

What's your favorite ice cream flavor?



"I like raspberry chocolate chip because the flavors are nice."

**MARIA ESSENMACHER ('25)**



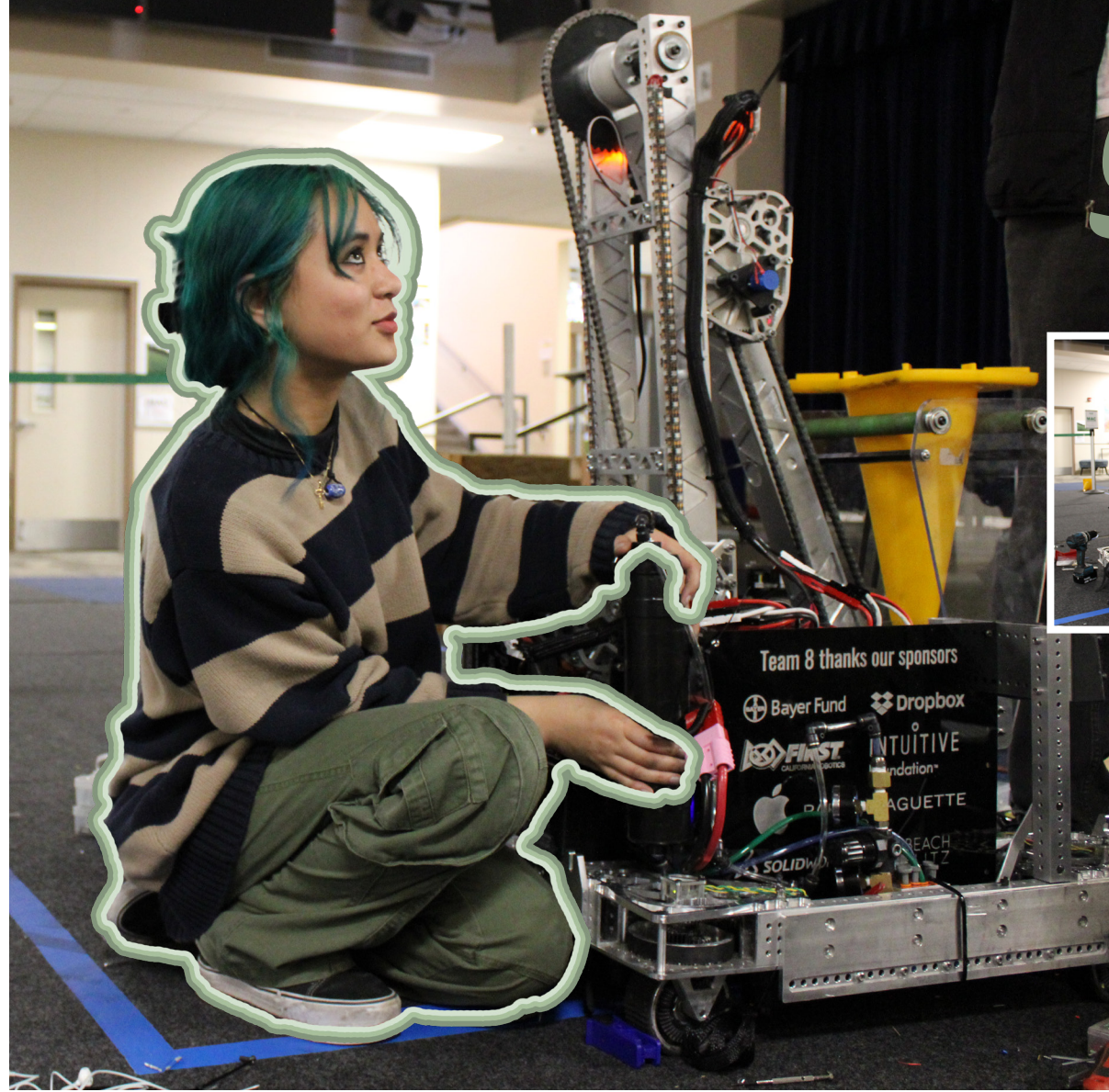
"My favorite is caramel ice cream with marshmallows on top. I like it because it's caramel, and caramel is sweet."

**SURI ZHENG ('25)**



"My favorite is cookies and cream because it the best flavor and the rest suck (minus cookie dough)"

**MAX MERKEL ('26)**



# gearing up for COMPETITION

Design by Zora Wakelee and Marco Li  
Story by Chloe Amos and Rebecca Doran

The robotics team pushes through challenges to have a strong competition season.

**H**uddled in a circle on the first floor of the MAC, the school robotics team, FRC 8, tests out their long awaited robot on a temporary mat, among makeshift testing equipment.

The team had to relocate to the MAC due to extreme weather conditions that flooded their normal robotics lab. Due to the circumstances, the team had to adapt to challenges and roadblocks whilst bringing together a team atmosphere that would try to get their robot to the national competition.

Jack Shinghal ('24), a member of the design team, expressed that he thinks the FRC 8 has a great community aspect.

"The majority of the mentors on the team are former Team 8 members making the community tight knit," Shinghal said.

One aspect that really makes FRC 8 cohesive team is the long standing tradition of members dyeing their hair green.

Susanna Aufrichtig ('24), another member of the team, explained its impact.

"It definitely provides a sense of community within our team," Aufrichtig said.

Even the strongest team connections cannot prevent the unexpected from happening. After the flooding forced FRC 8 to move to the MAC days before a competition, the members all had to be flexible. Freshman Hana Kapadia ('26) felt that the team did a great job of persevering through tough situations during the build season.

**"I definitely think the work our members put in pays off every year."**

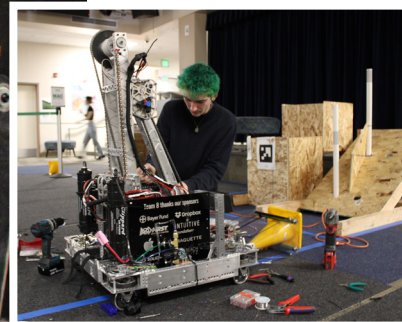
**BRENNAN HO ('23)**

"No build season ever goes smoothly without difficulties, so I am really proud of our team for overcoming the challenges we faced," Kapadia said.

"Our team captains, leaders, and the team in general really gave their all by staying up late making last minute fixes or consistently showing up to do work."

Co-Captain Brennan Ho ('23) felt proud of the robotics team's results this year despite all the obstacles they had to overcome.

"I definitely think the work our members put in pays off every year," Ho said. "We continue to build upon the successes of previous years and I'm excited to see what the team will accomplish next."



(left) **GAZING AT THE** robot, junior Shanna Deivanayagam ('24) rests her hands on the creation the robotics team has been working tirelessly on. "I'm one of the people who does electronics for the team so I helped to wire the robot and I worked on the intake," Deivanayagam said. (above) **TINKERING WITH THE** robot, Theo Conrad ('24) makes sure that the mechanism will perform properly when the time comes to compete. *Photos by Zora Wakelee*

## SWING & RUN

Boys varsity baseball team falls short of win over Mountain View.

(left) **LAUNCHING THE BALL**, Henry Harding ('25) propels his arm and body forward in a forceful pitch. "It felt pretty disappointing to be so close to a win," Harding said. (right) **WINDING UP TO** pitch, junior Vinnie Braga ('24) focuses on the task at hand. "We battled back and forth and unfortunately came up short, but times like these is when teams [come] together and work through the growing pains," Braga said. *Photos by Lucy Zheng*



## SWEET treats

Juniors were treated to ice cream after CAASPP testing.



**HAPPILY RECIEVING AN** ice cream sandwich, juniors Iris Tang and Kiara Tavakoli are rewarded for taking the CAASPP tests. "I was very happy about the treat and I hope it could be maintained for future CAASPP takers at Paly," Tang said. *Photo by Zora Wakelee*

## diving into PLACE

The diving team's hard work paid off at their meet against Saratoga.

*Photos by Tate Hardy*



(left) **STRAIGHTENING OUT INTO** a streamline, senior Mateo Diaz-Magaloni ('23) makes sure his dive is as clean as possible. "Everyone's learning new dives and having good fun," Diaz-Magaloni said. (right) **ROLLING INTO A** flip, junior Gali Nirpaz ('24) tucks her knees into her chest to perform a dive. "I think the work I've been putting in has been showing and paid off (at the meet)," Nirpaz said.