

IN A WORLD OF

ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BONDS IN A PERSON'S LIFE IS OFTEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR PARENTS. BETWEEN PASSING DOWN VALUES AND HAVING TOUGH CONVERSATIONS, KIDS AND PARENTS MUST LEARN TO NAVIGATE THE WORLD TOGETHER.

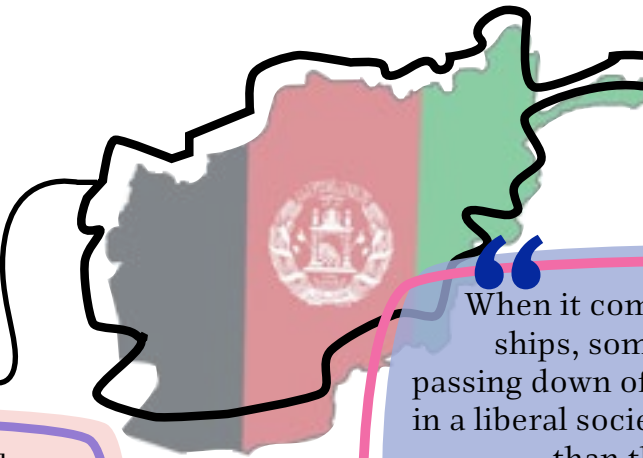
PASSING IT DOWN THE LINE

FOR MANY TEENAGERS FROM IMMIGRANT FAMILIES, DISCOVERING THEIR OWN IDENTITY COMES WITH EMBRACING THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE. PARENTS OFTEN ASSIST THEM IN THIS JOURNEY OF KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THEIR FAMILY ROOTS.



When we start the [religious] ritual, I stand next to my mom and help her with the things that she needs. [Since I was] born I've been going to the temple and it's just a part of me now."

ANESH LOKESH (9)



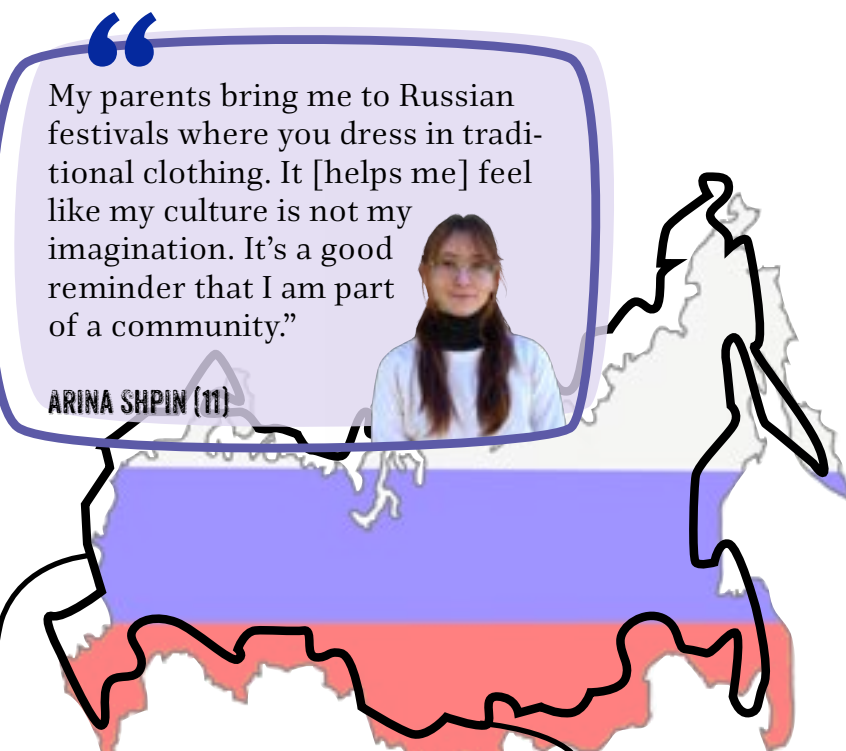
When it comes to parent-child relationships, something that's difficult is the passing down of values. As someone raised in a liberal society, it's completely different than the conservatism in Afghanistan. I don't want to become American, but I want to apply [American values] to my life."

