

Student Reporter

A Taste of Seoul: K-Beauty in Orange County



Grace Song
Grade 7
Lexington Junior High School



Seoul Stop features many creative photo locations that resemble a Korean subway. [Source: Author, Grace Song]

Imagine stepping off the subway in Seoul, picking up your favorite Korean snacks, testing out the latest K-beauty lip tint, and snapping photos under the subway stop—all without leaving Orange County,

California. This is exactly what the new shop, Seoul Stop, located in Buena Park, inside The Source OC, provides. The store blends the best parts of Korea, including snacks, viral beauty products, and

aesthetic photo spots, into one immersive experience.

Upon arrival at Seoul Stop, you'll find an outdoor seating area featuring a marble tile wall with a sign reminiscent of a Korean subway station. Many people stop to take photos and connect with a bit of Korean culture. Inside, the shop has many more photo spots, including one along a wall with signs that bring you right to the inside of a Korean subway. Instead of just browsing skincare, visitors can capture Instagram-worthy photos while shopping for their next favorite toner or lip tint. For many teens and young adults, it's not just about buying a product but rather about the experience, and this store has created a space where shopping and social media moments collide.

Beyond its aesthetics, the store is packed with popular Korean skincare and makeup that is affordable and high quality. They feature famous brands such as Rom&nd, Clio, Colorgram, and so many more. Unlike some beauty stores that can feel intimidating, this store's layout allows customers to casually browse products, test items, and learn about them without pressure. Whether you're searching for the viral lip tint your

favorite K-pop idol uses or a sunscreen that's lightweight and effective, it's easy to find what you need while enjoying the experience.

True to the "convenience store" concept, Seoul Stop also provides a variety of Korean snacks, from honey butter chips and banana milk to instant ramen cooked in front of you. The store is lined with all the authentic Korean snacks you can think of, and they are perfect for getting a taste of Seoul. The most interesting part, however, is the DIY ramen bar where people can choose any brand of ramen lining the shelves, and cook it right then and there! You can also buy toppings and include them in your custom ramen. Furthermore, Seoul Stop has a health section that includes vitamin shots, powders that provide collagen, and different health drinks.

Whether you're looking to try the latest K-beauty product, grab a quick Korean snack, or simply spend a fun afternoon with friends, Seoul Stop offers a little piece of Korea in Southern California. It is not just a store but rather an experience that combines culture, food, and beauty all into one welcoming space. Next time you're in Orange County, step into Seoul Stop for a taste of Korea.

Student Reporter

Summer Camping in Camp Tahquitz



Justin Kim
Grade 10
Science Academy STEM Magnet

Recently, my Boy Scout troop and I went on a week-long camping trip to Camp Tahquitz. Camp Tahquitz is located in the Angelus Oaks area of the San Bernardino Mountains in Southern California. It features a swimming pool and a lake, and also contains several ranges, including archery, shotgun, and rifle. There are also horse stables where you can ride and feed the horses, as well as a climbing wall that stands over 45 feet tall.

At the shooting range, my friends and I visited the rifle range. We were guided by an instructor who taught us the safety of the rifle. We also learned the different parts of the bolt-action and how to shoot the gun. Each of us took 10 shots, 5 at each of the two targets, and I ended up scoring the most points among my friends. This was my first time ever shooting a gun, and the experience was incredibly exciting.

I also took part in a climbing session while at Camp Tahquitz, where I was able to climb half-way up the 45-foot rock wall. My troop friends taking the session with me were instructed on how to climb, repel, and belay for the person climbing or repelling. During my climb, it was very scary as



An instructor at Camp Tahquitz helped my fellow troop member on how to remove the safety from the bolt-action rifle. [Source: Author, Justin Kim]

I felt I was going to fall off the wall at any moment. And I did fall off, but thankfully, the belayer caught me safely, and I climbed my way up. Rappelling was a bit more fun, as I got to lie down on my back and come down slowly using my feet to climb down. I also



My Boy Scout troop getting ready to ride the kayaks and the canoes with an amazing background view of the San Bernardino Mountains. [Source: Author, Justin Kim]

had a chance to belay for a friend, giving them help as they climbed and rappelled off safely down the rock wall.

Kayaking was also a very fun experience I had at Camp Tahquitz. My whole troop went out to the pond, where we rode kayaks and canoes. We started to splash each other, and we all got wet and had a great time. It was fun to see one of the canoes my friends were riding on sink and capsiz due to the weight, and they had to flip the canoe completely to get back on. I also got to see the amazing view and breathe in the fresh air that the San Bernardino Moun-

tains had to offer.

Unluckily, I was not able to ride on the horses, but I was able to try out other activities the camp had to offer, such as woodcarving and leatherwork. I was instructed to carve a dolphin and weave strings to the leather I received from camp to create a pocket for tools such as a knife or a compass.

