

The Aviary

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Student Success at DTASC

~ Nicholas Steinman

Students seeking to showcase their talents don't always look to competitive environments as the most supportive places to get started—but perhaps they should, according to many of the young actors, singers, and costume and set designers who've represented WISH Academy at the Drama Teachers' Association of Southern California (DTASC)'s theater competitions. As senior Summer Lucas, interviewed with Duncan Rampen on May 31st while rehearsing for a DTASC event showcasing winning entries from its spring Shakespeare Festival, recalled, "I think it's the coolest thing to see all these people with such respectable talent that then tell you that they think you did great—there's no better feeling." WISH has seen increasing success in DTASC competitions over the past three years; Rampen and Lucas's 2nd-place performance with a truncated dialogue from Shakespeare's *Richard III*, out of about 25 entries in the same category, is the school's highest trophy yet. Ms. Landon, WISH Academy's theater teacher, organizes and coaches the school's DTASC participants.

Founded in 1920, DTASC has long held two "festivals" per year: the Fall Festival in October, and the Shakespeare Festival in April, held around the time of the famed playwright's birthday and focused on his work. Both take up a full Saturday for students, often including travel time to the faraway high school campuses where these regional events are



held. They feature competitions in many areas ranging from costume and set design to monologues, play excerpts, and musicals, with each competition emphasizing a different aspect of the art of theater through parameters including a strictly limited runtime—usually only five to eight minutes. The requirements of each event—a specific theme, an amount of performers, or what plays to perform and how to modify them—require participants to get creative. Lucas and Rampen, close friends since kindergarten, performed a truncated version of Act 1, Scene 2 of *Richard III* (in which Richard attempts to win the hand of Lady Anne after having her husband and father-in-law both murdered) alone on stage for the "Real Housewives of Shakespeare" event. They used four chairs laid down facing the audience to represent the corpse of King Henry VI due to DTASC's prohibition of props and costumes in many acting-focused competition areas. Other competition areas require that an entire play be condensed into an eight-minute performance. According to Ms. Landon, "It takes me eight hours to cut a scene. ... I've got to read the whole play and really understand how I can make this match up." She ... (see pg. 4)

Original Team's Farewell

~ Hannah Benveniste

Three years ago, in our first issue ever, I wrote an article titled Philosophy/Mission for *The Flock*, our school newspaper now known as *The Aviary*. In that article, I wrote, "We hope to strengthen the community by creating an atmosphere of transparency and collaboration," reflecting my early goals and ambitions for the newspaper. The person who wrote that article could never imagine all the ways the newspaper would come to shape her. And now, as I write my final article for this newspaper, I stand proud, knowing that even though we are far from perfect, we achieved everything I wrote in that article and so much more. The little club, started by a few nerdy sophomores in English class, grew into a publication that covers a wide variety of subjects within WISH and our larger community.

The Aviary has never been a solo effort—it has grown from the collaboration of passionate students supported by phenomenal mentors. I still remember our advisor, Ms. Cynthia Avalos, and her intently encouraging reaction when I first came to her with the idea of creating a student newspaper. Her spirit has been a core of the newspaper from the very first day. That intense encouragement never faltered through the many hour-long discussions and debates over every stressful twist and turn she had to sit through. She is the ... (see pg. 6)

Reader's Guide

Read on for...

- * The accomplishments of DTASC and Academic Decathlon,
- * An explanation of stagflation in the 1970s,
- * An exciting science field trip students had the opportunity to participate in,
- * The importance of AAPI Month,
- * More on summer events and activities,
- * Comics, crosswords, op-eds,

... and more!

Brackets [] are added in quotes when words are added or inferred for clarity.

A Look Ahead: Summer Events

~ Hannah Benveniste

As the 2023-2024 school year comes to a close, WISH Academy students have numerous summer events and activities to look forward to.

Summer events are often a great way to gain service hours while reconnecting with friends. Students of all ages can look forward to WISH's annual Fourth of July parade float. Students will have the opportunity to walk next to, on, or behind the float as it moves through the Westchester Fourth of July Parade around 11 am to 12 pm. The parade is put on by the LAX / Coastal Chamber of

Commerce and takes place on Manchester Avenue and Loyola Boulevard, starting near Westchester Park and ending on the Loyola Marymount University campus. On a day (to be announced) shortly before the parade, the school will offer a volunteer opportunity for students to help decorate the WISH float. Both the float decoration and the parade will count towards participating students' service hours in the next school year.

