boulevard down Mills Place, in Old Town Pasadena is definitely worth the try. The interior was a bustling store with a friendly environment. Although the menu may be overwhelming at first, the friendly staff along with Spinfish's signature bowls are a great start for poke beginners.

I decided to go with the staff's recommendation of the banzai bowl, which consisted of a noodle base, avocado, lemon zest, green onion and salmon. Every bite had a tangy yet sweet taste that left me wanting for more. They

stepped up their game by adding lemon zest which emphasized the flavor of the salmon and added an extra kick. I would recommend trying out this restaurant to those who are looking for fast service and a savory dish.

## Pokemix by Flour + Tea

Unlike most poke restaurants which serve exclusively poke, Flour + Tea offers other food options besides poke. Although they don't focus their entire menu around poke, they do prepare a fantastic dish. This restaurant, located at 99 South Lake Avenue, south of Colorado Boulevard had an atmosphere that is great for hanging out with friends.

At Flour + Tea, their bowls starts at around \$11 and I got a small bowl with salmon, sesame sauce and onions. Although I did add the sesame sauce, the salmon tasted bland since Flour + Tea doesn't marinate the fish beforehand. Despite the blandness, I did enjoy the bowl in general. Flour + Tea does offer great discounts and serves amazing deserts along with their flavored teas. If you're looking for a great place to relax with many food choices, I definitely recommend trying Flour + Tea.



PHOTO/ Elizabeth Liu

Spinfish's fresh green onions paired with creamy ripe avocados complimented the rich taste of the salmon.

## Max out your chances of survival

By Max Clark  
Exchange Editor

Over the summer, Senior Juan Carlos Charre Jr. and I went missing in the wilderness overnight. Several miles into a loop hike, we found that the trail had disappeared but continued on as the map showed our exit route only a few miles down the stream. We hiked on for several more hours until finally deciding that there was no loop back up to the road, and turned around. Knowing that we did not have enough time to make it back before nightfall, we set up camp and stayed the night.

Early the next morning as we were preparing to hike out, my dad along with search and rescue found us and we flew away on a helicopter. If you ever decide to go hiking, a few essential hiking items and knowledge can help keep you safe.

### Water

Having a water filter in our possession was arguably the most important factor throughout the day and night. Because the hike took hours longer than I had expected, we were able to refill our water multiple times and prevent dehydration. If we did not have this tool, we would have been in serious trouble if search and rescue did not find us.

### Keeping Warm and Comfortable

Fire was essential in maintaining security and much needed warmth throughout the night. It is said that hikers should always carry two different tools to start a fire, and I always carry a lighter and a box of waterproof matches with a cotton ball for tinder. In regards to chopping wood, I have always found that the most efficient method is to throw a large stone against a branch leaning against a rock. While it may sound silly, using a knife takes exponentially longer and requires more effort.

In addition, it is always important to carry extra layers while hiking, as weather can take a turn for

the worst at any time. For further warmth, I carry an emergency blanket. This is a lightweight reflective blanket that traps heat, and made the night that much more comfortable.

### Knife

I carried a KA-BAR fixed blade knife, which allowed us to cut different plants and create makeshift bedding. It was a small part of the camp but it made the night that much more bearable. Bedding gets you off the ground and prevents against hypothermia at night.

### Safety

I carry a lightweight first aid kit with different allergy and pain medications along with bandages and tools to treat wounds. Charre and I were hiking through an irritating plant called stinging nettle, and when we were finally able to relax by the fire, our whole bodies stung. The Benadryl in my first aid kit helped with the pain.

### Navigation

It was later that I discovered I was using a dated map that showed an old trail, but the topographical information was accurate and it kept us from getting completely lost.



PHOTO/ Max Clark

Whether hiking for fun or fitness, you should always be prepared for the situation to take a turn for the worst.

# Our Mission Statement

The Temple City High School Rampage is a publication that exists to fulfill the student body's need for interesting and thoughtful content.

Our goal as the Rampage staff is to deliver a product every three weeks that reaches all demographics of the high school, be they underclassmen, upperclassmen or faculty.

It is our responsibility to quickly and thoroughly respond to newsworthy events on campus or in the larger Temple City and San Gabriel Valley communities; to produce an economical newspaper that adds to a sense of school community and pride.

We meet these needs with feature stories about faculty and students, balanced athletic coverage of the school's sports teams, detailed

news coverage of local events, staff and community opinion articles on local, state, national and international issues as well as reader-oriented entertainment content.

Furthermore, our unique Focus"spread allows us to tackle, in a given issue, a single topic or umbrella of topics. Through this centerfold, we hope to bring a novel set of articles and an artistic spin to each issue's routine content.

In some cases, it is necessary to make a point on a local, state or national issue. Our editorials create a publication-wide stance on topics relevant to the student body. Their goal is to provoke further discussion and thought among the student body. Other opinion articles on the page function similarly, but may not be taken as seriously and in some cases may be outright satire.

