

THE MORRISON SHARK POST



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High School Catalyst - MAC (ft. Axis)

By Grace Hsu

Whether it was by seeing red and white posters hanging around the high school hallways or hearing about a group called “Axis” in TTT, it soon became pretty clear to the high school students that this year’s Catalyst retreat would be a little different.

On Friday, September 1st, every high school student in the entire Morrison system attended an event called “Axis” at the Morrison Taichung Campus. Early that morning, students were picked up from MAK, Tainan, and various other places in Kaohsiung for the two-hour bus ride up north. Upon arrival, they spent time with friends from other campuses until the first learning session in the auditorium. A worship team comprised of teachers from all three campuses began the first session by leading the entire Morrison high school community in worshipping God through music.

Afterwards, the invited speakers introduced themselves. Chad Rouse and Evan Baker had come to Taiwan as part of a circuit of Southeast Asia, speaking on behalf of the group Axis (hence the name of the Friday session). Their two presentations, given in the morning and afternoon respectively, were titled “Alone Together” and “We are What We Love.” Both topics centered around the overarching theme “Marketplace of Ideas.”

In these two sessions, Rouse and Baker led the student body to think critically about the way they use the internet and how what we spend our time doing (or viewing) shows our true passions, especially as those pursuits replace God. That afternoon, the assembled students then attended one of the two forums where the Axis speakers delved deeper into their two topics.

Later that evening, although the MAK and MAT buses had rolled off for home and Morrison Taichung students were let out of school, the campus was not abandoned for the night. Catalyst, the annual high school spiritual retreat, had just begun. While Axis was attended by every high school student, many students from all three campuses chose to stay the night for Catalyst. After a pizza dinner near the gym, students piled back into the auditorium for a session titled “Spend Yourself,” in which the two Axis speakers elaborated further on the topic “Marketplace of ideas,” explaining how different situations in first and third world countries set us up for different types of problems, such as physical versus mental bondage. This was followed by discussion groups made up of students from different campuses. Later, they played a round of underground church, the thrilling chase game that has become an annual Catalyst tradition.

The following morning included two more sessions by Rouse and Baker titled “Confidence for the Resurrection” and “What to Do with Doubt.” In these two final talks, they encouraged the students to engage in their faith with both their hearts and minds, whether it be through examining apologetic evidence for Christ’s resurrection or dealing rationally with doubt in themselves and others. These sessions were followed by the same discussion groups as the night before.

Also featured in this program were worship sessions (two Friday, one Saturday) led by worship teams from MAK, MAC, and MAT. There was also a senior advice panel for guys and girls.

Catalyst concluded with a speaker Q&A, a final time with the Axis speakers before boarding the buses and setting off for home.

Overall, students seemed to enjoy the event, especially the speakers who came from Axis. Their presentations and topics were commended by high schoolers as being “very effective,” “actually very interesting,” and “honest and straightforward.” A senior said that “the topics are very applicable to today,” while Carmen Clemente in 10th grade remarked, “I thought the speakers were very professional and have helped me... [shed] light on Christianity and what it means to be a Christian.”



MAK high school worship team led worship for Catalyst on Friday night. // Photo from MAK Yearbook

Songs You May or May Not Have Heard

By Esther Yao and Emma Wyss

Shine A Light - BANNERS

Michael Joseph Nelson from Liverpool (the singer-songwriter behind this empowering song), signed with Island Records in 2015. His second single, “Shine A Light,” was released in August 2015 under the name BANNERS.

According to BANNERS, this song is about the being lost at sea and

desperately searching for a beacon of light before a wave comes to pull you under. This song is about that person that offers you a hand when nothing is going right for you. Starting off slowly, the track builds up in rhythm and volume, giving the listeners a feeling of hope and courage. It is a great song to listen to when you are feeling down.

“Shine A Light” is featured in Fifa 16 and in the new movie The

Space Between Us. Other songs by Nelson include: “Start A Riot”, “Half Light”, “Someone To You”, and “Holy Ground.”

King - Lauren Aquilina

Lauren Aquilina, a singer-songwriter from Bristol, began her career by publishing her songs on Youtube. “King” is an encourage-

ment Aquilina wrote for people who are struggling with their failures and pain in life.

Through the song, she reassures people that everything is going to be fine, and tells them to appreciate all their successes in life instead of focusing on their faults. This song is beautifully written with a simple piano melody in the background. It is calm, and gentle; and a great song for relaxation.

IN THIS ISSUE:

New
Sharks
pg. 2-4

On Schedule
and Lockers
pg. 7-8

Strange
Occurrences
pg. 10

Thrice the
Advice
pg. 12

ES Joins an Upstanding Community

By Anna Laytham

The week of September 11th to 15th was Community Week at MAK for elementary students. The purpose of Community Week was for students and other members of the MAK family to practice and make a habit of being true and kind to the people and environment around them.

Each morning, Mr. Chan defined what it means to be an encouraging member of the community. On Monday, students were given a checklist of creative ways to be kind and responsible in their environment. Some of the ideas on the checklist given to students on Monday were picking up trash around the campus, closing building

doors, and talking to someone you wouldn't normally talk to. Looking back on this week, students can put these ideas into practice or come up with their own creative ideas on how to be an enthusiastic and supportive member of the community.

Students were also introduced to the main theme of Community Week: How to be an upstander, as opposed to being an uninvolved bystander. Being an upstander can be done by speaking out when seeing someone else treated negatively, telling a trusted adult, and "being a buddy" to the negatively treated student.

On Wednesday, Mr. Chan, using middle school students as ac-

tors, went over situations to demonstrate when it is appropriate to be an upstander and when you're simply being a tattletale. Situations when it is appropriate to be an upstander are when you are trying to get someone out of trouble, when something harmful or dangerous is happening, when the person is purposefully being inappropriate/annoying/rude, or when it's obvious you need help from an adult. Situations when you are simply being a "tattletale" are when you are trying to get someone into trouble, when a person's action is accidental, or when you can solve a problem on your own.

On Thursday, the elemen-

tary teachers, wearing crazy socks, went out during morning recess and danced to "The Bully" to spread the word on how to be an upstander. The remainder of the week, the students learned how to be a positive member of the community. The week was concluded on Friday with the students having a crazy sock day.

Although the Community Week was made for elementary students, all of the MAK community can practice responsibility, kindness, and honor toward the campus and other people. Community Week can be a reminder for all of us to continue our 2017-2018 school year in positivity and kindness.

FEATURES

The New Mastermind Behind the SharkPost - Ms. Brown

By Carmen Clemente

It is the start of another school year here at MAK, and we are seeing a lot of new faces. One of these new faces is Ms. Brown, who teaches 9th and 10th grade English and Bible, runs the high school's Advanced Writing class, and sponsors our very own SharkPost.

Ms. Brown was born in Mississippi but raised in a small town in southwest Arkansas, the Land of Opportunity. For school, she studied at the University of Arkansas. She majored in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing and double minored in History and Medieval & Renaissance studies. In addition, Ms. Brown has also earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching.

Her hobbies include reading, painting, hiking, searching for waterfalls, travelling, and writing. An interesting fact about her is that she was born blind. If you want to hear the story, don't be shy to ask her! A hidden talent of hers is balancing objects on her chin. During our interview, she balanced one of the small, colorful tables in HS1 on her chin for about ten seconds!

When playing a game of Quickfire, Ms. Brown revealed some of her deepest, darkest secrets

(not really). Her favorite food is spaghetti, and her favorite tea at the moment is passion fruit tea, though her favorite drink is currently a dragon fruit smoothie. Hamilton is her favorite musical, her favorite book is *The Shack* by Paul Young, and her favorite movie is *The Lion King*. Finally, I asked her who her favorite book character is, which is most likely the hardest question to ask an English teacher. After thinking for a few moments, she stated it would be either Samwise Gamgee from *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy or Lucy Pevensie from the *Narnia* series.

