HIGH-IMPACT PHOTOGRAPHY

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AS SEEN IN DISCOVERIES VOL. 19 ISSUE 2

THIS SCHOOL IS ON FIRE • duPont Manual first opened in 1892 as a vocational training school. It merged with Louisville Girls' High School in 1950, moving into the iconic Gothic building, built in 1932, at 2nd and Lee Street. The school became the city's first magnet school in 1984, eventually forming five application-only programs: High School University; Journalism & Communication; Math, Science & Technology; Youth Performing Arts School; and Visual Arts. "My first year at Manual was amazing; I wouldn't want to go to any other school," said Camden Huff (9), a Journalism & Communication student pictured here. "I've had many opportunities, like taking a trip to Boston, that I wouldn't have had anywhere else. Going to Manual is definitely worth all the extra work." *Photo by Josh Svoboda.*

Take a look at the amazing photos that follow; this caliber of work is wowing readers and raising the bar.

DUPONT MANUAL HS

THE CRIMSON

LOUISVILLE, KY

1 THE SAM BUTTON • Samuel Rathnow's (class of '08) mother, Ms. Laura Guissinger, decided to create pins with different pictures of Rathnow on them and hand them out to those who knew him. The idea was that wherever they traveled, they would bring the pins with them so Rathnow could continue to travel and see the world even after death. **2 TAPPING INTO A NEW WORLD** • Kinsey Ball (12) dances with one of the high school students at the small Quimal school in Guatemala. "As part of their welcoming ceremony, the students of all grades held our hands and led us up on stage," she said. "They danced with us as a form of gratitude and celebration. It was really moving to interact with them on such a personal level, despite the language barrier."

3 BOTTLE SCHOOL BUDDIES • Kinsey Ball (12) fist bumps with a local Guatemalan boy, Francisco. Ball assisted in making a school completely out of recycled bottles, with the help of the local people of Quimal on June 21-23. "One of the hardest parts of leaving was knowing that I would probably never see the students again," Ball said. "Using my broken Spanish, I managed to make more relationships there than I had ever imagined I would." **4 THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE** • A local girl of Quimal spins in circles while her schoolmates gather around to watch. On June 23, the students had a field day while the group was working on the school, so Ball's group decided to join in the festivities. "Some kids were shy, but most warmed up to us instantly and loved showing us their dancing and other talents like soccer," Ball said. **5 LAURA THE BUILDER** • Rathnow's mom, Ms. Laura Guissinger, works on the bottle school while sitting on a worn out bucket. The school was nearly finished (with finishing touches still waiting to come from another group) on June 23. "We all put pictures of Sam in the wall before we cemented, and some of us wrote personal letters on the back to him. It really reinforced the idea that this is his legacy that we are fulfilling for him," Ball said.

BOTTLE

Kinsey Ball (12) traveled to Guatemala from June 6-19 with 24 others to do good in memory of a late Manual Visual Arts magnet graduate, Samuel Rathnow (class of '08), who passed on Dec. 8, 2011. **WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY BY** KINSEY BALL • **DESIGN BY** JOSH SVOBODA

"It was an especially cold December day when I heard that Samuel Guissinger Rathnow passed away. The trees were barer, the surroundings took a gray tint. The air grew thicker, not so much because it was harder to breathe without him physically here, but rather as if the environment were boasting that it was, in that instant, joined to such an exuberant soul. Lurking behind a deep sorrow was confusion; how could such an influential life be taken so early? How could a 21-year-old with so much potential slip away from the physical world?

"As news traveled from family to best friends (intentionally plural) to closer friends, a community began to form consisting of those that Sam had touched. An otherwise mischievous genius, Sam was truly one of the most kind-hearted and personable people I have ever met, or that I will ever encounter. He had touched lives in places as far away as Nicaragua, seen places that most of us could barely dream. He had done so much for the world, enough to last a much longer lifetime, and that's why we went to Guatemala.

