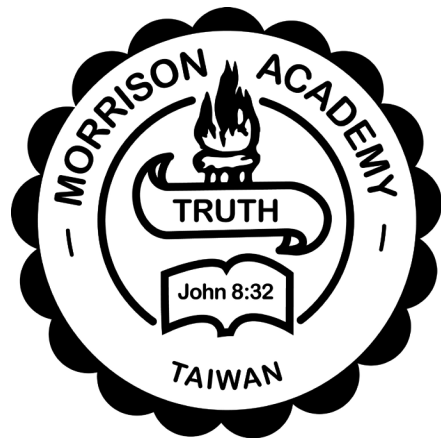




THE MORRISON SHARK POST



kaohsiung.mca.org.tw

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Pwatastic Scholars

By: Alice Lin



With tons of medals clanging around their necks and trophies and alpacas held in their hands, MAK students proudly represented their school once again in its seventh year participating in World Scholar's Cup. So what exactly is World Scholar's Cup? It is known as an academic competition founded by Daniel Berdichevsky in which students study a variety of subjects and display their knowledge through several events including Team Debate, Scholar's Bowl, Collaborative Writing, and Scholar's Challenge. Besides searching for intelligent minds, these events encourage team members to collaborate well in order to demonstrate the power of teamwork and, moreover, the spirit of World Scholar's Cup. These attributes make the whole event more like a celebration of learning rather than a competition.

This year, one major difference from last year was that high school students did not have a World Scholar course like middle school students did. As Mr. Newkirk said, "This put the responsibility to prepare and study directly on the students." Although that meant students needed to find time to work harder by themselves, they were

still willing to join World Scholar's Cup this year and kept encouraging each other along the way. Because of this kind of strong will and spirit, this year was MAK's largest team ever team with forty-eight students.

When March 15th finally came, MAK's Scholars woke up from their comfortable sleeping bags up on the MCA campus, ate their breakfasts with eyes half opened, and knew that the time had come. After dressing up in suits or heels, the students acquired a completely new appearance, looking sharp and sagacious like real scholars. After the grand opening of World Scholar's Cup Taiwan Regional Round 2014, flipping through their guides one last time, the scholars stood up from their seats and began the competition.

This year, the debate topics for both senior and junior teams were more creative and challenging. Students discussed issues such as choosing their own personality, treating stupidity as a disease, and needing more ninjas in the world. Other than debates, scholars participated in events such as Collaborative Writing and Scholar's Challenge by scribbling down their answers and thoughts frantically. Later on, the Taiwan scholars held on to their clickers tightly and tried to get the correct answer in sixteen seconds for each question, an event known as the Scholar's Bowl. Finally came, the most thrilling moment that everyone was waiting for: the award ceremony. MAK students proud got on the stage and received their awards. With everyone from MAK qualifying for the Global Round in Singapore, World Scholar's Cup 2014 in Taiwan ended happily.

Lastly, MAK's World Scholars would like to encourage students who, as Mr. Newkirk put it, "have a natural curiosity about the world, want to learn things that are not normally covered in school, and want to work on public speaking skills" to join World Scholar's Cup. Hopefully in the future years, there can be even more MAK Scholars to participate and to experience the true joy of learning.



Journeying to Orchid Island

By: Sabrina Tsai

Day 1: To Kenting!

At 8:00 in the morning, a bunch of excited biology students crowd into the science room as Mr. Tam gives final instructions. This year, not only are we going to go to Kenting, but we were also going to get the chance to go Lanyu!

The majority of the first day is spent on the bus to Kenting. We first stop at Houbihu (後壁湖), where we test for radioactivity, one of the projects of the trip, and then go on to the Taipower nuclear power facility for a short tour and a movie. The movie is crazy, mostly about a boy who learns the lesson of being kind to animals. We walk out of the theater with huge question marks.

Next, we stop at MAK's famous waterfall destination in Kenting. After a steep climb, many students jump into a picturesque pool. Others, including me, follow Mr. Torgerson up to the top of the falls, where I experience what it's like above a waterfall. After Mr. Torgerson jumps, Tony YOLOs it and jumps, too. Many others follow.

