

# THE MORRISON SHARK POST



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Volume V, Issue 2: January 2018

## A Technological Revolution

By Megan Chen

Make way for the army of new technology invading MAK! Although our school is already one of the most high-tech schools, it's getting more advanced. It may seem too good to be true, but students will be able to experiment with virtual reality (VR), 3D printing, and wearable technology in the near future. In a blink, MAK will be filled to the brim with technological masterminds and brilliant gadgets. Believe it or not, this is only the start.

With virtual reality, learning will never be dull. That's right - MAK students are going to have the opportunity to look like psychopaths wearing snorkeling gear. Nobody would pass up an opportunity like that. In all seriousness, VR is one of the best pieces of technology. To put it simply, a 360-degree photo or video is displayed on a phone installed into a VR headset. Google Expedition provides the photos and videos needed for this purpose. With VR and Google Expedition, students have tickets to anywhere in the world. Going on adventures with VR is a great alternative to writing bland research papers. Instead of sitting at a desk, students can teleport to coral reefs, pyramids, space... They will even be able to use MAK's 360-degree camera to make their own videos for VR. The most exciting part of it all is that this will be available in the near future, because there are already headsets at MAK. Students, it's time to start begging teachers for opportunities to use VR.

Some students might already have first-hand experience with 3D printing. All the same, it never gets old listening to the whirring of the 3D printer as a boring loop of plastic becomes something amazing. In the process of 3D printing, a model is designed digitally and constructed by the printer from the ground up. It requires precision and careful construction to build a successful model. Even though it may seem difficult, the results will not disappoint. Mr. Griffin's 3D printed collection proves just that. There are no limits on where the students' imaginations can take them. From pencil boxes to unicorn horns, anything is possible. Get ready to let your imagination run wild.

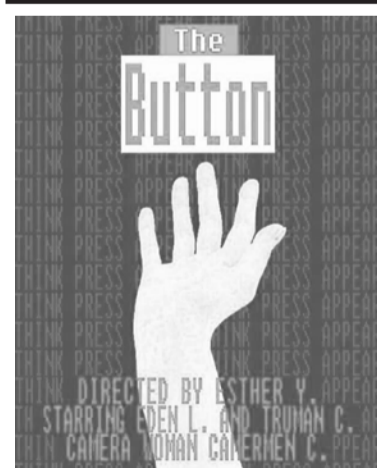
Wearable technology is coming to MAK! Even though the idea seems far fetched, there is nothing we can't do. Wear-

able technology is exactly what its name depicts- putting technology on what you wear. It uses small computers and embeds them into clothing. These "small computers" give the clothing different functions. Imagine socks that take body temperature or headbands that can measure heart rate. Or T-shirts with designs that is heat sensitive, hair ties that light up, wristbands that glow... you get the idea. Since wearable technology is much more complicated, it might be a few years before it goes fully into motion. Nevertheless, it is really something to look forward to.

The best part of all this is that the whole school will have a chance to experiment with the top-notch technology. This will be accomplished with the MakerSpace. The MakerSpace will be a place for MAK to express their creativity through technology. Students can go there to design posters, shoot movies, invent contraptions, and let their talents shine through. The technology mentioned above will be available along with everything MAK currently owns, which includes Adobe Illustrator, advanced cameras, iPods, and much more. It is not certain where and when the MakerSpace will be built. However, MAK is working with an architect right now to finalize the construction plans. It will be a thrilling adventure for everyone.

Technology opens up a whole new realm of possibilities. There is no telling how much MAK will be able to accomplish with access to VR, 3D printing, and wearable technology. It may be overwhelming, but our school is fully prepared for a technological revolution. MAK will never be the same.

Special thanks to Mr. Griffin for the information!



The Button movie poster created by Esther Yao



With the new sets of VR, these 5th graders visited Boston completely free of charge and used up class time in the process!

## The Button

By Esther Yao

I was inspired to make my short film, *The Button*, from one of my childhood memories of playing with the "Easy Button," which is a circular mechanism that says, "That was easy!" every time you press it. It is one of those things created to help you feel accomplished or to relieve you from boredom. Anyways, during the summer, I had a great deal of time on my hands (since all I did was wake up, eat, and sleep, this was before the dreadful SAT prep days) so I decided to think ahead and work on my Media 3 project for the school year. At first, I had two ideas in mind: one about a boy and his trash-bag-wearing imaginary friend, and one about a boy with a teleportation button. After a discussion with Mr. Griffin, I settled on the second choice.

Planning, which was probably my favorite stage in the whole process, was fairly simple. It took me a few weeks to finish the storyboard and create the 3D printed button. The good thing about this film is the fact that it is a silent film (which is a film without dialogue: take Media class to learn more!). This helped get rid of factors that would have made this film more complicated, such as line memorization. After planning, I realized that I had more than a hundred scenes to shoot, which was a lot for an eight minute video. I had already chosen my actors and my crew, so all there was left to do was to shoot the film (with a camera, not with an actual gun). This was when everything became a little rough.

During the planning sessions, I'd originally decided to utilize the 10/10

break to film all the shots I needed. We were going to meet on October 12th which was fine for all of us. Not according to plan was that one of my actors had to go to America and would not be back until the beginning of school. This put me in a tight spot. However, God has given us all a brain that lets us think of good ideas during times of chaos. So, in this time of distress my brain popped out the idea of having two days to shoot the film, one on 10/12 and one on 10/22 (during Parent Teacher Conferences). And thus the chaos and distress were vanquished (and all humanity was saved).

To be honest, I was horrible at directing. It was much simpler to draw things out instead of describing them to people. Despite my bad directing skills, my crew was very awesome and cooperative, so everything went smoothly. No one was hurt while shooting the film (if you've already watched the film, you know what I am talking about). Many scenes were improvised right on the spot.

