

TEEN SCENE

Five Seconds to a First Impression

By Courtney Tran



Miramonte girls spend September in skinny jeans, short shorts, and bright patterned tanks accentuated by light layers. From left: Tara Leong, Alyssa Lopez, Julia Kim, Jenny Nguyen, Camille Ganacial, and Nicole Maligaya
Photo Courtney Tran

Lamorinda middle and high school students are gearing up for school with new pencils, notebooks, and, of course, new wardrobes.

Kaitlin Wong, aspiring model, Tumblr devotee, and Miramonte senior, plans to wear more green this year. "Style lets you express yourself. Like music or art. After all, you've only got five seconds to make a first impression," Wong said.

"My color this year is green. I'm moving away from black. There's been too much in past years...but I don't care about Lamorinda style," she admits. "It's pretty classic and doesn't really change. Even when there are fads, Lamorinda teens tend to stay classic and preppy, with a bit of slouch."

Though this fall's fashion trend remains remarkably consistent with that of the 2010-2011 school year—short shorts for girls, cargo shorts for guys, and graphic tees and jeans for everybody—skinny jeans in particular are gaining momentum, edging wide-cut jeans out of the mainstream style scene.

Many teenage girls are also carrying their summer sundresses and floral skirts into the fall season.

"I'm wearing as many dresses as I can to school until its cold," reported a Campolindo sophomore. "Dresses and skirts are a chance to be girly, playful, and they're practical in this warmer weather."

Inspired by celebrities like Taylor Swift and Vanessa Hudgens, others opt for bohemian styles.

"I really love the boho chic look," says Miramonte's Lisa Chang. "It's classy when young women wear long, flowing dresses with a cropped T-shirt. It elongates their figure and makes them look elegant."

Forever 21 and Urban Outfitters boast moderate prices, up-to-date styles, and soaring popularity among Lamorinda teens. McCaulou's and TJ Maxx are consistently touted as "go-to's" for affordable, nearby options.

"Brand names and stores are my thing. But I shop anywhere it's cheap," says sophomore Alexandra Chavez.

Some teens, however, take their clothing into their own hands.

"I don't really make my own stuff, but I redesign little things. I've re-colored shoelaces," says OIS student Ryan Tran. "I've also bleached a jacket. That looks really cool."

Chavez enjoys sewing details onto her clothing, changing the cut and hem of outfits, and shops specifically for items that can modify or use to amend her personal clothes choices.

"I'm going to start making clothes again," said Chavez. "It's something I love to do. Gets me through the day—if something's on my mind, I can just style something up. Great thing is, styling is easy. Anyone can exhibit original flair with a bit of confidence."

Miramonte senior Courtney Tran enjoys good music and chocolate, has never drunk a can of soda, and likes seeing life as a mildly feminist fairytale.

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

RedLaser (For iPhone, iTouch, and Android) Price: Free

Everybody loves a deal! In this economy, no one wants to over pay for any product, especially when several stores carry the same item. Wouldn't it be great if you could just take your cell phone, scan the barcode on the item of interest, and receive a list of places with the lowest price?

Fortunately, there is a free, simple-to-use app doing exactly that, available for Androids, iTouch, and iPhones. It's called RedLaser.

Here's how it works.

Hold your smartphone steady while aligning the product's bar code on your phone's screen as it scans. RedLaser immediately searches online using Google Product Search, TheFind, eBay and Half.com. It then lists, from the lowest price to the highest, online retailers offering the product. Christine Requa, a recent graduate of Miramonte High School, commented, "RedLaser searches quickly so that you can compare the internet prices easily."

RedLaser does much more than online comparisons. It also uses your phone's location to do a local search of all nearby retailers that have your particular item in stock. It displays the retailers name, address, and current price point. Bobby Taylor, a senior at Miramonte High School, said that RedLaser is great because "you may find that you can save money

by driving a few miles down the road to another store."

But wait, there's more! Other features include the ability to email yourself barcodes of items that you may be interested in buying at a later date. RedLaser also has the ability to list allergen and nutritional information on just about every brand-name packaged food.

When you want to buy video games, scanning the barcode showcases game reviews.

Be sure you are paying the lowest possible price for any product you buy. Download RedLaser on your smartphone today and let the savings begin.



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the above QR code will get you to our website—try it.

Local Girls are Finalists in State Pageant Contest

Submitted by Tasha Rasilla



Haley Rose Rasilla and Jade Ling Wong, both of Moraga, were selected as state finalists in the princess category of the National American Miss Pageant held in Santa Clara on July 30th.

Ling Wong, 5, a kindergartener at Rheem Elementary School received second place honors in the talent competition. She sang, A Cappella, "The Fifty Nifty States."

Rasilla, 7, a second grader Camino Pablo Elementary School was a top ten contender of the 30 princess candidates. Rasilla was sponsored by local businesses including, Diablo Foods, Penninis Pizza, Terzetto, They Grow so Fast and Moraga Hardware.

Left to right: Haley Rose Rasilla and Jade Ling Wong
Photo Sharon Ziegenbein

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