

Lodi Academy

October Issue

2021

The
Academy
Zone

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Upcoming Events

October

- 10/15 - Rio Lindo Football Tournament
- 10/16 - Mrs. Kanas' Birthday
- 10/16 - Global Cat Day
- 10/18 - Girls Volleyball vs Ben Holt
- 10/19 - College Fair
- 10/20 - Caleb Asmare's Birthday
- 10/20 - SA Fall Party 6:30-8:30
- 10/21 - Girls Volleyball @ Delta Charter
- 10/23 - National Croc Day
- 10/24 - 11/01 - East Coast History Trip
- 10/25 - 10/29 - Fresh/Soph Biology Trip

10/25 - Katie and Kimi's Birthday

10/26 - Mr. Gabrys' Birthday

10/29 - National Chocolate Day

10/31 - Halloween and Reformation Day

November

11/02 - Election Day

11/05 - Dylan Kaestner's Birthday

11/05 - Athletic Dept. Golf Tournament

11/06 - National Nachos Day

11/06 - 11/08 - PUC College Days

11/09 - Go To an Art Museum Day

11/10 - Senior's Smack Pie Fundraiser



JR/SR RETREAT

SURGE

MATTHEW 11:12

Oct 22-24, 2021
MT. GILEAD BIBLE CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER
13485 Green Valley Rd, Sebastopol 95472

SPEAKER
Kent Rufo
Chaplain, Pacific Union College

SCAN TO REGISTER
Registration Deadline: Oct 18
Cost: \$125
Late Registration: \$150

NCCSDA.COM/YOUTH/JRSRRETREAT



LODI ACADEMY

Lodi Academy is a fully WASC accredited Christian High School offering positive education you can depend on for grades 9-12.

8th graders

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Follow us on Instagram @lodi_academy_official.
Also keep tabs on the school calendar at www.LodiAcademy.net.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all the students who did campus church last weekend. I think they did a really great job and I especially appreciated the music. The testimonies were very interesting too. I enjoyed listening to the students' stories and hearing about their experience with God. As for the sermon, Pastor Jerry told a very fascinating story from the view of the soldier at Jesus' cross. I thought this was a fun and different way to tell a sermon and I really liked it. Afterward, I enjoyed some tasty snacks provided by students. I hope we can enjoy more campus church in the future!

Lauren Payne

Dear Editor,

I don't know much about this school yet, but I am really looking forward to the field trips. I constantly hear about how the field trips here at Lodi Academy are really fun and exciting experiences, and I just can't wait to be on one first-hand. Field trips aside, I have had a fun few weeks at this school, the work isn't too bad as long as you set aside time to do it, and the days go by really quickly. I feel very educated when it comes to math now, I used to always be confused completely in math, and didn't do very well in it, but now, the fact that I understand everything and can clearly do the assignments without trouble, most of the time, feels like magic. I truly hope to have a great year here at Lodi Academy.

Jadon Dube

Dear Editor,

Something that I have really enjoyed on our Lodi Academy campus is the teachers. A lot of teachers don't usually take time to get to know kids or care about their grades or really value if you're getting a good education; that is not the case for Lodi Academy though. I feel that whenever I enter a class here, the teachers really try to engage with the students and want them to succeed. They want them to get an A. I'm not saying they just give you an easy A either, because it has not been easy, but I feel that they push and push and work and work and push and push again with every student at Lodi Academy until they get the concept down and really understand. I feel that here at Lodi Academy, our teachers care about us and I think that this is a huge thing to strive for in high school and I get to experience this every day. My teachers make it so that I want to go to school. Thank you teachers and staff!

