

An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a river or stream winding through it. The trees are mostly evergreens, and the water is a deep blue-grey color. The lighting is bright, creating high contrast between the dark water and the lighter foliage.

The Academy Zone

Lodi Academy • 2022 • January Issue

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Upcoming Events

January

1/29 -- Musical Performance @ Fairmont

1/31 -- National Backwards Day

February

2/8 -- PICTURE DAY

2/9 -- Academy Day/Open House

2/10 -- Sophomore Field Trip to Chinese Town of Locke

2/12 -- Sawyer Nash's Birthday

2/12 -- Pastor Manny's Birthday

2/13 -- Mia Sakata's Birthday

2/14 -- Valentine's Day/SA Valentine's Event

2/14 -- Junior Class Babysitting Fundraiser
Event 5:00 - 10:00 pm

2/14-18 -- Student Week of Prayer

2/18 -- Mr. Brassington's Birthday

2/21 -- President's Day-NO SCHOOL

2/24 -- Senior Field Trip to Sacramento Theatre Co.

2/25 -- Community Service Day

2/25 -- Class Vespers

2/26 -- Michael Willis' Birthday

2/26 -- Musical Performance

2/28-3/4 -- Freshmen/Sophomore Retreat

2/28 -- Juniors and Seniors at PUC

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

One thing that would be cool to continue to see in TAZ are more sports-related articles. They always seem to be present in TAZ, which is cool to see. Kaleb Nevis' Sports Debate article is the type of thing I'm referring to. Debate articles in general are interesting reads. Two people who group together to write contradicting arguments often present cool articles to TAZ. I know people have written about competing car companies or competing consoles and such before. Those types of articles can be ones that are interesting to read. It would be nice to see more articles of this type in future magazines.

-Ian Forncrook

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the last issue of TAZ, especially the ones that put things into comparison. My favorite one was written by Aidan, which convinced me that freeze tag really is inferior to traditional tag. It provided great points, such as the chosen tagger isn't really randomized. Additionally, I also enjoyed the surveys. The surveys show us how we all view things, and I think it's nice knowing everybody's views. I would also like to thank everybody who has helped this year run smoothly. If it weren't for the faculty, campus ministries, and SA, this year wouldn't have been made possible.

-Peter Lelis

Dear Editor,

I have always loved reading the TAZ Articles. I always have a good laugh, deep thoughts, and new perspectives on new subjects, and more whenever I read an article. I really enjoyed reading Ian's article as it showed me the beauty of peanut butter, even though I'm allergic to it! I also enjoyed reading Gio's article as it filled me with nostalgia of my time in Boston during the East Coast trip. One thing I really want to see more of in TAZ are subjects that give the reader nostalgia. Writings that give me the feeling of reminiscence always interest me. But I really enjoy all the articles that I have read, and I want to thank you guys for your hard work.

-Railey Pandjaitan

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of TAZ, it makes me realize how diverse our school is. Everyone in this school has so many different interests and hobbies and TAZ really shows it. I really like Ian's article about how chunky peanut butter is better than smooth peanut butter. His dedication to his belief is phenomenal. I mean who else would smear peanut butter all over their face to prove a point? I also really enjoyed the art section of TAZ with Giovanni's picture, Mia's sketch of her cat, and Kimi's amazing digital art. I think there should be more art in TAZ. Thanks for the last issue of TAZ!

-Aidan Phillips

JUNIOR CLASS FUNDRAISER
VALENTINE'S GYM NIGHT

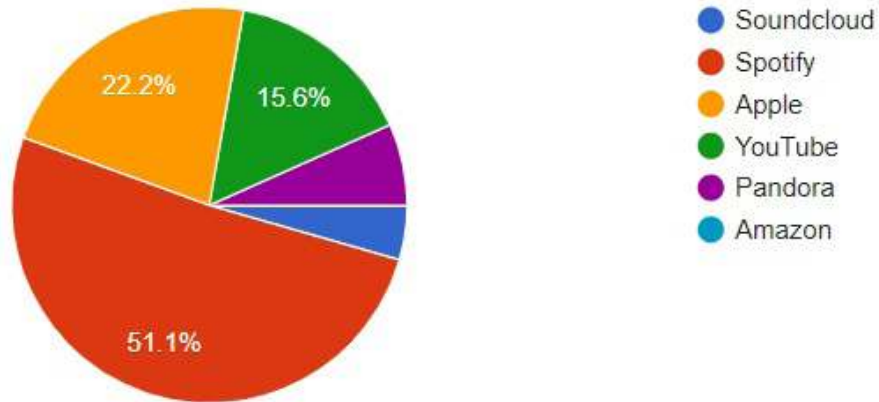
COST: \$15 OR 2 FOR \$25
Parents! Enjoy a night out while your children hang out with the Juniors from Lodi Academy!