Another great way to gain service hours while supporting WISH over the summer is campus beautification. The separate indoor and ... (see pg. 4)

Recognizing AAPI Month

~ Aida Mebea & Gabriel Koppula

May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (often referred to as AAPI Appreciation Month), dedicated to honoring the rich cultures and significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. This celebration began in the late 1970s as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week to recognize the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants and the completion of the transcontinental railroad by Chinese laborers. Later, former President Obama expanded this to a month, with President Biden formally recognizing native Hawaiian peoples. Despite facing numerous challenges, the AAPI community has enriched American history with their resilience and achievements.

The AAPI community is incredibly diverse, encompassing a wide range of traditions, languages, and customs. From the colorful festivities of Lunar New Year to the vibrant lights of Diwali, AAPI cultures offer a wide variety of celebrations that vary from country to country. Students across the US learn about the wide variety of cultural festivals, cuisines, and traditions throughout the month of May in celebration of the achievements and contributions of AAPI peoples. Additionally, AAPI contributions to art, business and science are notable, with figures like Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian woman to go to space, making profound impacts in ... (see pg. 4)

On the Met Gala

~ Analise Tessema, Opinion

Annually, on the first Monday of May, the fashion superpowers gather to cast judgment upon a museum that highlights their history. The name of this museum of the MET is The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and they host a gala every year to raise funds for their costume department. This year, its theme is “Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion,” and it is inspired by the theme of the exhibition at this particular museum.

It all started in 1948 by Elanor Lambert, the founder of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. The event began as a fundraiser for the costume institute, serving as an annual funding for their exhibitions, acquisitions, and maintenance. Since then, the focus has turned towards fashion instead of fundraising . On the exhibit’s debut (that will stay open for only a few months afterward), the theme of the exhibition serves as an inspiration for the theme of the MET that year. The MET gala is one of the most profitable fundraisers in New York City annually; Forbes reported the MET gala has raised more than \$175 million, which makes sense considering the outstanding \$75,000 ticket price for general admission.

The MET gala is important for a variety of reasons. First off, the MET gala gives advertisements for designers, directors, and brands. This is the equivalent of a fashion designer’s report card. Secondly, it brings attention to the MET and specifically to its costume institute. Lastly, it shows which celebrities are favored by the art and entertainment industry. This will give insight on who is favored by said industry.



The MET gala today is far different then how it was in the past, an example being that general admission ticket prices used to be 50 dollars! The gala wasn’t held at the MET early on, instead being hosted in venues such as Central Park, the Rainbow Room, and the Waldorf Astoria. The MET gala is important in fashion, celebrity, and cultural history.

The MET gala is not only a place of shared passion for fashion but a place of controversy. A notable example in recent years is Madonna’s butt-cutout dress. They also habitually ban people for saying controversial comments. Donald Trump is one of the high profile figures banned from the MET gala for his “unsavory” public statements about certain ethnic groups and his association with certain groups that also display unwanted misconduct. Actress and writer Tina Fey is banned for saying “If you had a million arms and all the people you would punch in the whole world, they’re all there... It is so unbelievable. Clearly, I’ll never go again,” in reference to the event. Actress Gweneth Paltrow is banned as well for saying “...seems like it’s the best thing in the world... You always think, ‘Oh my god, it’s gonna be so glamorous and amazing’ and you’re going to see all these people and then you get there and it’s so hot and it’s so crowded and everyone’s pushing you. I think we’re all a bit old to ... (see pg. 5)

History Explained: Stagflation

~ Nathan Valdivia

In the 1970s, the United States faced an economic malady that it hadn’t previously experienced: stagflation. Stagflation is when inflation rates and unemployment rates are both high—in other words, prices keep rising, even while the economy stagnates or falls into recession. Stagflation is uniquely difficult to shake because curbing inflation usually requires encouraging consumers and companies to save money rather than borrowing, which also slows economic growth. On the other hand, encouraging spending that would help grow the economy can also increase inflation,

worsening a stagflation crisis. Stagflation in the U.S. was caused by globalization and outsourcing of goods, combined with an overreliance on the automobile.

After increasing Middle East tensions throughout the 1970s boiled over and led to the Fourth Arab-Israeli War, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) placed an embargo on countries supporting Israel, including the United States. This embargo sparked the stagflation crisis in the U.S., during the presidency of Jimmy Carter. As many people know, in today’s U.S., there is a vast reliance on automobiles. At this time, the Interstate Highway System

was relatively new and it gave people the opportunity to live further away from work in new suburbs. However, once the OAPEC embargo hit, gas prices soared. Prices became so high that they interfered with logistics and prevented many people from going to work. And it didn’t end with workers. Transportation of almost everything was reliant on oil/gas powered vehicles at some point. This meant that everyday goods could not be sent out as cheaply as they had been. These factors caused increased unemployment, even while prices rose across the board.

