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for their colleges  
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# Western Spirit

May/June 2009

Covina

Vol. VI, Issue 4

## Back to our Upland roots

Ayden Thatcher  
Guest Writer

On Saturday, May 16, 2009, Western Christian High School hosted its first Open House on the Upland campus from 9am to 12pm. The Open House was organized following the announcement of Western's purchase of the Upland campus on May 8, 2009. Many Upland Christian and Western Christian families were in attendance, including 180 WCHS students. Current families, faculty, staff, as well as prospective students and their families, were able to tour the campus in its entirety, guided by both current Upland campus students as well as current Western Christian students. Administrators, faculty, and staff were on-hand for parents and students alike to ask questions about various athletic and academic programs Western offers. John Attwood, Dean of Academics said, "There's an excitement, a sense of expectation, and it's creating huge momentum for this school. I'm thrilled to see what God's going to do in the next year." Attwood's sentiment was echoed by the numerous families that came to see where their



Photo by Miss Thurber

Families walk around the gym at the Upland campus to meet administrators, students would be in the coming years. Senior Reed Covington noted, "I'm sad I don't get to go here, but it's going to be really cool for Western." The faithful optimism of all present at the Open House helped to make it

## Pastor Appreciation

Kristen McCormick  
Staff Writer

On March 26th, 2008, Western Christian High School held their second Pastor Appreciation day! Students, parents, and faculty members gathered on the bleachers to honor our pastors on a beautiful sunny day. Principal Yovino started off the event in a word of prayer which was followed by the performance of the Western Christian Choir. One of the songs the choir sang, was sung in the language of Bemba, and was lead by the solo of Josiah Likens, a sophomore. When translated, the song meant "all who sing have the right to become children of God". After the choir performed, senior Jessica Luchtenberg, a member of the choir, spoke to the pastors and thanked them for all they do. Following Jessica, was the worship band, who lead the crowd in worship.

[continued on B, Pastor Appreciation]

## Enchanted Prom

Adam Montague  
Sports Editor

The 2009 prom was a success. However, there was much controversy and confusion over the theme of this year's prom. Some thought it to be "The Secret Garden." Others thought it was called "Unlock the Magic." Just to clear things up, it was "Unlock the Magic" with a little secret garden thrown in there for fun. One major difference in this year's prom was its location. To everyone's surprise, and a couple's delight, prom was held outside. It sounded interesting enough, but when the date drew nearer and nearer, it was discovered that it was going to be very, very cold. However, everyone bundled up and disregarded the cold to still have a great time. The princes on this year's court were Emmanuel

Mendoza, RJ Pabon, Brad Anderson, Monty Tavis, and Reed Covington. The princesses on court were Nikki Povero, Katy Surface, Danielle Hunt, Rhianna Pierre, and Ashliann Taylor. After dinner everyone moved to a corner to watch a slide show consisting of photos of all the 2009 seniors who decided contribute photos, which really wasn't very many. Shortly after the slide show, the princes and princesses one by one walked to the side of the grass. A recording of each of their voices was played while they rose from their seats. After all were standing together the king and queen were announced. After looking in bags to find crowns, Brad and Rhianna were crowned king and queen of the 2009 prom. Soon after, it was time for the dance portion, the moment everyone had been waiting for. After a bit of dancing, the seniors,



Photo by Miss Thurber.

The Prom court poses with King Brad Anderson and Queen Rhianna Pierre.

along with juniors, staged a "sit in" on the dance floor to protest any songs they disliked. However, it did not last long because not everyone decided to join in. The seniors had just recently learned about a sit in from economics class and were excited to try it out. After hours of dancing everyone was tired

and excited and ready to go home. Everyone piled into the limos and party buses they had taken to prom and went either home or various places to end top off their night. Most people had a great time at prom and many memories were made that night.