Ty Zinke

Dear Editor,

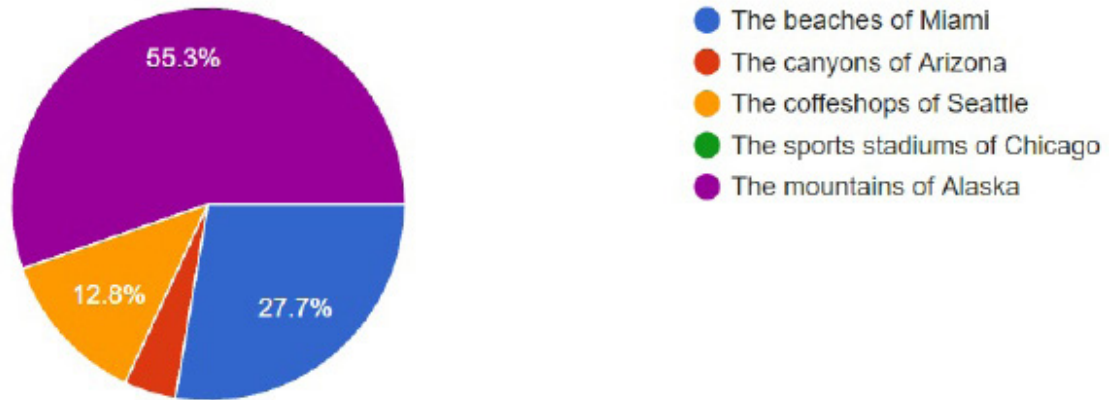
Something I really enjoy about being on the campus is that everyone is really friendly and kind. I don't have to worry about bullies, I don't have to worry about being teased, and that means a lot to me. I am a very social person and I like to make new friends wherever I go. Everyone here has been really friendly and welcoming ever since the year started. I enjoy how all the teachers are also extremely friendly. They are always kind and they never seem to be in a bad mood. I would like to thank Mr. Brassington for being one of those teachers. He works really hard to help us do well in Biology and wakes up extra early so we can do lab work in the morning. Even though he does all that, he doesn't hesitate to also go with Chase, Gabe, and me on our Cross-Country practices and drive us all the way to our track meets. He works so hard for all of these things, and he is always enthusiastic and cheerful throughout our Biology class. Mr. Brassington always puts me in a good mood.

Ethan Lalas

TAZ October Survey - Travel Edition

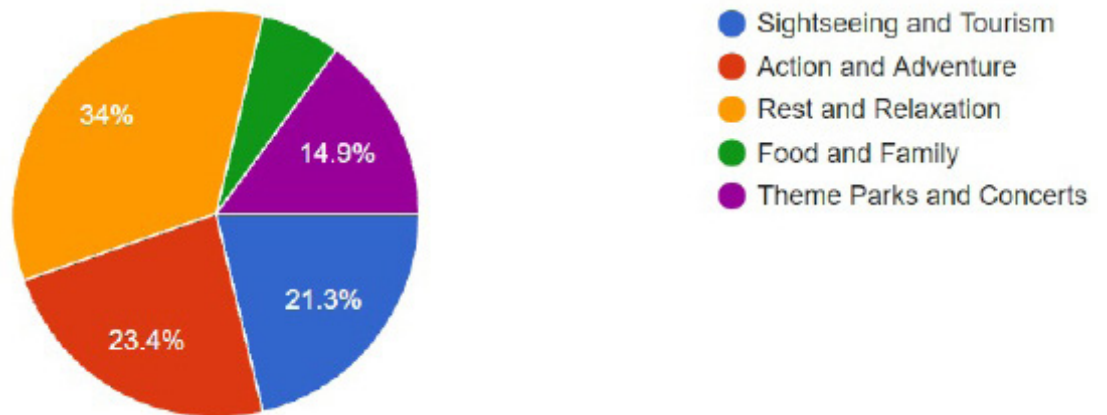
Which of these American destinations would you most want to visit?

47 responses



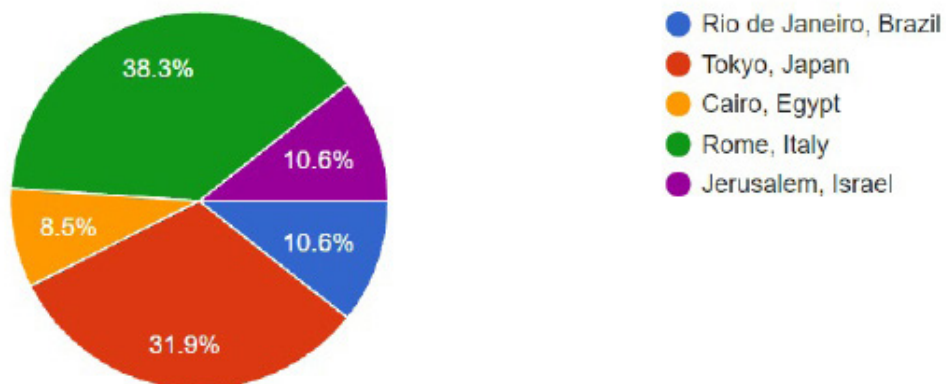
What is your favorite type of vacation?

47 responses



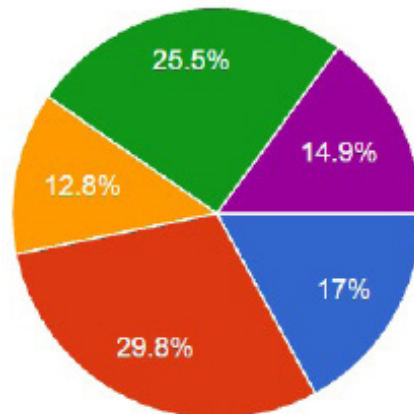
Which of these global cities would you most want to visit?

47 responses



Which travel career would most interest you?

