



# The GAP Gazette

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2011

## UPCOMING FACT FAMILY EVENTS:

- October 9:**  
 Family Bike Ride  
 10:30 AM—1:30 PM  
 Meeting Place:  
 Daniel's Bike Rental  
 13737 Fiji Way  
 Marina Del Rey, 90293  
 RSVP (310) 844-3112
- November 19:**  
 UCLA Football vs.  
 Colorado  
 Time TBA  
 At the Rose Bowl  
 This event will fill up.  
 Please RSVP as soon as  
 possible (before 9/30)  
 RSVP (310) 844-3112
- STAY TUNED FOR  
INFO:**  
 GAP Student Art Show  
 Fundraiser  
 Late October

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## The GAP Students Are Off To A Great Start at Santa Monica College!



### GAP Students are having a great time at SMC!

*By B. F.*

The beginning of school has been very exciting. The first day of school was crazy, because everyone was trying to find their

classes, or trying to crash a class. I am taking beginning golf class and counseling 20. The golf class is very fun. The first two days we have practiced putting. I am not

the best putter, but I took this class to improve my putting and other golf skills. In counseling 20, there is not much we have done because it was the first day, but it seems like an exciting class and I am looking forward to taking the class. This class looks like it will have a lot of projects and quizzes, so I am going to have to buckle down and do all the work. I am looking forward to being at a new school, taking classes I enjoy, and meeting new friends.

## Another One Rides the Bus! GAP Students Learn to Travel Around LA by Bus



*GAP students standing at a bus stop in Westwood.*

*By G. W*

This year I have learned how to take the bus to and from my house to our headquarters at Westwood

Synagogue. At first I was worried that I would take the wrong bus which would make me lost, or that I was at the wrong bus stop, or I would forget to get off at my stop. Luckily none of those things happened because it was actually really easy to take the bus and learn the schedule. My friend Dylan and I take the

same bus so we can sit by each other and talk to make the bus ride fun.

I did the same thing to get to SMC except I take the bus from our HQ to SMC. The first time this was a little tricky for me but I got it on the second try. Taking the bus is a fun and easy way to get from place to place.

## Around the Campfire: Stories from FACT Camp



FACT Campers visited The Getty Center with GAP Student Counselors

By Y.G.

I'm here to talk about my experiences as a camp counselor. During camp, we did stuff such as going to the movies, getting to know each of the kids and other counselors individually, and going to the Getty Center, the Hammer Museum, and Glow in the Dark mini-golf with arcade games. One event that I really enjoyed is the Glow in the Dark mini-golf with arcade games. I had a really fun time golfing and playing air hockey and soccer with one of the other counselors.

Going to the eco-station was a really cool experience. The eco-station is the place where adopted animals take shelter. In other words, it is half zoo, half shelter. The tour guide who led us seemed to be really open about the kinds of animals we saw, their history, what they're like in any given situation; whether they're in a natural habitat or in the shelter that we went to. I had a lot of fun taking pictures of the animals as we passed from room to

room while enjoying their beauty and cuteness. The tour guide also stressed how difficult, complex and political adopting animals can be.

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Hi. This is Y.G.

I'm going away for the year, although it sounds sad to leave a program such as GAP. I wish GAP all the best for this upcoming year. I'll do my best to recap my year at this ye-shiva as much as possible. GAP is the best.

*"The Red Cross puppet show's goal is to teach kids that it is better to be safe and prepared than to be sorry later."*

## The Red Cross and GAP Are a Real Safety Team!

By K. M.

The Red Cross puppet show is designed to teach children important safety skills so they know what to do when an emergency strikes. The skills that the puppet show is going to teach the children are stay down crawl out, duck cover hold, and stop drop and roll. The puppet show helps reinforce the skills that our parents were always telling us when we were growing up.

The Red Cross puppet show's goal is to teach kids that it is better to be safe and prepared than to be sorry later.

The Red Cross puppet show is an interactive live show to help kids learn what do in different emergency situations. The GAP Program is teaming up with the Red Cross in order to learn about and teach their curriculum in different places throughout the community. We are practicing until September 10<sup>th</sup> to deliver the best show we can. We will be practicing in libraries, elementary Schools, YMCAS

and day care centers. The Red Cross puppet show will be fun for kids because all the puppets will be showing positive social skills like team work, cooperation and safety in numbers.