I want to thank my actors for being kind and patient. (I am indebted to your parents who were willing to drive you guys during the break and on weekends.) I'm also very grateful to my crew members, the camera woman, and my lovely assistant. Without you guys... well let's just say my camera and acting skills are not the best, and no one wants to watch Esther talks to herself for ten minutes straight. A big thank you also goes to Mr. Griffin who helped me put my ideas onto paper and turn them into reality (and also thank you the free food and teas). Be sure to keep a look out for *The Button* movie premiere!

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# A High School Banquet Under the Moonlight

By Carmen Clemente

It was that time of the year again: On Tuesday afternoons, the HS5 classroom was filled with the extremely loud and enthusiastic planning of the high school House Council. MAK's high schoolers were running across the hallways between classes, desperately searching for someone to be their date. Couples were anxiously bickering over matching costume ideas. These were sure signs that the preparation for the 2017-18 MAK Banquet had begun. It all started one fine Thursday during high school's TTT when HouseCo revealed this year's high school banquet theme: "A Moonlit Mystery." Students had the upcoming fall break to buy their dresses and suits, and to also contemplate on who they wanted to ask to the dance, or if they even wanted to go with someone at all. Nevertheless, this year's banquet was an exciting one to look forward to, and it didn't disappoint.

This year's banquet theme, "A Moonlit Mystery," pays tribute to Halloween, which lies in the same week of the banquet. Because of this, students were encouraged to dress up in costumes. A wide range of costumes were displayed on the rooftop, including costumes from Star Wars, Harry Potter, and IT, just to name a few. Even though some students didn't

dress up, there were several impressive costumes and make-up looks that made the night all the more special. Instead of taking place in an indoor ballroom, the banquet was held on a hotel rooftop overlooking the Port of Kaohsiung. Decorations included twinkling fairy lights hung up on the walls and candles lighting up the dinner tables. There were also some little treats on the tables which were left for the attendees, including candy corn and chocolate kisses. Overall, this year's banquet lived up to their theme by keeping the decorations simple, yet elegant, and establishing a dress code that was unique compared to previous years.



A view of the venue for the 2017-2018 high school banquet.

But what started out as a normal night turned into one of mystery and terror. The hosts of the evening, Shoichi Miyazono, a junior, and Anna Laytham, a sophomore, informed all the students that a killer was on the loose, and that their first target was Mr. Owen. Students were given profiles of the nine HouseCo suspects and a photo of the crime scene. The crime scene involved Mr. Owen lifelessly sprawled on the bottom of the high school staircase, bloody footprints leaving the horrific scene. By using all the evidence and portfolios given to them, students had to figure out who killed Mr. Owen. While this was happening, everybody got up to

serve themselves from the dinner buffet, which included food like noodles, sushi, and delicious desserts. After dinner, however, the killer was not finished. They also started kidnapping students throughout the night. The hosts informed everybody that in order to get back the student, the kidnapper provided games and activities for the attendees to play. Games included Kidnapper Says (a version of Simon Says), Who Knows Their Partner Better?, Charades, and What's in the Box?. The magical night ended with music and some dancing, including Ms. Ro teaching us how to do the dougie.

As the clock struck 9:30 p.m. and parents started arriving at the venue, it was time to say goodbye to a night of pure bliss. To a place where students were dancing the night away, not having to think about the next math test or that upcoming assignment in English class. Even though we would all see each other again the following Monday, it was nice to take a break from the rush of things and to just have fun, dancing and laughing under the moonlight. The music ceased, but we were still tapping our feet. The noise was dying, but the memories never will. The mystery was solved, but the moon kept glowing.

## OPINIONS

### Mystery? What Moonlit Mystery?

By Kristen Tam

The food was on point; the music was upbeat--I have to say the high school banquet would get five stars in terms of meeting the expectations of what a banquet should be. However, as much fun as I had that night, there was something completely off. It was the fact that there was no "Moonlit Mystery" as promised by HouseCo.

Why would you name the banquet "A Moonlit Mystery" when there was no mystery? Sure, there was the death of Mr. Owen (who is surprisingly alive and well at this moment) as reported by MC's Shoichi and Anna, but other than a few suspect cards and attempts to talk and reason with the killer, there really was no mystery to solve. In fact, I guess you could say banquet was the complete opposite of a mystery.

I will admit that pulling off a mystery at a banquet is hard. But at the same time, there were dozens of alternative themes that could have been used without having to go through the trouble of creating a mystery at all! For example, "A Howl at Midnight," fits the nighttime aesthetic HouseCo was going for while eliminating any expectation of an actual mystery. "10 Steps Over the Moon" has an ominous feeling while keeping the mood light and

enjoyable. Any other name related to themes of nighttime and "mystery" could've been better suited for this year's banquet.

Furthermore, this event was made sadder due to the experience of watching HouseCo fail to keep up the expectations that were promised. I was told by a member of HouseCo that as the night went on, clues would be given out so it would be easier to identify the killer. If any clues were given out that night, they couldn't have been obvious to the least. I understand HouseCo may have been too busy, but not fulfilling the theme promised was more of a huge disappointment. Not to mention, to this day, we were never told who on earth killed Mr. Owen! Being an avid mystery fan myself, the reveal is always one of the moments I look forward to. Having that not occur was a low point for me about this banquet.

Let's not be too harsh though. "A Moonlit Mystery" had its highs as well. The venue was spot-on perfect, and the MC's were neither awkward nor boring. However, because of the failure to execute the atmosphere of a real moonlit mystery, Banquet 2017-2018, in my book, was more like a moonlit dance than any mystery I would ever think about.

