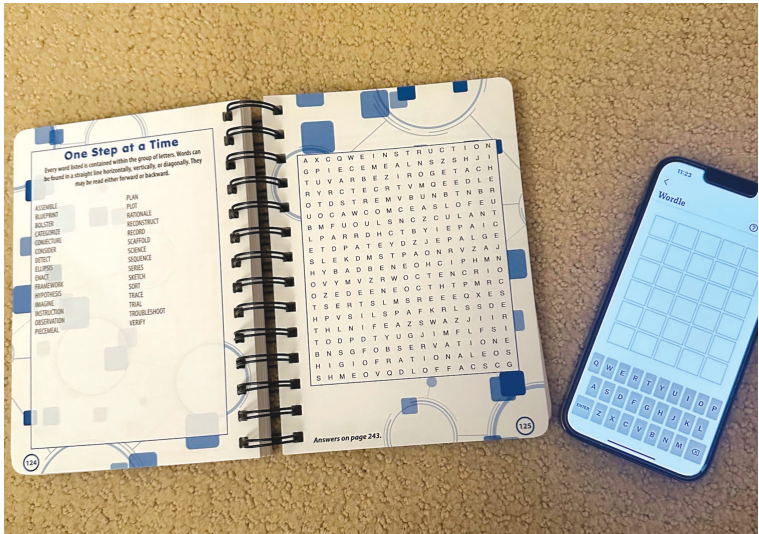


Editors Column

The Art of Human Relationships



Hannah Lee
Grade 11
South High School



Working your brain as you rest helps to take your mind off of stressful events.
[Source: Author, Hannah Lee]

If there is one thing I have decided to do in 2024, it's to learn self-respect. Out of all the relationships that are provided to someone in day-to-day life, learning to respect others does not come easily without understanding yourself first. How much security do you have in yourself? How much are you able to trust yourself? How much do

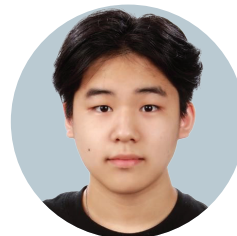
you really respect yourself? One of the components of our lives that have especially been forcing the current generations to face their opponents is social media. As you scroll through online sites, you may see someone prettier than you. Someone who's so much smarter than you. Someone who is better at anything you may

do, and it starts to make you feel insecure. Self-respect can start in ways such as telling yourself one positive thing in the mirror every day, or journaling all your thoughts and emotions, and letting out everything that you were unable to verbally tell others. One student at South High School says, "I feel like understanding the importance of putting yourself first means you learned self-respect." She adds, "Some habits would be learning to say no sometimes, stopping and taking a break when you feel tired or overwhelmed," and she continued to state different ways to practice self-respect. There are certain habits for different individuals, and these certain habits may have a satisfactory long term effect on them, while zero effect on others. The process is for you to find what's best for you. It may feel minor, and it may feel as though the small things won't make much of a difference. But re-

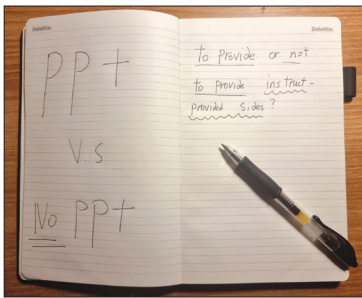
ally, as many say, the little things are what matter the most. Another student mentions, "I think [self-respect] comes from constantly reminding yourself that what you put out into the world is how you should be treated as well." As students journey through their lives in school and out, understanding of yourself will become more and more crucial as more difficulties arise in human relationships. There will always be conflict, not only due to different mindsets but because everyone, as a student, is still developing minds and changing hearts. "For habits, I feel like it's so easy to look in the mirror and point out the parts of yourself you don't like, but if you instead dictate on all of the wonderful parts of yourself, others will see those qualities too." Just like this advice that a junior in high school has given, it is important to highlight your specialities and amazing points. After all, everyone really has their own abilities, no?

Student Reporter

Provide or Not to Provide PowerPoints to Students?



Jaeyun Park
Grade 9
Hillcrest Christian School



PowerPoint vs. no PowerPoint in the classroom: does this way of teaching really help students learn?
[Source: Author, Jaeyun Park]

Nowadays, PowerPoints are omnipresent in most college-level education courses. PowerPoints are a tool that instructors use to provide students with additional information. However, many have warned of the danger that instructor-provided slides encourage absenteeism and classroom passivity and lead to less classroom attendance. Therefore, the use of PowerPoint in class has become a rising controversial topic in the field of education. An external storage function and the encoding function are considered the main functions of the IP slide, which is the abbreviation for instructor-provided. This means that students can learn by reviewing the content to prepare for subject exams or assignments, as well as by actively recording subject lectures and translating them into subject notes. However, instructors raised concerns about students' attendance due to IP slides. Some have reported a noticeable decrease in class attend-

ance when providing these slides to students. They argued that the main reason for low student attendance was students' perception that they knew all of the material because of the IP slides. Like many expectations, research indicates that students' overconfidence and over-reliance on IP slides lead to negative effects on students' attendance. In addition, it cannot be denied that students' negative views toward teachers who only read rather than teach contributed to the low attendance rate. Providing access to IP slides to

