

THE MORRISON SHARK POST



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Malaysia Madness

By: Ann King and Alice Lin

In February, MAK's high school sent their JV basketball team to compete in MAK's first international tournament at Dalat International School in Penang, Malaysia. The trip provided the players with great opportunities and experiences; however, preparing for this task was not easy. Money was one major obstacle that players had to overcome. The teams fundraised with a variety of activities. For the boys' team, a number of players shaved their heads in order to get people to donate. The girls' team chose to sell desserts, sweatshirts, and other MAK related items, and both of the teams performed a spectacular dragon dance for the Chinese New Year to raise enough money. At last, they achieved their goals and even fundraised more than their total needed amount.

Besides money, another necessary thing for this tournament was to practice. The coaches trained the students at offense, defense, shooting, running, and other skills that they hoped the players could improve on. Each practice seemed so precious and short that they needed to cherish time and make their best effort to play hard. Whenever the students felt tired or wanted to quit, the coaches always reminded them about the Malaysia tournament and told them to never give up working hard toward the same goal together. Within a blink

of an eye, it was time for the JV basketball teams to pack their luggage and be prepared for the next day's flight.

The day arrived on February 13th, as the group, with basketball jerseys and basketball shoes in their carry-ons, stood ready to leave at Kaohsiung airport. After transferring in Hong Kong, both exhausted and excited, they had arrived to Penang. Even though it was night time, the weather was extremely humid and hot, making everyone a bit uncomfortable. After finally arriving in their air conditioned rooms and lying on their beds, the players hoped to get a restful sleep and be fully prepared for their first game the next day against other international teams.

The next morning approached, and lazy bodies rolled out of bed as if on vacation. But soon they realized that it was time to play for real. After breakfast, players arrived at Dalat, a five minute walk away from the hotel and located on the beach. After warming up, players watched closely as the other teams practiced or played.

At ten o'clock the JV boys started their first international game, followed by the JV girls, who played their first at eleven o'clock. Almost two hours later, both JV teams had won their first game!

The second game started in the afternoon,

and the teams carried their cheerful hearts from their last game, hoping that this game would turn out the same. While the JV boys won all their games in the afternoon, unfortunately the JV girls won one game and lost two. The JV girls worried whether or not they could make it into the placement games, but they later found out that there were still chances the next day to make it into the placement games. This news cheered the JV girls up a little, and gave them motivation to continue their hard work.

On the third day, their trip was getting closer and closer to the end, and the teams needed to play with their best ability. The games started, and the JV boys won all their games before the placement game, and the JV girls also won their game before playing in their placement game. The placement game started as a close game for the JV boys, but they quickly dominated the opposition team. It was a closer game for the JV girls, and their perseverance helped them win. In the award ceremony, the results were announced: JV girls for 3rd place and JV boys for 1st place! What a record! In their first international tournament, the MAK JV basketball teams brought back two trophies!

The teams then traveled back to the hotel, exhausted. Through the awesome teamwork, however, everything was worth it.



Upper left: Tony Cheng bravely sacrifices his hair to raise money for the basketball trip. Upper right: Eric Kuo works hard to rebound the ball. Lower left: Mr. Griffin strategizes with the JV girls on how to win. Lower right: The JV teams smile triumphantly for the camera, after their tournament held by Dalat International School.

Festival de Comida Española

By: Sabrina Tsai

¡Hola, estudiantes! ¿Te gustan comer comida hispana? On February 21, the Spanish students of Morrison had a grand food festival, where popular Hispanic foods like quesadilla, burritos, churros, and salsa all made their appearances. Ms. Melissa Brabon, MAK's Spanish teacher and the organizer of the event, said that she wanted to do a festival because she wanted the students to "explore more about the food and culture of the Hispanic world and have the opportunity to share what they learned with the rest of the school." This was a unique event that MAK had never before experienced, and many thoroughly enjoyed the festival.

For Ms. Brabon, the best part of the whole festival was getting to taste all the delicious food and to see the various creative decorations each group came up with. Chia-Ching, a 9th grader who made elote, which is corn with different sauces added on it, thought that the best part of the fair was getting to try out different types of food and ponder their diverse origins. Almost every high schooler agreed. Getting to walk around and eat food that came from Hispanic origins was not only delicious, but it gave a chance to explore diversity. Some groups made main dish types like burritos, quesadillas, and salsa, while other groups made desserts, such as churros and flan. One group also mixed up a drink called sangria, a sweet drink typically consisting of red wine and chopped fruit, here with a non-alcoholic substitute.

Before the festival, each group presented on their food, its history, the process of making it, and

a live cooking demonstration for the class. Since most of the foods were from different cultures, each group had to do some digging and experimenting to find a recipe that tasted good and was easy to make. Because of the presentations, the Spanish students got to know a little more about the food that everyone was able to try out. The preparation for the actual event was one of the hardest parts. Some dishes took a few minutes, like the burrito, but other dishes, like the flan, took over four hours to make.

