

## Elan Friedland dreams of being a reconstructive surgeon

by Ari Sweedler

People Editor

Freshman **Elan Friedland** loves the finer things in life. With more than nine years of piano lessons under his belt, Friedland is "very familiar" with the instrument. In addition to his experience with the fine arts, Friedland is a member of the Speech and Debate club and he also has a fascination for reconstructive medicine.

One of the things that Friedland remembers most vividly about his piano lessons is his teacher. "She was Russian, and had a really strong accent." Friedland still takes piano lessons, and looks forward to growing as a pianist.

Friedland also loves painting, and has a special fascination for painting nature. "[Painting nature] can be done in both a natural and yet surreal manner." Friedland prefers to use acrylic paint, which is a very thick and "[has a] transformative texture." According to Friedland, acrylic paint can either resemble oil paint or water colors depending on how diluted it is. "It has a unique texture that cannot be mimicked by any other medium."

Speech and Debate allows Friedland to learn about current events and the complexities of debate. Friedland participates because he is heavily opinionated about politics and other global issues. He is interested in the "parts of politics that relate to interesting reasons and philosophy."

Finally, Friedland dreams of the day when he can make an impact in reconstructive medicine. Reconstructive medicine is "pretty much like plastic surgery, but it's for people who have been [disfigured] by diseases or acci-



dents like really bad burns or certain types of cancers." Friedland loves the way that even after someone was disfigured or scarred, it's still possible to fix any problems that, a mere hundred years ago, were unfixable. One of the many reasons Friedland wants to pursue a career in reconstructive medicine is because "knowing that you fixed something that was marred, and setting a person onto the road to recovery is awesome." Another reason Friedland is so drawn to this field of study is because he believes that "It's fascinating the way life functions the way it does, all by itself."

Even though Friedland is still a freshman, he has already found his niche in the Los Gatos community. Maybe someday we'll hear about the achievements of the famous surgeon Elan Friedland in reconstructive medicine.



photos courtesy E. Friedland

## Ava Toren smiles through high school

by Ruth Murai

People Editor

Even if you were only to pass by freshman **Ava Toren** in the hallway once, you would be unsurprised to hear that she won an award for Biggest Smile at a recent dance competition. In just her first six weeks at high school, Toren has made a great impression at LGHS, whether through her dancing, fun-loving personality, or award-winning smile.



Toren began dancing when she was just three years old. "I just really like performing," she gushed about her favorite extracurricular. From tap to ballet to jazz to hip-hop, her style spreads across all different genres of dance. For Toren, the hardest part about dance is to "learn the moves and pick up the choreography fast because everything is so different," but she pushes through this obstacle, refusing to give up.

Toren dances with the LGHS dance team for an average of five hours a week, practicing to dazzle the crowds at the football half-time show. Toren's favorite part about joining the dance team has been the people she's been able to meet, especially the upperclassmen who have been incredibly kind and who made her transition into high school so much easier.

When not dancing, Toren loves to spend time with her friends and her family. She has an older brother, sophomore **Harrison Toren**, and an older half-sister, Nadine. Toren looks up to her half-sister, "I haven't known her all my life, and she reached out to us," Toren said, "she is always really happy and there for me, which I love."

At school, Toren is planning to branch out and utilize her talents. Currently, her favorite class is English because of **Tiffany Hamm**, her favorite teacher. She also enjoys singing with the choir, continuing her passion for singing that she began in her elementary school choir. She hopes to challenge herself by performing at Unplugged and allowing her friends and family to see her shine on stage in a way they haven't before. As a way to combine her favorite activities of singing and dancing, Toren also plans on trying out for the spring musical. While it has been a while since Toren last performed in a musical, she misses the experience and is excited to give it another shot.

As for the future, Toren hopes to travel in order to expand on her experiences. This past summer, she traveled with her family to Cabo, San Lucas where she got to partake in a plethora of water sports and experience something new. Toren's ultimate wish is to travel to either Hawaii or Costa Rica, where she can see the beautiful bright blue ocean that she has always admired in post cards.

From her short and yet promising life so far, Toren has learned that, "It's important to let things go. Don't try to hold things in or hold back. Don't hold back and live easy." Whether it be a future in dance or on the beaches of the Bahamas, Toren is sure to lead a life full of excitement and fun in which she continues to do her best to "live easy."



photos courtesy A. Toren

## Avery Bainbridge is an artisan: spinning wool, blowing glass, and knitting

by Haley Wade

Editor-in-Chief

Who has the ability to spin wool, blow glass, bake goodies, knit, bead jewelry, and embroider? There are two answers: an artisan from the 1400s and sophomore **Avery Bainbridge**. In fact, the former is exactly what Bainbridge aspires to be. "It would be super cool to work at a Renaissance fair," Bainbridge said. By the looks of it, she would be a stellar employee.

Bainbridge's favorite hobby is undoubtedly baking. "My favorite thing about baking is that you can eat the dough," Bainbridge laughed. But she doesn't keep all of the uncooked batter to herself. Bainbridge has "batter parties" with her family, where "approximately one third" of the goodies are eaten before even entering the oven.

Although she takes pride in each of her cookies, cakes, and danishes, if she had to bring one thing to an extremely special event, it would be her coffee cake.

