

Editor Column

Trader Joe’s—A Treasure Trove of Tasty Treats



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Sometimes, Trader Joe’s doesn’t feel like a grocery store. Rather than items the pantry actually needs—eggs, milk, bread—many shoppers are drawn in by the wide shelves bursting with colorful goodies, each one completely unique. With eccentric yet flavorful items specific to its brand, Trader Joe’s is a store filled with an endless assortment of hidden gems. Here are some recent or lesser-known goods that you may want to look out for the next time you visit your local Trader Joe’s:

Spring has come, and so has Trader Joe’s Pinks & Whites Dark Chocolate Bar. Made of 54 percent dark chocolate, pink and white yogurt-dipped flower-shaped shortbread cookies, and bedecked in spring-hued sprinkles, this chocolate bar is a lovely mixture of all things sweet and colorful. Sold in a beautiful box at \$2.99 for each 3-oz bar, this is a fantastic and festive way to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Another season favorite is Trader Joe’s Raspberry Mousse Cakes, mini-cakes in the shape of an adorable raspberry with a single green



Try out these new Cinnamon-Bun Inspired Joe-Joe’s at Trader Joe’s!
[Source: Author, Alexis Choi]



Get ready for spring with fresh flowers from Trader Joe’s!
[Source: Author, Alexis Choi]

leaf. Each cake is the perfect combination of thick, moist vanilla cake, fluffy raspberry mousse, and a smooth pink coat of icing. With six per package and priced at just \$3.49,

these are an ideal dainty treat for your spring festivities.

Following the Candy-Cane Joe-Joe’s, Halloween Joe-Joe’s, Pumpkin Joe-Joe’s, and Mango Joe-Joe’s, Cinnamon Bun Inspired Joe-Joe’s have emerged on the shelves. Trader Joe’s classic sandwich crème cookie has multiple versions, swapping out the filling and cookie with different flavors. This new cinnamon bun version is the perfect cookie experience from start to finish. With a creamy vanilla filling surrounded by two graham-cracker-flavored cookies dusted with cinnamon sugar, it tastes like a combination of Biscoff cookies and cinnamon bun icing. The slightly grainy texture of the cookie and the sweet creaminess of the vanilla filling create the perfect sweet-sugary-creamy treat—all for just \$3.49 a box.

Once you try Trader Joe’s Tarte aux Champignons, there’s no going back to regular pizza. Maintaining the ease of a bake-and-serve pizza, this French-style flatbread is the perfect dish for mushroom lovers. It contains a thin, crunchy

braided crust that holds in the Emmental cheese sauce and crème fraîche topped with white and oyster mushrooms and Parmigiano Reggiano. With delicious cheesy goodness and earthy fungi in every bite, this is an elegant and delicious snack, just for \$4.79, to grace your weekly pizza night or picnic at the local park.

Finally, perfectly fitting for spring, Trader Joe’s continues to offer its wide array of fresh flowers. The floral section holds everything from roses to tulips to seasonal bouquets—all delivered and restocked daily. To match the spring atmosphere, try getting a few blooms to brighten up your house!

Thanks to their affordable prices, enticing packaging with witty product descriptions, and a wide selection of unique products, Trader Joe’s is a grocery store favored by many. Though there are many iconic products, it’s always worth the risk to take on a bit of adventure and try out new goodies. If you aren’t sure where to start, try beginning with one of the items listed above!

Assistant Editor

Two Different Worlds, An Hour Away



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Despite living in Los Angeles County my whole life, I only recently found the need to venture out of the city of Los Angeles for several days when I attended a tournament. On the county’s eastern edge lies Claremont, a quaint college town filled with scenic attractions and tourist locations. Though less than an hour from my home, I found it shocking how different the two areas were, as the transition from a bustling city to a tranquil town shocked me.

For starters, my window from home faces the dry terrain of Mount Lee, home of the Griffith Observatory and the Hollywood sign. On the contrary, the Claremont mountains had blinding snow caps and a crisp, chilly breeze pervading the air. Noticeably colder yet coupled with the same California sun, the weather in Claremont was ideal, creating an invigorating atmosphere. For lovers of nature, the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park is a perfect location to hike, bike, or horseback



The mountains in Claremont were capped with snow, contrasting with the barren hills of Los Angeles.
[Source: Author, Erin Ryu]

ride. The famous Claremont Loop features a 5-mile-long trail open for exploration. If hiking is not your forte, Claremont also houses the California Botanic Gardens, the largest botanical garden in California, displaying native plants and fauna, a testament to the biodiversity of the state.

However, the most notable aspect of the city is its seven nation-

ally ranked Claremont colleges. The liberal arts colleges consist of five undergraduate colleges and two graduate colleges: Pomona College, Scripps College, Claremont McKenna College (CMC), Harvey Mudd College, Pitzer College, Claremont Graduate University (CGU), and Keck Graduate Institute (KGI). The colleges, except KGI, are all in-

terconnected and share the same resources, such as recreational facilities and libraries. Offering a nationally recognized liberal arts education, there is no doubt why Claremont is referred to as the “City of Trees and of PhDs.”

