

Student Reporter

Learn to Save a Life: Hands-On With Healthcare Heroes



Tae Lee
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Cedars Sinai's trauma simulation teaches you never to hesitate when putting others first. [Source: Author, Tae Lee]

For most high school students, the world of hospitals, surgery, and advanced medical research feels like something out of a TV show, not something we'd ever experience up close. However,

thanks to Cedars Sinai's Healthcare Immersion Program, I had the chance to step into that world. On this field trip with my freshman classmates, I was given an opportunity that solidified my curiosity about biology.

The Healthcare Immersion Program was designed to introduce students to real-world medical procedures using the same equipment that doctors and nurses train with. We didn't just watch, we also practiced. The program included CPR, hands-on models with airways, and simulated insertion of a needle into the bone to deliver medicine. "I know these are new and complex procedures," said Brett, one of the simulation educators. "But we believe students rise to the occasion when given the right tools and guidance. This program shows you what's possible." And she was right. Everyone in our group gave it their all.

One highlight of the day was the virtual surgery station, where robotic tools were provided to complete a simulated laparoscopic procedure. It was like playing a video game, except this one had high stakes and a purpose. "Learning how to use these instruments through a screen takes focus and patience," said Dr. Wil-

liams, who supervised our group. "Even this small experimental taste of surgery can open a student's eyes to what healthcare can do when it's applied."

For me, the experience wasn't just about doing cool procedures, it was about connecting what we've learned in the classroom to real-life scenarios. Watching a trauma simulation and touring an operating room made everything I'd studied come alive. Along with new information that the staff taught us, it felt like putting puzzle pieces together. Mr. Lee, my biology teacher and chaperone, stated: "You don't always see the impact of science in a school lab. But here, it's immediate. Everyone here understood how knowing the body can save a life."

By the end of the day, everyone was tired, it was an exhausting trip, but in the best way. I left Cedars Sinai feeling my interest in biology increase and becoming more certain that I want to explore healthcare as a career. The program didn't just give me knowledge, it also gave me direction. For anyone even a little curious about medicine, don't wait to check this program out. It wasn't just a learning experience, but an opportunity that changed the way I see my future.

Student Reporter

Altering the Script Is Arrangement, Not Straying



Reanna Lee
Grade 10
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The end of the school year is nearing, which also means that theater productions are wrapping up their final touches. At North Hollywood High School, the theater department is currently preparing for their opening night of the 2004 musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. After months of weekly three-hour rehearsals, they have finally reached the both dreaded and awaited tech week. Late-night run-throughs were going to become part of everyone's daily schedule, meaning staying after school until 7:30 PM. Although exhausting, in the end, it will pay off, so all of the members are anxiously anticipating opening night.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is about a group of children who each dream of the glory and fame of winning first place in a local spelling bee. Each individual character has a distinct, quirky personality that they display through their performances as a contender in the contest. They are able to showcase memorable talents and skills through their own songs and scenes. I play the character of Marcy Park, a reserved, smart-alecky girl who faces the pressure



The Syzygy cast of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee posing during final bows. [Source: Author, Reanna Lee]

from her parents to be a perfect, overachieving student. When her usual stoic facade disappears after being given the opportunity to be imperfect for once, she learns to find joy in everything in life. At first, I found it difficult to under-

stand and portray her as much as I wanted to. In all honesty, I have never had this much trouble figuring out a character. I watched other performances of the musical, observing and brainstorming for ideas. I wanted to put my own

unique twist on Marcy, so I tried to experiment during rehearsals—I discussed habits and mannerisms with the director, and I chatted with friends for feedback. Our production of Spelling Bee has two casts by the name Weltanschauung and Syzygy, so I even approached the other Marcy to see how she was doing. In the end, I figured it out. I now spend my rehearsals enhancing my performance as Marcy to maximize my potential as an actor.

As opening night approaches, everyone is anxious. Months of work would all come down to a single performance. Moreover, because we have a larger group than the original musical's cast, our director wanted to make the audience experience a bit more "meta," meaning that some of the remaining actors would play "audience volunteers." I'd have to admit, we were all a bit skeptical of the idea, especially because we had never altered the script before. Nonetheless, after incorporating these changes into the actual musical, it began to look less awkward. Of course, we still need work, but I can promise that it will look amazing on opening night. Here comes the stage fright!

Student Reporter

JH Music Studio's 11th Annual Benefit Concert



Kristine Park
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On May 24, JH Music Studio hosted its 11th Annual Benefit Concert, bringing together talented musicians and supporters to hear musical classics from Beethoven, Liszt, and Debussy. Organized by piano mentor Joohee Lee, the concert had a variety of performances, from solo piano pieces to duets and ensemble performances. This year, JH Music Studio raised over \$2,000 for the Global Children Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged children worldwide.