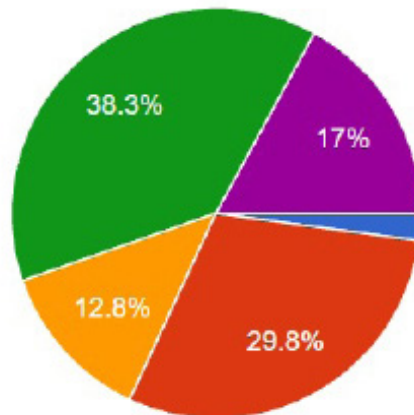
47 responses



- Airline Pilot
- Missionary Aid Worker
- Archaeologist Historian
- Documentary Film Maker
- Marine Biologist

Which world wonder do you most want to visit in your lifetime?

47 responses



- The Taj Mahal in India
- The Great Wall of China
- Machu Pichu in Peru
- The Parthenon in Greece
- Stonehenge in England



Senior Sonnets

A Forest Without Wood

By Evan DeChance

The water so cold looks so crystal clear
With the wind whistling throughout the pine
trees
Yet the blazing fires are burning so near
You can't even hear the buzz of the bees

With the summer heat it warms the water
And when you look up to the sky it's gray
Our gift to the land is its own slaughter
It's like we are looking down on our prey

The fires burn hotter than chicken in grease
Tall and old trees take their time to grow back
Because earth's great wildlands aren't on lease
We all know the burn scars won't ever lack

Sometimes we don't care even though we should
Because what is a forest without wood



A Heavenly Taste

By Caleb Asmare

Its scent so simple yet so convincing,
Your mouth fills with water like the ocean.
Senses go crazy 'fore even tasting,
Give thanks to the chef with such emotion,

Send forth up a prayer for such fine food,
Get ready to eat like never before.
As you chew, the silky smooth sauce is oozed,
It goes down your chin just as the seashore.

The noodles are cooked to my approval,
I quickly finish the bowl with such haste.
Write out the check for this delicious fuel,
Give it to a waiter and leave no waste.

This meal was so heavenly I might faint,
And I'll leave a review with no complaints.

Why Coming to Lodi Academy Was the Best Decision We've Made

By Jonathan Ha and Sean Kenan

I know it has only been a couple of weeks since I became a freshman or even stepped foot onto this campus, but I just want to say that these past few weeks have been extraordinary. This connection toward one another, from freshman to the seniors to even the faculty is like we're one big family. We support one another, we lean on one another, and we have a good time together. I haven't seen anything like it. I can tell that each one of the people on campus has God in their heart and that this campus is where people can get closer to Him.

There are so many events that the students and faculty plan that just bring people together and to help us bond with one another. I feel so very privileged to be in a school where everyone knows each other, where no one is left out of the fun. I know that I'm only a freshman right now, but I can tell that these upcoming years will have a great impact toward my future and the person who I want to be.

Life as a freshman at Lodi Academy has been one of the best things in my life. Everyone you meet is a genuinely nice person, and there is always someone to hang out with. With most schools, there would be certain borders of social zones, like popular kids and loners, but at Lodi Academy, the only borders are the ones you put around yourself. The only nitpick that I can name as of now is the dress code, but I've gotten used to collared shirts. Being at a socially active school also means that there is never nothing to do. The school is constantly making fun activities and going on trips, like the art museum and the Albion trip. Coming to Lodi Academy was the best choice I have ever made.



Why I'm Glad I Built a Passive Phone Amplifier

By Emerson Cooper

I hate wood working. This was the honest thought that passed through my mind when I first started wood shop. Little did I know that I would be creating something practical and cool out of wood.

I'm grateful for wonderful teachers like Mr. Borton and Mr. Marson who taught me how to make a phone sound amplifier and more importantly showed me how I need to not judge something before I really know what it's all about.

After finishing my project I took it home and amplified Harry Styles awesome music. My mom and I had a fab dance party!



Burgers with a Bible Verse: Why In-N-Out is the Best Fast Food Chain

By Wallace Dos Reis

In-N-Out is the best fast food restaurant in the world. Not only do they have the juiciest burgers, but they even have a secret menu with even more delicious foods to choose from. My favorite is the animal fries; they are literally to die for.

There are a lot of people that can counter me on this article, but in my opinion, no other fast food beats In-n-Out. Not only are they a huge fast food chain in California, but they also are a religious company like Chick-fil-A. They write Bible verses on the cups and burger wraps to encourage others. They aren't as strict as Chick-fil-a with their religious beliefs, since they do open on Sundays, but they still spread the word of God so that others may be influenced by them.

In-N-Out was actually the first fast food restaurant to open a drive-thru option to pick up food in automobiles. In-n-Out only operates in a few states which include Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Texas, Oregon, and California of course. They even have some vegetarian choices at In-N-Out which makes their business more convenient so everyone can go and enjoy their meals. Another part of their business that's very important is their fries; everyone knows they have fresh fries because they literally chop them in front of you.

