

THE ROCK

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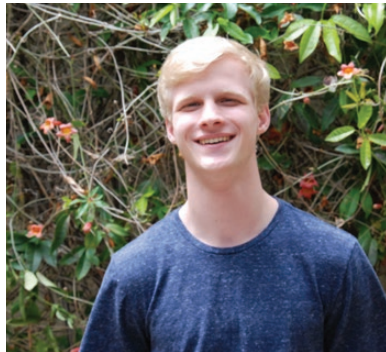
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BEFORE OUR TEACHERS WERE TEACHERS

Story pg. 7



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The ROCK magazine,
named after the TCA landmark,
is a completely student-run magazine
devoted to sharing the Trinity culture.





Top Ten Reasons Not to Choose a College

BY CAROLINE FISCHER AND KATE RECTOR

ILLUSTRATED BY RILEY CHANDLER

Friends. Boyfriends. Parents. Location. All yell into our ears “come here” or “go there,” but they all point to different places. Their voices are loud and their calls seem demanding, but how do we choose which voices to listen to? Some seem almost humorous, but even silly advice is often followed. Here’s our serious advice on silly reasons to go to a college.

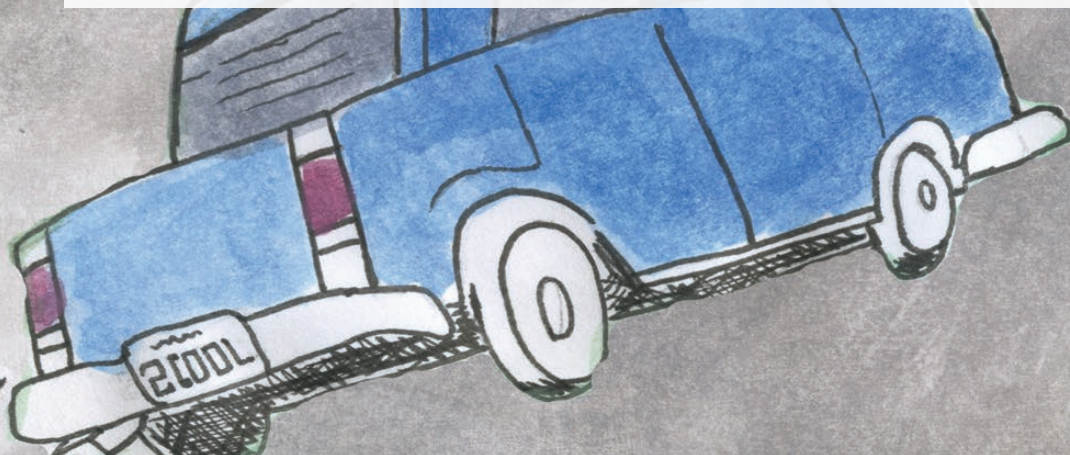
Your boyfriend/girlfriend is going there: Okay, this is a painful and sensitive topic for some, and all there is to say is that things will be okay. To make it short and sweet, if you and your boyfriend or girlfriend are meant to be, a long-distance relationship will work in your favor. If things don’t work out with a long distance relationship, there are other fish in the sea. Even if you both do end up at the same college, it definitely does not mean sunshine and rainbows either. Couples still just as easily break up even when they do backflips to go to the same school. What happens then, when you realize the only reason you enjoyed the college you picked was because your “true love” was there?


Your best friend is going there: I had planned to go to SMU with my best friends ever since elementary school, and oh how times have changed! We had made this great game plan—to stay near our parents and all room together. Although, looking back, I see this was just a desire to stay in our “oh so pleasant” comfort zones. One of the toughest parts of college is leaving all your close friends, but if you all have different goals, ending up at different schools is a common conclusion. But hey, no worries- this does NOT mean you are going to be a lonely, friendless freshmen at college. There are so many opportunities to meet new people and do not worry, you will make friends in no time.

It’s where the party is: For the love of all things good and pure, do not pick a college because it’ll show you a good time. Most likely every college will have its fair share of parties, but rethink your motives for college if your main goal is to party. College is for preparing for your future, and staying up all night having a good time is most likely not the correct way to plan your career.

Your whole family lineage went to that school: This point seems always to be an underlying factor. Many kids grow up in a household that says “hook ‘em” or “whoop!” Therefore the child has molded his or her mind to the idea that attending their family college is the right thing to do. There are in fact many places to choose from. If you genuinely love the college of your family’s hopes and dreams, go there. However don’t be afraid to explore new options even if your choice upsets your precious Uncle Stan.

Good football team: You won’t earn a living by watching college football. However, if you play for the school and want to go professionally, by all means, go ahead, but being a groupie for your favorite college team won’t help you learn and advance in your career.





The school is prestigious and hard to get into: Schools normally get labeled as limited in admissions and esteemed or as one that admits easily. However, do not write any college off. College, in all cases, is most definitely a step up from high school no matter which college. Don't assume that the "easy school" will be a breeze when you get there. Also, don't feel pressured to go to the prestigious school just because you got accepted. If it's not for you, it's not for you. At the end of the day, it is about where you feel comfortable.