The stagflation crisis of the 1970s may have been sparked by ... (see pg. 3)

WISH Wash

Month in Review



~ **Nicholas Steinman**

With the conclusion of classes, the culmination of extracurricular activities, and the rush of final exams and projects, May and June are often some of the most frenetic, busy months for students at WISH Academy. But as the end of the year approaches, there is also time for celebration and reflection on the memories and achievements of another year gone by and another grade completed. Here’s a look back at some of the events that have wrapped up the 2023-2024 school year.

For upperclassmen, ASB’s Masquerade-themed Junior-Senior Prom was one of the most unforgettable events of the entire year. On the night of Saturday, April 27th, about 75 WISH Academy students and guests ascended in style to the lavishly-decorated second floor of modern Culver City hotel The Shay for three hours of dance, fine dining, and celebration. Thanks to the hard work of parent volunteers, staff and administrators who helped organize and supervise the event, and students from ASB, led by president ... (see pg. 7)

Regeneron Field Trip

~ **Danawite Dersse**

On May 16th, all WISH Academy high school students had the opportunity to participate in the Society for Science Education Outreach Day at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Thursday, May 16. Over 1,700 students from 60+ countries were represented at the Science Fair. All students were encouraged to attend the field trip. “I want the students to have the opportunity to learn many pure disciplines in science, such as Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, as well as applied sciences in Mathematics and Engineering.” Said WISH Academy Science Teacher Dr. Leggett who planned and chaperoned the event.

The field trip explored a unique opportunity for thousands of local

AcaDeca: Big Wins and Bigger Ambitions

~ **Nicholas Steinman & Gabriel Koppula**

WISH Academy boasts a wide variety of clubs and extracurricular activities to choose from, offering unique experiences found nowhere else. But the school also hosts teams competing in more universal high school events. One of these is Academic Decathlon, commonly known as AcaDeca, a nationally-recognized competition in which students compete in ten separate “events” testing their academic skills. WISH’s team of 9 competitors and two alternates has steadily improved since its 2021 founding, winning three trophies in a regional title in the past two years. Now, club advisor and math teacher Ms. Doyle hopes to transition WISH’s team in this demanding competition into its own class in order to give students more time to prepare for its events.

Academic Decathlon participants compete in teams of nine students, although they can be fielded with as few as six. Each team must sport competitors in three unweighted GPA-based brackets: Varsity (3.0-3.19), Scholastic (3.20-3.79), and Honors (3.8-4.0), with each bracket consisting of three team members. Although only the top two event scores from each bracket are counted towards the total points value, it is encouraged to have a team with three students from each bracket, allowing them each to excel in their strongest subject areas without weighing the team down in their harder



tests. Teams compete in ten total events, although students usually think of them in three broad categories. The first category includes the seven subject tests, in which students complete timed exams on art, economics, language and literature, math, music, science, and social science. Each year, the subject packets are designed with a particular theme in mind—take 2024’s theme of science fiction, for example, where steampunk literature was the focus of the English section. The second event category is what students refer to as “Speech and Interview,” where competitors prepare and recite a 3-4 minute speech, draft and argue a 1-2 minute impromptu speech, and complete a 5-minute interview about a variety of adaptive topics. The last of the three event categories is SuperQuiz, a live head-to-head event scored separately from the other nine where participating schools compete against each other by bracket before the awards ceremony.

AcaDeca teams compete in three levels of competition: regional, state, and national. The regional competition takes place over successive weekends in January and early ... (see pg. 6)

Stagflation

(from pg. 2) ... a war, but it was also caused by deeper changes to the global economy. U.S. aid and investment helped encourage developing countries to build their economies around certain sectors; Western countries then outsourced much of their own production further away to these countries. For example, some Asian countries focused their goods on automobiles at the time. Currently, Taiwan is the main country for microchips in cell-phones. At that time, Middle Eastern countries centered their economies around oil production. The US was— and still is—a major customer of the OAPC countries for oil. Therefore, when the embargo hit, the US supply of oil drastically decreased, ... (see pg. 8)

~ *Danawite Dersse*

Summer Events



(from pg. 1) ... outdoor beautification events are an opportunity for students to help create a welcoming environment for the start of the new year. Students will clean up the campus, put up decorations, help teachers unpack their classrooms, and many more essential tasks to prepare for the start of the semester. Outdoor beautification, focusing on tasks such as trash pickup and replanting the plants in the planters, will be on July 11th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, and indoor beautification, focusing on decorating classrooms and getting the campus organized, will be on August 7th from 10 am-1 pm.

For those looking to reconnect with their friends over summer break, WISH is holding an Ice Skating Social at the Toyota Sports Performance Center in El Segundo from 7:30pm-9:30pm. Ticket prices may vary but are usually around \$25. Warm clothes and a helmet are recommended to be most prepared and comfortable during the day.

