

Pump That Warrior Spirit Up!

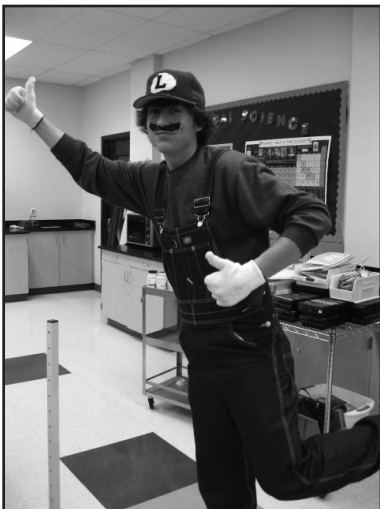
By CJ Wrye
Junior Sports Editor

It's that time again, time for VCHS to show their Warrior Spirit. This year's Spirit Week theme, chosen by ASB, was superheroes and from freshmen to seniors, everyone showed excitement for the chosen theme. Seniors were Spiderman, juniors chose The Incredibles, sophomores supported Superman, and freshmen were given Batman.

Class t-shirt day started out the week on Monday, October 29. All the students showed up to school supporting their class. Seniors, of course, were the most spirited and broke ahead early with 115 spirit points; next came the juniors with 67, freshmen with 61, and in last place, the sophomores with 48 spirit points.

The famous Pajama Day was on Tuesday and everyone in the school dressed up for this day. From SpongeBob pajama bottoms to the comfy traditional sweats everyone looked cozy. Some students just rolled out of bed and came to school looking very relaxed throughout the whole day.

Also on Tuesday was the annual PowderPuff football game between the



Luigi Strikes a Pose in the Lab



Senior Girls show their Spirit in Matching Shirts

classes. The first round was seniors vs. freshmen and juniors vs. sophomores.

With Wednesday came —er day. Students came to school dressed as teachers, dancers, firefighters, campers, and in other creative costumes. The famous Homecoming chapel also took place on Wednesday. All the princes and princesses dressed their best to walk down the red carpet past the whole student body and wave to their class. The prince and princess for the classes were: freshmen, **Megan Fairchild** and **Bryan Chiang**; sophomores, **Mackenzie Beveridge** and **Niki Slavidge**; juniors **Ashley Mauro** and **Aneesh Chaganty**; senior princesses were **Ciki Coetsee**, **Gina Portale**, and **Chenny Zhang** and senior princes were **Jared Clapham**, **John Walitsch**, and **Tyler Seaman**. All participated in the rally playing games, answering questions, and telling a little about themselves.

Super Nintendo day was on Thursday and Nintendo characters seemed to pop out of the screen and onto Valley Christians campus. Students came wearing

red and green shirts with blue overalls representing Mario and Luigi. All the classes racked up spirit points to try and get ahead going into the last spirit day.

As the week came to an end all the students made their last effort to gain spirit points. The last day was theme day and each class dressed up according to their designated theme. Senior, **Tori Bergland** wore a full Spiderman outfit to represent her senior class.

Spirit Week was a major success and all the students enjoyed a week full of fun and excitement. The week pumped up all the students for the Saturday football game against Archbishop Mitty.

TEACHER FEATURE

By Brittney Tanori
Assistant Sports Editor



This year, Valley Christian High School added its newest Chemistry teacher to the faculty, **Mr. Ferdinand Cadiente**. Mr. Cadiente started off his Valley career as a substitute for last year's Chemistry classes.

Mr. Cadiente was born in Santa Clara, California on November 14. Although he was born in Santa Clara, he grew up in San Jose. His middle school days were spent at St. Patricks in downtown San Jose. He went to Archbishop Mitty High School, graduated and went to Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, majoring in Biochemistry. His favorite subjects are Philosophy and Theology. His past jobs consisted of being a Lab assistant, a teacher's assistant and a private tutor.