## Choir goes to San Diego

Alicia Downey  
Advertising Director

In the last two months the Western Christian Choir and Hilltop Faith preformed in two major events which they have not been to until now. The first of these events was the ACSI Musicale which was in Pasadena. During the Musicale the choir got to sing with groups from other schools and improve some of the techniques Mr. Bradley likes using. The choir and Hilltop Faith were judged on the second day of the Musicale. When

they were critiqued, the judge was very complimentary of the personality the Western group choir shows as well as the fact we are not afraid to move. His only thought for improvement was that during one of the songs the sopranos could be a little stronger. The finale was a blast, over 700 voices combining together to put on a performance for everyone who came out to see them. Western was honored by Connor Smith and Hilltop Faith being given command performances during the finale.

[continued on B, Choir Trip]

## Watoto returns

Danielle Hunt  
Copy Editor

On March 5th the Watoto Children's Choir came to Western Christian's chapel for the second time all the way from Uganda, Africa. Two years ago the Watotos also came to spread the word of God, entertain with fun songs and dances, and to tell about their country and culture. There are about 15 children in the Watoto Choir and have about four adults that travel

along with them. These children are from the ages of about seven to twelve years old. All of them have lost their parents to AIDS or other diseases and were forced to become orphans in Uganda, Africa. One of the leaders brought them in and showed them that there was a way to accomplish their goals by giving them a place to stay and keeping them in school. They practice all year round learning songs, dances, and about God.

[continued on B, Watoto]

## Watoto

continued from Front Page

For about six months the Choir tours around the world letting everyone know their stories and how God made them happy and gave them hope they never thought they would have. The Watoto Choir is one of the most fun chapels of the whole year. All of the children are so energetic that everyone wants to join them in their singing and dancing. The songs that they sing are very fun because they are upbeat and have hand motions adding to their affect. This year, four people were called up on stage to have

a competition with the Watotos. The Watoto demonstrated a dance then students would have to mimic them with hula skirts on. The students at Western all got a kick out of the four up on stage trying to dance like Watotos. There was a competition between the boys and the girls. The girls were a little shy but Daniel Sutton did not hold back and showed everyone he could dance just like them. The Watoto Children's choir is a huge hit every year and their message is great.

## Choir Trip

continued from Front Page

At the end the choir started singing an unplanned performance of Hey Hey Goodbye by Steam. The person who was directing the final song, My Life is in Your Hands, had sat down and did not expect the choir to sing anything afterward. In order to get all 700 plus voices to quit singing he had to direct the last few notes of the song and then signal the choirs to stop. The other event was the trip to San Diego over spring break in order to participate in the Heritage Festival. Majority of the choir students attended this trip. The choir arrived at their hotel in San Diego at about 5p.m. and was given an hour or so to settle in before going to Buca Di Beppo for dinner. The next morning they got up and went to Sea World for a couple of hours where they saw the penguins and dolphins, one of whom splashed Mrs. Castro. They also went on a few rides like the Wild Arctic ride which is a simulation helicopter ride. Emmanuel

Mendoza made friends with a Manta Ray who thought it would be fun to show off to him. At noon choir left Sea World and headed to their event at a high school and sang then hilltop faith followed. They went back to Sea world for the rest of the day where some of them went on Shipwreck Rapids then went to a ceremony to celebrate each choir. The entire choir received gold and Hilltop Faith received silver. The reasoning behind Hilltop receiving silver was because they had to score higher in their division because it is more elite. After the ceremony the choir went back to the hotel to rest up for the next day which was spent at Seaport Village until 1p.m. before heading back to school. The choir gained great exposure from all of this and hopefully will be able to go somewhere to end their spring break while blessing others with their talent as well.