For all the kids out there we hope you will tell all your friends that you met some pretty awesome puppets, who showed you how fun and important safety is for every one every day. We hope you guys learn and grow from this presentation and keep practicing these safety skills.



GAP Student with Susan and Chrissy.

# Fantastic Fashion Tips for Fall

*“Interesting patterns include plaids, polka-dots, laces, animal prints, knits, and flowers”*

*By H. H.*

Have you been thinking about what to wear to school or work this fall? Well, I will be giving you some tips to make sure you look your best. The “in style” for Elementary school kids this fall will be Sponge Bob and Hannah Montana—and other celebrity and music stars on clothing. The styles for middle school and high school will include graphic tees, vests, leggings,

skirts, cardigans, sweaters and skinny jeans. Interesting patterns for these clothes include plaids, polka-dots, laces, animal prints, knits and flowers. Hot shoes will include boots of all styles and flats. Popular work clothing will include pinstripe skirts for women and tailored pants and button down shirts and ties for men. Now that you know my hot tips, you should be more than ready to dress for success!



*A dress from Marc Jacobs' Fall 2011.*

## Santa Monica College 101

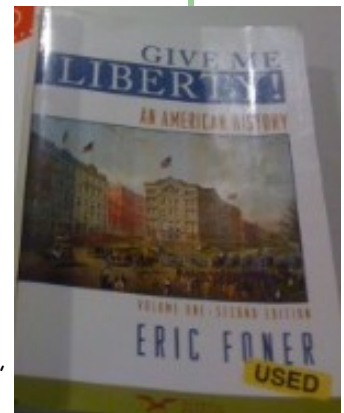
*By D. A.*

Last week, I started my two courses at Santa Monica Community College. The courses were on American History and Film Genres. So far the only work I had according to the syllabus was just reading the first couple of chapters for both classes and taking notes for history class. Next Wednesday in history, I have to answer two of five

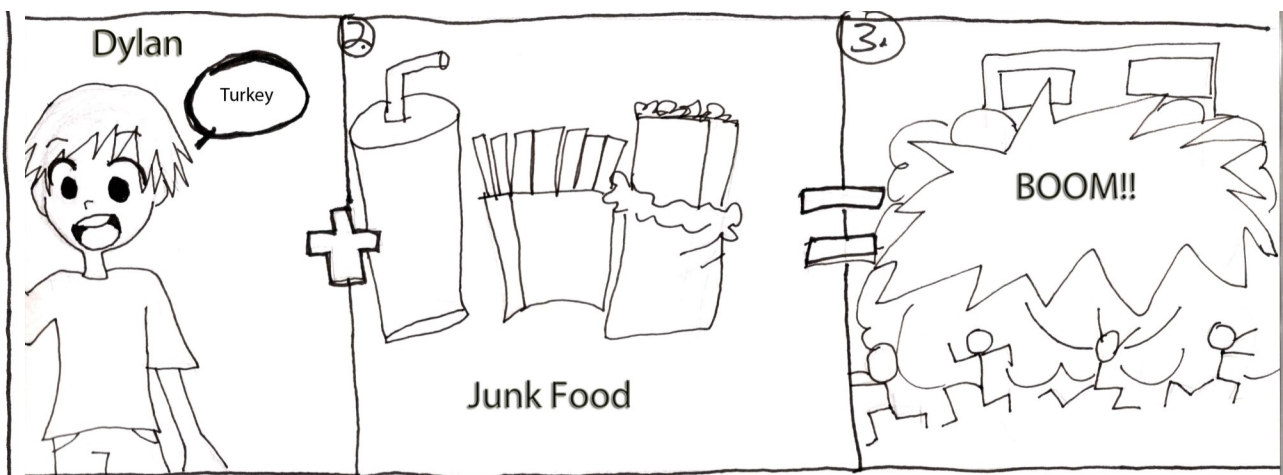
questions that the professor gives us in short essays.

