

- POLO ARRIVES FROM SPAIN
- OTTINGER WINS TRIATHLONS

# PEOPLE

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## CLEMM DOMINATES THE BADMINTON COURT

by Cole van Miltenburg  
Web Editor

Although sophomore **Christopher Clemm** may appear to be a typical LGHS student, he excels both in school and through a variety of extracurricular activities. Despite his ambitious side, he is always able to bring a good-humored spirit to whatever he does.

Clemm is committed to his studies, taking a challenging course load that includes AP Statistics and AP European History. His accelerated classes, in addition to the work he does with student groups such as the Boys Team Charity, sets Clemm above the rest. He is the newly appointed president of the Boys Team Charity for the sophomore grade. The organization does projects together to help the community; this year's focus is the disabled. Chris says



that Boys Team Charity "unites people who share the same goal to make the community and surrounding communities a better place." Clemm is also on the Los Gatos Parks Commission and he referees for recreational soccer games.

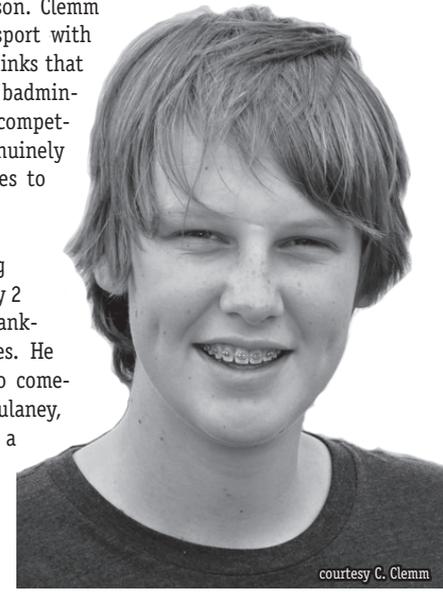
A typical Friday night for Clemm is spent navigating and dispatching for SafeRides. He actively participated in SafeRides throughout last year, working as either a dispatcher or navigator to get LGHS kids a confidential and safe ride home. This year he has been promoted as a SafeRides board member. When asked about the program, Clemm said, "[it's] really fun. It is very rewarding to know you brought someone home safely." Clemm is also a member of the Students Be Careful team, a group specializing in

teaching LGHS students how to make safe decisions with their romantic partners. "It's a lot of fun," he explains, "I educate people about consent and relationships."

Clemm not only watches out for his peers, he is also a determined athlete. Ending the 2015 season as the number one ranked doubles on varsity badminton, he looks forward to dominating the court come the 2016 spring season. Clemm enjoys playing the sport with his friends and he thinks that "the community in badminton is generally not competitive and people genuinely want their teammates to improve."

In his free time, Clemm enjoys watching movies, with Toy Story 2 and Almost Famous ranking among his favorites. He also likes listening to comedians such as John Mulaney, who he thinks, "is a great guy."

Next time you call up SafeRides, make sure to say hello to Chris Clemm!



courtesy C. Clemm

## Sells excels with smiles

by Lark Breen  
Culture Editor

Junior **Grace Sells** might be the most outwardly positive student at LGHS. Recognizable by her brilliant smile, open demeanor, and enviable hair, Sells' positivity and sophisticated wisdom are both inviting and entrancing.

Sells loves many things in life, but chief among them are family and religion. Sells' grandfather has promoted strong family ties throughout Sells' life, and her friendships with her immediate and more distant family are paramount in her life today. As an important member of the youth program at Saratoga Federated Church (SFC), Sells plays drums for the worship band and involves herself as much as possible in the SFC community. One of her proudest accomplishments as a passionate feminist and Christian has been equalizing the bathing suit policy for boys and girls in the youth group.

In addition to God, family, and feminism, Sells believes in the artistic ability of all people. Sells asserts that "you might not be good at traditional art: maybe you're more of a musician, maybe you're a photographer, or maybe you just see the world in a creative and different way and you don't know how to express that, but I think that there is a medium for everyone." Her own medium changes frequently, but she has recently been feeling "very sculpture-y."

Honesty of character is an important trait that Sells values in others and in herself. She always aims to be true to herself, saying, "I like to think that I am always myself, no matter what I'm doing and no matter who I'm with, so I'm always proud of that."

She cautions others against making assumptions about her personality, however, expressing, "I just don't want to restrain myself from liking stuff just because it isn't something that someone like me would like, typically." While one might never expect Sells to play drums, drive a green truck, or want to shave part of her head, she does. She states, "If I like something, that's all I need. I don't like the idea that my 'personality' might dictate what I do."

Sells' approach to life is all about being grateful and appreciative. This humble outlook may be what sustains the perpetual smile on her face, but she attributes her constant grin to a happy childhood and force of habit. She mentions that she likes that she smiles all the time because "when I get serious, people know I'm serious."

However, Sells wears a straight face on very few occasions, and she's far more likely to greet people with a lovely smile and a generous compliment. Sells believes in building others up with compliments, because "if you love something about someone why would you not tell them? Even if it's a little awkward, it's awesome to

tell people that you love them, or that you love their dress."

Sells' constant smile and infectious attitude are a pleasure to be around, and her fearless honesty of character and of opinion make her a wonderful friend. Sells is sure to brighten your day or your life, just by being herself.