MONDAY 5pm-10pm
02.14.22 Lodi Academy Gym

TAZ Music Survey

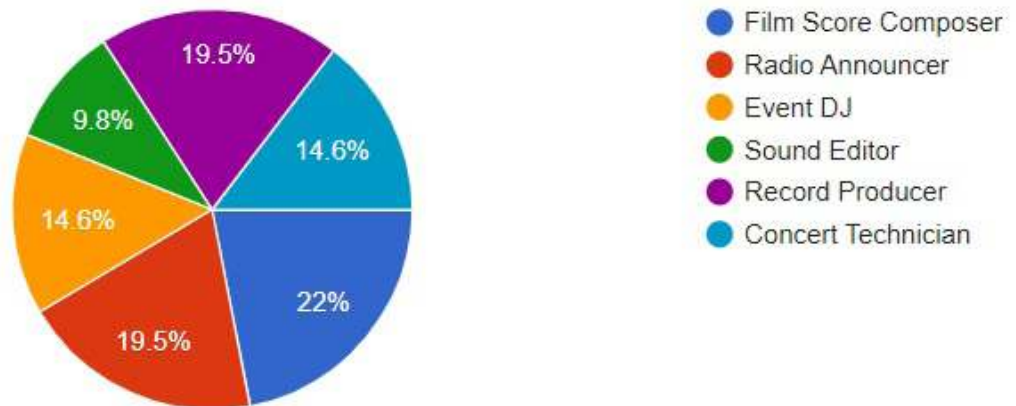
Which music streaming platform do you use the most?

45 responses



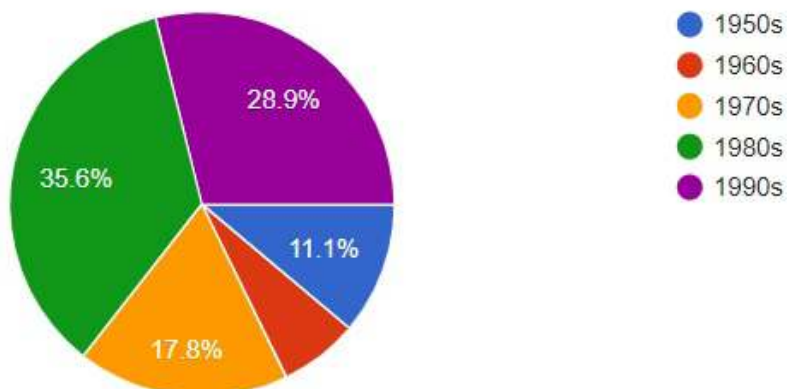
Which career in the music industry would most interest you?

41 responses



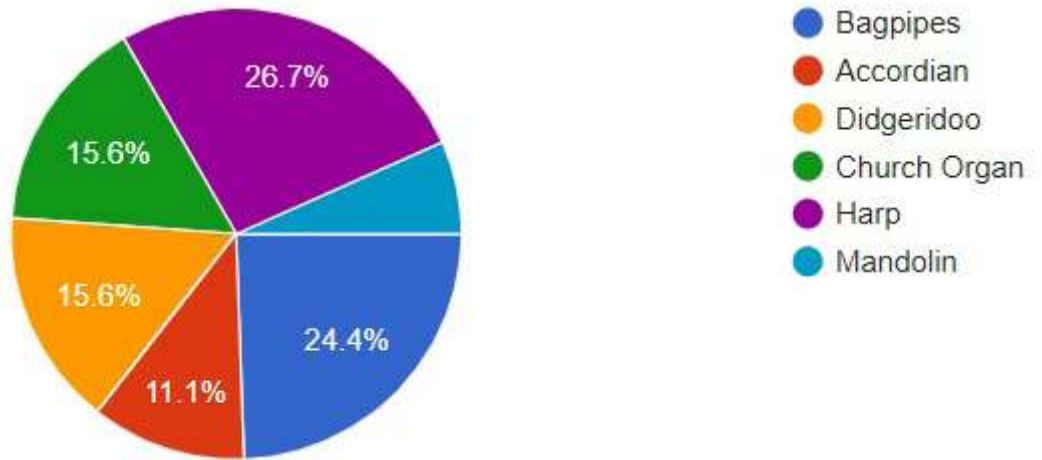
Which 20th century decade had the best music?

45 responses



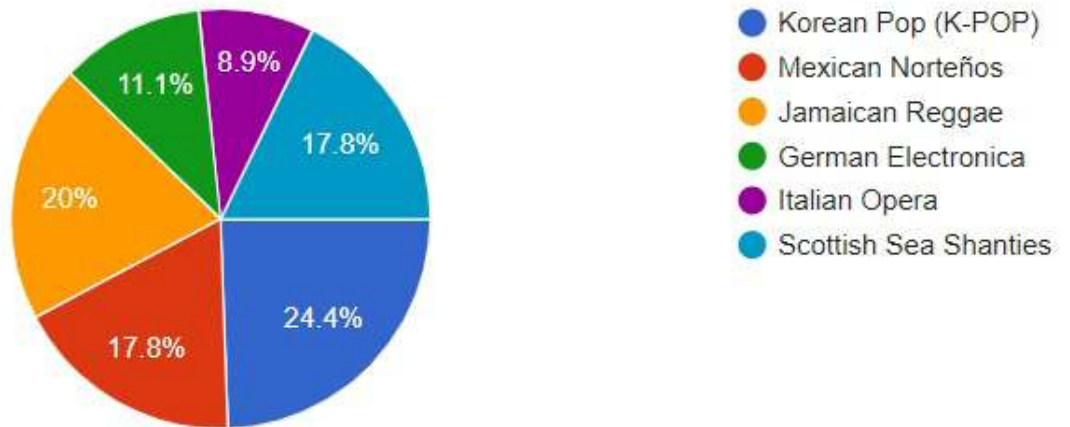
Which unusual musical instrument would you want to learn?