In my film class, I will be studying the comedy genre. The professor will be showing different comedy films which he will discuss after screening them. I have to view four different comedy films on my own spare time and write an essay for each one by the end of the

semester. I know that both courses will be difficult, but I hope to get through them and pass them. If I do pass these courses, I plan on taking more next semester. I will keep the GAP Gazette updated!



*One of my two school textbooks.*



*Comic Strip by E. C.*

## Pent Up Feelings

We Lost so much when  
you came tumbling  
down

Like dominoes that hit  
the floor you fell and  
later became no more

All my anguish and all  
fears lead to nothing but  
shed tears

My grief was numbing me  
like cold hands embracing  
me

I felt lost like I had no-  
where to turn to even  
though my friends told me  
it did not happen to you

I felt sick and horrified  
watching innocent people  
run for their lives while  
helping their loved ones  
try to survive

Confusion washed over me  
later on as I watched 2  
wars go on over what hap-  
pened to you with both  
sides not knowing where to  
turn to

With violence and hate we  
tempted fate as we were  
all full of childish hate but  
back then we did not know  
how to cooperate

Now my feelings go  
through the door even I  
don't want to share them  
any more

No longer are they pent up  
because I release them  
over time

You will never be forgot-  
ten

Even though your founda-  
tion stands alone

By K. M.

# Smash Brothers Brawl Review

By Z. A.

I'm going to re-  
view a game called Super  
Smash Bros. Brawl, (or  
Dairantou Smash Bros. X  
in Japan). It's a fighting  
game for the Wii with  
Nintendo characters. You  
can play up to 4 players.  
If you start playing it, you  
won't be able to stop. The  
game has 2 guest charac-  
ters, Solid Snake from  
Metal Gear Solid, and  
Sonic the Hedgehog from  
Sonic the Hedgehog.

You can play the  
game with the Wii-mote  
side-ways, Gamecube con-  
troller, the Nunchuck, and  
classic controller. There  
are new stages including  
the ones from Melee, not  
to mention some new  
characters. The game's  
Adventure mode is really  
good, like you're playing a  
2D platformer.

The upside to the  
game is that there are  
more characters to choose  
from, it has a good sound-  
track, the character's  
move sets are a bit im-  
proved, good story, 4  
characters have a secret  
taunt, and you can build  
your own stage. The down-  
side to the game is that  
you can trip during game-  
play, you can't change the  
games language, Mewtwo,  
Pichu, Roy, Young Link, and

Dr. Mario are removed  
from the character roster,  
Some of the charac-  
ters I wanted in the game  
are not playable, and most  
of all, I can't stand Toon  
Link.

But all in all, it's a  
good game. I'm a demon in  
Brawl and it's hard for  
others to beat me. I have  
to rate this game a 10/10.  
I highly recommend you  
get this game.



A fan made poster of all the characters in Super Smash Brothers Brawl. These characters include Mario, Sonic, Kirby, Yoshi, Pikachu, and more!

## The New Kid on the Block



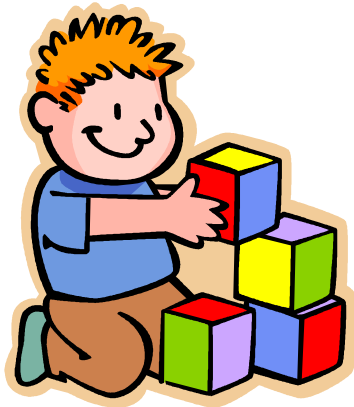
GAP's newest student!

By N. G.

My first day at GAP  
was pretty cool. I met some  
cool people like Cory and  
Ben. We played the Wii and  
the games we played were  
Super Brawl and Mario  
Party. Then we went to  
Santa Monica College and it  
looked awesome. I really  
enjoyed the first day of  
GAP. At SMC, I crashed

into a class called Counseling  
20. The class meets on  
Tuesdays and Thursdays. I  
met this girl name Vanessa.  
The Cafeteria was really big  
at Santa Monica College.  
Some of the friends I meet  
are Greg, Ben, Evan, Dyan,  
Cory and James. There are  
many restaurants in West-  
wood. The one I like to eat  
at is Subway.

# Volunteering at the Children's Program



By C. A.