For rising seniors, summer break provides a time to get started on college applications. A college application workshop will be held from 10 am to noon each day from Monday, June 24th through Friday, June 28th to support incoming seniors during what can be a stressful time. The ... (see pg. 5)

Preparation Rewards at DTASC

(from pg. 1) ... recounted cutting Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew* and *King Lear*, both of which can take over 2 hours to perform unabridged, for the other group that competed in the spring, requiring her to fully read and understand both plays before condensing them. This year, WISH Academy brought about 10–15 students to both DTASC events. At the Shakespeare Festival, they presented two scenes in small groups and a costume design from Mastercraft students. Larger schools that present more scenes can bring dozens of students.

Competing in DTASC also requires weeks, or even months, of preparation from participating performers. WISH Academy’s costume and set design entries usually come from students in Ms. Landon’s Mastercraft class, where they have time to prepare. Other performers—actors, or even singers—must memorize their lines on their own time and rehearse with Ms. Landon during free periods or after school. Duncan Rampen and Summer Lucas prepared for their scene while on vacation together during Spring Break and had their lines almost entirely committed to memory in time to dive deep into the performance with Ms. Landon when they returned. Since competition areas usually strip a theatrical skill to its most essential components (such as by focusing on short, often condensed scenes and restricting props to a so-called “Festival of Chairs”), an entry strong enough to advance to finals—or even to rank in the five numbered places or win one of five honorable mentions in each event—requires competitors to devote hours to honing their performances, such as by carefully considering the delivery and body language of each line to create an emotionally impactful scene. Rampen and

Lucas’s “Real Housewives of Shakespeare” entry is WISH’s second ever in the top five, with the school having won several honorable mentions as well since beginning to compete in Fall 2021.

However, Rampen and Lucas both cited as DTASC’s greatest benefit the supportive community of the Los Angeles area’s most passionate theater students that it brings together. Rampen remarked, “It’s just such an amazing opportunity to perform in front of ... so many people who love this craft, and that are gonna give you so much. There’s something about the conversations that matter so much more with a lot of those people, because they get it and they care about the same things, and they’re so talented.” Ms. Landon added, “The reason that I do it is to give people the opportunity to see what’s possible. Because very often, people act from a very safe place, and they are very conservative in their choices as an actor... But what happens is, when you go to DTASC and you see people being bold, and brazen, and expressive, ... it says to you, I need to be more expressive, it’s going to be OK—if anything, it’s going to help me get more attention! So, it’s really inspirational...”

On the 31st, the seniors were especially excited to present their DTASC scene in front of an audience later that day at the winners’ showcase, taking what they’d experienced at the competition to a new environment. Alongside Ms. Landon, they strongly encouraged anyone interested in dedicating time and effort to theater to participate, agreeing that anyone who did so would not regret it and be excited to return.

~ Nicholas Steinman

AAPI Month

(from pg. 2) ... America. Large advancements in particle physics and in vitro fertilization (IVF) have been made by Asian-American scientists, while major entertainers like Bruce Lee and Yo-Yo Ma, 19-time Grammy award-winning cellist, were Asian-Americans. In addition, the founders and cofounders of internationally recognized companies such as Yahoo, Vera Wang, Bose, Youtube, Zoom, and more are all Asian-Americans.

However, the AAPI community continues to face issues such as discrimination, harmful stereotypes, and underrepresentation. COVID-19 exacerbated these issues, leading to a rise in anti-Asian sentiment around the world, but most notably in the US. Efforts towards social justice are ongoing, with

organizations like Stop AAPI Hate and activists like Amanda Nguyen (an Asian Americans’ and sexual assault survivors’ rights activist who will soon be the first Vietnamese person to go to space) leading initiatives for change.

Supporting the AAPI community involves learning about their history, appreciating their cultural contributions, and standing against racism. Our school’s AAPI club, which meets every Friday in room D11, plays a significant role in this effort. The club has hosted numerous events, such as the AAPI potluck, which beautifully showcased a variety of Asian cuisines. As well as a Jeopardy game to increase knowledge about major figures in the AAPI community and educate our school on issues, and cultural contributions. While May ... (see pg. 8)