"That's why Sam's mother Laura contacted Hug It Forward, an organization dedicated to building schools for impoverished communities in Central America. That's why all 25 of us went on this trip – to carry on Sam's legacy.

"Two weeks later, after nearly finishing a bottle school constructed with recycled bottles filled with trash, after meeting dozens of inspiring kids and making individual connections with nearly all of them, after learning bits and pieces of Spanish to be friendly with the local people, after relaxing in a hammock and nonchalantly looking out onto two dormant volcanoes, after being physically sick because of everything and anything, and after late night parties at La Iguana Perdida when my sister caught her sweater on fire and we all danced to 'Pony' by Ginuwine, I can honestly say that we have done that.

"For each of those 24 others whom I've come to love, I know that our paths will cross again. No matter the time or distance that comes between us, I will always share what I've learned on this trip with each of them, and for that we will always be close.

"For those whom I don't know and are reading this because of a common love for Sam, know that he is with us always, as I know he was on the trip, and know that in whatever we are doing, we each have a small but influential piece of him in us. As always, rest in peace Sam, and keep changing us into better people."

Joshua Jean-Marie (10)

TEMPORARY HOME

The crowded bus wove its way down the twisting roads leading to Lazil, Haiti. The passengers of the bus were members of a church group on their way to a week-long mission trip in Lazil, among them Joshua Jean-Marie (10). After a brief visit with family in Port-au-Prince, he was off on a five-hour bus ride that brought his group to their temporary home.

He quickly settled into the new routine – teaching Bible verses and dances to two hundred children, distributing food, and spending time communicating and playing with the locals.

"My favorite part of the trip had to be meeting the kids in the village we stayed in," Jean-Marie said. "We would just sit around for hours trying to communicate and learn about each other's lives."

Saturday, however, was time for something different. The mission group helped to marry 31 Haitian couples, providing dresses for some of the women, taking pictures of each couple and feeding more than 500 people.

With the weekend over, it was time to say their farewells. "The people we met in this village are so happy with what little they have," Jean-Marie said. "It was hard to say goodbye.

UKRAINE GAIN

In a small camp in the heart of Ukraine, a cluster of Ukrainian teenagers eager to improve their English skills met an American church group. The group included Farren Vaughan (11) as well as a throng of translators.

"I worked with a translator named Valentina," said Vaughan. "She's 19 years old. We became really close throughout the week. She taught me lots of random Russian words and told me about the differences in culture, and I shared all the weird things about America."

The air filled with a confusing barrier couldn't keep them from communicating. The Ukrainians gained practical improvements in their English speaking ability, but participants gained more than that.

"Now I don't see people in other countries as weird," said Vaughan.

In this orbit: **Erin Archer (9)**
"I've been feeding the homeless for eleven years now. I went to Catholic school before here, so when my sister was confirmed, my mom just said we should both get volunteering."

"So I have a problem. I like carrots – a lot. It started last year with wrestling, just one or two bags every day or so. Before I knew it, I was getting six or eight bags and asking friends to get them for me. I got addicted.

"I'll walk into class with my cargo pocket full of carrot bags and just munch for the rest of the day. I even grow carrots in my backyard – they're pretty good. I'll eat them before wrestling just to have something solid on my stomach and it helps significantly (or at least I think that) when it comes to having energy for practice.

"After a while, people began to notice my 'problem' with carrots and I was dubbed carrot man because I could and can often be found with carrots... everywhere. Say hi, I'll have a bag for you."

•NOAH BURKE (10)

"I guess I eat the things I'm not supposed to because my mom took my pacifier away too early. She took it because I bit a hole on the tip. I have a natural fascination with gnawing... you could call it an oral fixation. All throughout my life, though, if I haven't been talking, I've been chewing gum or quietly eating pieces of paper. I know it's really weird and I'm embarrassed by it, but I guess I'll embrace it. We all have our idiosyncrasies."

•ANTHONY SPRINGATE (12)

"If I were stranded on an island and I could only bring two things, it would probably be graph paper and a (large) box of Black Dixon Ticonderoga Pencils. Maybe not the most practical of choices, but at least I would be entertained, right?