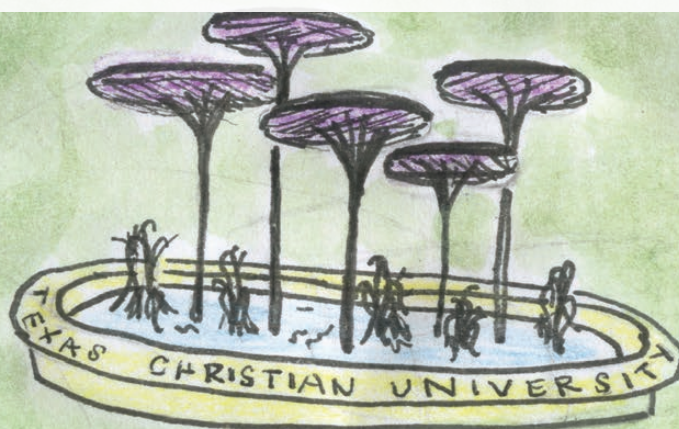
The brochure makes the school look nice: Don't be fooled by a good-looking college brochure. The school has hired all the professional designers and photographers money can buy to help make the school look nearly perfect. Therefore, the pictures you see might not be the reality of the school. The brochure only displays the strengths of a college, so you might be blindsided to the actuality of the school. Take a road trip, and take an official tour of the college you are interested in, so you may be able to see the school's strengths and weaknesses for yourself.

The school is too expensive: Many times, limits are placed on colleges to choose from based on how much tuition is, which is very understandable. Although, if you want to go to one of the many pricey schools, do your research! Find

financial aid programs and scholarships that cater to your abilities in order to help pay for your college experience. You can experience college only once, so work hard to make ends meet and also make your dreams come true.

Past limitations: If you are only allowing yourself to apply to three colleges inside your state, remember that there is a much broader spectrum than what you imagine. Don't let your seven-year-old self's abstract ideas of colleges limit the spectrum now. If one of those schools is still your number one when it comes time to choose, then by all means go there! However, it is imperative to explore a wider range of options.

Close proximity to home: There is nothing wrong with choosing a school that is close to home if you genuinely think the school is your perfect match. However, if you choose a school super close to home so Mama is always near, that might not be such a good thing. You need to learn independence, the ability to take care of yourself, so then maybe down the road you can take care of others too. However, this is definitely not going to happen if you allow Mom and Dad to continue to act as training wheels while you are coasting through life.





Kel Taylor and TCA's own Emma Harvey ('13), created the band Sawyer in 2014. The band visited TCA in March to perform for the Upper School chapel.

How did the band form?

Sophomore year of college, we both broke up with our boyfriends on the same day. September 21st. So, I guess you could say that is Sawyer's birthday because as we sat on a couch crying together, we decided that forming a band was the only solution.

Do you have any musical influences? Individually, who are your favorite artists?

From the beginning of our friendship, our musical taste has always been one of those "What? . . . You too!?" kind of things for us. We consider the genius that is Chris Martin (of Coldplay) to be our musical Yoda. Which leaves Coin, Young the Giant, and Tallest Man on Earth as our older siblings whose shadow we are proud to live in.

Best part of the band Sawyer so far?

This is a daunting question, because during what was arguably one of the hardest years for the both of us, Sawyer was a source of joy and a way to pull us out of ourselves. The best part of everything might be seeing the music that has healed us healing others.

Have there been any obstacles that has made it difficult at times?

We are professionals in sharing house, groceries, friends, worship leading gig, music, small group, most clothing, mentors, and on occasion, hair styling mouse. Essentially we live the same life and we are

pretty lucky that we are still best friends. That said, we have had to become masters at communicating whenever there's frustration on either end. We can hardly function unless the air is clear. So, thankfully nothing stays tense past breakfast.

What is your favorite gig y'all have played so far, and why?

This was our first year as Young Life camp musicians (essentially just playing our music for high-school campers in the summer). Playing venues in Nashville is pretty great, but there is nothing like knowing your audience for an ENTIRE WEEK. Suddenly the music means so much more because it feels like a room full of your family each night. Just a family of 500.

Favorite song y'all have written and why?

So our songwriting process is pretty hilarious. It's just hours of laughing, crying, separating ourselves to brainstorm and then maybe a little bit of music. Writing "Ten Feet Tall" was especially memorable. Emma stood on our coffee table and refused to come down until we had the hook of the song. Ironically, she looked ten feet tall. So that line started as a joke. Now it's one of our favorite songs to play live because the audience knows to shout that hook with us.

If you could collaborate with any artist(s), who would it be?

Chris Martin.

"First know your purpose and who you are apart from music. Let music be something you do . . . not who you are."

If you could play at any venue/music festival, where would it be?

Red Rocks Amphitheater in Colorado! No doubt.

What advice do you have for people interested in a music career?

Of course, it takes a ridiculous amount of time and effort to make music a career, but the best advice we can give is to first know your purpose and who you are apart from music. Let music be something you do . . . not who you are.

How has music affected both of you individually?

Emma: Music has, in a way, made me. It's brought people to my life that I would not have met otherwise. Many of those people (including Kel) have become the giants whose shoulders I stand on so I owe a lot of who I am to where music has taken me.

Kel: Hard question. You know when you listen to the right song, on the right day with the windows down? Not kidding. That's how it feels every time I sing with Emma. Music has become something that means more than just "feel good" moments; it's friendship, understanding, and shared joy, which, it turns out, is even better than the right song on the right day.

Q&A

the band

SAWYER

By Delia Rowland

BEFORE OUR TEACHERS WERE TEACHERS

Long before they ever handed us all those homework assignments, told us to be quiet or sent us on a journey to meet the principal, our teachers sat in our seats. They went to proms, cheered in the stands at Friday night football games, even perhaps took their own trips to see the principal. During summer break as well as the school year, our current teachers took up jobs as factory workers, tutors and babysitters, just to name a few. You know the teacher version of your teachers. Now meet the high-school, summer-job-working version.



Carol Pond
Current Preschool Teacher
Former Babysitter



High School:

Millikan Highschool in Long Beach, California
Class of 1969

What was your first job?

My main job was babysitting which I did in the evenings and on weekends.

Why did you choose to get a job?

Having a job and earning some money allowed me to have some cash for souvenirs when our family went on vacation and to buy a special piece of clothing that I thought I needed.

What did you do at your job?

