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photo | Joy Cheng

A SLICE OF SUCCESS: NEW JOURNALISM PROGRAM BY CHS WOLFPACKET

By NINA WU
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Every child deserves their own creative spotlight. A team of students dedicated to teaching children how to shine a spotlight on their own written work has taken the initiative to teach kids the joys of journalism. In the afternoons during the week of July 14 to July 18, ten fifth to eighth grade students participated in the first Journalism class taught at Claremont Education Foundation's (CEF) SLICE of Summer program. The class is led by current and former Editors-in-Chief—Mayo Ou, Jack Warren, Caroline Warren, Joy Cheng, and Nina Wu—from Claremont High's student-run newspaper, The Wolfpacket. This class, alongside a color guard class run by the Claremont High School color guard, marks the first-ever student-run SLICE program.

During the week, kids started off by learning crucial skills used in real-world journalism settings. From "Interviewing 101" to "How to do AP Formatting," the mentors helped the kids write quality pieces, showcased in this special eight-page edition of The Wolfpacket that exclusive-

ly features the works of the kids in the program. The class curriculum did not stop at plain writing, though. For the more artistically interested students, they created original works of art to accompany their articles. Each student was also tasked to work in a team to design a page layout that the mentors helped bring to life. On the final day, students also learned the ins and outs of publicity in the world of journalism. Owen Abendschein,



photo | Joy Cheng

praised the curriculum's new design.

"For most kids, writing is like, 'oh, boring,'" Mezones said. "But the fact that it comes with a finished product and something that they can be proud of [...] [shows it is] not only a class [to prepare for] high school, but it's also part of a career."

From the moments of sustained dedication to the laughter shared over a hilarious hook, seeing the students having fun practicing creativity brought fulfillment to the mentors as well. Cheng, one of the Editors-in-Chief, felt that the program was an exciting week.

"Overall, it was a very rewarding experience, especially to see the students' passion grow as they were exposed to the journalistic world," Cheng said. "It gives us a lot of hope for the future of journalism within our community."



Not pictured: Ruhaan Kashyap & Thijmen Post

photo | Thijmen Post

a student in the Journalism program, commented on the holistics of the curriculum.

"I learned how journalism really works, instead of just thinking that it was walking around and talking to people on the street," Abendschein said. "Well, what I really liked about it is that [it is] straightforward—you just have three pitches, you choose one or two of them. It's pretty straightforward."

Another student, Ellen Thomas, shared her favorite memories from the week.

"The New York Times games we played before class [were fun]," said Thomas. "Also getting to write our own articles and having the freedom to choose whatever you wanted to write about."

Stefany Mezones, an administrator at SLICE,



photo | Joy Cheng



photo | Mayo Ou

Tariffs: rising prices, sinking growth, what comes next for Americans, and what should the nation expect?

BY RUHAAN KASHYAP
STUDENT REPORTER

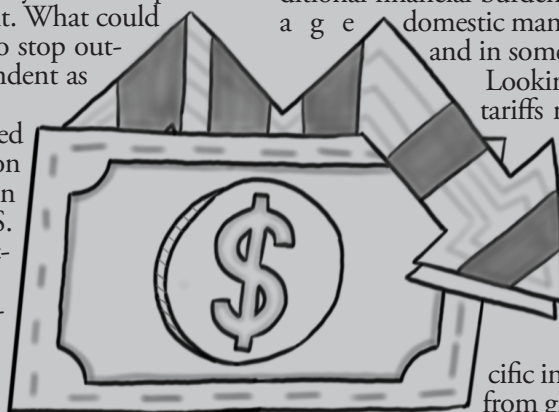
When President Donald Trump took office earlier this year, voters elected him fully aware of the possibility of import tariffs—taxes on imported goods—as well as the potential for a trade war involving multiple countries. As his term progressed, the nation saw that thought transformed into reality and witnessed a trade war unfold before their very eyes. Many people do not truly understand the true impact Trump's tariffs have had.

In the 1970s, South Africa's economy was growing at a steady rate of 10 percent; however, as of now, the growth has slowed down to 1 percent. What could have caused this? The South African leadership attempted to stop outsourcing manufacturing to become more financially independent as a country, but sudden tariffs crashed their economy.

When the U.S. imposed a 245 percent tariff on imported Chinese goods, it was done in an attempt to make the nation more financially independent. On the surface, the decision sounded good, but economists quickly realized that the U.S. received its economic value from services, not from manufacturing.

In reaction to the imposed tariffs, China imposed retaliatory tariffs on the U.S., which then continued to spiral into a trade war. But in China's situation, its markets did not rely on the U.S., due to its diverse trade relationships with other countries.

The U.S. economy can experience stunted or "sickening" growth as a result of the tariffs. While tariffs are often implemented to protect domestic industries, they can lead to higher production costs for businesses that rely on foreign materials, reduce consumer purchasing power due to increased prices, and provoke retaliatory trade measures from other countries. These consequences can suppress investment, slow job creation, and hinder overall economic expansion. For example, sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and technology may suffer from decreased exports as global demand for American goods drops in response to trade barriers, ultimately weakening GDP growth and economic stability.



art | Joy Cheng

This year, inflation in the U.S. GDP is expected to rise by 0.5 percent, breaking the downward trend seen over the past five years. Though this increase may appear modest, it signals a broader shift in the economy. Rising costs in sectors such as food, fuel, and housing are already straining household budgets across the country.