It's been seventy years since In-N-Out opened their first store, and in those seven decades, that one store opened up into roughly 334 different locations in six different states. October 22, 1948 in Baldwin Park, California was the day that the best burger place in the world was created, and all the way until today, we still have the privilege to enjoy this amazing burger.



Fantasy Football Conversation and Frustrations

With Adrian Hernandez and Jack Zinke

Adrian: Since football season has started, I have been taking a very close look at my fantasy football team. I'm in two so far, one of them is a money league and the other is just a free league, both of which have done ok.

Jack: I have a love-hate relationship with fantasy football, and I really wish it wasn't that way. Just to give you an idea, as I'm currently writing this, I am 0-2 on the year...

Adrian: Right now I'm sitting at 1-1 for both my teams which isn't terrible.

Jack: ...while being outscored by 55 in my last matchup against my sixth grade brother! Now, tell me what mood you think I've had this week. A cheery, outgoing one, right? Haha!

Adrian: I wish I was at 2-0.

Jack: Not to mention that the official NFL fantasy app crashes every two seconds, which doesn't make my Sunday any better. The absolute worst is when your favorite team in real life and your fantasy team lose on the same day.

Adrian: The only thing is I am in desperate need of another running back and a quarterback for my money league team. Definitely hope to get like a runningback like Nick Chubb or even Joe Mixon because so far he's scored 20 or more points in the past two weeks. I'm hoping to just get a quarterback in waivers like Derek Carr but I'm pretty sure he'll get picked up by someone else.

Jack: It basically means I completely wasted my entire day watching football just to be depressed at the end of the night with 40 problems of math and an eight page history essay due tomorrow morning.

Adrian: I might want to trade for a better quarterback though, that way I can consistently have someone scoring 20 points or more because so far both Justin Herbert and Jameis Winston haven't even surpassed 18 points.

Jack: I miss the days when I would just sit down to watch football without constantly checking my phone to see how many points Jonathan Taylor got on that 2-yard run, just to be disappointed by seeing that my bench outscored my starting lineup.

Adrian: I think my team will at least place in the top 3 or 5 in this league which is pretty good since it's a 10 team league, while the money league is an 8 person and I think I'll place top 5.

Jack: My team's not doing the greatest right now, but hopefully it turns around soon or it just might ruin my entire school year in addition to my precious Sundays.

Adrian: So far the team looks good, but I just hope to make some adjustments with the team to make it a bit better: Dalvin Cook and Josh Jacobs as runningbacks, D Hop, Adam Thielen, and Sterling Shephard as my wide receivers, Kyle Pitts as my tight end, Rodrigo Blankenship as my kicker, and the Cardinals as my defense.

Jack: Fantasy, I love you but I hate you. Please just let Kamara score 56, like he did on Christmas, every week. That way we won't have to have these conversations anymore. Anyways, I'm gonna go offer some trades right now that'll get instantly declined because no one likes to have fun. Ciao.

The Value of Expressing Emotions

By Aidan Phillips

Do you want to know my opinion on disposing of dead animals? I know this is an awkward topic but in life death is just one of those things you'll deal with. Imagine you're a young parent who wants to give your kid a sense of responsibility so you think hey I'll get him/her a hamster. Then after you've bought the hamster the pet store employee says oh hey that hamster will only live three years. Then bam it hits you, you're going to have to dispose of the hamster and explain to your seven year old about death. In my experience the more animals you lose the less emotion you show when they've died.

Now you may be wondering what is even the point of this story, well the point is that you shouldn't let yourself become numb to sad events. Allow yourself to mourn or be upset, life is precious and to honor those who have died by showing your respect through emotions. Emotions show how much you cared for that individual and being numb to their death shows that you don't care.



Warnings from the Land of No Common Sense: A Pair of Super Short Stories

By Chloe Galiza

Never, Ever Poke a Beehive

Aleah screamed as the football hit her square in the face. Jax fell to the floor, cackling like a witch on his way down. Jason ran to help her. Once everyone calmed down, Jason pointed towards the trees. They turned to look where he was pointing and saw a sizable bee hive. He tried to poke it with a stick, but failed because he's short. Seconds later, we witness Jax throw the ball at the hive. Screaming, we sprinted to the lake, hoards of bees chasing us. After the whole ordeal, we realized that we were stung about 37 times.



Don't Eat Moldy Cake Pops

A few years ago, I accidentally ate a moldy cake pop. I was in seventh grade, and quite frankly, lacked a lot of common sense. I had gotten it as a gift from my aunt for my birthday, and for some reason ended up keeping it in my room. That was a bad idea. A few weeks later, I decided I was hungry and wanted to eat it as a snack. That was also a bad idea. At that very moment, it looked like an average cake pop, but looks can be deceiving. What I failed to notice was the white, fuzzy, substance growing on the substance of my white cake pop. I bit into it and was met with a horrible taste. I spat it out and had to brush my teeth three times to get rid of the foul taste.