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## Standardized Success

By Katherine Ma

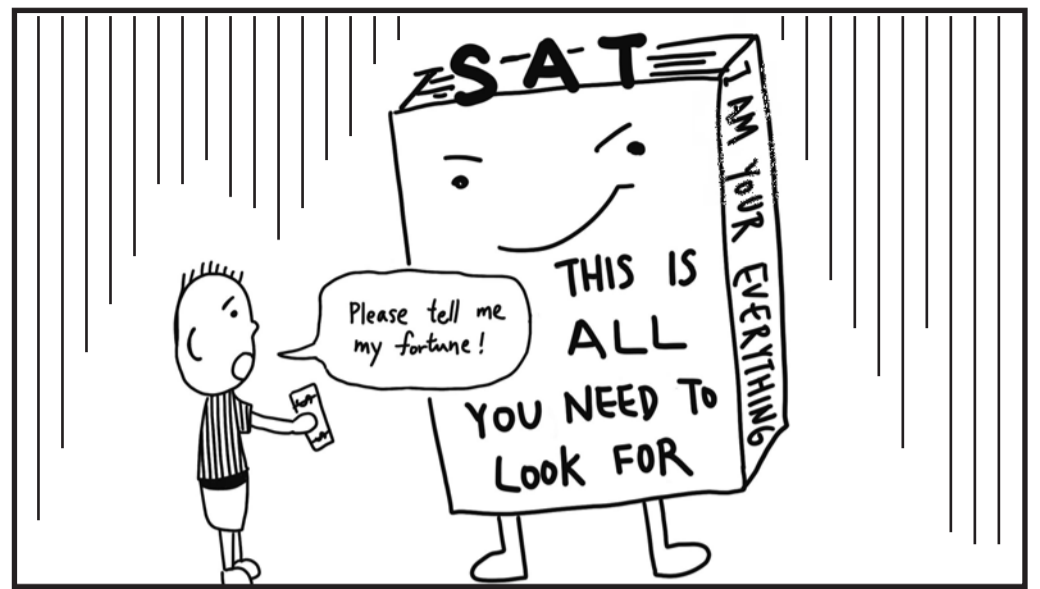
In modern society, teenagers are encouraged to not judge others based on appearance, clothing, number of followers, and other superficial traits unrelated to their inner qualities. How then should people measure success and achievement? Don't worry. Standardized testing has it all figured out for you! As the College Board states on its official website, SAT, the wonderful creation that thoroughly evaluates each student by a precise, four-digit number, is "highly relevant to your future success."

Standardized tests, depending on which one you take, are usually three to four hours in length. Any logical human being must marvel at this procedure, considering that a test lasting only three hours, out of an average human's lifespan of 621,960 hours, can predict an individual's future accomplishments. Such a powerful test could not possibly be constructed by humans unless, perhaps, it was the work of those who received 1600 on the SAT.

People must also acknowledge the astounding effects of standardized tests on students beyond the actual duration of the tests. Standardized testing reduces a tremendous amount of stress caused by the uncertain plans

of holiday or seasonal breaks. With the standardized testing dates approaching, there is absolutely no need to even consider what to do. The majority of students naturally occupy themselves with SAT prep camps; others joyfully explore their potential in test prep books. Students might occasionally display minor signs of fatigue from such meaningful endeavors, yet a short-term discomfort from beneficial challenges is surely inconsequential compared to the students' long-term prosperity.

When practicing or actually taking standardized tests, students learn to exert themselves and battle societal expectations. In the trending postmodern culture, people are often forced to embrace the concept of subjective truth. There cannot be one absolute answer, as they all say. Fortunately, standardized tests can correct this invalid doctrine. When Option A seems legitimate, Option B seems correct, and Option D seems acceptable, there is still only one exact answer. Now is the time to step out of your comfort zone, to think outside the box in order to choose the right answer among the other right ones. Such intense training will undoubtedly



edly result in the extreme strengthening of students' decision-making skills and acute judgement.

The benefits of standardized testing aren't limited to individual development. The founders of standardized testing have discovered the true value of conformity. Standardized tests can guide the world, which is currently lost in a blind, absurd pursuit of individuality, innovation, and creativity, back onto the right track to success. All human beings are unique. In fact, they are so unique they must all take the same tests in order for their scores to be standardized, for them to realize their differences. Society can only function when everyone has been standardized. In addition, conform-

ity reduces conflicts. Jealousy of each other's talents and aptitudes will no longer exist in the world. With stress placed on standardized testing and the supposedly appropriate amount of preparation a person needs to ensure his future, there is no time for developing personal talents. Humans can live in a peaceful world of test-answering machines of the highest efficiency and the least individuality.

Overall, it is clear that standardized testing is flawless and essential to humanity's wellbeing. Please note that I am risking my future writing to you instead of studying, and you are risking your future reading this newspaper. Oh no, what are we going to do...

## FEATURES

### "House" the Middle School?

By Grace Hsu

Over the past few years, the High School House Council under the supervision of Ms. Brabon has played a major role in leading the four houses and planning school events. However, starting from this year, middle school students have their own House Council made up of one representative from

each house.

Mrs. Griffin, who founded and currently leads the group, said the council "came up as an idea of [hers] to start getting students more involved in decisions" and to practice leadership at a young age. The council's objective is to build up "a fun and vibrant" middle school community.

The Middle School (MS) House Council meets monthly and leads their respective houses in the middle school body by communicating and organizing MS house competitions. Like their HS counterparts, the MS HouseCo reps are required to meet twice a month with a mentor to aid them in their leadership roles.



The MS HouseCo is full of possibilities! From left to right: Mikayla Tam, Sam Wyss, Clara Juong, Max Lan, and their leader Mrs. Griffin. // Photo from MAK Yearbook

Currently, the MS HouseCo is working on planning a MS House Competition to be held sometime this semester. They have already worked on projects such as decorating their hallways and brainstorming ideas to demonstrate spirit at House Competitions.

After interviewing each of this year's four MS HouseCo representatives, they have revealed a little bit about themselves and how they view their experiences on the council so far.

