

## Student Reporter



Paisley Park

Grade 9  
Los Angeles County  
High School for the Arts

## South Pasadena Hosts Another Thriving Flea Market



The Flea Market poster on the pedestrian-only street draws in shoppers in the walking-friendly town of South Pasadena.

[Source: Author, Paisley Park]

Los Angeles is a vintage utopia with world-famous secondhand exchanges such as the Rose Bowl Flea Market, the Melrose Trading Post, and the Long Beach Antique Market. Every third Saturday of the month, vendors and visitors alike eagerly attend the South Pasadena Flea Market, hosted by

the prominent local vintage store called South Pas Vintage. The admission-free marketplace is held on 920 Meridian Avenue from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon.

The monthly event is situated in a popular area where people walk up and down the street to ob-

tain boba, coffee, and other treats. As you wander the cross-section of Meridian Avenue and Mission Street, the “downtown” of South Pasadena, you are transported to an idyllic wonderland of the past. The tree-lined streets are filled with energetic shoppers, browsing antique picks with an iced coffee in one hand and tortoise shell sunglasses in the other. The vendors here offer high-quality clothing, from classy sequin-studded dresses to one-of-a-kind Levi’s 501s. Their racks are often lined with intricately patterned jackets and shiny leather shoes, making it the perfect one-stop shop for an unparalleled wardrobe.

But this plethora of extravaganzas is not limited to just clothing. The flea market offers so much more, like vinyl records, antique dinnerware, jewelry, and even hair accessories. One unique stand, Saint Geraldine, emerged through the crowd with vibrant socks and an abundance of hair clips and pins. These accessories could be fruit-shaped barrettes, bubbly flower hair pins, or even more quirky clips like pickles and bow-tie pasta. With such special items, this vendor attracted many visitors and emitted positive energy.

No matter the time of day, this flea market is filled with excited pedestrians strolling from the nearby library, cafes, or the Metro A line. Another standout vintage booth was Sanctuary Goods, offering beautiful home and fashion goods. Their racks were filled with smooth leather jackets, ribbed glass vases, and flowery knee-length skirts. Many vintage clothing stands much like this one attract individuals who hunt high and low in search of the perfect dose of individualism for a bargain.

Vendors can register and find more info at [www.southpasadenavintage.com](http://www.southpasadenavintage.com). Anyone interested in selling but cannot commit to a booth can sell or provide clothing at the community rack, stationed in the center of the flea market. The rack is accompanied by an information stand, so any questions can be answered there. If you love the energy and products in this flea market, stop by the founder’s store, South Pas Vintage, just down the block to browse through many more treasures. For those who would like to check out this event, the first South Pasadena Flea Market of the year will be held on the third Saturday in February.

## Student Reporter



Aspen Lee

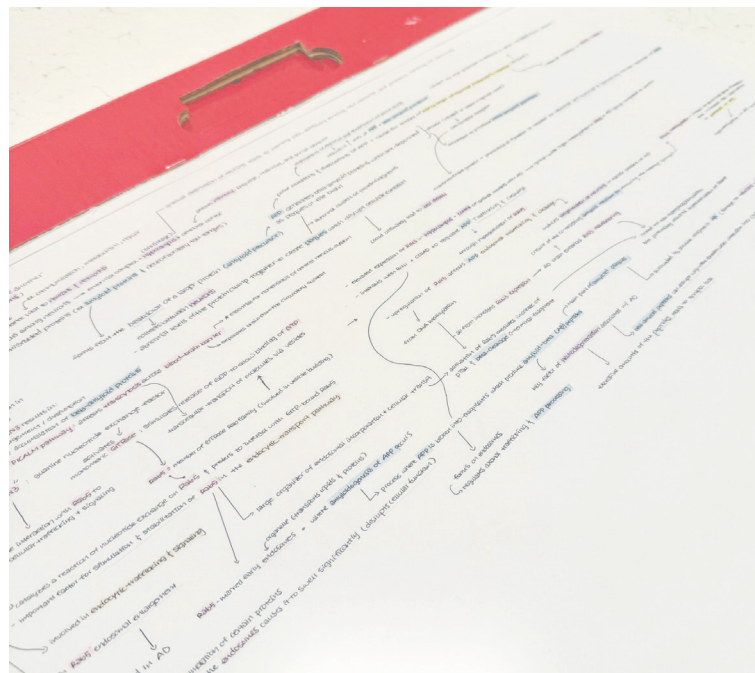
Grade 10  
Santa Fe Christian Schools

## Balancing High School: The Second Semester Unpacked

Following the winter break, students all around Southern California become busy preparing for the beginning of the second semester, while some look forward solely to the end of the school year. Whether it be carefully getting through each course and activity or living each school day with the thought of summer, the second semester contains varying events from the beginning of the year which add excitement to the normal school semester.