Video Game Review: Apex Legends

By Giovanni Hernandez

Apex Legends is a battle royale game that was released on February 4th, 2019 and is free to play. The goal of the game is to be the last one standing or for your team to be the last one standing. The game starts off with you being in an airplane and as the airplane is flying over the map you can jump out at any time, and when you jump out your team jumps out with you and you follow the jump leader.

After landing in an area, depending on where you land you can either have minutes or maybe even seconds to find weapons and healing items before you get eliminated by a player or the storm. The storm is a cool concept that has been in battle royale games for a long time. It's a way to make the map smaller so the game doesn't take hours to end. Some examples of battle royales that have a storm feature to make the map smaller throughout the game are PUBG, Fortnite, and Warzone.

The cool thing about Apex Legends that makes it unique and from any other Battle Royale game is that you have a choice of a variety of characters. Some examples of the characters you can choose would be Bloodhound, Octane, Loba, and Lifeline. One character I use the most in the Apex is Bloodhound. The reason I like using Bloodhound is because he has a special ability that lets him see through walls; he also has a special ability that can let him see through other things like smoke.

The thing about Apex Legends is that whatever character you choose can affect your team as a whole for example if you were to choose Lifeline, Bloodhound and Mozambique, you would have one player that can provide smoke, so that if you are out in the open, it provides something to hide behind and the enemy can't see you. Bloodhound can be used to see the enemy's location, and Lifeline can provide many things from a care package if you need items quickly or even cover when they need to revive a teammate. So the characters you choose are very important so that's why you should choose wisely because if not it can lead to your whole team winning or losing the game.



A Poem for Fall

By Peter Leles

Summer is gone, but don't be sad
Change always happens, we should be glad
There will be nice days
Trust and thank God for a better way

It's fall now, no more long days
When leaves fall down and turn brown
We should try not to frown
I look at the colors and they leave me in a daze

Halloween is coming soon
Look at all the pretty annuals, perennials, and shrubs as they bloom
It's okay, these are new flowers
They won't make you look back in June
The days are getting much shorter by the hours

When it's winter and there's snow
We shouldn't whimper, we should glow
Jesus said we should be the light of the world
It's hard to be as soon as the wind passes and whirls

Fall and winter will be a blur and then it's spring
You can wake up to birds and how they sing
As new flowers bloom, we should be careful of bee stings
I'll be asking myself how we're in spring
Oh wow, look everything is in sync

Then it'll be summer again
With many activities, it's hard to be in disbelief
More new flowers, it's hard to ignore the scent
Now the cycle of seasons has been complete



Night Howls and Empty Traps

By Sawyer Nash

I spent a lot of time as a little kid on a farm way out in the middle of nowhere. Every night when I went to sleep I would listen to coyote howls and laugh until the early hours of the morning. When I was younger, I thought that coyotes were massive monsters that lurked around under the moon killing anything they could get their hands on.

My grandpa would often show me the carcasses of dead animals that had been taken and tell me scary stories about how the coyotes would catch their prey. The first time I saw a coyote I was shocked, not only by its underwhelming size, but by the intelligence that it seemed to show.

My grandpa had caught one in a trap that was normally used to catch raccoons and other night animals. It was triggered when an animal would venture into the back of a cage following the scent of a treat, only for a door from behind to swing closed when the creature reached the food.

My grandpa told me he was going to kill it later, but wanted to wait until after my sister got to see it, as she was not home at the time. When my sister finally came home, we went around to the back of the barn where the cage had been left, only to find it empty. The trap's mechanism had been triggered and the coyote had escaped.

Representing Jesus on Normal Days and in Normal Ways: A Devotional

By Amelia Rossell

Does what you do and say reflect the representation of Jesus?

1 John 3:18 says, “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” Recently, when we led out in small groups for chapel, our topic was “How can we represent Jesus?” There are a variety of answers to this question, but we can always come up with beautiful answers without actually reflecting on it. We are told to be kind to others, to be helpful, to be sympathetic, to be hardworking, to be devoted, but what does this actually look like in our real world, when we are just walking through our “normal” day?

