







Winter Sports Preview

By **Brittney Schrift**
Staff Writer

Along with the cold weather and the holidays comes the 2009 winter sports season. As a whole, the Vikings performed spectacularly last year, winning two CIF titles. This year, each team hopes to make their fellow Vikings proud by repeating their success.

 <div>Men's Varsity Soccer</div>	Even though the football season is coming to a close, Edwards' Stadium will not get a rest. The Men's Varsity Soccer team plans to aggressively "tear up the field" as they compete in hopes of a successful season.	"We have a hard season coming up due to the loss of several of our graduating players last year, but we have new players coming up and we are dedicated to practicing hard and hopefully having our time to shine by winning CIF," senior Alan Ampudia said.
 <div>Women's Varsity Soccer</div>	On the day of last year's ASB Ball, La Jolla's Varsity Women's Soccer team became the 2009 CIF champions. Winning 4-0 against Coronado, they hope to continue their success, and possibly take it further this year. Elisa Brooks, last year's only freshman varsity member, is hopeful for a great upcoming season.	"Our soccer team was amazing last year, we couldn't have been better," sophomore Elisa Brooks said. "Some of our key players graduated last year, so we are going to have to work extra hard this year to accomplish the same goals."
 <div>Men's Varsity Basketball</div>	As last year's reigning CIF champions, the Men's Varsity Basketball team is gearing up for another intense season. The team has been preparing by practicing regularly, and focusing on making this season their best one yet.	"We are all really excited for the season because a lot of our key players are returning, and we feel like we have got a lot of confidence and swagger going into the season," senior Taylor Davis said. "We hope to win CIF again, but there is no looking ahead, we are taking every game with utmost importance."
 <div>Women's Varsity Waterpolo</div>	Men's Waterpolo may be done for the year; but, do not worry, La Jolla's favorite water sport is only half over. Women's Varsity Water Polo is starting up and with talented returning players and new additions, they are determined to make a big splash.	"We've been preparing by swimming every day in sixth period, and doing treacherous dry land workouts in order to build lots of muscle strength for the season. We look forward to playing because we hope to go farther than we ever have before," junior Greta Gettlefinger said.
 <div>Women's Varsity Basketball</div>	The gymnasium will not only be occupied by just the men's team, but by the Women's Varsity Basketball team as well. Although the team lost some of last year's key players, they are hopeful towards a great upcoming season.	"Our team is off to a really good start, we won our first game against Kearny and we are looking forward towards our league games which begin shortly. I am really excited about this season and I hope everyone comes and supports us throughout the year," senior Bianca Mitchell said.
 <div>Varsity Wrestling</div>	It may not be the most popular sport, but it is one of the most physically strenuous sports out there. Men's Varsity Wrestling is looking forward to a great season and is always welcoming of new players, boys and girls.	"I'm excited for the upcoming season. A few of the new kids have already been wrestling for several years, and they will be very strong assets to our team. Although we have lost a few of our starters due to injuries and other problems, this is the start of a new beginning for our wrestling program," junior Quinn Strauser said.

Good luck to all Winter Sports teams!

Sport of the Month Ice Blocking

By **Jacqueline Berracasa**
Staff Writer

Ice blocking is one of the more obscure sports at La Jolla High, but with San Diego's perfect weather and many hills, why not give it a try?

One might be wary of sliding on ice, but it is really not difficult. While sitting on an ice block at the top of a hill, push off, and make sure to hold on tight.

"It's only a challenge at first when someone pushes you and you wobble but it's easy to balance once you get going," senior Morganne Dodds said.

Today, ice blocking is enjoyed as a cheap and fun hobby, but it actually originated in Ireland. Before the invention of cars, the Irish used to freeze bags of water and use them as a sled to slide down the grassy knolls for quick transportation. Shortly afterwards, ice blocking became a fun activity in the United States as well.

Ice blocking is popular in most hilly towns across the U.S., but it is truly a sport in San Diego. The temperate weather is perfect for blocking because it is warm enough to be able to sit on the ice, but cool enough that the ice does not melt easily.

