

# The talent at Unplugged stuns the fans

by **Madison Prestine**

News Editor

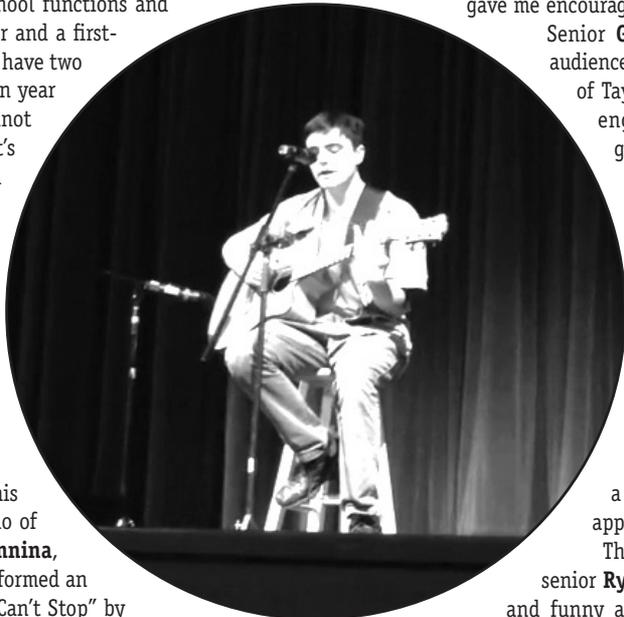
As a first semester senior, it can be tough to leave the sanctuary of your house and go to various school functions and athletic events. However, as a senior and a first-time Unplugged audience member, I have two pieces of advice for you: go freshman year through junior year so when you cannot find the time to go your last year, it's not the end of the world; also, even if you are a first semester senior, go anyway.

On Nov. 21 in the Prentiss Brown Auditorium, LGHS student gathered to witness a compilation of some of the best musicians and singers our campus has to offer. LGHS students are extremely gifted and seeing classmates perform first-hand is exhilarating and very fun.

A total of 21 acts performed in this two-part show, and began with a trio of talent: juniors **Eve Javey**, **Olivia Mannina**, and sophomore **Isaac Cornelius** performed an awesome acoustic rendition of "We Can't Stop" by Miley Cyrus. While playing I Giorni on the piano, senior **Melissa Ottum** smiled throughout the entire piece, as did the audience. Ottum confessed that the audience "made my performance better."

Sophomore **Jeff Suzuki** also played the piano, performing a self-composed piece, "Into the Field," with no sheet music. Sophomores **Tessa Carroll** and Cornelius sang "I Will Follow You into the Dark" by Death Cab for Cutie to loud applause before, during, and after their song. Cornelius said after the show, "The audience was absolutely awesome; they gave off the most perfect ecstatic and supportive energy that I've experienced with an audience yet."

Junior **Alex Coady** stunned the theater with his guitar and vocal skills during his performance of "Come as You Are" by Nirvana. Brothers



**Tanner and Saxon Ratcliff**, junior and freshman respectively, covered Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours." Tanner commented after the performance, "The audience's enthusiasm really helped me as a performer and gave me encouragement to continue doing my best."

Senior **Gabi Trapani** interacted with the audience when she began her performance of Taylor Swift's "Mean," and kept them engaged with fantastic vocals and guitar skills. Senior **Megan Ingram** finished the night with a stunning show of the opera song "O Mio Babbino Caro." Ingram had the entire theater engaged in her performance and received enthusiastic applause throughout her piece. It was the perfect way to end the show. Senior **James Detweiler**, who also performed in the show, was excited that Ingram was able to perform the song in such a way that high schoolers loved it and appreciated the opera.

The hosts, junior **Mary McClelland** and senior **Ryan Ice-Crespo** kept the mood light and funny and the audience engaged. During one skit, the duo announced the tributes for the LGHS Hunger Games. As it turned out, none other than Mr. Autrey himself was to be our male tribute; that is until McClelland relieved him of his burden by enthusiastically volunteering in the place of our beloved principal.