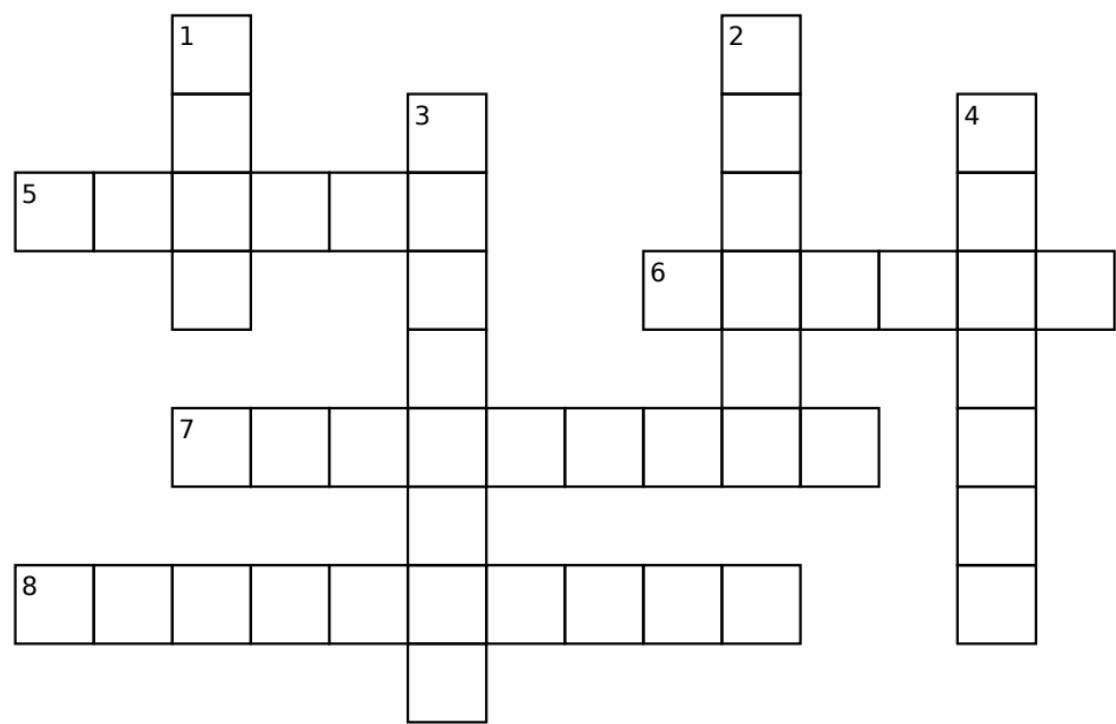
Comic

~ Xander Youngless



Crossword: *End of High School*

~ Nathan Valdivia



- Down:
- 1. the graduation month
 - 2. 12 graders
 - 3. 9th graders
 - 4. school after highschool

- Across:
- 5. 11th graders
 - 6. last and major class assignment.
 - 7. 10th graders
 - 8. moving to the next grade or to next school

Popular Lunches, Ranked



~ Dante Gutrecht

- 1. Pizza** - It sometimes depends on the brand but more often than not there is a huge line of people waiting for a slice every time due to the fact that it's a friday-only thing.
- 2. Burrito** - It's very hard to mess up a burrito, so that makes it easier to be considered one of the better items.
- 3. Chicken and Waffles** - The waffles are ok. They're fine. The chicken is undoubtedly the better half of the pair, and retains it's heat even after however long they save school lunches here.
- 4. Grilled Cheese** - Surprisingly high quality, despite how sketchy the idea of a sandwich wrapped in plastic heating well seems.
- 5. Teriyaki Chicken and Rice with Carrots** - Very good for a school lunch, and all the components mix together nicely.

~ Dante Gutrecht

Summer Events

(from pg. 4) ... workshop will go over topics such as creating a college list and tackling the college essay questions. The link to sign up will be sent to all students in the WISH Wise Weekly email shortly.

All students planning on participating in any 2024/2025 sports are heavily encouraged to attend one or both weeks of summer sports training on campus. Sign ups for the Summer Sports Training Program are included in the Athlete Participation Form found in the WISH Wise Weekly, which is required to sign up for any 2024/2045 sport along with the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation Form. The first week is Monday, July 29th through Thursday, August 1st, and the second week is Monday, August 5th, through Thursday, August 8th, with training both weeks lasting from 9 am to

noon.

Fall sports will hold their tryouts during the Summer Sports Training Program as well. These sports include Cross Country, Girls Flag Football, and Girls Junior Varsity/Varsity Volleyball Teams. The tryouts will be held at WISH Academy High School from 9am to 12pm. To participate in WISH Academy sports, students must fulfill all of the registration requirements. More information on WISH Academy 2024/2025 sports will come out shortly.

During the end of summer, WISH welcomes back all students on the morning of August 9th with orientation, where students will receive their schedules, school-issued devices, and more information about the coming year. Directly after orientation, ... (see pg. 7)

Met Gala

(from pg. 2) ... dress up punk.” There are many more people banned from the MET gala, such as Demi Lavato and Jameela Jamil. (all cited from Dario AS)

The MET gala is also known to love Karl Lagerfeld, the creative director of Chanel, who has gone on record to make some fatphobic comments, one of which being, "You've got fat mothers with their bags of chips sitting in front of the television and saying that thin models are ugly,". He was still the theme of the 2023 MET gala though.