The concert featured a variety of performers. There were many diverse instruments that were present, like the flute, clarinet, violin, and piano. One of the highlights of the concert was the Amazing Grace Ensemble led by Joohee Lee. The group consisted of nine members, made up of two pianists, three flautists, one clarinetist, and three violinists. They delivered a beautiful performance of three musical pieces: the old-time hymn Amazing Grace, lighthearted selections such as Schubert's Die Forelle (The Trout), and Martini's Plaisir D'Amour (Pleasure of Love). The music from the flutes, clarinets,

violins, and piano created a compelling performance for the audience, and the flute and clarinet solos were enjoyable to listen to. There were also many timeless masterpieces that were played, including Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, Liszt's Libeustraum, and Debussy's Clair de Lune. Each performance demonstrated not only the technical skills of the students but also their emotional connection and interpretation of the music.

Since its beginning, JH Music Studio's annual benefit concert has been more than just a site of musical performance—it's also a branch of giving. This year, the concert successfully raised over \$2,000, continuing its tradition of supporting meaningful causes. All proceeds were donated to the Global Children Foundation, an organization that provides education, healthcare, and essentials to children in need around the world.

Teacher Joohee Lee expressed her gratitude to the performers and attendees, saying, "I couldn't have made it here without the support of everyone here. I'm so proud and thankful for my students, and that all of these par-



All the performers at the benefit concert together at the end of the concert, with teacher Joohee Lee pictured in the center with a bouquet of flowers. [Source: Author, Kristine Park]

ents have chosen me to teach these children." Joohee Lee's dedication to teaching goes beyond instruction; she helps build confidence and a lifelong love for music in those she teaches. Her students exemplified this love for music, as seen through their passion for performing on stage.

As JH Music Studio prepares for its 12th annual concert, the mission remains clear: to inspire

others through music and to continue supporting meaningful organizations. Through the success of this year's concert, it has been proven once again that through artistry, mentorship, and charity, real change is possible in the world. The 11th Annual Benefit Concert was more than just a concert; it was a celebration of talent, gratitude, and the power of giving back.

Student Reporter

What to Know About Rancho Palos Verdes Landslides



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The city of Rancho Palos Verdes has a terrain mainly consisting of hills, making it extremely vulnerable to landslides. [Source: Author, Robin Ryul Kang]

The landslides that have been occurring in the city of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, have put its residents on alert. This series of landslides has a complex history in the city spanning hundreds of years, but such significant incidents have started occurring in the mid-20th century. Hills are a very large component of the city's terrain, which is most likely the reason why so many of the

landslide incidents were focused on the region of Rancho Palos Verdes. Often, the shifting earth is also blamed on the clay-rich soil and underground water movement. Recently, the cracks in the land have widened, roads have buckled, and at least 10 homes have been evacuated.

The landslides that have been rampaging the Palos Verdes Peninsula have caused immense

amounts of home damage, evacuations, and utility shutoffs. Not only that, but major roads, of course, have also been affected. The city spends approximately \$1 million annually to patch the roads that have been damaged by the constant land movement. In some areas, the land has been observed to move as much as 8.5 feet per year. But the damages extend far beyond pavement and homes: it threatens utilities, public landmarks, and more.

So, what should you do in case of such a disaster near you? It is best to create an emergency plan including evacuation routes and meeting points. Landslides happen in an instant, and failure to act quickly can lead to serious consequences. To be prepared, it is recommended that you store an emergency kit with items such as first aid supplies, water, non-perishable food, important documents, and other personal necessities. And in the event of an ongoing landslide, you must stay alert, listening for unusual sounds, such as trees cracking or rocks tumbling. If ordered to evacuate by the city, do so immediately. It is best to stay away from slopes and unstable land.

While the residents in areas affected by landslides are encouraged to prepare for them in advance, the city of Rancho Palos Verdes has also been taking necessary steps to keep its residents and property safe. The city has allocated a large amount of funds for emergency financial assistance, such as the \$2.8 million program that covered up to \$10,000 for each of the victims of the landslides. Also, starting late May, SoCalGas, with its new infrastructure in Seaview, will begin upgrading and testing natural gas structures.

However, even though Rancho Palos Verdes is one of the highest concentration areas for landslides in its location, the occurrence of such disasters is part of a much larger pattern that's becoming more frequent around the world due to reasons such as climate change. According to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), extreme precipitation events are becoming more common, and increased landslides are the result. As the global climate continues to change every moment, areas around the world will need a better awareness of its lethal consequences: landslides.

Student Reporter

Is a World Without Books a Utopia or a Dystopia?