The experiences of trying new activities with my troop at Camp Tahquitz are memories I'll always cherish. I hope others will be able to get a taste of the same feeling I had there, whether through a Boy Scout camp or another opportunity.

Student Reporter

Lilo & Stitch: A Summertime Treat With New Features



Summer Park
Grade 11
Harvard-Westlake School

After twenty-three years, Walt Disney Pictures and Rideback produced the live-action adaptation of the 2002 animated movie, Lilo & Stitch. And what better way to reward myself after a long sophomore year than a Saturday outing with friends at the Century City Mall to watch Lilo & Stitch? The film reunites moviegoers with the mischievous, yet lovable, blue alien Stitch and highlights the Hawaiian concept of "ohana," or family that extends beyond blood relatives.

While watching the film, I spotted some major differences between the 2002 animated Lilo & Stitch movie and the 2025 live-action version. The biggest, for me, is the venue. Of course, not being around in 2002, I had to settle for watching the original on Disney+ in my living room in comparison to the immersive big-screen experience with surround sound at the Century City Mall. Plus, you can get some popcorn and an ICEE with your closest friends at the theater.

The second difference was the style of the movie, with the 2002 film being animated versus the live-action / computer-generated animation hybrid remake of the 2025 film. I missed Daveigh Chase's voice as Lilo Pelekai; in

the 2002 film, Maia Kealoha does a fantastic job of playing the orphaned, rebellious, and impulsive six-year-old Native Hawaiian girl. Chris Sanders voices Stitch, the blue alien adopted by Lilo as "dog," in both movies, and Stitch remains the same lovable, impulsive, furry ball of energy in the 2025 remake.

There's nothing more annoying than ruining the movie by going over the plot, so I won't spoil anything. But the new version of the film explores the strong emotional bond and chemistry between Lilo and Stitch through their shared struggles and support for one another. This movie, like the original, delves into the concept of "ohana" and how a human can be best friends with an alien. Sure, a family can be a bit messy and complicated at times, but it's ultimately a beacon of strength and community.

Even though the remake of the movie has differences, that is not necessarily a bad thing. The visual effects throughout the film dazzle with immersive surf scenes that make you feel the swell beneath your board, as real Hawaiian locations were used. You can vividly feel, hear, and smell the beautiful beaches, lively landscapes, and salty ocean breeze, making the



The new Lilo and Stitch movie is a great way to spend an afternoon this summer. [Source: Author, Summer Park]

movie come to life. It's truly an experience.

I recommend Saturday matinees, as you can save money to get an extra snack or two. 2025 Lilo & Stitch is a nostalgic triumph that

holds its own when compared to the original 2002 Lilo & Stitch. Don't miss your chance to ride this wave of laughter, loyalty, and luau this summer at movie theaters everywhere!

Student Reporter

What Is the Most Important Thing in Life?



Andrew Jun
Grade 11
Valley Christian High School



Family is important when figuring out what is important in life, as they give you happiness and guide you when you need someone.
[Source: Author, Andrew Jun]

What do you want the most right now? If you didn't say happiness, let me ask you this. Why do you like what you choose? Let's take a

look at what others have said. Isaac Kim said he wants "A well-paying salary - I want money because then, I won't have to

worry about getting into a good college, and I can simply live a relaxing life." Aiden Kim said, "Getting into the Juilliard and Columbia dual music program." Yoon Chi stated, "I want all my kids to have successful careers and happy lives."

A well-paying salary, getting into a great program, and the desire for my children to have successful lives—why do they all want these things? The simple answer to this is that it makes them happy. Whether your answer was money, getting into a good college, achieving your goals, or living the 'dream life,' lies an underlying motivation for happiness. The core reason behind those goals or the pursuit of material is the pursuit of happiness; however, materialism and fulfillment aren't the sources of joy. Now, let's return to our interviewees' answers.

What is your happiest memory?

Isaac Kim shared, "Experiencing Disneyland with my friends for the very first time." Yoon Chi recalled, "The day I got married to my husband." Derrick Ahn said, "It was during 7th grade when my friends and I had our first 'deep' conversation with each other while strolling

through a nearby park."

All of these memories have something in common: they involve other people. Since 1938, Harvard has been conducting an adult development study, carefully observing the lives of 724 men. They draw blood, scan their brains, obtain medical records from their doctors, and interview them in their living rooms. After thousands of pages of information and seventy-five years of study, one clear message emerges: good relationships keep us happier and healthier. So, how does this play into real-life situations? More socially connected individuals tend to be happier and physically healthier.