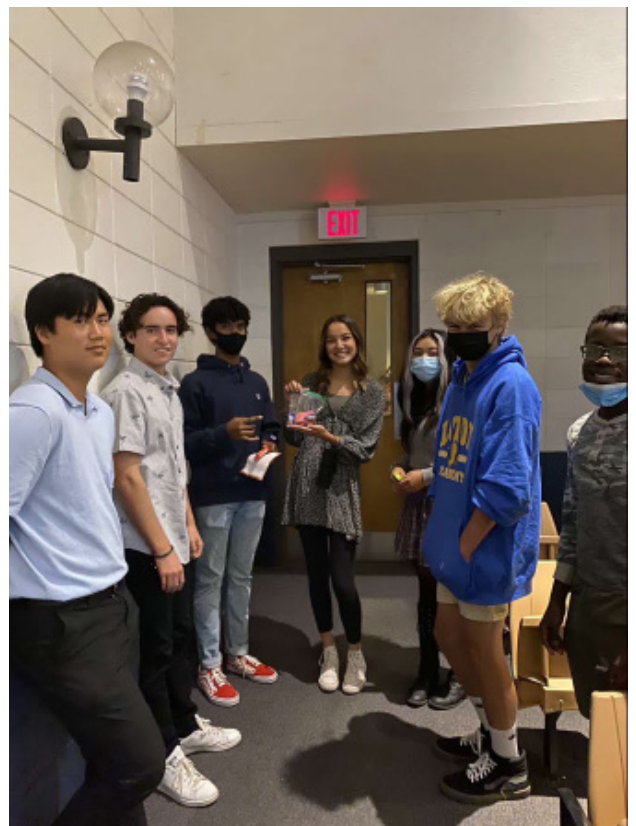
Kindness. Is what we say to or about others uplifting? Helpfulness. Are you doing something beneficial for someone that’s not yourself? Sympathy. Do you know of someone struggling right now? Have you reached out to them... offered a listening ear? Hard work. Are you putting in the work to do what God is calling you to do? Devotion. Have you set time aside in your day to give to God? Will you be devoted to live the message you’re reading right now?

In Matthew 21, Jesus tells us a story about a father and two sons. The father tells his sons they need to work, but one of the sons says he won’t do it. However, the son who said no changed his mind and went to work, and the son who agreed and told his father he would, didn’t do so. Jesus asks “Which of the two did the will of his father?” (Matthew 21:31)

It is so easy to stick to your own routine, your own group, your own comfort zone. It’s easy to put things off and “do them later.” My advice? Take one step at a time. Start with waking up in the morning, and giving a prayer to God. Pray for help to stay away from the negative and leap into the positive. Pray for him to open your heart, and be able to reach out to one person this next day. Pray for help to see who needs a lending hand this next week. Then do it. I want you to take a second and reflect on what you can do today, right now, to help someone.

We aren’t all perfect in any means, and we ourselves can be in the middle of struggle. You are surrounded by people who want to help you and who love you. If you are still reading right now and have something on your heart, and need a listening ear, or advice, or anything at all, I am here for you guys, as are your teachers and staff! Please reach out to me if you ever need anything, and remember the impact each of you can have.

I can’t wait to see the new ways our campus can connect and learn to love and represent Jesus this year!



Memories of the All-School Campout

By Isa Clark, Julissa Perez, and Ryder Watson

Something that I have enjoyed this year was the all school campout when we all went to Monterey Bay Academy and spent the night there. My favorite part was when we went down to the beach for evening worship and we got to go for a night walk on the sand. We went ahead and just had a few minutes to take in the sounds and the feelings of the ocean, and then, when we got back, we were able to enjoy hot apple cider, eat cookies and drink hot chocolate afterwards. Another reason why we enjoyed this was that we got to talk to all our friends.

All-school campout might now be the event that I have enjoyed the most about campus life. The all-school campout brought everyone together, and was really fun. I want to say a big thank you to SA for planning all the games. I really enjoyed playing them on the beach. I had an amazing time with everyone hanging out at the beach and participating in various activities throughout the time that we were there. Playing football, volleyball, and other exciting games with other students at the beach was great! I think next time we should play capture the flag against other grades, and it could be freshman vs. sophomores and juniors vs. seniors, which would be really fun and it would bring each class closer.

I wish we could've been there longer! I enjoyed the vespers that were planned and I can't wait for more! I had a great experience with teachers, students, and everyone. I really like the fact that it's a small school so everyone gets to get to know each other eventually. I can't wait for all of the trips we have planned out this year.



Listening to the Still Small Voice: A Devotional

By Reina Nozaki

“A great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, and the Lord was not in the fire; [but] after the fire [came] a still small voice.” (1 Kings 19:12 NKJV)

Cheerful mornings can feel dull and gray, and time like sand slipping through an hour-glass. Looking into the mirror on the wall, the reflection is a figure that is like you, but it's not you. You want to hide it because of your shame and embarrassment. You want it to disappear as if it was a recent dream.

The more we get older in life, the feeling of freedom fades away, and the childish thoughts that didn't bother us before would come back. We easily stress over the simple thoughts of menacing gazes as people staring into our souls, to torment us for being ourselves.