In addition to it being very

amusing, blocking is cheap and a fun way to get a workout. Blocks can be bought for about four dollars at most grocery stores. One block is enough for one or two people. Not only does balancing on the block require core and upper body strength, but walking back up hill with the ice after sliding down also requires endurance.

One of the most exciting aspects of ice blocking is racing. It can be dangerous, so be cautious when giving this a try.

"It's pretty fun, but you can really hurt yourself if you're not careful. You're going fast so when you fall, it hurts," senior Wyatt Cuddington said.

The best places to ice block are at the parks where it has not been banned yet, as the ice has a damaging effect on the grass. Experienced ice blockers recommend wearing warm clothes and closed-toe shoes. Also, do not forget a towel or trash bag to put over the ice, as it will be too cold to sit on.

Ice blocking is a great sport for high school students; it is cheap, entertaining, and requires some physical effort. Give it a try and experience the rush of sliding down a grassy hill the way the Irishmen did.

Wrestling Not Only For Boys

By **Olivia Polger**
Staff Writer

Wrestling has been around since the 19th century as a display of athleticism and strength. Modern wrestling usually features striking and grappling techniques, which are modeled after many different sets of wrestling styles from around the world.

La Jolla High School has brought women to the wrestling team this year with three girls: Sarah Naiman, Leslie Tims, and Leslie Benitez. These girls love the sport and are very excited to be on this year's team.

Having a small number of girls on the team does not affect them at all. They are happy to be doing a sport that they love and enjoy.

"I have been encouraging new girls to join the wrestling team. I love wrestling because it's just a physically and mentally challenging sport that will push you to your limits but in the end it all pays off," junior Sarah Naiman said.

The coaches also both feel that the girls are a great addition to the team.

"[Girls] don't stink and they show up everyday to practice," Coach Lindenblatt said.

The boys on the wrestling team are very accepting of having girls join them.

"It's not weird having girls on the team. It's the same as wrestling with a guy," sophomore Andrew Young said.

Most do not feel that is any different having girls on the team because wrestling is not about the gender of the person but about their ability, strength and technique.

Some may think that the guys will not be aggressive against girls, but the guys on the team treat the girls the same as their other teammates.

"I do not go any easier on them because they are girls; I view them as wrestlers," junior Kirk Lee said.

Wrestling is a great way to stay in shape and build up skills. It does not matter if you are a guy or a girl, or have never tried the sport before to join the team. The wrestling season has just began, so make sure to support your fellow Vikings starting January 6th.

STANDOUT ATHLETE

By Molly Salas
A&E Editor

At 6'5" and 205 pounds, Jack Latta is kind of a big deal. The La Jolla High senior is taking Viking athletics by storm. Having lettered three years in both basketball and volleyball, Latta has helped lead the varsity teams to CIFs in both sports over the last two years. Latta showed his leadership by serving as co-captain of varsity basketball, as well as leading the team in scoring last year. He also achieved First Team all CIF last year in volleyball, a pretty sweet individual honor. As a wing in basketball and a middle blocker in volleyball, he is a valuable asset to the teams he has dedicated himself to. Jack is not only a beast on the court, but is also involved in tons of extracurriculars and is impressive academically. He

has been able to balance his life between studying, practicing, teaching small children math, and finding time to eat. "I have been accepted to Harvard for volleyball. I am also considering MIT and CalTech for basketball," Latta said. A day in the life of Jack Latta is, unsurprisingly, filled to the brim. 6:43AM Jack wakes up and enjoys a breakfast of yogurt, granola, and fruit. Happiness ensues. 7:25AM AP Art History. Jack marvels at the brilliance of Mr. Mika's limited edition Piet Mondrian Nikes, yet is utterly befuddled by Gothic architecture. 8:28AM Political Science 101. 9:32AM



Photo courtesy of Facebook.com
Ballin': Jack Latta shows his skills on the court.

