

## HAILEY LA MONTE | PRESTON'S CANDY & ICE CREAM

When junior Hailey La Monte stopped by Preston's Candy & Ice Cream in Burlingame hoping to volunteer, the owner of the small business ended up offering La Monte a summer job. La Monte first learned about Preston's Candy & Ice Cream at the Alameda Buddhist Temple. Irene Preston, the owner of the small business, was the president of the temple La Monte visits. After learning that Preston's shop was struggling because of the pandemic, La Monte decided to work there.

She filled out employment applications, work permits and received a food handling license before she started, giving her insight into the responsibilities that come with employment. "It was stuff that's very obvious in retrospect, but I'd never experienced before," La Monte said. "[I also had to learn] how to do time cards, set up for [shipments] [and] do something as small as negotiate [my] salary and hours."

La Monte's job entails scooping ice cream and working at the register, teaching her to work with people, [handle] money and the effort that goes into running a small business. "[I wanted to work there] because it's related to a community that I'm a part of," La Monte said. "There were lots of people coming in and out who are also from the temple, so I felt really connected with the community."

Over the summer, La Monte participated in summer programs while also working at Preston's Candy & Ice Cream. "If I wasn't going to be doing a class, [working was] my second option to do something worthwhile for the summer," La Monte said. "Also I feel like the younger you start with a job, the easier it is to get better jobs."

Right now, La Monte is content with her job at the small business in Burlingame, and she hopes to continue working there.

"I'm really enjoying working for a family-owned place [because] I get to work directly with my boss, rather than [with] a manager," La Monte said.

Working at a small business over the summer provided La Monte with insight around the inner workings of what it means to have a job and the responsibilities that come with it.

## ANDREA SAN MIGUEL | CAMP GALILEO

Senior Andrea San Miguel is an aspiring education major and teacher. Although she has previous experience working with kids during Aragon Robotics workshops, San Miguel received her first paid opportunity this past summer as a Summer Operations Intern at Camp Galileo in Belmont, a camp for kids ages four to 14.

"A lot of my friends know that I want to be a teacher and I like working with kids," San Miguel said. "One day somebody was like, 'You look like you would work at Galileo'. [Then] I ... saw [it] on the College and Career Center opportunities slideshow."

The application process consisted of submitting a resume and participating in a group interview with scenario-based questions. After her acceptance, San Miguel started her position in late June and worked six-hour days while earning a \$16.50 hourly wage.

Her primary responsibility was overseeing the camp.

"I would go into all the classrooms to ... make sure that each of them got their break," San Miguel said. "[When] a couple of our staff got COVID[-19] or [were] going to come ... late, I would fill in for them."

To learn teaching tactics and effective communication, San Miguel went through paid training on a platform exclusive to Galileo staff called Tele-scope. In addition, she learned how to inject an Epi-Pen and respond to campus threats.

Despite the training, San Miguel had to learn certain procedures on the job, such as dealing with a young camper with emotional issues.

"I [saw] him crying on the floor," San Miguel said. "[His] team leader ... said that he saw a bouncy house for another camp ... next door [that] he really wanted to go [to]. [As] weeks went by, he started to run away ... to a point where it was unsafe because ... we didn't know where he [was]. [Eventually] ... his family did pull him out of camp."

San Miguel's experience at Galileo was full of small joys. Being silly with the campers was the highlight of her job.