45 responses



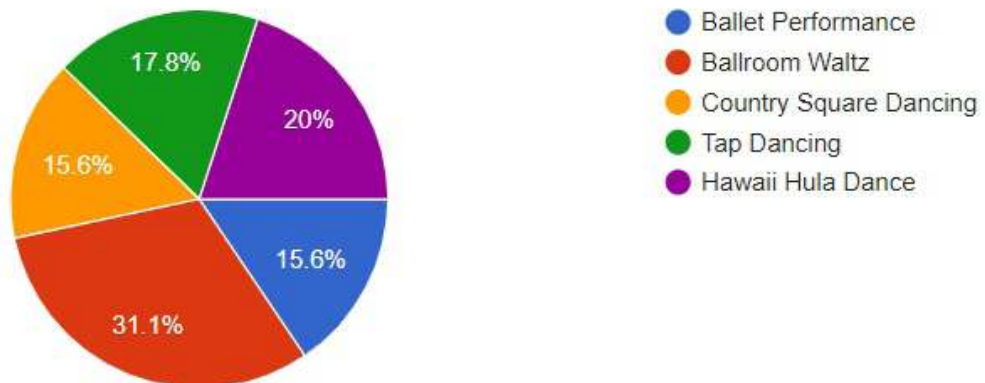
What is your favorite type of international music?

45 responses



If you could become an expert in one type of dancing, what would it be?

45 responses



The Sweatshop in Your Closet: Exploring the Ethics of Clothing

Article and Photo By Raneem Abu-Ramadan

Do I know how my outfit was made? The answer would be no, no I do not. Do you? You may be wondering why I'm asking this question, covering the topic of "ethics of clothing".

This revolves around how your clothing was made and who made it. More specifically, what were the conditions of the people who made the clothing? Where did they get their supplies from? Machines? Labor? Warehouses?

We've all heard of sweatshops, but did you know they actually exist? Sweatshops are factories or workshops, especially in the clothing industry, where manual workers are employed at very low wages for long hours and under poor conditions. There are actually about 250 million kids working in sweatshops worldwide as you're reading this. What does this have to do with ethics? Well, for you it could mean nothing. You think they're making a living and doing what they have to do to survive. For someone else, it could be gut wrenching and heart breaking.

Some people might argue that you will always wear clothes that are a part of the fast fashion industry and it's inevitable to avoid them. We are surrounded by high-demand products everywhere.

So, why should you or I be the ones to stop the ever growing industry? To them I'd ask them what their ethical decision-making responses are.

My gut-level response would be to never buy another \$5 shirt again, and my response according to rules would be to treat people how I'd like to be treated. God does not want this and hasn't declared it in His book, so therefore it doesn't fall under my principles. According to our convictions, wouldn't God punish these industries, since he said "those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent" (Revelation 3:19). I can't



really imagine God being happy we are enabling such behaviors. Sure, we love a good deal on our outfits, but at what cost? God tells us not to be selfish. I definitely think this applies to your ethics of clothing. How can we sit so comfortably in what we are wearing, while others have been working 24-hour shifts making just enough to feed their family for the night?

We don't take a second to think about how it is actually made out of pure selfishness. God says this "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3-4).

I think we definitely tend to get too comfortable with what we own or want to own that we forget the sacrifices others have made for us to be able to own such things.

Three Strikes and the Lego Set: A Devotional Article and Photo By Caleb Asmare

My story happened during one of my trips to Ethiopia, when I was in 5th grade. When people think of Ethiopia, they usually think of a country-side village, but there are also developed cities. The only area I have any familiarity with is where my grandparents live, in the capital Addis Ababa. At the time, I had two uncles. The whole reason for the trip was to have a reunion for my grandparents' anniversary, so our whole family flew in. My grandparents were well off, and had a big house to accommodate all of us.

Our trip this time was long, so my mom suggested that I pack a Lego set that I hadn't opened yet. I really wanted to open it then, but I listened and let my parents pack it. Strike one.

One day during our trip, I got up early so I could put together my Legos. My grandparents' house was silent, and I went to look for my Legos in the other room as quietly as I could. Instead, I found my brother, I'll let you guess which one, assembling them without me. Strike two.

After I had calmed down a little bit, I did the only logical thing: disassemble and reassemble my Legos. I had finally finished my life's goal, and my uncle took my brother's and me out for some pizza. When we got back to the house, I went straight to admire my Lego masterpiece. I opened the door, and some of them were missing. It turned out that my cousins decided that it would be hilarious to throw them over the fence. Strike three.

In the Bible, Job had his fair share of mishaps. He lost all his children, oxen, donkeys, sheep and his own health. But even through all that loss, Job was able to look through it and still praise God. In Job 1:21 he said, "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!"