After graduating, he met his wife Holly through a friend. Holly and Mr. Cadiente have been married for 6 years and very much enjoy each other's company. In his spare time, he loves to do pottery and ceramics, go outdoors to camp and hike and all around recreational sports. An interesting story is when Mr. Cadiente and his wife got lost in Big Basin deep in the woods and spent the night on the side of the trail 'til the sun rose and they hiked out.

So far, Mr. Cadiente loves working at Valley Christian High School and considers it as a "good experience." He feels God has led him to work this way because he has the passion to work with people.

RESOLVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Jamie Walitsch
Staff Writer

With the ASB theme of "Resolve" this year, students are reorganizing their priorities and deciding to take a stand for what they believe in.

Resolving to do something means to come to a definite or earnest decision. Are you resolving to do something this year? Or this week? This day? As teenagers, we are often told that we are too young, or too inexperienced to make a difference in this world. Many teens take this to heart and think that they can do anything. But it's not about changing the world; it's about making that one small difference. It's about deciding to put others before yourself and changing the way you live your life to make yourself a better person.

When you resolve to make yourself better, you never know what might happen. Students all over the world have made huge differences just because they decided to take one small step. **Craig Kielburger**, a 12 year-old from Toronto, Canada, read an article about a Pakistani boy who was murdered for speaking out against child labor in his country. Craig was touched by the story and decided to start an organization where kids could help increase awareness of child labor and child poverty around the world and take action to fight these problems. His organization, called "Free the Children," now has branches in over 35 countries.

Also, **Ryan Hreljic** started "Ryan's Well Foundation" at the age of six. (Yes, 6 years old!) When he learned that many people in Africa were becoming

extremely ill and dying because they did not have clean water, he set out to raise \$70 to build a well. After he reached his goal, he continued to raise awareness and organize his foundation. Ryan has now raised over 1 million dollars, and his foundation has helped thousands of Africans receive clean water.

Ryan and Craig are examples of kids who truly had "Resolve." Their decision to take one small step to make a difference led to something extraordinary. If every teen resolved to change something, how much better would our world be? Like Rachel's Challenge, a chain reaction could be started.

Often, we resolve to do something, but never take action. We say we will read our Bible every day, or but something comes up, so we put it off. We would rather watch TV, or go out with our friends. We resolve to live for Christ, but we continue to follow the crowd. If we don't make things happen, they won't. Resolving is all about deciding to make a difference, and taking action to accomplish our desires. A man by the name of **Anthony Robbins** once said, "I believe life is constantly testing us for our level of commitment, and life's greatest rewards are reserved for those who demonstrate a never-ending commitment to act until they achieve. This level of **resolve** can move mountains, but it must be constant and consistent. As simplistic as this may sound, it is still the common denominator separating those who live their dreams from those who live in regret."

HOW TO: CONQUER BLACK FRIDAY

By Christine Byrne and Alyssa Tomasello
Junior Features and News Editors

The day immediately following Thanksgiving is commonly known as Black Friday. It is one of the craziest days of the entire year. The parking lot of the mall is like a war zone. All are fighting for one parking spot to get into the blessed mall. This is the day when stores put out their sale signs and shoppers rush through in a mad frenzy. If you are like the rest of the world, you need to buy presents for your family and friends, you have a budget, and you need those gifts fast!

The first tip to get through this stressful season from Thanksgiving to Christmas is to plan your time wisely. Make a list of all the people you need to buy gifts for, and then add to that list three gifts you could possibly buy for each person. This way when you head to the stores, you will have a plan of exactly what you are looking for. If a store doesn't have what you had in mind, move onto the second or third item on the list. The more prepared you are for your shopping trip, the less the crowds will be a distraction.

Another way to make your holiday shopping a breeze is to create homemade gifts for your friends and family members. A gift made from the heart means more than a gift card from Nordstrom or a tie from Macy's. A well thought out photo album of you and the receiver of the gift is a wonderful present. Try adding fun stickers and sayings throughout the book to make it a scrapbook.

If you have a knack with yarn and knitting needles, nothing warms the heart like a homemade scarf! If you choose to knit or crochet your gifts, make sure you allow plenty of time to finish the project. No all-nighters on Christmas Eve!