HOSSNA ADEL (11)



In Ethiopia, there was a war. My dad grew up with it, and he fought in it. Because it was such a huge part of his life, he wants us to understand it. Learning about the history was learning about my dad."

ALEX TEFERA (12)



My parents bring me to Russian festivals where you dress in traditional clothing. It [helps me] feel like my culture is not my imagination. It's a good reminder that I am part of a community."

ARINA SHPIN (11)



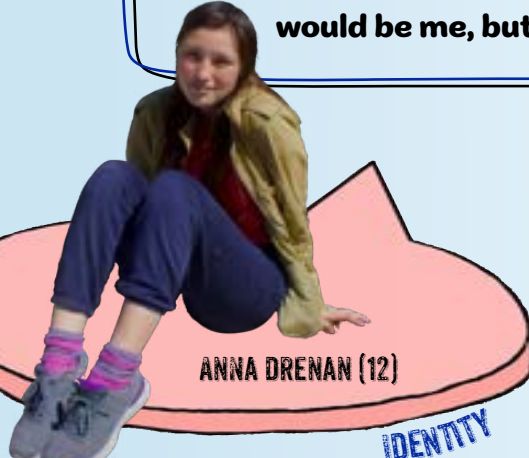
We always speak Mandarin or Taiwanese in the house. Going to college, one thing I've thought about was, 'What if my Mandarin skills go down? What if I feel disconnected from that side of my identity?'"

YENTING LIN (12)

A CONVERSATIONAL DIVIDE

IT'S NO SECRET: TEENS DO NOT ALWAYS ALIGN WITH THEIR PARENTS' WISHES. WHEN KIDS BEGIN TO DRIFT, THE PRESENCE OF DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS IN HOUSEHOLDS — OR THE LACK OF THEM — CAN PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN SHAPING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP.

I haven't come out to [my parents], not because I think I would be unsafe or they would hate me, but just because it wouldn't be the same. They presume I am straight, they've talked about wanting grandkids. Even if it was subconscious, they wouldn't treat me the same afterwards. I wouldn't be me anymore. I would be me, but gay.



ANNA DRENAN (12)

IDENTITY

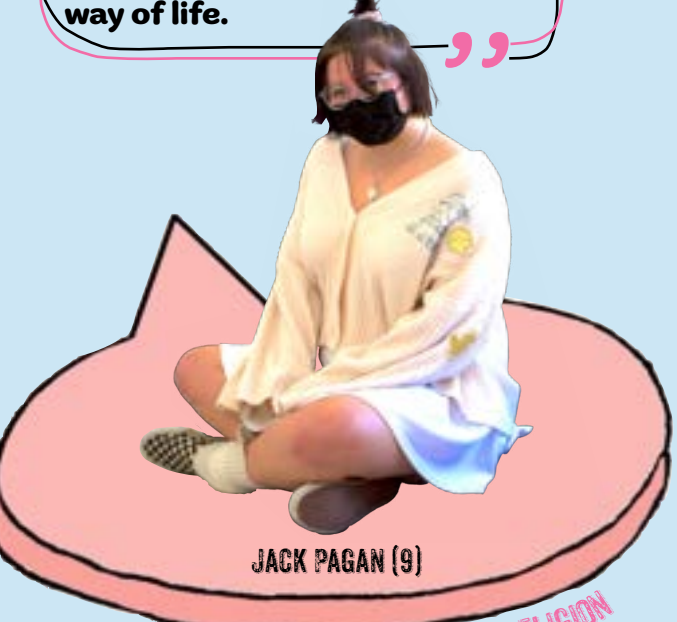
I am majoring in music and computer science. Both [my parents] are computer scientists, so that's the path I've been set on by them. It's not like they didn't want me to do music, they just wanted me to have a 'backup plan,' a 'real career.' It's compromising between what they wanted and what I wanted, and it worked out.



HARRY GUAN (12)

CAREER

I think it's normal to have really tough conversations, especially religion wise, [like] discussing that I don't want to get baptized or that I don't want to go to a shrine. It's tough when your parents realize that you start making your own decisions, and stop following their way of life.