The Hammerhead representative is Max Lan, who identifies his strength as leadership and likes how being on HouseCo trains him in this area. He likes the experience so far and hopes for the middle school to be "even more enthusiastic" about their school and to work together toward success.

Clara Jung is representing the Thresher House this year and identifies one of her major strengths as drawing. She described this year's MS HouseCo as "pretty amazing[,] because it gives us middle schoolers [opportunities] to become leaders instead of depending on high schoolers during house events." Her hope for the house is that they will focus on unity rather than winning the house competitions, and her message to her middle school peers is to try new experiences, because "you won't regret it."

From the Mako house, we have Sam

Wyss. Sam enjoys reading, sports, video games, and spending time with his friends. He has enjoyed working on the council so far, and states that "hopefully it will be easier for middle schoolers to voice their concerns and ideas." He also wants to build a stronger community and hopes that the middle schoolers can enjoy their school experience and be kind to one another.

Finally, Mikayla Tam is on the council for the Tiger House. Having organization skills as one of her talents, she enjoys the experience so far as it allows her to "improve leadership skills and organize events." Like Clara, she hopes that her house would grow in unity and would like to remind the MSers to "enjoy the year because us HouseCo leaders have some great stuff in store for you guys!"

Mrs. Griffin said that so far, the council is going quite well. "It is very fun to see students take the initiative to meet with their peers, organize events, etc." We hope to see inspiring things come out of this group in the months and years to come! "I am excited about the possibilities of this." Mrs. Griffin continued, reflecting our sentiments about this new system. "It takes a lot of courage to apply to be on the council, ask your peers to vote for you, and start trying to lead your classmates. This group can only improve our MS experience!"



## Growing In Knowledge and Unity

By Vivian Lu

Every year, students in middle school and high school have the opportunity to go on grade-specific impact trips with their classes. The middle school impact trips focus primarily on building confidence, class unity, and willingness to challenge themselves to step out of their comfort zones.

As a part of their "Crossing Over" impact trip, the 6th graders had a chance to go to Sun Moon Lake where they partook in water sports and built confidence, class unity, and communication skills. "Crossing Over," the sixth grade theme, represents the crossing over from elementary to middle school. During the day, students tried kayaking and paddleboarding. For many people, it was their first time participating in these sports, making this part of the trip quite challenging. But with help from friends, they were able to overcome obstacles and to have lots of fun. At night, students played games and sang songs around a bonfire. One teamwork building activity they performed involved building a raft with bamboo sticks, barrels, and strings and then testing their constructions by taking the rafts out into the water and playing games. To help students understand the significance of entering this new stage in life, students named old habits and characteristics they wanted to get rid of and decided upon ones they wanted to build in the future. These activities were the most memorable parts of the trip for many students.

With the theme of "Building Bridges," the 7th graders' trip this year combined the traditional day trips throughout the year into one single trip of three days and two nights. The students learned that even in conflict, there were still valuable perspectives that were presented, and by understanding them, bridges can be built. One major focus was the aboriginal Paiwan tribe, and students were able to see different interesting parts of the traditional culture. Some memorable experiences included learning about snakes and witnessing the slaughter of a pig in front of them. For the majority of the class, it was their first time seeing such a gory scene. Another special part of the 7th grade trip was the opportunity to camp and sleep in tents with their classmates. This was also one of the most challenging parts of the trip as students were forced to work with classmates they normally wouldn't spend so much time with. 7th grader Maggie Tsai said, "Sometimes you don't really like the people in your group, but I suppose that's the goal of the trip, to learn how to work well with others." At the end, the 7th grade class learned to build bridges not only with people of different backgrounds but also within their own class, and together, they all contributed in mak-

ing this a class memory they all share and cherish.

For their last middle school impact trip, the 8th graders went to Puli for the leadership retreat. 8th grade is a year full of challenges, thus the theme of their trip was "Do Hard Things." Students were challenged to perform challenging tasks, to take risks, and to develop leadership. These were accomplished by completing tasks such as food cooking, rock climbing, river tracing, an obstacle course, and for some people, even an exciting jump off a cliff into a pool! To challenge students even more, they were put into mixed groups with people not just from their class, but also from MAT.



7th graders posed for a picture after the grueling hike.

Though these challenges may have seemed crazily difficult at first, they later became the highlight for many students, alongside the opportunity to make friends with student from MAT. As this year's impact trips came to an end, students thought that they got to

know their classmates more and felt more prepared to continue in their middle school career with a greater sense of confidence. Many of them are already looking forward to next year's impact trips and what they have to offer!

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## High School Impact Trips Q&A

By Sunny Wang

For this year's high school impact trips: 9th graders went to Green Island, 10th graders went to Xiao Liu-qi, 11th graders went to Cambodia, and 12th graders joined impact trips from 6-11th grade.

Instead of reading a description of each impact trip, here you can read some real responses from students in each grade!

that although what we did might not seem much to us, to the kids, that one hug we gave them could have been the one hug they had received all year." - Shoichi, 11th grade

Q: How have you and your peers bonded from the trip?



The theme of the 10th grade impact trip was "Lead with Courage."

Q: What did you learn from the trip?

A: "I learned a lot about invasive and native species." - Koki, 9th grade

"We should work together as a class and be patient when we are waiting for others." - Stephanie, 10th grade

"The lesson this trip taught me was how love should not be taken for granted, especially because there are those who have to live their lives without any. Another thing I learned from this trip was

A: "We [got] to talk more and spend more time with each other during the trip, and we [got] to know more about what each of our classmates are capable of." - Stephanie, 10th grade

"We learned to cooperate in difficult circumstances as a group, and became more efficient regarding those obstacles." - Scott, 12th grade

"I think the 11th graders and I bonded really well together during this trip. We talked a lot and knew each other



Shoichi Miyazono (a Junior) hugged a Cambodian kid in the village.

more after Cambodia." - Andy, 12th grade

Q: How have you grown from the trip?