One of the many opportunities that take up the second semester is Spring internships which allow students to experiment with many different fields and courses to find their passions. An example of such an internship is the Outreach Program for Advanced Learning in STEM (or OPALS at UCSD), which aims to open doors and allow students to perform hands-on research to help in their pursuit of their dream careers. To accommodate classes and workloads, this typically relies on communication within groups and mentors along with occasional Zooms and in-person sessions to promote independent research and collaboration for goals of mastering a project for presentation at national conferences in the summer and fall.

On top of ongoing extracur-



A UCSD OPALS intern’s research notes, reflecting the amount of time and thought for a project during this upcoming semester.

[Source: Author, Aspen Lee]

ricular activities and classes, motivated and driven high school students in the area plan for the summer; however, not in preparation for beaches and academic-free vacations, but instead for rigorous college-level courses and internship opportunities that widen their range of possible futures to go into. This process

includes applying for programs across the world, receiving recommendation letters, and strategically planning out the step-by-step goals for the summer before the following school year. As an insight on the various opportunities that San Diego has for high school students, senior student Katelyn L. shared her tips

to keep in mind when applying for programs such as the Scripps Student Research in Science & Medicine, Heithoff-Brody High School Scholars Program, or the Rady’s Children Summer Medical Academy, “Even if you don’t know what you want to do, just try everything and you will discover your hidden strengths and maybe even a passion that you can build off of in the future.” She continued to share that “There are tons of opportunities out there, each one is an experience that you will gain skills, memories, and relationships.”

Although academics tend to be a highlight of the second semester for most students in San Diego, sports, volunteering, and time spent with family and friends are also key parts of life. During the spring, the brisk mornings and sunsets allow for the perfect time for practices and games for CIF sports such as beach volleyball, softball, and baseball. This refreshes students’ minds and gives them time in the sun with teammates and friends, as a break from their normal school life. Academics, sports, volunteering, internships, and activities all contribute to students’ full lives, but they also add to the joy and excitement for their futures and passions.

## Student Reporter



Reanna Lee

Grade 10  
North Hollywood  
High School

## Two Years of Experience Are Stepping Stones

From a wide scope, sophomore year in high school may seem unmemorable or uneventful; for me, it has been the opposite. So far, 2025 is off to a nice start, with competitions beginning and new sports seasons approaching. DECA held their annual district competition this past weekend in Costa Mesa; a conference of 19 schools in Southern California, gathering for a trip of three days and two nights. Excitingly, my school, North Hollywood High, had its best run this year, with over 35 members receiving medals or finalist awards. I was among this group, with two medals and two finalist badges, which is what made this trip so memorable.

To provide context, DECA, formerly the Distributive Education Clubs of America, is a student organization in the United States where high schools around the nation participate in career development activities through their chapter, or club, to grasp an idea of what a professional setting looks like. Every year, the organization hosts a district, state, and international

competition and it just so happened to be the DECA SoCal District Career Development Conference this January. Basically, each member enters under an event of their choice, whether that is an individual series, team decision-making, or others of that sort. There are different career clusters, or categories, for each event. Mine was Restaurant and Food Service Management under the Hospitality and Tourism cluster. The competitive portion of the event consists of one exam and two roleplays, each out of 100 points. Roleplays are performance tasks where the participant is given a situation and must come up with a solution or proposal to make to the judge for that given situation. The exams were on the first day of the conference, followed by a small welcome orientation. Honestly speaking, I was less confident about the exam, but managed to obtain a second-place medal!

The second day had a focus on roleplays, with all the day’s events revolving around the category. This day (Saturday), for



All of the North Hollywood High School DECA members in a group photo after the awards ceremony.

[Source: Kinzie Asmus-Kim]

all competitions of the year, is typically the most relaxed day as many of the competitive events are over. After you are finished with your roleplays, the rest of the day is up to you. You can hang out with friends, grab dinner, visit the other rooms, etc. I also received a third-place medal for my second roleplay and an overall finalist award for all categories. My performance in this year’s district conference was

definitely better than last year’s. I had hoped that my hard work would pay off, and I was granted that wish—something that I am so grateful for.