Her favorite aspect of Taiwan so far is how the fall season feels like summer. She likes the tea, the school water fountains with their three different temperatures, and how she doesn't have to worry about whether or not students do their homework, as in America that was something she had struggled with as a teacher.

An aspect of America she misses is the fresh air. We laughed about it as she quickly added, "It's not that I can't breathe here, but in Arkansas it smells like grass, flowers, and trees." However, she doesn't miss the political turmoil in the US.



Ms. Brown had fun taking a photo next to a statue at Sandimen.

For her, it's calmer here in Taiwan.

When asked about how she discovered MAK, her short answer was Jesus. The long answer she gave was she that woke up in the middle of the night with this voice inside her head telling her to teach abroad. "That's stupid," she had thought. "I'm going back to sleep." In church, she felt the same pull once more, telling her to teach abroad. She argued with Jesus, saying she had student loans, and she couldn't possibly teach abroad. Finally, that night, she gave in, saying she'd only look at possibilities. She emailed her professor, a non-Christian, and asked for suggestions. The professor urged her to sign up for an interna-

tional teacher recruitment fair in Iowa. When given a list of schools, she selected Morrison Academy Taiwan, and from then on, it went from "I could teach abroad" to "I WILL teach abroad." The rest is history.

We are all so happy Ms. Brown is teaching here at MAK, and we cannot wait to see what the future holds. A piece of advice she would offer to the students here at MAK is this: "Choose your mistakes wisely because we're going to make mistakes no matter what, but you might as well choose the things you'll learn by experience and let other people make the dumb mistakes."

Discovering Ms. Ro

By Vivian Lu

At the start of a new school year, new faces can be seen everywhere in the school. One of these new arrivals is Ms. Ro, the fifth grade teacher and JV girls volleyball coach. Ms. Ro is fresh out of college and studied in Wheaton, Illinois, before coming to MAK. Ms. Ro also attended high school in China. She has two younger brothers, one in university and one still in high school. As a sports coach, it is to no surprise that Ms. Ro loves to play volleyball, basketball, and soccer. She also loves music, whether it be listening to her radio or playing piano or guitar.

When asked what was the craziest thing she has ever done, Ms. Ro thought for a while before finally admitting, “one time, I filled my school hallway up with bubbles as a prank” with a grin. Upon hearing this, my eyes lit up, thinking this would be an intriguing idea for the annual senior prank.

Some of Ms. Ro’s most memorable experiences were when she was in high school and got to travel around the world with friends for sports. She had the opportunity to go to Thailand and Kaohsiung; she was even able to play at KAS! Now, whenever she goes to KAS, wonderful high school memories flood back into her mind.

When Ms. Ro attended a Christian international high school in Beijing, she fell in love with the community there. One reason she decided to come to MAK was because it has a similar community. Another reason she came here to teach was because MAK is the place where God called her to serve.

Because MAK is in Taiwan, it has uniquely Taiwanese delicacies and differs from America in its climate. As a food lover who loves Korean food (but could also eat pizza every day), the delicious food and its multiplicity of options are Ms. Ro’s favourite things about Taiwan. However, even though she is able to enjoy the food, Ms. Ro misses something she had to give up in her move to Taiwan: the winters she loved in Chicago. Many winter lovers have a hard time coping with

the extreme heat during summers in Taiwan. However, because Ms. Ro spent a large part of her childhood in east Asia, the heat is not a huge problem for her.

Being away from family in an unfamiliar city is hard for many people and Ms. Ro is no exception. The hardest challenge Ms. Ro has ever had to overcome was moving to America by herself for one semester in high school while her parents were living halfway around the world in Beijing. During this time, she had to do her own laundry and homework; she also had to be responsible for herself.

Ms. Ro’s favourite Bible verse is Psalms 125:1-2. It says, “Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people both now and forevermore.” These are very powerful and comforting verses that can serve as an encouragement to all of us.

Finally, Ms. Ro wants to tell everyone this: “When you are honoring God and following His commands, that’s when you’ll be the happiest.” This is a very meaningful message and a useful guide in life. We look forward to what Ms. Ro has to bring to MAK for this awesome school year!



Ms. Row smiles radiantly in front of the camera. - Photo from MAK Flickr

A Chat with Mrs. LaPiana

By Kristen Tam

If you peek your head into the second grade classroom, you will see a group of energetic students laughing and learning along with their equally enthusiastic teacher, Mrs. LaPiana!

Mrs. LaPiana is the new second grade teacher at MAK, and I must say it was a joy getting to know her during our interview. She and her husband moved here from Raleigh, North Carolina, where she’d lived for almost her entire life. Before she came to Morrison, Mrs. LaPiana attended Appalachian State University where she met her husband. After they graduated, they got married and Mrs. LaPiana started a first grade teaching job at Wakefield Elementary. One of the reasons she enjoys being a teacher is that everyday leads to something new and she can do different things in her classroom. She describes herself as a very hands-on teacher, preferring to let her students experience what they are being taught instead of explaining it to them.

The LaPianas knew that they would not stay in Raleigh; they wanted to travel and teach internationally as missionaries. “My husband and I always felt called to missions and so we’d praying since we started dating about where God wants us and what he wants us to do. So when we heard about Morrison, I was like ‘Oh this is great! Like, I want to teach internationally and this sounds like a really good school.’ We’d heard a lot of good things about it, so yeah! Now, we’re here!” said Mrs. Lapiana. As we were discussing this, Mrs. LaPiana said that it took a 24-hour trip for her and her husband to reach Taiwan, and she laughed along with me as she talked about how tired she was at the terminal. Nevertheless, they bring endless enthusiasm to MAK and are thankful they went on this exciting adventure.

One of the things Mrs. LaPiana and her husband enjoy about Taiwan is the food. “I would try anything!” she said. Both of the LaPianas are very adventurous eaters and seek to eat new things wherever they go. The only two things Mrs.



Mrs. LaPiana in her second grade classroom with her big bright smile.

LaPiana tried and ended up not liking are stinky tofu and pig intestine. However, she really enjoys drinking bubble tea. Her favorites include milk tea, green milk tea, and orange grapefruit tea. As for whether or not she likes boba or yeguo, it didn’t take long for her to say that boba trumped yeguo anyday, anytime.

Mrs. LaPiana enjoys craft-making, baking, and cooking. Leading up to Christmas, she usually makes all the presents for her friends, testing out and working with new materials in the process. This is the same for cooking and baking as she likes to try new recipes. Sometimes, though, things don’t always go as planned (more so for her baking). Despite this, she grows from those experiences and keeps cooking and making food.

I asked Mrs. LaPiana at the end of our interview what she would say to anyone (more specifically her own students) if they were struggling with anything difficult and wanted to give up. In response she said, “Don’t give up. Have a growth mindset and practice at it, and know that if you practice, you’ll improve. You’ll get better, and you’ll be able to do it someday-- Maybe not today or tomorrow, but if you stick with it, you’ll get there.”

If you happen to see the second grade class baking manna or making slime as they learn more about the world, you can smile and remember that it is the work of Mrs. LaPiana, someone who is doing her best to help and teach her students.

All about Mr. and Mrs. Taylor

By Deborah Jang and Emma Wyss

The average student may not know all of the new teachers, but most middle and high schoolers have likely seen the Taylors in the halls. Mr. Taylor teaches math, Bible, World History, Foundations of Algebra, two exploratories, and assistant coaches for girls' varsity basketball; he attended high school at Morrisons Taichung and Bethany. Mrs. Taylor works part-time



Mr. and Mrs. Taylor on Valentine's Day in Chattanooga, Tennessee

in the Learning Resources Center or LRC for short. She did some tutoring in her college writing center, so she has experience in teaching.