AP Biology. Jack enjoys having a class with his sister Ellen. He put off taking AP Bio until this year so that they could share a class. 11:34AM Lunch. One would have to search a variety of places to find Jack during lunch. He would probably be at a Mock Trial meeting. Or Speech and Debate. Or Math Club. But if he is not any of those places, one would simply have to look up, because Jack is very tall. 12:14PM AP English Literature. 1:16PM AP Statistics. What is the probability that Jack will get a burrito after school? 99/100. 2:15PM

School's out! It is time for Jack to walk up to Muirlands and coach "Math Counts," a competitive math team for Muirlands students. 4:30PM A burrito from Rigoberto's before practice sets the evening off right. 5:00PM Basketball practice. 7:00PM Volleyball practice. 9:00-11:00PM "I'll go to bed by eleven after trying to do some homework, but I'll wake up again at one or so if I have a test the next day. Staying up late ruins my sleep cycle," Latta said. Keep an eye out for Jack as the Varsity Men's Basketball team plays this season, and follow Men's Volleyball in the spring. He is hard to miss.

Just For Kicks

By Jessica Wood
Staff Writer

As the winter season approaches, the Women's Varsity Soccer Team is preparing to enter a season just as successful as the previous. Last year, we finished the season with a 17-4-2 record, won CIF, and made it all the way to the State Finals. This year, with 12 returning players and eight additions to the team, we are hoping to carry on our legacy. Two top players, Katie Wahl and Briana Chapman, are already committed to play at the college level. Briana will be playing for Cal State Fullerton and Katie for Western Carolina University. "I am so excited for college soccer, but nothing beats high school season. For now, that's my main focus," senior

Briana Chapman said. They are both devoted to making this last season memorable and will hopefully bring home a few more Championship banners to the La Jolla High Gym. New players include freshmen Melanie Locke, Caitlin Williams, and Karly Zlatic, sophomore Ellen Latta and Itzel Caro, and juniors Katie Beathard and Courtney Whitehouse. We are hoping that we can establish the same team chemistry that led us to victory last year. Callan Para and I are both very excited to lead the team to victory this year as captains. "We are lucky to have a great group of girls: competitive, nice, athletic... I hope this year will be just as successful as last year," junior Callan Parra said. Jessica Wood is co-captain of the Women's Varsity Soccer Team

Not Your Average Broomstick

By Molly Salas and Heren Alanis
A&E Editor and Staff Writer

Attention students: Quidditch may be coming to a school near you.

The fictional game inspired by J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series is coming to life on campuses across the country. Initially, the sport was made a reality by Amherst College, Princeton University, and Kenyon College, as well as Middlebury College, where the first "Quidditch World Cup" was held in 2005. Since then, dozens of schools across the country have caught on to the Quidditch craze. The game essentially mirrors the game described in the books. A volleyball acts as the Quaffle, a ball that players toss around with the goal of throwing it in three different hoops (hula hoops on posts). The Chasers are the players

who score, the Keeper is the goalie, and two Beaters per team hurl red balls (Bludgers) at opposing players. Most importantly, the Golden Snitch, (represented by a tennis ball in

that has a Quidditch team I would flip out. I would definitely be a Captain or probably a Chaser, and throw the Quaffle into random suspended hula hoops. I tried playing once and it was quite fun," senior Lilly Sedaghat said. "I'd prefer to play real Quidditch, but I suppose any school that tries to imitate it is worth looking into," junior Nick Kusnir said. Alex Benepe, one of the developers of Quidditch as a sport at Middlebury College, stresses that Quidditch is for everyone. "I think Harry Potter gives it the initial hook, but the quality of game really gets people passionate because it's really fun to play," Benepe said. Regardless of one's level of Harry Potter fanaticism or any semblance of athleticism one may possess, it seems as though the IQA is "clean sweeping" the country's colleges off their feet.



Photo courtesy of NerdyLaundry.com
There Goes the Quaffle: College quidditch in action...