Scared to share your flaws, you cling to methods that only satisfied you for a second, a day, a week, and so on. This nauseating, endless cycle of guilt, pain, suffering, you want it to finish-- you want it gone. It's only a still small voice, but a voice nonetheless: “It's okay. I love you. I'm here for you always.”

It speaks kind words to you, and like Elijah, it may even help you in your darkest moment. That loving voice is persistent, unending, giving, and forgiving as a mother would comfort her children.

“So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly the voice came to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:13 NJKV)
The happiness it brings with it is overflowing, gentle, and free; however, it cannot be forced. Maybe that voice still lingers somewhere in your heart today? If so, have courage and find it, only then the cold endless night will come to an end, and a new morning comes.

Kayaking in Moose Country

By Mr. Eric Stubbert, Lodi Academy Principal

Fall at Camp Lawroweld in Maine is a beautiful time. The camp, sitting along the rocky, Maple, Spruce and Pine lined shore of Lake Webb, was alive with red, orange, and yellow fall colors. Days were cool, but at night, the temperature dropped to nearly freezing. It was only September, Moose rutting season!

One afternoon I paddled across the inlet of the lake where our camp was located, to scout the willow-lined shore for signs of moose. There was ample evidence of Moose, but I could not spot one at that time.

The next morning I woke up before the sunrise, dressed for a cold, fall morning, slipped out of the bunk house without waking any students, I grabbed a kayak and paddle from the rack and set out across the lake. As the sun arose, the lake surface was obscured by a thick fog only about 3-4 feet above the water. In the kayak it was very foggy. Looking across the lake from the shore, the day was beautiful, crisp, clear, and bathed in sunlight from the rising sun.

As I paddled toward the fog enshrouded, willow lined shore, I was greeted with the awesome sound of a moose trampling through the willows. I could hear her, but I could not see her. The sound grew closer and closer to me. I slipped the kayak up near the shore and strained to see through the fog. Then I heard it. A rapid snorting, deep bellowing, branch crushing stomp that was coming closer and closer to me. I realized the sound of the female moose had faded away and now the terrifying sound of the bull moose was charging me through the shallow water, but I could not see him anywhere through the fog! I paddled like mad across the lake to deep water! I could hear the angry charging moose, but I could not see him! The splashing, crashing, snorting, bellowing bull moose was getting closer and closer. Through the fog I spotted a dock that I paddled furiously toward. At any moment I expected to be knocked out of my canoe by the angry, charging bull moose. In an instant I decided that I would jump out of the kayak and swim under the dock if the charging moose came any closer. Just feet from the dock, suddenly there was silence. The bull moose stopped charging and headed back toward the shore.

Carefully I paddled back to camp, climbed out of the kayak, pulled it up on the lake shore, and quietly went to take a shower. Hours later, at breakfast, one of the old timers from the Maine woods, stopped by my table and said, “were you the crazy guy who just got charged by a moose?”

I sheepishly said, “yes.”

“That moose nearly got you” he said, shaking his head and walking off muttering about the crazy guys coming up to the woods and messing with their moose. Apparently there were a few people at the camp that saw it all happen. The moose charging through the low lying fog at the obscured kayaker. The only thing they could see was my paddle waiving about the fog as I furiously paddled. I guess I must have looked like an intruder to the bull moose!

Responses to Articles from Last Issue of TAZ

While reading Andrew Kanas and Zachary Chan's paragraph about SA points, I found myself agreeing with what they were saying. But when I reached the last paragraph, I wasn't so sure. They stated that playing in SA events should be mandatory. I agree that participation is very important, but if people are required to play, then what happens when they don't play? Will the class lose SA points for it? There could be something going on in the students' lives. They might have some other event they have to attend. I think it should still be optional, but highly encouraged. One thing I really agree with is making new SA games. I know I'm a freshman and the games should be new to me, but I think some new games would be better for fiercer competition. -Halle Asmare

I really liked the September issue of TAZ Magazine; the articles were well-worded and informative. That being said, I disagree with the opinion in the article: "Console Wars: PS5 vs Xbox Series X". Peter gives good evidence to support both sides, but in the article there is much more evidence to support the Xbox Series X than the PS5. The author gives the Xbox the edge in design, game selection, and hardware, but then picks the PS5 as the better choice without much explanation. So the Xbox Series X wins in all three categories, but is not the overall winner? I think next time the author should provide a more detailed explanation as to why he picked the PS5. The Xbox Series X is miles better. -Eben Asmare

I would like to compliment Railey Panjaitan on the Nintendo Switch article. I think he did a good job and I wouldn't disagree with him on any of it. I just bought a Switch to enjoy these games that I want to play so much, like Smash Bros, Mario Kart, Super Mario 3D World and Super Mario Bros U Deluxe. These games are all great and I will take his advice on playing Zelda and Animal Crossing. I have never played an Animal Crossing game or a Zelda game, but I know they are fan favorites. I feel that he did a good job and just wanted to compliment him. -Chase Garner