During the festival, teachers and students roamed around, looking at the different foods and taking samples. While some students wished that there was more interaction instead of people just taking the food and moving on, the students who only had to try out the food thought that the festival was awesome and hoped that it will be done again.

If given the chance, all of the students who participated would also gladly do it again. After all, who could resist the sweet temptation of enjoying delicious food from different cultures?

“ [The festival was for the students] to explore more about the food and culture of the Hispanic world and have the opportunity to share what they learned. ”



Under Construction

By: Jason Chou

Heard some loud bangs or workers yelling in the middle of class sometimes? Curious about the giant fence that is set up by the track? Of all the preparation and events concerning the new MAK high school, the new feature that everyone is currently excited about is the construction of the new building. In order to learn more about this wonder, I interviewed the main director of this project, Mr. Lin.

For decades, MAK's students, parents, and teachers have been longing to have a high school.. The new construction project was approved "not only to accommodate the need of parents and students but also to meet the school's missions and visions," said Mr. Lin. In the year of 2012, the school board decided to extend from grade nine to grade twelve after thorough and prayerful considerations. Meanwhile, the school board approved a building project of adding additional classrooms to meet the space demanding need."

Curious about the "additional classrooms," I inquired about the different components of the new buildings. "In the new high school wing, we will have a science lab and fitness room on the first

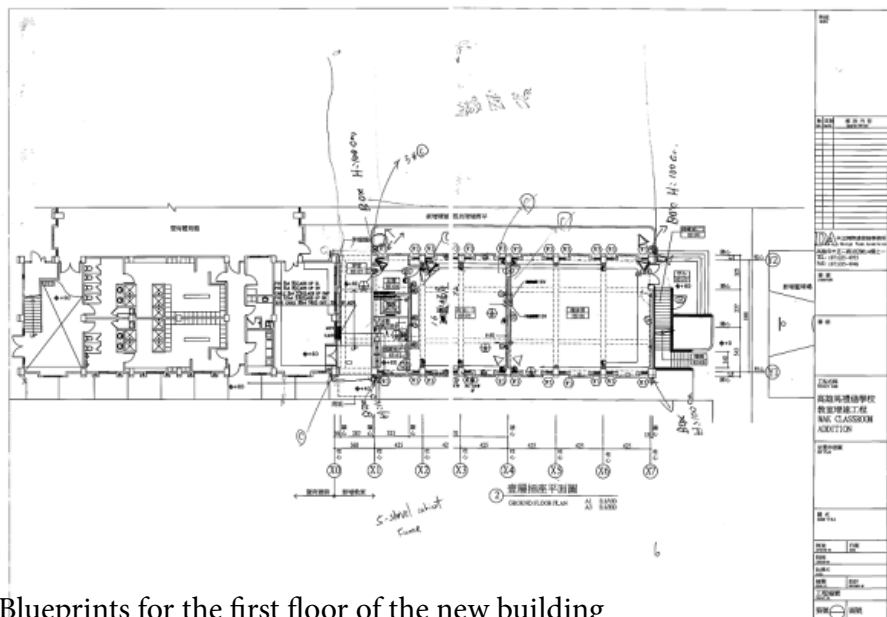
floor, and five classrooms, one student lounge, and one staff room on the second floor," replied Mr. Lin. I was greatly excited by the news of the construction of a student lounge, since what can be better than that in a new school building? However, that's not all. "We are going to build an additional half basketball court at the east end adjacent to the high school wing," added Mr. Lin. "It will be finished at the same time as we complete the building project. The additional court will be primary for HS students to hang out and play."

Something cool is that the exact same architect who designed the current campus in year 1998, architect Chang, was hired to complete this project "for the sake of aesthetics...[and] to ensure that the whole campus will look in harmony between the current and the new buildings." Although I personally wouldn't mind having a little variety within the style of construction, the effort that the school put to maintain the continuity of the buildings is certainly interesting.

