
TEEN VOICE

September 2009

This month's theme: The New *Teen Voice*!

Welcome to the new *Teen Voice*!

As some of you may know, the previous editor, Lauren Hoal, graduated from Laurel Springs last June. Her departure left *Teen Voice* without a leader, so Laurel Springs students, Marisa Josephson, Gretchen Hohmeyer, and Ashlae Saunders have now inherited it—and are tremendously excited to introduce some new ideas!

Currently, we've created seven sections of the magazine:

1. ***Student News***—a place for all students to share their achievements with their peers
2. The theme of each issue—as with the last issues, students write from a certain prompt (the theme for each issue) and submit it
3. ***Student Art Gallery***—a section for the student artists in Laurel Springs
4. ***Dear Ashlae***—a teen advice column, written by Ashlae Saunders
5. ***Teen Reader***—a book and author discussion section, written by Gretchen Hohmeyer
6. ***Inspiring Student Athletes From Various Sports***—a section on admirable student athletes who excel in whichever sport they

play, written by Marisa Josephson

7. ***Gossip Girl***—a celebrity and entertainment news section, written by Ashlae Saunders

The theme of this month's issue is, of course, The New *Teen Voice*. As you explore the new magazine, you will see more in-depth introductions to each of the sections. Instead of theme submissions from students this month, Marisa, Ashlae, and Gretchen have written personal bios so you can get to know them better.

After this month, *Teen Voice* will be published regularly each month. Submissions for the Student News, the Student Art Gallery, and each month's theme have a deadline of the eighth of each month.

The theme for October's issue will be "The Homeschool Experience." We want to know just why you're in Laurel Springs and/or about exciting experiences you've had while being homeschooled. Theme submissions can be sent to teenvoice@laurelsprings.com.

Have fun exploring the new *Teen Voice*!

Student News!

Has something exciting happened to you lately?

If you have an event, achievement, or anything else you'd like to share with your fellow students, this is the place to send it! No matter how large or small—if it makes you proud, we'd like you to tell us. The submission deadline is the eighth of each month for every issue. If for some reason your news can't be placed in that issue, don't worry. It will be in the next!

Submissions for *Student News* can be sent to Gretchen at ghohmeyer@gmail.com.



Check it out!

All this is empty space!

Waiting for your news!

The New Teen Voice!

This month, the editors are using this space to introduce themselves!

Introducing: Gretchen Hohmeyer

Hi!

My name is Gretchen Hohmeyer. I'm fifteen and a sophomore. I live in the Adirondacks of Upstate New York (USA). My family owns a Lodge up here. This is my fifth year with Laurel Springs—my second in the Laureate Academy for the Gifted and Talented.

Why am I part of Laurel Springs you ask? Part of it is the fact that my family operates Hohmeyer's Lake Clear Lodge. I help my parents run the place. Some of my jobs include waitress, sous chef, maintenance, and office work. However, that's not the big reason why. I've been writing since I learned how: poetry and short stories mostly. About three years ago, I was introduced to the book *Eragon* and read about Christopher Paolini. I was immediately inspired. Today, I have an over 500-page (and that's 1.5 spaced, 12 point font on 8 1/2 x 11 pages) young adult fantasy novel, and I am just about ready to start seeking a publisher. Not quite yet, because, right now, I am working with my mentor to do a final edit. Writing is what I want to do for a career—I hope to get a Master of Fine Arts degree in Fiction at college.

As assistant editor, I'll be helping with the student submission section, as well as writing the Teen Reader articles about books and authors, and handling the submissions for the Student Art Gallery and Student News. I'm very excited about the new Teen Voice!

Introducing: Ashlae Saunders

Hello!

My name is Ashlae Saunders. I'm 16 years old, and a junior at Laurel Springs High School. I've been going to Laurel Springs for four years and I love it. It's the best school ever.

I live in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, in a small town called Suffolk. I'm happy and proud to be assistant editor at *Teen Voice*. I have a lot of plans for this newsletter. Each month I will be posting entertainment news for my section called Gossip Girl. I will post the most popular news stories of the month.

I also have my own advice column named Dear Ashlae. All Laurel Springs students can write to me if they need someone to talk to or they have a problem and they need some advice.