Now, pretty tired, we head to a natural gas phenomenon nearby, where flames come out of the earth, with fuel always feeding the fire. Finally, we take the bus to Kenting Main Street, getting delicious food, including fried cream, and learn the ways of Family Business.

Day 2: Getting Lost and Ferrying to Lanyu

After a McDonald's breakfast, we ride the bus to Fengchueisha (風吹沙), where, as the name suggests, it's super windy. After waiting out the rain a bit, we are told to put on our raincoats and start a long trek down some massive sand dunes toward the coast. Before testing the waters for radioactivity, we can't resist some fun, jumping and sliding down the sand. After our testing, many of us take a walk down the beach, and soon it becomes three: Mr. T, Justin, and me. We go to check out an abandoned house and, not wanting to walk all the way back, we use a crazy shortcut, crawling and climbing along goat and cow paths in the thorny beach brush.

Surviving that mini adventure, it's time to go eat lunch, to say goodbye to Mr. Torgerson, and to take the ferry to Lanyu. Being completely naïve, I think the boat ride will only last, at most, one hour. I nearly faint when Eric tells me the ride is 2 hours long! Waiting for us at the Lanyu harbor is a public bus covered with the symbol of the Tao people. Because the other van has a problem, the whole class AND all our luggage has to be stuffed in. There is no AC, so the windows are mostly down. All we can see is grass, mountains, fields, water, and...goats. Herds and herds of goats.



After taking a quick tour of the cultural center, I get to walk through an actual Dao house on display. The house is small and halfway underground. Elisa and I walk back to the parking lot only to see a pick-up truck, a replacement for the van. Thrilled, Elisa and I climb in. Soon the truck is moving, and the music booming from Callie's speakers is barely heard above the wind. Dinner is BBQ, and we have an amazing view of the sunset.

Next, our tour guide has one more surprise for us: a night hike. On the hike we hear an owl hooting but never see an owl. The tour has to be cut short because some are feeling ill, and we head back and go to sleep early for the next day.

Day 3: Touring Lanyu

Our first stop of the day is a cave, which weirdly has a cross in it. Going in one way and coming out another, we take a class picture and fix our aging van. Next up is the water: absolutely perfect, cool, and clear. Our final stop of the island tour is at Taipower's controversial nuclear waste facility. The stop is brief: we listen to a man explain precautions, and why it is actually very safe, and then we go to see the storage ourselves. We aren't allowed to get a close look, though, of course. Thanking the Taipower staff, we head out for lunch, more water testing, and snorkeling. After snorkeling, a number of freshmen find a cliff and jump into the ocean for a swim. Once everyone is cleaned up, it's dinner time. This time, we taste the famous flying fish, a Lanyu staple. That night, I go to sleep early as I want to see the sunrise with friends.

Day 4: The Sunrise, and the End of the Trip

At 4:15 am, the alarm beeps, and seven of us get up to see the sunrise. After driving the van to a good spot, we are disappointed: the sky is cloudy, and the sunrise isn't as beautiful as expected. However, since we are already up, we decide to go take a

look at some boats we had seen, which is a very bad idea as they are beautiful but also really stinky. We then get breakfast for everyone.

The last day is all about exploring the island and bonding, and the first place we go to the Small Sky Pond. Because the bus is too big for the roads, we ride in the truck in shifts up the mountain. One problem: the first group there doesn't know where to go! As we have Ou lao shi with us, we confidently decide to go for it. And we make it! But we are disappointed when we find that the pond...is...all dried up. All that remains is the word 天 (sky) made out of rocks on the ground.

On the way down, Mr. Tam drives us up toward the island lighthouse. Our final location before returning home is a picturesque weather station overlooking the island. Soon, the trip comes to an end. We pack up, get on the ferry to the mainland, and head home.

Reflection

I came into this trip with the desire to experience adventures that I never had experienced before, and on this trip I was given many new opportunities. We climbed waterfalls, got lost on the beach, rode on the back of a truck, got lost looking for a pond, and got to travel to beautiful island in Taiwan. The trip was about nuclear power plants, nuclear waste, and radioactivity, yet I feel like this trip was also a bonding trip, an opportunity to see the world and to do some crazy things.