We will attempt to incorporate online and social media more cohesively into our print content by taking a more active role in interacting with our social media accounts, displaying relevant, interesting and useful content on both social media and our website. Article sneak peeks, news breaking in the middle of our publishing cycle and web exclusive content should be released every issue on our site and advertised through social media.

We endeavor to make use of our 11, three-week publishing cycles to provide compelling angles, depth and fully fact-checked writing in every issue.

Above all, we strive to facilitate a critical, constructive, thinking student body by asking questions and providing information relevant to their lives.

## Immunize against ignorance

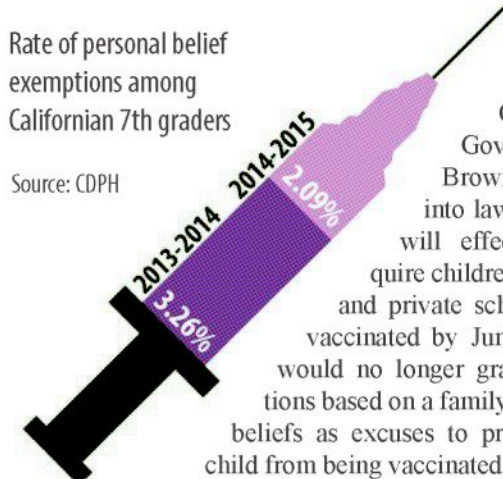


By Michelle Zhang  
Staff Writer

Ever since the 19th century, vaccines have been used in the United States to help prevent diseases. However, a new and vocal movement of parents refusing to vaccinate their children could jeopardize the efficiency of an invention that has saved millions of lives.

Rate of personal belief exemptions among Californian 7th graders

Source: CDPH



INFOGRAPHIC/  
Brittany Hsu

Just recently, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a bill that will effectively require children in public and private schools to be vaccinated by June 16. This would no longer grant exemptions based on a family's personal beliefs as excuses to prevent their child from being vaccinated. California is now part of a small group of states that do not require exemptions, includ-

ing Mississippi and West Virginia. Senate Bill 277 is among the strictest vaccination guidelines in the country and we should expect to see other states adopt this law in the near future.

This law was passed to protect ourselves as well as the people around us. However, many opponents of the law say they will sue and push for a vote to prevent it, or even homeschool their children to avoid vaccination. They have the right to do so, but this could put their children and others at unnecessary risk of catching a deadly disease.

California made the right decision to prohibit exemptions based on religious beliefs, because parents should understand how crucial vaccinations are for the health of their child and others in the community. A recent study showed that for a society to reach "herd immunity," 92 to 94 percent of the population must be immune to the prevalent diseases. In some of California's schools, the rates of vaccinations are currently below the level needed for herd immunity. Private schools, specifically, have a 4.53% personal belief exemption rate among seventh graders.

Many parents in California are protesting against SB 277, because they feel that they should be allowed the choice to get their child vaccinated. I am absolutely sure that those parents will do whatever they think best for their



COMIC/ Charlie Dodge

child, but in this case, a law requiring schoolchildren to be vaccinated is the best way to protect the overall student population.

Overall, to ensure the safety of ourselves and our community, the SB 277 would not only allow our community and schools to reach herd immunity but it will also provide an environment where outbreaks are controlled. The more people that get vaccinated, the smaller the chances of deadly diseases being passed around that could possibly take our own lives and others around us.

## Students shouldn't belittle the system, but respect it



By Amber Lee  
Business Manager

There seems to be a steady pattern of blaming the American education system whenever students receive crummy grades. Weirdly enough, the students that tend to spout such accusations are the ones who refuse to take notes, ask questions or study. Essentially, their complaints are a cop-out for their lack of effort.

Now don't spit in my face just yet, I still agree that the test-oriented system we were forced to mold ourselves into since we first learned to tie our muddy shoe-

laces has its flaws. It is impossible to recognize the qualities of students based on their SAT score, GPA and five hundred word statement. I agree that some students don't possess great test-taking skills or the same academic luxuries as others. However, I continue to stand behind the system. Grades help hundreds of universities and colleges analyze the scholastic ability of the thousands of applicants they sort through on a yearly basis.

The words "grades don't matter; they don't define you," have graced my tiny ears too many times to count. Of course, grades don't define you. Grades in no way display the eighteen years of livable knowledge

that you have hitherto accumulated. Unfortunately, it's the fairest method to date. If you find yourself unable to accept this, please let me know when you think of a better solution. I'm down to listen, and so is CollegeBoard.

I feel that there is hypocrisy in those who seek recognition unrelated to academic numbers and trivialize those that do seek recognition in academic success. Some people strive at scholastic tests, while others don't. It's fine to believe your personal strengths don't lie in Algebra or AP Lit, but it's still important to appreciate those who do.

If your grades don't define you, then

by all means, find what truly defines you. Place emphasis on your areas of expertise instead of crying over the grades you don't think you deserve.

As my second favorite red-haired man, Ed Sheeran, once retweeted, "If you ask a fish to climb a tree, it will never know of its own, great potential."

This is true. Not every student's talents lie within the boundaries of high school, but that doesn't mean there is no significance in earning an A in Algebra.

