

# WORDS FROM THE WISE

by Briana Lopez

The 2021-2022 school year has come to its end. I am sure a lot of us are preparing for this year to end so we can conclude this chapter and turn the page to the next. For underclassmen, we have a general idea of where our story is headed as we return to high school this coming August. Yet



for seniors, after graduation, nothing is for certain.

“I am feeling a combination of both anxiety and relief. It’s really a happy-sad combo. The prospect of leaving home and fending for myself while looking after my education is something that truly frightens me,” confided Angela Aniciete when asked about her feelings on the final day for seniors—May 19. She is excited about beginning a new chapter in her life and is quite happy with how her time

in high school came and went.

“There is this emotion of clarity,” opened Cloey Caprio. “Knowing that I’m going to finally reach the end of this long, crazy, emotional roller coaster and put it all in this box in my mind as memories to continue on and become an adult with bigger responsibility.”

And much like Caprio, Juliet Aguh confessed: “I’m honestly just ready to go. It feels odd to have nothing to do. It’s like a weight has been lifted... But I’m still bored.”

For Caprio, she will most miss her time and opportunities within Choir. “Singing the National Anthem at the rally was awesome,” she giggled. Prior to her doing so, Caprio had faced criticism about her voice being too weak and feared that she could not carry notes as long as necessary as some had suggested. “I’m so proud of myself for not listening to what others had to say,” she smirked.

Caprio plans to continue singing and begin recording music as she works at her friend’s recording studio as an intern.



Like Caprio, Aguh was a member of Choir. Having not been to an amusement park in five years, the trip she took with Choir was nothing short of “magical.” The trip to Knott’s Berry Farm offered “time to bond” and allowed for Aguh to overcome her “fear of theme park rides.”

Aguh will further her education in the fall by attending UCLA. She plans to major in statistics, but before all that, she “plans on getting a summer job.”

Aniciete will venture south and attend the University of San Diego where she plans to major in biochemistry. “I am pursuing a career as a chemical pathologist or perhaps a pharmacologist,” she obliged. Being self-disciplined has helped Aniciete through high school, but she admittedly acknowledged “taking care of your mental health is key. As someone that is very studious and hard-working, I tend to neglect myself in ways that are hard to understand.” Of all things, it was Prom Night that taught Aniciete that it is okay to let loose and have fun every now and then: “it allowed me escape daily pressures and just accept and learn to have fun with friends and people I love.”

I feel inspired by these amazing people, and I am saddened they have to leave. Let these people be your role models and inspire you to try your best in everything you set your mind to. As Aguh stated: “do not give up; school matters. Give yourself an easier time in the future and at least try. It’ll open doors for you.”

*Lego continued.*

The Botanical collection is exactly what the name connotes—a theme of plant-based LEGO sets, a top favorite being the *Bird of Paradise*. The set is often labeled as backorder on the LEGO website, and it is difficult to find in store. The set consists of a simple base with a black flowerpot and each leaf and individual stem is built from incredibly unique LEGO pieces that are not common in other sets; another reason why the Botanical collection is very distinctive from other LEGO sets.



Aside from the sets themselves, one of the more affordable LEGO options that is equally fun to collect is the blind bag minifigures. LEGO has a series of minifigures that come out every year, and within each line is a range of 12 to 16 different figures to collect; each



with unique accessories and new facial designs that differentiate each figure from one another. Most of the minifigure series’ have no set theme, with an exception for a few lines that have included minifigures based on a miscellaneous number of characters from *Disney*, *Harry Potter*, and *Marvel* to name a few.

Most blind bags have a starting price of \$5 which can eventually get expensive if you are hunting for a specific character. Collecting minifigures like the sets comes down to the experience of anticipating which character you will get in your blind bag and being able to

see your collection come together.

Part of the experience of building LEGO sets also includes finding a place to store them, which can often be a very tedious process, but it does make the experience tenfold more fun. In addition to building the sets, if you are a dedicated LEGO collector, LEGO releases its sets in two waves. The first wave runs from January to December during the winter season, and the second wave is from June to August for summer releases.

Building the sets may require patience and a keen eye, but the challenge of opening multiple bags of LEGOs and keeping track of your building process enriches the experience of building your set. Collecting LEGO is a very tedious hobby that can get expensive very quickly, which is another reason summer is the perfect time to get a summer job and fund the hobbies that bring joy to you. Whether your summer is productive or not, LEGO can keep you occupied this summer.

