

Editors Column

The Indian Wells Tournament



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The Alcaraz v. Kokkinakis singles match during the Indian Wells Tournament.

[Source: Author, Jeremiah Chun]

When Americans normally imagine gigantic sports events, they think of the vastly popular Super Bowl or the World Series. Only the “big” sports come into mind, whether that is basketball, American football, or baseball. However, many Americans usually pass up or ignore the sport of tennis, especially during championship tournaments when big events,

such as the Australian or Wimbledon Open, are live. This occurs because of various factors, such as less overall viewership or many TV sets not having access to channels that tune in to grand slam tournaments. However, one of the most popular tennis tournaments in the States has finally made its mark: the Indian Wells Masters. This tournament is a tennis open where top players from around the world face each other in the bright sun just outside of Palm Springs, California. It is one of the largest men’s and women’s tennis tournaments, and it is truly an experience to see such an underrated sport live on the courts.

The Open lasts for about two weeks, with dozens of matches taking place across various stadiums each day. The tournament features a total of 29 world-class courts, and the closer the court number is to 1, the bigger the stadium and the accompanying excitement becomes. As the second largest court in the world,

Stadium 1 can house up to an impressive 16,000 people! Stadium 2 hosts up to 8,000, and with dozens of more courts, tens of thousands of spectators can enjoy the open at once. Attending for the first time, I was truly shocked to see the exhilaration and rush of people all over the 54-acre desert paradise. All kinds of storefronts and other attractions exist on every block, from tennis convenience shops to dining halls and practice courts. In every direction, one could hear the squeaking sneakers and volleyed balls of matches being played in gigantic stadiums, and there were numerous interactive tennis games for spectators to play, including a machine that could detect how fast you serve.

Of course, the majority of the open was filled with tennis courts. Tennis can either be a solo sport featuring 1-on-1 play or a team sport featuring 2 v. 2 players. For doubles (2v2), players have a slightly wider sideline than singles players do. Knowing this, I

was able to watch some of the top players in the open. First was, Jack Sock, an American who has won four career Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) singles titles, but more impressively, has gained a whopping 17 doubles titles! His serves can go up to 141 miles per hour, being incredibly fast and having a lot of spin. His forehand strokes are also very strong, being able to approach the net easily and finish the point off. Meanwhile, Carlos Alcaraz is a Spanish tennis player who is currently ranked as the No. 2 singles player in the world by ATP. Winning seven singles titles, it is extremely impressive how he is so good, considering that he is only 19 years old. In fact, this is much younger than most to reach a crowned world number one compared to other players, such as Rafael Nadal (which he obtained at 22 years old). Overall, it was a blast to see this tournament in person, and even for non-tennis enthusiasts, it will surely be a thrill to see the top tennis pros hit a light ball so fast.

Student Reporter

Effects of Global Warming



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People have known about global warming since 1896. Although some have taken action, many others do not care. The consequences of global warming are severe and include drought, rising temperatures, the extinction of species, and other dangers to life on Earth. Fortunately, there are actions we can take that can help to reduce the number of carbon footprints.

Places around the world, like large parts of Europe, the United States, and China, are experiencing major droughts caused by global warming. Soon droughts will increase, and water will be limited. Being mindful about how much water is used every day can be a big help in preventing these droughts. For example, turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth or taking less time in the shower are great ways to help pre-

vent droughting.

Climate change has also affected the temperatures in many places. Global temperatures have risen about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius). Some places will get cooler and drier, some will get wetter, but most will likely become more humid and warmer. These changes have already led to the Greenland glacier, slowing the Gulf stream and the ice blockage to the Northwest Passage. The Antarctic glacier is also barely hanging on, and will soon melt into the ocean.

Due to the effects of global warming, there has also been a significant increase in the number of extinct species. Many animals are affected by global warming, and if they are not helped, they could go extinct. Such animals include the polar bear, Monarch



Snow in Southern California during early March may seem like cooling, but is actually caused by global warming. [Source: Author, Olivia Shin]

are slowly shriveling because the ice that they depend on is melting away. The loss of ice can also affect the polar bear’s main prey, seals, which need ice in order to raise their young. However, ways to help prevent animal extinction are to use/buy eco-friendly products, recycle more to lessen the pollution in the oceans, and spreading awareness about these problems can be very helpful to stopping animal extinction.