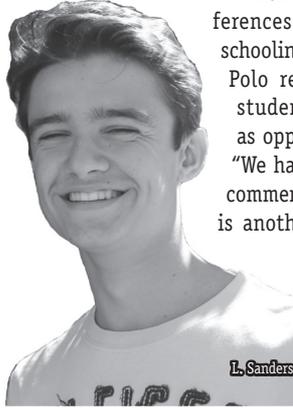


photos courtesy G. Sells

## POLO BRINGS SPANISH FLAIR

by Lauren Sanders  
Opinion Editor

If you're wandering around the quad and wondering who the tall, dashing, foreign addition to the LGHS campus may be, El Gato is here to answer your queries - you're looking at Spanish exchange student **Eduardo Polo**. Polo, a junior, is not your ordinary LGHS student - hailing from Spain, Polo is studying in the U.S. this school year and has already been welcomed by everyone here at LG. Polo arrived two weeks ago and is staying with sophomore **Seth Deming** for about ten months. So far, Polo loves Los Gatos and has enjoyed meeting everyone here.



When asked what some differences are between American schooling and Spanish schooling, Polo remarked that in Spain, students study ten subjects, as opposed to our six or seven. "We have six lessons each day," commented Polo. Block schedule is another change for Polo, but he is adapting well. He likes his classes here, especially AP Environmental Science. Polo says that it's a difficult class, but he

likes the subject as well as the challenge.

Because of the language barrier, Polo admits to having a hard time following the teachers' instructions and the fast-paced classes, but he figures that it's only time until he becomes proficient. It also helps to have a handful of fellow Spanish-speakers in his classes with whom he can communicate easily. Learning English was part of his schooling back in Spain, so Polo already has a jump start.

English isn't the only skill Polo has brought to LGHS, however. He is an active participant on the LGHS Cross Country team, which he describes as "fun, but hard." Polo's main sport in Spain was golf, which he enjoys and hopes to continue during his time in the U.S.

Polo was inspired by his 18 year-old brother, who made a similar journey two years ago. Both brothers used a program called CCI Greenheart, which is a common organization in their area for adolescents to study abroad.

Polo spent the summer in his city bidding farewell to his friends and family, whom he won't see for ten months. His journey to the U.S. went smoothly, and he was very excited to land here after the long flights. During his time in California, Polo has visited San Francisco, which he enjoyed very much. He says that he is planning on going to the city again, as well as traveling to many other famous Californian sights.

Polo is an awesome addition to the LGHS community - make sure to give him a warm welcome when you see him in the halls!

## ALESANDRO SNAPS, STRUMS, AND HUMS

by Violet Wallerstein  
Web Editor

Senior **Jakob Alesandro** has had an interest in music since the 5th grade, when he bought his first guitar. While previously belonging to a small band comprised of his friends, he has spent the summer working on his own music and moving away from the group. "After having some rough experiences this summer, my music started being more authentic. I mean, it's still pretty mediocre, but I guess it's all just part of the process." He is currently on SoundCloud under the name Akira. Alesandro says his musical inspirations are Fountains of Wayne and Hop Along.

Alesandro spent this summer working as a camp counselor for Walden West, tutoring kids in guitar, and working at a hospital for Alzheimer's patients. Out of the three, his favorite activity was teaching guitar, and hopes it will become a larger part of his life. He also said that because his grandfather has Alzheimer's, he "had to live through a lot of that so [he] knows how to deal with the patients."

Alesandro's love of photography was inspired by his sister, Saoirse, and some of his work can be found on his Instagram account under the name "hapattrash." His favorite camera is a 1981 Pentax with black and white film. Alesandro notes that while he's more serious about music, photography is a fun hobby.

Unlike many of his classmates, Alesandro's first language was Irish Gaelic, followed by English and Spanish.

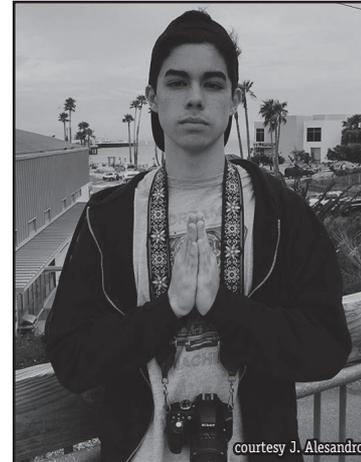
Alesandro says that his favorite phrase in Irish is "Hold my hand please." He also holds dual citizenship in Ireland and the US, as his mom originally moved from Ireland to the US. According to Alesandro, "My mom and I mostly speak Irish to each other when there are other people around and we don't want them to know what we're saying."

When asked to describe Alesandro in three words, a close friend Senior **Emmett McDonald** replied that Jakob is "Asian, Irish, and White." He struggles with his identity as a half-Japanese, half-Irish American. Alesandro spoke

Japanese when he was younger, but has since stopped learning it after "someone said I wasn't Japanese enough to know the language."

Alesandro feels out of place most of the time when it comes to race, except in the presence of other "mixed" friends. "I don't go through the stuff like my full Asian friends, and it's especially hard being white-presenting. I look almost nothing like my dad except for my dark hair." During the interview, he continued to talk about his lack of connection to Japanese culture; while he and his mother speak Irish, no one in his family speaks Japanese. "I'm both a 5th generation and 2nd generation immigrant, so I don't even really know how to classify myself there."

Though Alesandro may be a struggling new musician, we can expect more out of this talented senior. You can check out his music on SoundCloud or at the school talent show on Sept. 24.



courtesy J. Alesandro