



Aviator News



HAWTHORNE, CA

HAWTHORNE MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

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Three, Two, One: Summer!

BY AUJENE BUTLER
-Staff Writer-



daretoparent.com

It's that time of the year we have all been waiting for Aviators: summer! Get ready for road trips, epic Instagram posts, memories for a lifetime, and most importantly, a little fun in the sun. Summer is not any ordinary school break; it is the longest. It gives the ladies a chance to show off their bikini ready bodies and the gentlemen to flaunt their rock hard abs that they have been working on all year. Staying in shape is important not only for summer, but for life in general.

You may be young and athletic now but you won't always be. Although junk food – soda, popcorn, candy, nachos, you name it – is everywhere, being able to eat whatever whenever is not the best action to take: we have to

not live only in the “now” but in the future as well. Maintaining a healthy life is not only for looking good but feeling good as well. The healthier you are and the more you work out now, will benefit you in the long run. Summer is your time to explore and live in the moment, but trust me, a few bites of Piggy's Chili Cheese Fries for a midnight snack is not the way to go. Even though it may sound kind of like something your mom would say: eat your vegetables instead, eat an apple a day, and be active.

Here's a little advice for this summer: don't sit around the house working your finger out by flipping channels or playing video games. Get out! Soak up the sun, get embarrassing tans and laugh about it. Feeling good on the inside projects as outward confidence. If you don't have any plans set for the summer; it's okay, make some. You can visit distant family members, join community clubs, get a job, or volunteer. At the end of the day, simply make sure you had fun. Keeping your mind stimulated with daily activities and fresh snacks which are the basis of having an amazing summer.

So get your camera ready because this summer will be one to remember.

Make it Worth It

BY EDUARDO AREVALO
-Staff Writer-

For most of us, this summer will be the last time we will all be together, so it's up to us to make the most of it and something worth remembering. The easiest way to make memories is getting together, and it's always easier if you don't have to rely on your parents to give you a ride, so if you can't drive, get to know people who can. That way, when you go out with friends you are not limited to the place where you got dropped off.

Making memories doesn't necessarily mean going to something expensive like a theme park; something simple like a concert, which may only cost around 30-40 dollars – Coldplay, Imagine Dragons, and One Republic

to name a few (not Coachella) –sure makes for a memorable night. Living close to so many venues in so many cities—L.A., Anaheim, Hollywood, and others—gives us plenty of opportunities to listen to many artists in different genres.

In reality, you don't need to spend more than five dollars on food to have a good time: go to a fast food restaurant for lunch with some friends and let good times roll.

You have plenty of options when it comes to where and when you want to hang out with your friends, but whatever it is you choose, keep in mind that you have to make the most of it.



zineinfo.com

How do HMSA Students Define Summer?

BY ISAAC LIBRAMONTE, KAMERA FORD, MONIQUE EJENUKO, & KIMBERLY RIVERA
-Staff Writers-



“To get away from everything; basically playing video games until [your] eyes bleed.”
– Brian Pham, 9th grade

“Watching Netflix, hanging out with friends, and drinking Starbucks.”
– Mariana Gonzalez, 9th grade

“Having fun with your friends and family; exciting, memorable; the opposite of not doing anything and being a couch potato.”
– Ebuka Aniagba, 10th grade

“A time where people can relax and enjoy themselves or enjoy being with other people; a break; the opposite of stress.”
– Enrique Arredondo, 10th grade

“Going swimming, and being able to get all of my credits to graduate; jumper; opposite of winter.”
– Nathale Juarez, 11th grade

“A time to advance and prepare for whatever happens in the following school year; a time to try new things out.”
– Javier Guevara, 11th grade

“Heaven, since I'm going to graduate; no stress, no homework and no summer school.”
– Jenny Rizzo, 12th grade

“The time to use for exploration; when you're free to try new things and experience all you can as you take a break away from the stress of school or a break from whatever a person might be doing that's stressful; mystery; the opposite of regret.”
– Chris Gomez, 12th grade



Summer is the hottest season of the year. During summer, time is not a concept nor does it exist, but it is instead an infinite blur of hot nights and cool waters. Summer undoubtedly holds different sentiments for different people. For some it's self-discovery and coming of age and for others it is unlimited summer homework. Whatever the case may be, summer is a span of time for a person to toy with different variables in his/her life and possibly explore new mediums of entertainment, fulfillment, and/or work. That can come in the form of learning a new form of dance or traveling. So whether you define summer as either euphoria or a sweaty experience, summer is coming!

Summer To-Do List

BY OMAR AMER
-Staff Writer-

Many of us eagerly await the days of summer vacation which has us boasting about the parties we'll go to, theme parks we'll visit, and the concerts we'll attend. Come summer, we're stuck at home, contemplating nothing. End your boredom with one of these suggestions that could fill your summer days.

Get a job: Make some money. Become self-dependent. Many jobs open up with the start of summer, so stay on the lookout for open positions. Camps, bike shops, fast food restaurants, and pools (to name a few) make available numerous jobs that award you with experience and a wage.

Volunteer: Some of us have fallen behind on those volunteer hours. Pull in hours during the summer instead of staying at home. Volunteer at schools that have summer programs or at a local park. You'll have accomplished something and at the same time (hopefully) enjoyed yourself.

Find a hobby: This option is for those of you that can stay dedicated. Start something and stick to it. Quite possibly, you'll stick with your hobby, even with the start of the next school year.

Visit a college: Those of you that are seniors, the list has ended. You're hopefully off to college the coming fall, so enjoy that! Everyone else (even sophomores and freshmen) can go visit a college to get that firsthand view of the campus and the classes. The best time to go is late summer (classes are beginning), so save this option for the last thing on your list.



There you go, things to do during the summer. With this, and all the other articles about summer activities, you'll probably find something to do. Or, you'll stay home, wondering about the fun everyone else is having. That's cool too.



.....
Extras? See more Summer articles in insert



SUMMER



Hot New Movies and Music for This Summer

BY OGECHI OKAFOR & TATIANA MEDRANO
-Staff Writers-

As we are transitioning into the summer, both the music and movie industries are coming out with hot new productions for this season. To start getting pumped

up for this summer, we are here to inform you about new films and songs that have or are coming out.

MOVIES

22 Jump Street comes out into theaters on June 13. The sequel to 21 *Jump Street* shows Jenko and Schmit moving from the high school scene to going under cover in a college campus to make a bust. Have a perfect start to your summer with this laugh out loud comedy where Jenko and Schmit explore college and their partnership gets tested.