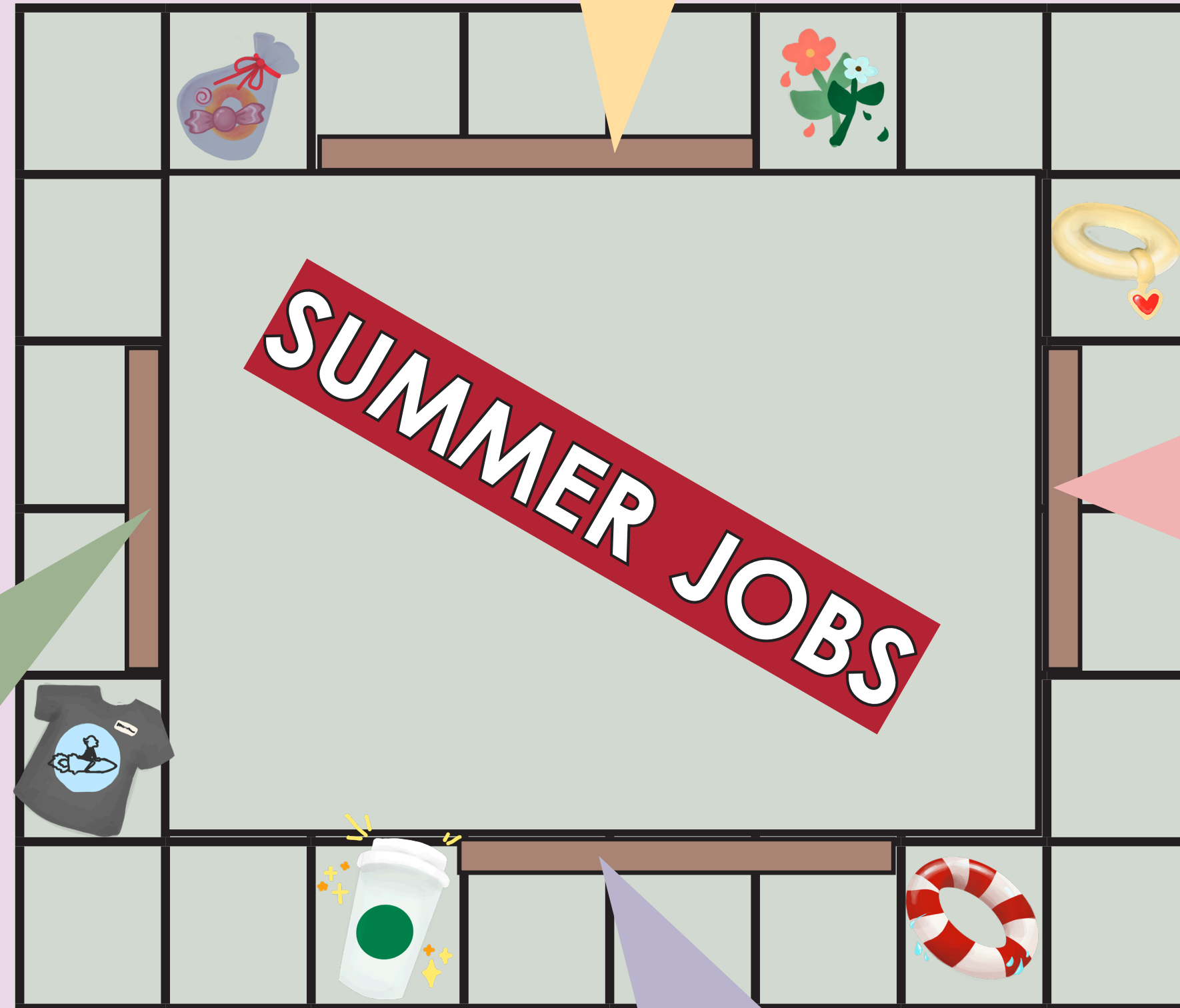
"[One] time [they] asked me to draw them a flamingo and I'm not a good drawer, [so] they laughed at it," San Miguel said. "[They] proceeded to make other drawings like mine so that we [could] make fun of it together. [During] our water days, ... they would throw water balloons at me [and] try [to] tag me. [It] ... brings some of my [inner] child out."

San Miguel enjoyed her time at Galileo so much that she extended her time there and worked an additional two hours per day. However, when the camp director became severely sick and had to leave, things went downhill.