# Senior Service Day

Rebekah Valle  
Editor-in-Chief

Senior Service day was held on April 1, 2009. It is a ritual that each senior class participates in at the end of the year. Every senior has the opportunity to sign up for one out of five surrounding location such as, McKinley Center, YMCA,



Kara Quintana



Kristen

that was to be held that following weekend. Mr. Attwood's mother is in charge of Pacific Lifeline, a battered women's shelter. This shelter provides protection and security from their husbands or boyfriends that have beaten them or some other form of abuse. Students that went to this location were given various tasks throughout the day. Some students painted windowsills, others cut down trees and tied branches together, another group had to shovel dirt, and a final group cleaned out the

Pacific Lifeline, Sunrise Christian School and Serenity Foster Care. The group of students that went to the McKinley Center was assigned to separate 8,000 ducks and number them for a fundraiser



Photo by Miss Thurber

Seniors clean windows and paint baseboards at Pacific Lifeline.

"Christmas room" and washed windows. The students that went to Sunrise filed papers and played with preschoolers. The group that went to Serenity foster care center was assigned to paint, clean the rain gutters, and the side of the hill where the office is located. The last group that went to the YMCA was separated into two groups. The first group painted the parking lot lines white and painted the fire lanes red while the second half played with the children. When Kara Quintana was asked what her favorite part of Senior Service day was, she

replied "Not only did we get to miss a day of school but being able to be a part of helping make their place look nicer and feeling good about helping them out when they help other people out all the time". Senior Service Day is twofold: To give back to the community and to bond with fellow senior classmates. When it is all said and done, the senior class feels a sense of accomplishment by knowing they helped the centers with tasks that require much manpower. It is truly a blessing to give back to the surrounding communities.

## Pastor Appreciation

continued from Front Page

The band played "Oh Happy Day", and "How Great is Our God", two incredible songs. Next, Vice Principal Attwood spoke his words of gratitude for the pastors. He said he grew up in a family of pastors, and his life has been changed because of them. He talked about the busy, selfless lives that pastors lead. He called them heroes because their love of Jesus had compelled them to love others before themselves, a truly honorable task. Next up speaking was junior Caleb Meister, who was completely appreciative of the pastors. He became very emotional while thanking them. He told them that he is a runner and a student and he does it all in the name of God. Having gone to church his whole life, Caleb, expressed his feelings of gratitude to the pastors. After Caleb, Mr. Mackie, a pastor and also a former student at Western

Christian High School, came and spoke to the pastors. He was honored to share in this day with them to support, affirm and honor the leaders of the church. Mr. Mackie talked about how it was biblical that we honor the pastors and quoted from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. In those verses it says "now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other". Mr. Mackie then began to talk about how stressful the job of a pastor is. He shared with the pastors about a survey that showed how pastors suffer from fatigue, stress, depression, loneliness, and discouragement. The survey said that a lot of pastors have also considered leaving, and around 1,500 leave every month. These

shocking statistics are just another reason why we need to encourage and lift up our pastors more often than just on "Pastor Appreciation Day". Mr. Mackie ended by encouraging the pastors that they aren't alone and talked about how the Apostle Paul went through trials as well in his ministry. To end the entire event, the student body made two long lines and applauded and thanked the pastors as they walked through to lunch. After the assembly, the pastors all gathered under the tent for a lunch of lasagna, salad, and cookies was provided by Western Christian. The day was truly a wonderful day, and we hope that all the pastors felt appreciated by this little act of kindness compared to the many sacrifices they have made for their churches. THANK YOU PASTORS!!! Now you stay classy Western Christian High School!



Photo by Rebekah Valle

Senior ASB members excitedly welcome the pastors to Pastor Appreciation Day.



Photo by Crystal Hernandez

The Class of 2009 DOMINATES the class yells one last time.



Photo by Crystal Hernandez

Asha, Kristen, Sherilyn, Gaby, Pauline, and Lauren wait for the next water game.



Photo by Crystal Hernandez

RJ Pabon puts the freshman class in its place in the water balloon toss.



Photo by Crystal Hernandez

Katy Surface helps her class slide to victory.



Photo by Crystal Hernandez

Emmanuel Mendoza inhales a slice of watermelon in the watermelon eating contest.



Photo by Crystal Hernandez

The junior class successfully launches nerf sponges at the sophomore class.