Overall, many different things contribute to our happiness, which leads to what is important in each of our individual lives. Whether it is being with friends and family or other social interactions, people are important when it comes to happiness. So ask yourself a few questions next time you are feeling a bit down. What is my happiest memory, and what is the most important thing in life? Then take it upon yourself to make more similar memories, and hit that goal of what's important to you.

Student Reporter

How T9AI Is Making Title IX Accessible



Rachel Choi
Grade 9
Orange County School of the Arts

Most students don't know the name of their school's Title IX coordinator, let alone what their rights under the law are. For young women and girls across the U.S., this knowledge gap can lead to suffering in silence while enduring discrimination, harassment, or unequal treatment. That's where T9AI: Title IX Advocacy Initiative comes in. Led entirely by high school and college students, T9AI is a national movement with the mission of making sure every young woman and girl not only knows her Title IX rights but feels empowered to act on them. The organization has already raised over \$2,000 to fund workshops, multilingual materials, and outreach efforts - and they're just getting started.

The initiative first took root in California, where the team noticed that most schools didn't clearly communicate who their Title IX coordinator was or how to reach them. Communities where English isn't the primary language also often lack translated resources altogether. This was more than a legal issue; it was an issue regarding equity. T9AI



For girls, this symbol stands for the right to be educated and, in return, receive the confidence to fight back.
[Source: Title IX Advocacy Initiative (T9AI)]

believes that a language barrier should never prevent anyone from obtaining safety and justice. "Too often, girls are told to stay quiet or not to make trouble," one student leader explained. "But Title IX is sup-

posed to protect us. We're here to make sure it actually does." To bridge the gap between policy and awareness, T9AI plans to host workshops for students and educators that break down the rights people are entitled to

under Title IX: equal access to education, protection from sexual harassment, and the right to report and receive support without retaliation.

Sessions were designed with empathy and accessibility in mind, using simple language and culturally sensitive frameworks to reach students of all backgrounds. However, what makes T9AI unique is its authenticity. This organization isn't some top-down campaign. It's grassroots, student-driven, and deeply personal. The team members have experienced the consequences of silence and are committed to making sure others don't have to go through what they did.

In the future, T9AI plans to expand across the U.S., offering chapters in other states and pushing for legislation that requires multilingual Title IX resources in schools where English isn't the dominant language. To follow their journey or get involved, visit @titleixadvocacy-initiative on Instagram. When students know their rights, they're no longer just protected by the law. They're empowered to shape it.

Student Reporter

The More You Sleep, the Less You Stress



Christine Baek
Grade 11
Western Reserve Academy

Five hours. That's how much sleep I was able to get each night over the final week of junior year. Balancing between final exams, essays, projects, and extracurricular activities, junior year has been a tough one for my sleep routine. At school, I found I was not the only one experiencing these troubles. It seems that sleep deprivation is a common struggle amongst students balancing multiple commitments. Sleep debt, otherwise known as sleep deficit, is the difference between the amount of sleep a person needs and the amount they actually get. Often relying heavily on caffeinated drinks to deal with big sleep debt, students' empty cans of Monster, Celsius, or coffee decorate the classrooms and the halls.

According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18 are recommended to get 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. However, nearly 8 out of 10 high school students don't meet this standard. It is not a novel finding that such accumulated sleep debt and reliance on caffeine are unhealthy. Still, many overlook the extent of the dangers this can cause. Sleep deprivation in adolescents has been consistently associated with increased risks of anxiety, depression, impaired memory, poor academic

performance, and even long-term health risks such as heart disease and obesity. In a study published by JAMA Pediatrics in 2018, researchers found that students with reported insufficient sleep time were significantly more likely to engage in risky behaviors, experience symptoms of mental distress, and perform poorly in school compared to those who get adequate sleep.

To better understand the difference between being sleep deprived and getting a full night's rest, I decided to test it out. Over the first few weeks of summer break, I was committed to getting at least eight hours of sleep each night. I also had the goal of falling asleep and waking up at a consistent time to fix my sleep schedule. In the beginning, trying to adjust to the new schedule in a sudden shift was a challenge, but after a week, I began to see some measurable changes. First, I did not have to drink two cups of coffee every day to stay focused in the afternoon. I had more consistent energy throughout the day instead of falling drowsy in the late afternoons. While these observations are personal and may vary, they align with the findings of studies that suggest sleep is essential for our cognitive functions.

At the end, what is clear from



Many students rely on coffee or other caffeinated drinks to get them through the day due to poor sleep schedules and lack of rest.
[Source: Author, Christine Baek]

both research and my own experience is that sleep is a requirement. Especially for high school students with busy schedules, sleep is oftentimes perceived as a luxury - one of the first things

students sacrifice under pressure. Rather than viewing sleep as a time lost, it is important for us to be aware that it is a necessity, and a time invested for our better selves.