Better than Bill Nye

By: John Lin

In science class, every MAK student strains to hear five words: "BILL NYE THE SCIENCE GUY!" Why? Because those words mean that they get to watch a video in science class. This is not just any science video however, this is a Bill Nye video, which means that not only do they get to use up class time watching TV, but they also because get to watch something fun. But this science fun isn't limited to Bill Nye at MAK. This spring at the 8th Grade Science Fair, students had the opportunity to enjoy hands on science to the fullest, hypothesizing, experimenting, and exploring.

Here are some highlights from the Science Fair:

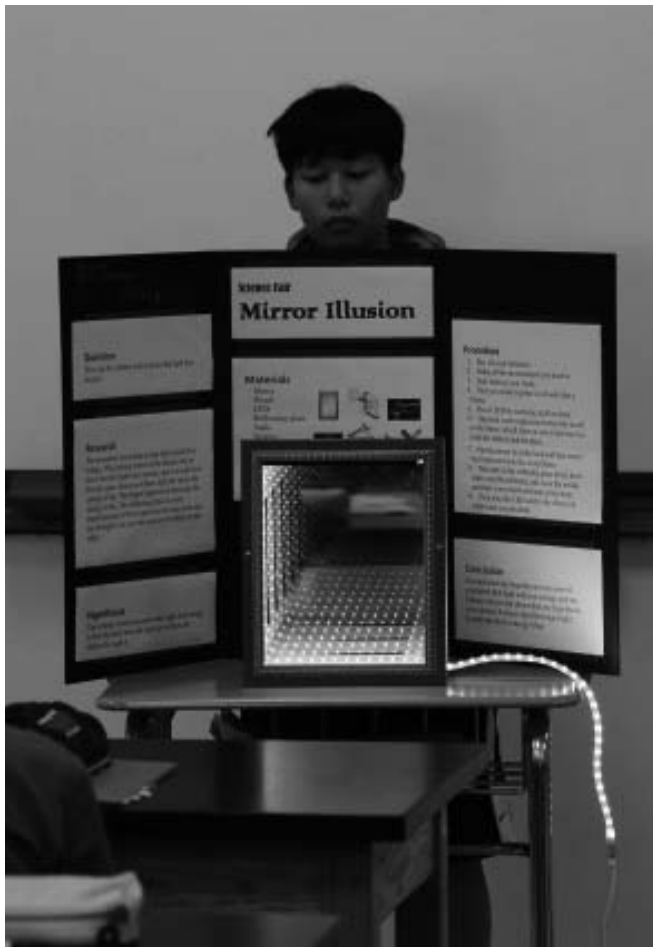
- If you ever need to convince your mother to buy diet Zero, tell her that it's good for your teeth, because in one acid experiment, a student found that by placing a tooth in diet Zero for a few days, the tooth was even BIGGER than before (fine print: the student says this was probably the result of a calculation/experiment error). The student also found that Sprite is the most corrosive to teeth, as opposed to Coke, Diet Coke, and orange juice. So maybe having a glass of soda before bed is not a good idea.

- For all you boys who want to get the perfect polish on your nails, you're in luck, because one student has found the ideal conditions for nail polish. Apparently, water at 20° Celsius is the ideal way to dry off nail polish. In addition, cold drying with a blow dryer will also get glossy nails. Do not use a hot blow dryer because that's just painful, and the nail polish will never dry.
- Nothing makes an aquarium like a few aquatic plants. Students conducted multiple experiments on underwater plant growth, and they found that: A) incandescent lamps are the best for photosynthesis, B) 5mg of Co2 helps an aquatic plant grow best, and C) fertilizer is best used in standard amounts (0.2/1000 CC) per week. Too much may also harm the plants. Lastly, never forget to water your underwater plants! (Kidding!)
- Many students in MAK enjoy listening to music, but does it help? What type of music should we listen too? After having students study with music before a picture test, one student has compared the benefits of different musical genres. In the end, heavy metal and pop proved to