American businesses—especially those dependent on global supply chains—are feeling the pressure. Many have faced increased costs due to higher tariffs on imported materials and components. In response, some have raised consumer prices, reduced hiring, or even outsourced operations to other countries to avoid the additional financial burden. While the intention behind these tariffs was to encourage domestic manufacturing, the actual outcome has been more complex—and in some cases, counterproductive.

Looking forward, policymakers face critical decisions. Will tariffs remain a central strategy in shaping U.S. trade policy, or will leaders shift toward more cooperative and adaptive economic models? With the US midterm election coming up, politicians need to decide whether they want to continue down this path or change and follow what the experts suggest. Right now, the nation is experiencing an extreme gridlock between politicians and an elitist mentality.

While tariffs can provide short-term protection for specific industries, experts warn that they also risk isolating the U.S. from global markets and slowing overall growth. A more sustainable path may lie in investing in innovation, workforce development, and infrastructure to strengthen the American economy from within. Preparing workers for high-tech and service-oriented industries, rather than focusing solely on traditional manufacturing, could provide long-term stability and growth, a concept echoed by multiple economic and business experts.

In the end, the consequences of tariffs extend far beyond trade statistics. They affect families, small businesses, and the broader economic health of the nation. As global competition intensifies, the challenge for America is not just to protect its industries but to evolve, adapt, and lead in a rapidly changing world.

Social media: how does addiction happen in the first place?

BY THIJMEN POST
STUDENT REPORTER

Chill guy. Six Seven. Boat aura farming kid. All of these memes are massive. Absolutely massive. And you know what else is massive? It is not the low taper fade, but the average daily screen time on our phones. And do you know what is causing us to be glued to our screens in an addictive manner? Two words. Maybe take like six or seven seconds to figure it out. Done? Okay, I will tell you. Social media.

For most people, social media has taken over many aspects of their lives. After all, it is easy to get lost in the infinite "doom scroll" of TikTok or Instagram. Spending time on phones can warp perspectives and lead people to think that posting videos and texting people should be their whole life. Now, there is even a phobia that deals with the obsessive use of smartphones. It even has a very scientific name. Nomophobia. Specifically, nomophobia causes people to feel anxious or disorientated without a phone in their hands. Although this is a very extreme cause of phone addiction, some people are diagnosed with this phobia. The average screen time for a teen in America is six to nine hours. That is one-third of the day wasted on being glued to your screen. I spoke with Jack Morimoto, a fellow friend, and a sort-of phone addict.

I asked Morimoto some questions about phone addiction and how phone addiction has personally affected his life either negatively or positively. For him, it was mostly negative, except for the fact that he was able to communicate with friends more easily. For example, this interview was done on the phone, which is one of the things that a phone helps with. It benefits and complements our relationships, whether it is staying in touch over the summer or keeping a long-distance relationship. But what might be a blessing can also turn into a curse very quickly.

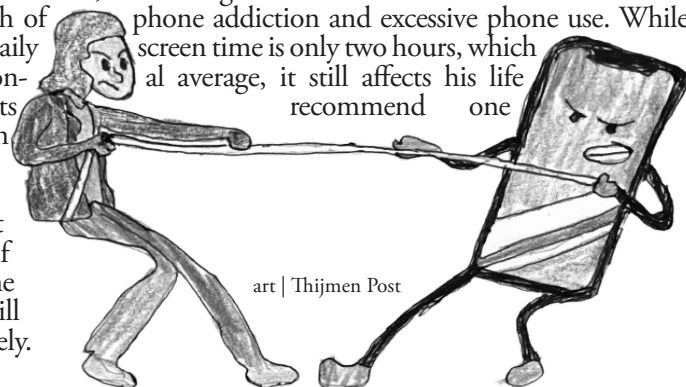
"Phone addiction or excessive phone use reduces attention span," Morimoto said. "Social media exposes you to things like depression." This has actually been con-

firmed by various sources, including the New York Times and the Washington Post.

"Researchers found children with highly addictive use of phones, video games or social media were two to three times as likely to have thoughts of suicide or to harm themselves," The New York Times said. The Washington Post, similarly, stated that "Cellphones, video games and social media can be very addictive for children and could lead to mental health problems for the most addicted young people."

Morimoto also mentioned a few other things about social media and phone addiction, including that "Phones make you sit inside all day, while it is key for child development to be outside playing with other people of their age." But what touched me the most is when Morimoto said that, "Phones make us less present in a setting where we need to be present. An example of this would be at dinner. Instead of having a conversation with our parents, our thoughts are too caught up in other things, like text messages, social media, and videogames."

This is the sad truth of phone addiction and excessive phone use. While Morimoto's average daily screen time is only two hours, which is far below the national average, it still affects his life massively, as scientists recommend one to two hours of screen time per day, according to ReidHealth.org. This goes to show that our screen time, even if it is not as much as the national average, can still affect our lives negatively.



art | Thijmen Post

A Minecraft Movie: Does the movie compare to the game?