Congratulations to all
fall sports teams for
their succesful seasons!

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Football-CIF Quarterfinals
Men's Waterpolo-CIF Quarterfinals
Women's Tennis-CIF Second Round
Women's Golf-All-City Tournament (Jasmine Graze)
Women's Volleyball-CIF Semifinals
Women's Field Hockey-CIF First Round
Women's Cross Country-CIF Champions
Men's Cross Country-CIF Third Round



By Amy Liew and Ashley Wei
Staff Writers

The LJHS Interact Club, sponsored by the La Jolla Rotary, is one of the school's most prominent community service clubs. Each year, the club sets a goal of surpassing 2,000 volunteer hours. This past month, the Interact Club has been busy trying to reach their goal and has helped out at many community service events. Here are two stories about the work they have done this year.

Relief for Refugees

Roger Li, the secretary of Interact Club, has teamed up with the International Rescue Committee to help the refugee population living in City Heights. Refugees in the area come from all over the world such as Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East and are relocated to the

United States through refugee resettlement offices. The International Rescue Committee, or IRC, works in 42 countries to relocate refugees, provide emergency relief, and help the refugees rebuild their lives from the disasters they have lived through.

"I am helping out this charity because I care about these people. I work at the students plus program for the IRC where I meet refugee families every day. Seeing these people puts into perspective for me the resilience of human nature. Despite having been through so much, these people still find the strength to forge a new life in such a strange, new place," junior Roger Li said.

Every year, the IRC has an annual toiletries drive where schools in San Diego are assigned to raise money to purchase certain toiletries, which will be included in care packages in time for the holidays. This year La Jolla High School's Interact Club was assigned to collect soap bars and worked hard to raise money for the purchase of the soap bars. Their goal was to collect 1,300 bars by December 14th.

"When these refugees first enter America, they essentially have nothing. Usually, they do not understand English and the means by which they survived in their native country are rendered use-

less. The International Rescue Committee seeks to help these refugees adjust to their new lives through events like its annual toiletries drive," junior Roger Li said.

"Every little contribution counts. Not only do these soaps make them happy, but it also brings them comfort," junior Evelyn Liu said.



Photo courtesy of Ashley Wei
Spreading the holiday cheer: Sophomore Kartini Dinh organizes food for the "Holiday Baskets" program.

In addition to providing the refugees with basic needs such as shelter, food, and employment, the IRC also helps these refugees adjust to their new lives by teaching them how to read, write, and manage their finances.

Interact Club's efforts to help these families and other refugees have helped to provide these people not only with gifts, but also happiness and peace of mind that there are people out in the world willing to assist them through their tough times.

Interact Holiday Baskets

'Tis the season to give! The past two weekends, the Interact Club of La Jolla High School participated in a Community Resource Center (CRC) sponsored program called "Holiday Baskets." In this program, students volunteered to organize food, clothing, and toys to put in baskets for disadvantaged families. The event took place on December 5th and 13th at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Every year, volunteers work together to convert the Grandstands into a mock store, creating an enjoyable experience for families in which they choose food, blankets, toys, and other gifts to fulfill miscellaneous needs. The baskets have since been replaced with shopping carts, which contribute to a shopping atmosphere for beneficiaries.

On Saturday and Sunday, Interact club helped set up the facility at Del Mar by helping to organize donated items.

Some students hung clothes on racks, making sure that similar colors were placed next to each other. Others folded blankets or sorted through a maze of toys, separating them by gender and age. Interact members also sorted through donated food and placed the food into appropriate sections.

"[Holiday Baskets] was a good experience. It felt amazing being able to help needy families get food and clothes. I'll definitely be doing it again next year," sophomore Kartini



Photo courtesy of Ashley Wei
A Hard Worker: Sophomore Sophia Lin helps organizers prep for the "Holiday Baskets" program

Dinh said.

The compassion that Interact displayed in carrying out these activities truly reflected students' desires to help those in need rather than just accomplish another task for higher regard on their college applications.