There were a few things that inspired Mr. Taylor to come to Morrison. In ninth grade, he transferred from a local school to Morrison Bethany. A big change from the local school, he noticed, was the way the teachers treated the students and how they invested themselves. He noticed that the teachers at Morrison cared immensely for their students and desired a relationship with them, even those they only had for a short time. In tenth grade at MAC, Mr. Taylor had a teacher named Mr. Chandler who taught his history class. Mr. Taylor thought his teacher was amazing; his way of teaching and how he lived inspired him to be a teacher himself. In his last year of graduate school, Mr. Taylor was teaching part-time in Chattanooga, Tennessee. When he saw an opening for MAK, he applied, thinking, *Why not?* Mr. and Mrs. Taylor met in Covenant College near Chattanooga, Tennessee,

in a history class called Formations of Europe. According to Mr. Taylor, they studied together in the fall, had many conversations over Christmas, and spent quality time together in the spring. Mr. Taylor asked Mrs. Taylor out a day after her birthday (March 2, 2014) upon her request to not ask her out on her birthday, for if they broke up, her birthday would be a sorrowful day. Exactly two years, eight months, and thirteen days later, he proposed. They moved to Taiwan two weeks after their marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor's stories actually crossed paths long before they met: Mrs. Taylor's grandfather attended a conference where Mr. Taylor's grandfather spoke!

Though Mr. Taylor attended Morrison Taichung, he has one specific memory of MAK from a rainy soccer tournament. He remembers a tall and uncoordinated MAK guy named Jack who slipped on the wet grass and fell down. As he was getting back up, his teammate kicked the ball and hit him in the face, causing him to fall again. However, he did not hold this

incident against MAK as he made his decision. He did not go to school with any of the MAK teachers, but he does know some people related to MAK, such as Mr. Owen's younger brother, Caleb, and Kenzie Muir.

Mr. Taylor's favorite tea depends on the weather. If it is sweltering outside, he likes passionfruit green tea. If it is bearable outdoors, he prefers boba milk tea. When he is ordering after a particularly "fat" meal, he drinks green tea with no sugar. If he is feeling either fat or rich, he chooses passion fruit green tea with both boba and ye guo. In addition to the aforementioned teas, he enjoys coffee-flavored ice cream with chocolate chips.

What wisdom would Mr. Taylor like to impart on current students, you ask? "Work hard ... know when to have fun and when to hunker down and work hard ... just work hard." He admits that he "probably had too much fun" in school, which proves students can make it if they, like him, are having too much fun. He would also like students to believe they can make their own future.

A Conversation with the Kadow

By Esther Yao

Before coming to Morrison Academy Kaohsiung, Mr. and Mrs. Kadow lived in Hong Kong. They worked at the same international Christian school for ten years. Prior to working in Hong Kong, they lived in Georgia.

Mrs. and Mr. Kadow met during college. They are blessed with two wonderful children. Some of the couple's hobbies are traveling internationally, doing mission work, and going to amusement parks and beaches. Mr. Kadow also enjoys reading. He commented, "My Kindle has so many free books downloaded that I think Amazon may give me an honorary degree in reading."

Mr. Kadow shared a story about a time when his family went on an 18-days cross-country (not running) trip going to the Colorado Rocky Mountains:

"This was when Google Maps was in the first stages of development so accuracy wasn't very pinpoint like it is today. We were slowly moving up a dusty gravel road in the wild using a shortcut to find an entrance to a National Park to spend the night. We came to the top of the mountain and

found the entrance but it was not an entrance for vehicles. The narrow path looked old, hardly used, and abandoned. Google was no longer my friend.

"As we turned around and headed down the mountain, we looked to the right of us and there was a wild fire about one kilometer away roaring up the mountain with huge flames burning everything in its path! This was not a time for roasting hot dogs or marshmallows. We tried our best to hurry down the mountain without bouncing off the road and losing our camper. I kept praying, 'Lord, please don't let the wind change and bring that wildfire our way so we won't become toast.' The wind did not change, we made it down the mountain, dust covered everything, and the remains of our gear was scattered around from all the bouncing. It was nerve-wracking to say the least. It didn't bother us to journey an extra six hours to the campsite that day since we did not become crispy critters. Google was my friend again and we made it to a campsite as the sun was gently settling down behind the Rocky Moun-

tain range.

"My son and I were quickly setting up the camper before we lost daylight and my wife and daughter went to look for the restroom facilities a short distance away amidst the semi dry terrain which is great for snakes and 'creepy crawlies' to hide. It had been a long day and my nerves had been active the whole time. Now my adrenaline was reaching its limits because darkness was soon making its appearance. We were in unfamiliar territory, and my two loved ones were out of sight.

"Suddenly, I heard my daughter cry out from a distance in the dimly lit landscape. 'Dad! Daaaaaad!' My thoughts were racing at nanosecond speed: 'Was she hurt? Where's mom? Is it a snake? Could it be stranger danger? a wild vicious animal ready to attack? As I raced towards her I still did not see mom, my anxiety level jumped a few meters higher, and when I reached her, she grabbed my hand and said, 'Dad, look at the sunset on the mountain! Isn't it beautiful? I want to share this moment with you!' It is amazing how fast fear, anxiety, and

emotions can change so fast and love appears instantly."

In addition, Mr. Kadow found the motorcycles in Taiwan very interesting. He stated, "When I first started driving here, I thought I was in a virtual reality game called Scooterland. Scooters were everywhere doing everything, weaving in and out, to and fro, and carrying all kinds of items, pets, and people."



Mr and Mrs. Kadow posed with Mr. and Mrs. Claus at a school Christmas event.

At the end of the interview, Mrs. Kadow shared one of her favorite bible verses -- 1 Peter 5:7. Mrs. Kadow encouraged students to remember that nothing is too great for God to handle, and that they should give all of their burden to God.

This Year's HouseCo Members: Fresh Out of the Oven

By Annabelle Chien (Note: The author is a Hammerhead with a shameless bias toward the Hammerhead house and a hint of sarcasm.)

The House system was introduced to the MAK middle school and high school two years ago. Since then, everyback-to-school day, middle schoolers are sorted into Houses by our Shark Hat -- reminiscent of the Sorting Hat -- randomly. Or actually not so randomly, as siblings were put in the same house, and teachers with spouses ended up in the same house as well. Starting then, there were House leaders as well, who made up HouseCo. HouseCo (instead of StuCo) up till this day plans the school events and does all the dirty work, more so than you can possibly imagine. In all seriousness, their time and dedication means the world to us, as without them, we would not have school events like Spirit Week, Banquet, Talent Show, and others to attend.

From the Hammerhead house, we have Katherine from 11th grade as well as Emirlyn from 12th grade. Katherine is extremely patient and devotes herself to the activities she helps plan in HouseCo, tending to get anxious when something goes wrong. She is artistically talented as well, having the ability to hand-draw all the Christmas-themed name cards for last year's banquet. As a HouseCo member, Katherine is also accepting and caring towards the people that she serves.

Her House-mate on the Council, Emirlyn, is the epitome of a frantically-concerned-yet-extremely-loving mother, not too far off from Mrs. Weasley. She can turn from friendly (when things are operating smoothly) to bossy and snappy (when someone needs to be reprimanded) in a snap of a finger. Such a quality is an admirable one as it comes in handy in situations such as hosting a room full of seniors and juniors at prom. As both Katherine and Emirlyn are veterans to the HouseCo team, with this year being their second year on the Council, we're excited to see what they have in store for us.