In essence, Claremont embodies the perfect synthesis of natural beauty and academic prowess, making it a destination worthy of exploration for both the mind and the soul. Contrasting to the constant movement of Los Angeles, Claremont offers respite to the individual. As a friend of mine remarked, “In LA, it’s common to lose a piece of inner sanctuary because everyone is so focused on getting from one place to another, plus the traffic and raucousness,” she said. “But, in places like these, you are allowed to stop for a moment, breathe, and really, pick more daisies. And boy does the air smell sweeter once you do.” From its natural wonders to intellectual pursuits, Claremont is a hidden gem not far from home.

Student Reporter

Spreading the Korean Experience



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At first glance, South Korea, being only roughly 39 thousand square miles of the world’s 17 million inhabited land, does not appear as vast as some of the larger, internationally prominent countries such as the United States or Russia. However, Korean culture has been and continues to be vibrant, rich, and diverse. Expounding this cultural essence is fundamental to the Korean experience and revitalizing audiences on a global scale. Considering that, this article discusses some ways to sustain Korean culture locally.

One excellent method is to organize cultural events that showcase traditional or modern art, food, and dance. In conjunction with local entities such as churches or businesses, one can offer a variety of events, like Korean language classes for those

interested in learning the language, cooking classes to teach local residents to prepare traditional Korean dishes, and Korean movie screenings. Considering Korean films have garnered international attention recently, they are a great method of introducing people to Korean storytelling and culture.

Furthermore, arranging workshops on traditional crafts, such as calligraphy, Hanbok (traditional Korean clothing), and pottery making could provide a memorable and educational experience. During these events, unique Korean celebrations could be tied to the items discussed, such as Hanbok being worn and tteok (Korean rice cakes) being eaten during Korean Lunar New Year.

Engaging with more established community service centers, such as

schools and universities, through cultural exchange programs can inspire Korean students and professors to share their experiences. For a number of years, the Korean Crystal Church has hosted a Korean language school for local youth members in the Carrollton area. Consisting of a number of different classes based on preexisting Korean knowledge, the program not only teaches the language but also cultural traditions such as yunnori (a traditional Korean board game). The school has successfully expanded membership over the years to around 50 students being a part of the program in the 23-24 school year.

Either through a preexisting establishment or a nonprofit/business you create, there are a variety of ways to spread Korean culture in your lo-



The Korean school at the Korean Crystal Church helps to spread the Korean experience to students.
[Source: Author, Justin Kim]

cal community today. Taking into account the waning recognition of South Korean ideologies, bringing them into light could be a first step towards Korean globalization.

Student Reporter

Thinking About a Vacation? Make it Korea Time!



Joy Park
Grade 9
Rise Kohyang High School

This past Christmas and New Year, I spent a lot of time with my family in South Korea. I'll be sharing a few tips for traveling to Korea, especially during Christmas weather, as well as the activities we indulged in during our travel time.

If you're going to Korea over the winter, it is highly suggested that you pack lots of layers of clothing; you'll also want to bring a scarf and a thick, waterproof jacket. It snows a lot in Korea, meaning a weather app will come in handy beforehand. It is a smart idea to call a driver or taxi before landing so that you don't need to worry about the distance from the airport to wherever your next destination is.

The US currency is different from the Korean currency. Everything is unbelievably inexpensive and affordable, especially the food at convenience stores. I'm sure some of you've seen this all over TikTok and Instagram, but tanghulu is a really sweet and delightful treat to grab while you're in Korea. Another great thing to try is the delicious and diverse street food. From corn dogs to fish cake,



A busy street in Korea bustling with families and couples on New Year's Eve. The streets are packed with goods and delicious food.
[Source: Author, Joy Park]

wide buildings are beautiful, particularly because of the detailed architecture and bright colors that highlight the palaces. There is a specific hike that takes you up to the Seoul Tower. Once you arrive at the tower, there are many different restaurants, food courts, cafes, small snack booths, a love lock fence, and smaller attractions. It is one of the most popular tourist attractions in South Korea.

If you are in Korea to spend some money, I recommend visiting the big mall in Seoul, the capital of South Korea, COEX. There are so many different things to see and do inside that huge mall. For example, there is a movie theater, lots of photo booths, an arcade, different clothing stores,

bakeries, cafes, restaurants, accessory stores, a phone case store, and so much more. One of the coolest and most unusual things that you can find inside the COEX mall is the Starfield Library. The bookshelves reach the tall and wide ceilings, and each shelf is filled to the brim with a variety of books, and there are small reading nooks for visitors to enjoy themselves.

If you are looking for a quiet and peaceful place to spend your day, as it's snowing outside most of the winter in Korea, you should look for a small cafe in the countryside. Although the city is good for sightseeing and experiencing the fast-paced economy and social networking skills of Korea, you should take some time to admire the nature and views that Korea can also provide you with. There are so many things to do, so many places to visit, so many things to eat, so many photos to take, and so little time. I advise that if you plan to visit Korea, enjoy every minute there. Memories last.

