

# From Iran to Kansas to Cali, it's Paris

By Niamh Doyle  
Opinion Editor

New junior **Parastu "Paris" Saeedipour** celebrates New Year's on the 21st of May, has experienced a tornado pass right over her house, and enjoys going to the beach. Do any of these sound different? Unless you're an Iranian/Kansan/Californian cocktail like Saeedipour, going to the beach was probably the only normal thing about that sentence. For Saeedipour, however, these are just a few aspects of her life that can be used to describe her multicultural background.



From the tornado-swept state of Kansas to the sunbaked plateaus of Iran, to finally coming to a halt amidst the sunny hills of California, Paris has seen a lot of more than the average American teenager. Though born and raised in Kansas City, Saeedipour considers her annual trip to Iran a journey to her second home. Having only arrived in California a mere two months ago, Saeedipour is still adapting to the bright and beachy Californian culture. She loves its sunny weather and its proximity to the beach, but Saeedipour is not a fan of the threat of an earthquake that has played such a prominent role in Californian history. Like any seasoned citizen of the sunflower state, however, she is seemingly unphased by tornados, claiming, "yeah... we get them all the time."

At home, Saeedipour lives in a mixture of Iranian and American culture. "Farsi is my first language," she explains, "I learned English off of Sesame Street." Constantly finding the equilibrium

between her more traditional Iranian values and her "American side," Saeedipour finds joy in her two cultures, saying that it has helped her become a stronger individual.

Her love for travel and the world becomes evident when Saeedipour talks about her experiences in Iran and Kansas. "I travel a lot because I feel like I become more accepting of various cultures," says Saeedipour. Her broad global spectrum and cultural acceptance contribute to her bold and decisive personality. A born leader, Saeedipour hopes to put her outspoken and confident personality to use in the business world after leaving high school, where she sees herself being able to travel the world.

Saeedipour isn't only a travel bug. She's played the piano since age three, and can play "anything from Beethoven to Taylor Swift" by ear. A hopeless romantic, Saeedipour adores all of Nicholas Sparks' books and movies, as they play to her more sensitive side.

If you talk to Saeedipour you'll see right away not only her bold confidence derived from her Iranian background, but a kindness and compassion she claims is common among Kansan people, and a playful and genuine sense of humor. Though new to Los Gatos, Saeedipour's bright personality is already helping her stand out among the throngs of busy LG students. don't hesitate to make friends with this Junior — you might just learn something.



photos courtesy P. Saeedipour

# ADEHOLM EXPLORES THE US

By Maddie Abene  
Editorial Editor

Hungry for adventure, excited for change, and ecstatic just to be living, Swedish exchange student, senior **Kim Adeholm** exemplifies the quintessential blonde with blue eyes, a bubbly personality and a constant smile. However, a deeper look at Adeholm reveals her unique qualities and quirky tendencies that no one would catch at first glance.

One hundred miles from Stockholm in the northern part of Sweden, Boden is the small village that Adeholm lives in. She describes her life back in Sweden as "the typical teenage Swede life," where she enjoyed playing a popular Swedish sport called hand-ball, going to movies with friends, visiting a friend's house for dinner, or spending time with her family. She loves music and attending concerts; she went to seven this spring. She stresses the fact that live music is significantly better than listening to it on a CD. As an only child, she worries that her parents are now very lonely without her. Adeholm is also very close to her grandmothers, who have always supported her.



Although Adeholm misses her life in Sweden, she loves to travel and is overjoyed to spend this year in the states. Since exchange years are very popular in Sweden, Adeholm was intrigued by the time she entered the sixth grade, and ever since then she has developed a passion for travel. She was determined to plan her trip to the U.S., so she began contacting the friends of her close Swedish family friends who had previously lived in the U.S. Adeholm arrived in Los Gatos Aug. 14, 2013, and will be living with her host family, the Meyers, for the next eleven months.

To her dismay, schooling is very different at LGHS than it is in Sweden. "In the Swedish schools it's all about the exams we have every fourth or fifth week

in each subject, and if you don't do well on an exam it is impossible to get a good grade. But here it's all about the homework, your exams, your attitude and some other things. It's not something I'm used to!" said Adeholm. Despite her difficulty adjusting to the way classes work at LGHS, Adeholm still challenges herself academically. She hopes to come back for college and then permanently move to America when she is older.

Adeholm also challenged herself physically by trying out for the school field hockey team. She describes the team as very welcoming and as a fun way to make new friends. After the famous Hell Week, Kim says, "I struggled, and felt like I was almost going to die, but I did it and I joined the field hockey team! It was actually interesting to listen to the coach talk and it reminded me about "handball" back home." Adeholm does not let any complications stand in her way to success and she always looks on the bright side. Only two weeks into the season as a brand new player, she is already capable of playing full scrimmages and doing so with natural skills.

Anticipating the next eleven months, Adeholm could not be more excited to be staying in Los Gatos. "Everyone is so incredibly nice here," she said. She is already starting to get used to everyday life as an American, enjoying activities such as swimming and relaxing with her host family, and running the right side of the dam with her field hockey team. On a blog keeping track of her adventures in America, she wrote of her first night in Los Gatos "ending with S'mores, which is an American delicacy, chocolate and marshmallows squashed between two biscuits. It was so good!" LGHS can only hope that our hospitality throughout the remainder of Adeholm's trip proves to be as sweet and as special as her first night.



photos courtesy K. Adeholm

# Auburn doesn't Look back

By Liat Rubin  
Sports Editor

Six feet two inches with a great smile, senior **Connor Arburn** is hard to miss. Arburn is new to LGHS after moving from Willow Glen High School. His wonderful personality and interesting story make him a wonderful addition to our community.