From the Tiger house is Jerry from 12th grade and Shoichi from 11th grade. Jerry is flexible as he "em-

braces risk, constant changes, and the unpredictables as an integral part of [his] life and [his] identity." The HouseCo team can definitely count on him when there are sudden changes made to the original plan. He is ready to make a positive impact to our high school and leave a long-lasting legacy for both himself as a senior and others. He enjoys the experiences of being on HouseCo, as this is also his second year.

Shoichi, on the other hand, will impress everyone with his extremely impressive (see what I did there?) soccer skills (which has nothing to do with HouseCo) and is not afraid to express all of his exceptional ideas, giving the HouseCo members more inspiration when they run out of ideas. He is also excited to be planning this year's banquet and prom. Surely, the Tigers know what they are doing, and we can definitely count on them!

From the Thresher house, we have Anson, our "introverted" HouseCo president, who is in 12th grade, and Anna, from the 10th grade. Anson likes the challenges HouseCo presents as well as dedicating himself to everything they do there. He hopes to make this year's events better than last year's and is excited to plan the upcoming banquet (like every other HouseCo member). He's also proud to contribute to HouseCo with his organization skills -- it really does take a lot of coordination and careful planning to make events happen.

Then, there's Anna, who's guilty pleasure is binge-watching the TV show Friends (honestly, girl, I get you, too), and eating ice cream and chocolate, which explains why she inhales any chocolate she sees (especially Annabelle's during English



and Bible). Her strength is coming up with ideas and giving the inspiration and motivation to turn those ideas into reality. When asked about why she joined HouseCo, she replied that she wanted to unify their house as a whole and contribute her ideas to HouseCo so that it can be brought to life. We love having you guys as two of our HouseCo members and can't wait to see what you imagine!

From the Mako house, there is Daniel from 11th grade, Grace

counting, she feels she has strengths the MAK community could use; she would really enjoy serving our community by being on HouseCo. Her strengths are perfectionism, which really does help when it comes to planning events, system optimization, and attention to detail. Grace looks forward to planning the banquet as much as we look forward to going to it and wants to make the Mako community a safe environment for students with varying personalities.



Top row (from left to right): Annette Huang, Grace Hsu, Jerry Chou, Anson Shyu, Emirlyn Yang, Anna Laytham
Bottom row (from left to right): Katherine Ma, Daniel Lee, Shoichi Miyazono

from 10th grade, and Annette from 9th grade. Mako house is special (only because they have three members representing their house on HouseCo). When asked about what his guilty pleasure is, Daniel confessed (proudly) his obsession with touching people's elbows (or wrists). He loves to contact people, send emails, and organize things. Daniel's mission statement for joining HouseCo put simply, is this: "to make the Makos great again". This in itself may sound silly, yet there is a lot of promise and commitment in it, and we will see what comes of such a serious declaration. He hopes to establish a mandatory 5 minute break in each class because of the too-rushed 5 minute passing period that exists (best of luck on that!).

Grace is extremely passionate about writing fiction besides her passion for her faith in Christ (WOOHOO!). She is not ashamed to tell us she would gladly waste time on reading a good book. Having been at MAK for 7 years and

Finally, we have Annette. Though she is a freshman, she has a lot to contribute to the HouseCo as she is extremely caring and friendly toward the people she knows and will help a friend if they are in need. She is stepping out of her comfort zone this year being on the HouseCo as the youngest member. But we know she brings great things!

Without our HouseCo team, our high school would not be where we are today. We would have no school events to attend, as they literally conjure up a plan for every single school event you could imagine with the exception of sports. They make our school an awesome community and ensure we enjoy our time here as students as best as we can. Though sometimes you may take them for granted, always know they dedicate a part of themselves to helping us plan events; they sacrifice their time, going through extreme measures to make things work. For that, we are grateful.

Kicking Off the Year

By Shoichi Miyazono

For the first time, MAK's soccer team has enough players to make up full Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity teams. With approximately thirty players, the teams this year seem especially promising.

For JV, with the contribution of the new freshmen, the players have already grown individually in their skills and together as a team. According to last year's JV soccer vice captain, Logan Muir, the team is full of "great young talent with the potential to become key members of future varsity squads."

Thanks to the return of certain seniors, the Varsity team is also optimistic about the 2017 season. With Scott Wang, known as "the Iron Wall," back between the goal posts, this year's defense is practically impenetrable. The midfielders have begun taking long shots, which will definitely assist the team in scoring, and the forwards are full of excellent dribblers and shooters. According to last year's soccer captain, Daniel Lee, this year's team is "the best I've ever seen [at MAK] so

far." With a team like this, winning the TISSA tournament is now more than just a dream.

However, according to Kevin Lin, a former MAK student (now a MAC student), their varsity team "does not consider us as rivals." He also stated that "MAK's Varsity has no hope at beating Taichung." On the contrary, after watching the defeat of MAC team on September 2nd, Shoichi Miyazono, a junior on the Varsity team, stated that "winning against MAC is certainly not impossible" and that "we can not wait to prove MAC wrong at the tournament."

On Friday, September 8th, both MAK teams were able to play against the community. The scrimmage ended in 2-0 for Varsity, with Shoichi Miyazono scoring both goals, and 0-1 for JV. Both the JV and Varsity teams played fairly well and learned more about each other's playing styles during the scrimmage. Then, on September 9th, despite the game the day before, MAK Varsity played against the I-Shou Medical University Soc-



The high school varsity and JV soccer team after their afternoon practice.

cer team. After an intense 90-minute game under the tormenting sun, the match ended with a score of 2-1, in favour of I-Shou Medical. Both teams strived for victory; during the second half the Varsity team's only freshman, Koki Shibata, scored an amazing goal. "The Iron Wall," an MAK senior, also played exceptionally well, with countless saves and an astonishing penalty block. This was the first loss that the Varsity team experienced this season, but nonetheless a necessary one; this game was invaluable to the Varsity team, helping its players realize that they needed to improve both as a team and individually. On September

16th, the Varsity boys played another 90-minute game at Chiayi. Everyone played well, and Koki Shibata scored another outstanding goal against the university team. Unfortunately, the opponent scored three goals in the first half, and the game ended in 3-1.

Our players are excited for the rest of the 2017 season and for their chances to grow in their defensive abilities, passing, shooting and dribbling skills, and knowledge of the game. The JV tournament will take place at MAK on October 21st, so come out to cheer the Sharks on to victory! The Varsity tournament will take place at MAC on October 28th.

Volleyball Season 2k17

By Annabelle Chien and Carmen Clemente (two current volleyball players)

Loud laughter spewed out from the gym doors, having traveled all the way from the center of the court to the four corners of the gym. The audience howled and roared, hoping such an action would secure a win for their favored team. Feet pounding on the court floor echoed throughout the room, as the girls shuffled to and from the center of the court to give each other high-fives, setting their hands in the middle of a circle, ready to deliver renditions of cheers they'd been performing for what seems like forever. Their broad smiles, extending from ear to ear, were evident to all as they raised their hands up in the air while shouting, "GO TEAM!"

This is volleyball. We work and practice on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for 1 hour and 45 minutes to be exact. From 3:25 till 5:10, we dedicate our energy and souls to volleyball and push ourselves to our absolute limits. Every second of our practice, we not only work to prepare ourselves for the volleyball exchange, on September 30th in Morrison Academy Taichung, and the tournaments, which will take place on October 21st



Sofia Gregg was concentrated in a receiving drill during practice.

at KAS for the Junior Varsity team and on October 28th at AST, Taichung for the Varsity team, we work for that part of our hearts that loves volleyball. The Varsity team has a total of 10 players, and the Junior Varsity team has 9.