"This is probably one of our club's most rewarding projects. As cheesy as it may sound, everyone really gets into the holiday spirit and we all work very hard either getting items or sorting out and organizing donations. All of our work is 100% worth it when we get to [see] moms and dads glad to get warm clothes...and kids' faces lighting up with smiles from ear to ear when they get to pick out their one Christmas gift," said club president Ito Kabbage.

"Holiday Baskets" are not quite over yet, however. Interact club students will once again lend their assistance on December 19th and 20th, helping with the distribution of all the items they organized.

Though community service and a willing heart to give to others should be year-round, the holiday season is the perfect time to think about those who may not be as fortunate, and to consider spreading the holiday spirit and joy to people who otherwise have very little.



Photo courtesy of Ashley Wei
Food, food, food: Just one of the many boxes of food that families can pick out of at the "Holiday Basket" event.

The Cottage: A Restaurant Revamped

By Carolina Bellizzi
Sports Editor

A charming locale favored among locals and tourists alike, La Jolla's The Cottage has maintained a reputation of excellence since the restaurant's opening in the mid-1980s. As many locals know, The Cottage is a La Jolla icon; its trademark yellow clapboard walls and sunny interior give the restaurant a distinctly Southern California atmosphere. Nevertheless, The Cottage has recently undergone an extensive remodel in order to perpetuate its status as La Jolla's premiere breakfast and lunch establishment.

Beginning in mid-October, plans were set into motion to commence the remodel, which included renovations

that would, most importantly, make the restaurant wheelchair accessible. The remodel also included extensive renovations to the restrooms as well as the patio and kitchen areas. The trademark yellow clapboard exterior and warm color scheme were revamped in favor of a new, serene palate consisting of cool grays and teals accented with dark wood and coastal amenities.

"While the new Cottage will be completely different in look, [the restaurant itself] will not change in its appeal or atmosphere," proprietor and restaurant manager Jason Peaslee said.

The majority of renovations to The Cottage took place over the Thanksgiving holiday; the overall construction occurred in record time, with the es-

tablishment closing for one month during the brunt of the remodel.

Following its re-opening, everyone from employees to customers alike have only positive things to say about the restaurant's new look.

"I'm so excited to visit The Cottage throughout the holiday season. The staff is really friendly and the food has only gotten better," senior Katie Wahl said.

"The remodel has made it a lot easier to move around [the restaurant,]" Cottage hostess and La Jolla High junior Brooke Robertson said. "I'm glad that The Cottage has maintained its charm and inviting atmosphere."

It is that same inviting atmosphere on which The Cottage staff prides themselves.

"What makes The Cottage so special is the way our staff and our customers interact. With such a well sustained clientele, we pride ourselves on knowing many of our customers' likes and dislikes before they have ordered," Peaslee said.

The Cottage reopened for business Sunday, December 12th, just in time for the holiday season. Make sure to stop by and experience the new Cottage. With its classic ambiance and friendly service, it surely will not disappoint.

An Excellent Educator



Photo courtesy of Jessica Silvers
Carole LeCren, head of the English Department, has just passed the National Board Certification (NBC). This great honor allows her to teach in most states. The teacher of sophomore and senior English classes says she is very excited to have been NBC certified.

Carnage of Duty

By Jasmine Mobasseri
Staff Writer

The hit video game, *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* has dropped a bomb on the entertainment industry, bringing in around \$550 million dollars in the first week of its release.

"In just five days of sale, *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* has become the largest entertainment launch in history and a pop culture phenomenon," Activision CEO Bobby Kotick said in an interview.

COD may have reached Hollywood levels of release-day sales because of the Hollywood levels of pre-release attention it got. Infiniti Ward, the studio that developed the game, showed a full length, action packed trailer for the game during the NBA Eastern Conference Finals and was hyped by influential game critics.