When I would babysit, I tried to make it fun for the kids and so I would run my own little classroom (so to speak). I would teach them songs, we would do a craft, play some games and read stories.

Did you enjoy it?

I enjoyed it a lot, which is one reason, I'm sure, that I decided to teach the little people at TCA for so long!

One Time...

For Sadies one year, our church group got together with another church and had a contest to determine which girl could choose which boy to take to Sadies. The part that I remember was that whichever boy we caught in a running race was ours. I was determined to catch Forrest, who happened to be a track star. I was very fast in my younger years, but Forrest thought he could out run me. He should have been more wary of me...I won by running him into a tree.

Brian Spence
Current Middle School Bible Teacher
Former Factory Worker

High School:

Trinity Christian Academy
Class of 1998

Where was your favorite job?

My favorite job from high school was at the factory. I have a lot of memories from it.

When did you work?

I worked every day during the summer from 9AM to 5 PM.

What did you do at your job?

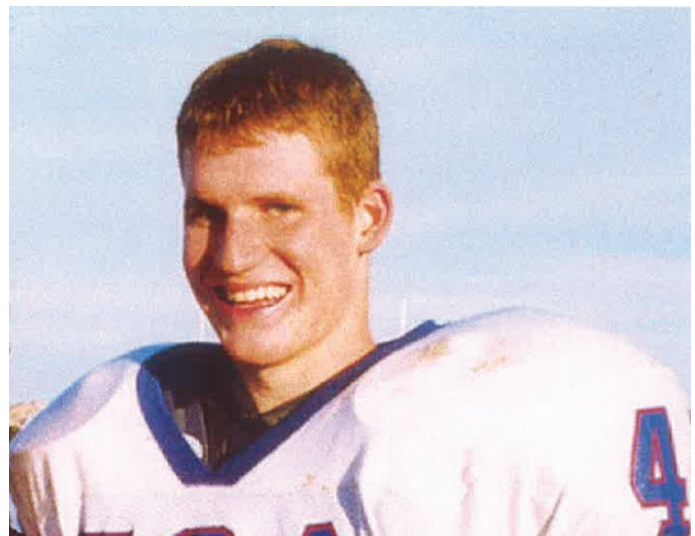
The factory I worked in made remote control cars, and so six of my buddies and I worked on an assembly line. We worked on the exact same car the entire summer—it was an order of 10,000. We did the exact same thing eight hours a day, seven days a week for the whole summer.

Did you enjoy it?

Yes, because I was with six of my buddies, and we made it fun. We figured out a way to make it fun, so I'll never forget that job. That was a unique job. I mean, how many people even work on assembly lines anymore? . . . Like *I Love Lucy* or something.

One Time...

Back in the day, when I was a sophomore in high school, the year before the Upper School building was built, the primary 9th- through 12th-grade hallway was the current 6th-grade hallway. Well, I may not have been the most diligent of students back then, and it also might have been a fairly common practice to “waste” my time in study hall. One day, when my study hall happened to be last period, I decided to use my study hall by taking all of the large traffic cones used for carpool out by the flag poles, and completely block off the entrance. Yeah. I completely detoured all after-school carpool traffic. And remember, back then that carpool line was for all of the Middle School and the Upper School. As a result of the complete mayhem that resulted, a certain dean of students back then named Kyle Morrill was not too happy with me. Years later, back at TCA as a teacher now, I can't help but laugh a bit every time I have carpool duty. And by “laugh” I obviously mean “learned my lesson.”



Jenny Liu

Current Upper School History Teacher
Former GAP Employee



High School:

Plano Senior High
Class of 1987

Where was your first job?

I worked at the Gap at Collin Creek Mall.

When did you work?

Between my sophomore year and junior year.

Why did you choose to get a job?

Because my parents told me I had to. Once I turned sixteen, my parents wanted me to get a job. Plus, it was a way to earn spending and gas money.

What did you do at your job?

Constantly folding and keeping things nice in the store, and of course helping customers when they come in—helping them find sizes, unlocking dressing rooms, and bringing them different sizes. Closing was the hardest shift, because the store would close at nine, and we didn't get out of there until about 10:30. We had to leave it looking pristine.

Did you enjoy it?

I did. Four hours isn't too long. I didn't make much money, but I liked it. I liked working at the cash register—I could do it really fast. And I liked the discount.

One Time...

If “a picture paints a thousand words,” then this photograph of me as I prepared to hit the slopes during spring break of my senior year is an epic tale of my quest to have the BIGGEST hair in Texas. My colossal coif makes me laugh more now than it did then, and the multi-step process required to achieve such heights (and widths) in hair-styling would make for a great reality show today. In short, my tall locks were achieved through hot rollers, sponge rollers, hairspray and hairdryers, combing and brushing, teasing and rattling, and of course, a perm every three months. I hope at least one person reading this is laughing with me and not just at me.

Brandon Graham

Current Football Coach
Former Construction Worker

High School:

Arlington High School
Class of 1985

Where was your first job?

My first job was with a construction framing crew building homes when I was 14 years old.

When did you work?

I worked from 7 AM until 5 PM when we were out for the summer break.

Why did you choose to get a job?

I really had no choice in getting a job because my parents were advocates of getting me out of the air conditioned home and developing an appreciation for hard work, responsibility, and how to earn money.

What did you do at your job?