By OWEN ABENDSCHEIN
STUDENT REPORTER

"A Minecraft Movie" was a smash hit in theaters since the day it was released. But the reviews were mixed because the community and movie critics disagreed. Most critics agree that people went to "A Minecraft Movie" because they played the game. But the real question is, was it rated highly for the same reason, or was the film generally good? The biggest selling points for the community were nostalgia, creativity, and humor.

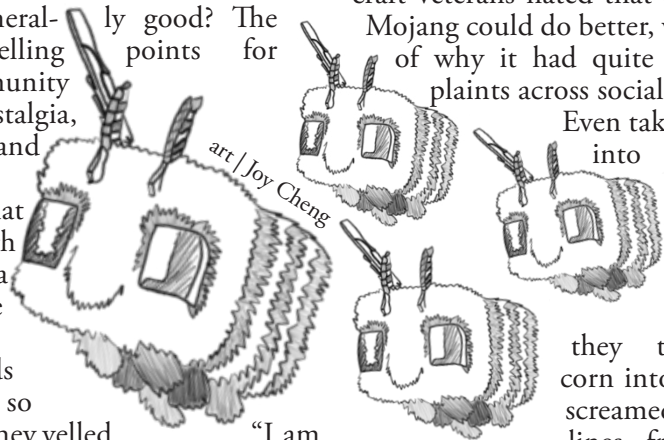
But is that really enough to make a good movie on its own?

While kids loved it so much that they yelled "I am Steve!" and released chickens inside of theaters, adults did not like it nearly as much. Adults with kids or those who like silly, mindless entertainment enjoyed the movie, but others did not

think it was good and thought Universal Studios could do better.

Additionally, the internet thought that the movie added a lot of things that are not in the game. Others thought that it slandered the actual game with its actors, who either did not seem like the actual characters in the game or did not even exist in the game in the first place. Many Minecraft veterans hated that and thought Mojang could do better, which is part of why it had quite a few complaints across social media.

Even taking criticism into consideration, many people were so into the movie that they threw popcorn into the air and screamed various lines from famous scenes. So, my final answer is yes, "A Minecraft Movie" is a good movie on its own.



#BringBackTheiPodClassic

By KARTER THOMPSON
STUDENT REPORTER

IPad kids are scary. In a world drowning in screen time, social media, and constant notifications, a digital oasis is hard to find. However, it once existed: the iPod. Now, a movement is growing louder—calling on Apple to bring back the iPod.

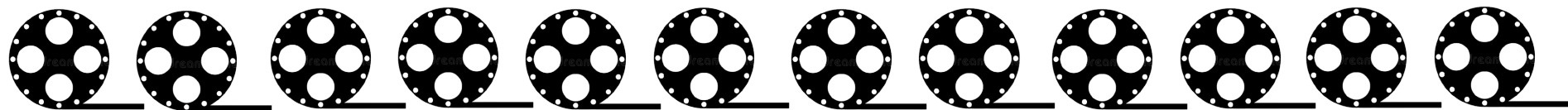
Once the crown jewel of portable music, the iPod wasn't just a device—it was a lifestyle. Its iconic click wheel, simple interface, and total lack of distractions made it perfect for pure, uninterrupted listening.

Thus, a campaign has arisen: #BringBackTheiPod. Launched by nostalgic tech lovers and Gen Z minimalists alike, the #BringBackTheiPod movement is taking over social media. Fans are signing petitions, creating concept designs, and sharing memories of their first iPod. One such advocate, 19-year-

old Ava R., provided a statement on their support for the movement.

"Spotify is great, but I miss just owning my music," Ava said. Ava started a TikTok series reviewing vintage iPods to show her support.

Trying to buy an iPod off sites like eBay costs anywhere from \$200 to \$400, and I bet many people are broke, but if you have that much, then go for it. But with us broke people, ask ChatGPT to find a cheap one—I'm not kidding, I'm an Apple nerd so don't test me.



Are video games really as bad as parents say they are?

By OWEN ABENDSCHEIN
STUDENT REPORTER

Video games are everywhere these days—on our phones, computers, and video game consoles. But one thing never changes... our parents telling us to stop playing with them!

But are video games really as bad as they say?

There are quite a few reasons why parents do not like video games: violence, obesity, lack of socialization, blue light exposure, lack of sleep, or just straight blaming every other problem on video games.

First of all, not all games are violent. Quite a few of them do not have violence. If your child wants to play a game that is violent, research it before assuming it is bad. If you decide to buy it, remember to put parental controls on their account. Also, all of the mentioned health issues can be easily solved by not constantly gaming—the blame on video games is misdirected. Plus, you can buy glasses that help fight blue light. If

you cannot get your child off screens, try punishments or giving them screen time limits. If the risk of obesity is the problem, do not tell them to go

outside. If you do that, they will likely only get annoyed and less cooperative. Instead, take them to do an athletic activity, such as rock climbing or swimming.

Next, if your kid is having academic problems, investigate other sources before blaming video games. If you know the problem is video games, there are common solutions, such as screen time limits. Remember, it is not that the video game is necessarily bad; it is the amount of time spent gaming that is bad.

Despite the conversations surrounding the harms of video games, there is one important overlooked benefit: they boost your problem-solving skills as well as creativity and imagination.

In conclusion, video games may have a lot of faults, but if you look past that, you can see that they have lots of positive effects on children: creativity, imagination, and fun. This is why parents are wrong about saying that video games are all bad.

