

# RIPTIDE

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DYLAN TUCKER '11

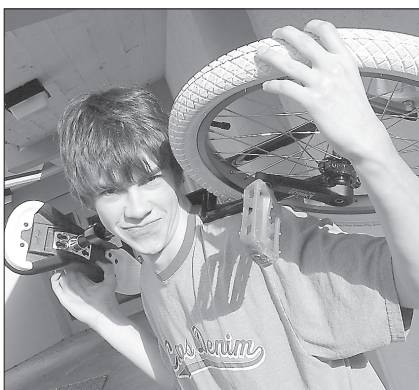
## iPads for education



SENIOR DYLAN BASURTO PARTICIPATES IN SEATTLE YOUTH SYMPHONIES . SEE PAGE 13



GIRLS' LACROSSE COMES BACK TO THE ISLAND. SEE PAGE 15



UNICYCLE CLUB STARTED DUE TO SENSEI'S FASCINATION PAGE 6



PHOTO BY AUDREY FIGGINS

Sophomore Steve Braiks now has access to a brand new iPad to use in the Supported Learning Center.

**audreyfiggins**  
staff reporter

Everyone has a unique set of learning strategies and abilities much like the students in the Supported Learning Center who now are able to benefit from the modern day technological advancements of the iPad and the Smartboard. Being capable of using these new devices is much like having their own academic trainer that caters to both your weaknesses and strengths as a student. According to the SLC teacher Kevin Kronk, these products can enable students to focus and diversify learning habits in a revolutionary way.

The difference is slowly beginning to take effect in the SLC classroom. According to Kronk, the combination of "visual, audio, and other wide range apps on the iPad" offer more compatible options to students. The iPad is a resource tool to find answers on their level of understanding, instead of textbooks or library settings. In comparison to using a small advantageous device like the iPad, an interactive smartboard helps teachers to plan assignments and refocus the students on the objective.

In terms of negative effects on the students studying habits, it might be assumed that these products would be much

more distracting and less of a real tool for diligent assignments. Kronk stated that disciplinary rules with the iPads are still of the essence. "Structured tasks that have certain limits usually have better results" he said. The SLC students are only using the devices for "educational purposes that help them become more actively involved with information that appeals to their own skills. The apps are somewhat tailored to their needs."

There are plans for using iPads in the future. "More assignments will be introduced on the I pads, yet it will take some time and patience to catch on to" said Kronk.

iPad apps at this stage are still an experimental tool only used in the classroom. That stimulates a better outlet for independent studying techniques for students. According to educationweek.org, a girl with Down syndrome who was offered to use an iPad app to "help convey her sometimes garbled words". Similar apps are used across the nation to strengthen confidence and communication for all students.

If students are offered a chance to change what they absorb while learning and have a positive experience altogether then there are trails worth taking to enrich their confidence. For some people, iPad apps are a resource for passing time with games and finding the correct route to their next destination. For others the apps may be little experimental tasks that could affect the way that we study and memorize information. This is a way for students to get involved in the next generation of technology.

## College application stress relieved with acceptance letters

**jacobgateman**  
co-editor in chief

Many seniors that have applied to college are receiving acceptance letters from various schools. While half of the school year remains for the seniors, those that have been accepted to college are becoming more and more eager to leave high school as time drags on. One such senior is Chloe Zimberg.

"Being accepted, and having all my apps in just makes me really restless and I want more than anything to just know where I'm going next year. With such a long list and no first choice, it is still kind of nagging and I just want to pick one and get away from the high school. I really don't have much patience for the environment anymore, which is unfortunate because I really do like learning and some of my classes would be very fulfilling if I wasn't just sick of the atmosphere," said Zimberg.

Many other seniors feel the same

way as Zimberg, and are counting down the days until graduation. Senior John Smith will be attending Washington State University next year, and while he is more than ready to be done with high school, he has still stayed on top of his workload.

"[Getting] accepted hasn't really made me more lazy, because I still want to be able to maintain the same level of diligence in my work, so I don't create bad habits for when I go to college. But, it still makes me take school less seriously," said Smith.

As more and more students get accepted college, most attempt to lighten the heavy course load that they have been dealing with all year. Counselor Susan Haworth has first hand experience as to what happens when students start getting accepted to college.

"One of the things that has started to happen is that students are looking at dropping their more rigorous classes, and that is very dangerous to do. It is kind of



PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGANHSICLEDUBLOGS.ORG

Several students have already received acceptance letters.

like going back on your promise. You have told your college that you are going to take these rigorous classes. They have accepted you based on that, so what I always tell students is to check with the college," said Haworth.

While the majority of seniors are becoming weary of high school and senioritis is settling in, most of the staff at VHS have high hopes for the class of 2012. It is one of the highest-achieving classes to come through the high school, and if the seniors can keep it together until graduation, there is no doubt that all will go far.

### Inside

News	1-3
Features	4-7
Focus	8-9
Op-Ed	10-11
A&E	12-13
Sports	14-15
Backpage	16