Earth to Echo is a movie that reminds us of the movies such as *ET* or *The Last Mimzy*. Tuck, Munch, and Alan record themselves and the mysterious and strange occurrences. They find a small extraterrestrial and name it Echo. However, trouble soon comes their way after meeting Echo. This thrilling movie comes out on July 2nd.

The Fault in Our Stars, a very popu-

lar young adult novel, is being made into a movie starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort. The novel is all about two young teenagers trying to find love in an unfair world that they live in. This highly anticipated movie is coming out on June 6th, so don't forget to buy your tickets.

(*See more TFIOS in insert*)
What happened to the hit movie series, *Transformers*? Well, there is no need to worry as *Transformers: Age of Extinction* is hitting the big screens on June 27th. For the exciting fourth installment of *Transformers*, there is going to be a brand new set of cast members and only a few returning transformers. If you are interested in watching epic robot battles, then make sure you go watch it in theaters.

Music continued in Extras insert



Staycation

BY JUDITH MARTINEZ
-Staff Writer-



Summer is right around the corner. Many students travel and leave the country, but what is there to do when you are stuck here at home?

Some students enjoy staying home. Junior Jovanny De La Cueva explained, "I want to stay in America where everyone speaks my language." For students who do not like or have the opportunity to seek new horizons, there are still plenty of fun options near home.

The first thing that pops in your head when you think of summer is visiting an amusement park. But after asking yourself how many times you have gone to the same one, the amusement eventually disappears, turning the place into yet another park in LA. However, not everyone gets tired of these amusement parks, so if you

want to spend your summer visiting them, go right ahead.

Sophomore Sebastian Mendoza remarked, "I ride my bike to Manhattan Beach and play volleyball or soccer with my friends." If you do not want to stay alone this summer you can get together with friends and throw a bonfire, go to the beach, watch movies, or go hiking. The choices are endless.

There are also activities for you if you are not looking forward to spending money. You can invite friends to go walk around the mall and window shop. Playing video games or having a game night is always cheap and fun too.

There are many things for you to do during the summer that are exciting and entertaining. This summer, what will **YOU** do?



Bump, Set, Spike

BY DION BUI & ISAAC GORGY
-Staff Writer- -Sports Editor-



Volleyball season is back you guys, and ever since the season started, the HMSA boys' volleyball team has had a record of 3 wins and 12 losses. The team's last game was against the #1 ranked Vistamar on Wednesday, April 30.

Unfortunately, the team fell short of reaching the CIF playoffs, winning 2 league games when it needed to win 5 out of its 8 league games to qualify. However, the players have a positive attitude and are looking ahead to improve.

"I'd really like us to play better, communicate, and make it to the playoffs," said HMSA volleyball player Nathan Le (10). It's obvious that the team members are hoping to improve and return stronger the following season.

Besides the season's disappointments, the team is prepared for next year. According to the coach Mr. Severns, eleven team members will be returning to the team next year, and six of them will be seniors. He also said, "I'm really excited because anytime you have a little more experience coming back, that's going to be great for the team!"

The team definitely has potential, considering the team includes several new players. When asked about how he felt about this year's results, their coach said, "I'm really happy about this season. It's a good group of players. They have really good chemistry."

The team has had its fair share of ups and downs throughout this season, but the players are enthusiastic to start preparing for the next.



HMSA Food Lover's Guide in LA

BY NATASHA RUIZ & MARYAM SULTAN
-Staff Writers-

Place	Location	Food	Price	Suggested By
Bj's	Del Amo Mall	Salads to burgers to steak to salmon	\$10-20	Richard Aban (Freshman)
Eatalian	Gardena	Salads to burgers to steak to salmon	\$10-18	Ary Ricardez (Freshman)
El Torito	Hawthorne Blvd.	Enchiladas	\$12.50	Sebastian Mendoza (Sophomore)
Guatelinda	Beverly Blvd.	Guatemalan food like Garnachas with Tomato Sauce.	\$6-18	David Cifuentes (Sophomore)
Spoonhouse	Gardena	The Japanese style white clam sauce spaghetti [is] so delicious.	\$10-15	Nicole Truong (Junior)
Flemings	Rosecrans	Posh steakhouse: dimly lit, high in quality, and high in price.	\$39.99, it offers you your choice of salad, a heaping portion of meat, and a rich dessert.	Brianna Carlos (Junior)
Red Robin	Galleria Mall	They serve burgers but they're not like any other ones and they give you unlimited fries! I personally like the crispy chicken one.	Around \$12	Kimberly Rodriguez (Senior)
Lemonade	Manhattan	Orders appetizers; they are all green healthy places. [My] favorite is the Cookie Skillet.	They're all expensive; that's why I get appetizers. [\$2-\$12.50]	Jacqui Monroy (Senior)
Hummus House	It is a minute's walk from school.	Hummus House offers Mediterranean food.	\$10-\$20 per person	Mr. Launius (Gov. / AP Gov. / Economics / Anthropology Teacher)
Schooner or Later	Orange County	Serves breakfast, has a great ocean view and closes around 3 o'clock.	\$20	Mrs. Kang (Art Teacher)



Image taken by Yearbook staff member

Do You Have Your Hours?

BY PRISCILLA ARAUJO & NATALIE SALDANA
-Staff Writers-



schulzmuseum.org

As you should know, every student is required to complete at least 100 volunteer hours by the time they graduate. If you're a freshman, you seem to have all the time in the world to complete them, as a sophomore you become more aware of their importance. In junior year you rush to complete as many hours as possible, and if you've left all your hours for senior year, good luck juggling volunteer work on top of everything else you have to worry about. Complete them sooner, rather than later, to avoid that extra stress later.

If you are interested in possibly pursuing a career in medicine, you can show your dedication and commitment to the medical field when the time for college applications comes by volunteering in a nursing home or hospital. Some local retirement homes

to ask about volunteer opportunities are Imperial Crest Healthcare Center and C-H 4 Residential Facility; more can be found online with a simple search. Ask your nearest hospital for volunteer opportunities, but the application process for hospitals can be lengthy so start early.

School established organizations such as Key Club are there to help students complete their hours through various community service activities. Some of which include trash pick-up in beaches or parks, helping in charity runs, etc. If you'd like to join, speak to Ms. Mendoza or a Key Club representative about it. In the same manner as an organization, churches in your area could have community service opportunities of which you can take advantage to get your hours. Church groups usually clean up public parks, help in homeless shelters, or even help during church events.

Volunteering at animal shelters is a good way to earn your hours. In order to start volunteering, you would need to locate a local animal shelter and contact the volunteer coordinator. This option is great if you love working with animals, but this may not be the only task you have to do. You may also be in charge of filing papers at the front office or helping with maintenance.