I encourage you to look through your trials, no matter how big or small, and praise God just like Job. Yes, even if someone does take your Legos.



Tangled: The Best Disney Princess Film of All

By Alissa Barcenas

When you think of the princess realm of Disney, what do you think of? Does your brain go directly to a happily ever after or the dark past behind some of the characters?

Today, I am here to tell you about why I think *Tangled* is the best princess movie. Since we are talking about the movie world, let me explain what makes a movie worth your time. Viewers need to be able to relate to the characters, and Rapunzel is probably the most relatable princess of Disney because she is adventurous, she is curious, she is naive, and she resembles many girls today, disregarding her crazy, long hair of course. Most importantly, Rapunzel is held captive in a tall castle by Mother Gothel; Rapunzel wants nothing but to see the lantern festival that happens every day on her birthday. She just wants an adventure, so she has a realistic situation compared to most of the other princesses such as Elsa who realizes she has ice powers, Belle who falls in love with a beast, or Tiana who is close with a talking frog.

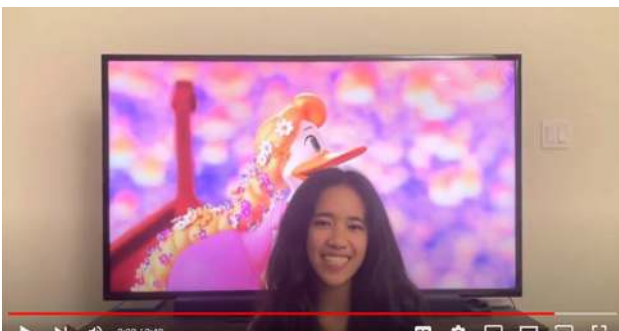
A good movie also needs action. Princess movies need some sort of aspect to keep the boys and dads awake after all. Since these types of movies appear to be aimed towards girls, you need a strong male lead that the boys can look up to, so we have Flynn Rider and his horse sidekick, Maximus. Most of the action comes from them: he starts off as the bad guy who has a mission to steal a crown from Rapunzel, he fights off guards, then meets a girl who becomes the light in his life; he then turns into a kindhearted, supportive figure to Rapunzel, the kind of guy that girls dream about.

Of course we want movies to be entertaining, but we also want to make sure that they have a good message for kids. For example, *The Little Mermaid* has got to be the worst princess movie to exist because Ariel is a defiant teenage mermaid, who explores the forbidden place called “land” against her father’s will; her father tells her that it is a dangerous place, but she proceeds to not only go there, but sells her voice away and marries a human. What if this just teaches kids to be defiant and not listen to their parents?

On the other hand, *Tangled*, shows viewers to find courage in themselves and allow adventure to be part of their lives; if Rapunzel didn’t venture outside of the castle, she wouldn’t have been reunited with her parents. Lastly, if you’re anything like me, a cute love story is a must for a princess movie, and *Tangled* is a good example of that because Rapunzel and Flynn Rider are perfect for each other. He gave her exactly what she wanted: to explore her surroundings and see the lantern festival that happened on her birthday, while reuniting her with her parents in the end, which felt like watching the Prodigal Son seeing his father.

An MTV article explains that “[Rapunzel] and Flynn are just two people with a dream -- which just so happens to be each other” (Nicholson).

Tangled is the perfect example of a happily ever after, and the writers did a good job of modernizing the old Grimm fairy tale, while making it suitable for all ages.



Chocolate or Vanilla: Which is Your Favorite?

By Chloe Galiza

Whether you like it plain or paired with something else, vanilla flavoring is the best choice. Vanilla is a universal flavor, which pairs well with any other flavor, without overpowering it, and it is rich in flavor without being too heavy.

Would you rather have mango popping boba with vanilla or would you rather have it with chocolate ice cream?

In an article from Queen Baking Club, it says, “Vanilla is versatile and dynamic and can be included in every meal of the day... Cured Honey & Vanilla Salmon is just one of our favorite recipes for adding vanilla to savory cooking.”

To put it simply, vanilla is the one-stop-shop of the flavor world. You can have vanilla in oatmeal. You can have vanilla in coca cola. Lemon cake with vanilla frosting is obviously better than with chocolate frosting.

Vanilla is also naturally sweeter than chocolate, so it doesn't need as much artificial sugar to make it taste good. I mean, you would probably feel less guilty after eating a whole tub of vanilla ice cream as opposed to chocolate because of that fact, right?

And if you're still stuck on the whole vanilla or chocolate debate, consider that vanilla actually enhances the flavors of chocolate. Chocolate by itself is pretty good, but add a splash of vanilla and whatever you're making may be more enticing than the sirens in Homer's *The Odyssey*.

Though we usually think of vanilla and chocolate as flavors, they are also often used as scents as well. Vanilla is a lighter scent; chocolate is a bit heavier. Both vanilla and chocolate scent are often used as base notes in perfumes. Vanilla tends to pair best with fun florals, citrus, wood, and many other scents. It can also be paired with scents like lavender and chamomile to make a calming scent that people often use to aid in sleep. Chocolate pairs well with more in-your-face fall scents like nutmeg and spicy cinnamon, but can also pair well with florals, and like the flavor, vanilla.