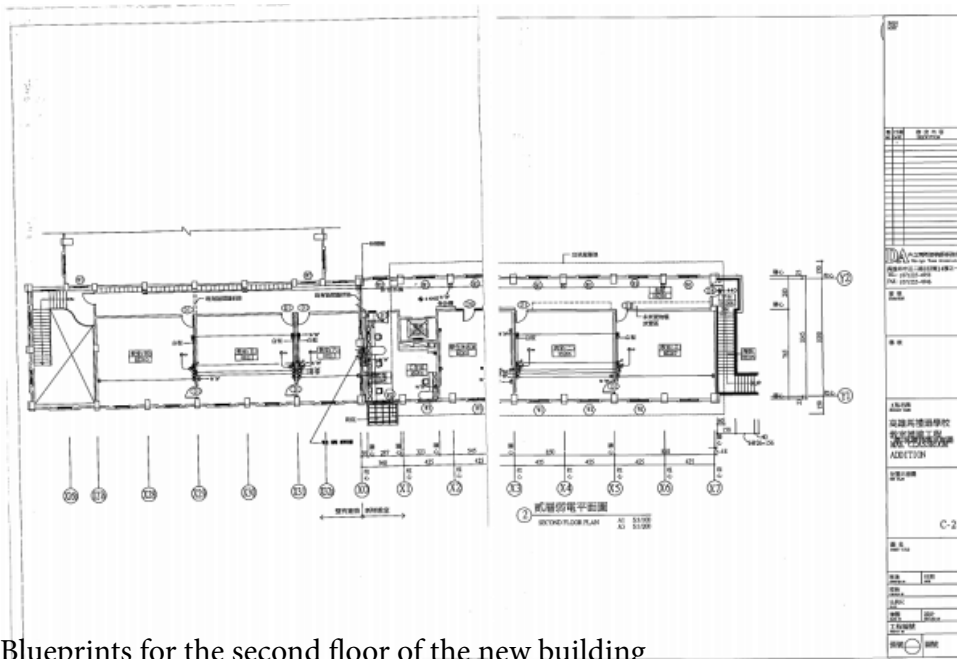
Another amusing fact is that, unlike the first construction, some of the high school students were actually involved in the planning of the

construction. Fortunately, I had the honor to participate in such a novel experience. Of course, we students didn't plan the intricate aspects, such as sorting out all those puzzling wires and drawing out the blueprints (well, I have no artistic talent to begin with anyways); however, we did help plan the overall decoration of social areas and chose the furniture. Although the tasks weren't of great difficulty, nevertheless, we felt a sense of accomplishment in contributing to our beloved school in a way that we had never done before.

After learning the basic information of the construction project, I then asked about Mr. Lin's own insight. "I am excited about the high school extension because we will be able to see students finish their twelve year education and prepare them for advanced study abroad right here," replied Mr. Lin. "There are still some challenging facts that would affect the building progress, such as weather and the government occupancy permitting." But Mr. Lin remained confident: "I would like to invite you to join my prayer for the said issues. We don't worry, because God is in control." I hope you are as excited as us about the new building that is to come.



Blueprints for the first floor of the new building

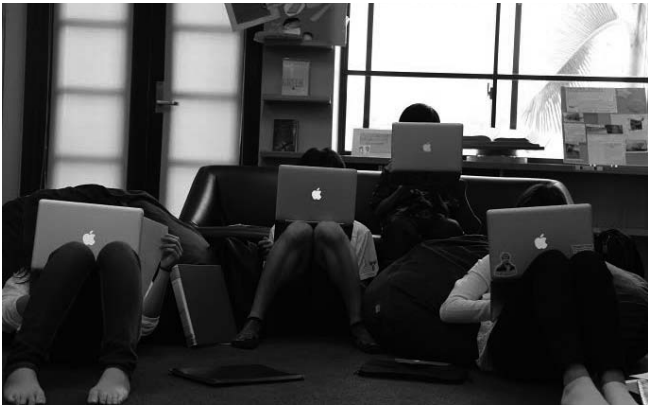


Blueprints for the second floor of the new building



Devices aren't Obnoxious

By: John Lin



Personal technology is prevalent throughout the school, as shown above with the “Apple gang.”

Distractions and teenagers are a package deal now in the 21st century, for we live in the digital era, where information is at our fingertips, and mobile devices are in everyone’s pockets. In this day and age, parents and teachers alike must inevitably consider how often students should be allowed to use said mobile devices. This is a decision that could benefit or hinder the future of education. In light of the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) programs that are in constant debate, one must inevitably ask him or herself whether or not our mobile devices are

truly helpful or harmful.

Student opinion is seldom considered when asking whether or not our devices are helpful or harmful (probably because we’ll say anything to hold onto our iPhones). Nevertheless, student-to-student surveys were conducted regarding this subject in hopes of receiving more honest answers. According to the interviews conducted, the average high school student goes to bed at roughly 11:00-12:00 pm. This means that the average student is getting only six and a half to eight hours of sleep (depending on where you live), which is one and a half to three hours below what is needed. Thus, it is clear that we are spending too much time doing something. Interestingly enough, it may not be homework, for the same interviewees spend on average only two to two and a half hours doing homework. If homework isn’t the reason we are so distracted, are our touch screen friends responsible?

Believe it or not (most likely not), most students find their devices helpful, not harmful. All but one of the students felt that their device was not simply a distraction, and approximately sixty percent of the interviewees found their devices to be

very useful tools to them in ways such as looking up words, using gmail, calculating, translating (Spanish for most interviewees), checking the news, and photographing important notes (if you’re Ann King). When asked how much time they spend on distractions such as music, games, and books, the interviewees only spend on average thirty to forty-one minutes at the most on their device. Thus, the device is not responsible.

