

Student Reporter

Thanks, ChatGPT ... Or not?



Seoyeon Choi
Grade 11
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Former Google and Snapchat software engineer Yong Hoon Choi.
[Source: Author, Seoyeon Choi]

“If people use it wisely enough, it could be a very strong tool to maximize their creativity at work and in life,” former Google and Snapchat software engineer Yong Hoon Choi said. “A tool’s a tool. A hammer can be a useful tool for construction workers but a dangerous weapon for gangsters.” Although minor negative impacts of this software are expected, it’ll become highly useful in helping humans’ daily lives, especially in this industry. With ChatGPT’s

increasing popularity, averaging 13 million visitors daily, according to UBS, it’ll continue to spread its great influence worldwide.

What a surprise—AI chatbots in an era of instantaneous resources. These chatbots are called ChatGPT: an AI language model produced by OpenAI that generates textual content which communicates in a conversational, ‘humane’ way. This balance of AI and human nature displays uniqueness through the ability to “answer follow-up questions, admit its mistakes, challenge incorrect premises, and reject inappropriate requests,” states OpenAi.com, as well as develop conversational responses. So, here’s the big question in any controversy: is this good or bad?

The reason why ChatGPT became an issue is the way in which ChatGPT has advanced, acting beyond according to set instruc-

tions, achieving something we haven’t had in AI before—human creativity. There were speculations that this could lead to fake news and copyright infringement of actual human work that the AI studies. However, despite the negative reactions surrounding this AI model, it’s expected by many that positive effects will result in building an advanced society.

“I believe ChatGPT and relevant technology make computers even more important and closer to human lives than ever before. For example, in South Korea, ChatGPT services make regular calls with personalized messages to the lonely elderly, and the country is already seeing a huge impact in treating mental health issues,” software engineer and data scientist Kyu-Han Kim stated.

ChatGPT will change our lives in many aspects, in terms of sharing knowledge and creating new multimedia content for art, en-

tertainment, education, etc. Especially since the program uses Reinforcement Learning – a machine learning training method – from human-provided messages or information, this skill to learn unknown information makes ChatGPT more compelling.

“AI has a great potential to help our world. I don’t think ChatGPT is very creative. It’s far from taking over human creativity. In most cases, it mimics common wordings and repeats popular thoughts embedded in the large volume of written text. It’s not really creating new knowledge,” former Google and Snapchat computer scientist Jiwoon Jeon said. “There’s nothing to be afraid of at this point. It’s still a handy tool to access summarized information, etc, quickly.” ChatGPT can automate many repetitive and time-consuming tasks, such as data entry, customer support, and content creation. This reassures that it saves time for more strategic and creative work.

Student Reporter

Torrance High School’s Hands Across Campus



Rubie Choi
Grade 11
Torrance High School

On January 13, 2023, Torrance High School held its 33rd annual Hands Across Campus. This all-school event, led by the school’s Black Culture Club, is held each year to honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Numerous guest speakers, such as the principal, the sponsor of the Black Culture Club (BCC), the ASB president, and the BCC president, spoke out on the diversity that is present at the campus of Torrance High and how it is easily one of the best qualities of our school. The speakers also highlighted how the students and faculty should always carry out Martin Luther King’s message of equality and freedom.

To celebrate the myriad of cultures, the Black Culture Club,



The members of the Latino Culture Club hold up flags of the countries that make up Latin America.
[Source: Author, Rubie Choi]

Japanese Culture Club, Kababayan Filipino Culture Club, Korean Culture Club, Latino Culture Club, Pacific Islander Culture Club, Scottish-Irish Culture Club, and the South Asian Culture Club performed their traditional dances. The Japanese Culture Club performed the Soran Bushi (a Japanese folk song), the Korean Culture Club danced to Kpop songs such as “Hype Boy” by New Jeans and also did the Buchaechum (a Korean fan dance), the Kaba-

bayan Filipino Culture Club did Tinikling (a Filipino dance that involves stepping around bamboo poles), the Pacific Islander Club did Hulu, the Latino Culture Club the Merengue, and many others presented as well. These performances allowed the audience to not only develop an open mind towards the number of ethnicities on campus but also create a sense of respect towards these various cultures.

Along with the cultural performances, Torrance High School’s Choir led the national anthem, “The Star Spangled Banner,” and performed the songs “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” originally sung by James Weldon Johnson. The song brings attention to the discrimination which Black people faced and how they were resilient and fought against racism during that time. The choir also sang “Stand Up” from the movie “Harriet,” which was a homage to the great efforts by Harriet Tubman to lead enslaved African Americans to freedom.

Just as Martin Luther King said that he wished for everyone to “join hands,” Torrance High’s Hands Across Campus event truly allowed everyone to gather and create memories while also being culturally educated.