The Hawthorne Teen Center located on El Segundo Blvd. also offers a volunteering program to help students complete

their hour requirements. You could be put to organize materials, decorate for events, or tutor the younger students. Visit the Hawthorne Teen Center to pick up any paperwork you must fill out before you can start volunteering. The Teen Center is a great opportunity to meet new people and collaborate with others.

Helping out at any nearby library is another choice if you take interest in books or you enjoy working with others. You could be responsible for tasks such as explaining the procedure of getting a library card, assisting anyone with the computers, or answering any questions/concerns people may have. If the library has a children's area, you could volunteer to read to the children and interact with them during activities. You may also be asked to clean, organize, or arrange the library materials. Contact your local library to find out when you can start volunteering and for more information.

Colleges look for students who are academically strong but are also involved in their community. And who knows, you could end up liking your volunteer work so much you become a philanthropist dedicated to it. Philanthropy builds connections in the world outside of school; connections valuable to any successful individual.

The Right Way to Diet

BY SARIA KHAN
-Staff Writer-



shawnann.com

Fad dieting, starving for a couple hours, over-exercising, or being calorie conscious will not make you healthy. People have forgotten the definition of "healthy." In today's world, being "healthy" refers to being a size 0 or looking like a twig.

Food servings have inflated over the past century. Food portions have significantly increased since 1997; "Snacks, whether they be potato chips, pretzels, or soda, are 60 percent larger," (Source 1). The world has better access to all sorts of junk food, despite the portion size or price. The unhealthier the food, the cheaper it is. A bottle of water is more expensive than a soft drink: water is \$1.50 while soda is \$0.99, making people more prone to buy soda. However, filtering tap water proves to be an alternative, which is better in both taste

and price.

Magazines and companies such as Victoria's Secret advertise models, but their revenue has a hidden cost: health issues. Girls from ages as young as eight look up to idols like a model or an actress. Even males are prone to the media; they look up to athletic stars, such as Kobe Bryant or actors like Chris Evans, and all of whom have specific physical beauties, expensive clothes, and toned bodies.

They begin by making diet plans to look skinnier; maybe if they eat less, they won't gain any fat. The truth, according to Mr. Dura, is that eating less only decreases metabolic rates at which the body burns calories, and increases the fat attained from eating over time. This refers to fad dieting: eating only one certain food, such as the "watermelon diet," is not only unhealthy, but ineffective; once the dieting stops, your body returns to its normal shape and weight. The body needs the proper nutrients to function like a car needs fuel to run. As a car cannot operate while being filled up with water, the body cannot survive on only one food.

The proper way to be truly healthy is

to eat properly and exercise accordingly, so eating a Big Mac for convenience and then starving the rest of the day isn't the way. The trick, Mr. Dura says, is to start the day with a healthy meal and eat five times a day: three main courses and two snacks in between.

Start the day off with a big breakfast for energy lasting the entire day. Eating healthy includes foods from all six groups every day. Eating pyramid foods in the right portions helps eliminate extra fat from a diet, and a big breakfast stimulates the brain to work harder and longer. Snacking proves an easy method of raising metabolic rates and is recommended in between breakfast and lunch and dinner.

Eating healthy is not the only aspect of being healthy; exercising 45 minutes a day is part of maintaining a healthy body. Exercising leads to healthier living and being more active. It raises the heart rate, making people more alert and ready to work. Exercising can be as easy as skipping rope or doing pushups, curl-ups, or anything that raises the heart rate.

Health proves an easy way of attaining longevity and adroitness.

*Source 1: <http://abcnews.go.com/WN/food-portion-sizes-grown-lot/story?id=129685>



eppsnnet.com



Despite HMSA's merits, there are several students who regret their HMSA experience, either not being able to be part of a cheer squad or not being able to attend a high school football game. So what are these regrets?

Many of us remember our first log entry. One freshman says, "I regret first semester because all the log entries I got." Even though we got log entries first semester our freshmen year, these log entries showed us to not be lazy, do our work on time, and always be prepared.

"I regret being loud at the beginning of the year because now everyone knows I'm loud," claims another freshman. Being loud isn't necessarily bad because now you stand out to the teacher and you're more than a name.

Several HMSA students regret that night

(or several) they have procrastinated: "I regret procrastinating because I end up staying up until 3 a.m." Procrastination allows us to realize that starting work early is better because we present a better project or homework assignment.

We all know we say, "I'll go next time," but there is no next time. Time is limited so it's in our interests to attend our schools events. One sophomore says, "I regret not going to all our school events because even though it's expensive, it helps the school." Everyone should go to HMSA's events because they are a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Like other classmen, juniors "regret not having enough sleep, which ended up with [them] having bags under [their] eyes." Who doesn't regret those nightless sleeps?

Everyone talks about clubs and how you should join them: "I regret not joining clubs freshman year." Why? Well, colleges and universities love to see a well-rounded student who is in-

volved and committed to extracurricular activities.

A senior says, "I regret failing freshmen year PE." Even though you failed PE, now you may realize it has kept you healthy and fit. PE isn't bad and since you took it one more year it actually helps your body. Some seniors even end up taking senior PE because they enjoy the activity so much, especially because the PE teachers are great and funny!

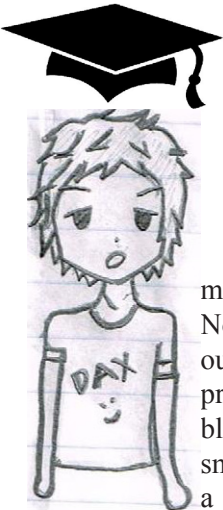
As freshmen, we were extremely shy and "regret[ted] not being able to stand up for [themselves]." Standing for yourself is important but can be risky because you don't want to come off as rude or unpleasant.

Even though, many of our HMSA students don't like some aspects of HMSA, there are still these regrets that have made us stronger, smarter, and have taught us life lessons. So let's remember these regrets because they have made us the students we are today.

See more regrets in Advice section, pg. 7

~Welcome to the DAX Side~

-Section Editor-



Dear past me,

Hi, me. It's me, you-me, from the future. Now before you freak out because this is pretty much impossible and no, you're not smart enough to make a time machine... yet.

Anyway, I'm just here to inform you of how high school was, to relieve you of any anxieties, and to point out any regrets I had... (don't worry, I won't say anything to specific to ruin the space-time continuum or anything, probably).

1. Freshman year might seem a little scary because the workload is such a surprise and all the upperclassmen seem so much taller than you, but don't worry, you'll get used to everything soon (and about your height, don't worry, you'll catch up, much to the dissatisfaction of a certain Brian Lu). The classes themselves will be a little more challenging, but it's nothing you can't handle (except maybe a few B's that shouldn't have been B's)...