Photo by Crystal Hernandez

Christiana Chamsi douses her friends, as well as some innocent underclassmen after the rally.



Photo by Crystal Hernandez

The junior class makes an attempt to win the class yells at the end of the rally.



Photo by Crystal Hernandez

A representative from each class, as well as Mr. Mylar, attempt to find a piece of gum in a pie tin of whipped



# Baseball: league champs!

Adam Montague  
Sports Editor

The 2009 baseball season is here. Well, actually it just ended. The Lancers are back at it after winning the league last year. They went out and did a repeat by winning league again. Overall, they have amassed a record of 17-8-0. In league they have managed to win all but two games, which include victories against Ontario Christian, Loma Linda, and Aquinas. The lancers saw Arrowhead Christian and Aquinas as the two biggest threats. They are the two teams who were the most likely, if possible, to take the title out of the reigning champions, our very own western Christian lancers. However, they didn't have enough firepower to take the championship out of their hands. This year's team is led by senior captains Robert Wiley and Daniel Sutton. They are both four year players who have constantly contributed to the Western Christian baseball team. The team's roster consists of a majority of seniors. Seven players to be exact are seniors. The team's pitching roster consists of seniors RJ

Pabon, Reed Convington, CJ Beatty, and David Curtis. The big hit producers of the team are Anthony Llorens, Robert Wiley, Daniel Sutton, RJ Pabon, Mark McMahon, and CJ Beatty. Mark McMahon, who is only a sophomore, is a very exciting young player. He has really stepped up his game this year. He is a player who, in the next couple of years, will really bring a lot to the team. The lancers reached their goal for the 2009 season to win league again. Their other goal was to go all the way to CIF Finals, and win it. But they fell short of that goal.

**"I thought we had a really good season. We finished with the best overall record in Western's baseball history."**  
*-Anthony Llorens*

When asked about how he thought the season went overall, Anthony Llorens stated, "I thought we had a really good season. We finished with the best overall record in Western's baseball history." The Lancers played their home games at Citrus College, which is located in Glendora next to Azusa Pacific University. So congratulations to the Western baseball team and thank you to all of you went out and supported them each and every day.



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Pabon

Senior Robert Wiley prepares to steal second base.

# Golf: go green

Andrew Angileri  
Staff Writer

Western Christian's golf team of 2009 is undergoing a lot of changes, but the biggest so far is probably their new coach, David Mylar. He says, "I am really enjoying my first year coaching at Western Christian. The boys, and girls are all very cool and I love having practice and hanging out with them." The team had been taught by Mr. Hernandez for many years, but now that they are faced with a different coach and different training methods they have adapted well, and seem to like him very much. Christian Stephenson says, "Coach Mylar is a great coach, and has taught me a lot throughout the last few weeks we have been playing." The team has changed a lot in the past year. For example, there are now no seniors on the team, and only 2 returners Michael Broad, and Kandace Delgado. The team is now made up of a total of ten kids. A group of six juniors, two sophomores, and two freshmen. Even though they are a young team they have shown great talent, and with Coach Mylar's teaching and heart they have shown they are sure to improve. Kandace Delgado says, "Com-

pared to last year's team we are very inexperienced, and a lot younger, but in some ways this is a lot better. There is now a lot of room to grow and improve. Every one of the kids on the team is showing a lot of commitment to the team, and is trying as best they can to better their skills at every drill at every practice." These are all very good attributes



Photo by Miss Thurber

The golf team on stage at the Spring Meet the Teams.

for the team, and will help the team improve and get better throughout the rest of the season. The team's expectations for this year are to improve both individually and as a team, to finish strong and most important just have fun. Coach Mylar says, "My favorite part about coaching is to see the kids improve, and get along like best of friends." At the end of the year Michael Broad received first team all league. Overall, the Western Christian golf team is doing a great job of adjusting to the changes and improving their play substantially. Throughout the year the team has succeeded in achieving their goals. Every one of the kids has improved, and has really enjoyed this year of golf.