A: "I realized that it wasn't that hard to love people, if we truly desire to act like Jesus." - Annabelle, 10th grade

"I have learned more about my leadership qualities, and I want to start using them more and using them for

Christ." - Carmen, 10th grade

"I became more appreciative for the things I have." - Andy, 12th grade

Q: Any funny story/moments?

A: "There was a cockroach in our hotel room on the first night of the trip. Dennis and I were too afraid to kill it, so we went up to Logan and Shoichi's room to sleep." - Andy, 12th grade

"I told everyone to die (Accidentally) Sadap means listen and slap means die. Translators and kids laughed, and I didn't know why." - Shoichi, 11th grade

"For our cooking group (Anna Laytham, Jasmin, Chi-Chi, and Catherine), we used 12 pieces of curry to cook our dinner when we were supposed to use only 3-4." - Stephanie, 10th grade



The 9th graders went to Xiao Liu-qi to not only develop their knowledge in biology but also to grow in class unity.

## Into The Ears And Straight To The Heart

Compiled by Annabelle Chien and Emma Wyss

Not sure what music to listen to? Here are some great song suggestions!

Shawn Mendes - There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back

In the midst of his Illuminate World Tour, nineteen-year-old Canadian singer-songwriter Shawn Mendes decided to drop his latest single in April of 2017. Mendes also revealed why he wrote the huge hit in the first place, saying it was about him "falling in love" with a fictional character (a fictional girl from a movie script). The music video was released a couple months after the lyric video; it features Shawn and English actress Ellie Bamber traveling around Europe, racing along sea cliffs and seeing the Eiffel Tower illuminate the city at night.

Lauv - Paris in the Rain

Lauv is known for combining melodies that flow well together and roll right off the last note into amazing masterpieces. This song, a combination of coffee on Sunday morning, burying yourself in fresh bed sheets, and chilly winter nights, describes how the feeling of being

with your significant other is like being in Paris -- in the rain. "Paris in the Rain" is a song made for those winter nights in the car with your head against the backseat window as you watch the city lights blur by, making you forget about the world and sink into another dimension.

Sabrina Carpenter - Why

On July 6, 2017, Girl Meets World's Sabrina Carpenter dropped her latest single, named "Why." She released the music video, featuring Riverdale's Casey Cott, later that month. More recently, the singer-songwriter gave us the acoustic version of the song; and she totally nailed the higher notes (not that she doesn't always nail them). She has also explained in multiple interviews the meaning behind the song, and it's quite simple. Carpenter chose to write about how incredible (and incredibly confusing), it is that people who are complete opposites can fall in love; or just enjoy each other's company, as she says it doesn't have to be about a relationship.

Louis The Child - Love is Alive (feat. Elohim)

A combination of the genres -- chill, indie, and electro pop, "Love is Alive" captures the feeling of wanting to be where love is and not being affected by the negativity in our lives. The tune is more captivating and mesmerizing than anything you've ever heard. To put it in the genre of indie pop does not do the song justice; "Love is Alive" is truly a song set apart from all others. Listening to the song makes you imagine running your hands through ocean water and feel how small you are in the vast reaches of space.

Camila Cabello - I Have Questions

Many might recognize her as Fifth Harmony's former fifth member after she officially went solo last year, but she surprised many by coming back just as strong as ever (if not stronger). "I Have Questions" will likely be a single in her upcoming 2018 album, titled Camila (which will be released on January 12th). Cabello confessed that she wrote this song after a period of feeling like she wasn't feeling like herself anymore. Thankfully, she is doing much better now and says that she won't write about what this song

was about again. Which makes us wonder, what was it about?

Logic - 1-800-273-8255 (feat. Alessia Cara & Khalid)

"What if I silenced my own fear and I say, 'I'm scared to talk about my race. I'm scared to talk about the state of this country, but I'm gonna do it anyway.'" The song "1-800-273-8255," from the album Everybody, is a story of a caller on the suicide hotline. The song starts out in the perspective of one who is struggling to live. They call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline --1-800-273-8255. From there, the lyrics communicate the feeling of not being able to show the hurt we're experiencing. Further on, the singer sings from the perspective of a social worker on the other side of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, trying to convince the caller that life is worth living. The caller has a change in perspective, beginning to believe that life is worth living. The song "1-800-273-8255" has a storyline that narrates the tormenting and repelling forces inside your mind. To me, that's the most masterful part.



## This is Cross Country!

By Henry Ho

Ahhh country crossing... a club truly fit for the aerobic enthusiasts of MAK. Early 2nd quarter, recruitment banners could be seen sticking to the school walls, hoping to garner attention. Filled with lament, an anonymous runner recalls a propaganda poster with the words "No eXCuse," indicating the perilous journey lying ahead. With his ardent passion for running, Mr. Griffin--the advisor of the Cross Country--is relentless, risking his reputation to stick a phrase like "Join cross country! It's good for you!" into the everyday conversations of middle & high school students. However, he is not the only virus around town, as Bill Scott--the newly promoted captain of Cross Country--can be seen infecting the Juniors group chat with similar lines. The brave souls that seek pleasure in pain step forward into the gruesome realm of the track, which opens on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Upon arrival, the fearless warriors are greeted warmly by Mr. Griffin... a clever disguise. Desiring to extinguish the brightly lit souls of the newcomers, a warm-up run is required from all members, gauging their abilities as runners, but with mercy at hand, the demonic head of Cross Country allows a short break--the only break. With an impeccable arsenal at his disposal, Mr. Griffin plans the torturous activities for the entire session, and as veteran soldiers warn the newbie squad of the dictator's rule, they come to realize that slacking off is not an option. Protecting themselves from the grueling run ahead, Captain Jerry Chou leads the crew in some stretches, including the infamous plank (pun intended), the butterfly leg, and the arm and leg pulls. Concluding the first meeting, a running related game like crossing-the-basketball-court-as-people-throw-balls-at-you-from-both-sides is played, draining the remaining energy of the victims.