Student Reporter

All-Star Dance Team Comeback!



Reanna Lee
Grade 9
North Hollywood High School

Husky Elite has made its way through Valentine's week with a comeback! Husky Elite is the talented dance team at North Hollywood High School, making impressive appearances at events such as pep rallies and talent shows. Holding auditions on January 22nd, the team gave interested individuals a chance to try out for the spring semester. As someone who loves music and performing arts, I decided to give it a try. I doubted I would compare to the other dancers, the excitement of the fact that a large audience would be watching us, and the worry of not putting the show together on time. However, I was confident and motivated myself by practicing. Some of my friends were on the team as well. We were hopeful, especially those that were new like me.

Finally, the day came: it was time to shine. We had been rehearsing for weeks and yet still didn't feel



A group shot of the Husky Elite team at North Hollywood High School.
[Source: North Hollywood High School's dance team on Instagram]

fully prepared. However, once the music was queued, my anxiety was washed away with anticipation. Husky Elite's arrival was announced to the audience, and a large crowd developed. The performance was over in seconds—it all felt so fast. Seeing the crowd of students cheering after the final pose made me feel proud.

This dance team is incredible, and the talent that resonates within the members is a connection that we all share. The group shares their flair with the audience through powerful and energizing performances and also strengthens bonds. North Hollywood High School is a school that focuses much on academics,

so joining this group was like a breath of fresh air. Having connections with the arts, like this dance team, helps me take a break from the pressure of schoolwork and tests. Although it has only been a few weeks with them, I feel that this is something that can also improve my mental health. Confidence is key in the arts, so I think this is a good way to practice things like body control and facial expressions. The nervousness before a show will eventually be overcome by determination, and I really think that that is the magic of performing.

At North Hollywood High School, Husky Elite is not just any dance team. They help build friendships, share energy, and make people forget their worries. After seeing how much of an impact this performance has made on me, I am confident that it will become a positive part of my life going forward.

Student Reporter

Philosophies of Teaching: From an Engineer



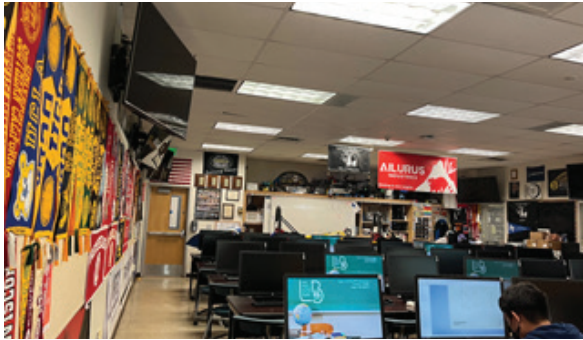
Gianelle Kim
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I still have one memory burned into my brain from my high school orientation.

When I first met my engineering teacher, Mr. Carpenter, his tall stature and stern look on his face intimidated me at first. But the countless college flags, portraits, banners, magnets, and memoirs of past students told me that this was a teacher students of California Academy of Math and Science loved very much.

When I sat down and listened to what is known as his "orientation speech"—popular among the upperclassmen, for they, too, listened to the exact same words when they were incoming freshmen—I was never more sure that this was the school I wanted to attend. When I feel like giving up, I remember this moment half a year ago, and it continues to guide me even now.

Mr. Carpenter has taught at CAMS since the 1990s, since the California Academy of Mathematics and Science was no more than



These are just a few of the college flags Mr. Carpenter has obtained over the years.
[Source: Author, Gianelle Kim]



These are race cars made by Mr. Carpenter's senior class, Engineering Design and Development.
[Source: Author, Gianelle Kim]

a few connected trailers and pre-used lab materials. He stayed for 30 more years because "When you design something... they're gonna be obsolete in three to five years. And you need to come up with something else. If you can help somebody find their passion... pursue their dreams, that doesn't become obsolete if you can touch a student so [they] become learners for life. [If] they love or hate engineering—either way, it's still good—that lasts forever."

One aspect he focused on during his speech was the students. When

asked about them, he said, "It's that thirst for knowledge. We get students that come here and don't feel like they belong. They compare themselves to others. I look for those students... if you have enough work [ethic] and passion, there's nothing you can't accomplish. I want students to be ready to take on a hard thing like being a doctor or engineer. When I went to school, there were a lot of people who went into engineering because of the money, but they had to drop out. The money will come. I want you to realize, 'What are those

things that drive you?'"

My last question with him was, "You get a lot of college flags. What will you do once you run out of space?" And what seemed to be a silly question turns out to be quite sentimental. "We gotta go on the ceiling, we'll go on the ceiling. People come back. I posted a picture of the race cars... one of the students from 2007 saw his banner up there. They're still proud that they're here... we're all part of a big fellowship."

I have never been so glad to call anyone my teacher.