The video-game industry and movie industry have long been rivals fighting for the hearts of consumers. Many people

are turning to video games for their entertainment and fun because, although at first it may cost more than a movie, in the long run video games offer more entertainment for the money. A two hour-long movie costs at least \$21 for two people to attend, yet a video game may cost \$50 but it can be played for hundreds of hours.

COD: MW2 features many improvements that set it above its predecessor, and at the top of the industry.

"It has new maps, better guns, new signs for the ranks, and the graphics are a hell of a lot better," sophomore Johnny Weil said.

MW2 also gives the player the option of three completely different gaming experiences. Those that enjoy single-player have their traditional campaign, complete with new maps and new experiences. There is also the multi-player option that has returned, better than ever. Lastly, the game includes a new Special Operations mode with exciting missions that have players

going back for more over and over again.

MW2's graphics and visuals have intensified the feeling of game-play. Each map is

exciting for all of its fans, it does come with a few flaws. The game's "No Russian" mission has caused quite a stir amongst players. This level in

The scene is disturbing and has created much controversy.

Another problem people seem to be having with the game is the single-player mode. Although thrilling and new, it happens be quite short. It lasts around five hours, which would seem like a long time, but when a gamer is on a mission, five hours can seem like five minutes.

Sophomore Bobby Moranville shares his own criticism about the game.

"Only problem now is that when you get hurt, instead of having your screen turn red, which was only marginally annoying, there are opaque splatters that make it hard to do anything while hurt."

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 is an action-packed and electrifying game, not to mention a record-setting seller. Who knows what to expect in the future from this box office-annihilating sellout? One hopes that there will be more bombshell games similar to this one to come.



More Real Than Ever: *Unleash your violent tendencies in a constructive way with the super-realistic new version of Call of Duty with better graphics than ever before.*

completely different than the next and they capture each setting with perfection.

Although this new game is

the game consists of walking into a Russian airport with a Russian terrorist and firing at innocent and terrified people.



By Sarah Devermann
Staff Writer

December 21, 2012. This is the date the current 5,126 year era of the Mayan Long Court Calendar ends. It is just one of the many different theories predicting the Apocalypse, or "end of the world."

The newly released movie, *2012*, is based on the Mayan's prediction of the end of the world. In the winter solstice of 2012, for the first time in about 26,000 years, the sun will be aligned with the center of the Milky Way. On December 21, 2012, "whatever energy typically streams to Earth from the center of the Milky Way will indeed be disrupted" journalist Lawrence Joseph stated in a USA Today article about the Mayan apocalypse theory.

Contrary to this theory, earthquakes are what disrupt our planet in the new movie. Like every Hollywood movie, romance is involved. But does the movie really serve the Mayan's theory justice?

"[The *2012* movie] was action-filled, fast-paced,

and the effects weren't that bad," freshman Kat McCall said, "There was a bit of 'hollywoodization.' Half the story was about the main guy and his ex-wife, but it was still good."

"I was on the edge of my seat the whole time," sophomore Isabelle Poulin said.

The Mayans are not the

were 15 failed predictions of the world ending.

According to the Weekly World News on November 18, 1997, the CIA found an alien who had crash landed earlier that year in a New Mexico desert. He was from a species much more developed than humanity and the only survivor of the destruction of his world.

