



THE MORRISON SHARK POST



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The Other Side of the Wall

By: Jason Chou



It's been five weeks since school started. Sudden bursts of chiseling and the hum of drilling caught everyone's attention at first, but they have gradually become a common sound in the MAK high school wing. Besides these, there is also the airplane-like roaring (which is actually the sound of the cement truck) that seems to roam directly through classrooms occasionally. A little annoyed at first, watching the teachers struggle in vain to speak, I couldn't help but wonder what was happening on the other side of the wall. Unable to restrain my curiosity, I naturally went to hunt down the construction manager, Mr. Chang.

Fortunately, I was able to trap him in Mr. Lin's office for an interview. Mr. Chang, as it turns out, is quite experienced in the business of construction. Besides being a part of numerous pieces of architecture outside the school, Mr. Chang was also involved in constructing the dormitory at MAC and also the staff housing of MAK. In this MAK construction project, Mr. Chang is in charge of organizing the work and analyzing the overall cost of materials. I started by asking about what

features would be present in the new high school building. "There is going to be a workout room, a science lab, a teacher lounge, and a student lounge," said Mr. Chang. "And as for the outer regions, there will be a basketball court and a small garden." Mr. Chang also mentioned that the basketball court will take longer than others because all the dirt from the construction is currently stored on the future basketball court area.

Touching on the topic of time, I became eager to know the overall schedule of the construction. This is only natural because the end of banishment to middle school is a big concern for me and several others as our lockers are still on that side of the school. As I, with delight, imagined placing my hands on those polished, fresh lockers, Mr. Chang answered, "There were a lot of surprises that we didn't expect. Both the change in design and the legal procedures that we have to follow extended our original plan by about three months. The weather also posed a difficulty as well," added Mr. Chang, "because during rainy days, not only are we unable to polish the walls or place the tiles, but the

roads for transporting materials also get especially muddy. But so far we have already finished 80% of the work and the new building should be available in November, if the license is granted."

Also, interested in his career, I asked Mr. Chang what he finds fulfilling in his work. "You receive a sense of accomplishment after each project," answered Mr. Chang after some hesitation, "because your finished work stays there. It just stays there. And I actually go back and look at all those houses that I made, recollecting the good memories and effort that I spent with them." Mr. Chang also mentions that this project is different from others because this is his first time constructing a building used for learning. After constructing housing for a long time, he finds this experience quite interesting.

Gaining a better understanding of the mystery shrouding the other side of the wall, I became even more excited for the advent of the new building. Hopefully by three months' time, the chiseling and drilling will cease and students of MAK will finally be able to behold the countenance of a new part of MAK.

Meet your new StuCo Officers!

From left to right: Samuel Tsai (9th grade class representative), Jasmine Teng (President), Sabrina Tsai (10th grade class representative), Mr. Laytham (StuCo sponsor teacher), Elisa Cheng (Secretary), Jeffrey Chen (11th grade class representative), Ray Kung (Treasurer).

This year is the first year of MAK's high school student council, with the three positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Student Council is in charge of planning all high school activities, such as the potluck, banquet, and Spirit Week, and also works jointly with the class representatives, elected at the beginning of the year, to organize the numerous events of this school year.



Trumpeting about with Ms. Zrinsky

By: Douglas Scott



Last spring, crowds of people gave an mighty round of applause for the two-serving music teachers who were leaving, Mrs. Pinkerton and Mrs. Chen. The retirement of these two teachers left a gaping hole in the MAK music department last year. Students wondered whether they would ever again hear the delicate sound of a violin or the resounding blast of a bass trombone. But never fear, the MAK music program is back with two new, passionate teachers. One of these new teachers is Ms. Zrinsky.

I started off by asking Ms. Zrinsky what subjects she will be teaching this year. As well teaching 7th grade social studies, she is also teaching band and choir. When asked about where she was from, Ms. Zrinsky replied, "I grew up in Chicago, and all of my family and friends lived there, so it was the obvious place for me to settle down." The fact that she had lived in Chicago all her life, and was comfortable there, prompted me to ask why she had decided to move to Taiwan. "I heard about MAK, and I heard about its music department, and that made me really excited." So, that is how Ms. Zrinsky decided to come to MAK, but there is still a full year (and hopefully many more to come) of teaching, and the not-so-small matter of her favourite tea. "My favorite tea is the passion fruit green tea with bubbles and jelly in it. I don't know what it is about it, but it tastes delicious." Finally I asked her what she was looking forward to most this year at MAK. "I am looking forward to seeing how the music program will grow, and how God will work through that. I also can't wait to see how well the students will play the new songs that we will play this year."