Every Monday I volunteer at the FACT Children's Group. I find this group very fun and enjoyable; the kids are a great joy to hang with even though they sometimes have a hard time staying still. I volunteer with fellow GAP Student Haley. We are there every Monday from 5-6 PM. We play games that we find at

Linda's house. For example a board game or Duck, Duck, Goose. The kids I would say would be close to 3, 4, or 5 years old. Other than games the children would run through obstacle courses or play in a ball pit. At the end of the day we wait till the kids get picked up. All in all, the program is entertaining and fun for anybody to enjoy.

## Mario Kart Wii Review

By M. S.

This review is of Mario Kart Wii. It comes with the Wii Wheel inside of the game! You can buy the game at many stores like Toys R Us, Best Buy, Target, etc... It was released in the year 2008. When you start the game, you start with 12 playable characters. You choose a character and kart to begin the race. There are 32 different tracks.

There are also 16 tracks returning from other Mario Kart games. But this game is kind of challenging and it's hard to play to unlock more characters and karts. To unlock something, you have to get in 1<sup>st</sup> place on any Cups, and beat staff ghosts on Time Trials. The game has the feature that you can play online to race with your friends using WI-FI. My review is, the gameplay is

10/10, the controllers are 8/10, the music is 10/10, the characters are 9/10, and difficulty is 7/10. It's the rank of 44 out of 50. I like unlocking more characters in the game. I played the game up to 150cc Star Cup for not unlocking two more characters. Overall, this is a great game!



Mario and Luigi race with their allies and enemies in this excellent game.

## Making an Emergency Kit

By H. H.

An emergency kit is a kit you make before a disaster strikes. Here are some items you will need in your kit.

- Water to drink and to use for hygiene
- Money because the electricity will be down and you won't be able to use a credit card
- Canned food and dried food because you may not be able to refrigerate other food
- Change of clothing so you stay fresh and clean
- Important papers and contact numbers
- Lastly you will need a radio, flashlight and medication



This is an example of an emergency kit

# “The Bells of Compassion”

A Short Story By A. R.

Bronze Bell was a special robot made by a French robotics engineer named Dr. Delacour that wanted to make a special bell called “cloche de prendre vie” (which means the Bell of Life). He made it for his company Sonata Inc. It was designed to be an anthropomorphic machine that looks like a bell. It ended up looking like this:



Over the years the *cloche de prendre vie*'s duty was to act as a mascot for his company as “*carillonneur*” which means bell-ringer. But he developed a glitch, an AI (artificial intelligence) personality with curiosity. He created

visual & optic devices to spy on humans & learn their behavior. He then one day discovered that there was an increased crime rate in the city of Paris. So he decided to move away from the life of a famous mascot to the life of a hero instead.

During a presentation of his technology, scaffolding was shot down by industrial criminals meant to steal his technology. It was about to crush the entire audience when he held it up & captured the thugs using its bell gyro cage. Dr. Delacour was stunned by what he saw along with everyone in the audience. They all thought he was a mindless drone pre-programmed to do what it's told, nothing more nothing less. Then “*carillonneur*” decided to tell the truth, “I started off as an ordinary mascot meant to appeal to children, but over the years I developed a mind of my own. I started seeing humans from afar. I wanted to be a part of the

crowd of the interesting species known as humanity & mingle with it. I secretly thought that they would never accept me as part of society due to their ignorance & bigotry. However, I saw the injustice done to the people here today & decided to act by quickly altering my tools to protect the people. As for the children, I still wish to represent Sonata Inc, but also to help society.”

Dr. Delacour thought long & hard about this & showed him to the government. They signed a legal document known as the Hero Act of 1974. It allowed him to continue his daily job as a mascot while also being a hero in disguise. The audience & thugs were erased of the memories of *carillonneur*'s monologue. He became the first public government supported hero in the world, now he was Bronze Bell. Tune in next time to Heroes Origins Issue #2.

**Sunday, October 23rd 5-8 PM**

**GAP STUDENT ART SHOW FUNDRAISER**

**Buy A Piece of GAP Art . You Never Know What You Might Like.**

**Westwood Village Synagogue**

**All proceeds from the event will go to the GAP Program**

# The Apartment Anecdotes

By B. F.

On Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Robbie and I got to our apartment at 10:30pm with my mom. We unpacked the car and went to the door. Robbie unlocked the door, but the chain was on so the door would not

open all the way. We knew someone was in the apartment or else the chain would not be on. Adrian was in the apartment, but he was asleep. We tried calling the house number, but he did not pick up. We tried calling

Adrian's cell phone, but he did not pick up.

Finally, my mom and Robbie went to Adrian's window and knocked on it to wake him, so Robbie and I could get in.



## Working at Alphanet Computer Services

By R. W.

For a few weeks now I, along with others, have been working at Alphanet CS. Basically what we were doing there was data entry, finding bloggers online and emailing them advertisements on giveaways, or doing online research. The overall experience wasn't the most fun I've ever had, albeit



*GAP Students have been learning great skills by working at Alphanet CS.*

it's genuine work and not supposed to be fun, but I would sincerely like to have this as a full time job. The other people working there are friendly and lord knows it beats

working in retail, and I've heard it actually pays good money. I've had an enjoyable working experience at Alphanetics, and I hope others at GAP feel the same.

## Top 5 Things I Like About GAP

By B. R.

1. Friends-chilling
2. Support-staff
3. Japanese Class-translation
4. Santa Monica College- great college
5. Westwood-good location

## Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles Field Trip

By M. S.

This is the article about the Red Cross field trip. We went to the American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles in August. We went there in 2 groups. To get there we got on the Big Blue Bus #1, got dropped off and walked to the headquarters. The Red Cross field trip was

about health and safety. We also asked the Red Cross staff about doing the puppet show about earthquakes, smoke, fire, and stop, drop, and roll. And we saw the office there and the computer lab that has a lot of work. And the computer showed many channels about the weather, the news, how hot it is, etc... And we took the pic-

ture of the whole group after we left the Red Cross. My favorite part about this field trip was looking at pictures and I saw Barack Obama. I decided to take a picture because it was bright. And I think that's it about the Red Cross field trip. We had a lot of fun learning about what they do at the Red Cross every day.



This room at the Los Angeles Red Cross Headquarters is used during emergencies. The room has computers, phones and other tools.

## Lunch In Westwood



Yogurtland is one of the best places to eat dessert in Westwood!

By Z. A.

At GAP, there are only two places I go to eat and one place I go after. One place is Subway. I usually get a Meatball Marina or an Oven Crisp Chicken Sandwich with Italian, Wheat, or Flat Bread. Rarely, I get a cookie to go with it. I like going there, because it's quick and cheap.

Another Restaurant I like going to is The Stand. The Stand is a little burger place that has a good amount of choices. At the Stand, the only thing I'll have is a burger or sometimes a chicken sandwich.

After having my lunch, I will sometimes go to Yogurtland. The prices are like at least \$2.00. I

just take the flavor that looks really good, because they have a lot of great flavors. My main topping on my yogurt is always a few pieces of mochi.

When that's all done with, I walk straight back to GAP. When at GAP I do a little game of Brawl, do GAP work and that's just about it.

## “The Stand” Stands Out!



Do you want fries with that? These are The Stand's amazing golden brown fries.

By Adrian Ramirez

On September 15, 2011, I went to The Stand to have lunch for my review of this month's restaurant for the G.A.P. Gazette. I haven't had a lunch there in a while, & it was a delicious lunch. The food is outstandingly delicious, truly worthy of a 5-star rating for its gourmet burgers. The service is always good, great timing,

gets the order right, & the best part is, it's always with a warm smile. Though a bit expensive, it befits such delicious food & fabulous service that if you ask me, very few restaurants can achieve.

The Stand is truly outstanding and is great for lunch & dinners any day, any time, any place. The best burgers I've had in a while, always seem to

come from The Stand. Now I myself have always been a bit of a picky eater, but nothing can go wrong with the Stand's burgers, no staleness or blandness, just warmth & flavor in a single patty. I believe this month's rating deserves an A for Health, & a 5 for its food & services. I think it will always be a delicious venue of American cuisine to be on my menu, for a long time.