This century of teenagers are bombarded with more distractions than any other generation, but for MAK teenagers, our mobile devices may not be the cause of our horrendous mismanagement of time. Either that, or I need to find more honest interviewees. The result of this investigation is clear: our phones are not the reason we waste so much time. However, during the interviews, it has come to my attention that laptops and desktops are much more serious time wasters. Perhaps this is because of the ever so popular online social media, such as Facebook or Twitter. Ultimately, though, when it comes down to it, our wasted time isn’t the result of our devices or websites, but rather, it is the result of a lack of responsibility, and that is the real problem.

Two Opinions on Language

By: Sabrina Tsai

As all students know, MAK has a strict policy about only speaking English in class, and doing otherwise usually results in pushups. However, is this policy too strict? Should students have the freedom to speak more in Chinese, the majority’s native language? While it is true that there are good reasons for speaking Chinese in school freely, the school is right to put limits on its use. “The biggest reason to coming to MAK is to improve [speaking] English,” said Mr. Muir. “Our parents aren’t spending heaps of money so students come here to continue speaking Chinese.” About half of the middle and high schoolers at MAK agree. When asked if teachers should be more strict in enforcing the “No speaking Chinese” rule, over fifty percent answered ‘yes’. When approached for more specifics, most of them said that they were in Morrison, an American school, in order to practice English, otherwise their

parents’ money would be wasted.

On the other hand, the other fifty percent of students believe that since most students speak Chinese at home, they should have more chances to have the freedom to speak the language at school so that they won’t “lose their own culture and identity.” One student said that some students came from local schools, or that their English isn’t very good, so naturally, they need to resort back to Chinese to express what they want to say. Others expressed that teachers at MAK are just way too strict in general and should loosen up a bit.

So how should teachers allow students to keep their culture, not forgetting their native language, but still let them practice their English at the same time? A brilliant solution was voiced by a 9th grader, who argued that a way for the teachers to be less strict yet still help students with their English

is to enforce the rule only during class time, letting students speak Chinese during break. This way, students will still have the opportunity to polish their English but can still have some freedom. When students were asked, every interviewee agreed to it. Another student said that if the rule was changed so that Chinese could be spoken during break time, the percentage of Chinese spoken during class would lower.

For me, this is a great idea. Sometimes, during break, it’s easy to relax and forget that you’re speaking Chinese, because often in my daily conversations with friends, we tend to mix English and Chinese together. If the school loosened the rule up so that English would be mandatory only during class, I think it would be much more reasonable, and most students would find it easier to follow the rule.

By: Jasmine Teng

As international students, it isn’t rare for MAK students to switch back and forth between Chinese and English. In fact, many proudly state that they are speakers of “Chinglish” — a combination of Chinese and English. There is, however, the issue of speaking too much Chinese in class at MAK. Over and over teachers reiterate the rule: don’t speak Chinese in class! Each year, it seems, students cannot resist the temptation to speak Chinese in school, and this behavior seems to be proliferating. Many scoff when teachers reprimand them for speaking Chinese. The question is: should teachers be more lenient to MAK students’ use of Chinese?

Many students advocate for the use of Chinese during school, the reasons being because they live in Taiwan, because it is part of their culture and heritage, and because they simply need to practice Chinese. Therefore, they proclaim that the use of

Chinese is necessary when expressing themselves. However, is this truly so?

The first point opponents propose is this: I live in Taiwan! I’m proud of my country’s language, so why shouldn’t I be allowed to speak it? But where, then, is the logic in attending an international school that forces you to practice English? Your parents work hard to pay for MAK’s not-so-cheap tuition, only for you to come here to improve your Chinese, or worse, have your English-speaking abilities regress? Furthermore, it is not absolutely necessary to practice your Chinese in school. Many students can speak Chinese outside of school, and isn’t that plenty enough time for practice? In fact, the only time students can really practice their English, I believe, is at school.

Some local school students do have a rough time when they first transfer to MAK, because it is difficult for them to translate their Chinese to Eng-

lish. For this reason, some say, it should be okay to let them express themselves in Chinese.

However, it is precisely because they have just transferred from local school that they need help with their English. It’s hard for transfers to practice their English, but it’s even more difficult when all of their classmates are speaking Chinese as well. Then, when will they have the time to practice English? As a result, everyone’s English-speaking levels may deteriorate.

Ultimately, I do understand that it is extremely difficult to prevent yourself from speaking Chinese when your peers are also speaking it, but I’m hoping that everyone can at least try. I urge students not to dismiss or scorn teachers for trying to limit your use of Chinese in school; but instead, heed their warnings. It is, after all, for everyone’s own good. It’s only going to get more difficult from here on out as we move on into college.

NEWS

Ready, Set, Go!

By: Niki Huang

On February 28th, MAK's annual Games Day started off with another awesome Opening Ceremony. This ceremony included cheers from many teams from various countries. There was a variety of cheers that ranged from singing, dancing, acting, and one even featured a guest appearance from Mr. Wisdom. By 8:30, the Opening Ceremony came to an end when the judges decided the best opening ceremony cheer. The winner was Team Canada, Mrs. Stower's team, which now has a three-year winning streak. The best poster winner was also announced, and the winner was Team Philippines, led by Ms. Brabon.