The MET gala is full of icons and history. It is filled with the richest people in entertainment and fashion, we all love their elaborate fashion. We don't all love the people invited, going, or the theme, but that is entertainment.

~ Analise Tessema, Opinion

Farewell!

(from pg. 1) ... anchor that keeps us grounded during disputes and the cheerleader that keeps us motivated when our energy wanes. Ms. Avalos, thank you for everything you have done and your continued commitment to *The Aviary* and its people.

To my co-founders, Editor-at-large Gabriel Koppula and Editor/Journalist Emma Peterson, I can't underestimate how much your work, dedication, and partnership have meant to me. Gabriel, I know I stress you out by dumping loads of articles at the last minute into your lap, but you have saved this newspaper more times than I can count. Emma, your creativity is what makes the newspaper worth reading. From insanely difficult crossword puzzles to the most specific historical articles imaginable, your ability to push the bounds brings the light to *The Aviary*, and I couldn't imagine those issues without it. Mostly of all though, I appreciate all the advice, experience, and friendship I have received from both of you as we have learned and grown from each other.

None of the issues we publish would look as good as they do without Nicholas Steinman: Editor-at-Large, Lead Formatter, Journalist, and so much more. Nicholas has covered some of the hardest community debates *The Aviary* has tackled. He has an immense love and commitment to this newspaper that has grown alongside the club over the years. We first came up with the idea on the floor of his bedroom, and since then, he has poured his heart and soul into this journey with me. He was the first one who believed we could do it, and he continued to believe even when I didn't. He believes in every single journalist as an individual and their ... (see pg. 8)

Comic

~ Janaya Kemp



AcaDeca Competition

(from pg. 3) ... February; the state competition is in April and the national competition in May. WISH Academy is in a region consisting of Southern California private and charter schools, one of the most competitive in the U.S., and has yet to advance to a state competition. El Camino Real and Granada Hills Charter High Schools are the Southern California region's two juggernauts; one of the two schools' teams has been the national Academic Decathlon champion every year since at least 2012. These large schools have dedicated substantial time and staff support to their teams, which are highly competitive to get into and often discourage non-seniors from joining. California as a whole has a 21-year winning streak in the national competition.

Despite the stiff competition, WISH Academy's team won third place overall in the region this year, beaten only by El Camino Real and Granada Hills—and first place in the separately-scored SuperQuiz event. But as WISH's AcaDeca team has become more ambitious, it has faced an issue common to many extracurriculars: a lack of time. With ten subject packets to review, themed musical soundtracks and art pieces to memorize, and required books to read, there has scarcely been enough time between AcaDeca's brief lunch club meetings and its after school practices to grow while tackling the enormous curriculum. To address this, Ms. Doyle is seeking to create an Academic Decathlon class next year, although the effort could be delayed by scheduling constraints. If a

class is created, Ms. Doyle reported that 15 students had already signed up for it on the interest form; this number would likely fluctuate throughout the scheduling process as incoming students selected classes and students were shifted in and out in order to meet their course requirements. Ideally, Ms. Doyle said she'd like to field two teams in the future, competing within different divisions of the Southern California region. Following the end of the regional tournament this year, the AcaDeca club also branched off to another pursuit: sending a team of four to the World Scholars' Cup, a global academic competition founded by a Los Angeles-area former Academic Decathlon champion. The team performed well at the regional round in ... (see pg. 7)

AcaDeca Class Plans

(from pg. 6) ... Pasadena over a Saturday and Sunday in April, qualifying them to attend a subsequent global round. However, the group was unable to attend, not having prepared by fundraising or booking flights for what would have been an international trip. Next year, Ms. Doyle says she hopes to attempt the advance fundraising and logistics necessary to bring a team to the global round, should they qualify again.

As with many of the school’s student organizations, the early success of WISH Academy’s Academic Decathlon program demonstrates the extraordinary things a small group of committed students and staff can achieve with relatively limited time and resources. Even while preparing for bigger things, Ms. Doyle still encourages students of all grades and GPAs interested in building confidence and developing knowledge and quick thinking skills to join Academic Decathlon next year. “My hope is usually that once I get you to do it one year, I can keep you coming back—because it’s one of those competitions where it sounds like it’s a lot of work, and it is, not gonna lie, but it’s also one of those things where they have a lot of fun with it. You know, preparing for speeches and giving those speeches, and being in awe at some of the speeches that your classmates can give, the thoughts your classmates have in your heads.”

~ Nicholas Steinman & Gabriel Koppula

Have a Great Summer!

(from pg. 5) ... LINK leaders will hold LINK Day from 11am to 12pm to welcome incoming 9th grade students. The day gives LINK leaders the opportunity to meet their freshman groups, play games, and give them tours around campus to welcome them to WISH Academy High School.