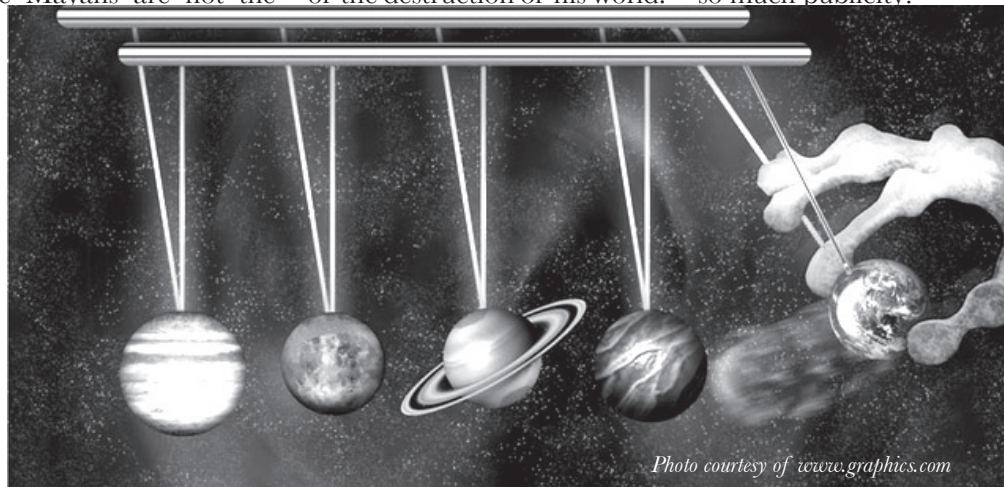


Photo courtesy of [rewiregraphics.com](http://www.rewiregraphics.com)

only ones with an apocalypse theory. Different cultures and religions have their own.

Theories predicting the end of the world range from the Christian Final Judgment Day, to "the ancient land of Atlantis" reemerging from the Caribbean, to the CIA finding an alien. In 2006 alone, there

He claimed God was "furious with his creations everywhere." Therefore, God is supposedly setting each planet on fire and exploding them one by one and "Earth will be the next in line!"

Some apocalyptic predictions also claim to be based on scientific proof. Gamma rays,

a big meteor, and volcanoes are all involved in different scientific predictions about the end of the world. According to sciencetoday.com, these are "the Three Most Realistic Theories" of apocalypses.

If there are so many different apocalyptic predictions, why is the Mayan's 2012 one getting so much publicity?

The Mayan civilization survived for centuries in Mesoamerica and was known for its advanced math, writing, and astronomy. They have also predicted other occurrences in our history, often miscalculating by only a few minutes.

For example, the Mayans calculated how long a year

was and were only 0.0002 days off according to modern science. The Mayans were also correct on spring and winter equinoxes thousands of years in advance, along with when full moons would happen and the existence of a black hole at the center of our galaxy. In addition, since this prediction is in the relatively close future, people seem to be more interested in it than a prediction of the world ending two hundred years from now.

Whatever the reason, students at La Jolla High are using the Mayan's theory to fuel excuses.

"I do not see the point of killing myself for the next four years to get good grades and get into a good college considering our freshman class is never going to graduate. Numerous different scientists have expressed their fear of the world coming to an end in 2012," freshman Emma Hye said.

Will the world really end in 2012? For that answer, check the January 2013 edition of the High Tide.

2009 wrap up

By Kaitlin Shantiai
Staff Writer

2009 has been one of the most interesting years of all time for the entertainment business. From the greatest albums to the jaw-dropping scandals, here is a recap of the big things that went down this year.

movies

Among the most adored films so far this year are “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,” “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince,” “Up,” and “The Hangover.”

“Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen” starring Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox grossed in about \$400 million, making it the biggest box office hit of the year.

dearly departed

2009 was a year filled with loss of incredibly notable stars. The most tragic loss was of course, Michael Jackson. The King of Pop died June 25, 2009 leaving everyone at a loss for words. Strangely, Farrah Fawcett also died on the exact same day as Michael Jackson after a struggle with cancer.

Patrick Swayze passed away on September 14, 2009 from pancreatic cancer. Patrick struggled with the deathly cancer for twenty months until he passed away at the age of 57.

scandals

1. At MTV’s Video Music Awards, Taylor won Best Music Video, and Kanye wasn’t very thrilled about it. He ruined Taylor’s big moment, dubbing this incident as the biggest celebrity scandal of 2009.
2. “The Pre-Grammy Beat down,” starring Chris Brown and Rihanna was a definite shocker. The media followed both of them for months as the world watched the two’s every move. The ex-lovers are just now finally starting to speak up about it.
3. This year, Mackenzie Phillips revealed her darkest secret on Larry King Live, telling the world about her sexual relationship with her father. She came out with a book shortly after, “High on Arrival.”

music

Everybody has different tastes in music, so declaring the best albums of the year can be tricky. Mtv.com has put together their top five.