The first event was the 50 meter, which was followed by the 100, 200, 400, and 800 meter races that continued throughout the morning. All the elementary and middle school students participated in one of these running events in addition to some field events. Some other events that were ongoing throughout the day were high jump, standing long jump, baseball throw, frisbee throw, discus, shot put, and the relay race.

At 12:00, students and parents crowded around the cheeseburger and hot dog stand, run by the 10th graders. Many students also lined up to eat snow cones for refreshment on this hot day. One of the major events was tug of war, which was right after lunch. After intense cheering from students, teachers, and parents, Team Taiwan, Mr. Tam's team, came in first. The 9th and 10th graders also participated and competed against each other, with the 9th graders winning the battle triumphantly.

By 2:30, the awards had been distributed, and it was time for the closing ceremonies. Overall, each team worked hard and did their best in each event. Throughout the day, teams cheered and supported both their teammates and their opponents. Mr. Campbell ended Games Day with awards for the record breakers and the top three teams with the most points. In all, it was a wonderfully successful day for the MAK community.



OVERALL TEAM POINTS:

- 1st - Korea 207
- 2nd - Taiwan 201
- 3rd - Canada 190
- 4th - New Zealand 186
- 5th - Singapore 183
- 6th - Malaysia 181
- 7th - Japan 171
- 8th - Scotland 170
- 9th - USA 166
- 10th - Australia 132
- 11th - Philippines 121



RECORD BREAKERS:

- SILAS LAYTHAM (1st grade) - 50M 9:07, 100M 18:44, 200M 40.12 (tied this record).
- GEORGE LAYTHAM (3rd grade) - High Jump 108cm, 400M 1:19.75, 200M 37.41
- ANNETTE HUANG (5th grade) - 400M 1:22.00
- JORDAN CAMPBELL (5th grade) - 400M 1:14.40
- MEGAN CHEN (5th grade) - Standing Long Jump 1.81M
- SCOTT WANG (8th grade) - 400M 1:03.81



TEAM KOREA



TEAM TAIWAN



TEAM CANADA



Cross Country Adventures

By: Jeffrey Chen

After running through the trees, across the fields, and in the shade of mountains, I finally saw the finish line. It was literally a breathtaking and exciting moment, and stepping over the finish line brought with it the end of MAK's inaugural cross country season. With hard work and effort, MAK was able to bring back some of the top placements at the cross country meet hosted by AST. Because of the rigorous training, we were able to achieve glory for the school.

Since the middle of November, Anna, Gabby, Ray, Jason, and I had been practicing and building our leg muscles for the awaited race ahead of us. With the guidance and coaching of Mr. Love, we were motivated and encouraged to do our best. An hour a day and three times a week, we spent time running for speed and training for endurance. There are also times working out in the gym to build up muscle strength. In the intense workouts and training, Mr. Love kept pushing us to our limits, and we developed strong relationships. At the end, the day of the big race came sooner than we had expected.

On the day of the cross country meet, we woke up early in the morning to get ready for the departure to AST. In the dark and foggy morning, we gathered in front of the school in excitement for

the upcoming challenge. For couple of hours sitting in the van, with uncertainty, I wondered what the actual competition was going to be like. After a few delays and confusion with directions, we arrived just in time for the preparation and sign-ups. When a crowd had gathered around the starting line, we knew the race was starting soon. We were all pumped and at the same time very tense. Quickly after the middle school girls started their 2K race, Anna and Gabby took the lead ahead of everyone else from the beginning till the end. Crossing over the finish line almost at the exact same time, both of them finished the race honorably.

Later on, it came the time for the high school boys for a 4K race. Jason and I stood in front of the starting line with all the other runners waiting. As the shout of "Go!" was heard, all of the runners leaped forward simultaneously in one quick motion. A few minutes into the race, gaps between runners grew as we all encountered to a steep hill. With all my attention focused on my breath and the mechanism of my body, I hardly noticed the sight of an amazing valley and the murmuring sound of a little creek nearby. Towards the end, hearing all the cheering and yelling of our coach, friends, and parents, we burst out our last bit of energy and sprinted to the finish line as fast as we could, in the

end with strong results.

It was an enjoyable journey from the beginning to the end, a refreshing and intriguing experience. And as the very first year of the cross country program at MAK, it was another great performance for the MAK high school.

Name	Overall Place	Division Place
Gabrielle Liu	1 (MS Girls)	1 (6th Grade Girls)
Anna Laytham	2 (MS Girls)	2 (6th Grade Girls)
Jason Chou	5 (HS Boys)	2 (10th Grade Boys)
Jeffrey Chen	13 (HS Boys)	5 (10th Grade Boys)



Before the Biology Trip

By: Ray Kung



The time had come for the ninth graders to go on the annual biology trip. For the annual trip, MAK teachers put together a spectacular itinerary that was sure to broaden the horizons of the students. The ninth graders, accompanied by Teacher Ou, our Chinese teacher, and Mr. Tam, our science teacher, visited Kenting and the volcanic Orchid Island off the southeastern coast of Taiwan. With new science probe ware and an altered itinerary, the students were guaranteed to have an enhanced experience

on learning more about nature and real-life issues that concern humanity today.