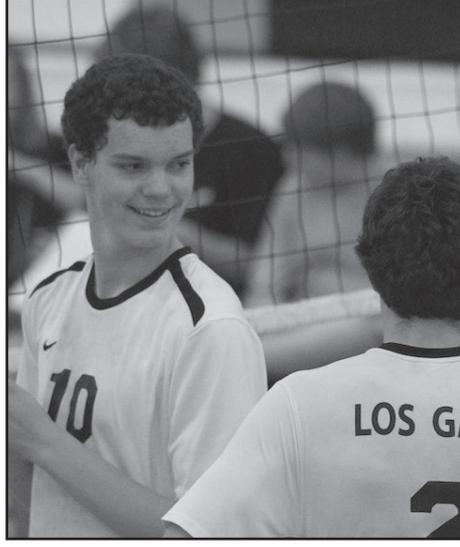
As for her work with beads and string, these were easy hobbies to pick up. "I like to sit quietly and do things, so knitting and spinning wool are kind of perfect activities."



by Brian Schunk

Sports Editor

Sophomore **Vlad Pesic** was born in the town of Majdanpek, Serbia, and LGHS has many reasons to be thankful for his arrival to the United States. Pesic and his parents moved to the US when he was almost two years old, and they spent many years



living in Santa Clara before they finally settled in Los Gatos when he was in seventh grade.

Pesic now stands at six feet five inches tall, and is skilled at out on the court playing both basketball and volleyball for the high school. He is a valuable contribution to both teams and has yet to start his second season of either sport for the school.

Pesic started playing basketball in elementary school, and has excelled at the sport ever since. With his awe-inspiring height, he is a natural fit for the positions of power forward and center. However, he is more than just an amazing defender and shot blocker patrolling the key. He lives for the clutch aspect of the game, and loves "the feeling you get when you're in that final ten seconds, trying to win the game for your team." Pesic was on the freshman basketball team last year for LGHS, and played a key role in their trip to a league championship.

Pesic also became an elite contributor to LGHS'

volleyball program. He started playing for the school freshman year with his only experience being from middle school. By April, he was called up to join varsity, and has started as a middle blocker for the team ever since. Regarding the transition from junior varsity to varsity, Pesic said "the level of play on varsity was hard to get used to, but once I learned the techniques and got a feel for the game, it got easier and became a lot of fun."

Outside of a fantastic volleyball season at the high school, Pesic decided to play volleyball at the club level for the first time this summer. He joined the top fifteen-year-old team at the most elite boys volleyball club in the bay area, Mountain View Volleyball Club, and he continued to start as a middle blocker. The summer season ended and Pesic decided to play again for the club in the fall, and he is now on the top sixteen year old team for the club.

Pesic contributes to LGHS in many ways. He has excelled both academically and athletically. When not on the court, he is an honors student, and excels in advanced classes in addition to being a member of the varsity volleyball team.

Overall, he is as well rounded as one could hope a student to be. Thanks Serbia, for giving us Vlad Pesic.



photos courtesy V. Pesic

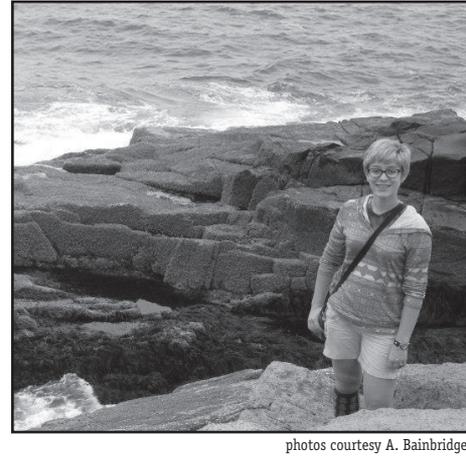
Bainbridge does have a couple of passions that would not likely be shared with her Renaissance counterpart. She loves to fill her closet with the most colorful things possible. When I picked her up for her interview she was wearing mismatched knee socks, a metallic gold pleated skirt and a tie-dye T-shirt. Freshman year, Bainbridge made the decision to crop her shoulder-length blonde hair and trade it in for a pixie that changes color every couple of weeks; it's currently a bright sky-blue. "My sister definitely helps me dye and re-dye it," said Bainbridge. "My favorite color was purple."

Bainbridge also loves to read, and spent a significant part of her summer doing just that. She loved reading Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card her freshman year. "It just blows your mind," Bainbridge explained. Her favorite book is Brian Selznick's illustrated novel The Invention of Hugo Cabret. Her intrigue with European action-mysteries has followed Bainbridge to her favorite TV shows as well. If Bainbridge is glued to the television, BBC hits like Doctor Who and Sherlock are most likely playing. Her favorite actor "has to be David Tennant."

Unsurprisingly, Great Britain is Bainbridge's favorite setting and where she sees herself living

in the future. She loves the "cold and wintery" atmosphere and aspires to attend Oxford and study Computer Science.

Her self-prescribed spirit animal probably captures her best: an octopus. "An octopus is colorful, intelligent, and shy." With all the skillful crafting Bainbridge is capable of, you'd think she had eight arms, too.



photos courtesy A. Bainbridge