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# Just run!



Alton Liu

The young Lancers track and field team has three new coaches, each of whom specialize in different track events. Coach Sean Hennings, the head coach who also works with the distance runners, pushes the student athletes to work hard

every minute at practice knowing that they will all excel at future meets. Coach Ruthie, the throwers coach, reminds everyone that forms and techniques are very important, and mastering this will enable them to perform at their very best. Coach Lauren, the sprinters coach, is always filled with joy even when the athletes do not do well. She is always lifting the students' heads up with her encouraging words. There are also three captains who lead the team with their strong athleticism and characters. They are Eric Soliz, senior thrower, Elbee Castro, junior versatile, and Caleb Meister, junior runner and jumper. Elbee Castro said, "I think that this season has been a very good season so far. We are continually growing in every aspect physically, emotionally, and importantly as a team competing for God." At the Christian League meet that took place at Colony High School in Chino, the team did not place first, but everyone did well in his or her specific events. All of the athletes have set a certain record that they are ought to break. Here are some tremendous performances which have been done in the last meet. Caleb Meister ran the 1600 meters (1 mile) with a time of 4'37". Matthew Almazan ran the 100-meter dash and finished with a time of 11.37 seconds. Nicole Dinisi took 3rd in the 800-meter run with a time of 2'48". Katelyn Montalvo did well in the high jump taking 2nd at the height of 4 feet 4 inches. Harry Cho blew everyone away at the triple jump and placed first with the distance of 38 feet. Eric Soliz got points for Western with throwing the shot-put with a distance of 38 feet. Elbee Castro threw discus and got the distance of 110 feet placing third. Each one of them is improving and gaining experience with the help of the all new coaching staff.

# Softball: Conquering goals through unity and heart

Ayden Thatcher  
Guest Writer

Coach Sarah Maulorico had her hands full this season as she was head coach for both the Varsity Softball and Junior Varsity Softball teams. Despite the chaos of four-game weeks for some players and coaches, this year's teams progressed beautifully, "Practicing together has been one of the best parts of this year's program. It helped the less experienced players advance quickly, and helped the team bond as a whole." The Varsity team finished 7-14-0 overall and 1-9 in league. As far as hitting goes, junior Chelsea Cramer and senior Nikki Povero finished in the top five in league, Cramer having a .460 average, Povero having .531. Cramer's RBI (Runs Batted In) was 12, and Povero's 14. These two stat leaders also had the highest number of stolen bases: Povero with 13, Cramer with 11. Povero earned first in league. Chelsea Cramer, freshman Christina Oka, and sophomore Jasmine Lara shared in the pitching responsibilities for this season. Coach Maulorico played most games with a pitching change, but overall Oka pitched two



Photo by Miss Thurber

The girls softball team poses together at the final home game.

complete games, while Lara pitched four. One of the most intense games of the season took place against Marlborough High School in Los Angeles, which ended in a 4-3 victory for the Lancers. Seniors Rayna Bowen and

Nikki Povero both signed at the end of the season to play with their colleges next year. This year's team, through hard work, patience, and determination was successful in making and achieving its goals.

# Softball captains sign with college teams

Danielle Hunt  
Copy Editor

Rayna Bowen and Nikki Povero officially signed the paper saying they accepted the scholarship to play softball for the college of their choice.

This was a very long process for Nikki. She was deciding between a couple different colleges and finally chose Northwest Missouri State. She went and visited the college after Miss Maulorico told her that she found a college that needed a short-stop and lead-off batter. After visiting Northwest Missouri State, Nikki knew that was the college she wanted to go to. Nikki is most excited about making a new life for herself in college and starting rela-

tionships with new people. Western softball has prepared Nikki for her college career at Northwest Missouri State. She said, "In the end, it's not what you do on the field that makes you a leader, but it's what you do off the field. I had to learn the hard way, but it has prepared me for the future." Her parents supported her throughout this whole journey. This signing for Nikki celebrates and concludes all her hard work and sacrifices of spending weekends and countless hours practicing, playing games, and traveling for softball. She has finally reached the goal she has had since she was 12 which is playing softball for an amazing college.