Those who come back two days later for more, thinking they have adjusted



Captain Jerry Chou and Bill Scott were leading the annual Turkey Trot held by Cross Country.

to the regime, are shocked beyond belief by the challenging exercises imposed upon them. With the underworld unleashed, the intention of Mr. Griffin is revealed: to make these students stronger, faster, and fitter. Within this kingdom, the paramount

ruler sends forth the broken warriors to strength training camps to perform crunches, side planks, and other core workouts. Quickly following those exercises are orders to complete bulks of run. A variety of activities are conducted, such as the classic timed mile-runs, but with a kingly twist since two miles are required and the average is found.

Of the list of drills, two memorable ones stand out: The Rubber Band Run and the Pace Card Run. The former consists of running laps, gaining a band of rubber each round, totalled at the end. Sophomore runner William Peng criticizes this drill, saying, "At first glance, the Rubber Band Run may look like something that gives a sense of accomplishment. However, when you analyze it in a deep level, I feel like this exercise is implemented purely to display our skills as runners." Complaining beside him is none other than Junior Brandon Tung, adding, "We are collectively ranked by the amount of rubber bands we collect... as the dominant runners accumulate more, the slower runners are weighed down by their inept talent. These demanding drills and imbalance of strength are what make Cross Country a truly fearsome battlefield." These unjust activities are further emphasized by the Pace Card Run, ostracizing members into distinct factions by colour, all under the control of Mr. Griffin. Rest assured, as this is all part of Mr. Griffin's master plan, for he knows that an unruly king is prone to rebellion, so to regain favour, the students would occasionally be set free to run on their own pace and listen to music.

A little past midpoint, the warriors' wailing for a game intensify, however, the pleas remain unheard, for they have yet to complete their task and advance unto the next stage. At precisely 5:15 p.m., the remaining gladiators, battle hardened, leave the shadowy colosseum and live to see another day. But by grace of God, the annual running competition opens their doors to members far and wide, a beacon of hope that proves their training was not in vain; during this stage, Mr. Griffin proceeds to cheer on these champions as they compete against rivalling schools in a 3-5 km run for glory. Alas, the much feared facade of Mr. Griffin

has been peeled away, revealing his majestic visage and true intentions. For we see that he lovingly sacrificed his public image with harsh training, all to prove to his beloved disciples that hard work in cross country will be handsomely rewarded.

## The Varsity Sharkerellas

By Logan Muir

In my fourteen years at MAK, I have never once seen a sports team more formidable than the 2017-2018 Sharks Men Varsity Basketball Team. A "bold statement," you say? Well, that is the point. MAK has sat in the shadow for far too long, and it is time that we seize this opportunity to put the Sharks on the map once and for all.

The men's basketball season started out on an extremely good note. For the first time in my 4 years of high school basketball experience, not one player vomited during tryout week. The previous years had been notoriously filled with out of shape athletes attempting to run at full sprint over and over again, only to find themselves hunching over the toilets in exhaustion halfway through practice.



Scott Wang leaped into the air to block a shot from the guard in a game against Shi Da Fu Zong.

The change that allowed this to occur is profoundly simple: conditioning. Of the eleven men on the varsity team, all but two had been a part of this year's soccer team, meaning that 80% of the players had just completed a full season of Mr. Owen and his infamous "german runs." For once, our basketball team was able to jump right into playing basketball instead of spending a week doing conditioning.

In addition, another key element to the positive outlook for the men is our experience. Out of the eleven men on the team, seven are seniors. Two players have had a year of experience with Coach Wyss while the remaining nine have already had two or more years under his system of play. We enter this season as a more cohesive unit than we have ever had before. Every man knows his role and is ready to contribute. In the past, our varsity team has struggled to understand where and when to place ourselves on the court. But now, rather than spending time learning new plays and defensive schemes, the varsity team is able to dedicate time honing in on our passing and movements within these plays. This will hopefully translate into a new sense of confidence on the court.

Furthermore, our team may have the most talented crop of players in the history. Leading the team, senior Scott Wang has shown that he is ready to carry the scoring load. Standing at 190 centimetres tall with elite ball handling, superb court vision, and

a silky smooth jump shot, Scott has established himself as the Star player of this promising lineup.

Dennis Huang, another senior, is also poised to have an excellent year. His shooting hand and aggressive attitude are ready for another year of hard-nosed sharpshooting.

Also, watch out for Samuel Tsai to have a breakout senior season. Proving himself to be a reliable defender and finisher at the rim, Samuel has established himself in an important starting role in his senior year.

Ready to hit the court for his second year in the starting rotation is sophomore Vince Huang. Showing huge strides in his shooting stroke as well as having the elite athleticism to guard multiple positions, Vince is the team's young gun and the future of the program.

Chi-Chi Chang, another senior on the team, is Dennis Rodman in a Shark's uniform. Despite only standing at 175 centimetres tall, Chi-Chi has proven to be the team's rebounding anchor with his

never ceasing aggression to attack the ball. Chi-Chi's senior campaign will surely be one filled with exciting and stat-sheet-stuffing games.

Ladies and gentlemen, keep your eyes on Tim Wang. Tim has only been playing basketball for one year but seems to be a natural fit for the sport. As he enters his last high school season, his hard work has not gone unnoticed and has definitely paid off. Tim will be an important bruiser on both ends of the court heading into this year.

Andy Shih and Truman Chiang will provide important offense off the bench. Both seniors possess high basketball IQs and a willingness to pass the ball. Watch out for some nifty finishes from Andy and some long range shooting from Truman.

Ray Yang and Graeme Muir have been dubbed the "sophomore splash brothers." Despite being the youngest two on the team, both seem to be up for the challenge and will provide important scoring off the bench as both of these men have the potential to shoot the lights out of the gym when given the opportunity.