Students return to school on Monday, August 12th. Until then, *The Aviary* wishes everyone a spectacular summer filled with happy memories with friends and family. Goodbye to the 2024 graduating class and good luck in all future endeavors, in school and out.

Month in Review: End of the Year

(from pg. 3) ... Gabriel Koppula, who oversaw and executed a large portion of the planning work, the event was considered one of WISH Academy’s most successful yet. Prom was preceded by a spirit week organized by ASB and the Black and Brown Student Union (BBSU) in the week leading up to the dance, with days such as PJ Day, Twin Tuesday, Meme Thursday, and ‘90s Day on Friday, giving all WISH Academy students a chance to enjoy a special week before the busy month of May brought exams, final projects, and other challenges.

Other major events have highlighted the hard work of WISH Academy’s VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts) students. The Theater Production class’s second and final show of the year, *Radium Girls*, was staged in the Auditorium on Thursday, May 2nd, at 6:30 pm. The play is based on the true story of the young women factory workers who painted fashionable glow-in-the-dark radium watch dials and other products in the early 20th century, only to discover that they had been encouraged to consume trace amounts of a deadly, radioactive poison.

Following a break for AP exams, state testing, and seniors’ finals, festivities resumed with the Music Department’s Spring “Beats Beyond Borders” concert at 7 pm on Friday, May 24th at LMU’s Murphy Recital Hall. Students in the Choir, Guitar Ensemble, and Contemporary Music Ensemble classes, and student band the Jake 5, performed classics—including a choral arrangement dating to the 1790s—and modern hits alike as videos produced by students in the Digital Composition class played overhead at the sold-out show. The show was followed a week later by a Saturday night concert on June 1st at the same venue by Mr. Illko’s Grammy-winning acoustic guitar trio The String Revolution, the proceeds of which went partially to benefit the school.

Aside from these semester-calling VAPA performances, of course, the efforts of many students were most engaged in the academic conclusion of the year. Students in AP classes, and some who took exams but not classes, busily prepared in advance of the AP exams scheduled from May 6th through the 17th. The results of these exams, important for college class placement and admissions, will be released by the College Board on July 8th. Then, seniors completed their CAST state science exams on the week of April 29th, kicking off end-of-year standardized testing; later, juniors took the Math and English Language Arts SBAC tests on the 7th and

15th and 20th and 21st, respectively. At last, final exams in core classes took place the week of May 20th for seniors and May 27th for other students. Meanwhile, final projects, STAR assessments, and other work to close the semester occupied students’ time until grades were finalized in the last week of the school year.

However, there were also breaks throughout this fast-paced period when students could discover new experiences. About half of WISH Academy students took an optional field trip on Thursday, May 16th, to tour the Regeneron International Science Fair, held this year at the Los Angeles Convention Center downtown, at its Education Outreach Day. In addition to information and outreach sessions, the all-day field trip, organized by the WISH science department, let students see projects from some of the world’s brightest young scientists up close.

As well, many of the school’s clubs and extracurricular activities were hard at work to prepare for final milestones and events. The Asian American-Pacific Islander (AAPI) Culture Club planned three celebrations to observe AAPI Heritage Month in May. The club organized a cultural presentation for students in the library on Monday, May 20th, followed by an AAPI Potluck after school on Thursday, May 30th. That week, the week of May 27th, was the AAPI Heritage Month Spirit Week. There was no school on the 27th in observance of Memorial Day; the days thereafter were “Dress as your Chinese Zodiac,” “Character Day”, “Tropical Thursday”, and “Cultural Icons”. Another well-known lunch club, K-Pop Dance, gave their final performance of the year at the second-semester Awards Assembly held in the Auditorium Friday, May 31st, along with the Contemporary Music Ensemble earlier in the program. The assembly honored students for achievements in WISH’s classes and academic areas.

The end of the year was also a time of celebration for WISH Academy’s student athletes. At the Athletics Banquet on May 28th, teams and athletes were honored for a year of unprecedented success, and select students from each team were recognized with awards. Madison Mendoza won the first-ever OWL Spirit of Sports Award for her performance in three sports, work managing the baseball team, and yearbook photography at games for many other teams. 4-sport athlete Jayla De Armas-Osborne was honored as Athlete of the Year for her performance on the ... (see pg. 8)

Month in Review

(from pg. 7) ... volleyball, flag football, basketball, and track teams and her outstanding athletic achievement outside of school—for example, as part of Los Angeles’s Chargers All-Star Girls’ Flag Football team.