If you're a fish trying to climb a tree, find water and swim—don't waste your time belittling the squirrels that specialize in climbing.

### TEMPLE CITY HIGH SCHOOL Rampage

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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.



# Style Shot: Fall Trendsetters

By Johnson Pham  
Photo Editor

Get ready and get set to fall into the latest trends with Senior Jessica Lee and Sophomore Keanu Fong. Current styles for girls have been Coachella-inspired clothing, like white lace crop tops, floral patterns and ripped high-waisted denim shorts. The grunge style, which consists of black shirts, plaid flannels and chokers, is also rocking the scene. Lee has been searching for the latest fashion trends through her Tumblr, @revamps. Her blog consists of food, fashion, puppies and flowers.

"Dressing up is my form of self expression," Lee said. "It gives me confidence."

Trends for boys include slim shorts that fall above the knee with floral shirts and joggers complemented with a windbreaker and sneakers. Fong dresses up nicely so that others are left with a good impression of him.

"When I am all dressed up, I feel more in style," Fong said. "Plus my clothing choices are really comfortable."

"I got bored of my dark hair so I decided to change it up."

"The black skater skirt is a classic that matches the aura of fall."

"These Converse match with every outfit, so they are my go-to pair."



"The feathers on my top remind me of designs I see on Tumblr."

"The joggers look good with the shirt and are also light and comfortable."



"I blow dry my hair because it is a quick way to give it some volume."

"The flower pattern mixes preppy and casual."

"My shoes match the other casual choices in my outfit."

PHOTOS/ Johnson Pham

# Harper Lee's new novel sets different viewpoints

By Samuel Kim  
Staff Writer



Like all freshmen, I remember reading Harper Lee's novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird," which is part of the freshman curriculum for English. At the time, I dreaded reading the book because I knew it would lead to countless worksheets, analytical essays and in-class group projects.

However, as I looked back on the book, I realized what an amazing story it was. When I later found out Lee's original manuscript "Go Set a Watchman," which predated "To Kill a Mockingbird," was released in July, I set out to read the book. Upon reading "Go Set a Watchman," I was shocked at how the writing style changed and how much it surpassed my expectations.

In the novel, Jean Louise, now 26, returns to Maycomb County to visit her father, Atticus Finch, now 72, but is dismayed to find out he is with his law firm partner in an organization set on preventing racial integration.

I appreciated that there was no fluctuating personality in any of the

characters, which is an irritating element that appears in some books I have read.

Some of the characters' behavior—mainly Atticus—has been changed, but they still maintain their original character. This confusing change was one of the things that threw me off about this book.

There was a striking contrast between the plots of "To Kill a Mockingbird" and the new novel. Tom Robinson's trial is not one of the main events in the book, which was one the key occurrences in "To Kill a Mockingbird." Lee also introduces a new character, Hank Clinton, who is Louise's childhood friend, possible fiancé and Atticus's law firm partner, into the story.

The storyline flows smoothly throughout the entire book. However, the pivotal moments come without any forewarning in the book, which is an aspect I actually enjoyed.

The themes woven into this book have no connection to the themes in "To Kill a Mockingbird," which makes "Go Set a Watchman" harder to comprehend. The story talks about accepting change, humanity and commitment to one's values, which are all shown through Jean Louise and Atticus' changing father-daughter relationship.

"Go Set a Watchman" depicts an accurate representation of how people on both sides felt about racism. It informs the reader about issues that are still present in society today and teaches them there are things bigger than themselves that will happen whether they like them or not.

The book does have some heavy moments, but to those who are willing to challenge themselves, and to those who liked Lee's previous book, I suggest you look into this new one.

# Set the record straight about class scheduling

By Melody Lo  
Staff Writer

Students are anxious to see which classes and periods they will be placed in, but complain when they do not get their anticipated schedules. However, they must consider the effort put into setting schedules that meet everybody's needs.

According to Counselor Mr. Cary Smith, it is impossible to have a master schedule that satisfies the student body and the teachers. Some students feel entitled to take certain courses after doing summer work but must consider limited space and conflicting courses.

Many classes, such as Yearbook, ASB, ROP and AP classes have set periods, which cause classes to overlap. Sacrifices need to be made so the majority of the students can have their desired schedules. This year the final master schedule had a 97.3% successful placement rate with only 56 students having a class that could not fit into their schedule.

Rather than thinking of dropped classes negatively, students must remember that they are sacrificing one course to be able to take others. "Students cannot have all they want," History Teacher Mr. Michael Shore said. "Whether they've done all the work or not has no bearing on schedule conflicts."

Out of the students that were unable to fit certain classes into their set schedules, Senior Celestina Chen was one of the few. Chen had to drop AP French to take AP Statistics, despite completing a portion of the required summer work for AP French. Although Chen had to lose one of her classes, she still manages to have four APs and Yearbook.

"On the one hand, I'm really sad that I won't be able to take French, because I really like the French teacher and her class," said Chen. "On



PHOTO/ Janeth Inatomi  
Counselors have dedicated many hours in the first and second week of school to change schedules.

the other hand, not having AP French means that I have less work and a shorter school day."