2. Sophomore year is the hardest

year you'll have. You took on a bit too much to handle, but if you stick with your friends, it'll be okay. It's a roller coaster of emotion and stress, but it was quite worth it in the end. Quite. No spoilers here!

3. Junior year was a breeze. Maybe you're lazy and sophomore year made this look easy, maybe it's Maybelline. But overused, untimely jokes aside, junior year was pretty easy. Calculus isn't as hard as you think it'd be. This was a year of just getting used to the school and learning things while having fun.

4. Senior year was... different. You would think with the workload (Okay, just one spoiler, 5 AP classes! Man we're crazy) that we have, we would die from overwork, but it's really not too bad. Your senior year is a lot more slacking off than a lot of people would think, and it was actually really fun too. There was a bit of a roller coaster of emotion here too, especially with the thoughts of "the end of high school," but you made it through it, plus you love roller coasters, right?

Well, now I guess it's time to talk about "the end?" Well, it hasn't really happened to me yet, though it will

soon, and from what I feel, it'll be rid-dled with tears. You'll promise all your friends that you'll keep in contact, and that you'll visit, but I bet even you can tell how much doubt there is in these statements. It's not just an end though; it's a new beginning. There will be new friends in college, ones you'll know for the rest of your life. Your friends that you have now will still be your friends later. It's not like you'll fight when you haven't spoken to each other in forever (plus with some certain game addictions you have you'll at least keep in contact with a couple). Of course the future is scary – it always is – but that doesn't mean that we should let it control us. If we could make it this far, why not further? Our future might be dubious, but it's not dark. It's bright. No matter what path we end up on, we'll probably be on a good one. Keep it up, Dax, I promise it'll all be worth it in the end.

Sincerely,
Senior, soon alumni,
Dax Capangpangan

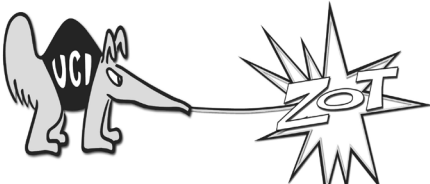




Ready ... Set ... College!

BY VISHALI KAPOOR
-Staff Writer-

Chijioke Akunwafo



“I’m going to UC Irvine because it was my top choice and they have the exact major that I want, pharmaceutical sciences. Irvine is also a fantastic city, not boring, but instead the premier in science, technology, and business. UC Irvine was also generous enough to offer me good financial aid.”

Karla Guardado



“I’m going to Mount Saint Mary’s College because it’s the best college I applied to. Also, they offered me a generous amount of money, which allowed me to go to MSMC.”

Haroun Hatmal



“I’m going to El Camino like most of my peers, but for a better reason. I wish to become like my role model, Shrek.”

Marina Samaan



“I’m going to UC Riverside because they offered me the most money. Their biology major is also connected to UCLA’s biology field, giving me more of an opportunity to get into UCLA’s medical school. It would also be a new experience because Riverside is much different than Hawthorne.”

Dax Capangpangan



“I’m going to UC San Diego because I wanted to get away from my family, but also I wanted to get a school good for engineering (especially since I’m not sure about my major).”

Beteana Leyretana

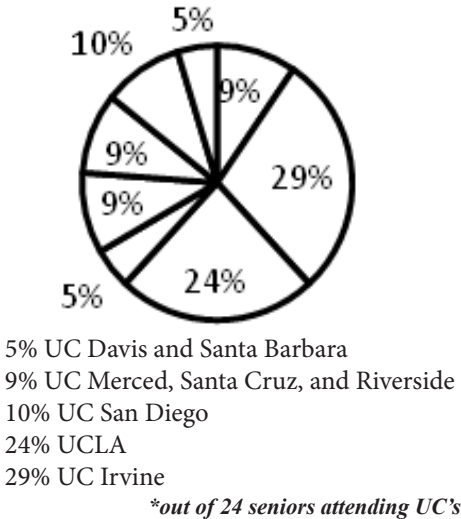


“I’m going to UC Davis to explore a new environment and for their great engineering program. Go Aggies!”

Who is Going Where?

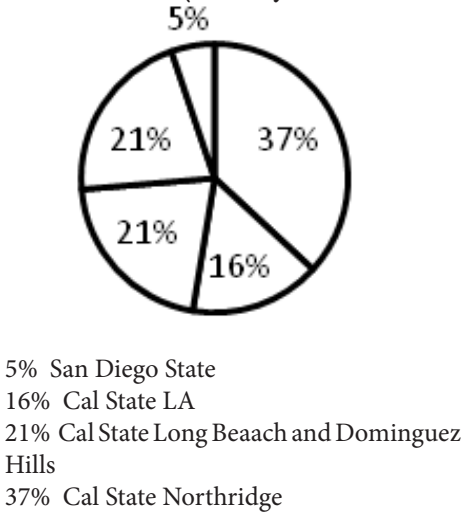
BY SHEHRAZAD BELAS
-Business Manager-

Universities of California (UCs)



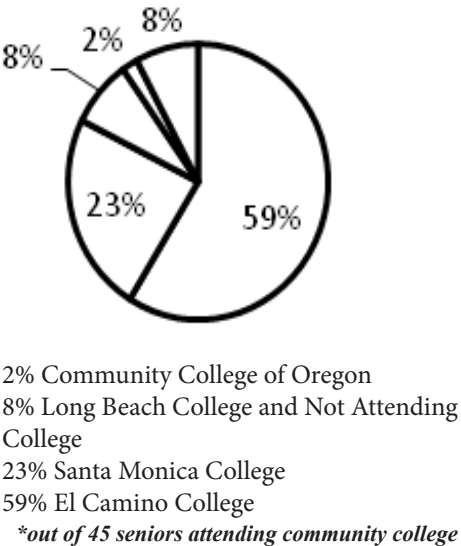
**out of 24 seniors attending UC's*

California State Universities (CSUs)



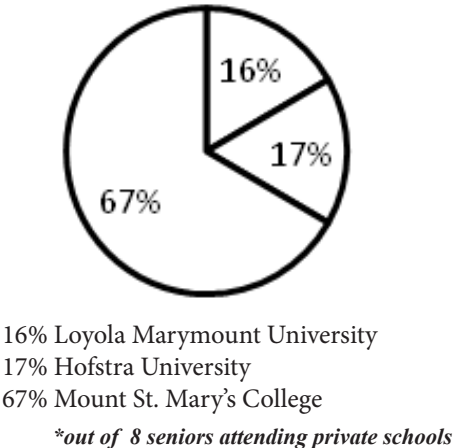
**out of 30 seniors attending CSU's*

Community College



**out of 45 seniors attending community college*

Private Schools



**out of 8 seniors attending private schools*

¡Vamos a la Universidad de California!

BY VISHALI KAPOOR & SAMIRA MUNA
-Staff Writer- -Section Editor-

UC Berkeley
<http://www.berkeley.edu/>
Popular Majors:
Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Political Science, Molecular & Cell Biology, Environmental Science, Policy & Management, Economics
Cost of Tuition & Fees (Undergraduate):
\$12,864

UC Los Angeles
<http://www.ucla.edu/>
Popular Majors:
Political Science, Psychology, History
Cost of Tuition & Fees (Undergraduate):
\$12,696

UC Santa Barbara
<http://www.ucsb.edu/>
Popular Majors:
Psychology, Economics, Communications
Cost of Tuition & Fee (Undergraduate):
\$13,746

UC Riverside
<http://www.ucr.edu/>
Popular Majors:
Business, Management, And Marketing
Cost of Tuition & Fees (Undergraduate):
\$12,960

UC Davis
<http://www.ucdavis.edu/>
Popular Majors:
Biological Sciences, Psychology, Molecular Biology, Economics, Civil Engineering
Cost of Tuition & Fees (Undergraduate):
\$13,902

UC San Diego
<http://ucsd.edu/>
Popular majors:
Biology, General; Economics; Psychology, General; Political Science and Government
Cost of Tuition & Fees (Undergraduate):
\$13,302

UC Irvine
<http://uci.edu/>
Popular Majors:
Social Sciences, Biology, Psychology, Engineering, Business/Marketing
Cost of Tuition & Fees (Undergraduate):
\$13,149

UC Santa Cruz
<http://www.ucsc.edu/>
Popular majors:
Psychology, General; Environmental Studies; Business/Managerial Economics; Biology/Biological Sciences
Cost of Tuition & Fees (Undergraduate):
\$13,416

UC Merced
<http://www.ucmerced.edu/>
Popular Majors:
Biological/Life Sciences, Psychology, Engineering
Cost of Tuition & Fees (Undergraduate):
\$13,070



From Khakis to College

BY LINDA HO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Freshman and sophomore years: college applications (apps for short) and college were blissfully far-away abstractions, and time was without a question abundant.

Junior year: college apps were quickly approaching, but I wondered, what’s on them, exactly? Senior year: college apps arrived – it was the moment of truth, and my head throbbed with fear.

Not really. To my immense relief, they’re mostly paperwork (name, birthday, clubs, grades, SAT/ACT scores, etc.). I did spend countless hours writing and editing my essays, but in retrospect, I don’t regret a minute of it. Here’s what I wish I knew several months ago.

First up is a breakdown of the only non-paperwork aspect of college apps: the almighty essays *gasp.* California State Universities (CSUs) don’t require any essays. All the Universities of California (UCs) use the same application, which requires two essays. The Common App, used by private schools and some out-of-state public schools, asks for an essay that all the colleges will read and a writing supplement, an essay which must be tailored to fit

each Common App school.

I wish I started my essays over the summer; first semester of senior year would’ve certainly been less hectic. Prompts are often released online – even if you don’t write anything immediately, at least you can keep them in mind. Print out the prompts so you can refer to them even without Internet access. Copy-pasting the prompt at the top of your Word Doc or paper essay reminds you constantly of your focus, lessening rambling. Another tip is to highlight key prompt words in various colors.

I wrote countless drafts, tweaking bit by bit. Every writer could use the benefit of a second, third, or even tenth glance. Write first, watch the word count later: it’s hard to write when you’re overly conscious of a number. Endless editing sounds excruciating (because it is), but I assure you the exhilaration of getting accepted to your dream school is definitely worth it.

Although you should keep in mind that a UCLA admissions officer said that she reads to search for facts, I will now offer advice specifically for the Common App. Writer’s block crippled me, so I decided to learn from the best. I recommend the third edition of *50 Successful Harvard Application Essays: What Worked for Them Can Help You Get into the College of Your Choice* as selected and analyzed by the staff

of the Harvard Crimson (though the fourth edition is now available) and The Harvard Independent’s *100 Successful College Application Essays*. Diverse as the essays were, they all had one commonality: they made me forget I was reading a college admissions essay. Concise but concentrated prose conveyed the essence of the writer, and essays often start with imagery or dialogue – all the devices you learned in English class will come in handy. The essay is a space for you to be more than yet another name with test scores, grades, and a list of extracurricular activities.

The key idea to keep in mind is **GROWTH**. Perhaps in a pivotal experience or something more gradual, you’ve learned something about yourself and changed for the better, become less of a teenager and more of an adult. Where did you start, and where are you now? *Who* are you now? If you’re stuck, try writing about volunteering or extracurricular activities; these are not uncommon topics.

Asking friends and teachers for feedback is prudent, but remember that the best judge of your writing is ultimately you. It is important to not try to reincarnate yourself as the “perfect student” that all colleges will accept. There is no set amount of clubs, no particular list of must-have AP classes, no such thing as a “perfect stu-

dent.” Some colleges will accept students that others waitlist or reject. It happened to me, I’ll admit it. As cliché as this sounds, be yourself.

Colleges, particularly private schools, often run an application advice blog. My favorite is University of Pennsylvania’s page217.org, written by the Dean of Admissions (*college advice blog link shown as footnote*). Luckily, his and many other blogs’ advice applies across the board. Blogs are especially life-saving / sleep-restoring when it comes to writing supplements, considering that each private school (not UCs or CSUs) expects to see one tailored to it. Writing supplements often ask about what you’ve done in high school and what you plan to do in college. While recycling certain parts, especially those about your high school accomplishments, is a wise choice, you will have to research each college and show what you know, why you care about getting in. Especially time-saving is the college’s search engine of student organizations: here, you will easily find clubs similar to the ones you participate(d) in. Connect your high school experience with college dreams; write about what you’ve done in HMSA clubs to support what you wish to do, such as clubs you want to join, *in that specific college*.

Since this article is basically a novel, here come the acknowledgements. Mrs. Ramos, thank you for being my number-one supporter through all this. You’ve always answered my infinite questions and been calm despite my stress. I could not ask for a better counselor. Mr. Jahnke, thanks for the awesome letter of rec and your down-to-earth rants. It was in your AP classes I truly found my voice to opine both in front of the class and on paper. Mr. Flint, thank you for the letter of rec and holding down the fort (read: Environmental Club).

Ms. Bayani, thanks for the letter of rec and breaking in and rebuilding my brain with calculus. That power rule is some powerful stuff. Sra. Mendoza, gracias por enseñarme muchísimo español y ayudarme hablar en clase. Ud. es una profesora y amiga muy divertida. Ms. Hall, thanks for editing my essays and guiding me as I re-discovered my love for the written word and found conviction editing *Aviator News*. It’s been too fast to breathe but long enough to gasp. Dr. Smith, congratulations on your doctorate. I appreciate your willingness to help

and your patient dedication. Mr. Berumen, thank you for taking the time to write a letter of rec and making sure HMSA runs smoothly. HMSA is indeed a spic and span (space) ship. I am inexpressibly indebted to HMSA teachers and admins as a whole for teaching me so much academically and about life (banned word, sorry Mr. Jahnke). There’s not enough space to write everything, but I think all the seniors are inspired at one point or another by a teacher. Friends (you know who you are!), I’m not going to list names in case I accidentally

leave someone out, but I give you the utmost gratitude for transforming me from a nervous wreck into someone happy. I’m glad we’ve been together for so long. I’ve really enjoyed watching everyone grow, and I see the world differently because of you guys. It’s been great sharing this journey together.

So long, HMSA. These polo-shirted years were worth every minute.

Now I’ll Give Some HMSA Survival Quickies.

⇒Concentrate on actually understanding, and the grades will follow, not the other way around.

⇒After you’re done with your homework, stay up an extra hour to do SAT/ACT practice problems: this is facilitated by the fact that the problems come in measured chunks with specific time constraints.

→Set an alarm, and prepping will go by faster than you think.

→Looking back at the explanations for your wrong answers is the crux of test prep: these tests ask you to think systematically, meaning you can more or less brainwash yourself into thinking like the test-makers want you to think.

⇒Not sure about taking that AP class? Do it; you can later drop out at the start of the year if you can’t handle it.

⇒Buy a watch early on; you’ll need it for AP tests, the SAT, and the ACT.

⇒Keep a notebook to record all your classwork, homework, and daily reminders; your memory isn’t perfect, and sometimes you need to finish classwork for homework. Check if your backpack is missing anything before you get to school each morning.

⇒Keep a backup store of paper somewhere in your Life Binder.

⇒It doesn’t hurt to have a spare pencil or pen separate from the rest.

⇒Raise that hand – I learned the hard way that it gets easier the more you do it. If you’re unsure, take a moment to articulate mentally before you raise your hand.

⇒Join a few clubs – you’ll meet friends, have fun, and put it on your college apps while you’re at it. My number-one regret was not being able to join more clubs as a freshman and sophomore. Stellar grades and test scores alone won’t cut it: YOU NEED TO JOIN CLUBS.

⇒Go ask for help after school if you need it. It may sound intimidating, but in reality there are personalized attention and relaxed atmosphere.

⇒Talk to Mrs. Ramos – she’s a thousand search engines combined.

⇒Remember those teachers to whom you talked, their AP classes you took, their clubs you joined? You can now ask them for letters of recommendation.

⇒And finally, when you’re most distant from reality, sanity, and sleep, remember this: “If you’re not happy, then why do it?” Although it seems to run contrary to all this workaholic advice, this helped me when I needed it most. Even though this craziness doesn’t seem worthwhile in the moment, take a moment to stretch and remind yourself that yes, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and yes, you WILL get there. Although my life revolved around college apps for a hectic semester, I didn’t let them completely dictate my values. I know as I’m doing them that I am more than my SAT score. I do exist outside of college apps, and so do you. Oh, and treat yourself to a little sanity now and then, however you define it.

*The best college advice I ever found:

5 I’s Self-Assessment: <http://page217.org/?p=465> and 4 C’s College Fit Assessment: <http://page217.org/?p=468>

Reflections

Get Up and Try

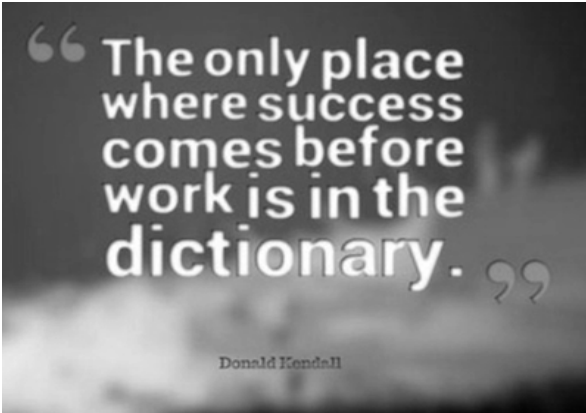
BY JACQUELYN FLORES & DANIELA MEJIA
-Staff Writers-

As we scoped around the school hallways looking for people to ask regarding their worst regrets at HMSA, we came across several students who admitted that their worst regret was slacking on their work. One senior said, “I really regret not trying harder and getting into more universities.”

Many students can agree that they could have done much better with their academics this school year. Yes, freshman year at our school may be a lot more challenging than at other high

schools, but that is no excuse for not trying your best. Sophomore Juan Villa said, “I regret starting [the] school year out lazily. I wish I would have started the year being a bit more confident.”

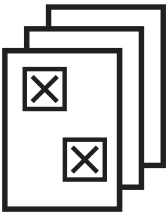
It’s true that one can always learn from his/her mistakes. If you are not doing well in a class, try finding a new study habit, minimizing background noise or separating yourself from technology as you do homework. We know, we know, that sounds boring, but it actually helps!



livegreatquotes.com

Pathway of Doom

BY LEANETTE ESTRADA
-Staff Writer-



Most of us have experienced a preventable log entry. Although we try to avoid them, we often make simple mistakes, such as forgetting a homework assignment or not having the proper materials, and end up at the log entry line.

Senior Sergio Nevarez received a log entry for falling asleep: “In AP Spanish, I received a log entry for falling asleep, but really I had my head on the desk because I was trying to reach for a pencil that fell on the floor. That got me a week of detention and that was my tenth log entry, so I got two [weeks].” He has a few recommendations for the underclassmen:

1. Get an alarm to not be late to school
2. Do your volunteer hours, ASAP
3. Join a sport
4. Don’t plagiarize Officer Dave’s signature on log entry sheet
5. Look into colleges sophomore year
6. Don’t get senioritis

These runs of bad luck aren’t just prevalent in senioritis-filled upperclassmen. Junior Ryan Aquinde remembers his worst log entry well: “I forgot to bring my whole English binder and I tried to make a new one during school, but I forgot to add divider titles

so I got the log entry for the whole thing.” He also recommends incoming freshman should “bring all of their required materials to school every day to prevent any silly log entries.”

Likewise, Sophomore Paul Reyna got a preventable log entry: “I got caught calling my own cell phone when getting a log entry.” He advises incoming freshmen to “avoid calling your cell phone in order to prevent any further punishment.”

Freshman Gisselle Vera exclaims that her most preventable log entry was “failing a test that she could have studied for.” She recommends future freshman “to study! Even if they think they got it, it wouldn’t hurt to just study for a bit and to not be lazy because that’ll just add more work to get your grade up. Just study; take a look at the material that’s on the test, and refresh your mind to be more confident when taking the test.”

We can all agree that many of us have had those simple, preventable log entries that we look back on and shake our heads at. We can also agree that those easily preventable log entries helped us learn from our mistakes and become more responsible.

A Step Up

BY MARIA HEREDIA & ISABEL RAMIREZ
-Copy Editor- -Staff Writer-



Read or you won’t be eligible for clubs or sports. Read or you won’t pass CP. Read, read, and read some more.

Reading is one of the best ways to gain knowledge, visit different worlds, and encounter the different personalities that “exist.” We use Accelerate Reader (AR) to take a test on what we read. AR is meant to help us improve our reading, yet we’re limited on exactly how much we can improve.

We rush to finish books so that we can test on them and when we finish reading; there seems to be no place available to take a test. By the time we find somewhere to take a test, we’ve no idea what we’ve read. Wouldn’t it be easier if there was a little more available to us? A simple scheduled library trip to take a test or help run the library or computer lab after school would help us and those seeking a new book. After all, “together we achieve more.” For this reason, the new library CP is going to be available.

“This will be a space run by students for students,” said teacher/librarian Ms. Enger. “Opening the library during CP will allow students with after-school commitments [to] have an opportunity to earn their points and find new books.”

Although the library is only open two days a week, there is no doubt the li-

brary should be open Monday through Friday during school as well as after. Not only would this help us take

AR tests and find new books, but we could form manga/comic book clubs to share our interests with others. AR isn’t meant to stress you out or make you read twenty books a semester, but to measure how much you have read and how much you understand. Books are, of course, a source of knowledge.

When asked her opinion of AR, Ms. Enger replied, “The purpose of AR is to inspire lifelong readers. According to a Pew research survey [at the beginning of the year], 24% of

Americans did not read a single book last year. Whether you prefer fiction or non-fiction, eBooks or paperbacks, our library has a book you will love.”

Take some time to check out our school library; it’s okay if you don’t know what you want to read because Ms. Enger and our new student helpers will have plenty to recommend.

High School Went A Little Like This...

BY GISELLE VAZQUEZ AND ADRIANA SANDOVAL
-Staff Writers-

Despite Hollywood’s hackneyed depictions of high school, HMSA epitomizes the contrary reality. Studying in between periods is the norm and staying up late is a daily routine. As the year comes to a swift end, some seniors had a few things to impart based on their HMSA experience:

“[It was] stressful, [full] of heart attacks, and exciting. It was funny and it was hard, but now that I think about it, if I wasn’t so lazy it would have been easy.”

-Lucy Herrera

“It was stressful, [and] I wish that I could go back and fix my mistakes.”

-Farhaanah Bholat



bubblews.com

“It was chill, but I wish I had more time to play Yu-Gi-Oh!”

-Luis Garcia

“I would say it was a bittersweet ride, but now that senior year has come to an end, I’ve learned to appreciate every bit of it.”

-Kajal Prasad

More responses on page 8

Reflections

Coming Full Circle

BY YASMINE GUTIERREZ
-Section Editor-

It begins and ends with a seat. In four years, it would see more transformations and revelations than I can remember.

On the first day of freshman year, I was plunged into knowledge that I found in the back row of Mr. Jahnke’s class. We discussed and laughed, and there I found a talent: writing. As if becoming one of the only freshmen in a newspaper club full of upperclassmen wasn’t stressful enough, I already had some high expectations to prove that I belonged there.

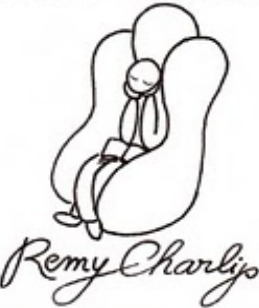
I felt at home with the various 10th, 11th, and 12th graders; I received advice and we shared stories in our down time. As the years went on, so did they, but we always had new aspiring writers to bridge the gaps. I still sat in my seat from freshman year, feeling whole in

that stable spot where all I had to do was listen and create.

I came back to that seat for my fourth year. I knew AP English Literature wouldn’t be easy, but being back in that room and using all the skills I learned from Mr. Jahnke’s freshman class, newspaper CP, and Ms. Hall’s critique in English Honors made the transition feasible. I learned what worked and what could use some improvement. I was good at analyzing the prompts and genuinely enjoyed seeing how well I could verbalize. All the nights of reading poetry and prose, preparing for the AP test, and learning to see deeper into not only literature but also my own surroundings have been my favorite part of senior year.

It began and ended with a seat that was a release for my creativity.

READING DANCE



teachingliteracy.tumblr.com

Responses continued from page 7

“Let’s see... it was stressful, full of all-nighters and lazy days. I didn’t get the most of high school, but it’s so worth it.”

-Kimberly Rodriguez

“[It was] boring, but not too bad. It was okay and it wasn’t terrible.”

-Bryan Rojas

“At first, it fulfilled the HMSA rumors. Junior year was really normal. Senior year is going by like a dream.”

-Christopher Moreno

“It was bittersweet because it’s not a normal high school, but it teaches discipline and gets you motivated for college.”

-Daysi Garcia

This is Just to Say Thank You

BY SHAMERA JOHNSON
-Staff Writer-



infamous log system and proclaimed I’d never make that call home; well, my freshmen teachers had a different agenda. I got a log entry (my very first period the first day of school) for not having a form my mom had to fill out; ironically, I gave the form to her thinking that was the responsible thing to do. Once I got back from my log, we had a remarkable assignment. We had to write to our senior selves about where we wanted to be in four years, and how we were going to get there. Senior year seemed so futuristic then, and now I wish there was a big remote with pause, rewind, and play buttons.

Since I was the little 14-year-old me, who knew everything about everything, I’ve grown tremendously. My HMSA experience has taught me so many things that have not only helped me academically, but socially as well. I have formed life-long friendships, become open to trying new things, grown comfortable with diversity, surpassed some of my own adversities, helped others to overcome their adversities, and enjoyed it all in the process. I can honestly say the hard work, sleepless nights, and oceans of tears from being overwhelmed were definitely worth it. From the bottom of my heart to the very top, I genuinely thank the HMSA staff for being supportive, persistent, noticing my potential, and helping me to see it as well.

Being able to have a fresh start, meet new people, and make more memories were the things that excited me the most about high school. The sports teams, school dances, and masses of people only heightened my excitement. I knew after “graduating” from middle school, I’d have the time of my life. I decided on going to HMSA because it was in a completely different area (compared to my middle school in L.A.), but unaware of its academic strenuousness, I would soon find out ...

Summer school started and I was failing. My first thought was “Me? Failing? This must be a joke. It’s only one of my classes; how am I going to cope with six?” But sure enough I learned the ropes and the rest was history... until the first day of school. During Summer Bridge, I’d learned about HMSA’s

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Culture Shock

BY SAMANTHA GUTIERREZ & BRIAN MONCADA
-Staff Writer- -Section Editor-

Most of the students here at HMSA look forward to plenty of fun things that we'll do during our summer: hanging out with friends, going to the movies, having fun at the beach, and doing summer homework (yeah!). But for all of the die-hard anime and manga fanatics out there, the highlight of the entire summer may be only one event: Anime Expo (AX). Anime Expo is an annual four-day convention held at the LA Convention Center every 4th of July. It's also the largest event organized by the Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation (SPJA). Since its first appearance in 1992, Anime Expo has grown dramatically in size and recognition. It also happens to be "the largest anime and manga convention in North America," according to anime-expo.org. Many attendees "cosplay" (a mix of the words "costume" and "play"), dressing up as a character from an anime, a manga series, a video game, or their own creation.

The event offers myriad surprises; not only can you geek out with other like-minded *otakus*, but you can sample a wide variety of culinary treats, buy Japanese

merchandise, or simply immerse yourself in a new culture. As an anime lover, it can be hard fully loving your hobby when people refer to anime as manga and vice versa, so the Anime Expo offers a refreshing change of pace. While not everyone at the Expo will love what you love, you will definitely have a lot in common your *otaku* brethren. Outside the convention center, a fleet of lunch trucks (*loncheras*) specializing in various types of food can be found. These meals on wheels offer everything from traditional Japanese cuisine (no, not chow mein and orange chicken) to the standard cheeseburger, guaranteeing that they offer something for everyone. The Expo also has many Japanese vendors who sell their wares. You can buy figurines, manga, anime, candy, ramen, and even some age-restricted items. Like *katanas*, traditional Japanese swords. What'd you think I meant? The Expo also presents a valuable opportunity to learn something about a new culture. You have the chance to converse with people from various diverse backgrounds united by one thing: love for the Japanese culture.

Summer Jobs

BY ALDO MONTES
-Staff Writer-

Summer vacation is nearly synonymous with "free time". Most students will use this time to enjoy the summer and have fun, while other students will budget their time accurately to finish their summer assignments. However, there are some students who instead plan to use their time for something else. These students plan to use this time to work at their summer jobs.

There's quite variety of jobs that students will work. For example, 9th grader Juan Ortega plans to work at a Target store over the summer. His motivation for working over the summer is mainly "to kill some time". Meanwhile, 10th grader Marcos

Maldonado has other plans. He intends to work with his uncle and paint houses. "I like to paint and I like to help do things for people", says the sophomore. 11th grader Erick Ballesteros wants to work in a meat packaging factory. His intention is simply "to make some money". Similarly, 12th grader Bryan Rojas also plans to work for money. However, he intends to work at the local burger restaurant "Jim's Burgers".

Summer vacations are usually meant to be spent having fun. However, summer jobs are a great way to earn experience for job hunting in the future. So if you have the time, you should try to apply for a job over the summer.

"One Sick Love Story"

BY LEANETTE ESTRADA & JESSE TORRES
-Staff Writers-

One of the most anticipated films this summer is *The Fault in Our Stars*, based on the New York Times #1 bestselling book of the same name. The trailer was released in early February and by March already garnered more than 10 million views. Even author John Green cannot contain his excitement as seen in his vlog (Brotherhood 2.0) on YouTube.

Sophomore Rebeca Nolasco mused her excitement: "I'm internally slowly dying of joy because it can't come any faster. Every day I think about it, I want to cry because it's perfect."

Junior Karen Aceves also exclaimed her anticipation: "I have never teared up because of a book; I am impatiently waiting for this movie because I'm ready to see everything become 'real.' Maybe I'll even cry!"

One important tip of reading the book before watching the movie: Don't ask people for the ending.

Read the book. Just do it. The movie is expected to be released on June 6. For those who read the book and watched the trailer: When did you start crying? Were boxes of tissue papers nearby? If "Okay? Okay." (Hazel and Gus' signature line) with musical accompaniment didn't get to you, than this sick love story is not for you.

With the release of the film on June 6, early screenings of the film were released and very few lucky fans saw the movie. As a surprise, John Green, along with Ansel Algort (Gus) and Shailene Woodley (Hazel), appeared in the movie theaters and witnessed the tears and sobbing of die-hard TFIOS fans. Early reviews of the film have been positive, which means fans will hopefully not be disappointed with the film-adaptation of TFIOS.

As John Green would say, don't forget to be awesome!

Music

Music continued from page 2

The much anticipated album, *Ultraviolence* from the one and only Lana Del Rey, will be released soon. Her melancholy and sweet voice will be coming out in the summer of 2014. She has released the single "West Coast," which is her second biggest hit next to "Summertime Sadness." You can also hear the leaked song of "Behind Closed Doors," which is also expected to be in *Ultraviolence*. The album is scheduled to be released in June 14th.

Lewis Watson, an up and coming new artist, is releasing his first album, *The Morning*, which will be released in June 16. He is a singer songwriter who has released numerous EPs. If you like singers like Ed Sheeran, Gabrielle Aplin, or Nina Nesbitt, I highly recommend that you check out his music and upcoming album.

Ariana Grande is at it again; she and Chris Brown are coming out with a hot new single "Don't Be Gone Too Long". Chris Brown and Ariana Grande will be showing their dance moves in their soon to be

released music video. It's rumored to be coming out this summer, so keep a close eye on any information about the song. If you want to get a feeling of the expected amazing dance moves that will be shown in their music video, Chris Brown is seen dancing his heart out to the beats of his song on YouTube and its pretty spectacular.

British rock band Coldplay finally released its sixth album *Ghost Stories*. Chris Martin sang in a haunting tone in unforgettable songs such as "Magic" and "Another's Arms." Get a chance to hear Chris Martin sing in his signature falsetto in Coldplay's new album. I guarantee you will love all of the songs as much as we do.

As summer gets closer and closer, don't have your mind set on homework that's due in a few months. Get out of your house and go watch a movie on robots or police officers undercover at the movie theaters. Or, stay in-doors and listen to new music or buy new albums that have already or are coming out very soon.