"For my mom's Christmas present, my mom, my sister, and I are going to San Francisco for a spa and shopping day. First we will spend time getting massages, then we will stroll around the city looking at all of the beautiful decorations and window shop, then we will go and buy presents for one another. To finish the perfect day, my sister and I will take my mom to a beautiful dinner," said senior, **Tori Bergland**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IS GIVING BACK

By Megan McKinley
Staff Writer

Time is running out for completing community service hours for the first semester. Students must achieve ten hours according to specific themes in their grade level, ten hours in the church community, and five hours of free choice. All adding up to twenty-five hours, in which at least ten hours of community service must be turned in to Bible teachers by the end of the first semester.

Going to a church or a senior's home might sound difficult for those who are timid and shy. But from recent experience, freshmen **Camille Holm** said, "I felt more comfortable at the community service agency because having a friend helped me to concentrate better and do my best work." **Holm** also said, "you have



People hard at work, serving their community

fun when you are with a friend." So buddy up with a friend and have fun while serving the community.

As followers of Christ remember to bring the Good News to the community, to shine God's light upon those who live in darkness. Keep in mind, that as students from Valley Christian High School, you represent Christ's body. When reaching out to people in the community, remember that God wants His followers to serve respectfully.

Now is the chance to complete hours for community service. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

LIFE OUTSIDE THE WALLS

By Melody Makhfi
Staff Writer

Along with Valley Christian, there are many other high schools in the area. Andrew Hill High, Santa Teresa High, Archbishop Mitty, Bellarmine College Prep, Presentation High, Notre Dame High, and many, many more. Some students are curious as to what is happening in the high schools surrounding them, as to just being informed about the news and events of VCHS.

Santa Teresa High School held their Homecoming week on October 22-27; many of their activities included Powder Puff Football, as well as a skit competition between the classes. Along with ST, many other high schools held their Homecoming activities during the same week, such as Gilroy High School.

As for the performing arts section, Mitty High School opened their Fall Musical *Little Women* on October 25. Monte Vista's Drama Department presented *Bury the Dead* by Irwin Shaw and *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* in the Auditorium on October 26, 27 and November 2, 3. Fall plays were very popular for that week of October, while Brahman High School made Homecoming week a little more creative by opening their *Bruin's House of Horrors*, a frightful haunted house for the public. Monte Vista gives back, by holding their *Trick o' Treaties* for diabetes. The entrance fee of \$5 pulled through for donations for patients with diabetes.

High Schools all around the San Jose area hold many exciting activities, so now you are aware of not only the activities of Valley Christian Schools.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: BOOK CLUB TAKES THE COVER

By Amanda Hochmuth
Staff Writer

An exciting new group welcomes you to join them every Tuesday at lunch in room 221 to be a part of the continually growing Book Club.

This student-founded club began as a simple idea from junior, **Rebecca Pfeil**. She, along with juniors **Victoria Hall** and **Caitlin Barbour** and sophomore **Jamie Orozco**, formed Valley's latest club known as the Book Club. "It is always frustrating to be excited about a book and want to talk about it, but not want to ruin it for those people who haven't read it yet," stated Pfeil. The Book Club is the perfect solution for that problem. The club reads and follows the same book together, and

then meets to discuss and talk about the reading, as well as share thoughts, ideas, and reactions

Currently, the club is beginning their first book, *Alanna: The First Adventure* by Tamora Pierce. This fantasy novel is the first in a series of four books, and centers on a girl who trades places with her twin brother, disguises her true gender, and trains to become a knight. The members of book club will follow Alanna on her journey by discussing her adventures and recounting her experiences.

The Book Club also takes suggestions and ideas from members for future books. The club has some goals set

in mind as well as besides simply reading books. Pfeil hopes to collect books in the future and donate them to shelters or families in need of reading materials. The Book Club invites you to come join the fun and be a part of this exciting experience!