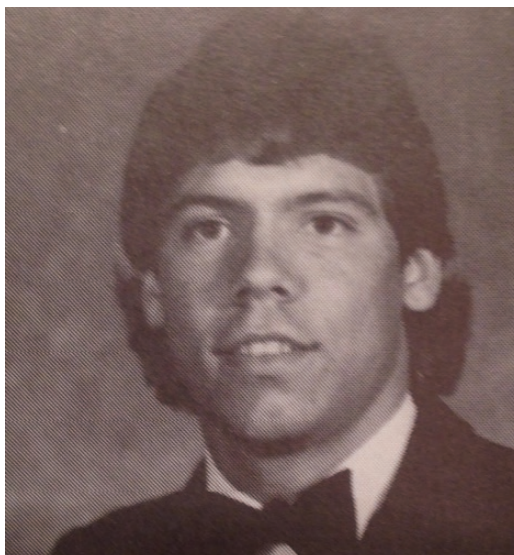
I delivered the cut lumber to the various framers around the construction site. I was called a gopher and walked the cut lumber to the framers.

Did you enjoy it?

At the time I did not enjoy the work itself, but I did like the money that I made when I got paid! I look back on it now as an adult, and it taught me a lot about life. I got to meet and work with some very interesting people along the way.

One Time...

Probably my funniest story in high school is the time I was picking up a girl for a first date to go out to a movie. I knocked on her front door at her house and thought I had heard someone from inside the house say “Come in!” So I proceeded to go into the house, which I had never been inside, and her father heard me and thought I was an intruder. I walked down the hallway and into their living room, and when I turned the corner I was welcomed by her father with his shot gun aimed at me. Scared me pretty good! I don't enter people's homes that way anymore.



8:05am

After putting our backpacks in our cubbies, the Pre-K day began on the famous Rainbow Rug, a staple in the lives of five-year-olds. Mrs. Pond's class eagerly ran to their assigned squares as we watched KTCA, counted how many days of school we've had, and danced as we sang our Bible verse, Matthew 5:16.



Story Time! Naturally, singing and dancing to the Word of God tuckered us out, so we took a seat to listen to a few stories. After a parent guest read us a riveting classic well known by these preschoolers, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, Mrs. Pond further captured our attention with another book on owls.



9:0



9:45am

Once we returned to the classroom, nostalgia was in full effect for my personal favorite time—Centers! Kids got to play to their hearts' content in the sandbox or paint away their youthful worries with polka-dot paint. I, myself, had the opportunity to assist some boys in completing an extreme 10-piece puzzle and play the role of Mom in the home center—a truly unparalleled experience.





0am

My inner five-year-old truly came out during PE, when we ran, skipped, jumped, and hopped around the Lower School Gym. If you think high school wears you out, try keeping up with these kids. It won't be long before you'll be asking when nap time is.



2

Preschool Classes
Mrs. Pond's and Mrs. Klein's

28

Preschoolers

178

Naps taken
this year

870

Juice boxes sipped
this year

3,560

Crafts made
this year

A Day in the Life of a Preschooler

BY ISABELLA JACKSON

Life of a *Christian* High-schooler

By Lindsey Hayden

High School—it's not a musical. Existing as a giant mush pot of awkward people trying to figure out life, it's a pretty tough place to be. From AP exams to college essays, the stress piles up on each poor student's shoulders. Add to the mix the inevitable drama of high school dances and awkward relationships, and the result is something terribly gruesome. But for Christians in high school, the hurdle of high school can sometimes become even harder to leap over.

Welcome to TCA. Trinity Christian Academy. We wear this label of “Christian” on our shirts, we go to chapel to sing about God, and we go to Bible class four days a week—our faith, one could say, has been handed to us. But perhaps it's the most difficult for us at a Christian school to own our faith. Perhaps the people who have the most opportunities to see the love of God are the ones who are at sometimes blind to it. As Christian author Matt Papa states in his book, *Look and Live*, “Familiarity breeds apathy. I was swimming in glory—surrounded by its sights and sounds—and my jaw was not on the floor.”

Growing up in this society as a Christian in high school is surprisingly hard. High school is a time in our lives where we are just beginning to figure out things for ourselves, and that includes how we see the world and, as a resultant, how we live in the world. Entering into high school, the training wheels of the faith of those around us begin to come off. No longer can we rely on the faith of others to keep us from falling. Because, as much as we might want to stay in the Crayola and juice box phase forever, we inevitably have to enter into the world of adulthood and independence. This forces us to decide for ourselves who and what we will choose to follow.

For Christians, the choice is to follow God. But what does that mean for our daily lives? In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul commands us, “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.” Easier said than done, right? As much as we tell ourselves that this is the way to live our lives, trials come into our paths that cause us to fall miserably on our faces. One of the most common trials is the struggle to proclaim our faith no matter what the consequence. At times it may be easy to proclaim God's glory—during Bible class or a worship time. But when people around you are talking and acting in a way that seems to contradict God's commandment, faith is tested. As a sophomore put it, “Anyone can claim to be a Christian. But the real test of faith comes through how we respond to struggles and trials allowed by God.” It's in these moments of trials that we have to decide if our relationship with God is worth more to us than our reputation and social status. This decision is extremely difficult at times, and we begin to feel alone in our faith. A culture of living life without consequences surrounds us daily, tempting us to throw off God's commands and live with no responsibilities. But God tells us that we cannot let

anything move us, even if it would mean gaining the approval that humans instinctively crave. And the only way for us to resist is to drop to our knees, to humble ourselves, and to pray to God to give us the kind of strength that could come from him alone.

In addition to that, we are surrounded by a society that exalts the things we should flee from as commanded by God. This message comes to us in multitudes of forms; from social media to entertainment, we are inevitably exposed to a culture that corrupts our biblical worldview. Despite what we know from the Bible to be true, society wraps a godless lifestyle in enchantingly tempting wrapping paper, preaching a lifestyle of living for oneself. It seems like an offer we can't refuse. It's the essence of sin—taking something that we inherently know to be completely wrong for us and making it something that we obsessively desire. As Christians, the only way not to be sucked into the black hole of this lifestyle is to keep things in perspective. In Romans 12:2, God reminds us that we cannot “conform any longer to the pattern of this world.” And once again, the only way for us to be able to keep God's command is to cry out to him to allow us to be able to do what we cannot possibly achieve on our own.