From Mr. Smith, I learned that schedules are first set up in March when students receive a form to outline which classes they prefer for the upcoming year. Counselors then organize the requested courses into the student's schedules, which are later adjusted to fit set periods. In May, students receive a form in which they can request changes to their schedules. In the end, Principal Ms. Mary Jo Fosselman King chooses what classes and periods teachers have that fulfill the wishes of most students and teachers.

The fact that only 2.7% of the entire school did not obtain their preferred schedules proves that the counselors and administration did their best to satisfy students and teachers. Not everything can be set to match one person's schedule.

# Set up a workspace for the school year

By Jason Xie  
Staff Writer

At the start of a new school year, setting a workspace that fits both one's personality and work habits can be extremely beneficial.

## Cable walls

Technological devices expose your workstation to cluttered wires and cables. However, making cable wall art can get messy wires out of your way. Outline a pattern on your workstation wall that you want to decorate. After that, put the wires and cables over the patterns and stick them to the wall with clear duct tape. Make sure the pattern includes sharp corners, as round patterns are more prone to falling apart.

a projector to cast a black and white picture of your choice on the wall. If you don't have a projector, use a mock-up cutout of the picture you want and cast a shadow of it on the wall with a flashlight. This should cast a negative spaced picture which should make tracing easier. Outline the projection with a pen, and paint the picture by following the lines.



PHOTO/ Candace Tan  
Set up your wires in a unique pattern to give an interesting focal point to your workspace.

## Wall art

Decoration in the workplace can be distracting, especially if it's too bright or colorful. Wall art with a black and white color scheme can add a nice touch without being over stimulating and distracting. Not only does it require little to no artistic skill, it is also faster than painting with proportions. Use

# Rams show off their sets of collectibles

By Pamela Pan  
Staff Writer

For some people, collecting items is a hobby and a great way to display their passions. Ramage set out to find the school's coolest sets of collectibles.



"I have approximately 140 Tsum Tsums of all sizes. I started collecting them last summer, since they are irresistibly adorable, and they remind me of all those amazing Disney characters I used to love and admire."

—Sophomore Thaddeus Yan

"We have been swimming and playing water polo since we were seven or eight and always keep every swimsuit for a memory. It's amazing how we already have almost 50 swimsuits."

—Juniors Rachel Lee and Gabi Sicut

"I have 'Star Wars' items in basically anything you can imagine: shirts, kitchen items, school supplies, etc. My dad introduced me to Star Wars when I was very young, and I loved it. It is something that my dad and I have bonded over."

—History Teacher Mr. Riley Saxon



PHOTOS/ Pamela Pan

# Zhao sets up success for herself with part-time job

By Catherine Tran  
Web Editor

Along with completing summer work and relaxing in the little time she had, Junior Oriana Zhao added more to her resume by spending her summer working as a waitress and a cashier at Sushi in the Box every Monday and Tuesday where she earned \$9 an hour.

The restaurant opened at 5 p.m. in the summer, so Zhao would arrive 30 minutes earlier to begin her set up routine. She was in charge of putting cash into the register, refilling condiment bottles and salad sauce,

prepping miso soup bowls and washing the salad. She would then refill seaweed salad to-go cups for the bentos and the cel sauce for the sushi, clear the counter and supply the counter with utensils, to-go bags, sushi box lids and plates. At around 9 p.m., she would start packing up.

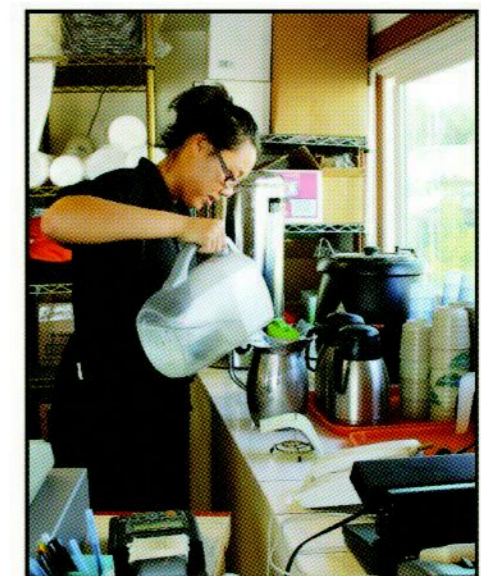
"The worst part about the job is how physically exhausting it is," Zhao said. "But I chose to work at Sushi in the Box because it was local and larger restaurants would be more exhausting and stressful for an inexperienced worker like me."

Working at Sushi in the Box is Zhao's first job and she does admit that being a waitress and a cashier isn't as easy as it looks. However, this job has helped her develop the patience, attentiveness and positivity needed for good customer service skills.

"The best part about this job is that I get to meet people of all sorts and practice my Chinese," Zhao said. "I learned how to communicate with others efficiently and how to work the cashier. I have dealt with rude and difficult customers but maybe the customer may have just had a bad day, or they were in a hurry."