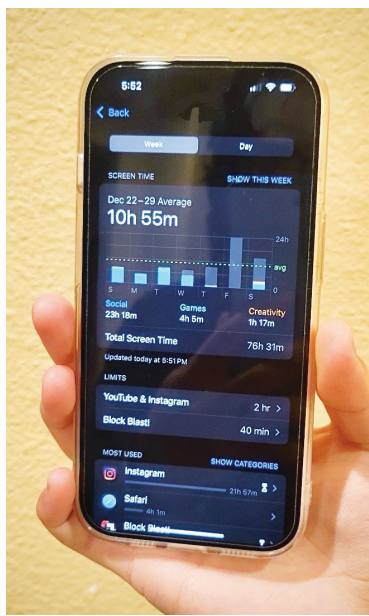
These awards make me very excited for the upcoming conference in February—states—a more competitive event. I will definitely work harder, and hope to meet more friends, both in and out of my school, in the meantime as well.

Student Reporter

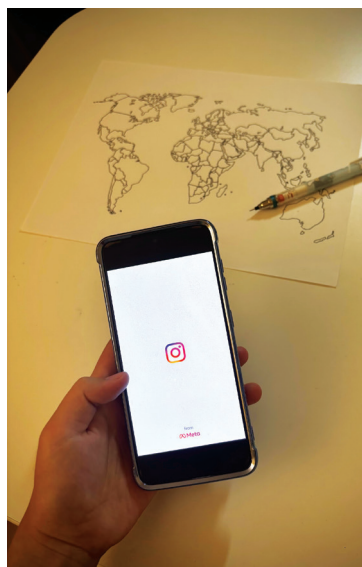
## Screen Time: The Cause of Productivity's Downfall



**Kristine Park**  
Grade 10  
Del Norte High School



Del Norte student averages over ten hours of weekly screen time during winter break.  
[Source: Author, Kristine Park]



The addictive nature of apps like Instagram and YouTube encourages students to spend more time on their phones rather than on homework.  
[Source: Author, Kristine Park]

At Del Norte High School, students eagerly awaited winter break to recharge, go on vacations, or spend time with family. Winter break also leads to an increase in screen time. To understand the relationship between screen time and productivity, students were asked to fill out

a survey that asked about their daily screen time, weekly average, and their most-used apps. Productivity was also included as students were asked to recall how much homework they had gotten done, and how prepared they felt for the next semester. The data was all collected to-

gether and compiled, and the correlation between screen time and productivity was further uncovered.

The survey revealed that the students who answered that they did not feel productive spent more than 6 hours daily on their phones, and weekly averages ranged from 10 hours to 15 hours. In contrast, students who said they felt productive spent 4 or fewer hours of screen time every day, and weekly averages were less than 5 hours. This difference in screen time may have led to clear differences in productivity. Those who felt they had been more productive had a lesser screen time average of 93.4% compared to non-productive students. This implies that excessive screen time does have a direct impact on productivity. It can have a harmful impact on academics and study habits if not monitored closely or regulated.

Among all of the students who didn't feel productive, they all shared a common characteristic; their most used apps were Instagram, Tiktok, and YouTube. But why were these so addictive among students? All three of these apps feature infinite

scrolling, where short-form videos are all compiled together to make an endless chain. Research shows that the feature of this infinite scrolling system taps into the brain where dopamine is released. By watching these short-form videos, users are exposed to different content creators across one platform, showing them funny, sad, interesting, gross, and all sorts of videos. The unpredictability of the next video makes the brain want to see more of this diverse content that releases dopamine each time, making infinite scrolling addictive. Apps like Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok utilize this response to grow their platforms and increase viewer engagement. Given the screen time for Del Norte students, it seems that many have fallen into the addictive nature of infinite scrolling in these apps.

The data from Del Norte High School shows the connections between excessive screen time and decreased productivity. The addictive nature of these apps is likely to cause more harm than benefit in the future. It is hoped that students will make an effort to decrease phone usage to minimize its impact on time management and focus.

Student Reporter

## Wildfire Risks Remain in Palos Verdes Peninsula



**Robin Ryul Kang**  
Grade 10  
Palos Verdes Peninsula High School

Due to the recent wildfires in greater Los Angeles, residents of Los Angeles and nearby counties have been left with worries. As of the middle of January, three major fires remained: the Palisades, Eaton, and Hurst fire. There have been more, but luckily, due to the calming winds since the breakout, they have been completely contained.