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Have you ever thought of a world where books don't exist? We all have a moment when we consider what it might be like to live in a world with no books, where we can just watch television and movies, scroll on social media, or play games all day. Because digital media makes it faster and easier to get information than ever before, we might think that we don't need books anymore. But Fahrenheit 451, written by Ray Bradbury, challenges this exact idea.

Fahrenheit 451 takes place in a future where books are banned. In this dystopian society, "firemen" cause fires instead of putting them out with the intent of destroying books. This is because the government wants to prevent people from reading and control all media they consume so that citizens will be ignorant and under their control. Fahrenheit 451 is a cautionary tale about the dangers of censorship and how technology can be used to limit a person's critical thinking and individuality.

A character named Guy Montag initially trusts the system, but everything changes when he meets a curious teenage girl named Clarisse. She asks him if he is truly happy. This event triggers a journey of



Fahrenheit 451 not only serves as a book, but also finds many relations to our real-world problems. [Source: Author, Yulkwon Lee]

self-reflection, rebellion, and the quest for the truth. Montag begins to realize how empty his world is as he starts reading the books he was ordered to destroy.

One of the key reasons I would recommend this book is that its themes are relevant. Bradbury

creates a reality where the government spreads misinformation to people to manipulate them. Similarly, in our society, we often see the use of AI-generated videos creating false information that seems real.

Bradbury also paints a pic-

ture of what it's like when people are constantly fed entertainment instead of education. This can be seen in our own society with online platforms, since many people would choose social media over reading books. Nowadays, children are practically born with a smartphone or iPad in hand, so they tend to engage with online material for entertainment rather than books for education.

Finally, Fahrenheit 451 warns about over-reliance on technology. We tend to spend more time on our electronic devices than with our friends and family. While it may seem like there's nothing wrong with that, in reality, this can hurt our relationships with one another.

Before I read Fahrenheit 451, the idea of banning books and just watching television didn't trouble me. It didn't bother me much because I prefer watching television over reading. But after finishing this book, I was shocked to find so many parallels to our current society and felt motivated to read more. If you're looking for a book that challenges your views on the role of literature and media in society, Fahrenheit 451 is a must-read.

Student Reporter

Three Places, Three Vibes: One SoCal Summer



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Grade 10
Sunny Hills High School

The upcoming summer break brings the chance to explore places beyond the dreaded school hallways. In Orange County and Los Angeles, some of the best spots I visited last summer are fun, diverse, and relaxing without needing to plan a full vacation. Whether the goal is to hang out with friends, enjoy the outdoors, or just find something new to do, if you live in Southern California, these three places offer something different but memorable.

The first stop on the list is the Downtown Disney District, located right next to the world-renowned Disneyland theme park in Anaheim. It is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 7-1 a.m. Friday through Monday. The atmosphere is bustling with live music, food, and crowds. A fan favorite restaurant, Din Tai Fung, opened recently, and my personal favorite, Black Tap, serves delicious and juicy burgers. Aside from eating, one can go bowling at Splitsville Luxury Lanes, listen to live music on the Downtown Disney LIVE! Stage, or visit the massive LEGO store. A major highlight of Downtown Disney is the fact that the Disneyland fireworks are fully visible from the parking lot; colorful sparks light up the sky above the rooftops.

About 30 minutes south of Dis-



Bright pink Disneyland fireworks, visible from the Downtown Disney District parking lot, light up the sky. [Source: Author, Emily Lee]

neyland, Balboa Island is a quieter, more laid-back experience. It is a small, walkable island in Newport Beach that is connected to the mainland by a short bridge and a ferry. Cottages along its narrow sidewalks and ocean fronts make for a breathtakingly beautiful view. There is not much hustle or noise, but instead, there is a steady flow of people strolling, boating, or relaxing by the water. My personal favorite treat that I order every time I am there is the chocolate-dipped frozen banana from Sugar 'n Spice. The banana can be rolled in var-

ious toppings such as nuts and sprinkles, but I like the simple but delicious blend of flavors from the creamy and rich chocolate and the cold, refreshing banana.

Lastly, in Los Angeles is the California Science Center, free to the public and open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is an indoor, interactive science museum with large exhibits and hands-on activities. My favorite attraction is the aquarium that is located inside the Ecosystems exhibit, because it showcases California's marine life with tanks of jellyfish, kelp forests, and



Author Emily Lee takes a photo of blue jellyfish at the aquarium in the California Science Center. [Source: Author, Emily Lee]

touch pools full of starfish and sea anemones. This part of the museum is also a great place to take Instagram-worthy photos that will certainly add more charm to one's social media accounts.

From fireworks lighting up the night sky, chocolate bananas by the water, and glowing jellyfish tanks, these places each bring a different kind of experience. They offer small moments that break up the monotonous school routine, so go out and explore for the most fulfilling and relaxing summer break!