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Campolindo High School is County's 2013 Academic Decathlon Champion

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



Campolindo High School's Red Team

History truly repeated itself when the top three 2013 Contra Costa County High School Academic Decathlon finishing teams were a carbon copy of last year's results. At the Feb. 4 Academic Decathlon Awards Reception, Campolindo High School's Red Team once again finished in first place, and will go on to represent Contra Costa County in the California State Academic Decathlon competi-

tion in Sacramento, March 14-17. Also in repeating rolls, Campolindo's Blue Team took second place, and Acalanes High School finished in third.

During the awards ceremony, many individual awards were also given out. This year's Top Overall Academic Decathlon Individual Award went to Zach Scherer of Campolindo High School.

Directed by the Contra Costa

County Office of Education and with the assistance of community volunteers, the county's Academic Decathlon provides an opportunity for high school students to compete as individuals and teams in a series of 10 academic tests and demonstrations. The curriculum includes art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, essay, interview, speech (prepared and impromptu), and the Super Quiz.

Approximately, 170 participating high school students studied and prepared for this event with their coaches since September. This year's Academic Decathlon theme was Russia, and the Super Quiz focused on the areas the participating students had been preparing for with the comprehension portion of Academic Decathlon.

High school teams are made up of nine students, grades 9-12, with a maximum of three students in each of the following divisions: Honors (3.75-4.00 GPA), Scholastic (3.00-3.74 GPA) and Varsity (2.99 GPA and below).

To view all Academic Decathlon statistics, visit <http://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/supe/events/decathlon.htm>.

Photo Diane Morrell, CCCOE

TEEN SCENE

Technology and Teens

By Caie Kelley

These days, one does not have to go far to register a growing concern about teenagers' addiction to technology. "Text, text, text, all you ever do is text," says my mom. "The Internet is turning high-schoolers into useless, unsociable blobs," a substitute teacher once declared. Even strangers at Safeway chime in on the complaints: "A computer is a distraction. I see no reason why somebody needs access to Facebook and Twitter all the time, much less a kid."

In many people's eyes, technology undermines teens' productivity and decreases social interaction. If the Internet truly does limit our meaningful conversations, what is the appeal of popular social networking sites for Lamorinda teens?

One student, a freshman at Miramonte, said, "Well, Facebook is nice to stay updated with your friends and an easy form of communication. Many clubs at school have Facebook groups, so I know when the meetings are, classes have groups so that we can ask each other about homework, and school events are posted here, so it does help me stay connected to school. I know usage can be excessive, but it's helpful!"

Another sophomore chimed in, "Blogging sites like Pinterest and Tumblr serve as inspiration and a distraction, and distractions aren't always negative. High school, sports, and all the extracurriculars can be overwhelming. My Tumblr's dashboard has funny quotes and awesome places from all parts of the world, so I can momentarily escape the boring day-to-day with images of all the places I'd like to go and all

the beautiful parts of this world. It reminds me of the potential for beauty in life, even when I'm swamped with a million tests and I don't have time to dream about what could be."

A Miramonte senior summed it up: "Look. Technology is here to stay, and I think people who continue to talk about limiting it for young people or that kids these days are way too addicted are getting the wrong idea. It's key that we learn to use it to our benefit when we are young, because it does serve an important purpose."

Overall, the message was clear: there is certainly still value in face-to-face interaction, but the Internet can be a welcome distraction and a means of quick communication. Moving forward, the trick will be to find a way to balance technology with the old-fashioned methods, for teenagers and adults alike.



Caie Kelley is an officer of Club *Be the Star You Are!*® at Miramonte, co-host and *What's Poppin'* reporter on *Express Yourself!*™ Teen Radio as well as a piano teacher and swim coach.

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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