## Being the Executives of Their Own Functioning



By Jillian Van Leuven,  
GAP Program Director

Executive function is the ability to make choices and decisions based on past experience to help in a pre-

sent action. If we continue to plan out a persons' day we are denying them the opportunity to develop Executive Function. An example in our GAP Program is how we have a loosely structured program. We at GAP “come to the table” with specific components that we want the students to participate in but also en-

courage the students to design a schedule based on their strengths, talents and interests. By providing an array of options the students can Self-Determine the structure of their day. Self-Determination leads to the development of Executive Function which in turn leads to the students creating a

schedule for themselves that has intrinsic value where their experiences will be remembered and drawn from again and again. The GAP students have grown so much in this last month. We are so proud of their desire to move further into their adult status. GO GAP YEAR TEAM!!

## PET OF THE MONTH:

*By D. S.*

I am a MAJOR dog lover. I have 3 dogs. I am not going to say what kind of dogs they are, because you will have to see them for yourselves! I thought of this idea to have a website to have pictures of everyone at GAP and FACT's pets. Everyone agreed and a staff member named James is also helping with this website. The students and staff from FACT and GAP are helping by sending

me pictures of their pets via email. We will be posting pictures of everyone's pets on our Pet Corner website. Everyone will be able to see all of the pictures by mid-October. Here is our Pet of the Month Jet! Jet is a black chow chow and is owned by former GAP intern Irene. We would like everyone who reads the newspaper to send pictures if they have not already so they can be included in future Cutest Pet contests. Since pets are a major part

of a family and they can't supply their own disaster preparedness kit we at GAP will be creating pet preparedness kits. Everyone should know that pets are not allowed in Red Cross shelters in the event of a disaster. Be prepared to make sure your pet is safe and taken care of if you need more information please contact the students at GAP. We will be happy to give you more disaster preparedness information.

## The Cutest Pet of the Month!



**Jet!**

# Quote Corner

*I chose this quote, because it expresses how I really feel about my life.*

**GAP Students share some words of wisdom. Follow the dotted lines attached to the quote to see why students picked these quotes.**

**"This will be an interesting year."**

-E. C.

*"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today"*

- M. E.

*This is my quote because I think it's a nice thing to say to people.*

**"Heal the world."**

-C. A.

**"ME: 'That's not fair' MY DAD: 'Who said life is fair?'"**

- B. F.

**"Pets are more than just animals. They are family."**

-D. S.

*I chose this quote because it reminds me of the Sea Fairer's feelings while he's lost at sea.*

**"Life is tough. Deal with it."**

-D.A.

**"HAVE A NICE DAY"**

-G. W.

*This quote is in honor of my dad. He always told me this when I felt something was not fair.*

**"Do onto others as they would do onto you"**

- B. R.

**"You should never give up."**

-H. H.

*This quote is from Malcolm X. I picked it because I think education is important.*

**"Imagination is Never the Limit"**

- A. R.

*This is the title of a Michael Jackson song. I chose this quote because I feel that we help all living things when it comes*

*I picked this quote because I love my dogs, and I love pets in general.*

*I agree with this because everyone should be treated with respect.*

*I said this in the very beginning of the program. The reason why I said it was this is a new experience for me, and everyone else. Who knows what will happen in this new program, as we venture to adulthood.*

*I picked this quote because it makes me think that there isn't a limit to what you can do as long as you believe.*

*I feel like this is a good quote because it is inspirational.*

**"I like playing Elmo during the Puppet Show!"**

- M. S.

*This is something I do when I'm at school. I put the nerd part because I am a nerd and proud of it.*

*I chose this quote because I want everyone to do their best at the program*

**"Worried seas toss in mourning unsettling my mind, unleashing my loss. Once the storm passed my happiness came at last."**

-K. M.

**"Give it your all!"**

-Z. A.

**"When preaching the truth to the masses, make them laugh, otherwise they'll kill you"**

-R. W.

*I thought of this quote immediately after witnessing a woman angrily preaching Christianity on a bus, and the comments and threats she received.*

**"Always study for your tests. And be a nerd"**

-N. H.

*I chose this because I like doing the puppet show. Not only is it fun, but it also teaches kids.*