1. “Merriweather Post Pavillion” by Animal Collective was proclaimed “The Album of the Year” all the way back in January.
2. “Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix” by Phoenix,
3. “Bromst” by Dan Deacon,
4. “Farm” by Dinosaur Jr.
5. “All I Ever Wanted” by Kelly Clarkson.

Jingle Jams







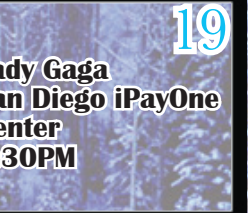




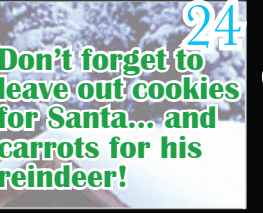





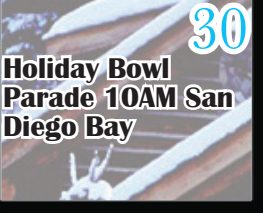









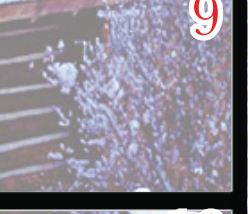







By Taylor Jetter
Staff Writer

Sick of the same old christmas tunes each and every year? Here are some covers of holiday classics performed by artists you know and love. So light up a fire, put on your favorite sweater, and rock out to these sweet jams. Happy Holidays!

- CAROL OF THE MEOWS- GUSTER
BLUE CHRISTMAS- ELVIS PRESLEY
12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS- RELIENT K
WINTER WONDERLAND- BOB DYLAN
LAST CHRISTMAS- JIMMY EAT WORLD
SILVER BELLS- THE CHIPMUNKS
RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER- JACK JOHNSON
LITTLE SAINT NICK- THE BEACH BOYS
SLEIGH RIDE- KT TUNSTALL
BABY IT’S COLD OUTSIDE- DANGER RADIO
LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW!- ELLA FITZGERALD
DECK THE HALLS- WILLIAM HUNG
JINGLE BELLS- JIMMY BUFFET
SANTA BABY- TAYLOR SWIFT
I HAVE A LITTLE DREIDEL- THE BARENAKED LADIES
HANUKKAH SONG- ADAM SANDLER
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?- FAMILY FORCE 5
CHRISTMAS (BABY PLEASE COME HOME)- MARIAH CAREY
SILENT NIGHT- WEEZER
WHITE CHRISTMAS- KATY PERRY

Upcoming Events

December 2009 & January 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 13 Ice Skating at Horton Plaza \$12 until January 10.	 14	 15	 16 HOLIDAY POPS: A Winter Pops Concert at the San Diego Symphony, thru Dec. 20	 17	 18 Hanukkah Ends	 19 Lady Gaga San Diego iPayOne Center 7:30PM
 20 Boats on Parade at Night @ San Diego Bay	 21 The Nutcracker Civic Theater \$45 Winter Break starts!	 22 Holly Jolly Holidays at Legoland & Sea World Holiday Celebration start (until the 31st).	 23	 24 Don't forget to leave out cookies for Santa... and carrots for his reindeer!	 25 Christmas Day!	 26 San Diego Zoo Jungle Bells \$37 (until January 3) Free Day of Dance Dance Place San Diego
 27 Make a “sand”-angel!	 28	 29	 30 Holiday Bowl Parade 10AM San Diego Bay	 31 Be safe this New Year’s Eve!	 1	 2
 3	 4 Back to School	 5	 6 Build a “sand”-man!	 7	 8 You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown San Diego Junior Theatre \$13	 9
 10	 11	 12	 13	 14	 15 Silent Film Night- The General (1927) at the San Diego Symphony, the 15th & 16th	 16