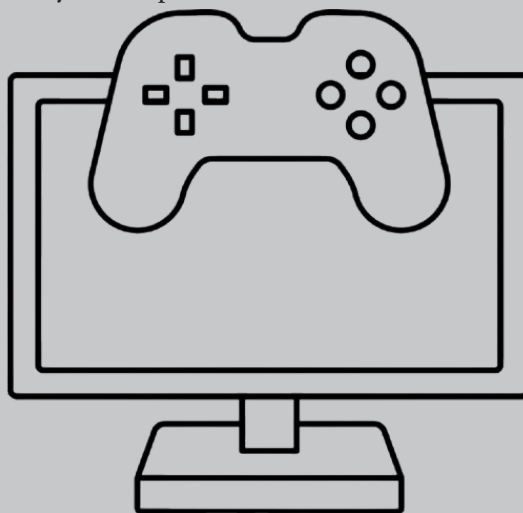
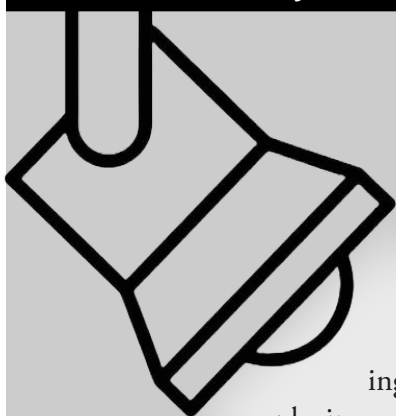


image courtesy of Vecteezy



Arianna Valencia

Arianna Valencia, also known as Ari, is a Sumner Danbury graduate entering seventh grade at El Roble. Valencia loves teriyaki chicken, sleep, art, and playing volleyball. In her free time, she enjoys listening to Mariana and Billie Eilish, playing Roblox (her favorite game is Murder Mystery), and Fortnite. She also likes the Hunger Games series, Zoey 101, and Sister Sisters. She has a pet dog and likes to annoy her three siblings.

Bailey
Wong



Bailey Wong will be a seventh grader at El Roble this fall. Wong mainly wanted to take Slice Journalism to get smarter and improve her writing skills. In her free time, she likes to listen to Blackpink, scroll on WeChat, and binge-watch "Young Sheldon" and "Fresh Off The Boat". Wong also watches Succession, even though the episodes are way too long to binge. Another fun fact about her is that she loves cats, especially Leopard, her Bengal cat. Wong plays piano and volleyball, and wants to be a lawyer when she grows up.

Stephanie Dulin is a rising eighth grader at El Roble Intermediate. Dulin's favorite hobbies are watching anime, such as "One Piece", and reading manga. Her favorite music artists are Stray Kids, a Kpop group. Dulin's biases include Felix and Han. She plays Roblox in her free time, often roleplaying games. She is the only child in her family and has no pets. Dulin is also in the El Roble Marching Band playing the snare drum and is a proud member of the El Roble Color Guard.



Stephanie
Dulin

Ellen Thomas



Ellen Thomas is a rising seventh grader at El Roble. She has two cats, named Simon and Shiloh. Thomas is a virtuoso at the piano and harp, with many years of experience. In her free time. She listens to Taylor Swift, even though she thinks Taylor is overrated, reads, and watches movies in her free time. Her favorite book is "The Penderwicks", and her favorite movie is "The Mitchells vs. the Machines." Thomas studies a variety of languages, like French and Latin, and goes to Maine each year for family reunions. Her dream college is Scripps, to become a lawyer.

Karter Thompson



Hi my name is Karter, and I am 11-years-old and go to Oakmont Elementary School in Claremont, California. I like technology, so I am on my phone too much! I also really like buying new gadgets, like my brand new iPad, to upgrade my Roblox gaming. Outside of tech, I love baseball and helping out with my seven-month-old brother. I am excited to publish my writing in this paper.

Owen Abendschein



Owen Abendschein is 11-years-old and will attend El Roble in the fall. Abendschein likes reading, video games, Dungeons and Dragons, playing the trumpet, and drawing. If Abendschein had the choice, he would much rather just not go to school, but if he had to choose a favorite subject, it would be P.E. Abendschein has this smart guy personality, the kind of person you go to if you have not finished your homework on time. Abendschein is not yet settled about any long-term goals in life, which, let us be real, is something most people have not figured out either.

STAFF



SUMMER

5

Friday, July 18, 2025

BIO

Ruhaan Kashyap

Ruhaan Kashyap is a 12-year-old whose dream is to go to Stanford to study computer science. He does track & field and has attended nationals many times and has reached All-American in it. In addition to running, Ruhaan also plays the flute and piano. His favorite subject at school is math. All in all, Ruhaan is a great student with a great future ahead of him.

Riyo Ou



Riyo Ou is a rising fifth grader at Chaparral Elementary. She likes to play the viola to annoy her older brother (who plays violin), and to read books like the “Keeper of the Lost Cities” series. She plays soccer and likes to play on the monkey bars during recess. In her free time, she enjoys making various creations out of tape and cardboard.