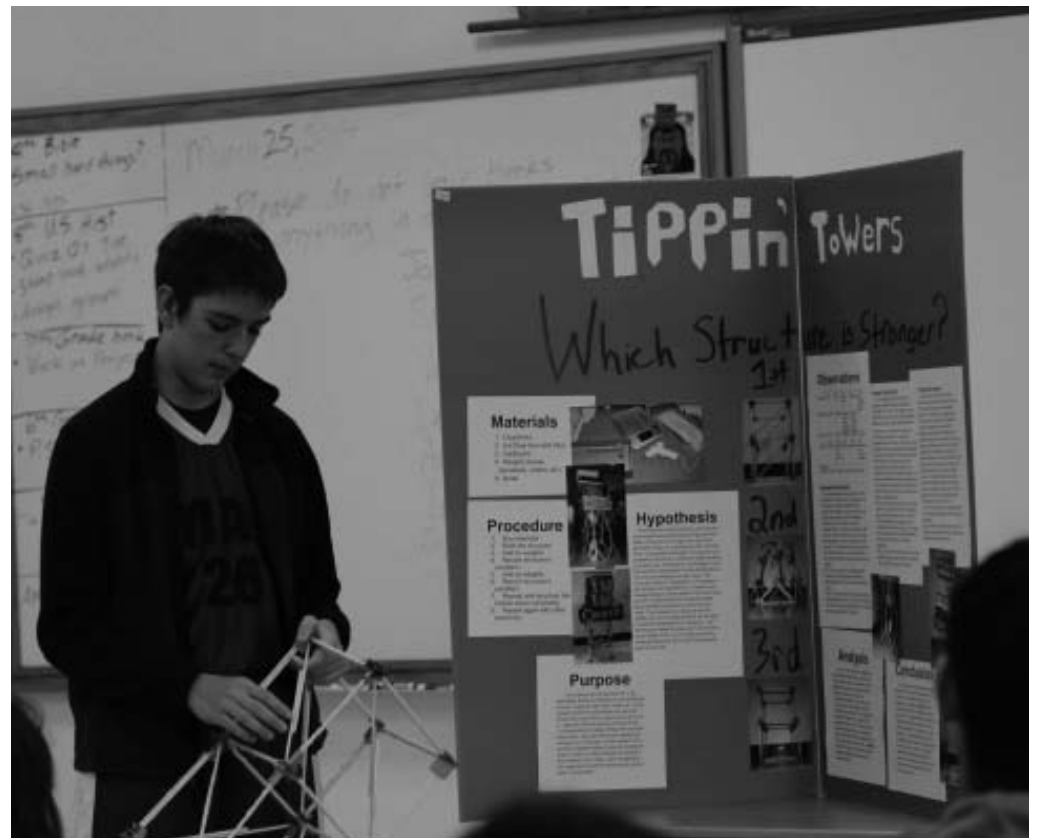
be the most distracting (especially if it involves a certain song from Frozen). Clearly, though, classical music proved to be the best for students to study too.

- Taiwan's climate and apple slices are the worst combination ever. The humidity often turns exposed apples brown and mushy if you don't eat them right away. To stop this, one student experimented with preserving apples with acids. By testing with salt water, lemon juice, vinegar, and Sprite (Don't preserve your teeth in there!), the student determined that vinegar is best for preserving fresh fruit. (We won't say anything here about how that might make the fruit taste.)

To accomplish great things in science, one does not need complicated theories, millions of dollars of research funds, or even a fancy lab coat (that's right, Daniel!). In the 8th Grade Science Fair, students learned that scientific brilliance often comes from simple discoveries. Thus, don't be afraid to discover new things, to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, or to boldly go where no man has gone before, even if it is just a lab in science class.



MIRROR ILLUSION: (Above and Left) Truman Chiang presents his "mirror illusion" display for the fair in front of his class.



TIPPIN' TOWERS: (Above) Andrew Dunn demonstrates his wooden examples in his presentation to show which structure is the strongest.

THE AERODYNAMIC TEST: (Left) Kevin Chuang stands next to his presentation about aerodynamics.