The three-day biology trip consisted of a one-night stay in Kenting and two days on the enclave paradise of Orchid Island. The main difference between this and previous biology trips was that previous trips had been more passive on learning about the marine ecosystem. In contrast to last year, the trip this year allowed the students to learn more about nature from data collection and personal experience. Due to the immense focus on nuclear related issues in today's society, Mr. Tam decided to take the students to the nuclear waste storage facilities on Orchid Island, to further their understanding on the functions and affects nuclear power has on the environment and its people.

Through this trip, the teachers hoped that the students would have the impression that the decisions they make may have a great impact on the environment, even though this impact may be unnoticeable to the human eye. Additionally, hopefully, the culture of Orchid Island can train these ninth graders to be able to accept the diversity between cultures.

Mr. Tam, the teacher behind the all the hard



work put into this trip, stated, "I hope the students can learn to appreciate nature and the environment that they live in. Hopefully, they can realize that the choices they make may have great impact on society, and from that be able to make decisions more responsibly." We all wished the ninth graders a pleasant journey, and we hoped that through this journey they will be able to appreciate God's creation even more and be educated to become responsible inhabitants of our land.

More to come in the next issue on how the trip went...

What's your favorite sport?⁷

By: Tiffanie Lin

LOGAN MUIR

Basketball, because you need different kinds of skills in order to play well. Also, it requires your whole team to participate in the game.

MR. CHOI

Basketball, because it is fast and it involves a lot of strategy in the game. It also needs good teamwork to play the game well.