Rainbow Edwards



Rainbow Edwards is a rising sixth grader at Chaparral Elementary School. In her free time, she likes to read books and watch TV. She likes to read the “Keeper of the Lost Cities” series by Shannon Messenger and her favorite animal is a dog. Edwards plays the violin in the school orchestra and likes playing Gaga Ball at school. However, she is not excited about sixth grade, as it means more homework!

Thijmen Post



Thijmen Post is an eighth grader currently enrolled at El Roble Intermediate School. He loves to read and his favorite book is 1984 by George Orwell. Post believes it is a realistic portrayal of a dystopian society. He has also competed in the Junior Olympics in track and field three times and is an All-American. All his success has led him to believe that “searching for a light inside of you, can lead you to be yourself and that if you do not you will not be able to see the true world for the rest of your life.”

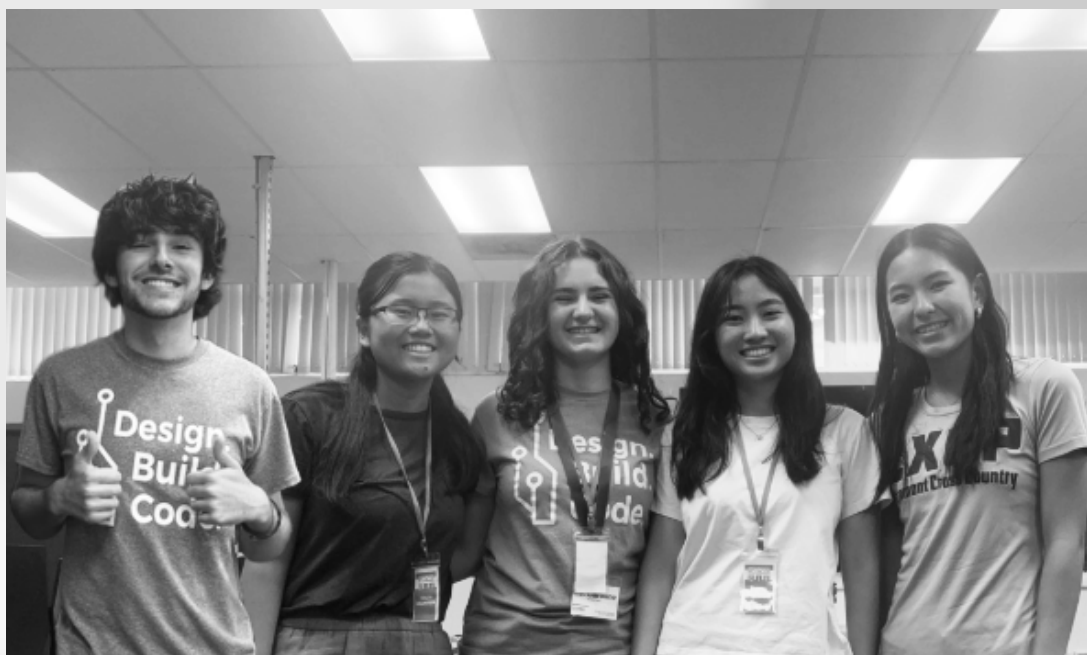
STAFF SPOTLIGHT

From left to right: Jack Warren, Mayo Ou, Caroline Warren, Nina Wu, and Joy Cheng.

Jack Warren is a sophomore at Washington University in Saint Louis. He was Editor-in-Chief for the Wolfpacket in 2024 and is currently the Design Editor for Stud Life.

Mayo Ou is a first-year at Princeton University. She was Head Editor-in-Chief for the Wolfpacket in 2025 and is embarking on a gap year in Costa Rica starting in August.

Joy Cheng, Nina Wu, and Caroline Warren are currently seniors at Claremont High School and the Editors-in-Chief for the Wolfpacket. Cheng is a captain for the CHS Cross Country team. Wu and Warren are team captains for the CHS Speech & Debate team.



How people should view allergies

By RIYO OU
STUDENT REPORTER

If you are someone who does not have allergies, you are lucky. Many people in the world have allergies, and while they stop you from eating or doing many things, they also give you an interesting point of view. There is a good and a bad side to having allergies.

On the positive end, allergies can help you stay healthy and vigilant about your eating habits. If you are allergic to something that is often in desserts, it is harder to eat unhealthy, sweet foods. Allergies can also give you an interesting view of things

because you are looking at things differently than someone who does not have them. If you

have food allergies, they can help you think about your food choices more, which can help you stay healthy. Additionally, people with allergies can also give interesting opinions about

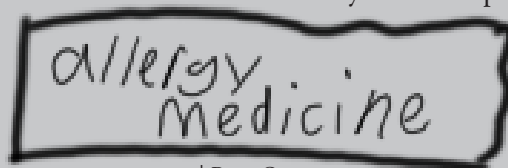
restaurants' openness to accommodate, helping others stay alert to their own diet choices.

However, there is a heavy bad part to allergies. Allergies can make you stressed. There are many

studies about this, and allergies are linked with stress, probably because they limit the things you can do or eat. Another bad thing is that they are a nuisance when someone has a birthday, and they bring things you can not eat. Mayo Ou, a graduating senior from Claremont High, has experienced this firsthand as she has egg, milk, and nut allergies.

"I'd say that it's pretty annoying if someone brings in something you can't eat, but it's also easy to get alternatives," Ou said. "In the modern age, you can easily find a vegan version of something, so as long as you're clear about your allergies, you don't have to worry about it."

