

Hoang joins the Marines

by **Sasha Ryu**
Editor-in-Chief

Every morning before sunrise, LGHS senior **Joel Hoang** gets ready to ride the bus to poolee training. This year, Hoang tested into the 94th percentile of military applicants who took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, thus earning himself an opportunity to undergo a second written examination and physical at a nearby military base. Thanks to hours of practice and studying, Hoang exceeded every requirement to enlist in all five branches of the U.S. Military.

The day he passed his last assessment, Hoang signed an eight-year contract to serve in the Marines, committing himself to six years of active duty and two years of part-time service. Although he was also interested in joining the Air Force and the Navy, he ultimately opted to become a Marine for “the extra challenge.”

When he’s not training alongside his fellow military recruits, Hoang spends his free time participating in Spartan Runs, practicing the guitar, and attending SVCTE’s Law Enforcement course, where he studies the Constitution, first aid, and more. The class offers an opportunity to get a head-start on the Criminal Justice degree he hopes to attain in college.

According to Hoang, his unwavering commitment to push himself above and beyond stems, in large part, from his tumultuous childhood.

“I was twelve when my parents adopted me from Taiwan,” Hoang stated. “Before that, I lived in a group home with a ton of other kids. I was doing really poorly in school, but nobody seemed to notice or care. There weren’t enough adults around to really keep track of us. Most of the kids who aren’t adopted end up homeless; lots of them don’t live past their twenties because of



courtesy J. Hoang

[violence or drugs]. Once you turn 18, you get 200 dollars and then you’re pretty much on your own. You’re trapped.”

According to Hoang, one of the things that got him through the tragedies he experienced during his time at the group home was his bond with one of the guards who worked at the establishment.

“He took care of me, protected me, gave me food and candy. He was a veteran. He told me stories about saving people during the war. He never smoked, never drank... he didn’t even use his phone. He was always present,” Hoang commented. “I always told myself that I would join the military to be like him. He’s in my heart, in my brain; [when things are hard,] I always see him [at] the end of the tunnel.”

A deeply kind, hardworking, and thoughtful individual who continues to overcome the greatest obstacles life has to offer, Joel Hoang is bound to make the world a better place.

PASTORE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

by **Jordan Chan**
News Editor

When she’s not fighting for social justice or working with live organisms in her ASR class, LGHS sophomore and future doctor **Letizia Pastore** enjoys spending time with her dog and hiking in the great outdoors.

This year, Pastore’s favorite classes include her Honors English class, Spanish 4 Honors class, and Advanced Science Research (ASR) class. She’s always been passionate about these subjects, and she hopes to pursue science further in her education, especially since she aspires to become a doctor. She hopes fluency in English, Spanish, and Italian will help her career-wise as her trilingualism will allow her to connect with people from many different cultural backgrounds. She finds ASR especially exciting because she gets to go into the lab and work with live animals.

In addition to being an excellent student, Pastore is the LGHS club president of A Friend For A Friend, an organization “made to empower teens to advocate for social justice, to become engaged in the world, and to contribute to solving global problems. Her participation in a group called Youth For United World (Y4UW), a chapter of the international Focolare movement, inspired her to found the club this year. The Focolare movement’s ideals promote the creation of a more united world; each year, her club focuses on a new challenge in the world.

This year, Pastore will tackle poverty through her club connections. She plans to establish Speaking Universally, a program where students from Spain can have conversations with Spanish students from the LGHS World Language Department. She also plans to use this program as an opportunity to raise money for people in need

who attend a school in the Dominican Republic. Aided by support from her family friends, Pastore looks forward to bringing her vision to fruition. When asked why people should join A Friend For A Friend, Pastore stated, “Sometimes it can feel like there are so many problems and we can’t just fix them all. [It feels like] we can’t really take part in anything, but if each one of us does our part and we work together, we can really make a change.”

Although Pastore is busy with club activities and schoolwork, she also makes time to go outside and hike in California’s luscious landscapes. She finds it challenging to separate her school life from her home life, explaining, “I’m definitely a workaholic, and I could literally just be doing school work and forget the time.” Despite this, being outside helps her “take a deep breath and kind of just be one with the Earth.” Although she called her sentiment cheesy, she advises her peers to “take a step back from the constant work and routine” every once in a while.



courtesy L. Pastore

Bergkamp reads, writes, and rows

by **Sophie Sullivan**
Opinion Editor

This year’s senior class is full of talent, but if there’s anyone in particular with passion, optimism, and dedication to watch out for, it’s athlete and writer **Abby Bergkamp**. Between rowing, a varied course load, and peer outreach, Bergkamp brings persistence and perspective to every field to which she applies herself.

As a dedicated member of the Los Gatos Rowing Club since the seventh grade, Bergkamp notes that the sport has taught her the ability to strike a balance between work and friends. “It’s a sport where you have to fight with each other for seats in a better boat, but you also have to work together to be able to accomplish anything,” Bergkamp explained. “It’s a really weird mix of screaming at someone, fighting with them all practice, and then after practice hugging and going to get food together.”