Even the greatest volleyball players mess up and need guidance. That's where the coaches come into play. This year's Varsity team is led by Mr. Tam as the head coach and Mrs. Gregg as the assistant coach. Ms. Ro is coaching the JV team. Not only do they work to refine our skills physically, but they also encourage us con-

sistently. They build us into a team that can play smoothly and naturally together. Their dedication and commitment led to our achievements. We know they will do whatever it takes to ensure every individual reaches their full potential. We are grateful for them and will never take them for granted.

The gym is especially loud during volleyball practice, from the sounds of feet shuffling to voices yelling, "MINE!" For Varsity, a typical volleyball practice includes different workouts, serve-serve, setting and hitting, and blocking. Practices usually end with a scrimmage against each other, where we focus on what we've learned throughout those two hours. For JV, practice usually includes warm-ups with Varsity and peppering -- bump, set, and hit -- with a partner. Afterward, we transition to other activities, such as serve-serve, serving, setting-hitting-blocking, etc. As practice comes to a close, we play "Queen of the Court" or simply scrimmage, as well as work on rotation. Lastly, for the remaining 5 minutes or so, Coach Ro usually prays for us and asks us what we could improve on as a team, while

we sit in a small circle. Overall, practice is always challenging and tiring, but it's enjoyable and rewarding.

Our volleyball games are mostly scheduled on practice days. The first game of the season is always nerve-wracking for athletes, even more so when it's against your own teachers! JV lost the first set, and came close with the teachers in the second. While Varsity lost the first set, they crushed the teachers in the second. However, they lost again in the third set. Other scrimmages and tournaments are approaching. Remember to go support the Lady Sharks!

Peeking through the gym doors on practice days, you will see the Lady Sharks hard at work sharpening their skills, improving teamwork, and running through practice with their utmost attention. To them, volleyball is more than just a sport, it is an opportunity to learn more about their teammates, to refine their skills, to learn how to communicate better on and off the court, and much more. We feel a great season rising in front of us, and we are excited to be part of such awesome teams! Go Sharks!

Time for Rearrangement

By Megan Chen and Kristen Tam

The hallways used to be filled with laughter, giggling girls, and off-tune singing-- but not anymore. For the first time in the entire history of MAK, both the Middle School and High School lockers are no longer divided based on grade. Instead, they are divided by houses. This is an effort to encourage unity and bonding between house members. However, it only divides us further as a school. Now, the hallways are filled with awkward tension, downcast eyes, and loud seniors-- not exactly the picture of unity.

The strongest friendships start with conversation. Placing strangers next to each other isn't a magical spell that can help students bond. Honestly, yelling "bippity boppity boo!" would have a greater chance of success. To start a conversation with strangers, students need something to talk about and a way to connect. And sometimes the way your lockers are organized dictate the start of a conversation.

"Hey uh...were you the kid who scored 10 points in the last challenge?"

"When's the next house meeting?"

"Who's in charge of our house tea order?"

"Where's (insert name) from your house again?"

But let's be honest here. Even though these starters are awesome (since I [Kristen] made them up), they're never gonna work in real life. In all honesty, sentence starters dictated by our current locker organization will totally flop. The solution? Switch up the way our lockers are arranged.

Stop your weeping and fear no more, for there are alternative solutions in reach:

1. EXO K- We Got A Plan: Locker assignments by music preference

How amazing would it be if music constantly played in the halls? In this generation, one of the best ways to form unity is through

music. If the lockers were divided according to genres of music students listen to, the halls would be filled with more smiling and off-tune singing than ever before. Students will be able to connect with people they've never dreamed of talking to, let alone befriend. On top of that, music relieves stress. After a whole block of sleep-- I mean intense studying, students often feel restless, stressed, or simply very groggy. Stepping outside to the sound of music (not the movie soundtrack, necessarily) may just be the solution.

school. Imagine that! It sure makes everything better, doesn't it?

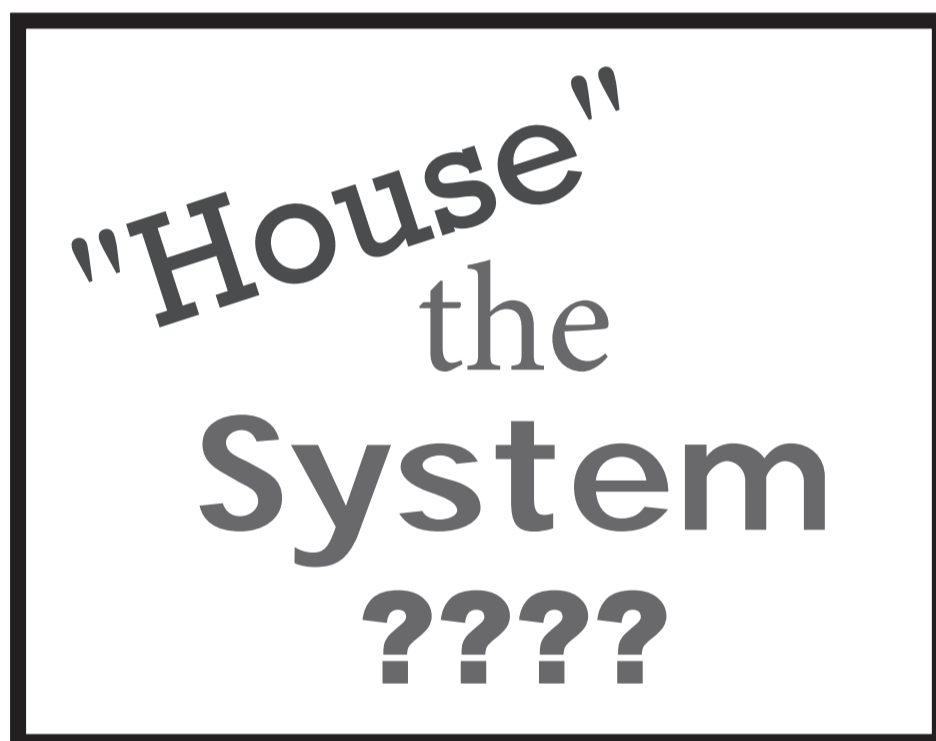
3. Shoot, stop kicking me: Locker assignments by sport preferences

Let's be honest: Even though not everyone plays a sport for the school team, most people have a favorite sport. At MAK, sports are a very prominent part of the Shark culture. Players are constantly trying their best to make the team of their dreams, while avid fans watch and cheer from the sidelines. Tournaments are a really big deal, too.

sooner or later you'll be bumping and peppering in the hallways like best buds (provided you don't break anything).

4. You've Almost Red It All: Locker assignments by colour preference

This is for us girls. Girls have to go through the daily struggles of finding a background of the #OOTDs and keeping up with their Instagram themes. Truly exhausting. If the lockers were organized by color preferences, life would be so much easier. Instead of a sea of red and black (or red only for you middle schoolers), students would see the halls become a living rainbow! Everything would be so much brighter and more colorful that it would light up anyone's day. As an added benefit, colours are proven to boost morale as well! According to the Huffington Post, seeing a shade of green relaxes people while seeing a tint of blue can calm students back down the day they fail three consecutive exams. (Citation: www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/27/how-color-affects-our-moo_n_1114790.html)



2. You Chippin'?: Locker assignments by food preference

The one characteristic that every human being shares is the common love of food. In fact, based on personal experience, the strongest friendships are based on food. Simply sharing a snack with someone can lead to a life long foodie friendship. Because students lack the ability to withstand their hunger until lunch, any kind of food becomes the most coveted treasure. If lockers were organized based on food preferences, people would be able to connect with one another while sharing their favorite snacks. There would be no more whining, no more stomachs rumbling, and no more rushing out the classroom before the bell and getting reprimanded. But most importantly of all, the students would be happy. At

What better a way to bond with the fellow lovers of your sport and your possible future teammates than to be locker buddies with them? If the lockers are organized by sport preferences, students will be able to grow closer as a team and community. Toss them a volleyball and

There you have it, ladies and gentlemen: the four perfect alternatives to organizing the lockers by houses. There will be no more awkward "sorrlys" and tentative silence in the halls, and we would see the MAK student body grow closer than ever. It can't get any better than that.