Although allergic reactions are easily avoidable, life with allergies is still hard. People view allergies as a disability, so you are often told, "I'm so sorry you can't eat this," which is quite annoying. This view is a bit wrong, as it implies that there is nothing good about allergies, which is false. There are many good and bad things about allergies, just like anything else, so remember that allergies are just another thing in life.



art | Riyo Ou

The Electric Review of Michael Vey Book 1

By RAINBOW EDWARDS
STUDENT REPORTER

Kids with superpowers, exciting battles, and unexpected plot twists, "Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25" by Richard Paul Evans, captures a thrilling story in the genre of science fiction. This adventure highlights Michael Vey, a high schooler with tourettes, who was born with a spectacular ability to manipulate electricity. Besides him is his nerdy best friend, Ostin Liss, who views the SAT as a fun hobby. To tie the group together is Taylor Ridley, who has an amazing skill of reading minds. In the shadows is Dr. Hatch, an evil villain who wants to take advantage of the kid's superpowers for mayhem. Throughout the story, the group sets out to find out the hidden secrets of their powers, only to discover something much darker.

An important aspect that made the story feel personal was when Michael finally stopped Jack and his crew from bullying him, using his powers to stop the situation. While this detail seems small, Taylor reveals that she, too, has powers, and both of them start to form a friendship. Not only does this scene portray friendship, but also a real-life experience that many of the audience

can relate to. Additionally, this small fragment connected an important event in the story; Taylor gets kidnapped while searching for important birth records, ultimately leading Dr. Hatch right to them. This series of events introduces a new moment for readers, showing not only friendship but also how this book can feel unique to the reader.

As the book progresses, the story introduces the Elgen Academy, which is an old hospital where Michael was born. There resides Dr. Hatch, where he tries to convince Michael to join his forces. In return, Michael refuses, and is sent to Cell 25—a chamber where electricity torture occurs—and his suffering begins. Despite being locked away, Michael escapes and must find his friends and try to stop Dr. Hatch from hurting them. This part of the story shows determination to the reader and gives more depth into what type of character Michael is.

While more epic fight scenes and twisting turns happen, one thing is clear: "Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25" not only shows the importance of friendship and loyalty, but also courage towards evil forces, such as Dr. Hatch. Overall, one valuable lesson that could be learned is that having great powers like Michael should be used for good, not bad.

How band made an immersive, positive, and lasting impact on my life

By STEPHANIE DULIN
STUDENT REPORTER

In my life, I have encountered many things, but the one that single-handedly made the biggest difference, gave me overwhelming confidence, and changed me entirely was band. In fourth grade, I got the chance to join the music program. I chose to play the drums in percussion. I did not think much of it at the time, and I had no idea of the friends, memories, and transformation that was to come. In fourth grade, I was quiet, shy, somewhat nerdy, and only had a couple of friends. The first few years were hard, and I had to push myself to keep going. However, in seventh grade, when I got my first shot at marching in parades, going on field trips, and competing in comps, something changed.

Music became my passion. By the end of seventh grade, where I am today, I came out of my first year of middle school feeling like a completely different person compared to the unremarkable girl in elementary school. Band gave me a surge of confidence by allowing me to express myself passionately through music, giving me a taste of independence and camaraderie, and bringing me to meet many lifelong friends with whom I feel an immense connection. It became a driving reason for me to live, enjoy life, and keep persevering through whatever I faced. It also shaped me not just emotionally, but mentally and physically as well—through countless hours of tiring practice playing and marching, I built an unbreakable body and spirit. This strength is what

music gives you, no matter what instrument one plays.

Music is a long, demanding, but ultimately rewarding road that will result in many triumphs for those who set forth on it. Now that I look back, I realize that the process it took me to get here was truly the best part. Through it all, I realize that I have no regrets about embarking on what is shaping up to be a lifelong commitment. All of this is to say, music and learning to play an instrument will change your life for the better, just as it did mine. Music takes people on an amazing, unforgettable journey of a lifetime.

art | Joy Cheng



photo courtesy of Stephanie Dulin

SLICE OF SUMMER

the Wolfpacket

7

SLICE of Summer Journalism

Friday, July 18, 2025

4 Musicals that'll make non-musical lovers give 10-minute standing ovation

BY ELLEN THOMAS
STUDENT REPORTER

A Timeless Tale From A Witchy Perspective: "Wicked"

Everyone knows just how great the new "Wicked" movie is! Some people are even outraged that they have to wait until Nov. 21, 2025, to see part two (people have to wait a whole year in between movies—seriously?) But before it was a movie, "Wicked" was a popular Broadway musical that told the backstory of the Wicked Witch of the West, the villain in "The Wizard of Oz," a novel written by L. (Lyman) Frank Baum in 1900 and turned into a movie in 1939 starring Judy Garland. The "Wicked" musical is based on "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West," a novel written by Gregory Maguire in 1995. If you have already read the book and think that the musical will be just as terrible, you are wrong, because they changed 75% of the original story in the musical (and made it so much better)! Familiar characters from "The Wizard of Oz" are featured in the musical, such as Glinda the Good Witch and the Wizard of Oz himself. We also discover the origin stories of the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion. Most importantly, we discover why the witch, called Elphaba, a name based on the initials of the writer of "The Wizard of Oz" novel (L. F. B.), went from "good" to "wicked."