Rayna says the signing experience is just another guarantee that she is going to Molloy College in New York. It finally became a reality to

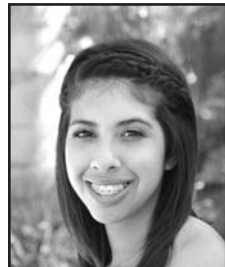
her after many months of deciding and planning before she signed. Rayna picked Molloy because of the great softball team, academics, and her best friend Mercedes is going to go there as well. It was a long journey before this point though. Rayna had to be constantly emailing the coaches updating them about her schedule and progress, travel to all the colleges, and make a skills video for all the coaches to see. Even though her parents brought her a lot of stress, they helped her in making all the right decisions and assisting her in anything she needed. She agrees that her parents and travel ball has prepared her greatly for the next four years of college softball. Congratulations Nikki and Rayna!



# Farewell from the Editor-in-Chief

Rebekah Valle  
Editor-in-Chief

These past four years have been an exciting roller coaster and just like every ride, there have been some dull moments and while others were more eventful. Unlike some students, I was not forced to come to Western Christian High School. I was given the choice of coming here or going to Glendora High School, but after much prayer, I felt that God was leading me to the Western community. Although I was not exactly sure if I had



Rebekah Valle

made the right choice, I was soon to find out. Freshman year was a huge step from junior high, especially because I was coming from a public school. My first day at Western, I remember walking into Journalism, seeing Mr. Attwood and Vy Ngo, whom I had met that summer and knowing it would be a fun class. At first, I was very skeptical that I was not going to have fun at a smaller school with people I had not seen since second grade, but after a few months, I came to the realization that I had made the right choice of coming to Western. Freshman year came and went and I had so many great experiences. Summer going into sophomore year, I had surgery on both feet and had to be in a wheelchair the whole summer, literally! The week before school, I could finally start walking again but soon found out I had to have surgery again on my left foot because I had fractured it. The first day of sophomore year, Robert Mathias pushed me around in my wheelchair (pretty funny sight). That morning, I wheeled into Journalism and Miss Thurber finally called me by my name instead of calling me "Freshman." I soon came to realize that besides Miss Castro, former Spanish teacher, Miss Thurber would be my favorite teacher, but I did not know it would be for the next three years. The summer going into Junior year, I found a lump in my right breast that the doctors believed could be cancerous or could lead to something if I did not take it out right away. That was a huge scare for my parents, but I knew it was nothing and God blessed me with a peace about everything. Junior year was a challenge for me because my priorities were not in the right place and I went through



many trials that I could have prevented. It was a really good learning experience for me, as I grew closer to God through it all. Last summer, I made the decision to be baptized for the first time even though I have been a Christian since I was young. Throughout this whole year, I have grown and matured in many areas of my life, but mostly, I believe for the last four years, my Bible teachers made an impact on my life, especially Mr. Mackie. Having the opportunity to dialogue in his class and the ability to discuss life issues has challenged my faith tremendously. I believe the students at this school do not realize how good they have it. We have the privilege of having teachers guide us and be godly examples in our lives. I did not have this at my previous school and having friends that ac-

tually share the same beliefs and values as me has also been amazing. Oh, and how could I forget that if I had not come to Western, I would not have had the opportunity to have Alton Liu, an international student from Dalian, China live with me and my family for the past three years! Alton has been a blessing to us and has made my high school experience a great one. I cannot imagine my high school years without my new brotha from another motha! Being able to have an impact on his life has been one of the greatest experiences and knowing that I had a part in his coming to Christ and being baptized is something that I will never forget. Sadly, I will be the last person to be in Journalism all four years. It has been a fun ride walking into first period everyday and for the last three

years, being able to confide, laugh, and cry with one of the greatest teachers Western has had, Miss Thurber. I know she will miss having someone play "hate" music next every day next year. As this is my final article, I leave you with this thought I once heard from a wise man, in the torturous wee hours of zero period, "If you were mute would people be able to tell you were a Christian?" just something to think about. Farewell, my fellow Lancers and thank you for not complaining too much about our mistakes, but being the Editor-in-Chief, I make none. I will now begin my next four years at Azusa Pacific University. God Bless, Beka Valle.

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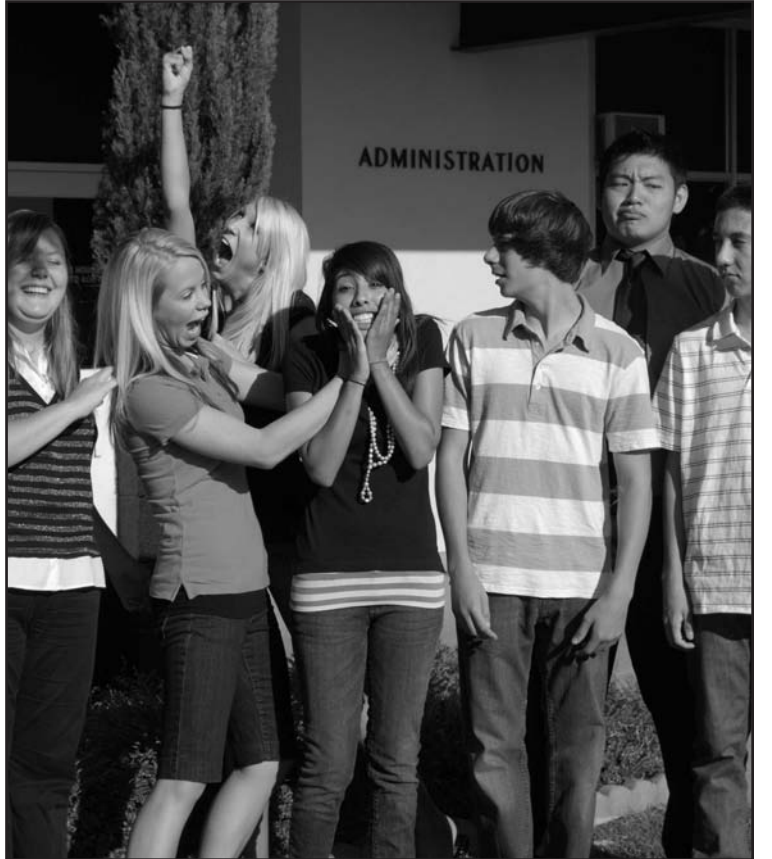


Photo by Miss Thurber

The current Western Spirit team

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Rebekah Valle

Copy Editor:  
Danielle Hunt

Sports Editor:  
Adam Montague

Ad Director:  
Alicia Downey

**Staff Writers:**

Kristen McCormick  
Andrew Angileri  
Alton Liu

Faculty Adviser:  
Miss Thurber

If you are interested in learning about the journalistic process, or just want to be a part of the school newspaper, please stop by

A-6 and schedule an interview with Miss Thurber for next year's Journalism class. ALL POSITIONS WILL BE OPEN! If you have any questions, feel free to ask any current Western Spirit staff, or stop by and ask Miss Thurber when you schedule an interview!

## Senior Q&A: What are you looking forward to most after graduation?

Amber Nila

Dana Cox

Greg Bargaehr

Taylor, Rihanna, Jessica, and Stephanie

Jocelyn Chen



Umm...summer...the beach...the end.

Playing Bingo with my 85 year old Grandma.

Finally having time to myself to work on my truck and frolick in the sea (go surfing).

The beach, college, and visiting each other.

Getting married someday.

Juan Santillan

Reed Covington

James Durauku

Rayna Bowen & Mercedes Trejo

Monty Tavis



Going to a film school.

My car.

Going to college.

We are excited to go to college with each other.

Tattoos and piercings.