"Using a Ticonderoga Black is not just a pencil to me; it's kind of like an extension of my arm. Oh my gosh that sounds weird... But it's true! I don't document my life through a journal or posting pictures to Facebook (although Instagram is pretty great), I draw floor plans using my pencils.

"In an abstract way, when I look at different floor plans, it reminds me of different 'eras' in my life. Without my Ticonderoga Black pencils, I don't know who I would be. But with them, I am confident about the architect I will become."

•BRIGID NEARY (12)

MY WEIRD OBSESSION

Students speak about their strange habits and guilty pleasures.

WORDS BY ASHLEY BURKETT • **DESIGN BY** ASHLEY BURKETT, VANESSA GREGORCHIK & JOSH SVOBODA • **PHOTOGRAPHY BY** ALEXA PENCE

"I really don't know exactly what it is that I love most about weddings. Maybe it's the huge reception or the big dresses, or even the simple things like the perfect little flower bouquet the bride carries as she walks down the aisle. I just love the big masterpiece that comes together and suits the bride and groom so well, making their happily ever after so exquisite.

"But of course, it's not just the weddings that I adore. As cliché as it sounds, I truly am a sucker for love. Any wedding I attend, I always leave with joyful tears filled in my eyes.

"Now, being so young, I really don't know what its like to be in love but just the thought that two people love each other so much that they want to spend the rest of their lives together is what makes the weddings all worthwhile."

•JULIA SMITH (10)

In this orbit: **Jasmine Groves (9)**
"I really like eyebrows. I remember people by their eyebrows mostly."

STUDENT LIFE • WEIRD OBSESSIONS • 015

LOUISVILLE, KY

THE CRIMSON

DUPONT MANUAL HS

DUPONT MANUAL HS

THE CRIMSON

LOUISVILLE, KY

LOUISVILLE, KY

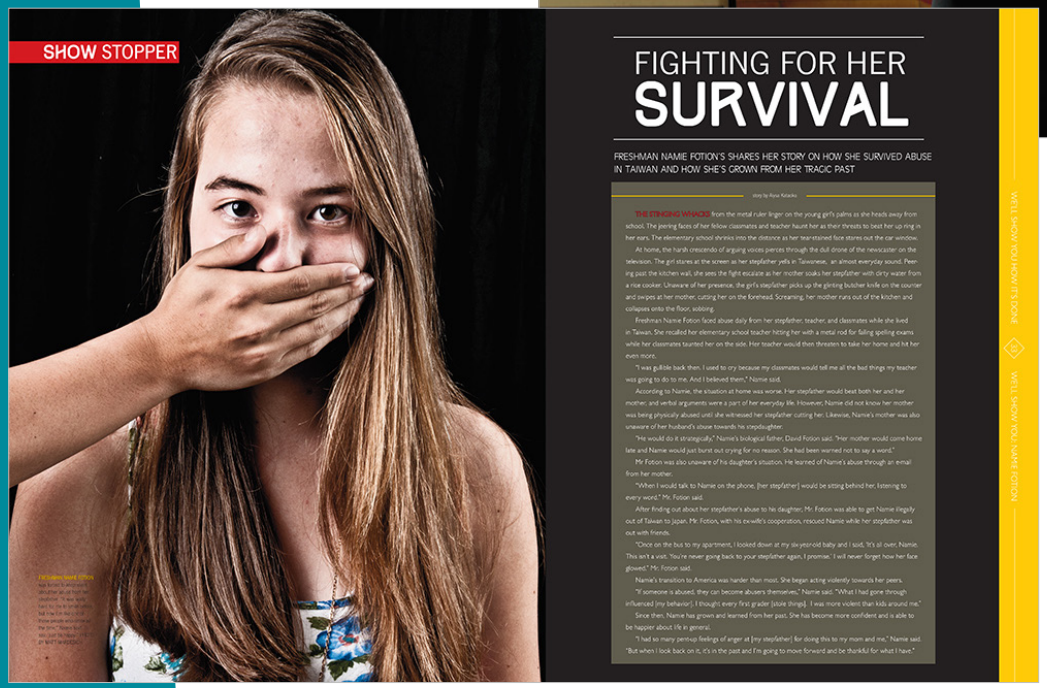
THE CRIMSON

DUPONT MANUAL HS

REDONDO UNION HS

PILOT

REDONDO BEACH, CA



REDONDO BEACH, CA

PILOT

REDONDO UNION HS

REDONDO UNION HS

PILOT

REDONDO BEACH, CA

WE'LL SHOW YOU...