With its relatable tale of self-discovery, social acceptance, familiar characters—and of course, songs whose melody and words "defy gravity"—"Wicked" will change any non-musical lover into a theater fanatic "for good."

Catchy Tunes with Amazing Acrobatics: "Newsies"

Non-musical lovers usually sigh when they first hear the words "Disney musical," which usually refers to singing princesses, talking animals, and annoyingly catchy songs. However, this is not the case for "Newsies," except for the catchy songs. "Newsies," the musical, tells the story of the New York Newsboys Strike of 1899, a real historical event. The story of the newsboys, or "newsies," was first turned into a live-action Disney movie musical in 1992. The movie was a box-office bomb, but it became popular through home video. In 2012, a live production was produced on Broadway with some additions and changes to the original plot, songs, and characters of the 1992 movie. Compared to the original movie, the Broadway show was a success, setting a record for Disney musicals on Broadway by earning back its original investment of \$5 million in only seven months.

With its memorable tunes, amazing acrobatics, and rallying cry to "seize the day," "Newsies" will certainly strike a chord with anyone, musical-lover or otherwise. Before you watch the 1992 "Newsies" movie, watch the recording of the live stage production with the original Broadway cast on Disney+. It is way better than the original movie.

You Cannot Go Wrong With This One: "The Sound of Music"

Who does not like a timeless classic such as "The Sound of Music"? "The Sound of Music" tells the story of Maria, a nun living in Salzburg, Austria, near the start of World War II. Maria becomes the nanny to Captain von Trapp's seven children, who have lived without music ever since their mother passed. In response, Maria teaches the von Trapp children how to sing. Like "Newsies," "The Sound of Music" is a musical based on real historical events. Maria and the von Trapp family were real people, but their story was very "Disney-fied" in the musical. With its sweet, timeless tale and very hummable tunes, "The Sound of Music" will surely become "a few of your favorite things."

Who Does Not Like ABBA?: "Mamma Mia!"

When "Mamma Mia!" the musical first came out in 1999, it was the perfect way to finish the century. Using 22 hit songs by the Swedish pop group ABBA (an acronym for the names of the members: Agnetha Fältskog, Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson, and Anni-Frid Lyngstad), it tells the story of a girl named Sophie who is just about to get married. She wants her father to walk her down the aisle, but she does not know who her father is! What follows is a hilarious musical of friendship, romance, and lots of earworm-worthy tunes ("Dancing Queen!") that will surely get even the most steadfast musical-hater to get up off the couch and dance 'til they can't no more!



The best stores in the CLAREMONT village

art | Joy Cheng

BY STEPHANIE DULIN
STUDENT REPORTER

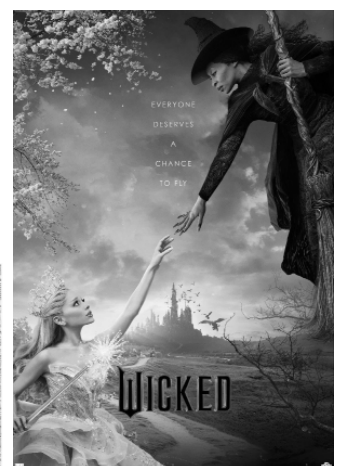
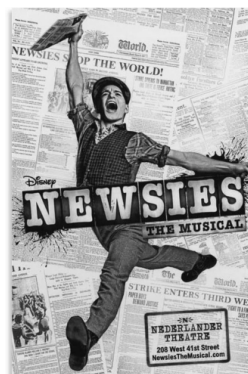
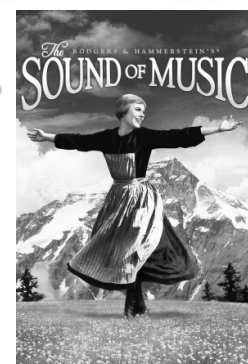
Shop Called Quest: This pop culture-centered store is a great place for fans of any and all genres. It carries the latest editions of every comic and manga you can think of, plus new titles you discover along the way. Not to mention their countless action figures, Funko Pops, books, posters, artwork, collectibles, and trading cards, too. This place is great; whatever you are into, they probably have it!

The Grove: A well-known place that many in Claremont visit regularly, this shop has two separate stores, each with its own specialty. One carries an immense collection of fashionable clothes, hair accessories, makeup, jewelry, purses, perfumes, trinkets, and other cute items. The other, much more varied store carries a range from cookbooks, pens, slimes, and plushies to blind boxes, candies, cards, socks, and stickers. Out of the two, you are sure to find something cute!

Friends of the Claremont Library Bookstore: This is a more hidden place, tucked into the far back corner of the Packing House. It carries a vast collection of both donated used books and new releases. Their books usually come at a steep discount and are in good condition. However, the special part of this store is that all proceeds go directly towards buying prisoners' books for prison libraries so they can read while they serve their time.

Deelux: This clothing store's main collection of clothing is vintage and used, and they carry styles for both men and women. They also have a variety of cards, mugs, plants, accessories, pins, stickers, jewelry, clips, and niche gifts in the front of the store, a selection similar to the Grove.

