

Student Spotlight

A note from Maxwell Pashayan: Academic achievement and athletic merit are common highlights here at Telluride High School (THS). Whether it is the student of the month or honor roll, the usual features revolve around an individual who excels in a competitive field of sport or schooling. Because of these specific qualifications, many exemplary students at THS end up flying under the radar and are missed in these selections due to not publicly showcasing their skills. This section of Tell-U-News is dedicated to these students, which brings their skills and hardships to light. Please let us know if you are aware of a student that should be exemplified.



Gracey performs with 8 year old Dylan at Lake Temagami.

Photo: Staff

Gracey Ringstad

By GERRITT PEKKALA

With a funky and upbeat personality, Gracey Ringstad brings a happy and laidback perspective to life. The TellUnews team interviewed her and learned about what makes Gracey, Gracey.

Some of Gracey's favorite activities include enjoying the outdoors and playing music with her bands. Along with having multiple pastimes, she also has a great academic success story.

According to a credible source, Gracey had typically been a C student all the way up until high school. However, after Gracey made social changes and committed herself to the task at hand, she went from C's to straight A's across the board. "I just made social changes," she said in our interview. "I really just focused in and stopped goofing off."

Along with being an honor roll

student, Gracey actively participates in two bands in which she either is the vocalist or guitarist/bassist. Shout out to "The Looose Units" and "Coriander Road."

Gracey garners experience and commitment that she brings to her extended community. Over the summer, Gracey attended a seven-week program at Lake Temagami, a camp located a few hours outside of Toronto, Canada. The program was for Leadership In Training (LIT) where she learned how to be a guide for canoe expeditions, backpacking trips, as well as training to be a counselor for children and teenagers. For this camp she brought 18 different headbands!

Gracey won a leadership award at the camp and received a 75% scholarship to return next summer.

With a C to straight A academic story, two funky bands, a guide/counselor in training, wrapped up with a one of a kind personality, Gracey has a bright future ahead of her.



James Ruenz rocking his Metallica t-shirt.

Photo: Gerritt Peckala

James Ruenz

By MAXWELL PASHAYAN

James Ruenz is an incoming freshman with expensive shoes and a kind heart. A former Knowledge Bowl member, when asked he described himself as a very basic person who now tends to enjoy the simpler things in life, like the company of good friends in his free time. Despite his easygoing nature, James has proven himself to be a hardworking student.

When inquired about his academics, he stated that in the past his grades were poor due to his general lack of interest, and therefore effort. But after speaking with his teachers, he felt a newfound inspiration to work harder and improve himself in his first year of high school.

When inquired further, he spe-

cifically wanted to mention Ms. Nicki for her aide in his middle school English class. "So when James was a middle schooler, I think his biggest struggle was organization, and he missed a fair amount of school", she stated.

But after a change in attitude, and a series of one-on-one counseling with Ms. Nicki, James made steady improvements just in time for his high school debut.

"He would ask for help which would make a huge difference." She added, "I just think because James is such a nice person to work with, because he's appreciative, because he's willing to sit down and work with you, because he's feeding me chocolate, that he's on a good path."