We Love, We Care, We Share

By: Ann King

On April 4th, MAK middle school and high school participated in our annual 30-Hour Famine. MAK has participated in 30-Hour Famine, an event hosted by the World Vision, for more than ten years. Participants voluntarily fast for thirty hours, and in doing so to raise money and awareness for world hunger and poverty. It is an opportunity for students to gain knowledge on what's going on in many parts of the world.

By participating in the event, everyone gets to have a sense of how someone else around the world sees food as a precious. As Mr. Choi stated, "Students at MAK are blessed with so much, but we often take our blessings for granted. God calls us to help those who are needy, so the 30-Hour Famine is one way we can bless others with the many blessings God has given us."

Various activities and events were held during the thirty hours. "Every year the activities are slightly different because the leaders coordinate different activities and games," Mr. Choi said. "This year, Mr. Griffin coordinated a fun water game that simulated the difficult process of carrying water from a water source back to the village." From this game we understood how millions go through dif-

ferent trials and obstacles to just get water for their town or village. For many of us, at first our buckets were full, but when we returned, the buckets were nowhere near full.

This was the first year that 10th graders participated in the 30-hour famine, and this was also my first year participating. The Famine taught me a new lesson, reminding me how good my life is compared to millions of others. Every single thing I have is precious, and I should feel blessed and cherish it and not complain. It also reminded me that I could sacrifice and use what I have and help those that are in need. This can be another form of action of love and care.

This year, with more than 75 students participating, we raised over 250,000NT. "I was very impressed and encouraged by the great attitudes and participation level of this year's 30-Hour Famine," said Mr. Choi. "It is important for us to know that poverty and hunger are real issues in the world today. It is great to see MAK students be motivated to make a difference; if we work together we can make an impact and help make a difference in the lives of those who need it. I am confident that this will continue to be the case for next year."



Poetry House

By: Jeffrey Chen

In mid-March, the ninth graders had a blast reading, interpreting, and presenting on the background of different poems and poets. The event was hosted by the MAK library, which also served desserts and drinks. In the afternoon, a large audience of students and parents was streamed into the library to enjoy the presentations.

To prepare, the students researched a variety of poets and then chose one poet and poem. They then learned about the biography and the background of the poet. Finally, they wrote a commentary paper about the poem and the poet themselves as part of their preparation. Through this project, the students were able to develop a better understanding of poetry as they had to vividly describe the beauty and the structure of their poem, and they also became better at presenting. It also enhanced their ability to write and research. As described by Mr. Torgerson, the purpose of the Poetry House "first is to appreciate poetry and, secondly, it is to really figure out how to find meaning and value in a poem, and then thirdly it's having an authentic audience."

Dressed up in formal clothing, they gathered in the library to get ready on the day of the presentation. As students, teachers, and parents entered the library, judges sat in place waiting for the presentation to begin. Reading out loud with enthusiasm, the students conveyed the meaning behind the poems and the ideas of the poets. With all the pressure, as stated by Mr. Torgerson, "it really makes it an experience not only for poetry but for life. A lot of our students will be in positions of leadership in their jobs, and being able to speak with power publicly is a big part of being a leader, so in a way it is training for that."

As this year's Poetry House came to an end, Mr. Torgerson already looks forward to next year's Poetry House. For the upcoming year and the upcoming 9th graders, Mr. Torgerson said, "It is important to remember that you should invest in every presentation that you do and to take every opportunity you can get to do your best so as the level of difficulty keeps increasing you can be ready for it."



MAK's Got Talent!

By: Ray Kung

On May 16th, MAK hosted the first ever high school-organized talent show. The 9th and 10th graders were busy preparing for the most spectacular event yet! This event provided students with the opportunity to showcase their talents, and contributed as a platform for free expression of the arts. In order to put together this spectacular event, the Student Council divided the high school students into distinct groups that were each in charge of different areas of the talent show. The six groups included show organizers, fund raising, food and refreshments, servers, decorators, and talent screeners. These high schoolers undertook the responsibility of throwing together this fabulous celebration for the marvelous talents of the students.