The decision to follow Christ isn't just a simple choice all the time. Sometimes it means giving up friends and a good reputation to be on God's side. These trials we face in high school make living out the Christian life a challenge that seems impossible to overcome at times. But God gives us words of encouragement during these times in John 16:33: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Our weak, stupid, tragically flawed nature means that failure is inevitable. But Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:9–10, “strength is made perfect in weakness.” Those messy times in our lives when we fail to follow God and fall flat on our faces are the moments when God reminds us of his presence, offers out his hand, and picks us up again.

75% of youths leave their faith after high school

35% will return to their faith

32% of youths leave the faith due to intellectual skepticism

52% of youths find their faith meaningful

<1% of youths have a biblical worldview

Spending Summer Around the World

By Poppy Erickson and Emma Lunceford

When summer arrives, most of my grade will be stressing out over college applications, summer jobs, and their social life. I, on the other hand, have the amazing privilege of going to Tanzania, Africa, with my dad so we can climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. Standing at 19,341 ft., this is the highest mountain in Africa, one of the seven summits, and the highest free standing mountain in the world. Does this scare me a little bit? Yes. But for me, this is not a crazy concept. Since I reached my teen years, I have spent my summers in Colorado climbing 14,000-foot mountains. All in all, I have climbed eight of these mountains, and my love for climbing grows with each one. Luckily for me, getting up those mountains and Kilimanjaro is basically the same. It is a really long trek, which means it is two weeks of walking uphill. This trip will be like Wilderness and that really long hike out, but on steroids. One of the things I love about mountain climbing is that no matter where you are in the world—Arkansas, Colorado, or Africa—there is a universal feeling of accomplishment and overwhelming joy when you reach the top. Something about giving everything you have, even when you feel like you have nothing left, makes you feel like you can conquer the world. Whether it is a two-week trip or an overnigher, there is nothing like finally reaching the summit. On trips like these, I have to remind myself constantly that none of this is for my glory—it is for God's. It is hard to understand that I would not be able to do any of this if he did not give me the strength I needed. Climbing Kilimanjaro will be extraordinary, but it will mean nothing if I try to take credit for it and make it about me. Mountain climbing might be a singular sport, but I hope that I still glorify him through it all.

—Poppy Erickson





I've been going to China for the past three years to teach English and share the gospel with students at a foreign language school in Central China, and God has given me the opportunity to return this summer. I keep going back because I love those kids tremendously. Even though we are teaching them, they ultimately teach us more throughout our time together. At the end of the week, they manage to love us pure and simple, which is truly astonishing. While teaching can be stressful at times, it is by far the best and most rewarding experience. During our time there we don't just teach, we tour Chengdu with the students and have dinner with them and their families. After spending a week teaching, our group travels to Beijing to climb the Great Wall, visit Tiananmen Square, and bargain at the Pearl Market. Then the trip sadly comes to an end. However, just being with those kids and getting to know them is one of the best opportunities. At the end of the week, we all just cry as we tell them goodbye because the realization of leaving them hits. This year I am really excited to go back and see all the kiddos I formed friendships with and see what God has in store for our time there.

—Emma Lunceford



FASHION

through the

DECADES

By Delia Rowland
Photos by Callie Orten



1960s

The 1960s included political upheaval and changes in our country's personality regarding music and identity. John F. Kennedy's assassination brought the death of the Camelot era and Jackie Kennedy fashion (a-lines and pencil skirts). However, a year later, a new icon had risen to take America (and its girls) by storm, the Beatles. As they ventured across the pond, they brought Mod fashion, a popular look from London which we made our own (as expected). This innovative style embraced an "anything goes" kind of attitude, clearly reflected in the youth of the nation at the time. Then came the shift to a psychedelic fashion. Woodstock was the epitome of this new style. The hippie fashion increased in popularity and defined the next decade.

1970s

The 1970s accompanied exciting events such as the founding of Microsoft and the premiere of *Star Wars*, but nothing too drastic to inflict real change on the fashion world other than the slow downfall of the hippie style. The era included an abundance of earth-toned outfits, T-shirts with logos, western boots, hair-raising amounts of denim, and an overall relaxed vibe. It included the use of bell bottoms, more miniskirts, LOTS of peace signs, and T-shirts with messages. Patriotic colors were also worn to honor the bicentennial occurring at the time.





1980s

The 1980s were extremely capricious; with the release of *Thriller* and the Stock Market crash, nobody was letting go of the cherished neons. With frills on collars and hems, bright colored vests, big hair, legwarmers, and shoulder pads, the style of the 80s was not far from the chaotic events that surrounded it. The fashion was bright, big, and slowly heading towards a bare-skin path. The era's style is remembered nowadays by Jane Fonda workout videos and disco. Although it was a tough time for families, it seems the picture we get of the 80s is a highly fluorescent one.

1990s

The 1990s had a mix of personalities which can be analyzed from various sides. From one side, we see the *Clueless*-inspired fashion: knee-high socks, miniskirts, and always prim and proper, pleated button-ups. From another, we see the popular use of florals, adding to the grunge era influenced by Kurt Cobain. This Cobain-induced era included Dr. Martens and the seemingly uncomfortable use of "chokers," along with a dark lip for good measure. We also cannot forget the emergence of baggy jeans, sagging, and crop tops to put the cherry on top of the already hectic fashion scene that polluted the 90s. This era, for some unknown reason, liked to blur the lines between men's and women's clothing with its baggy, grungy, monochromatic tendencies.



