

# OIS Students Attend Summer Academic Programs for the Gifted

Submitted by Myra Ozaeta



Brother and sister, John Mark and Haley Holbrook, smile together. Photo provided

Orinda siblings Haley and John Mark Holbrook, both incoming seventh-grade students from Orinda Intermediate School, will attend the Yale University Summer Institute for the Gifted and the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth programs, respectively. Both programs are designed for academically talented second through 12th graders. This is John Mark's second year in the Johns Hopkins program and Haley's first year at Yale.

The format of the programs makes it possible for bright students to work at an accelerated pace, study topics in depth, and explore subjects that are not usually available to students their age. By participating in these programs, students will also have the opportunity to forge friendships with other students from around the world who share their interests.

This summer, John Mark will be taking the Writing and Imagination course as part of the Johns Hopkins program at Stanford University. Students in this course read, write, and discuss a variety of genres including poems, short stories, and essays. Haley will be taking a variety of courses at Yale, including law and jurisprudence, improvisational theater,

and a literature course titled "Immortality: Myths, Legends, and the Supernatural." The courses at both campuses bring together students and instructors who serve as mentors to guide students through the advanced academic study. Through rigorous exercises to develop analysis, writing, and critiquing, students build confidence in their own creative and analytical powers.

Haley and John Mark qualified for the Johns Hopkins and Yale summer programs by participating in the Center for Talented Youth's Annual Talent Search, which accepts applications from early September through May. During the Talent Search, advanced young learners take above-grade level tests designed for older students as a means of gaining insight into their abilities. Seventh and eighth graders take the SAT or ACT—the same tests used for college admissions, while second through sixth graders take the School and College Ability Test, an above-level test scaled for younger students.

For more information about enrolling in the CTY Talent Search, go to [www.cty.jhu.edu](http://www.cty.jhu.edu). For more information on the Summer Institute for the Gifted, visit [www.giftedstudy.org](http://www.giftedstudy.org).

# THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

**App:** GateGuru by GateGuru Inc.  
**For:** iPhones and Android phones  
**Price:** Free

With the arrival of summer, many of us will be spending some of our time in airports. Unfortunately, for many vacationers, the airport experience is the worst part of traveling. However, there is a handy little app called GateGuru that definitely helps in making the time spent in airports a little more bearable. For starters, once you enter your flight information directly into the app, GateGuru will keep you real-time informed on any delays, as well as security-line wait times. In addition, when you enter your airport location into the app, you are supplied with a wealth of information about the airport and what it has to offer. For example, you can sort by restaurants (and then types of foods), different

shops (for example, book shops and gift shops) and services and ATM machine locations. Detailed maps are easy to navigate. Even more useful than just listing what food shops are available, GateGuru supplies the user with reviews from fellow travelers. This is most appreciated when searching for airport food. A really neat feature of this app is the ability to rent a car quickly through an exclusive partnership with Avis-Budget. GateGuru says that this allows them to offer the user discounts up to 35 percent compared with other leading travel sites. Since airport delays are an inevitable part of traveling, GateGuru is an app every traveler will find indispensable.



Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself!™ Teen Radio.

# TEEN SCENE

## Summer Plans for Lamorinda Teens

By Caie Kelley

With weather like this, it's easy to spend one's days lazily lounging besides the pool and tanning. For some, this may comprise the whole of their summer plans. However, many Lamorinda teens spend these weeks doing the opposite – interning, traveling, taking classes, and preparing for the upcoming school year.

For example, Noah G., now a senior at Miramonte High School, is interning at Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan's office for the summer. "I am very interested in learning about how the government works, and this internship will be an opportunity to see this on a more localized scale, so I interviewed a couple of months ago and was accepted. I'll be spending more time inside than outside in the sunshine!"

Some teens are also taking extended trips to foreign countries. Kacey S. and Meg S. are among a large group of Bay Area students who participate in the Amigos de las Americas program. They are travelling to Ecuador and Paraguay, respectively, for eight weeks this summer.

"I am excited to put myself out there and immerse myself in the rich culture of Cotopaxi," said Kacey. "I'm a little nervous about the isolation, but this is an amazing opportunity to improve my language skills, learn something about myself, and spend time away from home. I really want to get the best out of this Amigos program." Similarly, Caroline C. is returning to Kenya this summer to aid and teach underprivileged children. Many teens feel that volunteer service trips help them gain an important sense of perspective, and allow them to help others who are truly in need. Caroline found her first trip, taken during her freshman year, to be an enriching experience that she is excited to do again.

Still others are spending the summer frantically preparing for the upcoming school year, through classes at UC Berkeley and DVC or tackling the massive

amounts of AP homework. "I have seven books to read," explained Ben, "in addition to the textbooks I'll need to highlight and the college applications that I need to begin. I'll hang by the pool when I can – but it's with 'Pride and Prejudice' under my arm instead of any light reading."

So while teens in the area have certainly not stopped their active lifestyles, summer is a wonderful time to delve deeper into books and pursue extracurricular interests. And, of course, it always includes a bit of fun in the sun!

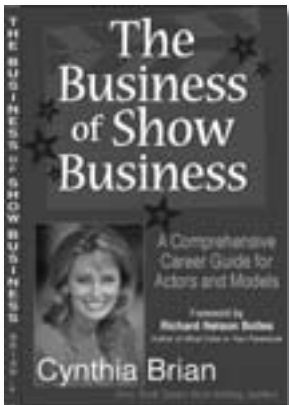


Caie Kelley is a junior in high school, a gold medal swimmer; piano teacher, and a co-host/reporter on the radio program, Express Yourself!™

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

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