Global warming is impacting the world in many negative ways. People need to be aware of the things they are doing to our planet. Trashing the world and still expecting it to give back won’t work. Sooner or later, the world won’t be able to sustain the food source or water supply we need. Taking action is the best way to prevent climate change from taking over the world.

butterfly, koala, and many other species. The polar bear numbers

Student Reporter

Many Options for Lunch



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Grade 9  
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School lunch is very important for high school students who need to consume a lot of nutrients and energy to progress academically. Not only do high school students need high-quality food, but everyone should eat with a moderate balance of carbohydrates, proteins, and fat. Nutrition is so important because “Eating lunch in school can positively affect emotional well-being and academic performance,” according to Syracuse University. In order to keep the balance to maintain students’ health, it is very important for school lunches to have a variety of options to choose from.

Humans cannot survive more than 30 days if they have not eaten. It is the best choice to eat three times a day; breakfast, lunch, and dinner. For students, the majority have to eat lunch at school. School lunch is very important for those who are working on major tasks and thus sleeping late. Eating a lot of nutrients can

boost a student’s energy, and can create healthy, beneficial effects. According to the Food Research and Active Center (FCAF), “subsidized meals at school or day-care are beneficial for children’s weight status, and we argue that expanding access to subsidized meals may be the most effective tool to use in combating obesity in poor children.”

As these health effects are of utmost concern for school faculties, they try their best to provide students with nutrient-rich foods. This procedure is the most difficult since the food has to be both delicious and healthy, which are two presences that are very hard to combine. Furthermore, there remains another problem of student’s liking of the food. The overall solution for this issue is to make a lot of choices while selecting the food to eat. That way, most students can fulfill their desire and eat healthy foods they can like.



There are a variety of food choices in the school Cafeteria. [Source: Author, Hajoon Song]

For me, I liked that the school provided me with a lot of options so I could try something different if I was bored with a certain option. One food I found both interesting and delicious was “Pizza salad,” the food that combined pizza and salad that could make me healthy and also tasted good. After lunchtime, I felt that I was getting more energetic than in the morning, and could con-

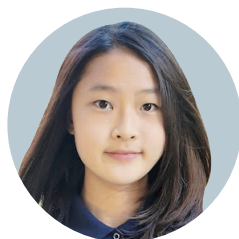
centrate on the class successfully. Eating a variety of nutrients that I like also helped in afterschool activities, which increased my ability to participate in sports and could boost my stamina.

Overall, giving a lot of choices to students is crucial to their health. It is very effective to produce academic work and participate actively in sports.



## Student Reporter

# Fun with MathCounts



Angel Song  
Grade 8  
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The San Fernando Valley Regionals Competition of MathCounts.  
[Source: Author, Angel Song]

A group of students, ranging from sixth to eighth grade, nervously sit down as the math competition begins. This is the start of a MathCounts regional competition, where teams made of four students come from a variety of schools in the same area to solve competition math problems, similar to AMC 8 problems. Here, they are competing to decide which teams get to go to the state level.

Before the journey to the region-als actually begins, students must be a part of their school's Math-

Counts team. But beware! Not every school has a MathCounts club, let alone a skilled coach. Unfortunately, that is the case for many schools, especially public ones.

MathCounts is funded by the MathCounts foundation, which was created in February 1983 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and CNA Insurance. In 1984, the first national MathCounts competition was held at George

Washington University, from May 18-19, with students from 47 different states and Washington D.C. competing. Not only does the MathCounts foundation hold MathCounts competitions, but they also have two more programs for aspiring mathematicians; the National Math Club and the Math Video Challenge, each previously known as MATHCOUNTS Club Program and Reel Math Challenge. Students can participate in all three of the MathCounts Foundation's programs.

So what can students do to prepare for the competition? The first step is to join the school's Math-Count team, but one thing to look out for is the limit on how many students a school can take to competitions. Normally, a team consists of four students, and, depending on the school, more than one team may be allowed to move on to the regional competition. Then, there are more students other than the four that are allowed to partici-

pate in the individual rounds.

Before the actual competition, students who are part of the entire school team (including the ones only participating in the individual rounds) are taught the basics of competition math. However, this is not enough. Students must study on their own to be able to solve the hardest questions at the competition. Just like other math competitions, there are free online resources available for students who would like to study. There are four different types of questions, which are the sprint, target, team, and countdown rounds. Questions from previous year's competitions can be found on the internet, where students can print them and solve them on their own.