2000s

The 2000s brought a set of styles the world had never seen before. This era was clearly a period of confusion for the United States, and that is reflected in its clothing choices. With the attacks on the World Trade Center, the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, etc., the world of fashion had no choice but to desperately pull from past trends to compensate. The strange mix culminated in a melting pot of vintage and retro looks with oceanic strides back to even the 1930s and 1940s. There are shirt dresses, bohemian skirts and tops from the 1970s, and skinny jeans from the 1980s. As a culture, we scoured previous eras of style and have formed a compilation that allows each individual to dress with his or her own flair.

SUPER ANIMALS!

We asked four first-graders to create their dream animal, and four confused high-schoolers attempted to guess these creations.

BRETT'S GUESS

Brett Fair guessed that Drew's animal was a combination of a tiger, a bird, and a chinchilla.



head of a dog, body of a tiger, wings of a cardinal



KAKI'S GUESS

Kaki Hodges guessed that Kate's animal was a combination of a fox, an eagle, a lion, and a cow.



head of a polar bear, body of a dog, legs of a lion, wings of an eagle



CAROLINE'S GUESS

Caroline McClay guessed that Eddie's animal was a combination of an elephant, an alligator, and a bird.



head of an elephant, body of a gorilla, legs of an alligator,
wings of a fly



ZEKI'S GUESS

Zeki Mutlu guessed that Catherine's animal was a combination of an angel, a duck, a cat, and a Club-Penguin penguin.



head of a tabby-cat, body of a penguin, feet of a duck,
wings of a butterfly



WHAT DOES E A S T E R MEAN TO YOU?

By Kat Petersen and Travis Josephs
Photos by Abby Mathai

In an effort to collaborate with the creative geniuses of the Lower School, *The ROCK* held an art competition with the theme of What Does Easter Mean To You? The lower-schoolers were tasked with making art that most creatively reflected what Easter meant to them. They were allowed to use any kind of material, from popsicle sticks to paper mache. After being flooded with phenomenal art pieces, our *ROCK* staff picked these following nine art pieces as some of our favorites. These young artists impressed us with their originality and ingenuity! Thanks to everyone who participated—we thoroughly enjoyed all the art!



K-1st Grade Winners



Most Original



Most Creative



Best Overall

2nd-4th Grade Winners



Most Original



Most Creative



Best Overall

Honorable Mentions



Honorable Mention



Honorable Mention



Honorable Mention



Got Fandoms?

BY AVERY SCHUSTER AND GEORGIA BALLEW

In the immense world of fandoms, it is easy to see only obsessive, cos-playing, fanfiction-writing lovers of TV shows/books/movies/music artists. However, the term fandom describes a community of people who share a love and adoration for any particular TV show/book/movie/music artist and express their love through the most creative of outlets. These groups of adoring fans can be traced back to the early 1900s, to the era of Sherlock Holmes, the original instigator of fandoms. This idea of fandoms grew as comic books became all the rage in the 1940s, then increased due to phenomenons such as *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*. Then came the explosion of fandoms in every area of the media-based arts in the 21st century due to technological advancements (thank you, Apple!). Also, social platforms such as Twitter and Tumblr have advanced fandom cultures, allowing fans to find trends and news pertaining to their fandom, connect with other fans, and follow their favorite actors, authors, etc. Streaming services like Netflix and Hulu make television shows and movies more cost-effective and accessible and have given way to binge watching (a fun, yet time-consuming part of any TV fan's life).



Lord of the Rings- Written by J. R. R. Tolkien, the LotR books have spanned many generations and people with various levels of obsession. You have your casual fan who has read the books, maybe seen the movies, and appreciates the talent and genius of Tolkien. Next level is the nerd who has read the books, and re-read the books, and owns the entire movie collection (extended version, of course) in his or her DVD collection. Then you have the truly hardcore fans who have memorized the map of Middle Earth and only communicate in Elvish.

Harry Potter- With probably the most diverse fandom, ranging from eight- to eighty-year-old fans, HP is world renowned and rightfully so. It is easy to recognize someone belonging to the Harry Potter fandom, for they will either be (a) talking about the latest Quidditch tournament, (b) reciting wizarding spells, (c) dressed in robes and arguing about the best house, or (d) crying about the sudden and unnecessary deaths in book 7. (I won't mention any names so that I don't spoil it for anyone.)



Star Wars- An old and timeless fandom, I am sure that *Star Wars* will never die out; everyone has seen it—and if not, be ashamed of yourself. Within the *Star Wars* fandom, there are many cosplayers, evidenced at Halloween and at every Comic Con. The *Star Wars* fandom and the *Star Trek* fandom (whose members are called Trekkies) are constantly at war. BUT, we all know who is superior. ;) PS: Disney—now that you own the rights, don't ruin it for everyone.

Directioners- This fandom ranges from the girls who watched these boys on *The X-Factor* to newer Directioners. However, each one loves One Direction as her own family. Most tend to operate on the belief that they will marry one of the British/Irish heartthrobs one day, and they are beyond fiercely protective of these boys. I would not suggest picking a fight with these girls over topics such as Louis's love of carrots, Harry's curls, or the idea of there being a better boyband. (PS: NSYNC is better.)



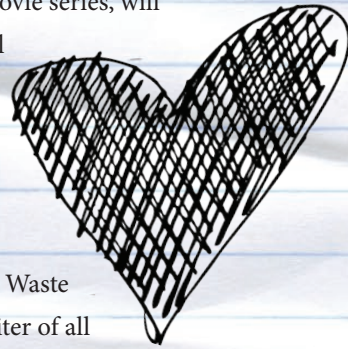


HIGH SCHOOL

BY DELIA ROWLAND AND KAT PETERSEN

Rumor has it the iconic *High School Musical* franchise is blessing us with the making of a fourth movie. After the release of the first movie, our childhood was plagued with false hopes for high school, like unrehearsed musical numbers in the lunchroom, but now that we are ten years older, we understand the hoax but still see the brilliance of the film. The classic choreography and timeless songs still inspire us as much the next generation. As HSM aficionados (holla @ Hemingway), we hope that the upcoming kids have the privilege of enjoying and learning the importance of embracing your true self after watching *High School Musical 4*.

