

# LGHS kicks off year with celebrations

by **Nessa Purdy**  
*Opinion Editor*

On Thursday, Aug. 24, Los Gatos High School welcomed students back to campus with a variety of fun activities. Returning once again was the famed LGHS Dog Day, and after school, for the first time, the fun-filled Cats Carnival.

Amid back-to-school mayhem, LG students wound down with a visit from a group of service dogs. In collaboration with The Los Gatos Youth Commission, Canine Companions—a non-profit based in San Francisco—brought ten dogs to LGHS’ front lawn during lunch. Senior **Esha Bagora**, a Los Gatos Youth Commission member who organized the event, explained that she wanted to “give LGHS students a chance to de-stress from the chaotic environment that can come from returning to school.”

Since its creation in 1975, Canine Companions has provided service dogs for adults, children, and veterans to help them lead more independent lifestyles. Canine companions mainly work with volunteers and have over 4,700 hardworking volunteers nationwide. Welcoming students of all ages, Canine Companions encourages teens to volunteer through fundraising or by spending time with the dogs.



TOO CUTE: Canine Companions service dogs happily greet students on front lawn.

After school, LGHS hosted its first annual Cats Carnival. Hard-working volunteers set the front lawn up with food trucks, bouncy houses, games, and more. The carnival was a hit amongst attendees of all ages. When asked her favorite part about the carnival, senior **Dana Hathaway** replied, “all ages were there, lots of little kids and older people, which was very cool.” Although LGHS hosted the carnival, they welcomed visitors from various towns and schools to eat, play, and join the fun.

The food trucks were possibly the most popular destination of this year’s carnival. A Los Gatos favorite, Mr. Softee’s ice cream truck returned to campus to deliver cool refreshments in the heat. As well as ice cream and drinks, students could purchase snow cones; all proceeds went towards helping communities in Maui after the recent fires. Students also joined the line for a delicious taco truck serving a variety of Mexican food.

The carnival featured many games for students to partake in such as Fish in a Bowl, Hit the Bucket and the very busy bouncy house obstacle course. Onlookers could see children and LGHS students racing through the massive inflatable house.

The Cats Carnival was a success for LGHS, and students and staff alike are hoping to see the return of this event next year. Whether returning for another year or premiering its first, both Dog Day and the Cats Carnival were great ways for students to have fun and give a helping hand, while settling into the new school year.



STEP RIGHT UP: LGHS wows students at first annual Cats Carnival on Aug. 24.

# LG band Rockin Nuns hits the stage

by **Ainsley Northrop**  
*People Editor*

Striving to reach new heights, Rockin Nuns — a local pop-punk band — continues to impress countless Los Gatos residents with their music. Created about a year ago, Rockin Nuns consists of three brothers: Los Gatos High School (LGHS) junior **Porter Zilka**, LGHS sophomore **Ryland Zilka**, and St. Mary’s seventh grader **Culley Zilka**.



ROCK ON: Rockin Nuns launches into their debut performance at The Cats.

Recently, the band played their first solo concert, performing live at The Cats on Aug. 19. When asked how they secured this opportunity, P. Zilka detailed, “It’s a very local place...so all of my family and friends could come. I’d had my eye on it for a while...[and] we’ve driven by it a couple of times.” He continued, saying “After a couple of tries emailing [The Cats] they said, ‘Sure, you can do your show here.’”

Once they secured the venue, Rockin Nuns got to work perfecting the eleven songs on their set list, nine of which were completely new. P. Zilka, who writes the lyrics for the band’s music, explained his creative process, saying, “There are multiple different ways that I write songs. First one is...each person plays a riff...and we kind of all combine it and figure out the song structure...The other way I do it is I have all of the riffs inside of my head and I write it all by myself...I bring it to band practice and ramble on like a madman and try to get everyone to play what I want in my head.”

When the night of the concert finally arrived, the entire Zilka family worked together, setting up the band equipment, maintaining the livestream, and supporting the band from the audience. LGHS junior **Azure Zilka** explained how her family’s teamwork helps the band: “In the

beginning it was hard to get some of them on board to do band practice every other day or whatever, so my dad printed them a schedule and organized that for [them]...and for the talent show last year he definitely drove them everywhere.” She continued, adding that last year she drew the album cover for Rockin Nuns’ first EP, Wasting Away.

During the concert, guests enjoyed their meals while watching the show, which the band performed on The Cats’ built-in stage. Rockin Nuns broke the songs into segments, allowing people short breaks to engage with each other between each one. This brought people together and helped curate an extremely supportive environment.

After a successful show by Rockin Nuns, fans at the concert got to witness an impromptu performance by another Zilka band, Famine. Created by P. Zilka, C. Zilka, junior **Liam Pitt**, and Bellarmine junior Jacob Szilagi, Famine made its debut at The Cats due to a spur of the moment decision. P. Zilka elaborated: “It was all gonna be Rockin Nuns songs...but Jacob came to the show too and was like ‘let’s just play the songs.’” He continued, adding, “Fun fact: I was just making up gibberish on stage over the songs because I haven’t written lyrics for them yet...It was a little improv work, but I thought it sounded pretty good.”

In the coming months, fans of both Rockin Nuns and Famine should keep posted for the upcoming music video of Rockin Nuns’ Wasting Away, as well as the releases of various new songs. Furthermore, both bands plan to play at more live concerts. Be sure to check out both instagram pages: @rockin\_nuns and @faminehc.



ENCORE: Famine, featuring Pitt, makes surprise appearance at end of concert.

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