Of course, recent weeks have been especially busy for the Class of 2024. The last senior events of the year have quickly unfolded as graduation—6 pm at Playa Vista’s Central Park on Friday, June 7th—looms. Graduating seniors attended a luncheon in K5 on May 29th to receive their yearbooks and celebrate their college decisions. The next morning, they traveled to the WISH Elementary School campus for a procession in their caps and gowns before continuing to the bandshell at Central Park for their graduation rehearsal. On Friday, May 31st, WISH Academy held a school-wide awards assembly, at which seven seniors were specially recognized for their excellence in specific subject areas. Then, from about 7:30 pm on Sunday, June 2nd to 3 am the following morning (?), participating members of the Class of 2024 traveled by charter bus to Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim for Grad Night, which many agreed was one of the most exciting times of the whole year.

Overall, the final month and a half of the school year has kept a busy pace, but it’s also been a time of reflection, celebration, and many fun activities. While the end of the school year can seem like a blur at times, it also contains many of its most valuable memories.

~ Nicholas Steinman

AAPI Heritge

(from pg. 4) ... is dedicated to celebrating the AAPI community, let's ensure we honor and support their voices and contributions throughout the year.

~ Aida Mebea & Gabriel Koppula

Original Editors Say Goodbye

(from pg. 6) ... ability to grow. As I am writing this, he is currently staying up way later than he should to make sure every article can go into the newspaper. Thank you for your thoughtful stories, late nights, and careful editing, that reflect the dedication and energy you put into this paper.

Over the past three years, *The Aviary* has seen new upperclassmen beyond our founding crew. Nathan Valdivia, Dante Gutretch, and Aida Mebea all joined early this year, and each one of them has spent so many hours interviewing, writing, rewriting, researching, and rewriting again to publish phenomenal pieces. I know I can be very hard on you guys, but it is only because I see your incredible potential. It has been an honor to watch you grow and grow alongside you, and I thank you for your patience, passion, and tenacity.

The Aviary boasts a wide variety of content, and while our informative articles are important, part of our wider appeal comes from light-hearted tidbits. Thank you Janaya Kemp, our first-ever comic artist, who continues to publish funny and entertaining pieces for us, and Xander Youngless, who uses his dark sense of humor to create creative and interesting works of art. Thank you, Duncan Rampen, for running The Scallop, our satire section, and all the newspaper members who made the many crossword puzzles over the years.

Finally, I have to recognize the talented, passionate, and dedicated group of people who will make sure that next year’s *Aviary* lives on and reaches greater heights. Azariyah Ermias joined early this semester and has already put in so much work with his thoughtful interviews and articles. I am excited to announce that Danawite Dersse will be next year’s Editor in Chief, and Analise Tessema will be stepping in as an Editor. Although I haven’t known them for long, I am confident in their ability to continue the torch of journalism and student engagement. I know it will not always be easy, but I have seen the passion and perseverance that will get them through the challenges they will face. Make sure to lean on each other throughout your journey and I wish you the best of luck. If you are interested in joining the newspaper club next year or have any other questions, please contact danawited@wishcharter.org.

Thank you Ms. Mowll for originally approving and supporting The Aviary three years ago, and thank you to Dr. Draxton and the administration for their continued support. Thank you to the many who contributed sources, materials, and articles to the newspaper over the years who I did not mention above.

As we say goodbye to our seniors,

allow me to share their closing statements:

"I hope that our newspaper has helped you stay informed in some way. Maybe you were just there for the crosswords, but we appreciate you nonetheless, dear readers. Thanks for coming along for the ride through some good times and some stressful times as we strived to create a great image of journalism that will last years to come at WISH." - Gabriel Koppula

"This club has taught me the power of storytelling, teamwork, and the importance of staying informed. It's been an honor learning how to share stories with such a talented group of individuals, thank you for all you’ve done for me Newspaper Club." - Aida Mebea

"Working for *The Aviary* as a writer, editor, designer, and webmaster has been enriching in so many ways. Beyond even the written content, the process of putting out a newspaper is so fun, and I’m so glad I got to be a part of it. If you have an interest in any of these skills, I hope you get in contact with The Aviary soon. When you see this newspaper, as with so much on this campus, remember that it’s all a labor of love." - Nicholas Steinman

As for my final statement I hope this newspaper has taught you something even if it is small. It has been such a fun and fulfilling experience that I am so glad to have gotten the opportunity to be a part of. I hope you continue to pay attention to this newspaper and journalism in general. Never stop learning, reading, writing, and creating because that is what makes life worth living.

I will end this article the same way I ended that original Philosophy/Mission article: There would be no Newspaper without readers, so thank you.

~ Hannah Benveniste

Stagflation

(from pg. 3) ... causing the transportation crisis mentioned before. This led to one of the worst economic crises since the Great Depression.

~ Nathan Valdivia