STUDENT LIFE

by Brittany Nguyen and Claudia Mehranbod

Between our COUNTLESS hours of homework, our DEDICATION to studying for that big test of the year, and the CRAZINESS of all these clubs and events, life can get PRETTY hectic. It's hard to manage everything we want to do, but we do it anyway. Even with all of the craziness and STRUGGLES in our lives, we ROCK Redondo like no other. We're the UNDERDOGS making that winning catch in the dodgeball tournament. We're on the beach every morning, checking out the sunset. We're building cars and COMPOSING music. Booking it to LBJ's for a Special C and BACK before our AP Stats review session. Handel's two dollar Tuesday? We're there, RAIN or shine. Daily after school band rehearsals to practice new songs means we're definitely gonna OWN Battle of the Bands. We're building up the COURAGE to open up to our sexuality and support the #NOH8 campaign. We're giving up time, making it work, doing it BIG. This is the only way we know HOW to do it.

AND THIS IS HOW IT'S DONE.

SHOW STOPPER

BLADES OF GLORY

SENIOR MIA REYES RECALLS HER TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE BREAKING HER ANKLE DURING ICE SKATING AT REGIONALS AND GOING ON TO WIN REGIONALS THE NEXT YEAR

by Carmen Harris

Silence. My music began to play and the soft sound of my skates gliding through the ice could be heard as I began practicing my program. An axcel, a turn, the motion all comes naturally. Even before my set began everything went wrong.

Most of my body weight was centered over my ankle, pushing it into the ice. It was bent at an angle that didn't seem right. At first my ankle had twisted inward, but as I fell it had twisted back outwards. I tried to get up, but was faced with intense pain shooting through my ankle. My initial shock at falling only twenty minutes after stepping onto the ice–and falling while practicing basic turning skills at that–shifted into panic.

I curled into a ball on the ice, squeezing my eyes closed as tightly as I could, and hugging my legs close to my body. My ankle began to throb. It felt as if someone had run a knife through it, and was slowly pushing and pulling it in and out of my leg. Mild frustration set in as I waited for my coach to come help me get off the ice. Allowing myself to fall, thinking I wouldn't get hurt, was turning out to be quite the painful mistake. I should have thrown my arms out in a desperate attempt to regain my balance at the least.

Time dragged on; ten seconds became much, much longer. The horrible throbbing marched on, refusing to stop despite my mental protests. At last my coach reached me and helped me up. The ice and dampened my leggings, and little bits of soft ice, like snow, clung to them as we made our way to the rink-side benches. My coach comes to me, questions asked in rapid succession. I knew then that this year was over for me.

The next skating season came quickly; the previous year filled with physical therapy and preparation for the next regionals. I knew I had to be able to redeem myself and I didn't want let all my years of work to go for nothing. So this year was full of revamping my set, new turns, new spins, new outfit, new music. Everything had to be new and ready to take on the strong competitors aiming for gold.

Regionals came again and I qualified with my new set and I prepared for everything. I would not have any mishaps, this year. I stepped onto the ice, music louder than ever and I began to skate; an axcel to a double axcel, a turn and a spin, remember to keep smiling. I run through each of the routine in my head and then perform it to perfection on the ice and I can see out of the corner of my eye that crowd and judges are pleased. As I finish and step off the ice I look to the judges, their minds intensely scoring everything. And in the end I was victorious –I had won the gold.