Student Reporter

NAfME’s 2023 All-Northwest Orchestra



Trinity Lee
Grade 10
Interlake High School

On its own, each instrument has its own unquities, bringing different styles of music and techniques to the table. However, when such musical qualities are brought together to create a greater and more majestic rendition of a piece, collaborations between different artists, such as orchestras and bands, are born. I personally was given the wonderful opportunity to be a part of one of these such groups and perform in this year’s All-Northwest Orchestra.

NAfME, otherwise known as the National Association for Music Education, is an organization divided into six divisions: the East, North Central, Northwest, South, Southwestern, and West. I am part of the Northwest division, which holds biennial conferences and student performances. All-Northwest includes Alaska, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Wyoming, where students from all these states audition to join either the Orchestra, Band, or Choir. This year, All-Northwest was held in Bellevue, Washing-

ton, at Meydenbauer Center.

This year, I had the amazing chance to be a part of All-Northwest’s grand orchestra as a violist. Though I was also a qualifier for last year’s All-State symphony orchestra, I had no idea what to expect, as All-Northwest included a much larger scale of students from multiple states.

Immediately upon arrival, students got to work, finding their seats and diving into rehearsal. This year, the songs that the All-Northwest orchestra worked on were Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity from Gustav Holst’s “The Planets” suite, William Grant Still’s Afro-American Symphony, and Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 4, Mvt. 4.

Rehearsal continued for nearly eight hours, with breaks in between for short recesses, lunch, and dinner. However, despite the long rehearsals, the conductor’s liveliness, along with the invigorating nature of the music, encouraged students to stay energetic. Eventually, all musicians were



Students from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, and Washington gathered at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington, to showcase their musical skills in NAfME’s All-Northwest Orchestra.
[Source: Author, Janna Lee]

dismissed at 9 PM to either return home or to their nearby hotel. The next day, students arrived early, at 7 AM, to eat breakfast and continue with rehearsals to prepare for the performance that would be happening later in the evening. After some final practicing on the pieces for another 4 hours, with lunch and more breaks, came the final performance.

The concert was amazing, and it was clearly evident that everyone’s dedication and hard work had paid off. Though it was truly a great musical experience, I per-

sonally felt that the connections that I was able to make with many others were much more worthwhile, as I had the chance to meet people from across the country who were also just as interested in music as I was. For many student musicians, I believe that participating in All-Northwest or All-State is an amazing and impactful opportunity to meet other students and form important connections and possible friendships. I hope to qualify again for All-Northwest and meet many more aspiring student musicians in 2025!

Student Reporter

The Ultimate Showdown of Creative Minds



Dion Jung
Grade 11
Larchmont Charter



Winners! Winning \$950 total for Larchmont Charter High School.
[Source: Esther Kim]

A typical engineer's dream is to see their invention in use from start to finish. This requires a lot of effort and time to be put into creating the initial design in order to finish the product. Engineering requires a lot of hard work and thinking; coming up with a completely new and beneficial invention is not easy. American Society of Civil Engineers hosted an engineering competition, High School Engineers Week, Friday, February 24th, 2023, at Port of Long Beach. The

competition consisted of an essay submission, with the prompt being “Write about a new technology or product that you think future generations will need or find useful.” A selected few from five schools were allowed to partake in this award ceremony, where they would announce the top four winners of the essay competition. Amongst the top four, three of them were from Larchmont Charter School, winning first place, second place, and fourth place out of roughly 300 entries.

Leaving school at 8 o'clock, thirty Larchmont students departed for the Port of Long Beach. Upon arriving, they were met with a large seminar room with many guest speakers consisting of alumni, people from the head of Engineers week, and Ardurra members. Two civil engineers/managers from Ardurra, a company that provides consulting and engineering ser-

vices to public and private entities throughout the US, provided us with an insight into their daily lives. Next came three guest speakers who talked about their current majors and interests in engineering. They shared numerous work experiences and extracurricular activities that helped them find their specific branch of engineering, whether it was aerospace or civil. Soon after all speakers had finished talking about their experiences and work life, all five schools were split up into different rooms where they attempted to create exciting innovations.

Larchmont Charter and two other schools were met with the challenge of lifting a plastic cup, plate, tennis ball, balloon, and toilet paper roll with limited materials. These materials were four long slender pieces of wood with holes on the end, brass fasteners, tape, and string. The objective was to

carry all five items from one room to the other in a limited time. Teams would receive a point for each item carried and would compete with one another to receive the most points. All the teams had good ideas, many of which consisted of claw designs, where they would fasten two pieces of wood together with the brass fasteners and simply pick up the items. Others made X designs to pick up the items with the further ends of the wood pieces while closing the front ends in order to make a claw grabber. Although the innovations were not on par with real item grabbers, the hands-on learning experience remained helpful.

Overall, the High School Engineers Week event was a lot of fun. If you are interested in engineering and live in the Southern California area, I would encourage you to look into next year's event!