Personally, I prefer lighter scents over heavier, warm scents.

If you could only have one candle for the rest of your life, would you rather have a chocolate scented candle or a vanilla scented candle? Both smell nice, but I'm team vanilla all the way!



Running North

A Poem By Giovanni Hernandez

Sun hot as Hades
Sweat filling the bronze face of dreamers
The face of Guadalupe on their body
The rosary dangles with each step they take closer to new beginnings
Sand encumbering them as their boots begin to fill
The people of bronze skin march
Sangre Azteca (Aztec Blood) pumping throughout their body
They hide as the men in green roam about
Finally they enter the "Promised Land"
The land in which they dreamed of
Their boots hitting the melting pot
They've made it to the life they've promised the ones they love
The melting pot turns sour
"You don't belong here"
"You're taking our Jobs"
"Go back to where you came from"
They yell as the Dreamers enter the "Promised Land"
The land they hoped and prayed for
The land that promised good things
That land instead gave lies
That land betrayed the people of bronze skin
The land that turned a blind eye to the discrimination and racism suffered to the people of
bronze skin
The land that used them for labor
The land that the men in green range throughout searching for the bronze people
A land that me and you call home
A land the bronze skinned people call home
A land full of pride and prejudice
A "Promised Land"

Greetings TAZ Magazine,

I will skip the pleasantries. We have noticed that you rarely publish any Loyalist Pro-Adrian propaganda. While we are aware that you strive to keep your paper free of advertisements and clutter, it is a bit worrying that never once have you mentioned our beloved king! Long may he reign! Could you be purposely disregarding his eminence, or even supporting another rebel cause?

As we are sure that you are aware, these crimes are considered treason. We assume that you know what happens to traitors of the crown. We are not directly accusing you yet, but in the future I advise you: check your loyalties and do not forget where you stand. We are watching. Long Live King Adrian! HUZZAH!



The Royal Inquisition

They Promised Us Hoodies! Memories of Our Flag Football Season

By Leilani Lemos

My freshman year, sports were all cancelled because of Covid. So, the summer before my sophomore year I was so excited to start conditioning that July. Once summer arrived and we started to put in work, I could see the excitement in our coaches' eyes. This season our coaches were Mr. Sakata, Mr. McCann, and Annie Nevis. This season was unlike other seasons because we were kind of starting from the beginning. There were plenty of people who never played, but quickly learned. Weeks went by and our team learned more and more.

Finally it was the night before the MBA football tournament, and it was our final practice. It was Friday morning and everyone was so excited. I remember going to these tournaments with my brother Jaylen and it was finally my turn. Something I will always remember from the MBA tournament were the coaches constantly yelling "hoodies, hoodies!", as they had promised us hoodies if we went undefeated during the whole tournament. Our time at MBA consisted of three wins, one tie, and a whole lot of memories. After MBA we had a tournament in Modesto where we played a few schools, and it went really well. We went 4-0. Every moment with this team was filled with fun memories.

Finally, it was time to start preparing to play Sacramento Adventist Academy, (S.A.A.), our rival school. Everyone was determined to work and win. We kicked it off and played at the best level I think we've ever played. There were a few minutes left in the half when SAA scored and it was 7-0. We received the ball in the second half and weren't driving the ball anywhere. About five minutes later we got the ball back and it was third down. I looked to throw, but I didn't see anything. Finally, I just decided to throw it as best I could. It went up and Lily jumped up and got in the middle of three other players. She ran it all the way up to the goal line and someone pulled her flag right at the one-yard line. It set us up perfectly to score a touchdown. We did and we tied it up with an extra point. The minutes seemed to move faster than usual while we both tried to drive the ball and score. When the time finished it was 7-7 which meant we were going into what the coaches called "sudden death."

Pretty much what was about to happen was both teams would have a chance to score from the three. It would go back and forth until someone scored and the other missed. S.A.A. went first and they missed theirs, meaning we would only need to score this and we would win. Well, this was easier said than done. We went out there and we missed ours too. So, each team received a second shot. The nervousness I could see in everyone's eyes made me extremely nervous too. S.A.A. went out there and scored. Now more than ever, we needed to score. I knew we could and so did the coaches...and we did! As everyone was cheering, we all knew it wasn't over yet. Once more we went out there, S.A.A. scored and this put an extreme amount of pressure upon our shoulders. Sadly, we missed our final one and we lost to SAA by one point.



Our season continued and we practiced and practiced because next up was the Rio Lindo Academy tournament. As promised, we received our hoodies and finally it was time to head to Rio. We received the schedule and heard we were playing S.A.A. Saturday night. Saturday nights at Rio are pretty big, and once we heard we were playing SAA we were super excited. There's something about playing under the Saturday night lights that just gives you energy and excitement. We stepped onto the field and played like we knew we could, while the boys cheered louder than ever. Watching the boys cheer and get excited that night was by far one of the best memories from this season. The Rio tournament was filled with a bunch of memories everyone will cherish for their entire lives. Whether it was heading to Wicked Slush to celebrate, cheering on your teammates, or meeting other people from other schools, it was all an experience unlike any other.