Writing and reporting are things I love; something I'm passionate about. In the future I plan on going to college in Southern California. I want to major in public relations and journalism. My dream job is being a TV reporter on E! News on the E! channel.

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My hobbies are writing, drawing, painting, traveling, listening to music, watching sports, shopping, going to the beach, reading, dancing, singing, modeling, and acting.

I look forward to reading your submissions and working with our staff for this newsletter.

Introducing: Marisa Josephson

Hey everyone!

My name is Marisa Josephson and, as a senior, this will be my third year at Laurel Springs School. I love to play tennis, hang out with my friends, read, and go shopping. I have a younger sister who is 11 years old. I also love learning about current events and politics.

This year, as my last year in high school, I wanted to make more of a contribution to the school. That is why I decided to join the school newspaper and write monthly articles for them. I think it will be a success, and I hope that more Laurel Springs Students will get involved this year. I'm looking forward to it and hope it will be a great and sociable school year!

Want to see Marisa's section?

Check out "Inspiring Student Athletes From Various Sports" on page 8 - this month's featured student is Melanie Oudin.

Want to see Ashlae's section?

Check out her "Dear Ashlae" advice column on page 6, or her "Gossip Girl" entertainment news section on page 9.

Want to see Gretchen's section?

Check out "Teen Reader" on page 7 - this week's topic is "The Vampire Academy" series.

Student Art Gallery

This section is for all you artists out there!

We want *Teen Voice* to be able to reach out to more than just writers. So, we've developed a place for you within the magazine. The submissions can be any kind of art about anything—no theme for you! The submission deadline for each issue is the eighth of each month, just as with the writing. If your art isn't chosen for that particular issue, your piece will be backlogged for the next.

Submissions for the *Student Art Gallery* can be emailed to Gretchen at ghohmeyer@gmail.com.



Dear Ashlae

Written by Ashlae Saunders

Looking for help but have no one to talk to?

Having a hard time making a decision?

Then you're at the right place! Welcome to Ashlae's advice column. I'm here to help you and give you advice on any topic you would like. I know how hard it is when you're in a difficult situation and sometimes you need that voice to guide you the right way. Please send me your letters at evelsندر@aol.com , and I will try to help you in any way I can!

Hey, look at that!

Blank space that wants

*YOUR
Submissions!*

Teen Reader

Written by Gretchen Hohmeyer

The *Vampire Academy* series by Richelle Mead

This is *not* just another vampire series.

The *Vampire Academy* books are, of course, about vampires, but this is no *Twilight* here—that’s why I picked it up.

Don’t get me wrong, I enjoyed *Twilight*, but just after reading the third book in the series (*Eclipse*), I wanted something that still had to do with vampires, but wasn’t written by Stephenie Meyer. The problem was that the first several young adult vampire books I picked up had the same premise: human girl falls in love with vampire boy, etc.

I picked up book one in the *Vampire Academy* series (titled simply *Vampire Academy*) thinking, ‘*Oh great—a vamp version of Harry Potter,*’ because it had the premise of being set in a school where teenage vampires go to learn about their elemental magic, fighting skills, and regular classes. I flipped it over, read the back and—well—got hooked.

Vampire Academy is narrated in the first person from the view of Rose Hathaway, a rule-breaking rebel who isn’t technically a vampire. She’s something called a Dhampir—a blend between humans and vampires. Her best friend is sweet and quiet Lissa Dragomir, a kind of mortal vampire called Moroi, and also a princess.

The academy in question is St. Vladimir’s. As I mentioned above, beside normal classes, it teaches Moroi how to wield their elemental magic and trains Dhampirs in becoming bodyguards.

You see, Dhampirs who choose to get a fighting education go on to become the fierce protectors (called guardians) of their Moroi from the immortal, bloodthirsty Strigoi vampires.

Lissa and Rose are closer than your average best friends. They share a psychic bond, which allows Rose to know Lissa’s thoughts, feelings and even “jump into her head” and view the world through Lissa’s eyes. This all started only after a car crash that killed Lissa’s parents and older brother, which Rose and Lissa survived together. Rose, of course, is planning on being Lissa’s guardian—nothing less.

