



What's your idea of college prep?

open house

Sunday, October 21
 Sunday, November 11
 Saturday, December 1

Please reserve your space by calling 510.652.4364 or visiting college-prep.org/openhouse. We look forward to meeting you at The College Preparatory School 6100 Broadway Oakland CA 94618 510.652.4364 college-prep.org

Something to Cheer About

Submitted by Laura Whitmore and Tom Gilbert



Photo Laura Whitmore

Approximately 70 Acalanes Cheer Clinic participants ages 6-13 learned a cheer and dance routine as they practiced alongside 24 Acalanes High School Cheer Team members for two days before cheering together September 28 during the first half and half time show at the Acalanes High School varsity football game.

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THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

App: Cab4Me Taxi Finder, by Skycoders
For: All smartphones
Price: Free

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Miramonte graduate Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time.

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TEEN SCENE

Braving Gravity
 By Clare Durant

When I was only five and in kindergarten my teacher asked me, "Clare, what do you want to be when you grow up?" Like so many little kids with the innocence of childhood, I answered her with a wide-eyed grin that made my cheeks wrinkle up to my eyes and said "an Olympic ice skater like Tara Lipinski." It was the 1998 Olympics and I was completely enamored by the beauty of ice-skating. I loved the sparkly dresses, the crunching sound the ice made when silver blades glided across its glassy surface. I loved it all. My dream was to be just like Tara, an Olympian at 14.

I'm 18 now and it wasn't until my senior year at Bentley that it dawned on me that no one had ever asked me since kindergarten: "What do you want to be, Clare, when you grow up?" I thought about what the response would look and feel like. I imagined a raised eyebrow with a slow nodding of the head. I could practically hear the thoughts behind the fake smiles, "Good luck with that sweetie."

For 13 years I got up at 5 a.m. six days a week to glide in my custom-made Harlick lace-up ice skating boots with pink suede hearts on the side in pursuit of the Olympic gold. But when the time came to make a choice between moving to Los Angeles to live and train with an Olympic coach or staying with my family and skating non-competitively for pure enjoyment, I chose the latter.

Sitting on a squeaky metal fold-up chair looking out at the earnest audience from our graduation stage, a pang of guilt overcame me. "Had I failed myself? Had I failed my family? Were those 13 years of training all a waste of time, energy, and money?"

As I made my final promenade out of my gilded gymnasium, blinded by the intense sunlight, the realization hit me like a punch to my solar plexus, "Now what?"

It's almost as if as soon as we graduate from high school we are expected to curb our enthusiasm and bury our passions in order to find a career that will earn a living. As I embark on the next chapter of my life, my first year of college in Indiana, I am going to constantly fight to not lose sight of my dreams, and give myself permission to accept that dreams change.

Once an Olympic hopeful, former captain of her high school debate team, and head of the school newspaper, Clare Durant now dreams of hosting her own television and radio show.

Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com.

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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