

**BAD REACTIONS** In Mrs. Catherine Mellett's fifth period Aquatic Science class Nov. 10, seniors Sydney Sandburg and Tristan Langrehr inspect the anatomy of a crayfish. The dissection was part of the curriculum as the students learned the structure and adaptation of the crustaceans. "It was all right until we cut it open, then it got gross real fast," Langrehr said. "We were learning about adaptations and how they deal in the environment. We found where their organs are located and how they function under the shell." Photo by Paola Barajas

**MODELING** Creating a project of electron transport chains, seniors Robert Daley, Alan Phouthavong, Nicole Perez-Torres, Askar Poudyal and Nate Chandrakasem form a group to build a model in AP Biology teacher Mrs. Sherry Hilberg's second period class. They researched information about their chain Nov. 3 and presented their motion picture to the class as a Powerpoint. "Putting together a representation and taking pictures at each step of how the chain functions helped me understand what they do specifically," Phouthavong said. Photo by Kristal Saikho



**UP CLOSE** In his Aquatic Science class, senior Christopher Wood dissects and examines a crayfish Nov. 10. In the dissection, they operated on the crayfish in different ways such as opening the mandibles, or mouth, of the crayfish. "My favorite part was opening up the crayfish," Wood said. "You could see how their body was arranged, and it was cool to compare it to a human's body. I've learned that the crayfish gills are leather like to allow more surface area to absorb the dissolved oxygen." Photo by Ashley Harrison



**RAGING FIRE** Flames roar within sophomore Alexis Waters's hands during the fire experiment in her Chemistry class Sept. 10. Waters hesitated to participate at first, but soon realized that she wanted to try holding heat. "I was really scared," Waters said. "Then my peers were going, and so I was like, 'Oh it'll be really cool,' and then you just felt like in the split second, it was like, 'Whoa! The smell just hit your nose really bad, but then everything was okay.'" Photo by Kristal Saikho

**MEASURING UP** Germinated seeds are divided into the vials as seniors Teresa Vu and Alexis Hoang demonstrate an experiment in Advanced Placement Biology class Dec. 8. The students performed an experiment to measure the rate of oxygen with germinated seeds and those that were not. "The only thing I dislike is my work habit for that class because I'm constantly forgetting and not doing my homework," Hoang said. Photo by Danielle Robinson



# HANDS ON

New portables allow for better use of equipment during science labs

**C**olorful classrooms, formulas on the white boards, data in spirals and problem solving inspire the variety of science topics that the portables outside offered classes such as AP Biology, Biology and Aquatic Science. Senior Teresa Vu explained the wide range of science and exploring her passion in the portables.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT SCIENCE?**  
**TERESA VU:** I love that science has no end. Our understanding of the world, the universe and ourselves has increased greatly over the years, but there is much more that we still don't know. There's no limit to knowledge. As long as we are curious and diligent, science will always surprise us, and that's beautiful.

**WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT SCIENCE?**  
**VU:** Honestly, I don't like how hard science can be sometimes. It's just harder for me to understand theoretical or molecular concepts. I just have to trust that it's there and try to understand it. Eventually, I'll get it, but it does take a while.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SCIENCE SUBJECT?**  
**VU:** My favorite subject is Biology. It's incredibly interesting, and there's not a lot of math. Biology is a lot of words and memorization.

**WHY ARE YOU TAKING AP BIOLOGY?**  
**VU:** I'm taking AP Biology because I've been fascinated with the study of life and it will really help me with my career goals. I'm planning on becoming a Biology major at University of Texas at Austin and eventually go to dental school. You're literally learning about life.

**DESCRIBE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE CLASSES IN A PORTABLE THIS YEAR?**  
**VU:** When there was a thunderstorm, we couldn't go outside to the portables so our learning had to be delayed. I felt mildly annoyed. I mean, we still did everything, just a day late. It was horrible walking outside when it was cold or rainy, but the teachers could choose the room temperature and the utilities are more modern, so that is a plus. I'd love the class whether or not it was in a portable.

Story by Kristal Saikho and Paola Barajas



**MIND-BLOWING** Examining parts of the brain, juniors Joe Salas and Allen Daniel and sophomore Sorin Pena prepare to dissect a sheep's brain Jan. 19. Anatomy classes learned about the nervous system and how systems of the body work together. "It was messy and interesting," Pena said. "When I first saw the brain, it was disgusting and a lot slimmer than I thought it would be." Photo by Kristal Saikho

52  
 "Since I am a visual learner, hands-on activities such as experiments help me understand and makes the class more interesting."  
 Wilansie Marling, 10