

exchange students

would always think to stay in America."



Age: 15
Grade: junior
Host Family: Stroum
Speaks: Chinese, English, Korean, and a little Japanese
School differences: "School, education and food are very different here." According to Lee, everything is much bigger in America and the school ages are very different. "Middle school is for ages 14-16, high school is for ages 17-19 and the universities are ages 20 and over."
Hobbies: Lee enjoys playing the piano, and has been playing since she was nine years old.
Favorite subject:
Reason for coming to West Linn: "I hoped to learn American culture."



Age: 17
Grade: senior
Host Family: Teramura
Host Student: Rachel, junior
Speaks: Spanish, English, French
School differences: "Nearly everything is different." According to González-Morillas, there are no lockers in the school, plus the teachers have to move to different rooms throughout the day and the students stay in one class.
Hobbies: "Music. I like photography, dance and traveling"
Favorite Subject: Photography, Biology
Reason for coming to West Linn: "I wanted to learn American culture, and improve my English."

Photos by Libby Kara and Mark Poppert

enges of administrative roles

This is Marten's fifteenth year in education; Martens previously taught English for 12 years and was an assistant principal at Tualatin High School for three.

Aside from work, Marten spends a great deal of time with his family. He has been married for four years, and has a ten month-old baby.

According to Martens, his favorite part of the job so far has been getting to know the students and the school.

Freeborn, in her first year in an administrative position, is especially interested in seeing her previous students once again and watch them grow into adults. She worked as an instructional coordinator for the last three years at Rosemont Ridge Middle School and taught for 16 years, beginning with kindergarten and extending to Rosemont and Athey Creek middle schools.

Freeborn's own high school experience in Alaska was very positive. She has two children, Kade and Reese, who currently attend Stafford Primary School. The entire family is active in sports; Kade and Reese both play football and soccer, respectively, as well as basketball. Freeborn has participated in marathons for eight

Freeborn mostly works with freshman and incoming eighth graders, as well as aiding teachers in their first, second or third year of teaching. According to Freeborn, she tries to be a helpful aid to

teachers in and outside of the classroom.

Both Martens and Freeborn encourage students to become involved outside the classroom participating in extra-curricular activities, and most importantly, to graduate. Freeborn also stressed the importance of friendship and believes the coming school year will be an "amazing and powerful one."

Lou Bailey, principal, agreed, "I think we can expect continued academic excellence, an increase in school spirit and a positive attitude." Certainly, with the addition of Martens and Freeborn, that looks like a strong possibility.

Biancardi cultivates small business, sells to gourmet restaurants

CALLEY LATHROP

Ever wondered what the meaning behind those "Giovanni's Garden" T-shirts is? These colorful shirts advertise the small business of Michael Biancardi, senior, which spans over a half acre and yields over 180 lbs. of vegetables per week.

Biancardi comes from a very green family; his parents and siblings have been tending their half acre garden for over 10 years. Two years ago, looking to make a dent in the approaching college tuition, Biancardi took over the plot and began researching ways to make his garden blossom...for profit.

"I've had the garden for two summers, but this summer tried lots of new things; many of which I will never do again," Biancardi said. He created an irrigation system out of PVC pipe, and has been mentored by a family friend/farmer who sells to local businesses.

The farmer sold to a high-end restaurant, Papa Haydn, for five years, along with several other area restaurants and businesses. At one point, the orders became too large for Biancardi's mentor to manage, and he passed along the business to Biancardi. In 2008, Biancardi began selling to Haydn directly, making deliveries twice a week.

It sounds like an easy business...plant the crops, water them, harvest them, rake in the profit. According to Biancardi however, the investment is costly both financially and in time.

"I just recently broke even financially after my second summer of harvesting. Buy-

ing seeds, organic pest control and other costs were using up the profit I was making from Haydn and the other restaurants," he said.

The epitome of hands-on learning, Biancardi wants to own his own business in the future and says that Giovanni's Garden has taught him much more than just farming.

"I get to work with high-end chefs in Portland, so I've

are past their prime and not fit for sale after a mere 24 hours.

"My family has two freezers, both are full of tomatoes and other veggies that I couldn't sell. Basically, we'll be having homemade salsa for the next five years," he said.

This year, Biancardi has early release in order to focus on caring for the garden. He spends about 3-4 hours per day caring for the crops, most



Photo by Amy Biancardi

Michael Biancardi, senior, displays his recently harvested crops. He solely owns and operates Giovanni's Garden, a business that produces over 100 lbs. of vegetables per week that end up on plates at high-end Portland restaurants.

learned lots of great customer management skills, as well as what to do when things go wrong—like forgetting to turn on the water, delivering to the wrong restaurant, not weeding as often as necessary, the list goes on pretty much forever," Biancardi said.

One of the most difficult things about the business has been learning all about perishable inventory. Biancardi sells his produce immediately after harvest, because the vegetables

of it weeding, according to Biancardi.

He will keep his garden growing until he leaves for college, at which time he plans to hire a friend to finish the fall season. According to Biancardi, the garden is worth more than just college money.

"I love the feeling after harvest when my living room is full of vegetables, and I'm like yeah, I grew that," Biancardi said.

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