It's only the first TAZ magazine and I've already found multiple articles I really enjoyed! I would like to thank Chloe Galiza for writing her story so wonderfully. I felt like I was in the story myself! It was a fun, quick read and I hope that we get to see more of that in the future. There is one more section of the TAZ magazine that I absolutely have to mention. This section was the Art Corner. I'm a huge fan of dragons and I draw them ALL the time. I've seen every documentary, movie, and I've read hundreds of books all about them! I even have a guide for all the different types of dragons, where they come from, and what they look like too! I want to thank Mia Sakata for totally making my day. Those drawings were amazing and I enjoyed looking over them very much, thanks! -Gabriel Baker



Piggy Banks and Personalities

By Daphne McCann, Katie Nakata, Spencer Hall, and Zach Chan

Student Interview Question: Did you have a piggy bank as a kid? Did it show your personality?

Daphne – I had a piggy bank that was an actual pink glass pig. I think my mom bought it for me, because I really wanted one to save my money. My mom put all of her valuables in her jewelry box. I do not have one now because all my money is in the bank and my earrings are in a tiny container. I remember trying to get money out of my piggy bank. I tried not to break it because I wanted to use it again, but that didn't work.

Katie – As a kid I was a hoarder of coins. I would store a stupid amount of change in a glass piggy bank. I had painted it pink and stuck gems on it. My sister had the same pig as much but it looked much better. I still have mine and I keep it because of the fond memories. My personality at the time definitely showed through its bright colors and over the top decorations.

Spencer – As a young child, I stored my money in a piggy bank. The piggy bank I used was of Lightning McQueen. This was quite fitting for me because my favorite movie was Cars. I still have the piggy bank somewhere. There's probably actually still a few dollars in it too. I don't exactly remember where I got it.

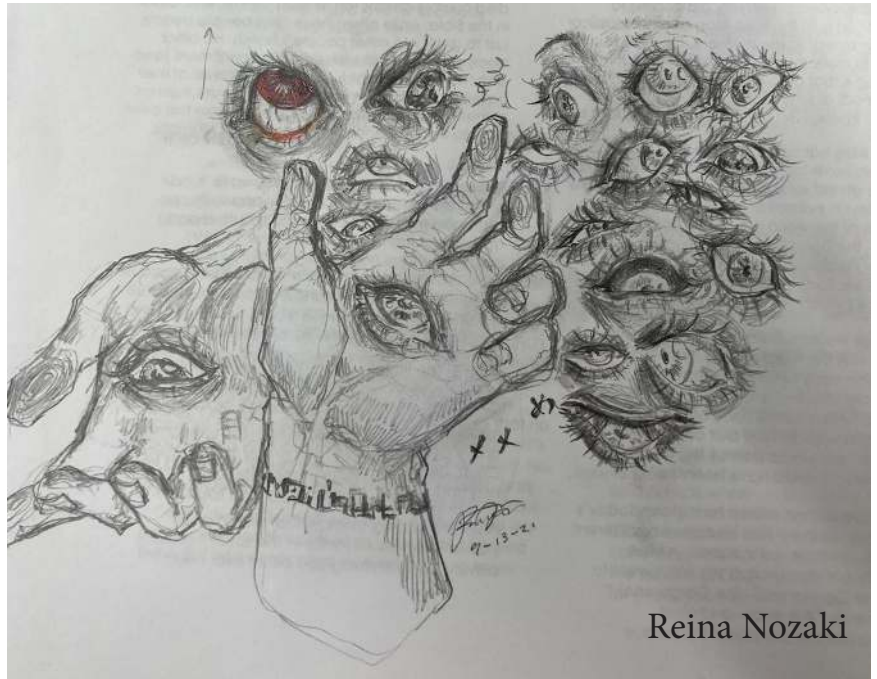
Zach – As a kid, I had a piggy bank where I kept coins, and I still have it. It is a store-bought piggy bank. My mom got it for me when I was very young, but I don't know if she ever had one. My piggy bank is a white pig with a crown on it that says "Little Prince," but keep in mind, I got this when I was around three or four years old, so I'm not sure if it actually reflects my personality today.

Mia - Contrary to most piggy-bank-childhoods, I kept my money in a toy airplane... yes, a toy airplane. My reasoning behind this was because I did not want to break open the cute little piggy to get my money out in the end. I guess this reflects my personality today because I've never been one for hurting anything if I don't have to. I wasn't particularly fond of destruction back then, and neither am I fond of it today.



Art Corner:

By Reina Nozaki and Kimi Nakata



Reina Nozaki

Kimi Nakata:



