



# Western Spirit

Western Christian High School

January 2009

Volume VI, Issue II

## Homecoming

Rebekah Valle  
Editor-in-Chief

The first ever homecoming game held at Western was a huge success on October 18, 2008. The day's pregame festivities consisted of face-painting, a complimentary breakfast, jousting, and a performance by the cheerleaders. Numerous alumni came to see the Lancers play on Meister field. During the half-time show the queen was announced and each princess was driven around by her dad on a golf cart decorated by each class and ASB. The princesses were Dana Cox, Christiana Chamsi, Christine Porter, Marissa Reggio, and Jessica Luchtenberg. Each princess lined up in front of the backdrop and each was handed a bag. They eagerly untied the ribbon to open the bag to see if they had an Oscar. Dana Cox received the "Oscar" and was then crowned by former queen, Vy Ngo. Dana was extremely surprised and did not expect to win. As the game went on it was exciting to see the Lancers compete against Riverside Christian. Although they made a strong attempt to win, they sadly did not succeed. Later that evening was the banquet and sponsored dance. Homecoming's theme was "Red Carpet Event: a Night in the Spotlight" and was decorated as if it was the Academy Awards. The center pieces were camera reels and life size pictures were mounted on the walls. People filed in through the doors started at six and greeted friends. After dinner the lights dimmed and the court slide show began. Each person on court had pictures of them displayed while a recording played of them talking about themselves. After the slideshow, Greg Sukert did the finale and ending of the skit carried on from the halftime show. At the end



Photo by Miss Thurber

Princesses Marissa, Jessica, Christiana, and Christine with Queen Dana.

of the skit, Anthony Llorens was announced king and crowned by former king Morgan Barajas. The king and queen's dance was extremely comical as Dana and Anthony's personalities came out and made a joke of it. Before they could finish their dance everyone rushed onto the dance floor and the dancing portion of the evening began. The floor was crowded the entire night with people enjoying themselves in the crowded

area. ASB had done a great deal of planning and had much stress over the event, making sure that it ran smoothly. In the end, this year's homecoming was a fun event where memories were made and people can cherish those moments.

## HSE Day

Rebekah Valle  
Editor-in-Chief

The second annual High School Experience Day occurred on Friday November 14, 2008. This is a day for prospective 8th graders to see what a day in the life of a Western Christian High School student is like. ASB went to meet the students at Little Western, Sunrise, and South Hills Academy to bring them over to the campus. Donuts and juice were provided as Mr. Attwood spoke about the day's activities. The 8th graders were divided into eight groups and assigned a leader and color. Their groups went around to eight stations that each spoke about different groups here at Western. ASB had their own station where they spoke about the different things ASB does and played a game, while drama performed a scene from the play Lucky Stiff.

[see 'HOMECOMING,' page B2]

## Fall play wows audiences

Alicia Downey  
Advertising Director

This past month was the performance of the Quirky play Lucky Stiff. The play was a hit. It starred Carlin as Dominique DuMonaco, Nicole Dinsi as the French maid, Rachel Khattar as Rita La Porta, Jess Luchtenberg as Annabel Glick, Nick Mercer as Harry Witherspoon, Greg Sukert as Vinnie DiRuzzio, Monty Tavis as Luigi Gaudi and others. We also had a special guest actor for this play. His name is Kory DeSoto. Kory is a Theater major at Azusa Pacific University. It was very nice of Kory to agree to play the part of Uncle Anthony. Lucky Stiff was hilarious. It's the story of a shoe salesman, Harry Witherspoon. Mr. Witherspoon receives a telegram telling him to report to a lawyer's office where, he is told of the tragic news of his uncle's death. Along with this tragic news, Mr. Witherspoon is told that Uncle Anthony had left some money but there's a catch that he needs to agree to follow before being told what it is. The catch turns out to be that Mr. Witherspoon has to

take Uncle Anthony to Monte Carlo as his last request and protect a red box. Everything was already planned out so all Mr. Witherspoon had to do was follow Uncle Anthony's directions to the cue. If he doesn't then Uncle Anthony's favorite charity gets the money instead. Rita La Porta was Uncle Anthony's love interest and she had stolen diamonds from her husband. Rita also happens to be the person who shot Uncle Anthony. Rita shot Anthony because she thought that he was cheating on her and also she couldn't see properly. Rita goes to her brother Vinnie for help and bribes Vinnie into helping her by explaining she had blamed Vinnie as the criminal who embezzled from her husband. In the end we find out that Uncle Anthony was not the person who died, but his best friend who had been staying at Uncle Anthony's house actually died. The red box contained Uncle Anthony's friend's heart and in place of the heart were the diamonds that Rita had embezzled. Rita and Anthony make up and get back together while Mr. Witherspoon ends up with Annabel Glick, a worker from Anthony's favorite charity who was



Miss Thurber

The actors and stage crew of Lucky Stiff.

supposed to be trying to make sure that Mr. Witherspoon messed up. Ms. Glick was very dedicated; and both Ms. Glick and Mr. Witherspoon end up happy. Even during the intermission the actors were still acting. Kory DeSoto was brought out on to stage in the wheelchair he was in during the whole play and never moved. If Kory hadn't been acting before the intermission its possible Kory could have been mistaken

for a prop and not an actual person. The audience took pictures with Kory and some people tried to get him to move but Kory stayed in character through it all. The play was so much of a hit that everyone should try to support the next production which is called "How to Succeed in Business" which starts in February.

## Power for Life

Danielle Hunt  
Staff Writer

On October 15, all Western students had the privilege of watching the Power for Life team show off their strength both physically and spiritually. Jim Griffen was the emcee of their show. Jim used to play professional football for the Baltimore Colts and is Oklahoma's strongest man. He called up Chelsea Fontenette to validate to the crowd that everything was real that they were about to break and bend. Jim was not the only strong man there,

he called out his friend Mitch Hodge to come and help him out. Mitch Hodge was a two-time Mr. Ohio, two-time Mr. Northwest, Mr. Western USA, Top Five Mr. America, and a multiple competitor in the World's Strongest Man contest. Mitch is a big guy, about 5'10", 260 pounds, and had 36" thighs and 21" biceps. Mitch told everyone it took 400 pounds of pressure to break a wooden bat in half, so he called out Eric Soliz to see if he could break it. Eric tried hard and used all his strength but could not break the bat.

[see 'LIFE,' page B2]

## Christmas Spirit Week

Ayden Thatcher  
Guest Writer

This year's Christmas Spirit Week kicked off with a great start as students came to school in their best "Winter Wonderland" attire. There were students in snowboarding gear, a plethora of scarves, and any num-

ber of Ugg boots. The lunchtime activity for that day was the class door decorating competition. Freshmen were given the A-building, sophomores the B-building, juniors the C-building, and seniors the AD-building. Seniors, of course, won this competition.

[see 'CHRISTMAS,' page B2]

# Legacy dinner dishes success

Stephanie Chui  
Guest Writer

Western Christian's 2nd Annual Legacy Dinner was held on the night of Saturday, November 15th at Azusa Pacific University. The Legacy Dinner is an annual celebration of the school's past achievements and prospective accomplishments, as well as a night to raise funds for the schools' growing list of necessary improvements. It is a growing tradition of the Western Christian Schools, ranging from pre-school to high

school. This second year was just as good as the first, if not better. The event started cheerfully, with over 450 faculty, administration, family, friends, and even students in attendance. With Mr. Castellano as emcee, the night kicked off with dinner. There was an intermittent raffle contest in which gift baskets from various places were given away to lucky winners. Multiple choirs—elementary, junior high, high school, and Hilltop Faith—came to perform while the guests had dinner. With performances of "Shut De Do", "Joy Joy Joy" and the aptly

named "Legacy", the choirs' songs earned much applause from the crowd. There were many faces smiling in enjoyment.

Next, a slideshow and video clips promoting the school were displayed. Mrs. Winters, superintendent, and several board members came up to speak, followed by alumni's speeches. Most of them discussed the developments of Western and how it has improved and grown for eighty-eight years. Finally, the Legacy Awards were given out. These honors commemorate the five students who have exemplified the Western

Christian philosophy and demonstrated their academic ability to achieve school-wide expected results. The winners for high school were Molly Shryer-Knecht and Daniel Sutton; for international student, Dayla Kim; for junior high, Jordan Ivey; and for elementary school, Alicia Ellingson. Each winner made a short speech, and Mr. Attwood, vice principal, also spoke in closing. In the end, Legacy was an eventful night that will not be forgotten.

# Art Show celebrates student work

Andrew Angileri  
Staff Writer

The Art Club hosted its winter Art Show on December 12th from 7-9:30pm. It was a successful evening for the club as they had many members of the community, alumni, and parents come to support them. The Visual and Performing Arts Department Chair, Mr. Blessinger, commented on the number of attendees saying, "It's impressive to see over two hundred people show up to support our students and their art." Student-created pieces, ranging from paintings, altered cigar boxes, photography, pastel work, and ce-

ramic bowls were on display in the cafeteria, many of which were for sale. The show made over \$300 in sales and donations. This was Ms. Miller's first time running the art show alone. Ms. Garside was unable to attend but Ms. Miller had no problem running the show and everyone thought it went well. Ms. Miller said that their planning for this show took place shortly after the year started. She and her students try to find ways to improve the show each time. The Art Club's Art Show was a success for the students involved, not just in the amount of sales made, but also in their strong ability to host a student-created and student-run show.



Photo by Andrew Angileri

Student artwork on display at the December 12, 2008 Winter Art Show.

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## HOMECOMING

['Homecoming,' from Front Page]

At the art and ceramics station, Ms. Miller and Ms. Garside talked about each class and argued about whose class was better. Worship Band and Hilltop Faith both sang a song and the athletes talked about why they chose to come to Western and how the sports influenced their decisions. Mr. Doolittle explained his computer classes and the levels there, Ms. Petersen and Alton Liu spoke about the college prep section, and Mr. Wheeler explained what the spiritual life aspect at Western was all about. After all the stations were done the teams all went out to the field and played a game with bean bags. When all the fun and games were over lunch was provided. During lunch, karaoke was available for everyone to participate. ASB members took over the microphone until Mr. Yovino and Mr. Oden sang a duet to

Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe." It was a hilarious sight to see the two holding hands throughout the whole song. Once the laughter had settled down there was a raffle where a numerous of prizes were given out. Prizes such as In-N-Out gift cards, Regal movie tickets, fifteen dollar iTunes gift cards, and Western Christian apparel. Sadly, after all the prizes were given out the day came to a close. Mr. Attwood gave a short speech and the students went back to their schools. ASB said farewell to each of their team members and the second High School Experience Day was over. The administration was extremely pleased with all the hard work that ASB put into getting things organized. Although the day got off to a late start, it all ended well and was a great time for all.

## LIFE

['Life,' from Front Page]

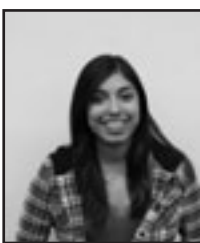
Jim decided to take the bat himself and broke it with ease. After this, Mitch took a frying pan and bent it into a burrito in only one minute. Everyone was so amazed and began to cheer like crazy. Jim loved the energy, so he popped four 7-Up cans into the crowds using only his hands. Right after he popped the cans, he went back to the grass and curled a steal bar like a fish using his teeth as a tool. Their strength was amazing. The whole point of the Power for Life team coming to Western was not just to show off how strong they were, but to talk about how God was their strength in life. Mitch talked for about

ten minutes sharing his testimony and telling what he thinks one's role should be as a high schooler. He stated that making the right choices is very important because it shapes our future, and if we read the bible and follow God He will lead us in the right direction. He also spoke about how being God's servant and learning more about Him is important because Jesus is the source of our identity. For the finale, Mitch tore a phonebook in half with no effort at all. Everyone had an amazing time and enjoyed watching and listening to the Power for Life team.

# Girls b-ball: Team together!

Kristen McCormick  
Staff Writer

This year's girls' varsity basketball team kicked off their season with some "Midnight Madness". This was a night retreat on November 14th in the Royal Oak gym, starting at midnight. The purpose of the retreat was to start the season and get the girls pumped up. The "Midnight Madness" retreat consisted of practicing, drills,



Lauren



Chelsea

and discussing their goals for this season. A major goal for the girls this season is to win and to grow as a team. This goal also ties in with the team's main motto: "Team Together". Coach B says that the game is not about one individual, but it is about the team as a whole working together. The team holds a variety of players that all bring something to the team. Varsity captains Lauren Gonzalez and Rayna Bowen bring much experience in Lancer basketball. Lauren Gonzalez plays an excellent point guard and Rayna Bowen is good defensively. Along with these strong players is Sarah Mutch, a junior. Mutch has stepped up this year in helping with scoring. She is also physically and mentally tough which works well with the team and its strategy. Also contributing to the team are the many rookies. More than half of this year's team consists of rookies. They hold a lot of potential for the team and can learn much from the veterans. The rookies will hopefully step up with the veterans



Photo by Rebekah Valle

Girls basketball at the Winter Sports Rally.

and bring our girls to victory this season. Another goal of the Lady Lancer basketball team is to be in shape. Lauren Gonzalez says that the team does a lot better when they are in shape because the defense has to run a lot. It is important that they are in shape so they can set up opportunities for the offense to score. What will help the girls achieve this goal of being in shape and ready for games is practice. The girls practice Monday through Saturday two hours a day, not including Sports P.E. Everyday, in practice, to help get into shape the girls do "The Ten-Minute Drill". This drill consists of a great deal of running. Another goal of the team this year is to beat Arrowhead Christian. Although Ontario Christian is one of Western Christian's biggest rivals, the

girls' basketball team has beaten them in previous seasons. It is Arrowhead Christian, however, that the girls have yet to beat. Before the girls start playing league games, however, they have three tournaments coming up: Wilson, Liberty Christian, and Woodcrest. These tournaments will test their progress and show them what they need to work on. Last Tuesday was an important test and they shined through. The girls had a scrimmage against La Puente, which the Lancers came out on top 39-37. The first league game of the season is on January 9th 2009 against Ontario Christian. Let's pack the gym as much as possible and support our Lady Lancers in the new year of 2009!

## CHRISTMAS

['Christmas,' from Front Page]

Tuesday, was Santa's Workshop, with students dressed as presents, elves, and toy soldiers. Emmanuel Mendoza used his car wash bucket to create a toy soldier hat to complete his outfit. At lunch, there was a toy drive competition, which the freshmen won. Wednesday was "Grandma's gifts and sweaters" day with students wearing the world's tackiest Christmas sweaters.

Seriously, some of these sweaters were older than the wearers themselves. There was a gingerbread house decorating contest at lunch, which the sophomores dominated. The juniors deserve a shout-out here for the worst decorated gingerbread house. Luckily, they have another year to perfect their culinary skills. Thursday was Christmas pajama day with students dressed

to their pajama nines in "onesies," flannel pants, and other over-the-top outfits. The lunchtime activity was the ever-popular ice-blocking event. The seniors took this opportunity to further their domination over the other classes. Friday was "Santa Hat and Spirit Shirt" day. All-in-all, this year's Christmas Spirit Week showed great school participation from student and faculty alike.



Photo by Rebekah Valle

ASB decorated a Christmas tree in the Covina City Hall.

## Girls soccer sees change



Coach Sergio Trujillo

Adam Montague  
Sports Editor

The 2008-2009 soccer season is here and the girls' soccer team is back and ready to go. This team, however, is very different from the one we saw last year. Not only do they have five new players, but they have a new coaching staff as well. Taking over the reins as head coach is Sergio Trujillo. The assistant coach this year is Theresa Broad. Neither one of these two coaches are entirely new. Sergio has been with the girls for the past two years as assistant coach to Coach Ramirez. Theresa Broad is a Western Christian alumnus who also played on the soccer team. She currently holds the record at Western for most goals scored, and has played on the Azusa Pacific University team where she lead her team this season for most goals scored. The captains this year are seniors Danielle Hunt, Marissa Reggio, Gabby Trujillo, and Tayler Radford. Three of them have been on the team since they were freshman, while Tayler started playing her Junior year. If the team achieves anything great this year, it will most certainly be because of the leadership of these four girls as they work with the five new players. So far this season the girls have yet to play an official game. They did however have a scrimmage against La Puente High School. The game ended in a 3-3 draw with Marissa scoring once and Gabby twice. Their first game of the season is set to take place on December 5th against the St. Lucy's JV team in the Western Christian tournament. Over Christmas break, the team played in the Santa Maria Tournament and took fourth place against Division I schools. Be sure to go to the games and support our girls.

# Boys basketball: young and focused

Alton Liu  
Staff Writer

The 2008-2009 basketball season has started, but is different from previous years. This year's Lancers varsity boys basketball team is a group of passionate young men most of whom have had no experience playing varsity sports. The team is mainly made up of the players from last year's JV team, which ranked 2nd in the JV league. They are: Michael MacQuoid, Damian Jara, Mark McMahon, Darrel Rice, Brandon Dirks, and Andrew Hyde. They have only two returnees, Sammy Santillano and Justin Fox, but they lead the team with their experience. There are two additional players who never played for Western basketball: they are Gabriel Perez, junior starting point guard, and James Duraku, a transfer student from Dallas, Texas. Even though they are a young team, the players believe that the hard work they put in during practice will eventually pay off. "We have a good team. I feel good!" answered Justin when he was asked how he felt about the season. The varsity boys basketball team had the opening game of the season against the Don Bosco Tech Tigers on Tuesday, 2nd December. They looked strong in the first quarter and took advantages of the turnovers the Tigers made. Lancers led the first quarter by 11 points after Darrel Rice made a shot on the clock. However, the Tigers came back second quarter and tied the game by the end of first half. In the third quarter, Lancers started to give much pressure on opponents' offense, which caused



Photo courtesy of the Santillano family.

The team after their Webb Tournament win.

them to make much more turnovers. Most of the points they made in this quarter were from fast breaks. It seemed Tigers had given up the game in the end, and as the clock stopped, the scoreboard read 64-48. Lancers won the first game of the season. "As long as we keep Christ as our focus and

keep playing to glorify Him, He will continue to bless the season" said Mark McMahon with excitement after the game. The basketball team also brought the championship trophy home from the recent Webb Tournament.

## Volleyball youth to carry next year's team

Andrew Angileri  
Staff Writer

The second half of the girls' volleyball season was very exciting. They came out fighting just like before, and gave it their all in every game of the season. All the girls, including their head coach, Mrs. Bartholomew, were hoping to go on to CIF playoffs, but unfortunately they weren't able to make it. Even though they didn't do quite as well as they would have liked or go as far into CIF playoffs as they had hoped, the whole team was very talented and has a wide range of attributes and different types of players that added to the teams advan-

tage. All of these things helped the team have a very fulfilling and strengthening season. When asked about the season, senior captain Christina Mao said, "I am very happy with this season. Although we didn't make it to the CIF playoffs, I think our fight and attempt was amazing." This season will leave the Western Christian Lancers volleyball team a lot closer, more experienced, and more prepared for the years to come. Katy Surface said "I loved to see our team mesh, and become a family. Not just seeing the team get better but seeing every one of my teammates grow both as an individual player, team player, and great friends." Luckily, this team was made up

of many younger players who have grown tremendously throughout the season and have great potential to lead the volleyball team next year. One of the younger players on the team, Taylor Pierini, says "Win or lose the team got stronger. We fought hard to show that a little team could play big, and will continue to do so in the years to come." All and all we should be very proud of our Western Christian volleyball team. They fought through every game as best they could showing tremendous heart, and never once gave up.

## Football's inaugural season

Adam Montague  
Sports Editor

Football season has finally come to an end. There were ups and downs, but overall it was an exciting season. The boys managed to win the first five games. There has not been a football team at Western to do that for years. They came out strong in the first half of the season with wins against Gladstone High School, Calvary Chapel Downey, Bloomington Christian, Sierra Vista, and Brethren

Christian. However, once league began, things just did not seem to click anymore and they lost their momentum. They finished the season with an acceptable record of 5-5. Some outstanding players of this year's team were seniors Reed Covington and Jorge Perez, as well as sophomore Ryan Salausa. Ryan, being only a sophomore, will be a huge asset to the team in the coming years. Junior quarterback Alex Beaton also had a strong season and he will be a

key player next season. With an all new coaching staff the team had to get used to all the new changes and different coaching styles. Head Coach Rob Castaneda has many ambitions and aspires for Western to be known for its football team and hopes that Western will come on top in the future. It will take a lot of hard work from the boys but with heart and unity the team will definitely go far in years to come.

# Boys Soccer

Marissa Reggio  
Guest Writer

A new outlook and perspective has hit the Western boys' soccer team. In their efforts to change a history of finishing their season in third or below, the team has placed themselves in many tournaments to help them grow as a team and learn to play with the different styles of play the team has picked up in the new players that have joined the 08-09 team. Michael, the new coach has a teaching style much desired for the boys' soccer

program. A person who brings the true style of soccer and fundamentals the team has needed for much time. He brings a history and love that the boys want to play for.

The team struggled in the beginning in learning this new coaching style but has made a conscious effort to change their views on soccer and be taught a true and knowledgeable way to play the sport. There practices are hard teaching the team how to play the game of soccer as well as how to use their individual skills to benefit the team. The team has grown very close as friends in the short time they have spent with each

other due to Michael teaching them the truths about playing as a team.

The team has struggled in their attempts to change their past records of winning and losing and have struggled with injuries and illness. The soccer team has seen many games and understands what is needed for them to earn a title. The team played in the O.C. tournament over Christmas Break winning one game and losing in the other three games. Christmas break allowed the team to play many games and get a lot of practice in before their season opener against Ontario Christian on Jan. 9th. "The team played a

good game dominating OC throughout most of the first half" quoted by Captain Anthony Llorens. Western had trouble finishing in front of the net. Unfinished attempts on goal and an injury to starter and co captain Anthony Llorens forced Western to finish the game 4 to 3.

The boys are still learning that there season will be a hard one, but they know that with how much overall talent and a strong leading coach there past history might be changed in this new year.

# Cross country season ends well

Danielle Hunt  
Copy Editor

The cross country team did an amazing job on the last couple of runs of their season. They got third place at their meet at Sylvan Park in Redlands. The team had their best meet at the league finals when all the varsity boys got their personal best times. Ben Rinard came in sixth place in league and ran an 18:15. Niko Sapetto came in close after in tenth place running an 18:50. Ethan Semain and Nathan Keyes both finished the race right under twenty minutes. Caleb Meister broke the

school record running a 16:48. Kara Quintana ran after a recent knee injury but still finished at the top. Because the boys' team ran so well, they finished in third place and made it to the CIF prelims. They did not make it past CIF Prelims but Caleb went further as an individual. Caleb was determined to make it to state but did not quite make it. Assistant Coach Chris Saucedo said that this was a very fun season for him and they had a great time at CIF. With only one senior on the team, everyone looks forward to the next season.



Photo courtesy of westernchristian.org.

Caleb Meister in his qualifying run for CIF finals.

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Photo by Miss Thurber

The current Western Spirit team.

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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 pick up your application for next year's Journalism class. ALL POSITIONS WILL BE OPEN! If you have any questions, feel free to ask any of the current Western Spirit staff, or stop by and ask Miss Thurber when you pick up your application!

## Q&A: What was the best Christmas present you received as a child?

Freshman  
Garrett Radford



My go-cart.

Freshman  
Austin Grow



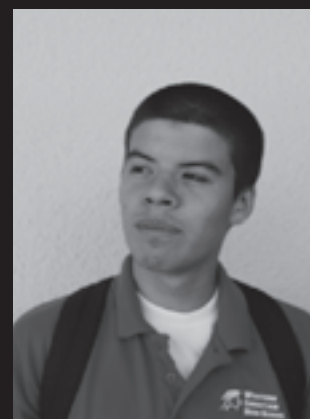
My Xbox 360.

Sophomore  
Allison Ortega



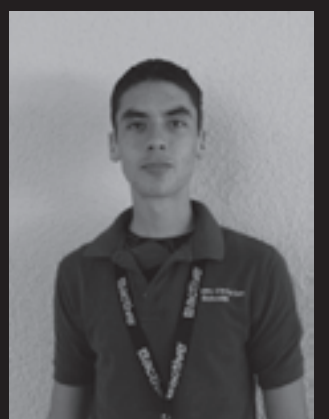
My amazing stereo.

Junior  
Samuel Santillano



White under-tanks.

Junior  
Miles Grow



iPod.

Senior  
Brad Anderson



Snowboard equipment.

Senior  
Nathan Angel



My Nintendo 64.

Senior  
Rhianna Pierre



My pink Kitchen-Aid mixer, and my pink Barbie car.

Senior  
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My PS3 and Rock Band.

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