MARC JOHNSON

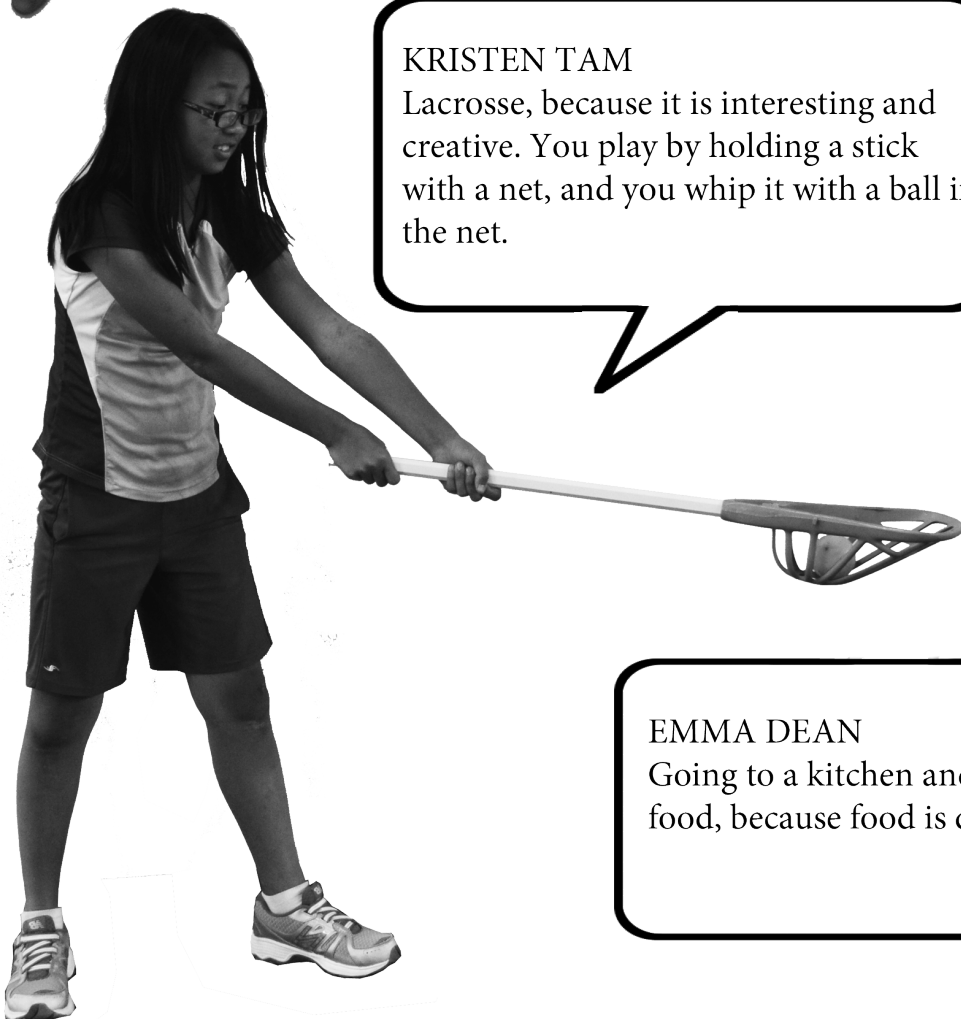
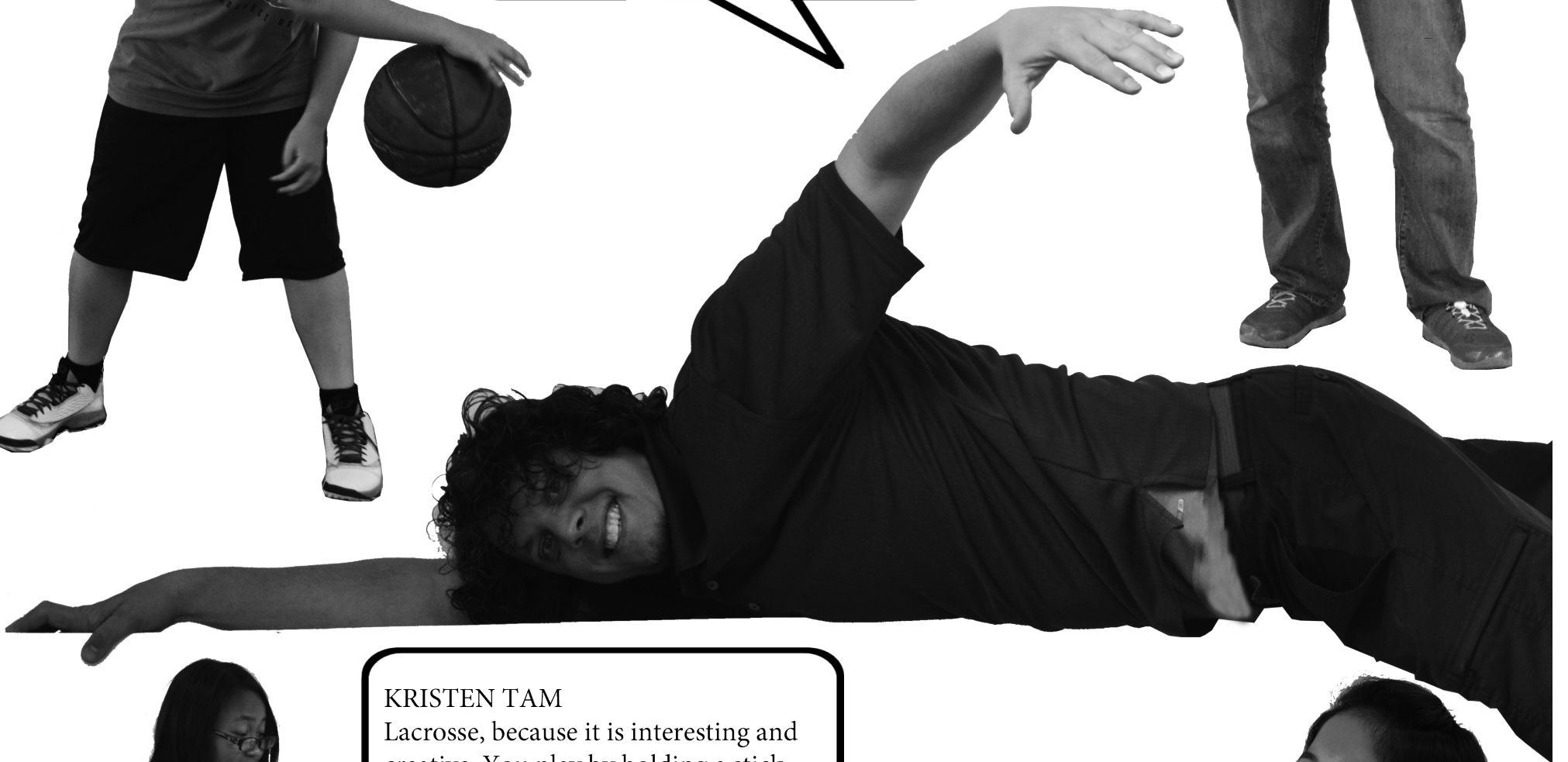
Swimming, because the weather outside is awesome! Also, when you're in the water, you feel like you're flying.

KRISTEN TAM

Lacrosse, because it is interesting and creative. You play by holding a stick with a net, and you whip it with a ball in the net.