Tournaments are not only an opportunity to play football, but to grow a better relationship with Jesus. Whether it's on the field, at vespers, or meeting new people. Overall I think this season was filled with memories I'll always remember and a true bond with some of the best people and athletes.

A Winter Banquet To Remember

By Alissa Barcenas, Reina Nozaki, and Jack Zinke

This year's Winter Banquet was probably my favorite, from what I have experienced so far. I really appreciate the effort that SA put into making it amazing! I could tell that a lot was put into the banquet, from the moment I entered the room. From the venue, the interior decor, the food, the games and friendly competitions, it all was a great night. I would like to give a shoutout to Amelia Rossell because of the hard work that she put into the organization of our SA Winter Banquet. It isn't just some easy job, and I don't know if a lot of people realize that. S.A. put in a lot of time discussing plans during meetings and even outside of school, but every team needs a strong leader. She made sure everyone knew what they were doing and that they got it done. If you see her around campus, make sure to tell her a little "thank you" for everything she does as president of SA. I want to also give special thanks to Amelie Hagen and Mia Sakata who also really put a lot of work into this event.



Obviously, everyone involved did a lot, but these three went above and beyond. It is important that we compliment and thank these people, so that they know that what they do is actually appreciated.

As a part of SA, I'm able to see work that goes on behind the scenes that doesn't always get noticed or appreciated at the actual event. I look forward to working on more events with SA, and can't wait to see what else we can accomplish this school year. A lot of thought, work, and effort goes into planning these events, and some of it isn't always noticed.

The activities really brought in a lot of laughs and smiles, especially the surprise visit from Morgan Freeman. I'm sure everyone that attended can attest as that was a funny surprise. Even the staff and teachers enjoyed it too, from the looks of it. More shoutouts to Hannah and Adrian, who were our banquet king and queen! It was fun seeing everyone who was nominated, and I hope we do a court next year too. Banquet is always something everyone looks forward to. I'm glad that our student body had a fun time!

Thank you SA for your hard work and determination to make this a great school year at Lodi Academy! Anyway, it was awesome to see students loosen up, despite the Covid is still making situations grim. Shout out to the staff working at Wine & Roses! This was a great start into the new year of 2022! I would like to thank the whole Student Association, and anyone involved in the Winter Banquet.

Forever Embarrassed in the Everglades

By Kaleb Nevis

This moment of my life takes in the smelly Florida Everglades in the year of 2015. My family was on a trip to Florida; we went to Disney World and Universal, but this story takes place in the Everglades. We planned to go to the Everglades and take a tour of them and see the crocodiles and alligators. The Florida Everglades is the only place where crocodiles and alligators coexist.

At first we have to take a bus ride to get to the place. The bus ride felt so long to get to the destination. On the way there the bus driver was talking all about the Everglades.

“Florida is the only place in the world that has both alligators and crocodiles that live in the same place. Manatees also live in the Everglades,” said the bus driver.

“Cool,” I thought to myself.

“Florida Everglades are also known for their different snakes that live in the Everglades,” said the bus driver.

“Eww, gross, I hate snakes. Hopefully we don’t see any on our tour while we are on the boat,” I thought to myself.

Finally we arrived at the place. They had a small gift shop and a place where you could taste alligator meat. We found out the bus would be leaving really soon after our tour.

“If you wanna go to the gift shop, we are going right now,” my mom said.

“I want to go,” I said.

We went into the gift shop. It was a small gift shop, and we only had so much time there. I was looking around and didn’t see anything I really wanted. This was my own money I was going to spend.

“Are you gonna buy that,” my mom asked?

“No,” I replied.

Finally I had found something that I had wanted. It was a t- shirt with an alligator and a crocodile on it. It had words that said Florida Everglades and it was blue. I was the last in the gift shop of my family.

“I wanna buy this,” I told my mom.

“Ok let’s go pay,” my mom said.

My mom had all my money since I wasn’t old enough to carry it myself. I went up to the counter with her to pay for it. When we got up to the counter I was just looking around and I noticed pamphlets, which were about different snakes in the Everglades, on the bottom of the counter so I took one. I then went outside and went to all my brothers and cousins. As we were all interlaced.

“Look at what I found,” I said.

“Cool,” they replied.

“Get in here right now,” my mom yelled at me.

I was like what did I do? My heart was beating really fast. I started to go back to the gift shop. I finally got there.

“You stole that,” my mom asked?

I was feeling really ashamed of myself and humiliated.

“Wait this isn’t free,” I asked? As I felt indifferent.

The people at the counter said, “No”.

“Apologize right now,” my mom said.

I could barely hear, my eyesight was blurry, and I could barely feel what my hands were touching. I don’t know why but it was really hard to apologize but I just couldn’t. I felt so mortified that I could barely say anything. I was already feeling really humiliated but this is the part where it was the worst.

“I’m sorry,” I finally said.

One of the ladies at the counter said it was okay. The other one asked, “Why did you steal? Do we need to call the police?”