REDONDO BEACH, CA

PILOT

REDONDO UNION HS

WITH SADNESS AND A GREAT SENSE OF HOPE SENIORS JOINED THEIR HANDS TOGETHER

RISING before the sun

STORY / DOMINIQUE FAUBERT // PHOTOS / SHOOB PHOTOGRAPHY & CHRISTAN SANTOS

STUDENTS REFLECT ON FINAL MOMENTS AS SENIORS AND MEMORIES THAT WILL REMIND THEM OF THEIR HIGH SCHOOL JOURNEY

"Mrs. McCarthy's class was my most memorable academic experience. The gift project had a huge impact on the whole class, and hearing each other's stories was touching. She made us think about something in our lives that had helped define who we are as people—something we have overcome, a talent that reveals something we are passionate about, or an experience that caused us to see or understand life differently. Some were happy, some were sad, but all of them were meaningful."

BRANDON WILCOX, 12

"If I have learned anything from the past four years of my life, it would be to never give up. High school has shown me that the harder I work, the more of a chance I'll have to succeed. No matter what anyone says, I don't doubt myself. High school has given me the chance to meet my best friends, incredible teachers, and amazing staff. When I leave this year, I will carry on all of the amazing memories I have made at Enochs. Senior Sunrise especially will be a day I never forget. It was a tough day for all of us, from smiles to tears, but it showed that Eagles stick together and support each other through anything. We lost two beloved friends this year, but their memory is still with us. It showed us that tomorrow isn't set in stone. It taught us to make the best of each day."

LEANN BENJAMIN, 12

"The atmosphere of Senior Sunrise was positive, but bittersweet. I realized that this is it. I'm really going to graduate this year and the next time we'll be together as a class will be at Senior Sunset, which is pretty much just before we all graduate and say goodbye. It's scary to think about the future after high school. Before we know it, that reality will really set in. I'm going to try to appreciate the moments before they are gone forever."

ARIANA COOPER, 12

"Senior Sunrise is normally a time to reflect about our future, but, to be honest, the week was shadowed by the fact that Kaylan was in the hospital fighting for his life. Instead of celebrating we reflected a lot on our memories of our lives together. I grew up with Kaylan. He was the first friend I made at Orchard Elementary. We imagined our future lives as professional athletics—his in the NFL and mine in sports medicine. It was a difficult day, but losing him brought us all closer together and made us appreciate the people in our lives in a new way. It's important for me to stay in touch with those I cherish because life is short and we need to appreciate how blessed we are. I've been told that everyone grieves in their own way and I think this is true. The moment someone you care about dies is the moment you feel compelled to do something."

SARAH KOOMSON, 12

END OF THE LINE Friends join hands and face the sunrise to celebrate the beginning of their final year of high school.

1. START OF SOMETHING NEW Seniors Cristian Fernandez, Brian Vazquez, and friends pose with for a group photo with coordinating shirts. 2. MEMORIES TO CHERISH As they reminisce, seniors Melissa Lopez and Megan Betes laugh together. "That morning I felt like I could conquer senior year because I had people there who I cared for and cared for me," Lopez said.

3. IT'S BITTERSWEET Senior Marcos Favela rises his hand with the music. "Starting a new year without Kaylan has been hard," Favela said. "We'll keep the great memories we've had with him in our hearts and when we graduate, he'll graduate with us." 4. ONE LAST TIME With friends, Derek Badovinac poses for a photo after a sleepless night, a 2:00 a.m. breakfast, and an early start to school for Senior Sunrise. "Everyone was in a good mood. I don't think we saw it as the beginning of the end but as a start to a new beginning. It really brought us together in a positive way."

it's insta-rise

Senior memories posted for all to see and remember

"We barely made it to Senior Sunrise. It was an amazing experience, but also really grounding to realize that my high school career is almost over. It was a great time to reflect on the past and our fast approaching future."

KRISTINA DENOBLE, 12 @FORTHELOVEOFTINA

"We went to friends' houses, made t-shirts, and finally got the chance to take pictures in front of the sunrise. This year was memorable because of all the activities the school provided, like Senior Sunrise and the fashion show."