Do not miss the future talent shows at LGHS, for they offer fantastic entertainment and fun Thursday Night Live is Jan. 19 and the Senior Talent Show is May 2.

To see all of the acts from the talent show scan the QR code to the right.



COUNTRY QUEEN: Trapani engages the audience with her charm and incredible voice.



SET THE STAGE: Ottum steals the show with her beautiful piano performance.

all photos M. Prestine

## SF teen is supported

by **Sarah Bainbridge**

Culture Editor

On Nov. 4, eighteen-year-old Sasha Fleischman's skirt was lit on fire as the Berkeley teen slept in the back of an AC Transit bus. Fleischman identifies as neither female nor male. After coming out to friends and family as agender, or non-binary, Fleischman began wearing skirts and asked to be referred to by the pronouns they, them, and they're. On the day of the attack, Fleischman was wearing a skirt as usual and the perpetrator, sixteen-year-old Richard Thomas, used a lighter to catch its edge on fire. The flames quickly engulfed Fleischman's legs and, despite other passengers' attempts to extinguish the flames, Fleischman suffered second and third degree burns on their thighs.

Security cameras led to the quick arrest of Thomas, an Oakland High School student, who admitted to committing the crime because he is homophobic. Thomas is being charged as an adult despite his age and has been accused of a hate crime, aggravated mayhem, and assault. Thomas's family has told the press that he is "a truly good kid" and that he meant for the fire to be a prank. Unfortunately for the teen, this "prank" will most likely lead to jail time.

Fleischman was transported to St. Francis Memorial Hospital's Bothin Burn Center where they are recovering quickly. Their injuries will require multiple surgeries and skin grafts to replace damaged skin tissue. To help cover the expensive medical bills, Fleischman's family created an online fundraising campaign that drew contributors from around the country who helped bring the total donations to 21,000 dollars.

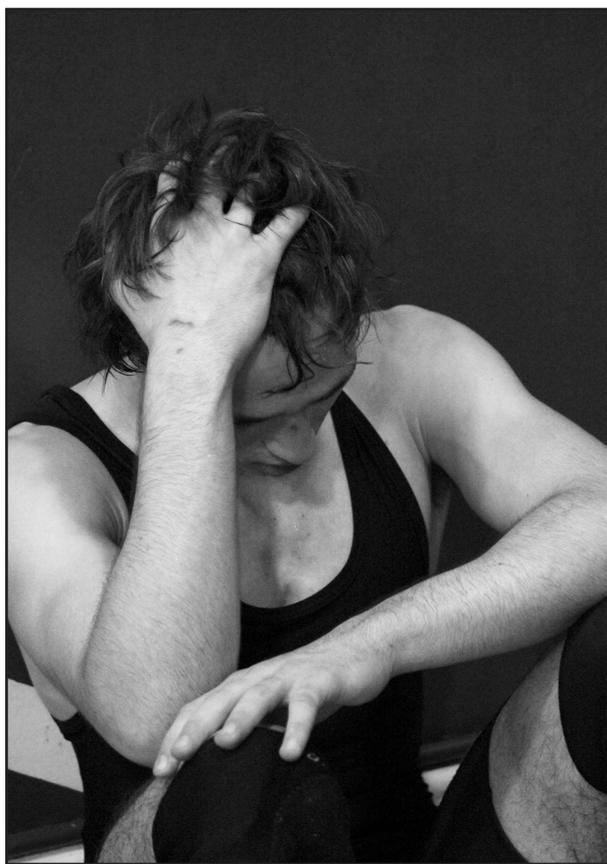
In addition to the online support, the community rallied around Fleischman and held a school-wide event called "Skirts for Sasha" where all students, male, female, and non-binary, wore skirts for the day. Many members of the faculty also participated in the event, including the school director who said Fleischman was an exceptionally bright student, who recently applied to Massachusetts Institution of Technology, and the staff were all hoping for Fleischman's speedy recovery. Fleischman's friends and family also decorated the bus stops along route 57, the route Fleischman's bus was on, with rainbow ribbons. Fleischman's mother said she was touched by the overwhelming support the community showed for Fleischman and she says that their recovery is going well and soon they will be back to their normal routine of fencing, school work, and college applications.