Zhao does enjoy receiving employee benefits, such as discounts and free dinner. Although school has started, she is planning to continue working two days a week.

"I want to save up some money for college," Zhao said. "I don't know how I'm planning on managing my time with school, work, and extra-curricular activities but it'll work out eventually."



PHOTO/ Catherine Tran  
"You learn to have plenty of patience," Zhao said. "We only have one of each staff here."

Liu's Clues  
Setting the bar high  
Alex Liu  
Editor-in-Chief



Many high school students feel extreme pressure to meet their parents' high expectations. While I understand it is difficult to live up to them, I don't resent the precedent my parents set for me. Rather, it only inspired me to challenge myself even further.

Like many, I was unable to understand why my parents expected so many things from me when I was younger. Growing up, I recall hating my mother for demanding I do two things: doing my homework and eating my vegetables. However, I realized that if I wanted to be healthy and be prepared for the future, I needed to do well in school and eat my broccoli.

When I hear about how people have developed immense hatred towards their parents for setting high standards, the first feeling that comes to my mind isn't sympathy for the child, but rather I feel that these kids are not giving their parents the appreciation they deserve. While my experiences cannot speak for everyone, I am extremely thankful for the sacrifices my parents have made for me and that they want me to be the best that I can be.

Both of my parents gave up everything they had to come to the United States in search of a better future. My dad got on a plane in China and landed at LAX with \$17 in his pocket and my mother was born in war-torn Vietnam and traveled alone in the bottom of a fishing boat across various countries in Southeast Asia before coming to the United States.

Looking at what my parents have been able to accomplish made me see why they set high expectations for me. Both had no entitlements and came from virtually nothing. Neither of them complained and through their hard work, can comfortably provide the best environment and opportunities today for my sister and me to achieve success. There is no excuse for me to not achieve more with the many resources I have.

My parent's ultimate goal is to see me succeed, and that is something that I should be thankful for. They sacrificed so much to provide me with all that I have today, and I owe my parents a return on the investment they made for me. Whether or not I get accepted into a prestigious university or make six figures in the future will not affect the accomplishments that my parents have already achieved.

# Ling shoots among stars

By Jennifer Siu  
Staff Writer

**B**right lights, huge cameras and a large cast surrounded Junior Tiffany Ling as she prepared to shoot a commercial celebrating “America’s Funniest Home Videos” 20th anniversary.

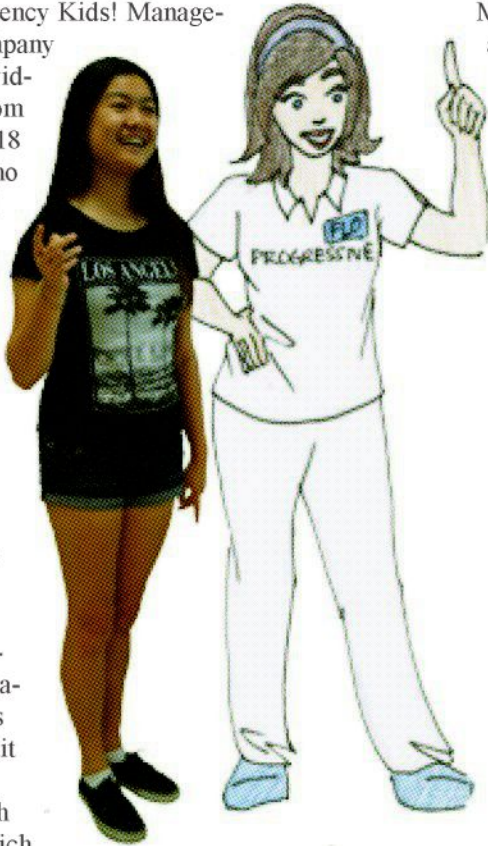
Ling went to act as an extra in the show’s commercial on April 7 at Disneyland as a member

of the acting agency Kids! Management. The company

welcomes individuals ranging from two weeks to 18 years old, who are interested in having a glimpse of the entertainment industry and what is required to progress in show-biz.

Members get the chance to act in feature length motion pictures, TV shows and commercials. Company scouts across California recruit youths eager to work on set with minor roles, which is how Ling and her sister got involved.

“My sister and I were at the Santa Anita mall when some agents came to us and asked if we wanted to try



acting on television for a small ad,” Ling said. “Our parents agreed and we were featured in the commercial. After a while, my sister and I were contacted for an interview with Kids! Management to see if we were interested in being full time members.”

Ling has been part of the acting agency since she was 11 years old. Since then, her experiences include being featured as an extra in Progressive advertisements and Exxon Mobil commercials. She has also acted in TV shows such as “A.N.T. Farm” on Disney Channel and “Kickin’ It” on Disney XD.

“Working on a Disney set has to be the best opportunity I’ve ever had,” Ling said. “My experience on ‘A.N.T. Farm’ was my favorite. I was able to personally meet the entire cast and the crew was extremely hospitable to their background actors, providing us with a huge lunch after the shoot.”

Despite Ling’s small roles as an extra, she values each opportunity to be featured on television. Her recent commercial for “America’s Funniest Home Videos” has been one of Ling’s highlights, in which she received the chance to spend a day at Disney with her family.

“The places you get to go when you’re part of a commercial are always so different and surreal,” Ling said. “Going to places like Disneyland without the heavy cost is just one of the few perks of it all.”

With long term experience in acting, Ling has not only acquired behind-the-scenes knowledge, but growth in the field of public relations thanks to the organization’s encouragement for its members to work and connect with various people.

“Whenever I act in a commercial or TV show, I get to meet so many new people and my social world is so much broader,” Ling said. “Working with teens and kids from all over the state that love the entertainment industry and just seeing your cast on television is so rewarding.”

While Ling recognizes the infallible excitement of the acting industry, her academic life has been a huge priority she hasn’t abandoned. She dreams of venturing into college and eventually getting a degree in marketing.

“I haven’t really thought too much about pursuing a job in entertainment,” Ling said. “It all depends on where time takes me and what my interests will fall towards when I grow up, but entertainment is definitely something I’ll always be thinking about.”



PHOTO/ April Zhou

ILLUSTRATION/ Alisha Hernandez

## Alumni Watch: Williams grows through new job

By Janeth Inatomi  
Staff Writer

When 2008 Graduate Becky Williams surveys the special education class she works with, she is often reminded of what sparked her interest in becoming an instructional aid—the chance to help every student reach his or her full potential.

Day to day, Ms. Williams works one-on-one with students at La Rosa to help them achieve their personal goals in the classroom, some of which may take several years. She tries to personalize each session by coming up with different strategies for each student, with the hope that each student will learn better.

“Seeing a student reach the goals that they have been working on is a reward itself,” Ms. Williams said. “Just knowing that I had an impact on their lives makes this job even more meaningful.”

Ms. Williams is currently working as an Instructional Aid while studying for her teaching credential at CalState LA. She started working at La Rosa back in 2012, following an undergraduate degree at Citrus College.

The class she currently teaches not only gives her

the perfect learning experience, but also the chance and joy to learn something new from her students every day as well. Ms. Williams also believes that her previous jobs at Cloverly and Temple City High have led her to realize her love in working closely with the Special Education classes.

“I had always loved working with kids, and being a teacher was something I always wanted to do,” Ms. Williams said. “It was always in the back of my mind, but I didn’t realize it was meant for me until later.”

Ms. Williams’ interest in becoming a teacher began when she was a student. She always helped her teachers out, whether it was at the softball diamond or in the classroom. During her time at the high school, she also dedicated herself to softball and ROP Sports Medicine.

With her current job, she’s able to provide help as a teacher in a new way.

“I can impact the lives of the students I work with by simply taking the extra time to read a book or play a game with them—it simply means a lot to them,” Ms. Williams said. “I learn something new from this job everyday.”

## Song experiments with animation

By Kimberly Calderon  
Staff Writer

Over the summer, Senior Kristie Song enrolled in an intensive arts program in animation at the California Institute of Arts. With a daring mindset, Song dove into art that would soon become her greatest passion. After finishing the program, one of her animations was ultimately featured in a CalArts video.

The summer program took place at the school’s campus in Valencia. To be accepted, Song filled out a long application and submitted a piece of her artwork to the CalArts Community Arts Partnership. She spent three weeks, from June 22 to July 9, practicing animation through mini projects and drawing sessions.

Projects included methods such as stop motion and pixelation, while art sessions focused on figure drawing. In the drawing sessions, a model posed for the students, who had to create sketches under certain time limits. Various poses aside, there was also a large selection of lighting used to provide students with a diverse experience.

“Figure drawing was really challenging, because you had to continuously adapt to a situation where the time limits keep changing,” Song said. “I feel like before the program, I kept it simple and drew what I liked—now, I know that art is spontaneous.”

Throughout the program, Song focused primarily on character animation. For her final project, Song chose a different approach and cre-

ated an experimental animation—a display of abstract art—that featured eyes, vibrant colors, and morphing effects. A month and a half later, CalArtsCAP posted a YouTube video showcasing the animations of those who participated in the program.

“Kristie didn’t come in with any animation experience,” Student Instructor Ms. Renee Faundo said. “A lot of artists come into animation not knowing that it’s a very separate skill from drawing. I was really surprised as to how quickly she was able to grasp the process.”

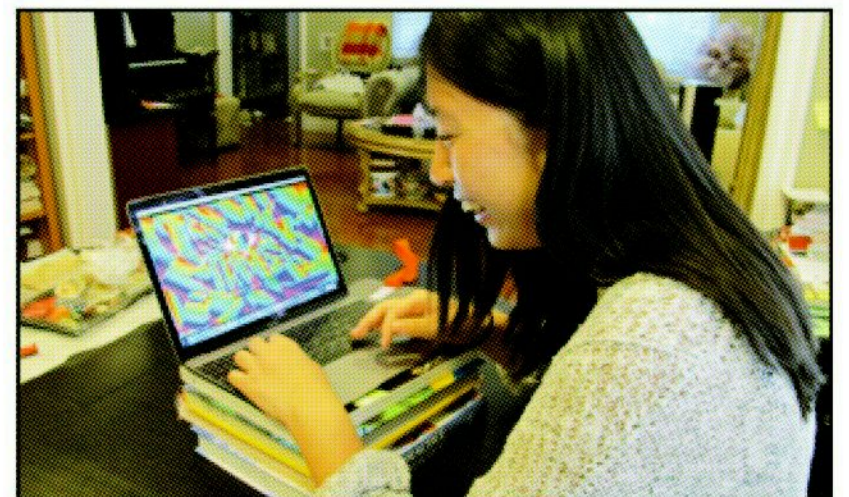
Prior to the program, Song had no experience with animation and was accustomed to traditional visual arts like drawing and painting. Although she was still learning, it was evident that she had a talent for animation.

“She took the time to sign up for the class and come to it every

day—for a young artist that can take a lot of courage,” Student Instructor Mr. Jack Turpin said. “When you make and present artwork, you’re basically putting your least filtered self out there for just whoever to see and it can definitely be scary and uncomfortable.”

Her instructors also noticed the effort and bravery Song dedicated to learning while she was in the program by stepping out of her comfort zone to try something new. Through her experience, Song hopes to inspire others to cross their boundaries and take the time to discover what they truly enjoy—just as she had the chance to do.

“It really was one of the best experiences of my life. I was around such interesting, artistically gifted people,” Song said. “It was intimidating at first, but towards the end, I really felt connected and comfortable with the people in the program.”



PHOTO/ April Zhou

“It’s unique to be abstract, because there’s no real meaning,” Song said. “It’s a fluid style and I like how it can be up to anyone’s interpretation.”

# Tennis slams into season

By Andrew Rhee  
Staff Writer

The Girls Varsity Tennis team started their preseason with a match against the Pasadena Bulldogs on Sept. 1. Despite a slow start, the Lady Rams pulled through with a 14-4 victory.

This was the first Varsity match for many of the tennis players as eight new members moved up after more than half of the former team graduated last year. Though they felt nervous, the players were able to adapt well to the new level of play and take a commanding victory.

The team also won 14-4 against the San Gabriel Matadors on Sept. 3. The team secured an early lead with strong doubles and singles performances. With two wins already under their belt, the team is hoping the early preseason success will set a nice tone for the rest of the season.

The early preseason win may be attributed to the extra work the team put in during the off season. Coach Nate Slaymaker trained the girls harder than he did last year, stressing footwork, serving and consistency.

"I believe this year's preparation is a lot different from last year's," Sophomore Katherine Wu said. "Coach Slaymaker does more training to build up our endurance and agility and pushes us to do better, which I think the whole team appreciates."

Their training includes mile runs and cross court return drills with a strong emphasis on aggressive net plays. In addition, some players joined a junior tennis team over the summer, also coached by Slaymaker. The team hopes that the extra practice will help it score better than last year's 8-9 season and reach its main goal: a spot in C.I.F.

"We compete in one of the toughest high school tennis leagues in Southern California," Coach Slaymaker said. "I expect that our team will compete in the C.I.F. playoffs."



PHOTO/ David Brackbill

Sophomore Katherine Wu, the returning singles one, focuses on a backhand shot in her second round set against San Gabriel. The next preseason match will be at home against Pasadena Polytechnic on Sept. 8 followed by Schurr on Sept. 9.

Despite the early wins, the team is still relatively inexperienced. With the tennis season starting right after summer break, the team gets less time to adjust.

"The dynamics of playing Varsity and JV are very different," Senior Sandra Ngo said. "I think it'll take a bit of time for those who recently transitioned from JV to Varsity to grow accustomed to this."

As the season progresses, the team is starting to compete as a group. With this new team composition, the players and coach are curious to see how the team will look at

the start of the regular season.

"We only have four returning members on Varsity from last year's team," Slaymaker said. "I am excited to see how all the new players will work together and meld into a team."

Not only is the team optimistic about the upcoming season, but it also looks as if it is in good hands for the future.

"We have Varsity players of all grade levels," Ngo said. "I think this is going to help not only our team this year, but those in later years too."

## Rams regroup after first loss

By Michelle Zhang  
Staff Writer

The Girls Varsity Volleyball team started off the season with a home game against Pasadena Polytechnic on Sept. 2, ending with a 3-1 loss.

Due to many minor mistakes like missing serves, hitting into the net and poor passing, the team was not able to play to its best ability. Overall, its biggest mistake was the lack of communication on the court.

During the first set, the Lady Rams were leading with a score of 25-20. However, the score began to swing back and forth between them and the Panthers in the second set, ending with a 27-25 loss for the Rams. Despite their hard work and determination, they were not able to pull through in the third and fourth sets either.

Although the Lady Rams suffered defeat, they hope to gain a comeback during their next games against San Gabriel on Sept. 8.

"I feel that we have a long way to go before we can play at a competitive level because we are a rather young team with only two seniors graduating this year," Captain Junior Darcee Young said. "However I am excited to play

with this group of girls and I am definitely excited to see what our team can do this year."

Due to the small size of the team, players are taking precautions to prevent injuries by wearing protective gear, warming up and stretching.

"We already have four injuries on our team so starting off the season with almost half of our team injured is not ideal," Senior Sarah Tomason said. "Nevertheless, I have confidence that this season is a good one."

Despite these setbacks the team hopes to have a successful season by creating stronger bonds and better communication skills. With that in mind, the ladies began the rigorous journey to reach C.I.F. with summer practices. Since the end of school, they trained two to three hours each practice, improved individual skills and grew stronger as a team.

"One of our main obstacles is not having enough height on the team this year," Young said. "Height is crucial since our main hitters graduated last year so we need to be able to rebuild before the season starts."

With the departure of a couple graduated players, the team has not suffered significant damage, although two of the girls were all-around players and starters. The team remains strong with the aid of their libero, setter and best middle hitter.

"I expect most of the team to know what they're doing since most of us have played before," Senior Katie Xiong said. "I hope we will improve together and become more than just a team."



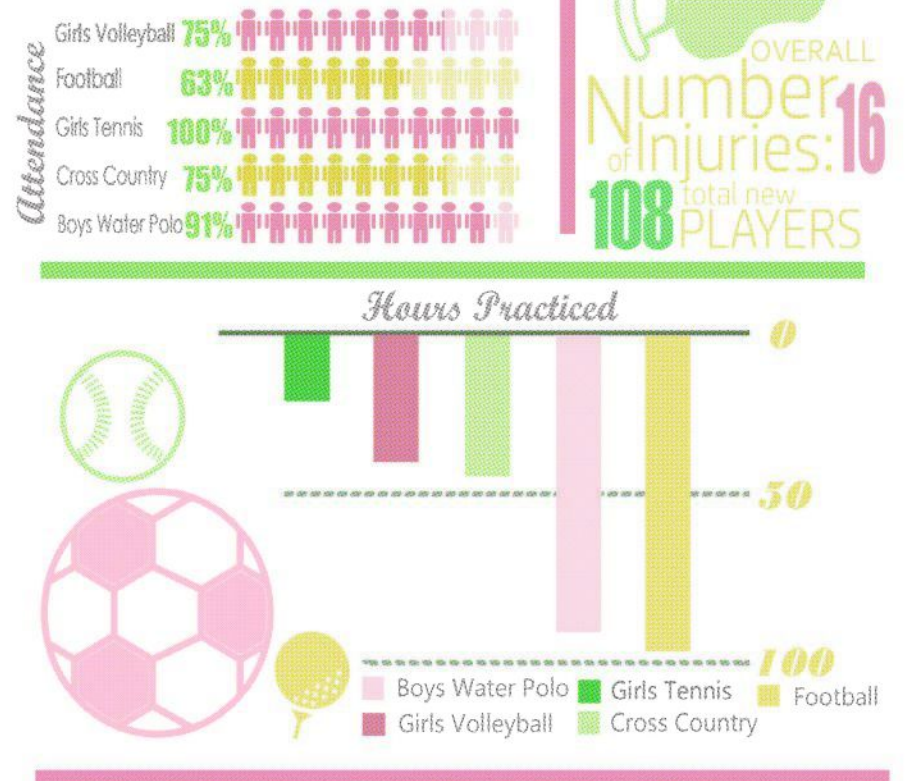
PHOTO/ Michelle Zhang

Sophomore Serena Gray spikes the ball on Polytechnic, securing a lead, but the Rams were not able to hold on and lost the third set by a score of 25-21 and the fourth set by a score of 25-23.

## Sports numbers: summer practice

Compiled by Alisha Hernandez  
Photo Editor

Temple City's sports teams spent time over the summer sharpening their skills and preparing for the upcoming fall season. Joining these teams this year is also a number of talented new freshmen.



INFOGRAPHIC/ Alisha Hernandez  
Made using Piktochart

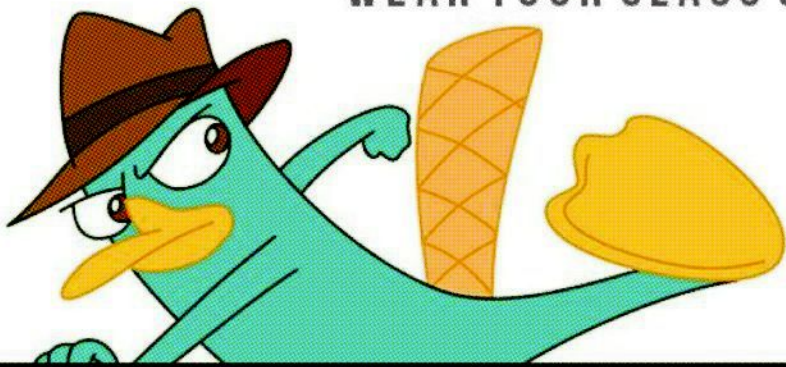


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