After that we went on our trip, and I didn’t really pay any attention because I just felt really embarrassed and didn’t really care about anything else. I was just ready for it to be done with. What I learned later was that you can make mistakes, and things like that can happen. It impacted me because I know now that people can be embarrassed about even simple mistakes. This will always be incredible in my memory, as the most shameful thing I have ever done.

Eventually, I was able to hold a baby crocodile, but by then I didn’t really care.



Alive in the Book of Daniel: A Devotional

By Railey Pandjaitan

Studying the book of Daniel has been very interesting and even confusing at the same time, but I've received many lessons from Daniel's life.

We learned about the visions God gave Daniel. God would show His servant statues, terrifying beasts, and horns to represent all the kingdoms, built out of human greed, in order. Now all of this confused Daniel and it definitely confused me too. But near the end of the book, God tells Daniel to not tell anybody about the visions he saw for those visions were not for his time or his generation. When I read that, I finally understood why God gave Daniel those visions. God wanted to let all of us know that He is in full control.

Sometimes, I get anxious of the future because nobody knows what the future has in store for us. But God knows. God knows every single thing. So I believe that God revealed those visions to Daniel because He wanted His children to know that we can trust Him for He has everything, including our lives, in His hands.

When Daniel was just a young teen, his faith was challenged. Daniel's life in Babylon was very difficult for him and his friends. Daniel and his friends could've just given up their faith in God and joined their fellow friends who were enjoying the amoral Babylonian culture, but instead, they kept their faith in God. They could've eaten the foods of the Babylonian gods, but they chose to eat the foods that God and their parents instructed them to eat. Daniel and his friends have taught me to always stay faithful especially when you're going through difficult times.

Daniel 8:24 says, "King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

Daniel's friends could've bowed down to the statue of Nebuchadnezzar and been spared from the fiery furnace, but they refused and their faith in God kept them **ALIVE**.



Responses to Recent Articles

By Chloe Galiza, Adrian Hernandez, Micah Mann, Railey Pandjaitan, and Harjay Santos

Chloe Galiza: I really liked the article by Chris that talked about mental health. A lot of people struggle with their mental health these days, some more than others. I think that it's cool to see that people can speak more openly about it, since it's a huge problem today. I like how he gave tips on how to deal with mental health struggles in a healthy way and urges people to get help if they need it. One thing that stood out to me in this article is how he says it's okay to have friends that you can vent to, but it shouldn't be your only form of release because they're your friends, not your therapist. Sometimes it can be overwhelming for your friends and they might not be in the best headspace to listen, so you should

make sure they are able to listen before you vent to them. Something I would like to see more of in TAZ is more articles about mental health struggles or any struggles and how to deal with/get over them. I think that it's inspiring to hear those kinds of things and may inspire others to work towards being better. Something else that I liked in this issue of TAZ is reading others experiences at this school, such as life skills and other classes.

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Adrian Hernandez: I want to respond to Kaleb's article on the best TE debate in football currently. I will say I do agree with Kaleb about George Kittle being the better blocker than Travis Kelce, but in terms of receiving, Travis Kelce is better than Kittle by a large margin. Sure I do agree that the Chiefs have the better QB than the 49ers; however, even before the Chiefs drafted Mahomes, Kelce was already dominating the TE role. Before Mahomes' 2018 season, Travis Kelce, from 2014-2017, racked up a total of 3940 yards and 22 TD. Travis Kelce's first four years have so far been better than Kittle's first four years

at TE, and that is without Mahomes. So yeah, Kelce might not be the best when it comes to blocking compared to Kittle, but he is way better receiving-wise.

Micah Mann: I really liked Gio's article, "Boston is Better than New York", because that is what I thought on the trip. The reason I say that is because the streets are cleaner in Boston, and the people are a whole lot nicer than in New York. Another thing that I liked about the TAZ this time, was the article about George Kittle and Travis Kelce.

Railey Pandjaitan: After reading Esther Han's article, I realized that I could learn so much more about God by just observing His enthralling creation. One thing I really enjoy about TAZ is how students have the opportunity to praise God through their writing.

Harjay Santos: Something I really liked in this issue of TAZ was the article that James Abu wrote, "Rhyme Time: Not All Rap Music Is Bad". He proved a good point that parents don't even understand.

How Memes Have Affected Society

By Brayden Perkins

The Oxford Dictionary describes modern memes as “a humorous image, video, piece of text, etc., that is copied (often with slight variations) and spread rapidly by internet users.”

The origin of the word “meme” can be traced back to a book called, *The Selfish Gene*, written in 1976 by a man named Richard Dawkins. He used the word to describe “self-reproducing ideas” that spread from one individual to another. Traditional examples of historic memes on a larger scale include religions, cultures, and ideologies.

Memes are very accessible, you just need to open up a browser on a phone, computer, or even a gaming console and search for memes. You will see hundreds of thousands of memes. This ease of access means that they spread rapidly.



Most memes are just funny, and don't impact society in any major way, but some memes have a more significant impact. For example, during the 2016 elections, presidential candidates used memes as a part of their campaigns. The 2016 presidential election also had a much larger turnout of voters between the ages of 18 to 29 compared to the 2012 election; however, it is smart to keep in mind that this could also be due to a variety of other factors.