With strong winds and dry lands, the risks of wildfires are still present, even in the small peninsula of Palos Verdes about 50 miles away from Downtown Los Angeles. The Palos Verdes Peninsula and the greater Los Angeles area have not received sufficient amounts of rain in the past eight months. Also, the fact is that the Palos Verdes Peninsula, where most of the area is at a high altitude, experiences stronger wind than its neighboring cities. The abundance of trees and bushes is also another hazard for a city on a hill. According to the calculation involving the land size, tree canopy area, and other factors, the rough estimate of the number of trees in the Palos Verdes Peninsula is



A hill of dry tree branches and bushes south of the Palos Verdes Peninsula poses a significant threat for wildfires.  
[Source: Author, Robin Ryul Kang]

700,000. The approximate number of trees in Torrance and Long Beach, which are neighboring cities, are 270,000 and 79,000, respectively. In terms of the tree and bush population, the Palos Verdes Peninsula outnumbers both its surrounding cities by a large amount. All of the factors

above promote the peninsula's vulnerability to wildfire.

A simple mix of a mild windstorm and a wandering ember is all it would take for a wildfire to engulf the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Regarding the wildfires that took place on January 7th near the Hollywood Hills,

the main cause of why the fires were so difficult to contain was the extreme winds. Just because the Palos Verdes Peninsula is 50 miles away doesn't mean that the cities are safe from them. According to Robin Chen, a 10th grader attending Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, there were powerful gusts of wind on January 7th at about 7 P.M. across a large portion of the peninsula. This indicates that the Palos Verdes Peninsula is not safe from winds at all and meets similar, if not better requirements for a wildfire to start.

Luckily, the situation doesn't seem too bad as the City of Rolling Hills Estates announced on January 14th, their wildfire preparedness incentives. In the city newsletter, they claimed that the Peninsula cities are united and presented various means of safety measures the residents could rely on. According to the newsletter, through Pano AI, a series of wildfire detection cameras were set up on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. This is just one solution out of many for the Peninsula cities.

Student Reporter

## Korean School: Central Folk Traditional Culture Day



**Kaylyn Yu**  
Grade 10  
Chantilly High School

This past January, The Central Korean School held its annual Central Folk Traditional Culture Day which celebrates Korean traditions through a variety of entertainment. Students and staff were encouraged to dress up in Korean traditional hanbok for festivity. As a teacher assistant for the school, I was able to participate in the entertainment provided in the school with my 3rd-grade class.

First, we headed to a room where a brief class taught proper bowing as well as a cracker-eating contest. Crackers were hung up on string for the kids to bite off. Many enjoyed and laughed at the hilarious attempts to reach for the crackers. Things grew more serious as the students adjusted their focus as they were taught the traditional way to bow to an elder, commonly practiced on New Year's Day in Korea.

Our next stop was a see-saw, which the kids enjoyed by standing on its opposite ends. Two teachers held onto a student's hand on either side to avoid the danger of falling. Everyone loved competing with each other while jumping—attempting to be lifted higher than the other end—and the adults seemed excited about the challenge too.

Following the see-saw, we



The class practiced calligraphy with ink on paper fans, avid to create a beautiful image.  
[Source: Author, Kaylyn Yu]



The students learned to bow properly as a New Year's tradition in Korea.  
[Source: Author, Kaylyn Yu]

reached another room with several different Korean cultural musical instruments strewn on the ground. Each student chose an instrument of their preference: there were janggu, a few drums, a gong, and a cymbal. An adult explained a simple phrase of a song to the children, which they adapted quickly until they mastered it.

Afterward, we entered another classroom with a limbo activity and an omok station. All the kids contended eagerly in the limbo contest, narrowing down to one winner at the end. Playing Omok, a Korean board game similar to Connect 4, but instead with 5 connections, was slightly more challenging as some had no knowledge of the game. Despite this,

everyone ended up undertaking the game properly as we completed the session. Similarly, the class had an opportunity to shoot plastic arrows into assorted buckets in another station and play tug-of-war at another. At the jump rope stage, the students tried to complete a common Korean jump rope game composed of a short song in which one turns around, yells "HOORAY," and taps the floor in beat while jumping. After, we made our way to the ddakji-folding session where all the kids folded their own ddakji to compete in tournaments together.

Lastly, our class visited the calligraphy site where a professional calligrapher had pre-written the students' Korean names on paper

fans for them to decorate with ink. The mood became somber as the children absorbed themselves in the delicate task of working with ink and observing the calligrapher's displayed work. After finalizing the artwork, all the classes were provided with rainbow rice cakes, and the remainder of the school day was enjoyed with bracelet and charm-making sessions in individual classes.

The Central Folk Traditional Culture Day was a huge success that brought joy and enlightenment to many of the participants, myself included. I was relieved to have visited many of the available activities despite the lack of time. Hopefully, I can encounter these again next year!