21 Choices: Widely regarded among Claremont citizens as a must-try for anyone in town, this California chain does indeed have 21 Choices of "Mix-In" (frozen yogurt and toppings mixed and chopped fresh as soon as you order it) flavors, as its name suggests. They also have unique pre-made rotating flavors of the day. 21 Choices is more than ice cream as well, offering fresh-baked goods and milkshakes. I highly suggest trying this if you have not already.



images courtesy of Google

AI's Influence on Education

By BAILEY WONG
STUDENT REPORTER

Some may say that Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is taking over the world. It has revolutionized so many industries, from finance to manufacturing. But AI has arguably made one of the greatest impacts in education, with both teachers and students finding new uses for it every single day. Personalized lessons are given with the assistance of helpful AI models, while a few misbehaving students use ChatGPT to write their essays. AI has many considerable benefits in schools, but also contains a great amount of alarming risks. So, how does one use AI responsibly in schools to reap its benefits while evading its dangers?

First, it is important to talk about how AI has helped improve education. It personalizes lessons by tailoring to the needs of the individual student, is a great homework checker, and helps teachers develop assignments. Joshua Zou, an 8th grader at Cranbrook Kingswood Schools and straight A student, has had firsthand experience with this cutting-edge technology.

"We occasionally are allowed to use AI as a way to check our homework," Zou said. "Our teachers use it a lot to create homework assignments and tests."

America's educational system has improved greatly due to AI technologies and the unlimited possibilities they bring.

However, AI's impact on education is not always positive. It can lead to over-reliance on technology and dull the critical thinking of students. For example, when students use AI to complete their homework, they are not learning as much as they would if they had completed the homework themselves. AI can also raise questions about ethics. Sometimes, students use AI to cheat and plagiarize work generated by large language models, or LLMs, like

ChatGPT, Falcon, and Gemini.

"[Students in my class] have [cheated] by using [AI] as a source and making ChatGPT write their essays," Zou said.

This is a growing concern as AI models continue to get stronger, leaving students and teachers to grapple with moral questions.

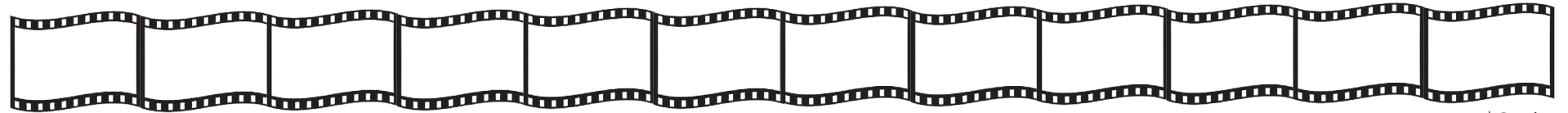
As AI has developed even faster in recent years, there are bigger struggles about how to properly use it in schools. New innovations are being developed constantly by tech companies all around the world. This could dictate the future of education, so what is done next with AI is very important to the lives of students and their posterity. Teachers must establish boundaries for their students, so AI can be used for the good of education. As for students, they need to respect the guidance of their teachers and make the right choices.

"If you're struggling, try not to use AI; use other sources [instead]," Zou said. "If you don't have the time or have no other sources, try to use it as a tutor rather than just getting the answer."

Overall, AI has completely changed the education industry. Its numerous benefits, like personalization of content and assistance with learning material, can help make our next generation even more intelligent and well-rounded. However, its dangerous risks, including increased plagiarism and overuse of technology, can take away the good that AI does for education. It is imperative to use our conscience and follow the rules when using AI so students can learn more and make the future even brighter.

While in school, it can seem that AI is ubiquitous, from homework assignments and personalized lessons to cheating students and AI-generated essays. With AI, the right thing to do can be hard to figure out. It is important to embrace the educational journey as decent students who use AI with respect and honesty.

art | Joy Cheng



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The Hunger Games Review

By ARIANNA VALENCIA
STUDENT REPORTER

The Hunger Games is written by Suzanne Collins. Suzanne Collins felt a sense of uneasiness and inspiration about her novel. While the dedicated fans of The Hunger Games books reacted with intense enthusiasm. She published the first book of The Hunger Games on Sept. 14, 2008.

Then she noticed how it became successful and started publishing more books. Her books were mostly dystopian and showed the socioeconomic status in District 12. She was soon going to be shocked by the public reaction to The Hunger Games.

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The epic wonders of The Hunger Games, directed by Francis Lawrence and Gary Ross, began on March 23, 2012. Starring in most of the films, Jennifer Lawrence took on the role of "Katniss Everdeen," a brave character who made many sacrifices throughout the games. Lawrence described her time on the screen as a major shift in her acting career, holding new emotions and excitement on film. Despite the ups and downs for the cast, they all had an amazing time and made some friendly relationships.

When I watched the movies and read the book series, I felt like I was part of the games, and felt the bravery of the characters. The movie had great success and scored many positive reviews from its audience.

Interview with Adele Villa

"The [Hunger Games] is the best dystopian movie."

What would you rate the movie and books?

"Book 10000000000 and the movies 100000!"

Who is your favorite person from the games?

"Ummm, probably Johanna!"

What is your favorite book?

"The Sunrise On The Reaping! Death, Heartbreak, Sadness, and Depression."

art | Arianna Valencia