Starting as early as February, the talent show committee, which consisted of the entire high school student body, began the preparations for this much anticipated event. The show organizers planned out the layout of the entire show, including the order students performed in and the overall theme of the show. They also sent out flyers promoting and advertising the event to all parents and faculty. The fundraising team sent out emails to companies and parents, in hopes of seeking out potential sponsors and donors. In order to make this occasion the most pleasant experience for all parents and students, the food and refreshments team

overlooked the refreshment portion of the evening, and in cooperation with the servers, exemplary service and food was guaranteed. The decorators planned the most incredible set up and decor for the talent show, and the talent screeners sacrificed numerous lunch and break times to carefully select performers for the special evening.

It took a great deal of effort for the high school student body to compose this first ever "student organized" talent show, but with great support from parents and teachers, the show evolved from a mere possibility to a reality. Special thanks to StuCo and the StuCo supervisor, Mr. Laytham, for laying the groundwork of the event and devoting time and effort into providing additional guidance to the six groups. Catherine of the Student Council said, "I wish that the students will grasp this opportunity to showcase their abilities and have as much fun as they can throughout the entire process!" Kent of the Student Council also commented, "I hope that the talent show can be exciting and inspiring, and that the high school students can work together as a team and accomplish this goal!"

Organizing an event of this scale was a first for the high school students of MAK, but they all had high expectations for this event, and the high hopes of the talent show generated positive feedback from the audience!



The First Math Olympiad

By: Jason Chou



Eyes stared intently upon the two participants, whose faces were covered with sweat, waiting for the words to be enunciated. Each held fingers on the triggers, ready to strike at any moment. This was no western cowboy duel, but the very first Math Olympiad math competition of MAK.

Held on April 24th to 25th, this competition was open to students from second through eighth grade and was organized by Mrs. Griffin and the Math Club. Tired of people's derogatory remarks of mathematics, club members were determined to tear off all the intimidating labels of math and show people how fun math can actually be. In order to do so, a great variety of questions were incorporated, including tangrams, match stick questions, and tricky real-life problems.

A tower building test was also given to the elementary students, who were given materials like tape,

paper cups, paper, and paperclips to construct their towers in just a few minutes. Towers were required to be able last for ten seconds without human support. Some groups decided to take the safe route and spent most materials making the base. There were also some bolder groups who used only one paper cup as the base and spent all remaining resources stretching the tower as tall as possible. As feeble as the materials might sound, the winning team astonishingly built towers as high as 1.26 meters with paper rolls as pillars and paper cups as the base.

In middle school divisions, a head-to-head round was given in addition to an individual test and group activities. In the head-to-head round, top eight scorers were invited up the stage to answer challenging questions. Participants who were the first to get two correct answers proceeded to the

TRY IT!: Please move one stick to form a square.



next round. In order to increase the level of intensity, MAK math teacher Mr. Love also made a buzzer and scoring system which was projected behind the participants. This round is was no doubt the most exciting one as audiences continuously cheered for both sides and raced each other to solve the given problems.

Behind this two-day long competition went a year's worth of work. Everything was made from scratch, including the test problems, buzzers, group activities, certificates, and awards. They transformed from ideas to reality thanks to the hard work of Mrs. Griffin, Mr. Love, the Math Club, LBOE+ Club, and many others. Overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the participants, the Math Club hopes to continue this school event and turn it into a school tradition, perhaps changing people's view of math completely.

Pauley or Marc?

By: Niki Huang

On the week of March 3rd to 7th, Marc Johnson, a speaker from Columbus, Ohio, came to MAK to talk to the elementary, middle, and high school students about their spirituality. Some people may assume that Johnson talked about different topics to the wide range of students, but Johnson said, "The only difference for the different ages was a few of the examples and how long I talked." The main theme he talked about was, simply, joy.

Before Johnson came to Morrison Academy Kaohsiung, he went to the Taichung campus. Johnson said, "I talked about similar things at both MAK and MCA. My main point was that you should be filled with joy. We looked at different Bible passages that show different aspects of what joy is and how you get it." As part of his theme of joy, Johnson talked about the effects of stress, the ups and downs of friendship, and the concept of heaven.