This team of Sharks is ready to play basketball at a level MAK is not used to seeing. Take this article as a message -- the MAK Sharks are ready to win, ready to prove to everyone that even as a small school, we are and always will be, a formidable opponent. As Coach Wyss has said many times already, "It's our year, man. It's our year."



## STRANGE OCCURENCES IN MAK

By Bill Scott and Austin Wang

'If you do not expect the unexpected, you will not find it; unless of course the event in question is an AP Stats test' (Heracitus, Fragments).

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...

### A CASE GONE COLD:

Just the other day, as I was indulging myself in a select bushel of inexcusable and well earned rest, I found myself rudely roused at a right ungodly hour and shipped off out the door by my escort--who assured me that this was all quite necessary in order to receive my daily dose of education (which is complete tyranny if you ask me). Well, the morning chuffed along its accustomed tracks--I sat in the back of the car attempting to re-enter the dream I had been ripped out of moments ago while my escort mumbled along,

rambling with her usual incoherence, espousing something about not being able to get a proper doctorate degree at OK Mart (which is tyranny to the second degree, at the very least), when upon arrival and the opening of my car door I noticed something beyond the face of impossibility itself: It was cold outside.

My escort released me at the school gate and I bumbled out of the car, ignoring more nonsense about not calling my mother 'escort'. Feeling the icy breath of death assault my skin, I wasted no time in making for the interior of the school building, not knowing that I was jumping out of the waffler and into the rice cooker. The second I opened the wretched fire hazard doors of the high school wing I knew I had made a mistake comparable in dearness only to the folly of not developing a severe case of lipstick-pox and remaining in bed that morning. The school was absolutely frigid. I was immediately trapped in an avalanche of students who were more cotton than human-being, forcing me to desperately dodge my way upstairs to find the wicked witch behind this unseasonal winter.

My first stop was the student lounge, and my first obstacle the troll that guarded the entrance to the room--a metal door handle. Ingeniously Mac-Gyvering a makeshift glove out of the drapes of my shirt, I passed into the room elegantly but not without effort, as my shoelaces were untied. In the stomach of the room I found my beloved friend and invaluable associate, Buster, laid out and pale

on the ground, shivering so violently you could have sworn he'd swallowed an egg timer and kept it down long enough for it to have gone off. The poor man was all but an ice cube, and a cold one at that.

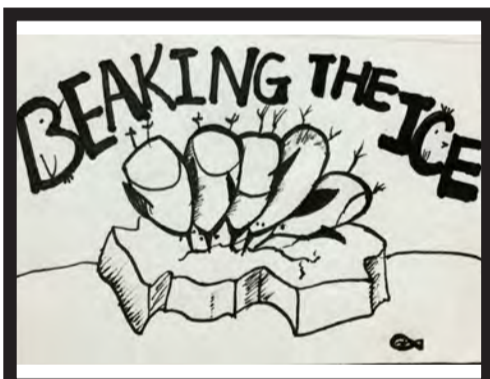
I wasted no time, skedaddling over to the room's air conditioner control panel and cupping my hand over the display to read its evil inscriptions, which displayed a blood curdling '17'. Not quite sure if the temperature was recorded in fahrenheit, kelvin or minutes left to live, I made to right this atrocity, reaching for the controls only to be stopped by a half-audible croaking command 's t o p... reeaad the-e sign'. Heeding my partner's valiant warning, my eyes rose to meet a harrowing curse perched atop the panel in the form of a yellow sticky note which read, 'students, please do not adjust the AC. Thanks :)'. My heart sank. All hope was lost. I wasn't sure who had written this note, but it was probably legally binding.

Desperate times call for desperate measures, so I made a few phone calls and parachuted in some supplies to last Buster and I awhile while we sleuthed out the cause for this spontaneous ice age, slaving away, sifting through Morrison records and yearbooks so old that our very own principle appeared not in a form of authority, but as a victim of the system himself. Our research led us to the discovery that these frightening conditions were not an exceptional anomaly within the walls of MAK, but were instead a lasting manifestation of a troubled but continuous past in the history of temperature regulation at the school. We found that the school had manufactured its own climate, quite peculiarly generating a never ending cycle of perpetually polar conditions. MAK was being kept far chillier than it had any business being, without any conceivable reason for being kept so. Something was most certainly amok. Buster and I leapt to action, brav-

ing the frigid hallways of the high school wing to comb the school for any fugitive arctic fauna to eliminate the possibility of the school's involvement in an illegal antarctic smuggling ring. While ultimately inconclusive and somewhat jaded in nature, our investigation led us to the high school refrigerator, commonly referred to as HS1. I entered the room alone (due to a small professional disagreement with Buster over the correct term for a gas propelled aircraft smaller than a zeppelin but larger than a hot air balloon) and swept it for any potentially stimulating evidence. As I was inspecting the bookshelves lining the perimeter of the room, I discovered a suspicious pamphlet apparently written by none other than the self acclaimed king of AC himself, Mr. Travis Miller, advertising the MAK 'Higher Society of Yachting and Recreation'.

The pamphlet detailed a plan to 'increase the favourability of MAK's campus for yachting activities', explaining that by elevating the workload of MAK's air conditioning units, the school was making a long term investment in 'planetary landscaping' by reducing polar ice cap volume in order to increase water levels in Taiwan. If done right, water levels are predicted to rise right up to MAK's door step, covering about a third of the current soccer field and track at the front side of the campus and forming 'a beautiful beach and docking area ideal for yachting activities, raising the property value of the campus and taking advantage of our excessively sanded track.' Unfortunately Mr Miller is no longer in Taiwan and no connections with any other teachers have yet been found. Please contact us if you know anything about MAK's highly elusive yachting society.