Student Reporter

49th Harvard National Forensics Tournament



Seanna Kim
Grade 11
Granada Hills Charter High School

This winter, I was given the amazing opportunity to attend Harvard's 49th National Forensics Tournament for speech and debate. It was the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic that my school's speech team was able to attend in person, after three years competing online. As a novice on Granada's speech team, it was a completely new experience traveling across the country to Massachusetts with my team (accompanied by my mom) and competing with almost 800 students from 36 U.S. states and six countries. In this tournament, my teammates and I competed in our own respective events: Humorous Interpretation (HI), Dramatic Interpretation (DI), Original Oratory (OO), Informative Speaking (INF), and Program Oral Interpretation (POI).

As a competitor in the Informative Speaking event, I performed a speech on the psychological and political implications of the true crime obsession throughout America. I learned many new



My team and I visited Quincy Market in Boston on the last day of our tournament, where we ate many delicious foods.
[Source: Author, Seanna Kim]

techniques from watching other students perform their own pieces in each of my rounds, whether it was their delivery of the speech, their visual aids, or their topics. Interestingly, some of my favorite speeches were on simple topics such as shrooms or birds! I love my event because students are able to take niche topics and inform their audience on outwardly insignificant things.

I also had the opportunity to watch one of my teammates advance to the HI Semi Finals, which consisted of the top 12 competitors in that specific event. Humorous

Interpretation is an event that lives up to its name, where students take scripts from plays, movies, or books and perform the script in their own unique, comedic ways. Despite watching final rounds for many events (such as my own), my favorite event had to be HI since the finalists never failed to make the audience laugh. However, events such as DI and POI allowed students to take very serious and relevant topics, such as systematic racism, human trafficking, or mental health, to teach the audience an impactful lesson on heavier, but crucial topics. Overall, watching each event widened my scope of

knowledge about the world and shined a new light on how I could improve as a speaker.

In addition to participating in the tournament, I also enjoyed exploring Harvard's grounds, where I was able to tour centuries of history just by walking to each of my rounds, which were in various buildings across the campus. For instance, I got to see the famous statue of John Harvard (and his lucky shoe) and enter Memorial Hall! On the last day of our trip, my team and I were able to visit the Quincy Market and the site where the Boston Massacre occurred as we walked along the Freedom Trail.

Ultimately, while this trip to Boston was incredibly fun, I am thankful for the amazing experience of competing with hundreds of national competitors and learning about the rich history of Massachusetts. I hope to compete again next year in the 50th Harvard National Forensics Tournament!

Student Reporter

Crescenta Valley High School Shelter-In-Place



Rena Jeoung
Grade 11
Crescenta Valley High School

On February 1, 2023, Crescenta Valley High School underwent a shelter-in-place. We were in our classrooms when there was an announcement on the overhead speaker explaining the circumstances. At first, we weren't too worried; however, when the lunch bell rang, and the situation hadn't progressed, we started to realize the seriousness of the issue. It had come to our attention that the shelter-in-place was due to an unknown man who came onto campus in the morning without checking in. A picture of the unidentified man taken earlier in the library started to surface around. Students were receiving pictures of him with a suspiciously large duffel bag, causing more unrest and anxiety.

We were finally able to leave for a nearby church, one building at a time, after the Sheriff's Deputies announced that the campus was checked and cleared of any threats. The students walked over to a church across the block and waited to be called by name to get picked up by their parents.

Crescenta Valley High School made sure to gain feedback from the students and parents to better their security system. I also interviewed a couple of the students who experienced the shelter-in-place to receive a firsthand view of their experiences and possible changes that they believe are crucial for the future. Seventeen-year-old student August Anderson said that she is thankful since “our administration has since been taking better measures and precautions to ensure safety on campus.” Adding on, she said that “one area that can be further improved upon would be how information regarding lockdowns and shelter-in-places is presented towards the student body.” She also believes that “more drills should be held throughout the school year, along with possible lectures on how best to handle such situations—when to fight, hide, or run.”

Seventeen-year-old Julia Linney said that “we need to have... a solid course of action for what students are supposed to do when they are leaving [evacuating] the school.”



Crescenta Valley High School students waiting for their parents at the church
[Source: Author, Rena Jeoung]

She also explains that the parents were not receiving consistent communication with what was going on, which caused parents stress and worry outside of the campus doors. Another student, Lola Stark, said that since we now know what can happen, we have to grow on this experience. Therefore, we believe making a few of these changes will allow for a more organized and smoother shelter-in-place if another situation as such does arise.

Days following the incident, Crescenta Valley High School made safety procedures such as making sure certain doors were locked and also ensuring that the teachers had their badges at all times so that they could be identified by the students.

The unidentified man was arrested at a nearby coffee shop the same day, and his intention is known to be that he was looking for the WiFi password. The next day, there were reports that the man was back on campus. However, the school administration and police department checked and confirmed that he wasn't there. Therefore, I, and I'm sure many other students and families, felt very safe knowing that Crescenta Valley was aware of the reports and was making sure that everything was staying under control. Overall, the incident at Crescenta Valley High School and the shelter-in-place that occurred allowed us to realize how to better approach these situations in order to be more prepared in the future.