

What’s the best thing that happened during your winter break?



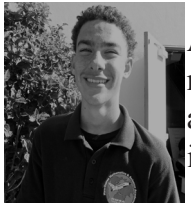
Colin Girod: I played on my drumset all day long



Moinul Hussain: Panicking about Finals.



Russel Graham: : Two weeks of video games, and challenging myself to be the most efficient with the least amount of sleep.



Adam Cady: what was great for me was chillin with my friends and not have to worry about going to school the next day



Kevin Aguilar: Hung out at my brother’s house in smelly Chino.



Maria Gomez: Sleeping until 12pm, having breakfast at 3pm, going to sleep at 5am, and doing it all over again for 2 weeks



Christina Nguyen: I went to El Polla Inca for the Senior Dinner and wasted 11 dollars.



Daryl-Justin T. Casio: being able to lay on my bed and stare at the ceiling for 4 hours, not caring about anything



Dylan Reich: New Years Eve “Block Party” with concerts and free Monster Import!



WINTER FORMAL

Let’s go to Paris! On Saturday January 22nd, the ASB will hold the winter formal at The Four Points Hotel at the LAX Sheraton. The theme of the evening is “A Winter’s Night in Paris,” or more impressively, “Nuit D’hiver ‘a Paris,” so the ballroom will be decked-out French style, complete with Parisian lights and an Eiffel Tower.

Hors d’oeuvres will be provided throughout the evening, but make sure you eat something beforehand so you’re ready to dance, and because the attire is formal, dress to impress!

The event runs from 8-12pm and tickets are 35 dollars apiece. Students from other schools are welcome to attend for 40 dollars and Carlos’ approval. For those students driving, parking is an additional six dollars, and photography information is forthcoming.

The ASB has decided on a new-and-improved DJ that will play a wide array of music at various speeds, so both couples and solo attendees should enjoy the evening.

Because this is one of the two major dances of the year (and the only one open to all four grade levels) the faculty, staff, and ASB encourage you to make the most of the evening. See you in Paris!



Ask an Aviator

I have a friend that always asks me for my homework so they can copy it. I don’t want to be mean and say no to them, but I don’t want them copying my HW either. How do I say no in a nice way?

There is no need for you to say no in a nice way. It is your homework and you do not want them to copy it so tell them you let someone else borrow it. They shouldn’t ar-

How can you get over-protective parents to trust you?

- Wait until you’re 18, and move out. For some people, this is the only real answer to this quuestion

I know a person that likes me and I like them too, but they are too shy to ask me out and I don’t want to ask them out because that’s not normal. What should I do?

Write a letter asking them with a “yes” box and a “no” box. Problem solved.

What advice can you give a student who is completely overwhelmed with school and stress?

-Go for a walk. If you’re stressed, you just focus on how stressed you are, which adds even more stress. Do you honestly believe it won’t get done? I think if you’re honest with yourself, you realize that it will all get done; think less and do more.

How do you find time for yourself and time to figure out what you want to study for in college, if you go to a school that leaves you no time for fun, with all the pressures, HW, and stress that we have?

-Prioritize. Make a list of goals and their level of urgency. Then just follow that list. If you truly are interested in something, you’ll find the time to pursue it.

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Kingdom Hearts: Birth By Sleep

I-Phone Glitch — AGAIN?

Uncharted 3

Should you buy or trash Uncharted 3? I'm no expert on the PS3, but even I know it's a great game to buy. The experts at IGN and Gamestop agree. Not only do reliable game sites you trust give this game positive feedback, but also its sequel won game of the year in 2009.

-Mohammed Tootla



The new Playstation Portable RPG is Kingdom Hearts: Birth By Sleep. Birth By Sleep is a prequel to Kingdom Hearts 1 on Playstation 2. I must say that as a fan of the series I am impressed with the franchises move to the portable system. The graphics are of an unusually high quality for PSP's reputation. Most PSP games end up looking like horrible Playstation 1 games, yet Birth By Sleep looks surprisingly well rendered and almost identical to its predecessors on PS2. The storyline is highly entertaining and brings back characters from the first Kingdom Hearts and new and deep characters. Another thing that sets BBS apart from other RPGs on PSP is the combat. With multiple spells and weapons the combat evolves all throughout the game. The numerous boss battles in the game also bring back childhood memories incorporating many of Disney's classic villains and heroes. Though there are a few cons to this game, the camera angles are absolutely horrible. Several of the levels and music seem to be almost exact duplicates. Also, the load times were so long I almost wanted to throw the game out the window! Despite those slight annoyances I definitely recommend that you go out and try Birth By Sleep. - Matt Dumas



Pokemon Black and White

Should you buy or trash Pokemon Black and White? If you have a DS of some sort and also like Pokemon then you would be crazy not to buy it. The game hasn't come out in the US yet, but the Pokemon series has never failed me or my friends. Every single release had a rating of at least 7/10 and 8/10 in my book which is pretty high for any Nintendo game. This is a game which you can play longer than most others.

-Mohammed Tootla

On new years day, a glitch with Iphone software occurred: any alarm set that morning did not go off. As many could predict, iPhone users were late to jobs, events, etc... Angry users automatically flooded social sites with complaints, which were generally unanswered. Apple representatives gave no real reason for the error; they merely stated that they were "aware of an issue related to non-repeating alarms set for January 1 or 2," And said that all alarms would be back to normal by the 3rd. Other users offered temporary fixes such as setting alarms for the whole week rather than one-time alarms. This is not the first time an error has been made with the iPhone software. In November, iPhone owners complained that the clocks on their phones did not turn back an hour, which caused them to be late for many ideas. These two errors can make people wonder, "How Reliable is apple software?"

-Matt Dumas

Bomberman : Act Zero

Should you buy or trash Bomberman: Act Zero? Heeeeeeeccccccckkkkkkk NO! TRASH! Not only does this game have terrible graphics, and a mediocre "sound and offline multi-player" option, the price of 50\$'s when it came out was outrageous in itself. Take my advice and don't even think about this game.

Mohammed Tootla

ANIME LOS ANGELES CONVENTION 2011

by Azucena Castillo



Anime conventions, probably one of the few places you'll find a group of female cosplayers playing spin the bottle in a bathroom lobby, are often dismissed as events for geeks. But they're not. The name suggests the convention is strictly for anime/manga enthusiasts, but you'll find a variety of different people at these conventions: artists, gamers, video editors, cosplayers, voice actors, music lovers, and sci-fi fanatics. People of all ages attend these events. Anime conventions are gatherings of people with similar interests, an opportunity to make new friends.

Anime LA (ALA) is usually overlooked by many convention attendees because of its small size in comparison to other conventions in California such as Anime Expo, Fanime, and Comic-con. It is smaller, panels are not as good (though it is a matter of opinion), and there are not as many vendors. However, ALA has a better atmosphere than larger conventions. Larger conventions are more professional and have a business-like atmosphere, which is great if you're looking for good merchandise and thoroughly organized events.

ALA's atmosphere is a lot more sociable, a great place for meeting new people.

ALA is held each year in early January at the LAX Marriot. This year marked ALA's seventh year in existence. The two main events of any anime convention are the AMV (anime music video) contest and the Masquerade (costume contest); this is no exception for ALA. This year's AMV contest did not have many good entries. Some of the videos started out strongly, but ended badly. Others seemed to be comprised solely of random clips accompanied by a good song. One particular AMV featuring clips from Kingdom Hearts Birth by Sleep certainly got the audience screaming. It was decent, but had poor editing.

The crowd's excitement goes to show how popular the game is. Some people will vote based on their bias and not quality, but the best AMVs generally do win. This year's Masquerade was successful. Many talented and creative cosplayers showed off their costumes and humorous skits.

Stand-up Ninja, the crowd favorite at last year's Masquerade, made a return this year as did AniMaid, who performed for the half-time show last year.



There were not as many good vendors as last year, but somehow I ended up with an empty wallet anyways. Seriously, not even a penny is left. All of it was spent on figurines, pins, prints, a mouse pad, and a poster. Word of advice: Develop a friendly relationship with vendors. You can haggle and get merchandise for a cheaper price if you do. I have learned that unintentionally through experience. They might mark off just one dollar, but every cent counts. I spent quite some time at IMT Anime's booth trying my luck with Kurohitsuji mystery boxes in hopes of getting the figurine of Ciel in his pink dress and hat. Each box costs \$10.98; I got away with paying for my third and last box with \$10.41, half of that being paid in change. The main reason they accepted my payment was because of it being only a few cents short and because they grew to like me and my determination and enthusiasm after my numerous purchases at their booth over the duration of the convention. It also helped that my friend and I conversed casually with them, putting us on friendly terms. So yeah, make friends with the vendors. It really pays off. Not only will they give you small discounts, but they'll also give you tips and advice that come in handy when buying merchandise.