NATALIE PENA MARQUEZ, 12 @NATALIEMRQZ

it's your story

014 LIFE // SENIOR SUNRISE

JAMES ENOCHS HS

WINGSPAN

MODESTO, CA

ENOCHS MOURNS THE LOSS OF FALLEN FRIENDS AS THEY BEGIN A YEAR OF

HARD knocks

STORY / SOPHIA SALAZAR // PHOTOS / CHRISTAN SANTOS, LACI RAKESTRAW, JAIREI OLARTE & SHOOB PHOTOGRAPHY

Enochs faced two horrific blows just weeks before school started.

The first came June 24 when senior Kaylan Carter went into cardiac arrest during a weight-training session at school. Carter spent the next two months in a coma and died August 16, two weeks into the new school year.

The second tragedy occurred on July 8—less than two weeks later—when Bruno Diaz was struck by a vehicle while riding his bike home early the morning of his seventeenth birthday.

Eagles returned to school with heavy hearts.

"The news of Kaylan hit me hard," senior Gabriel Gonzalez said. "I tried to convince myself that he'd be fine. I never expected him to die. No one did. It's hard to look at things the same anymore. Losing him forced me to question life. I realize that death can happen to anyone. No one knows when their time will come. Because of that, I try to love and appreciate those who are important to me. I don't want to take friends, family or things in my life for granted."

"No one should die at such a young age. The funeral hit hard. It was strange looking at Bruno's body and touching him knowing he was no longer here to flash that smile or to talk and laugh with. It felt like a nightmare I couldn't wake up from," junior Ivan Lopez said. "I tried to be strong for everyone, thought if hold myself together it would be easier for everyone else. As the first day of school came closer I really thought about him a lot. We talked a lot this summer about school and plans to motivate each other, and now I feel incomplete."

"I'm heartbroken that he won't be here to live it up with us and be a part of making our goals a reality," junior Shawn Sharma said. "We were prepared to face a challenging year but we were also looking forward to the moments we'd share and the plans we were making for our future."

Grieving students gathered together for candlelight vigils, prayer circles, car washes, cake pop fundraisers and more to support the families of their fallen friends.

"The family organized about four or five car washes all over Riverbank and Oakdale to help pay for funeral expenses for Bruno," Lopez said. "There was an outpouring of love. Family and friends were there to show their support and a lot of people stopped to get their car washed while others just stopped to donate."

Tears of sadness were intensified by intended moments of joy.

"Senior Sunrise was the beginning of our final year together and the reality that not everyone was there to enjoy it hit me pretty hard. Kaylan was still in a coma, and the sad news that his parents would take him off life support by the end of the week was announced the night before," senior Brittni Clack said. "Kicking off senior year without him just didn't feel right. He always had such a good vibe. He cherished everyone, even if he didn't know them. He could make anyone smile."

Carter's death altered lives on and off the field, but sorrow wasn't reserved for the football players. Diaz and Carter left imprints in the hearts of many.

"He was one of the hardest workers out there. Losing Kaylan motivated us all to stand up and try harder," Gonzalez said. "Coach Stacy gave us bracelets to commemorate Kaylan and I haven't taken mine off since. Every time I look down at my wrist I'm reminded of my memories with him."

"It was hard for me to focus in school at the beginning," senior Jasmine Gutierrez said. "But I reminded myself that Kaylan no longer has the opportunity to graduate and walk the stage. His family will not celebrate this key moment of his life. So I need to do the best I can for myself and for him."

"We had planned on getting our act together to pick up the slack. We started thinking about our future and committed to motivating each other in a positive way. Now that Bruno is gone, there's even more reason to work hard," junior Alberto DeLaCruz said."

"When we talk about Bruno, our conversations always end with how we wish we could have done something to change the outcome of that night," junior Akshay Singh said. "But we know that he would have wanted us to go on with life and cherish what we have while we've got it."

They both would have.