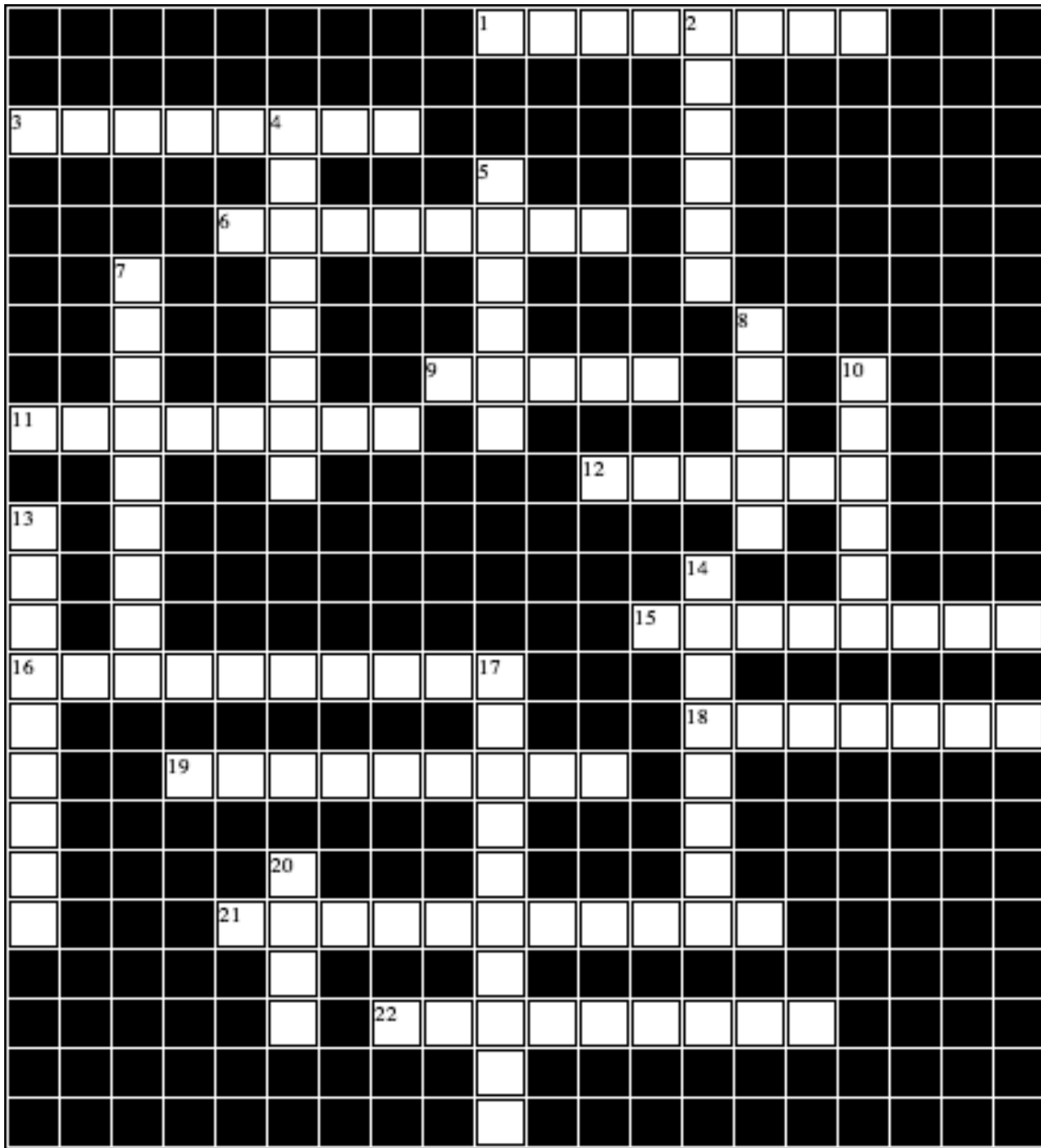
EMMA DEAN

Going to a kitchen and getting food, because food is delicious!



Crossword Challenge!

By: Tiffanie Lin

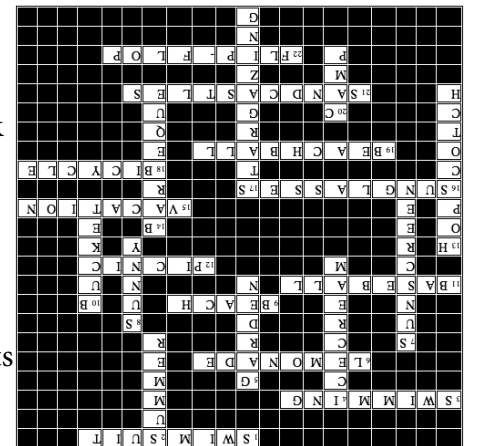


Across

1. What you wear when you go swimming
3. A sport for hotter weathers
6. A drink that is filled with lemon
9. Sand and Ocean
11. A ball game that is usually played in the summer
12. Having food outside
15. A long break from work or school
16. Something that you would wear during summer to protect your eyes
18. Two-wheeled vehicle
19. Inflatable toy used at the beach
21. A structure that you build with a lot of sand
22. Wear this on your feet to be cool

Down

2. Season after spring
4. Eaten a lot in the Summer
5. A place to plant plants mostly in the summer
7. What you need to put on when you're at the beach to prevent sunburn
8. A word used to describe the weather during the summer
10. Used for putting sand in
13. A game to play on the sidewalk
14. Cooking outside with grills
17. Laying down looking up at the stars
20. Sleeping in tents



THE MORRISON SHARKPOST

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