However, there's a fear that this movie won't live up to the expectations that the first three set. We hope they can prove us wrong! Although the cast is still up in the air, and Kenny Ortega, the genius behind the hit movie series, will not be the creative director this time around, we will still be looking forward to it. Mr. Ortega, you will be sorely missed (long live the king, even though he's not dead). It won't be the same without the original cast we have grown to love. Many young girls were vulnerable under the charm and beauty of the one and only Zac Efron. He seems to be everybody's first celebrity crush. But enough about the past, we must look forward to what the future holds.



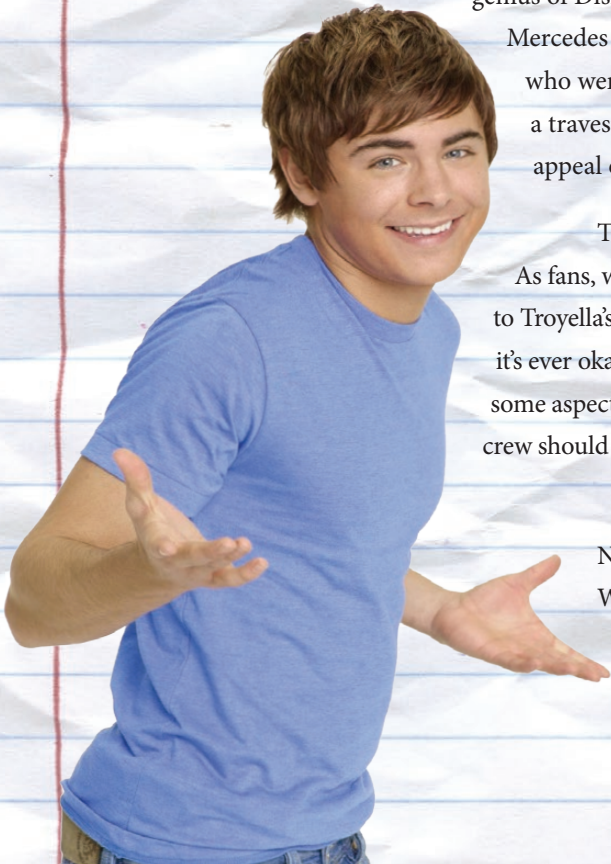
The new director, Jeffrey Hornaday (ew), also directed *Teen Beach Movie*, also known as *A Singing Waste Receptacle*. He will not only direct but also choreograph the new film. Luckily, Peter Basocchini, the writer of all three films, will assist in the new screenplay. We expect great things from you, Mr. Barsocchini.

Through the grapevine, there was some gossip that China Anne McClain, from the Disney show *Ant Farm*, would have a role. If that is true, all I have to say is, how dare you allow people who have already starred in many Disney productions be a part of this? The genius of Disney is being handed down to a couple of tweens. That's scarier than getting the wrong color Mercedes for your sixteenth birthday. The original casting directors of HSM successfully chose actors who were unknown to the audience and would later be famous for their starring roles. It would be a travesty if household names were a part of this special project, honestly, it would ruin the initial appeal of the whole series.

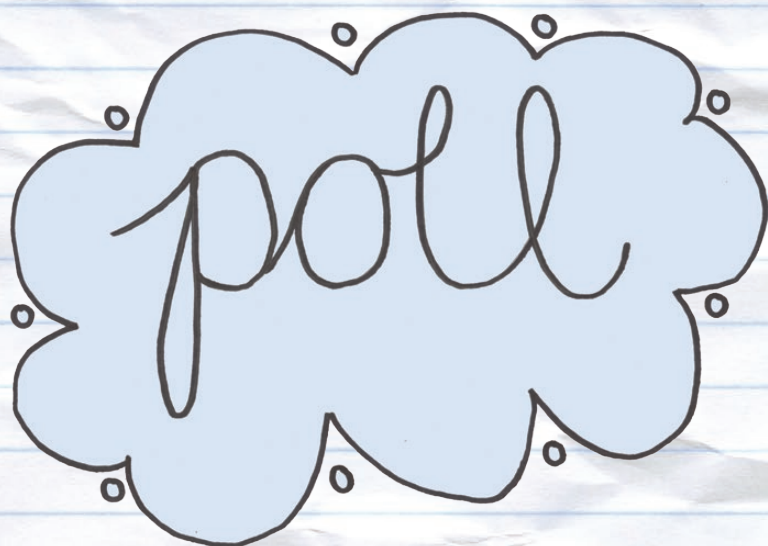
The relationship between Troy and Gabriella is easily the most important element in the saga. As fans, we know full well that there has to be a new couple. However, if they have any resemblance to Troyella's flawless story of love, I think I might projectile vomit all over my flat screen. The only time it's ever okay to recreate their story is if it's happening to me. **Troy. Is. Mine.** It will be tricky to maintain some aspects of the older films while simultaneously creating an entirely new storyline. The new cast and crew should be warned that it won't be easy to fill the shoes of past Wildcats.

We hesitate to be too excited about the film because of some doubts we've mentioned. Nevertheless, there's still some promise that Disney will come in clutch. It is Disney after all. We hope that the film will be organic in its bindings and entertain all ages without trying too hard. With the power to create a fourth *High School Musical* comes great responsibility.