Although being successful at MathCounts may be hard, especially for new sixth graders, with the right efforts, everyone can be a mathematician.

## Student Reporter

# Animal Rights Club



Sungeun Yoon  
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Saigon South  
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The Animal Rights Clubs' participation in the "FamilyFun Day" uploaded on Instagram.  
[Source: Author, Sungeun Yoon]

LGBTQ+ Rights, Abortion Rights, and now Animal Rights. Out of all the different types of charity clubs, there is a club named the “Animal Rights” club here at Saigon South International School. This club has been providing service and raising funds, and now it’s time to support the animal shelters by visiting them and volunteering.

Before the club finally chose a certain shelter to volunteer at, the club members had to look up animal shelters here in Vietnam, since there aren't many. We then sent emails and text messages to the shelters, asking them if they were willing to receive the club's help. The message was like this: "We are an Animal Rights Club from Saigon South International school. We seek to help and support local animals, and we have gathered

money from our fundraising events. We hope you are interested in allowing us to visit your animal shelter to provide resources such as food, water, and other activities you may need for your animals. If you are interested in this, please send us a message back and let us

know what you need for your animals.”

The club luckily received a response from Animal Rescue and Care Vietnam (ARC Vietnam). Its mission is to initiate and facilitate care, advocacy, and awareness for

animals in need within the community. They mostly rescue dogs and cats, providing medical treatment and vaccinating all the animals. These animals get to be sent off to a new and happier home. The club is not only getting to send goods for the shelters, but they are also planning to go and volunteer, such as walking the animals or cleaning them, on March 19th, 2023.

On March 19th, 2023, the club will be visiting the animal shelter with the school bus provided by the school, allowing us to visit on a Sunday, which would be about a 40-minute bus ride. The club can't wait to show more growth and progress in helping more and more animals, from pets only to a whole wide range of animals.

## Student Reporter

# Inside the Intense World of Science Quiz Bowl



Dion Jung  
Grade 11  
Larchmont Charter



North Hollywood Team A vs Team B, the first half ended with 36-30 for Team A  
[Source: Esther Kim]

On March 4th, 2023, at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, teams from numerous schools, such as Larchmont Charter and North Hollywood, came to participate in the LAWDP Regional High School Science Quiz Bowl. Each school was allowed to register two teams, teams A and B, with each facing five other schools to claim the right to compete for the national title. Science Bowl starts off with a region-wide academic competition that puts students' knowledge of the STEAM field into play, with the hopes of reaching nationals. Students are grouped in teams of four, facing five different schools per round, each lasting eight minutes. Upon answering the first question correctly, that team is given a bonus question worth 10 points, while the first is only 4.

Larchmont Charter Schools Team A faced Holy Martyr, emerging victorious, along with Team B's victory against Van Nuys. Upon asking a member of Team A their

thoughts on the competition, they replied, “It was a fun competition, a lot harder than we expected, but we will be competing again next year! We will definitely study harder and split up the science field sections more evenly, and develop our team to participate next year!”

Before the semi-finals or finals began, teams that would not be participating in the finals were led outside to construct a simple hand mechanism to pick up objects from one bucket to another. Teams were given zip ties, spoons, pipe cleaners, a wood stick PVC pipe, and more. Many schools created a hand design, including Larchmont Charter, where they inserted the wood into the PVC pipe, taped on spoons, and attached zip ties to the wooden part. Once the wood was pulled from the opposite end of the spoons, the PVC pipe would close the spoons into a hand shape, allowing for teams to carry bouncy balls, egg-shaped foam pieces, and much more.

Throughout this event, students were tested on their science and math knowledge, facing students with faster buzzer speeds, along with those far more excelled in certain subjects. In the final match of the competition was between North Hollywood Team A and North Hollywood Team B, with Team A winning all five matches, resulting in an outstanding complete victory. Both teams would push to obtain the regional title for their team, answering questions

left and right, obtaining tens of points even before the announcer fully read the answer choices. Inevitably Team A won, securing their spot among the  $\frac{1}{8}$  Californian teams that they would be competing alongside 65 regional champions from forty states. A main factor in their win would be their separation of sections amongst group members to efficiently cover all areas of the competition. The matches were even live-streamed on the news!