- Dr. Eivor Hunch, PhD



Comic By Grace Shieh



## Guess Who I Am

I have brothers  
I am in middle school  
I like playing volleyball  
Shopping is one of my hobbies  
I enjoy music  
I've been at MAK for more than 5 years

**The last winner was Mrs. Shaffner!!!**

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!



Here are three new topics to ponder upon with the aid of *Thrice the Advice*:

By Anna Laytham, Gabrielle Liu, and Jasmin Kong

## On Growing Up

A: Why is the sky blue? What is air made of? Why is the ocean salty? Why am I right-handed? Where do thoughts come from? Why does the moon come out during the day? How do airplanes stay in the sky? Why do things hurt? Be a child. "And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it." --Roald Dahl. Keep your sense of wonder.

But take advice from people you trust (agh).

Think a lot about what you want your life to look like

Read lots of books

It's okay to still like stuffed animals

G: A canary, no bigger than my fist, once came to me in a dream. She perched on my shoulder as I stood on the top level of the Taipei 101. "Why are you here? This is not your home." I asked the canary. Her feathers ruffled as she sang, "The first time my parents let me stay at home was a year ago. They used to leave a meal for me if they'd be gone for long. Eventually, they'd leave meals to be my responsibility. The nest got quieter and quieter, the questions fewer, the shedding of baby feathers sparser, but our hearts grew bigger and bigger. My heart got so heavy that Mum and Dad took a look at me and said that I could not carry my own life and theirs that fully, that I had to leave some of the innards here if I wanted to fly off, so I did. So here I am, on top of a shiny human tree you have named because it was special enough." I looked back at the canary with sadness. Her color was happiness; her song tasted bittersweet. "Was it difficult?" I asked her. "Growing up? In truth, it was the easiest thing in the world. I didn't have to try. No one does. It just happens. The hard part is accepting that you will be happy, probably even happier, just in a different place, with different people.

It's just a different happiness."

J: Stop thinking back to the times you could've slept more because it's too late now. You don't really feel like you aged until the day of your birthday and even then you might not think you're growing up when you're just turning 13. It's when you turned 16 or 17 that you start to think, "wow... I'm so old," and also when you realize *The Incredibles 2* is coming out. I don't have much advice on growing up because I'm in that phase of "wow... I'm so old," and I have no idea what I'm doing with my life as well. However, I would encourage you to form lots of connections because those might come in handy someday; you should find what makes you happy, and above all, don't overthink life.

## On Childhood Dreams

A: At 5, my dream was to be a cleaning lady. In 3rd grade and 4th grade, it was to be a teacher. From 5th grade on, I wanted to be an interior designer. I would rearrange my room every week and design art for others' rooms. Little, snarky comments and blank (\_\_\_\_) stares caused me to rethink that dream. I'm not going to give advice to the dreaming children. Rather, I'm going to give advice to the dreamless adults. Don't crush passion. Don't destroy creativity. Don't wreck dreams. It's always said that "children are the future of this world." But, we don't want the future of the world to be dull and spiritless. And to you dreaming children, work hard for your dreams. Don't expect anything to come easy.

G: 24,096 dreams died in November 2017 because all those children were waiting to grow up. They sat at the doorstep of the age 18 like it was the beginning of their life, and missed 18 years of living instead. They forgot to seek opportunities that would help them fulfill their dreams, and took the sleeping pills that dulled them, pills from friends, from family. To be fair, not many had opportunities of

education, undiscriminated living, or proximity to Olympic coaches. My advice is this: don't be afraid to make 180° turns, and don't be frightened if you never do, even if that one goal remains the same from birth to graduation. Just remember to do something, to take action.

J: I do think we should let children dream freely at a young age, because creativity is something we should value. However, I don't blame the dreamless adults. They were once those dreaming children, and they once had dreams that they wanted to accomplish. Regardless, we have to consider the reality. Sure, if you work hard enough you might get a chance to fulfill your dream. BUT that's not the reality for everyone. Sometimes, it just doesn't work out for people, maybe because it's the wrong timing or a financial issue.

I'm not saying you should just trash away all childhood dreams, but don't be discouraged if it doesn't happen as you want it to be. Keep searching and you might find something even better to do.

## On Being a Friend

A: If I did anything mean or hurtful to a friend, my mum would tell me "Be the friend you'd want to have." Don't expect everyone to be the best friend to you if you don't treat others well. When someone else makes mistakes, forgive them. When you make a mistake, that's okay, but it's nice to apologize. Conflicts are not necessarily bad; they mean communication is happening.

G: This is the tragic tale of the Itins, an alien race. When they first met each other, it was one harmonious choir of laughter and conversations. They learned who were the quietest, who were the funniest, who were the more responsible ones. Itins were incapable of confrontation, of processing conflict. No such comprehension was encoded in their DNA. It was biologically impossible for them to



fight. So gradually, as each Itin made mistakes like spreading false information, breaking promises, or being selfish, neither had any idea how destructive their actions were. They saw their planet literally disintegrating as houses burned, but no one could tell the ones with the fire how wrong it was, and no one could demand that good be done. Years after the population collapsed, new inhabitants of the planet began to spread rumors that the problem with the Itin race wasn't really the genetic coding that prevented conflict. It was that they couldn't truly love: The love in friendship which is honest, caring, empowering, and prevents harm. All the Itins knew was how to smile, swallow down pain, and blindly allow their fellow friends to destroy their homes and themselves.

J: Making a friend is not hard, but saying goodbye is. You should always treat your friends genuinely and with love. Being understanding and communicating well are HUGE factors to any sorts of successful relationship. Friends play a big part in our life when we're still kids (and maybe when we're adults too). Since peer pressure comes from friends, make sure you're not pressuring your friends to do something they're not comfortable with or that goes against their morals. It's okay to have different opinions and that's the part where you have to be understanding. Lastly, if you ever fight with a friend or a classmate or anyone and you won't see them ever again, don't end it on that note. Don't be a jerk; be the first one to go up to them and reconcile.

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