"I just hope it's not garbage." —Kat Petersen, 2016



MUSICAL 4



Guilty Pleasure Dance-Along

44%

Getcha Head
in the Game

We're All
in this
Together

35%

21%

I Don't Dance

Favorite Character

50%

Troy
Bolton

Chad
Danforth

20%

17%

Sharpay
Evans

Gabriella
Montez

13%

Favorite Movie

HSM

53%

25%

HSM 2

HSM 3

22%

A close-up, vertical view of the American flag, showing the red and white stripes and the blue field with white stars. The flag is slightly wavy, giving it a sense of movement.

VOTING: YEA OR NAY?

By Daniel Heard

In the mindset of a typical high-schooler, there are MANY more important things to do than vote, such as eating, sleeping, watching Netflix, possibly homework or literally anything else. BUT STOP! Let us reevaluate this whole voting/not voting situation. We will be the ones growing up in a world affected by the things voted on today, so why wouldn't we want to give our opinions? As high-schoolers, we are pretty good at having and giving our opinions, even when they are not at all wanted. Don't believe me, ask your parents. Just in case you are still debating voting, let me clear up a few myths and put your mind at ease.

My vote doesn't even count; it's just another drop of oil in their machine, man.

Your vote matters! Don't get sucked into the mindset that your vote will not make a difference. You will only silence yourself further if you do not vote because you are afraid of not being heard. It may be true that elections are not often won by a single vote, but they are won by the accumulation of votes, and you are a part of that. A single voice may not be heard by itself, but among thousands it cannot be ignored!

Young people in America have the lowest voting turnout among all of the age groups. Forty-five percent of people between the ages of 18 and 29 years old turned out for the 2012 presidential election, and only 20% for the 2014 congressional election. In comparison, the seniors 60+ years of age had 72% and 59% turnouts for the 2012 and 2014 elections. Not to seem harsh, but why should the elders be the loudest voice in elections? The youth of this nation will have to live with the consequences of the elections much longer than the elders will. So vote! Let that young voice be heard!

I think I'm just going to vote for whatever my parents will vote for.

You inherited your parents' back hair, not their political views. Did you know that as an individual you have a unique outlook on the world? No one has experienced life the same way you have. Therefore, make your own decisions when it comes to the ballot. You should definitely listen to your parents' political opinions, but that doesn't mean you need to agree with them. On your own, research what you will be voting about. Look into different candidates from all the parties and the laws that you can vote on. Try to look at unbiased news outlets like NPR or PBS. You will not have a well-rounded view on the world if you only listen to biased networks like FOX and MSNBC. Find the facts on which to base your opinions.

All the presidential candidates are garbage.

You may be right, but there is more to vote on than just the president. You can vote in national, state, and local elections; the president is only one part of that. Always be sure to look up what will be on the ballot before you go to vote. You could be voting for public offices, propositions, and/or laws. Local news stations will have good summaries of what you will be voting for. Local elections can be even more important than presidential elections because they will have more immediate effects on your daily life: taxes, speed limits, infrastructure, etc.

A good citizen is someone who is well informed and active in his or her own community. A part of that is voting. Be proud of your right to vote. Many good people have died for you to be able to vote. Do them justice. Do your country justice.

MVS

(MOST VALUABLE SUB)

BY CAROLINE PIERCE

Some people are truly living smiles—always encouraging and loving the people they are around. One of TCA's finest, Mr. Larry List, is one of these life-changing people. Mr. List has played an impactful role in the Trinity family for numerous years. Substitute, fan, friend, 'Grandpa I have never had'—all are synonymous with Larry List. His official title may be "substitute teacher," but for hundreds of Trinity families, Mr. List is so very much more.

His journey to becoming TCA's favorite substitute started five years ago when Mrs. Elaine Tate, a neighbor of Mr. List and the substitute teacher coordinator, recommended him for the job of substitute teacher. The fall of 2011, Mr. List began his famous legacy at TCA. With his ever-present smile and thoughtful nature, Mr. List started winning the hearts of every teacher and student. According to the attendance secretary in the Middle School Office, Mrs. Brady, the kids adored him from the start, and that love and adoration has only grown. His charming personality and hearty laughter grace the hall of TCA from the first day of school until the last. But if he's not teaching, you will most likely find Mr. List at a TCA sporting event or drama production on any night of the week. And long distances are no match for his Trojan spirit, because nothing stops him from cheering on the students he has come to know and love! His loving spirit towards the students of TCA is evident in all he says and does. Whether it is an art show or sporting event, Mr. List always comes early and always stays late, a true Trojan fan.

If being the world's best substitute and cheerleader was not enough, Mr. List provides a friendship like no other. Reflective of his caring nature, Mr. List takes the time to learn about each student individually, with sincere love and genuine interest. We have all experienced a Mr. List hug, high-five or chat, and there is nothing else like it. Whenever he sees me or any student in the hallway, he greets us by name, gives the greatest of hugs, and asks the most sincere of questions. He never forgets to ask about something previously discussed, he always speaks with genuine interest, and consistently encourages each and every student. After years of observance, Mrs. Brady concludes Mr. List can always be counted on to sub with a huge smile on his face and an eager attitude regardless the situation.

Some things that you may not know about Mr. List are the lengths he takes to connect with students. Every summer, he takes a yearbook home to learn each and every kids' name (a very noble feat). He makes an effort to read many of the books that the TCA Upper School students read in History/English and studies the subjects that he will be subbing for, so that he can be most effective and truly make a difference for the students.

It is no coincidence that Mr. List has truly impacted my life and from listening to even the reaction of just his name being mentioned, it is not hard to see the love TCA has for him as well. We are truly blessed to have such a compassionate, joyful and loving friend, substitute and role model in Mr. List.

Thank you, Mr. List, for all that you have done for this school and these students. You may never quite understand the impact you have made on the students in this school, but you most certainly have touched our hearts. May we all love the people God puts in our paths like Mr. List has loved us. We are truly grateful for you. We love you, Mr. List!