JACK PAGAN (9)

RELIGION

During the pandemic, I had a really big mental breakdown. My anxiety was risen [sky high] and one day, I just lost control of everything. And I broke into yelling and tears. I think my parents' turning point was when they saw me at such extreme, uncontrollable emotion, and they were like, 'Oh, I think we messed up.'



JAZMINE GODINEZ SANTIAGO (11)

MENTAL HEALTH

SETTING BOUNDARIES, BALANCING PRIVILEGES

Parents, students discuss evolving family dynamics throughout high school

By Erin Loh, Nicole Pimenta Innecco and Gabriela Salazar

From infancy through high school, a child's relationship with their parents constantly changes. Parents and children often learn to negotiate which liberties must be granted and which boundaries must be set for a wide range of topics.

INDEPENDENCE For some high schoolers, independence comes in the form of a debit card or getting their driver's license. For others, it may be the ability to go to bed as late as they want.

For sophomore Cassie Manjarrez, independence came in the form of being given the freedom to hang out with friends after school when she wants to.

Even with new privileges, however, Cassie's parents, Tony and Jessica Manjarrez, said in a phone interview that they still expect their daughter to provide enough information for them to ensure she stays safe.

"We need to know who, when and where," Jessica Manjarrez said. "Who are you going to be with? Do we know their parents?" Adding on, Tony Manjarrez said, "Obviously, there's some things where it's an absolute no, [like] if I don't know their parents or the friend, I try to keep her where she's not put into a situation in harm's way."

Tony Manjarrez said Cassie's increased independence as a high schooler has allowed him to trust her to take care of her siblings.

Cassie is the oldest of three currently living at home, and seeing her take charge has been rewarding, he said. "I see the way she is with them, the [same] way I was with my brothers and

sisters, and it makes me proud," Tony Manjarrez said. "[It's like,] 'Oh, Cassie's around. We don't need to be watching over them like a hawk.'"

For Tony Manjarrez, staying overnight at a music festival is an example of something he would not allow Cassie to do, which freshman Shannon Wu has a similar limitation for.

Wu said it took a lot of effort to convince her parents to let her go on the robotics team's Fresno trip, and even though they let her go in the end, she was held back from attending the club's second trip to Monterey.

"I want to go with my friends, and I would feel FOMO [fear of missing out] if I didn't go," Wu said. "My parents want to know the details of everything that's gonna happen on the trip — on day one, day two, day three. If I'm not communicating with them about what the trip entails, they'll be skeptical about it. At the end of the day, their opinions outweigh mine."

While Wu's parents keep her from attending certain trips, sophomore Itamar Zohar said his parents' philosophy is to give him "a ton of freedom," so he can explore for himself what constitutes a good versus bad decision.

"Mistakes that students create will [help them] learn how to avoid them next time," Zohar said. "If you don't fail, you won't learn to make decisions that are better and more wise than the previous decisions you have made."

ACADEMIC PRESSURE As schoolwork ramps up from kindergarten to high school, parental expectations



Tony and Jessica Manjarrez said Cassie's responsible character allows them to trust her to take care of her siblings. (Photos by Erin Loh)

surrounding academics tend to follow suit.

For junior Max Bonne, parental pressure to earn good grades has increased during his sophomore and junior year compared to his freshman year and middle school years.

"I'm pretty open about [school] with my parents," Bonne said. "I let them know what's coming up or I'll ask them for help sometimes. They're pretty helpful when I have questions. [Sometimes] I let them tell me what they think is the best idea, and I'll do whatever I feel is right and hope they line up."

However, for students like freshman Yashvi Chitela, parental expectations regarding academics are more difficult to live up to. Chitela said his parents expect him to earn all A's and impose consequences for lower grades, including taking away his phone or access to video games.

"A B is not bad," Chitela said. "While going home, my dad talks about my grades. It's annoying hearing it every day, even though my grades are just fine."

DATING According to a 2015 Pew Research poll, 35% of high schoolers have some dating or



ILLUSTRATIONS AND PHOTOS BY ERIN LOH AND NICOLE PIMENTA INNECCO

PAGE BY ERIN LOH, NICOLE PIMENTA INNECCO AND GABRIELA SALAZAR