Some memes have a positive effect on the world. One of these memes is #TEAMTREES. Team Trees was a fundraiser that was run by YouTubers MrBeast (Jimmy Donaldson) and Mark Rober, with the goal to raise twenty-million dollars before 2020 to plant twenty-million trees. They also wanted to use the fundraiser to bring awareness to deforestation. Team Trees eventually became a meme, which brought it even more attention and snowballed into the fundraiser earning more than 23 million dollars by December 26, 2019.

Memes have become a staple in internet culture. They can have a massive impact on our society, our politics, and even our planet.

Reflection on Martin Luther King Day

By Principal Stubbert

On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King gave his famous speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’” Speaking out against the segregation and racism of his time, he also shared his dream for his children, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”



This month, on Martin Luther King Day, we remembered this dream and the man who dedicated his life to fulfilling that dream. While we have made so many advances in the 59 years since that speech, we are reminded that Dr. King’s dream begins when we as individuals choose to do what is right and see each other through the eyes of God as His children. If God loves each of us so much, because He created us, how can we not treat each other like family?

A Beautiful Child in Vile Hands: A Short Story

By Jasmine Umipeg

A woman is running, afraid of what might come next and holding a small bundle close to her body. Shadows seem to cling to her feet as she speeds up, her blonde hair tangling in the wind while she runs down the alley. Barefooted steps in foreign puddles, and she slows to a stop, hitting a dead end. A figure comes out of the shadows, chuckling “Thought you could run from me? Really?!”

The figure, a man with silver-black eyes, sneered, “Where is she? Hah? That child?”

The woman turns around to stare into the man’s eyes with anger radiating off of her, dropping the bundle to the ground, laughing hysterically. “That child is nowhere near your vile hands.”

The woman with tears in her honeydew eyes, continues to stare into the man’s soul, until her own vanishes with a gasp of wind.

Meanwhile a little bundle is resting on a doorstep, wiggling in discomfort, making strange whining noises. The door to this oversized mansion was opened; inside showed gloomy colors with little spills of red on the white carpets. The owner clearly did not want to be disturbed. He heard the small bundle before he even saw it. Wiggling in its discomfort, the man picked up the bundle and opened it up.

What he saw shocked his mind in confusion, but when he looked into the eyes of the small child, he smiled. She had beautiful blue eyes, blue as the strong waves of the ocean, brown hair, and a cute button nose: a complete contrast to his own muddy orange orbs, jet black hair, and scarred face. He knew what to do once he saw her, although confused on why someone would set a baby down at his place, he decided that his life was now complete.

He was disrupted from his dreams by his servant Charlie, worried for his master’s safety, he called out for him “Master Klyde? Are you alright?”

In his momentary shock Klyde commanded, “Charlie, I need for you to send a maid to buy the necessities to raise a child.” Charlie hurriedly followed his master’s command although in slight confusion. Klyde realized a piece of paper attached to the girl’s neck, written in hurried ink it read, “For I cannot be here now, Raise this child with all the love I could not.”

Klyde looked at the child and decided to dub her Khloe for she was beautiful.

For the past few months Klyde had a hard time caring for Khloe; his work begged for his presence almost every day, asking for his grand ideas and inventions. They begged for his power, his money, his eyes of fire. But he did not budge from his throne, for his daughter was more important than ending the lives of others.

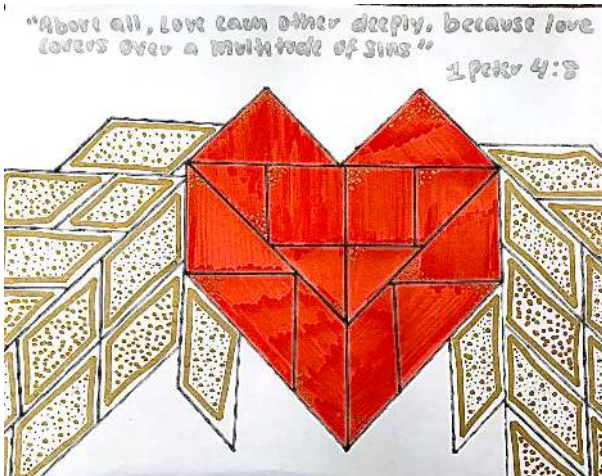
He quit his work of villainy and began his own crusade into teaching. His past of villainy filed away into the darkness. He became happy with himself, and for the first time in a long while, he was glad. His new life was so bright and warm, he gave every ounce of love he could ever give to Khloe, his beloved daughter.

Geometry Art Corner

By Esther Han, Alissa Kaur, and Hannah Willis



Esther Han – I think we all know in our minds that God is great, God is loving, God is Good, and more. But when we actually get stuck in problems, we often try to solve them by ourselves. But we have to remember, God is the only one who can help us from our struggles. When we look up, we can see God who is ready to help us. “I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalms 121:1-2).



Alissa Kaur – When we are in fear of trouble, we should turn to God, because God will be there for us even when we are scared. “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8).



Hannah Willis – “For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.” (Proverbs 18:28) This means to me that even in our darkest times, God will always be there to light our way and will always be there for us no matter what.

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