--> Photo from Eden Liu.

We are okay with the lockers by houses system actually (for now. . . for now. . .)

Unreasonable Time - High School Schedule Crisis

By Sunny Wang

New year, new classmates-- what else? New schedule! Speaking of schedules, one must talk about the high school's passing periods between classes. This year we only have a FIVE minute passing period, which is half of last year's. There's an extra class period

another minute. In addition, if we require the use of the bathroom, two more minutes are added to the trek, making each passing period around a 6-minute journey, and that's without taking in the fact that most teachers end class one to two minutes late into account. Students

We don't have time to use the bathroom and sometimes have to sprint from the middle school wing to the high school wing to be on time. But even though we run, we are sometimes still late and teachers give out tardies." Daniel Lee, a current junior, said.

Short passing periods not only affect our health, but they also affect our relationships with our classmates. With the lockers sorted by houses, our time to bond with our friends is already scarce. In addition, now we have short passing periods which minimize the time we have with our friends. "I think the passing period is just enough for us to get to classes. But with only five minutes, we don't really see our friends that much unless we are in the same class." Joyce Wu said.

I personally agree with all of the people above. I believe the passing periods have taken away

our time to use the restroom which results in us holding in until lunch. That is really unhealthy. I don't think any parents would like to hear about their children repressing the need to go to bathroom because of short passing periods. Furthermore, no students want to go to bathroom in the middle of class because they would miss part of the lecture. Some teachers suggested carrying all the morning textbooks to the first period. Have they considered how heavy are the textbooks? It is dangerous for anyone to carry 2 textbooks, laptop, pencil case, binder, and folders running in the hallway and sprinting down the stairs. I can already see some accidents with people sprinting. It is likely for people to slip, especially those with a lot of things. For this reason, the HS students strongly urge a change in the 5 minutes passing period.



Logan Muir (a MAK junior) sprinted down the high school hallway, attempting to follow the school schedule and get to class on time.

this year--the electives. As a result of this extra class, the schedule had to be condensed, and because of this, the passing periods have been reduced.

Due to the newly short break times, high school students are left with no choice but to perform all the rule-violating behaviors in order to get to class on time, from rushing and pushing people down the stairs, to sprinting through the hallways. We might as well get rid of PE class since we're able to get all our exercise from running class to class.

Our high school students are the leaders of MAK. They should always be in their best condition, but now they have become scrambling monkeys because of the short passing periods.

"It is a complete and utter outrage. We are expected to walk across the entire school to get to our lockers, followed by our next class which should take around two to four minutes in and of itself. We must also procure the necessary items for our next class out of our lockers, which easily takes

are left squeezed between impossibility and unwavering expectation that can only be solved by joining the Cross Country team, building a time machine, or preferably both." said Bill Scott, a current junior at MAK.

These short passing periods would be understandable if we had no need to use the restroom, possessed more bathroom stalls, or had access to wider hallways with more passing space. However, we have none of those, so students either have to wear running shoes or wear a diaper instead. Whenever we are late for class because of the short passing time, teachers automatically give out tardies. The only reason tardies can be waived is if the teacher of the previous class had let students out late. However, many times it is just that the hallway was too crowded or a student really had to use the restroom.

"Considering the schedule [having to include] the electives, I think it was reasonable for the school to change the passing period. Nonetheless, it is true that this system is stressing the students.

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Tutor / Counselor Background :
Harvard, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Stanford...

Hook in your college admissions officer. Start your essay the right way:

"When I first entered high school, I want to join the basketball team and wear the varsity captain jacket. At first, I thought it would be easy. But, I quickly realized that I was wrong. It would take a lot of commitment and hard work before I could succeed. But, in the end after a lot of perseverance, I finally got it."

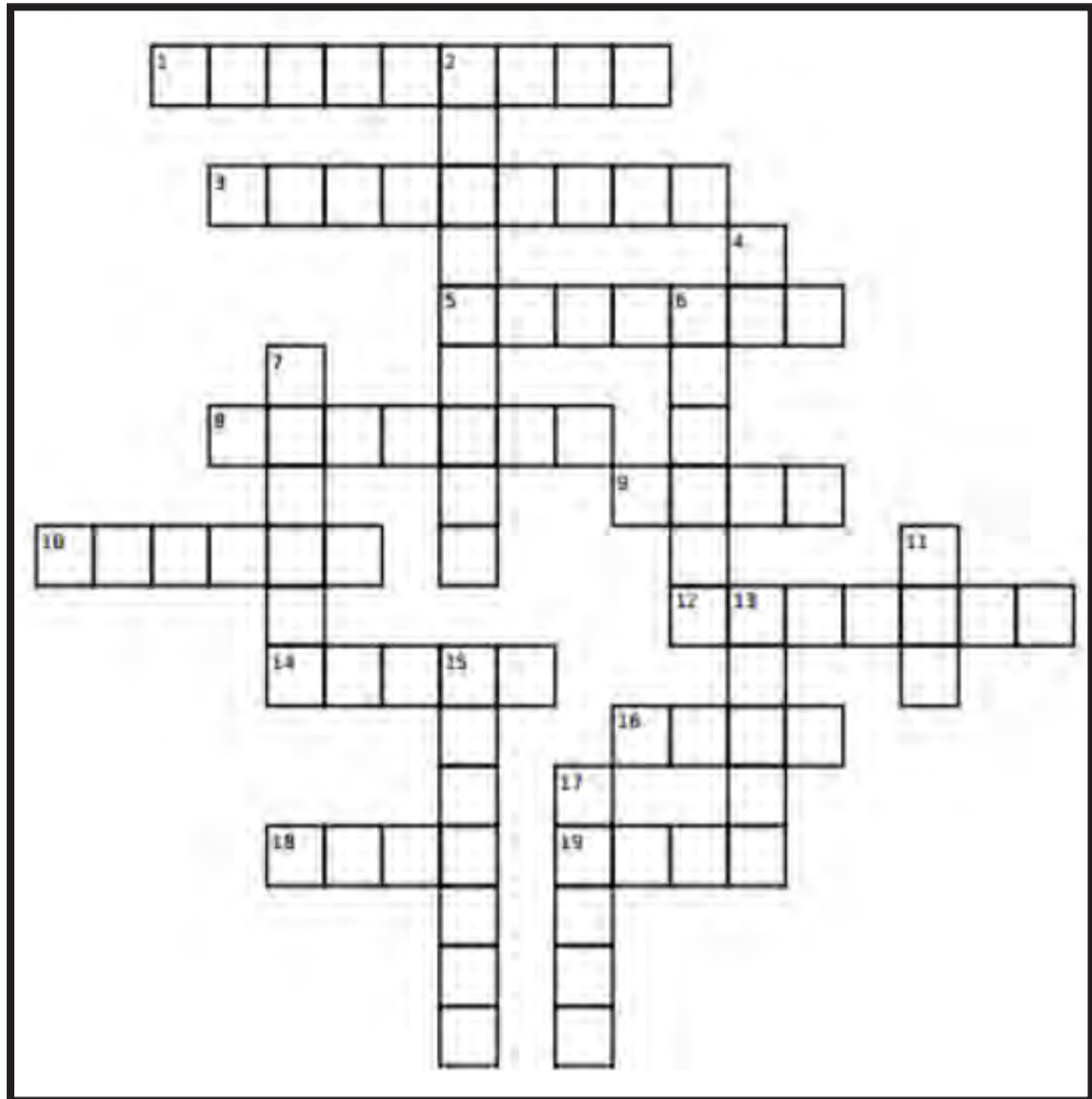
"At my school, an old, juice-stained yellow jacket sits in the athletics office. When I first approached it, I could smell the faint odor of ancient Vitamin C that the juice had imparted deep into each and every thread. It was gross. It was dirty, and I spent much of my freshmen year coveting it, hoping to one day wear it."