As mentioned before, ALA is more sociable than most other anime conventions. All conventions are social events, but ALA really brings people together. At most conventions people strike up conversations with strangers at panels or while waiting in line for some event. This applies to ALA too, but due to its smaller size people can start chatting with people anywhere: in the hallways, in the bathroom lobby, by the pool, on the escalators, etc. There are probably more opportunities to talk to people due to being compressed into a smaller area, which increases the chances of running into people. Larger conventions like Anime Expo are spread out over larger areas, an entire convention center for example, where you are more likely to stick with your friends so as not to get lost.

Next time an anime convention rolls around you should go, but only if it interests you. It is best to start small, so ALA is perfect for first-timers. It is significantly cheaper and a good taste of what larger conventions are like.



SPORTS

Boys' Soccer Team: By: Enrique Ruvalcaba

The 2010—2011 soccer season is well underway. Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are all looking for ways to contribute to this year's team. The growth over HMSA's previous two years proves that the program is effective. This year, the team is finally able to enter a regular season, where more action will occur than just on the HMSA blacktop.

Mr. Launius, Head of the Social Science Department, is coaching this year's team, and has the support of his players. Anthony Rodriguez, sophomore defensive player, casually said, "You know, he is a good coach. I heard he played soccer while he was in college, so I think he can get us through [the season]. He is very direct with what he wants us to do: He let's us run the practices sometimes and puts us where we feel best." Mr. Launius has a lot of responsibilities on campus, but his team has faith in him.

The players remain optimistic about the season, especially with eight returning players. Jorge Alvarez, sophomore midfielder, believes that all the players combine to make the team better. And even though last year's top goal-scorer graduated (Johnny Palma with ten), both Alvarez and Rodriguez agree that junior Jose Navarro and junior Hector Carranza fill the void.

The motivation to play soccer varies between the players. Rodriguez likes soccer because of "the exercise I get from it, running across the field, [and] the whole thing of losing weight." On the other hand, Alvarez said, "I just like it. I always have and I like running."

These guys also don't seem to have a problem with balancing their homework and soccer. The players usually start their homework late after practice, and try to get ahead. Procrastinating is not an option if the players want to stay on track with their grades.

Both the players and their supporters are enjoying an eventful year. Support the team with its fundraisers, and go to their upcoming games. Catch their home game at Alondra Park against their hometown rivals, Environmental Charter, on Thursday, January 20 at 3:15 P.M.

GIRLS': 4 WIN- 4 LOSS - 1 DRAW

*AS OF JANUARY 13, 2011

BOYS' 2 WIN- 3 LOSS - 1 DRAW

*AS OF JANUARY 13, 2011



Girls' Varsity Soccer

by Clarifelle Escuadro and Enrique Ruvalcaba

Coached by the U.S. History teacher, Mrs. Carlson, who played in many different leagues growing up and at Mira Costa during high school, The Girls' Varsity Soccer team is excited to make their CIF debut this year.

The team is lead by Captain Christine Rodriguez (12) who was elected for being a role-model to the younger players. Rodriguez runs the defense, which is the backbone of the team. When she was asked about how she felt, she replied, "I like meeting new girls from school and getting to know them and then becoming a big family." She also said, "Soccer is just a lot of fun."

Omaida Axume (10) also shared the same sentiment, stating, "I love playing soccer because it's a passion I've always had." This year's team is more optimistic and consistent, having none of the girls booted off for disciplinary problems.

Last year's team was not so official, so the returning members are eager to play in their league. This year, according to Mrs. Carlson, the HMSA Girls are on a closer level than last year to the rest of the teams in the league. Animo Charter High School is the biggest competitor, and the Girls train vigorously to surpass them.

The season started on the first week of November, and the Girls have practiced every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. During practice, the girls start off with stretches that lead to intense drills such as "solid passing." Communication is also always a factor that can always improve, and all other practice schedules are controlled by Mrs. Carlson. When the season ends on the third week of February, the Girls hope to have obtained some medals. See them in action at Alondra Park against Animo High on Tuesday, January 25 at 3:15 P.M.

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