It’s these kinds of “cultural nuances,” as she describes them, that fascinate Bergkamp the most about human behavior. She credits her 11th grade AP



Psychology course with piquing her interest in mannerisms among people and environments, describing how she “started reading more books about psychology and looking more into it on [her] own.” Although she hasn’t fully decided on a field to study yet, Bergkamp noted that she “definitely wants psychology to be a part of it.”

As a senior, Bergkamp has been taking short breaks from rowing to focus on personal passions and take courses the sport’s rigorous schedule wouldn’t normally permit. Two of the most interesting classes she’s taking this year, she noted, are AP Biology and Anatomy and Physiology, saying “both of those classes are interesting ways to look at the human body and our cells...kind of like a ‘macro’ and ‘micro’ biology standpoint.”

Bergkamp applies her commitment to expanding perspectives as an editor for PAWS, or Providing Awareness to Wildcat Students, a Peer-to-Peer group on campus. As one of three editors on a staff of 14, she points to the group’s close-knit community and easygoing environment as an opportunity to “write things that I think are relevant to our school.”

“I really like writing. I think it’s a really powerful tool in conveying what’s going on in your mind,” she added. “You can edit what you’re saying and perfect it, unlike speaking. I’ve always liked seeing other people’s POVs and what’s going on in their head.”

Outside of athletics and academics, Bergkamp keeps busy fostering dogs with her family while helping others adopt. She’s fostered 45 puppies over the past two years and is currently taking care of two German Shepherds, describing the process of watching puppies grow quickly as “rewarding.”

Whether she’s fostering dogs, writing for her community, applying psychology to day-to-day endeavors, or leading her team to victories, Bergkamp is certainly someone to keep an eye out for as she moves on to the next chapter of her life.



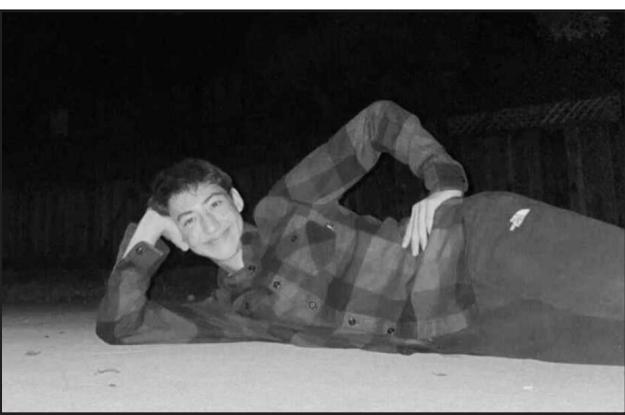
photos courtesy A. Bergkamp

SANTORO SHREDS ON HIS BIKE

by **Maya Gomez and Michaela Thimot**
People Editor and National/World Editor

At only 14 years old, multi-talented freshman **Kyle Santoro** has already found many passions in life. Whether he is dominating on the basketball court or meticulously editing his biking videos, this freshman is already going above and beyond in all aspects.

Santoro was introduced to basketball in the seventh grade, and instantly fell in love with the sport. He began playing competitively with the BMG Basketball Academy in San Jose that same year. Currently, his basketball season has been put on hold because of the coronavirus outbreak, but Santoro looks forward to shooting hoops with his team when the cases drop.



When the quarantine began, Santoro started biking with his friends and he has since mastered multiple dangerous tricks, some of which have caused him injuries. He describes biking as “a hobby or an outlet for stress or anxiety.” Biking has also allowed him to further explore videography, one of his more serious hobbies. Santoro’s love for filming and editing is not a new discovery, but filming his friends doing biking tricks has improved his skills and let him enjoy it more. In the future, he expresses that he may want to pursue a career in the filming industry, either shooting music reels or being a video editor for companies such as Vans or BMX Basketball. Santoro’s passion for filming prompted him to enroll in multimedia journalism, which is now his favorite class, as his elective for his freshman year.

Having just entered the ninth grade at LGHS, the entirety of Santoro’s high school career thus far has been online. He explains that online school has been a major shift from in-person classes, as “virtual learning, personally, is a really big difference because I guess you just don’t have that in-class feeling. Like when you’re sitting at your desk, the whole day, sitting in one spot on one chair. It’s just a really different feeling.” Nevertheless, Santoro continues to look on the bright side of the situation, as the online curriculum has allowed him to feel less awkward when he is put on the spot to answer a question in class, especially when he has the option to turn off his camera.

Santoro had somewhat of a different experience growing up than a number of his classmates on account of the fact that he lived in Taiwan for 11 years. He was born in California, but moved to Taiwan when he was only two years old. He recently moved back at the end of



photos courtesy K. Santoro

his sixth grade year, right before he began playing basketball. Santoro expresses that he misses his childhood home and hopes to return to visit once it is safe to do so.

Though only a freshman, Santoro is already challenging himself academically, perfecting his basketball and biking techniques, and becoming an expert videographer. An intelligent, creative, and enthusiastic young man, there is no doubt that Santoro has a bright future ahead of him, regardless of which path he decides to take.