## LG yearbook wins

by **Montana Fowler**

Center Editor

Last June, the LGHS 2012-2013 Yearbook Staff entered four photos, one design, and two articles into a contest held by National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA). On Nov. 16 the NSPA announced a photo by junior **Keats Iwanaga** and a design for a sports page by LGHS graduate Grant Thayer had won first Place in their categories.



courtesy K. Iwanaga

SPOTLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHER: Iwanaga's photo won Best Sports Reaction photo in the nation.

# Batkid takes SF

by **Sarah Bainbridge**

Culture Editor

Most kids dream of being a superhero for a day, and this dream became a reality for five-year-old Miles Scott on Nov. 15 thanks to Make-a-Wish Foundation and the support of over 10,000 volunteers. Scott has been battling leukemia for about four years and qualified for Make-a-Wish earlier this year. When asked what his one wish was, the pint-sized hero asked to become Batman. The Make-a-Wish crew never imagined the event would become this big, but when social media got wind of Scott's wish, thousands of people donated money and time to transform San Francisco into Gotham City.

Scott recently finished his treatments and is now in remission, so the family felt that the event was a celebration of his struggle as well as of his newfound health. On the morning of Nov. 15, Scott was shown a pre-recorded newscast featuring the San Francisco Chief of Police who called for Batman's aid in cleaning up the city. Moments after, an actor fully suited in Batman gear burst into the room to ask for Scott's assistance in his crime fighting and presented him with a custom batman costume. Then Batman and Scott, or now "Batkid" hopped in a Lamborghini outfitted to look like the Batmobile and took off to save Gotham City.

Once in the city, the two heroes raced down crowd-lined streets first to save a damsel in distress who had been tied to a detonation device covered in The Riddler's trademark question marks. Scott then traced the villain to a bank robbery, where The Riddler was apprehended and taken away in cuffs. The two caped-crusaders then took a lunch break and watched a flash mob dancing to Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'." After quickly scarfing down their burgers, the duo sped off to AT&T Park to stop the Penguin from making off with the Giant's mascot, Lou Seal. The Penguin was stopped once and for all by Scott's heroics and the Batmobile shuttled Batkid off to meet the mayor and be awarded a chocolate key to Gotham City. Crowds of fans and supporters lined the streets with signs and official Batkid t-shirts and screamed their support for Scott as he ended his heroic day with a warning from the mayor that, even though Scott will be back at home, he best keep an eye out in case Gotham City needs him again.

(Sources: USA Today and NBC Bay Area)

## Fall play in brief

by **Haley Wade**

Editor-in-Chief

This year's LGHS Fall Play was a compilation of short skits combined into one hilarious performance. Directed by **Tim Nielson**, LGHS's stage director for many years, The Good Doctor played three times at the Prentiss Brown Auditorium. The students acted out a collection of short stories written by a fictional author. The author, played by junior **Mats Monty-Menhardt**, introduced the skits with the help of the two narrators, seniors **Cristina Lange** and **Stephen Radabaugh**.

The anecdotes ranged from the story of a paranoid and unlucky Russian officer, to the tale of a recently trained—well, not so trained at all—dentist. Apart from a touching duet sung by freshman **Anna Goldman** and sophomore **Isaac Cornelius**, the skits had the audience roaring with laughter.

Some crowd favorites included a furious conversation between an old lady and a banker, played by seniors **Kirby Lorig** and **Anthony Abaci**, and a conversation between a young boy, his father, and a prostitute, played by freshman **Joseph D'Addio**, Radabaugh, and senior **Kathryn Samp**.

This is the first fall play Nielson has directed, taking over from Anne Martyn, who directed the play for the past few years. Although Nielson had some hard-to-beat predecessors, the play ran smoothly under some excellent direction.

Well-rehearsed lines and perfect comedic timing made for an excellent cast and an impressive play that left audience members roaring with laughter in their seats.



STAR PERFORMER: Monty-Menhardt was the author of the fictional acts.



photos courtesy H. Jayasekera

BEFORE THE ACT: Members of the cast prepare in the green room before the show.