Arburn moved to LGHS from Willow Glen High School only 5 weeks before school started, but has managed to settle himself right into the Los Gatos community. The transition from Willow Glen High to LGHS went smoothly for Arburn because he has made friends through sports and other mutual interests.

Arburn started off the school year working at the local pizza restaurant, T-Birds Pizza. "It's so nice working there because it's a family-owned restaurant. It's much better than working somewhere like McDonalds. The co-workers are also really cool, which



makes working enjoyable."

Outside of school, Arburn has several passions including dirt biking, playing basketball, and playing guitar. He sometimes visits Pismo Beach, a town near San Luis Obispo, where Arburn claims one can find an intense dirt biking experience. Although Arburn hopes to eventually buy a car with money from his new job, he is planning on buying a dirt bike and making it street-legal first. Arburn also enjoys more conventional endeavors like guitar. Although he started playing only six months ago, Arburn is getting the feel for the instrument and is finding his passion for it.

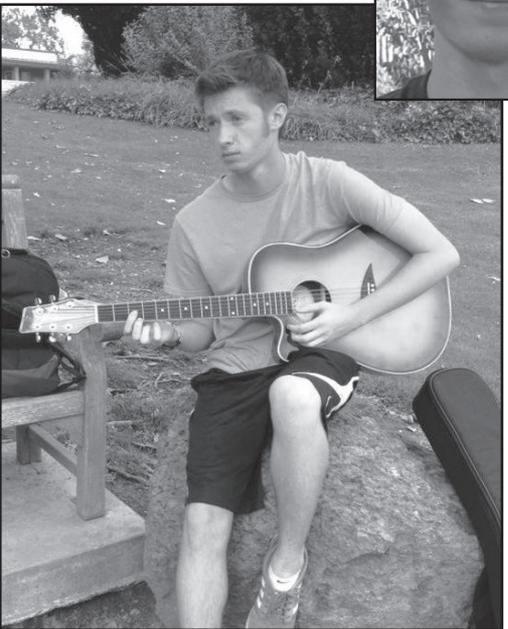
Arburn uses his height and broad shoulders lend him a tremendous advantage as an athlete. Although he has been playing basketball since he was ten, he started off his sports career as a swimmer. When asked about why he got into swimming Arburn said, "My Grandma was a swimmer and therefore forced me to be one too. Because I was so tall, I was swimming with freshmen and sophomores in high school as a twelve-year-old. It just got to be too much." Arburn quickly found that he preferred basketball, and he now plays regularly. This year he plans on joining the LGHS team.

Hobbies aside, Arburn has a soft spot for animals. He has a total of six pets and even takes in homeless animals waiting to be adopted. Arburn's personal pet sanctuary includes a puggle named Bella, a rabbit named Hershey, a rabbit named Oreo, two fish, and one three-legged cat.

Of all the things in the world, Arburn hates bullying the most. A victim of the terrible act himself, Arburn always tries to "stand up for kids getting bullied and include them in [his] group of friends."

Like most seniors at LGHS, Arburn is anxiously anticipating graduation and his journey onto college. Having always been fond of the ocean, Arburn wants to go to UC Santa Cruz where he plans on studying engineering. While he's there he wants to pursue his long-time goal of learning to surf.

Arburn is a new face and a new story to add to our wonderful community in Los Gatos.



photos courtesy C. Arburn

# Flowers moves to America

By Aidan Adams-Campeau  
Humor Editor

**Joshua Flowers**, who also goes by Josh, is nothing if not well-travelled, having lived in Japan, Australia, Singapore, and now California. He most recently spent nine years in Singapore, which he felt was overly strict, although he had many close friends there. "Singapore had its flaws. To summarize it, there was a lack of freedom."

Out of all the places Flowers has lived, Australia was his favorite. "I liked it because of its community, its culture, and its style," Flowers explained. So far, Flowers has enjoyed his first few weeks in California, saying that "the consensus is that it's generally better than Singapore."

Flowers has been surprised by the "diversity and the spectrum of people" he has seen in California after so many years in Singapore. Flowers's experience in Singapore has led him to believe that the culture often emphasizes conformity and is extreme strictness when it comes to certain issues. "Nobody does drugs in Singapore because you can be hanged for it."

In school, Flowers's favorite subjects are computer science and cuisine. In Singapore, he attended a prestigious international school, United World College of South East Asia, which used a British educational model. The switch to the American system has been challenging. Many words are spelled differently, with the extra "u" being taken out of words like "colour". The general approach and attitudes of the schools are also different. "The English system is more open," Flowers said, comparing the British method of schooling with its American counterpart.

In his free time, Flowers enjoys following rugby, doing video editing, and cooking. His other interests include "computer programming and gaming in general." Luckily for Flowers, these hobbies are all common in the U.S., except for rugby.

Though Flowers has moved around often in the past, he is planning on staying in California for the foreseeable future. He wants to stay in the States until he completes both high school and college. After that, Flowers is open to living anywhere. "It doesn't really matter where I end up; I just want a laid-back lifestyle and a friendly community," he commented. An open and accessible community is a priority for Flowers. In ten years, Flowers sees himself beginning a career as a chef.



courtesy J. Flowers

Flowers is certainly one of the most multicultural people you will meet around the campus of Los Gatos High School. Despite his interesting past and his prestigious schooling, Flowers is very down to earth and affable. Los Gatos is lucky to have him.