"It was hard to celebrate, especially without him. He could make anyone smile. Kicking off senior year without him just didn't feel right."
BRITTNI CLACK, 12

1. SAYING GOODBYE Senior Jay Diaz kneels next to a roadside memorial for his brother. "I visit the roadside memorial everyday to talk to my brother about life and how much I miss him and about the choices I'm making for my future," said Diaz. "It comforts me and makes me feel connected to him." 2. RAISING MONEY WITH LOVE At the Kaylan Carter benefit car wash, a group of Carter's friends pose for a photo. 3. CANDLELIGHT VIGIL Illuminated by the candlelight, senior Marlea Sherriffe attends the candlelight ceremony to honor the memory of those who passed. "Senior year has been hard without him, but I believe he is still with us and I want to live my life for him," sherriffe said.

4. SHINING LIGHT Despite the droplets of tears running down her cheeks, junior Faith Turner lights a candle to remember. 5. ALWAYS REMEMBERED Sophomore Amy Niu holds up a cheer tribute to Bruno Diaz at the Homecoming game.

it's your story

"I can put anything on here?" JERRICK PRIME
"My life is filled with happiness." HUYEN BACH
"Actress, best friend is Makenna Brech." CORA CAHILL
"Live life in the fast lane." KRISTALYNN WALKER
"This is my motto: Ooo kill'em!" DALTON JOHNSON
"I am often shy and kind." ALEXIS MORALES
"This is my motto: Ooh kill'em!" AKARI BOWENS
"Yolo, yolo, yolo, yolo, yolo, yolo." DAVID GUTIERREZ
"This is a very deep phrase." COLE WEBBER
"I have the worst smile! Ever!" DAWSON DRILL
"Parents are divorced, really hard sometimes." KAYLEE WATTS
"Cartoons with some chips my man…" AUSTIN HERRERA
"Sports is life, all about football." ERIC GILBERT
"I like soccer, freshman year varsity!!!" CARLOS GOMEZ GARCIA
"What should I write on this?" RILEY HARRIS
"I'm better at football than Ben." ALEXANDER REZA
"Keep calm and do not foul." NEILSON LAHTI
"I like shoes way too much." DYLAN ASAY
"Ice cream in a bowl of cheerios." FABIAN MEDINA
"Six words?

010 LIFE // TRAGEDY

SWIMMING IS A PASSION THAT ENCOURAGES SWIMMERS TO

PUSH their limits

Despite its appearance, swimming isn't an individual sport; teams need each swimmer to push her hardest if they want a chance at victory.

"Just like every other sport, swim takes a lot of hard work and dedication," sophomore Julia Pappas said. "Every second of training counts because the difference between first and last could be a matter of seconds."

Before each event, swimmers have to put aside all distractions and concentrate on doing their best.

"When I'm standing on the block, in addition to being really nervous, I remind myself of things I need to do, like how many breaths I need to take and corrections I need to make on my flip turn and then I just forget about everything else going on around me," senior Aria Davis said. "When I'm swimming in a meet I don't think about anything except pushing myself to my limits and hopefully breaking my personal record, which means I have to focus on that race and that race only."

The team finds reward in challenging themselves and putting their all into swim.

"Beating my personal time is the best feeling," junior Nathalie Goulding said. "It feels really good knowing that my hard work has paid off in a positive way. The 100 butterfly is my favorite stroke because it's the event that challenges me the most. I've only ever swam the 50 butterfly so it challenges me to improve my stroke and pace myself so that I am able to do the full 100 yards."

Although swim has some negative aspects, the swimmers are still motivated to push themselves and improve their times.

"I have a love/hate relationship with swim," Davis said. "Swim pushes me a lot and it's not easy. I hate going to practice sometimes because of how tiring and difficult it can be but then my times for my events get better at each meet. It's a lot of work but it really pays off. My favorite part is knowing how much I've put in and being able to see the results in my times. It really sucks when I work hard and don't get the results I wanted, which happens sometimes, but I have to get past that and push myself to work even harder."

By enduring through the season together, the swimmers have been able to create stronger bonds with each other.