students results in a different outcome than not providing access to IP slides. Although these improved students' academic performance, research shows that many students who have access to copies of course slides do not take advantage of them. Due to the significant disadvantages of providing full access to IP slides to students, some researchers argue the importance of providing slides containing only partial class notes. They found that students who had access to these types of slides performed better than students who received the full version. Due to blank information, students must flesh out partial notes to convert them into complete course notes. This allows students to improve their note-taking skills. As a result, students with access to partial IP slides outperformed students with access to full ones. Despite the majority of research indicating that access to partial IP slides causes improvements in students' academic per-

formance, some research gives inconsistent results. In the field of education, IP slides are both beneficial and disadvantageous to students. They IP slides are comfortable and reliable sources for students and teachers. Additionally, they enable efficient distance learning and e-learning. In contrast, IP slides contain the dangers of students' over-reliance on the slides and possibly even an information overload, the difficulty in understanding an issue and effectively making decisions due to the massive amount of information. These factors eventually lead to lower student attendance. The impact of a PowerPoint presentation on students varies depending on the situation and the types of students. In some circumstances, access to IP slides harmed student grades and class attendance. However, in other cases, IP slides improved learners' comprehension, both immediately and over the long term.

Student Reporter

Mary Poppins: The Importance of Family



Jiyong Kwak
Grade 9
Juniper Christian School

"Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, even though the sound of it is something quite atrocious..." One can say this is one of the catchiest tunes out there. This word, "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," is perhaps the most unseemly word in one of the most seemingly works of art that has inspired movies and musicals. It is Mary Poppins. Juniper Christian School has been hosting semiannual musicals since the school started. They have hosted many renowned musicals like Peter Pan, Moana, Beauty and the Beast, Jungle Book, and Mary Poppins, and will host Winnie the Pooh later this year. The beauty of the school's musicals is that they do not focus primarily on how well the students sing or act, but instead on how they build teamwork and relationships with one another. The sacrifice of the teachers in making DIY props and costumes was respectable, to say the least. The story of Mary Poppins is

originally from a book written by Pamela Lyndon Travers in 1934. This series was then converted into a film where Mary Poppins, played by Julie Andrews, popularized the story with her iconic red gown, black hat, and umbrella. The musical can be seen as a comedy with back-and-forth actions between stubborn children and their nanny, Mary Poppins. The musical, however, also conveys the meaning of the importance of family. The children want to spend time with their father, but the father focuses more on work than his home life. It might perhaps be an allegory of the upper middle class of Britain, but this idea of prioritizing wealth over happiness in the family does not seem to limit itself to the specific period of the writing; it is still relevant today. "My expectation was to show improvement in our performance to the audience along with the assisting staff members," Caleb Chang, with the role of



The actors are onstage performing the last dance of their musical.
[Source: Author, Jiyong Kwak]

chairman in the musical, said. "All went to plan thanks to the teachers and students' efforts and our school's preparation," Bryan Lee, another participant, said. He shared how much he enjoyed the musical as he "supported younger students who were struggling with singing and acting" with the talent he had in these fields.

The musical experience was fruitful as our school was able to come together in "harmony." The preparation needed for the musical was relentless, exhausting, and tiring. Nevertheless, seeing how the audience enjoyed it, the happiness that came from their joy was unable to be fathomed with words as that day ended.

Student Reporter

A Must-Attend Event: Club Rush



Reanna Lee
Grade 9
North Hollywood High School



North Hollywood High School's ASB with their very own stand at Club Rush!
[Source: North Hollywood High School ASB Instagram]

The first month of spring has opened up with a collection of events at North Hollywood High School. Club Rush has re-entered school territory for the spring semester! Hosted by the Associated Student Body (ASB), Club Rush is a fundraising opportunity for clubs where they can sell food and beverages to students who want to support them. On March 8th,

during lunch, each participating club had their tents set up across the school quad, with decorated signs and tables listing menus and prices. Prices ranged from \$1 to \$8 dollars, including some brand items like Wingstop and Panda Express. As soon as the lunch bell rang, students were lined up to buy tickets to exchange at club stands for food. The bustling courtyard

and the hubbub of students excitedly selling food made me feel as if I were in a vendor marketplace. Teachers and students were hanging out with friends: sitting down on benches and enjoying lunch, walking and talking, and lingering near stands to help out those participating in fundraising.

As I wandered around the area with my friends, I caught a glimpse of the many menus displayed by clubs. To my surprise, there was a large variety of choices to pick from, including homemade pasta, cookies, chips, candy, aguas frescas, soda, Thai tea, Shirley Temple, ice cream, pizza, and snow cones. Due to their popularity, clubs sold out in minutes! Any leftovers were handed out for a discounted amount of tickets for students who were late to the party or came back for seconds. The event was a success among the school population since clubs and other groups were able to raise money, and students could show their support for them

while having fun.

However, Club Rush was not the only thing that put a smile on people's faces that Friday. March 8th is a well-known date in the calendar as it is International Women's Day! Because of this, women all around campus received flowers from students to celebrate all things "her." Girls of all grades could be seen walking around with bouquets and presents in the hallways and across the campus. It definitely helped brighten up the moods of students and teachers alike, including mine.