Before

After

CROSS WORD PUZZLE

By Daniel Lee and Bill Scott



Shoichi's Message

(2)A8 (3)A10 (8)D2 (4)A5 (1)A16 (4)A6 (4)D7 (1)A12
 (9)A1 (4)D13 (3)A14 (9)D2 (2)D15 (3)D17 (2)A18
 (2)alphabet (2)D11 (3)A10 (2)A5 (3)A5 (4)A9 (1)D7
 (1)A16 (2)A3 (6)A8 (7)D15 (6)A1 (5)A14 ?

Down

- 2. After Mr D'Brass stopped teaching, this class disappeared.
- 4. The new Women's JV volleyball coach (Ms. ____).
- 6. The student that assisted the first goal for men's varsity soccer this year.
- 7. This teacher's birthday is on the 3rd of March (Mrs. ____).
- 11. Ms Brown's favourite music genre.
- 13. The new student-president this year
- 15. The student that scored the first goal for men's varsity soccer this year.
- 17. Mrs Kadow's favourite Bible verse is 1 ____ 5:7.

Across

- 1. The board game that Mr. Taylor and other teachers enjoy playing.
- 3. Mr Owen's favourite soccer team which lost to Manchester City 5-0 on the 9th of September this year.
- 5. Ms Brabon's birthplace.
- 8. MAK didn't have a men's ____ soccer team last year.
- 9. The number of new House Council members this year.
- 10. A device that Mr Kadow uses to read books.
- 12. The new 2nd-grade teacher (Mrs ____).
- 14. The last name of the MMA fighter who spoke at Axis this year.
- 16. The teacher that played as goalie for this year's staff soccer team (Mr ____).
- 18. The student that scored the only goal for the men's Varsity soccer team in the scrimmage against I-Shou Medical University students.
- 19. The first name of the blond-haired speaker at Axis this year.

Comic By Gabrielle Liu

MUN MODEL UNITED NATIONS
 Because provoking people is "fun"
 (Labels: VATICAN, GAMBIA, RUSSIA, USA)

WSC WORLD SCHOLARS CUP
 Because studying is "fun"

SPEECH & DEBATE
 Because public humiliation is "fun"

MATH
 Because math is "fun"

4 CLUBS THAT YOUR MOM WANTS YOU TO JOIN

Just mention you are a member in any of these clubs and you'll automatically seem smarter.

By Grace Shieh and Bill Scott

Guess Who I Am

- I speak more than 2 languages.
- I live near an MRT station.
- I am between 172 cm to 180 cm tall.
- My favorite color is green.
- I don't play any instrument.
- My favorite food is sushi.
- I have a sister and a brother.
- I've attended KAS and I-shou before.
- I like soccer.

Send your answer to Brandon Tung at tungb@mca.org.tw
 The first one to get it right will have their name posted on the next issue and get a bag of chips!

ENTERTAINMENT

STRANGE OCCURRENCES

By Buster Yamiths and Dr. Hunch (Bill Scott and Austin Wang)

People have a terrible habit of not thinking, with the few thoughts that they do allow themselves leading inexorably back to the avoidance of thought. Happiness itself is the state of thoughtlessness that comes with a complete and thorough denial of that which makes sense. Night time rustlings of the curtains behind closed windows are attributed to the 'wind', mysterious unmarked black helicopters flying across public areas are merely undergoing 'military exercises', and the earth's circular shape is scientific fact which we know for certain thanks to 'mathematical theory' and 'satellite imagery' (have you ever even seen a satellite?) Everything happens for some reason or other, however unpleasant, and the shadow of an elephant never leads to a mouse.

With this philosophy in mind, two of the greatest brains of this century, and perhaps history itself, have decided to uncover the truth behind some of MAK's stranger and often unsettling occurrences. Dividing truth and deception, the inseparable crime-fighting duo, composed of the startling Buster Yamiths and the fearsome Dr. Eivor Hunch, have set out to uncover the mysteries hiding behind MAK's well painted walls, and these are their findings...

The Senior Plague:

On Friday, the 25th of August, Christine Lee awoke at 7:30 AM just as she would on any other normal day, only to find that something had gone terribly wrong. A careful analysis of her face in the mirror revealed a puffy red nose, drained colour from her cheeks and swollen neck glands. Our heroine was sick, and quite severely so. She rushed to her poor mother, who struggled to contain her horror as she donned her beloved daughter in a chalky white mask only to send her downhill, off to the grim future that lay ahead of her. Unknowing and unwilling, Christine would go on to become patient zero of the infamous Senior Plague of 2017.

The next few weeks were engulfed in a flurry of coughs, sneezes, sniffs and mask-muffled groans as case after case of the mysterious illness flew across the Senior class like a beachball in a sports crowd. Before long, all but a few of the hapless 12th graders had received their fair share of pathogens, leaving the Seniors slumped over desks and clinging to life by a narrow thread. However, amidst the madness of the pandemic, one clear vector of the illness arose, and he came from none other than the infected class itself. Dubbed 'Sneezy Jerry' by Mr. Chesebro, MAK's resident biologist, Jerry Chou emerged as the prime carrier of senior plague, infecting numerous classmates with the illness while remaining healthy himself for a suspiciously long time. A lead had just arisen when Dr. Hunch and I jumped right on its tail.

We started by following Sneezy Jerry into his sinister home environment, with Dr. Hunch and myself undergoing extreme moral compromise to attend the most dastardly of all MAK organisations, the maths club. After enduring an hour of extracurricular number sorcery, we adopted a stealthy fetal position inside the cabinets of HS4, waiting patiently until only our target remained in the room. Our diligence was rewarded when we heard footsteps entering the room followed by the signature rapid-fire Spanish of Señorita Brabon. Unfortunately our delinquency thence became our worst enemy, as years of inattention during Spanish class culminated in a solid 10 minutes of confusion, understanding only the evil laughter that could occasionally be heard coming from the suspicious duo.

Waiting a solid couple of minutes before emerging from our hideouts, we stumbled out into the hallway, catching a glimpse of Sneezy Jerry and Srta. Brabon parting ways at the gym entrance. Acting with the skillful alacrity of experience, we stole into the staff room and combed it thoroughly for suspicious documents, happening upon a strange letter written by the Sneezster himself to none other than the Srta. Brabon. The information enclosed in this sensitive document cannot be exposed for

security reasons, but we can reveal that it contained an agreement reached upon between the two parties, agreeing to the execution of a truly sickening plan in exchange for an A+ on Jerry's coming Bible test.

Although the motives behind this sequence of event remain to be fully uncovered, the illness was likely synthesized by Mr. Chesebro (who displayed a dazzling knowledge of the sickness' intricacies) and administered to the Seniors by high school teachers who wished to sedate the rowdy class, seeking to recreate the conditions that existed with last year's much quieter, more manageable senior class. It has also been confirmed that teachers increased the homework loads of their students in order to reduce sleep and as a result, infection rates in students increased.

-Buster Yamiths

Update: Unfortunately our investigation was compromised and Srta. Brabon and Sneezy Jerry injected themselves with the illness as a cover up, stay tuned for more.

The Bathroom Incident:



Detective Buster Yamiths (left) and Doctor Eivor Hunch Phd (right) posed solemnly after an injurious investigation into the mystery of the girl's bathroom.