The Book Club's First Novel

PACK YOUR BAGS, WE'RE MOVING TO KOREA

By Arman M. Zadeh
Staff Writer

"We're moving." These are two words that no teenage student would ever want to hear. Little did I know, my life was soon to be drastically changed by a new, international experience. "We're moving to Seoul, South Korea." My mind was racing with thoughts of: *why Korea? How long will I be gone for? What about my friends? Do they play sports?*

One week later, my family and I were sitting for 14 hours on an uncomfortable economy class seat traveling *Korean Air*. The combination of the whole move, babies crying in front of me, and the turbulence of the airplane made me sick. I didn't know if I could adapt to a brand new life in a brand new country and make brand new friends. It would be an understatement to call this move overwhelming.

I was in a daze when we arrived in the city. Seoul is an extraordinary place. The lights, traffic, nightlife, city-streets, skyscrapers, and people felt like a dream. I hadn't slept in 36 hours, so as soon as we arrived at our apartment, I passed out. Ten days later, I had the luxury to go to the Team USA vs. Korea international basketball game. I got to see big name players such as **Lebron James**, **Carmello Anthony**, and **Dwayne Wade** dominate the Korean basketball team. The next day was my first day of school.

Everyday I had to wake up at 7:00 AM to walk to the bus stop. The weather was so cold, it felt like the wind was spitting ice at you. I attended an international school called Seoul Foreign School in Yoni-Dong, South Korea. Everybody spoke English and the majority of students were Americans. Ambassadors' sons and daughters attended my school. Believe it or not, the Prince of Ghana's son was a young, fourth grade student at Seoul Foreign School. Classes were very difficult, because the Korean standards were extremely high.

This was our grading system:

A+ = 99+	C+ = 81-83
A = 97-99	C = 78-80
A- = 94-97	C- = 75-77
B+ = 90-93	D+ = 73-74
B = 87-89	D = 71-72
B- = 84-85	D- = 70
	F = 69 or less

I made friends very quickly. My 'clique' was completely international. We had one Australian, one Dutch, two Middle-Easterners, four Americans, two African-Americans, and two Koreans in our group. I was the only freshman and the rest ranged from sophomores to seniors. South Korea is all about the nightlife. Consequently, every Friday night, my group of friends left school to go out in the city. How do we get


there? Public transportation – subway, bus, and taxi – saved us whenever we wanted to go out. None of my senior friends had a car to take us because Korean law requires a minimum age of 19 years in order to obtain a license. The nightlife had to be one of the best parts of Korea. At 12 midnight there is still heavy traffic. Sidewalks are packed with Koreans and foreigners. Clubs and bars are screaming with music.

Basketball season was the one highlight of my experience in Korea. At my school, Seoul Foreign School, basketball was by far the main sport. About 70 people tried out to make the basketball team. There was a JV and varsity squad – 12 players maximum on each team. Cuts after cuts after cuts were made, and the final team resulted in two internationally based basketball teams. I made the

JV basketball team and enjoyed every minute of it. Everyday after school we had long, difficult practices. After practice, I practiced with the varsity team. So whom did we play? That was the best part. For our league games, we played other international schools. There were about 10 other international schools in Korea. So we traveled the entire country to play. Our rival was the school on the American army base (Seoul American High School). Varsity, however, did not just play teams

across the country, they had the luxury of traveling to other Asian countries to play in tournaments. Last year, they had a tournament in Hong Kong and one in Japan. Teams from the Philippines, China, and other East Asian countries joined the tournament in Japan. Seoul Foreign School came out in first place.

Finals were done with, students were shouting with excitement, and teachers took deep breaths of relief. The school year had finished quickly. My dad's contract had ended with his business in Korea, which meant that we would move back home in California by summer's end. At the beginning of the year, before we even moved to Korea, my dad promised me that by that time we were to move back to San Jose, I wouldn't want to. He was absolutely right. I enjoyed my stay in Korea so much and I had my so many new friends that I did not want to move back home. My experience in Korea was so extraordinary that I don't think I can ever encounter something so great again. Living as an international student is something that you just might want to try. Yes, it was overwhelming, and yes, it was hard to leave behind friends and family back home; but being a foreigner in a completely new country is definitely worth it.



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