As a student at North Hollywood High School, I value how the school is very engaged and respectful of the community around them. Whether it's by empowering women or raising awareness for clubs, this school does not fail to show its appreciation and inclusivity of its students. I hope that they will continue to do so throughout the future years. In the meantime, Happy Women's History Month!

Student Reporter

9th Grade Formal: Hair, Makeup, & Dress Guide



Summer Park
Grade 9
Harvard-Westlake School

The beauty industry has grown exponentially throughout the years. There are a few big trends contributing to this growth: 1) the growing importance of wellness products that not only make you look good but feel good (like skincare or makeup with probiotic ingredients) and 2) the influence of Gen Zers (folks born 1997 to 2013) like myself, who want brands that stand for something like diversity, inclusion, or authenticity. Today, I will talk about a few of my makeup products for my school's recent 9th-grade formal dance that have been influenced by these two trends.

On the disruptive theme of wellness, I have to admit the calming influence of indulging in my favorite makeup products with my best friends. My friends came over to my house with bags full of their



Dress from Princess Polly and Essential Beauty Products, like e.l.f. Power Grip Primer, to Get Ready for a Dance Party
[Source: Author, Summer Park]

makeup products; applying makeup with friends in front of a big mirror was a blast, as we were able to share our routines with each other amidst jokes and friendly bantering. Given all the stress we face in high school, this time did wonders for our mental well-being.

Onto the first product related to wellness: CeraVe Hydrating Facial Cleanser. Who wouldn't want nice



Getting Ready with Friends for the 9th Grade School Dance
[Source: Author, Summer Park]

skin, right? This product contains ceramides, hyaluronic acid, and niacinamide, which helps protect your skin by locking in moisture and calming your skin. Glow Recipe, Cetaphil, and The Ordinary brands also support healthy skincare.

Now, the second trend of the role of Gen Zers and the importance of brands that stand for sustainabil-

ity and inclusion. One brand that resonates a lot with me and my friends is e.l.f. Beauty. Older generations have aspired to use premium makeup brands like Lancome and Estee Lauder, but the price points can be very high for younger folks, like me with a tight budget. Well, there is an answer in a brand called e.l.f. Beauty (stands for eyes, lips, and face), which has seen explosive popularity in recent years. Gen Zers and millennials prefer lower-cost brands, especially those that stress the importance of affordability, inclusivity, and sustainability. The mission statement, which resonates with me, is to create a different type of beauty-building brand that disrupts norms and connects communities through positivity, inclusivity, and accessibility.

Student Reporter

College Campus Tours as a High School Student



James Lim
Grade 11
Francisco Bravo
Medical Magnet High School

Right after the freshman year of high school, students will often have their schedules cluttered with commitments aiming to maximize their academic involvement within their schools. However, a common occurrence that results from this phenomenon is that these teens will neglect seeing colleges in person, which is an important step for them to get an idea of what to expect after high school. It is a fallacy to work relentlessly towards a goal while having no idea what the actual goal is.

Bravo High School students have recently been presented with the opportunity to see various college campuses in person, sponsored by the school. One of these tours was the Claremont Colleges on March 5, 2024, where students would use the school day to visit the facilities. During the tour, students could choose to visit a total of three out of five of their campuses, led by a current student at Clairmont. Attendees of this trip were taken around to visit student housing, recreational areas, dining centers, and lecture halls, allowing them to get a grasp and feel for what the school had to

offer. Near the end of the visit, students would receive a brochure of the various campuses they took a gander around to find further information and deepen their interests. Ultimately, the experience is very immersive and is incomparable to looking at articles and images of these colleges online.

When asking Ms. Montes, Bravo High School's college center advisor and the coordinator of these tours, why she organizes these field trips for the school's students, she replied, "It's so important for all students to walk on a college campus and see themselves in these environments. Until you actually walk on campus and get that experience, you don't know what you're really signing up for. It's life-changing for students who might not consider college or other options aside from UCLA. It opens up great opportunities." Although most students may see college tours for their face value, it's priceless to be present on campus and develop a personal perspective on what it's like for an individual. Online research on colleges often provides generic information tai-



One of the sites visited on the Clairmont College tour- the cube is one of the more well-known landmarks on Clairmont's campus and is a place where students can gather to work or just use it as a relaxing space.
[Source: Author, James Lim]

lored to a broad number of students. While such articles may outline personalities, it's possible to obtain a much deeper connection and understanding by taking the extra step to individually verify these statements.

Without a doubt, focusing on schoolwork as a high school student is crucial to getting into a school that



Claremont College offers their students a formal dining hall where they invite leaders in a field of their choice to talk on stage and have a Q&A session for the students with no additional charge aside from a regular food voucher swipe.
[Source: Author, James Lim]

offers further enrichment. However, it shouldn't be a deterring factor when the opportunity to make a visit to one of these campuses arises. Whether it be through a school-supported venture or a self-organized visit, it is indubitable that high schoolers visit an array of campuses to broaden their views on post-high school pathways.