"Our assisting camp director ... became camp director," San Miguel said. "This is her first year at Galileo [so] ... she's very inexperienced. I was the main person helping families check in. [Sometimes] ... she would be watching TV. We sent ... the regional director of Galileo a complaint letter [in which] I was directly quoted."

Other troubling incidents included initiating inappropriate conversations surrounding alcohol and love life in the workplace, as well as oversharing personal information such as instances of the director not taking her bipolar disorder medication. There were only three days of camp left by the time the regional director was notified, so no immediate action was taken.

Nevertheless, working at Galileo was a valuable experience for San Miguel. It gave her more experience working with kids of all ages in a fun way.



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## ANA HUSSAIN | LOVISA

After her family member saw an advertisement that Hillsdale Mall was hiring, senior Ana Hussain was encouraged to apply for a job at Lovisa, a jewelry store there.

"I worked at the storefront, [which is] a really small area," Hussain said. "[It had] one room and no storage room. So [I was] on my feet all day, helping customers, styling them, checking them out, doing hourly stats and closing the store."

Hussain began her job at the same time as many other new coworkers. Moving through training to working together daily allowed them to grow close to one another.

"I trusted my co-workers, and I had a lot of fun with them when we worked together, which was almost every shift," Hussain said.

As she continued to work, however, red flags began to pop up with her boss' treatment of employees who no longer worked there.

"I noticed that every time we had someone who quit or got fired, ... [my boss] would talk about them behind their back ... and say 'They never did this or that right' ... [or] 'I'm glad they're gone,'" Hussain said. "That made me have mixed feelings toward her because she was really sweet to my face, but who knows what she was saying behind my back."

Hussain also found communication with both her boss and manager challenging.

"[My boss] was putting a little bit of pressure on me to work more hours," Hussain said. "But the main thing that kind of pushed me over the edge ... was [that] my relationship with my manager got very unprofessional."

Hussain found it hard to reach her manager at all, even when emergencies came up, such as the gate to the storefront being broken at closing time. Hussain was forced to keep the store open for an extra hour and assist customers while she attempted to reach her manager.

The final straw came when Hussain discovered that a coworker had publicized that Hussain wanted to quit, causing the store manager and regional manager to start looking for her replacement while she was still employed.

Shortly after, Hussain quit her job at Lovisa. Still, she feels the experience was valuable because it gave her a sense of what to look for in future jobs.

"It was my first job, so I got to learn how a company or store business works, which I had never really seen before," Hussain said. "Now I'm working for a small business."

While Hussain hopes not to return to a job in retail, she will continue to work at a local cookie shop, Cookiez by Sara, during the school year.

## JASPER GAN | JOINVILLE/KING SWIM CENTER

Junior Jasper Gan, who has swam competitively for many years, took a job this summer as a lifeguard for the City of San Mateo. Having never worked a job before, Gan saw this as the perfect opportunity to try one.

"My mom has a group chat with ... other parents in the same community, [and] she found [the lifeguard job] posted there," Gan said. "At the time, I was looking for something to do and before this, I was considering becoming a camp counselor, so it was a good opportunity."

Before he could work though, Gan had to complete sufficient training.

"First was getting lifeguard certified, [which was] a full weekend that consisted of Red Cross training [among other things]," Gan said. "Then, we had a week of training for the job itself. ... Between eight [AM] to four [PM], [we] would practice drills, ... scenarios, ... first aid and water rescues. Then every Friday, we had drills to keep [our] memory fresh."

When Gan first took the job, he only expected to be a lifeguard, but ended up instructing as well.

"[Instructing] actually looked pretty fun," he said. "[But] I ... didn't really expect ... the amount of time I had to put into it, especially the [rigorous] training."

Though the training was difficult, Gan found the job itself to be low-maintenance and worked well with the other lifeguards and instructors, who were the same age. Gan's overall experience was positive and unless other plans come up, he hopes to work there again next summer.