On the first day of the high school's Tuesday Thing, Johnson introduced himself and talked about something that many students remember about the week: his friend Pauley in Ohio. Johnson showed pictures of Pauley, who amusingly resembled himself. He explained to us about how sad and depressed Pauley was in college and that Johnson himself was the exact opposite: cheerful and energetic. Because Johnson seemed to focus on Pauley's experience and life more than his own ex-

perience early in the week, some people wondered whether or not he was actually Pauley. Did Marc Johnson struggle with these issues and find joy in Christ? Many even thought he would reveal to us that he was Pauley on the final day, Friday. However, by the end of the week, Marc Johnson ended by talking about heaven. The mystery was unsolved.

In a later interview, Johnson stated clearly, "I'm not Pauley...but he is my best friend." He then went on to talk about his own testimony, saying, "I do have a testimony. I accepted Christ when I was four at a Vacation Bible Study at my friend's house. But following God was not a priority in my life until I was 15. It was then that I heard about Christ's physical suffering on the cross. I was struck by how loving God was to me. The only thing that made sense at that point was to offer myself to God. That was the start of me caring about my own spiritual growth." It is clear that Johnson has even travelled the world to further spread his testimony and share God's word with everyone.

Marc Johnson enjoyed his time at MAK, and he emphasized that "spending time with students" was his favorite thing. He also added, "God's purpose for me at MAK was to encourage students and staff to know Christ, think like God, attempt the impossible, and be filled with joy." Johnson then concluded, "I loved my time at MAK. I hope I get to come back soon!"



Marc Johnson tries the exotic, tasty delicacy of wasabi combined with soy sauce and pickles.



What time is it? SUMMER⁷

By: Ann King and Sabrina Tsai

Ezra Gregg (2)
I'm going back to America!


Jacob Clemente (2)
I'm going back to the States
to visit my grandparents.

Emily Griffin (4)
I'm going to shop, swim, eat
lots of junk food, and visit my
grandparents in Michigan.



Jordan Campbell (5)
I'm going to a basketball camp, a
soccer camp, sleepovers, play with
my friends, play video games, drink
Starbucks, and go to Kenting.

Scott Wang (8)
My plan for summer is to
play basketball all day, and
then go to Utah.

Ray Kung (10)
Study, Study, Study!!!






EDITOR'S MESSAGE:

Hi, SharkPost readers! This is Jasmine Teng, the editor-in-chief of the SharkPost. This year has been extremely hectic, but it really has been eye-opening and fun (for all of us, hopefully). Since this was the first year of the SharkPost, I had to deal with tons of new issues and problems that I'd never thought I would face, including dealing with advertisements, trying to include a variety of articles and stories that the whole school could enjoy, and timing the due dates for the articles and publishing dates for the actual newspaper itself. Despite that, I have also made some memorable and exciting memories in the club, and I do appreciate all that managing this club has taught me. I know and deeply regret that I've made plenty of miscellaneous mistakes and errors myself, especially with publishing dates and including the entire school in the newspaper, but I hope the dear readers of the SharkPost will forgive me, as it still is my first year, and I am still learning. I believe next year will be as lively and enjoyable as this year, and I hope it was as fun for you as it was for me. Next year, I will definitely try my best to make every issue as ideal as I can, so that we can deliver news and stories to the school successfully and to the expectations of everyone. I also would like to thank Mr. Torgerson, the adviser of the SharkPost, for spending countless hours editing all of these articles and dealing with my numerous emails. Furthermore, the staff writers of the SharkPost have all been incredibly kind in dealing with my requests and are awesome for writing all of these articles for the SharkPost. I am sincerely grateful for these great writers and if you have the chance, please commend them for their fabulous articles! Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to submit articles detailing their summer vacations to the SharkPost, so that we can include it in the first issue for the next school year! If any of you have more suggestions or ideas for the newspaper, please email us at maksharkpost@gmail.com. On behalf of the SharkPost, I would like to thank you all for supporting the SharkPost. Have a fantastic summer, and see you all next year!

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.