Anonymous sources alerted us to strange events unfolding in the high school girl's bathroom, involving the unsettling rising of toilet seats in bathroom stalls. Due to the sensitive nature of this case, and the definite (and in this case inconvenient) male gender of Dr. Hunch and myself, we decided to enter the school in the early hours of a Saturday morning--when we were sure the area would be completely vacated. Employing sophisticated tactics of stealth, we attempted to infiltrate the bathroom. However, immediately after setting foot in the sacred place, we were met with a great and blinding light, at which point I turned on my heels and valiantly fled the scene whilst my ever-courageous partner ventured bravely forth to where no man had gone before.

He emerged minutes later, screaming in agony as he held in his hand his left eye which now lay gruesomely disconnected from his face, and with it lay the dark secrets that lay within the uncannily bright dungeon. In response I called off the investigation in the name of valor. If you happen to know anything about the terrible beast in the Women's bathroom please contact us immediately.

-Buster Yamiths

2018 CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Internship Program Implementation Recommendations:

1. Interns qualification: 11th to 12th grade students
2. Each academic year: only 3 classes
3. The first class (summer): 2018/5/28 ~ 2018/6/15
4. The second class (summer): 2018/7/2 ~ 2018/7/20
5. The third class (winter): 2018/11/26 ~ 2018/12/14
6. Each class only 4 ~6 places for Morrison students.



OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Meals and transportation fee will be subsidized by the company during the internship.

Course Outline

1. Professional Diamond identification Course
2. Marketing plans and executive management
3. Internship final presentation

Qualified interns will receive a certification after the final presentation by CAPSTONE DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Internship registration:

Email your resume to "vvdventure@gmail.com." Your resume must include personal and contact information, autobiography. We will contact you within 2 days for interview. Students who passes the interview will receive an email notification.



Thrice the Advice is back again-- stranger, expert-ier, and thrice-sier than ever. We want to remind you that like almost all advice givers, we're still not totally qualified to give advice even though we've upgraded our level of wisdom by going from freshmen to sophomores. This school year, advice will be framed within several broad topics, with each column providing various pieces of advice, differing perspectives, and commentary for you. Hopefully, this more open style will bring up new ideas and considerations for you to have a more positive and life-filled life.

By Anna Laytham, Gabrielle Liu, and Jasmin Kong



ON FRESH STARTS

A: Sometimes, the beginning of the school year is a fresh start. For me, this year didn't feel like a fresh start as it usually would. Fresh starts can occur anytime though, and I need to remember this myself. They can be a 10 second, 10 minute, or even a few-hour mental and physical break from whatever you need to break. They involve making the decision to take care of yourself, go for walks, drink lots of water, or buy a planner that looks pretty so you can be more organized. Fresh starts can happen in just a moment when you take that moment to calm yourself down and restart. Fresh starts are waking up at 5 am just to watch the sunrise or changing the way you've done something for a year-- just to have a new start.

G: "These humans," the alien thought when he landed, "have got to stop being so mainstream." He didn't arrive in some "spaceship." It was called a vacuum cleaner: An automobile that traverses empty space, sucking up litter along the way for fuel. Two weeks later, he got sick of people trying to guess his reason for coming to such a blue planet. "No! I didn't come here for a fresh start!" he had finally screamed, "You don't need to go light years away to discover a new self or depend on a planet's position around a star before you initiate change! My planet is awesome-- there are three suns which rise and set within your strange 24 hour days, yet none of us wait for one of the three sunrises to be a better person."

J: A new school year means a new you. Yay! It's another chance to be super motivated for a while until you realize you're becoming lazier and lazier. That's alright because everyone's with you on that! However, don't be discouraged. There's always second quarter to start out fresh from the beginning again. HOWEVER,

that doesn't mean you should always rely on the "second chance" because it might just be too late. Just don't be discouraged, and remember, 2017 is ending in about 2 months, so you can start writing that New Year's Resolution that will soon be forgotten in the deepest part of your drawer. (At least you'll feel motivated for another few weeks!)

ON CHATTING

A: The main advice I'd give on chatting is to not let it take over your real relationships and/or life. Sometimes friends will have a really good conversation with me on chat, but when they're actually with me in person they'll be on their phone chatting with other people(#phonestack). If chatting (or other forms of talking to people online, i.e snapchat, DMs, etc.) takes over your life, you're less likely to live in the moment. Don't think I don't understand what it's like to want to be on the phone. However, here's something that motivates me: I don't want to look back on my life and only have memories of when I was on my phone. I want to be able to look back on moments in stores riding in shopping carts (don't do this), laughing and talking with friends late at night, playing soccer for 4 hours in the hot sun, or going out and selling art with friends to raise money.

G: In the middle of morning-noon while adults were eating their breakfast and students were anticipating lunch, a brilliant flash came from a small metal rectangle, accompanied by a strange, warm ring that commanded such immediate attention, that, for approximately 0.256 seconds, a human named Bob did not hear anything else. "Ay wus up," said a small green bubble. Yet, in a stunning turn of events, it turned out it wasn't actually the small green bubble that said that-- it was another human. Now, these humans were usually good about using these pieces of

metal for effective communication, but occasionally, they proclaimed their existential crises and problems deeper than Death Valley to others in the form of green text bubbles. The problem wasn't that they had page-long green bubbles being sent to each other-- it was the contents of these green bubbles which they could never say in person, out loud, and this had dramatically decreased the gray matter in their brains designed for real, face-to-face connection.

J: Chatting is an advantage for our generation. We have access to other people wherever we are (like in the middle of pineapple fields). We shouldn't see chatting as a bad thing. It's good that you're socializing with your friends, and you should continue doing that! Our generation is blessed with advanced technology, so we shouldn't just waste it. We can talk to people around the globe and the get information in a second. Since we can chat online, I don't have to worry about forgetting to bring a textbook or not knowing about today's homework because I can text my friends and find out this information!

ON TIME

A: "I don't have enough time for reading." "I don't have enough time in the day." "I can barely find enough time to shower." The problem with these statements is that everyone has the same amount of time in each day, and you choose what you want to do with that time. Whether it is playing sports, chatting, spending time with friends or family, self-care, learning a new language or instrument (and nothing is wrong with these things), you choose what you want to do, and you can't complain that you don't have enough 'time.' It's your responsibility to make time for what matters to you and for what your body, mind, and soul need. Make time for what is important to

you and don't complain.

G: "You're governed by a president?" asked the alien. "Yes," I replied. "Are you sure?" it asked again. "Fairly," I said once more. "Because, well, a lot of you carry around these variations of a bicycle wheel on your wrists, except that they rotate continuously in some sort of universal synchronization, and you guys freak out-- a lot-- when glancing down at these devices, because you base everything around them. I see large versions hanging on walls, and an even larger one in London on some gorgeous tower. Yet, it all seems absurd, really, because you want to be connected to an idea of 'night' and 'day' so badly that you have these things called 'time zones,' and now the entire world is living in different numerical values even though 'now' in China is the same 'now' in Mexico. It's not really something you can change though," the alien observed. "You're not governed by people, you're governed by these weird devices and the limitation their value imposes on you. Yet not too long ago, I remember older, not dumber, versions of yourselves being so much happier without glancing down at their wrists every five, um, what're they called?-- minutes," the alien said.

J: Are we truly valuing our time if we're just surrounding ourselves with so many of our own to-do lists? Homework might be a big time waster for us, and while we all do want to do well in school, is getting a good grade something we must value so highly? We tend to think "Wow, I have so much homework" and get really stressed. Don't be stressed and use your time to invest in yourself and with people around you. We think we have a lot of time, but we honestly don't. Use your time to try new things or something you enjoy.

THE MORRISON SHARKPOST

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Mission Statement:

To establish a medium for school news and to create an outlet for expressing student ideas.

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