"I love being around the other swimmers and the coaches," Goulding said. "They are some of the nicest and most encouraging people I've ever met. I've made a lot of new friends and built stronger relationships with the friends I already had."

I JUST FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE GOING ON AROUND ME
ARIA DAVIS, 12

it's what we do
the dive team flips their way to victory

"My favorite part about diving is doing the flips. It feels cool to be upside down and soar through the air for a few seconds. My experience with gymnastics has helped me learn new dives faster."
AMY NIU, 10

"I decided to try diving because I wanted to be able to flip through the air. It just looks beautiful and it's something I would usually never do. I've really enjoyed doing it, it's a lot of fun and I like seeing myself improve."
KATE BELL, 11

it's your story

128 SPORTS // SWIM GIRLS // SCOREBOARD & TEAM PHOTO PAGE 298

MODESTO, CA

WINGSPAN

JAMES ENOCHS HS

1. RAWR Seniors Taylor Rossini, Callie Wright, Katherine Wasmund, and Nicole Cardoso growl in the spirit of jungle day. "We didn't plan on dressing up together," Rossini said, "but at lunch, we saw each other and realized we had all dressed up in matching cheetah print, so we stopped to take a photo."

2. UP UP AWAY Senior Jared Smith watches in anticipation as the ball swishes through the net. "I play as hard as I can to get the win. I go play-by-play. I set a goal for myself each game like playing more aggressively or going for steals. My favorite game was pre-season against East Union, when I scored 20 points. It gave me a lot confidence. **3. WIPE IT** Sophomore Jessenia Becerra-Padilla cleans off a streak of dirt off a car at the band car wash.

4. HOLLA AT YO BOY At club rush, senior Jacob Marsh calls students to his table to join Future Political Leaders of America. **5. FORCED SMILE** In the fall drama production, senior Rachael DeVaughn squeezes assistant principal Derek Pendley's cheek while he takes a seat in the electric chair.

CLOWNIN' AROUND Dressed in brightly-colored clown attire, senior Amani Khalil chuckles at lunch during homecoming. "I just wanted to do something that not a lot of people would do. I didn't want to go through the pigtails and classic lunch box and balloon costume. I like being the entertainment. My favorite part about my outfit was my bright blue contacts with a black rim. It was another cool way to be an individual.

6. MUSTACHIFIED Dressed for crazy day in the spirit of Alice in Wonderland, freshman Angelica Nila wears a fake mustache to show her spirit and sense of humor.

7. CLUB Junior Brian Rakestraw and senior Rawinder Brah make students to join the Indian Student Association at club rush. "I joined ISA my freshman year because it was a place I could get together with my community at school and relate to people of my background. It's been a cool experience," Dhillon said. **8. CRASH INTO ME** During her first trip to the ocean, junior Laci Rakestraw screams as a wave crashes into her. "It was my first time in the ocean," Rakestraw said. "I was scared at first, but it was really fun. I got calmer up my nose and it hurt."

PHOTOS / CHRISTAN SANTOS, JON EVERS, FARRAH LLANES, JAIREI OLARTE & KIM PADILLA

We say the phrase with a shrug. It's the simple answer to the challenging questions. It's a wall we build.a A rift we create between reality and perception. Because we know life is sometimes difficult to explain, even to ourselves.

We make the best of what we have. Simplify things. Find balance. Create order. We make schedules. Lists. Organize our assignments by class in a binder with dividers. We create a routine, focus on one thing at a time. We have a plan. It's our default setting.

But the unexpected happens. Life is uncontrollable. That's why Coach Herring changed your practice time without telling you. It's why you didn't make it to Hunnell's class before he locked the door, or why your car broke down the morning you had a project due in Moreci's. It's why Waterson called on you for the one question you didn't know the answer to. It's why you were ambushed by seagulls during lunch and then tripped up the stairs on your way to class.

It's why you are forced to say goodbye far to soon to a beloved friend. It's unforeseen, unanticipated, unpredictable.

it's complicated

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