Now, add the fact that Rose and Lissa ran away from St. Vladimir’s two years before, for reasons neither will say, and that they are being dragged back even though Rose is convinced that it’s “dangerous for Lissa.” Finally, on top of that, add in a forbidden romance, betrayal, and the complexities of navigating high school and the Royal Court, and you’ve just scratched the surface of the story behind *Vampire Academy*.

Besides the first book, there are three others currently out: #2—*Frostbite*, #3—*Shadow Kiss* and #4(which just came out)—*Blood Promise*. The fifth, *Spirit Bound*, will be released May 18, 2010, and the sixth comes out later that year.

Richelle Mead is also the author of two other series: the *Georgia Kincaid* series and the *Dark Swan* series. You can check out the author and her books at www.richellemead.com.

If you love vamps, magic, romance, and storylines that have more twists than a snake, this series is for you!

Inspiring Student Athletes from Various Sports
Written by Marisa Josephson

Melanie Oudin

When people think of sports, America is not usually the top country producing the most successful athletes in tennis. However, this U.S. Open is proving many people wrong. Waiting in the sidelines of American tennis lie some very talented juniors, boys and girls. So far, Melanie Oudin has proved herself to be just such a hardworking, talented, American tennis player who will hopefully earn many grand slams as her career progresses.

At just 17 years old, she defeated former Number 1 Jelena Jankovic at Wimbledon this past year, a huge upset during that tournament. That win alone made her an up-and-coming prodigy player. When entering the U.S. Open, people knew she would have good results. However, no one would anticipate that she would defeat three top Russians, after being down a set, then come back to win every single time! Her colorful, specially designed shoes have the words BELIEVE on them. That is exactly what she has in herself: belief. Confidence, especially in sports, really helps increase good results. Melanie is in the quarterfinals now, and she has the whole American nation behind her, hoping she will continue to advance. Good luck Melanie, we're rooting for you!

Editor's Note: This article was written before the tournament ended...and...even though Melanie didn't win in the quarter finals, her performance assures us we'll be seeing lots more of her on the courts.

Welcome to *Gossip Girl*! This is where you'll find your latest celebrity and entertainment news. Each month, I'll report on the hottest and most popular news on all things Hollywood.

Patrick Swayze has passed away

Actor Patrick Swayze has lost his battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 57.

His publicist, Annett Wolf, said in a statement: "Patrick Swayze passed away peacefully today with his family at his side after facing the challenges of his illness for the last 20 months."

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Kanye West apologizes to Taylor Swift

Rapper Kanye West has personally apologized to country singer Taylor Swift after dissing her at the *2009 MTV Video Music Awards*. After getting a personal phone call from West, Swift told ABC News Radio: "Kanye did call me. He was very sincere in his apology and I accepted his apology." Kanye also apologized live on the season premiere of the *Jay Leno Show*. He said: "I'm just ashamed that my hurt caused someone else's hurt. I don't try to justify it because I was just in the wrong. After this I need to take some time off and just analyze how I'm going to make it through the rest of this life, how I'm going to improve. Because I'm a celebrity and that's something I have to deal with."

I really hope that his apology was sincere, because this wasn't the first time Kanye has disrespected other people in the industry.

Ellen DeGeneres replaces Paula Abdul on *American Idol*

Ellen DeGeneres has replaced Paula Abdul as the new fourth idol judge, Fox announced last week in a statement.

"I'm thrilled to be the new judge on *American Idol*. I've watched since the beginning and have always been a huge fan. So getting this job is a dream come true and think of all the money I'll save from not having to text in my vote," DeGeneres says.

This isn't the first time Ellen will be a judge; she guest-judged on the hit show, *So Do You Think You Can Dance*. Fans of her talk show won't have to worry, because she will continue to juggle the idol gig and her daily talk show. "I'm going to have a day job and a night job. The times we're living in, we're all doing that."

Congrats to Ellen. I think she'll make a great judge on the show.

Back Page Musings...

That is it for now. Please check back

next month for more celebrity dish.

xoxo,
gossipgirl

Gretchen, Marisa and Ashlae hope you enjoyed the new Teen Voice! We certainly had a blast creating it. Even better, we can't wait to receive your submissions!

The role of a writer is not to say what we all can say, but what we are unable to say. ~ Anaïs Nin