So, the next time you hear the beautiful sound of a well-tuned violin, or the thunderclap of a tuba, remember Ms. Zrinsky, and that she came all the way from Chicago, dedicated to the growth of the already-talented music program at MAK.

What's Up with Mr. Mike?

By: Evan Hsu



The fact that he's been bitten by extremely radioactive spiders while working at a busted nuclear reactor is just one of many interesting facts about MAK's newest guidance teacher from Livingston, New Jersey.

Mr. Chan this year is very enthusiastic to be here at MAK and wants to know more about our school and its culture. When asked about his reason for moving to Taiwan, he said, "When I graduated from college, I went to do mission work for two years in Japan. Those two years really gave me a heart for serving internationally, and Asia stuck out at me." But why teach at MAK? Mr. Chan heard about MAK from his friend Joyce, an MAK alumna, who would "always tell [me] how much fun her experience had been. Her description of the caring, loving environment here she had at Morrison, and the friends and experiences she had made me really excited to work in an environment that was so caring." Currently, Mr. Chan teaches K-8 guidance classes along with a Photoshop quarter course and potentially a "Project Adventure" course next semester.

Also, he describes his love for the outdoors, hiking, and rock climbing, saying, "I love being outdoors, but I hate spiders, and during my first week here, there was a giant spider in my apartment that freaked me out big time! So now, even though I love hiking and rock climbing, I'm terrified to go outside, because I HATE spiders!" Finally, Mr. Chan enjoys the Taiwanese culture where "everyone is so caring, loving, and willing to hear and learn about one another," which is radically different from the attitude of New Jerseyans, who are "infamous for being somewhat rude or generally 'very in a rush.'" He considers himself very adventurous and would love to try stinky tofu, since he enjoys Taiwanese food. Overall, Mr. Chan is definitely open to hanging out with MAK students and having fun together!

A New Member of the Family

By: Migo Lai



I had the wonderful opportunity to interview one of the new teachers at MAK, Mrs. Janssen. Currently she teaches English 1, World History, and U.S. History in high school. With high expectations for her students, Mrs. Janssen enjoys seeing her students getting excited about learning.

Mrs. Janssen pointed out that there were a lot of similarities between Morrison and other schools she has previously taught at. Chinese Christian School, in the Bay Area, like MAK, has a lot of Asian students, and the expectations for students in both schools

are very high. However, the last school Mrs. Janssen taught in, a more sports-oriented school, was very different. "Parents do not really want any homework for the kids nor did they care about their grades," she said. MAK, for Mrs. Janssen, is a balanced school that encourages academic excellence but also athletic competition.

Since Mrs. Janssen's family is from Taiwan, she is familiar with the country, even though she did not always live here. "This is our home now," she said. "We've lived in Taiwan for around two and a half years now." She describes that in Taiwan, her family has access to a lot of things. However, for spiritual needs, she expresses that there is a great need for the Gospel. Mrs. Janssen spent mostly all of her childhood in New Jersey and has noticed the similarity between New Jersey and Taiwan in that both "live in a fast-paced community." In New Jersey, however, she describes that, "the culture is more Italian. People like to eat and serve pasta and pizza."

As for prior teaching experience, Mrs. Janssen taught English for two years before she came to Morrison. However, she has previously taught other subjects at different schools in Washington and Vancouver for a total of nine years. Mrs. Janssen also expressed that at MAK, "the whole school is like a big family." Welcome to the MAK family, Mrs. Janssen!

Blasting Off With Mr. Cairns

By: Christine Lee



As I hope all of you have noticed, we have a new science and math teacher this year, Mr. Cairns, from Northern Ireland. His love for science, especially biology, is what leads him to come to teach these "terribly boring and hard subjects."

Not that Mr. Cairns is boring or anything, I mean, how boring can you be if you did things to deserve "a whack on the hand with a bamboo stick or ruler" several times, too? That was during his elementary years, though, and it was very different for him in middle school because he began attending a school with an American system. Aside from the occasional whacks in elementary, his childhood was great. He grew up "in a secure and stable family in the countryside," and lived in a place with plenty of fields, so "looking out over the fields around MAK is not strange for me."

Now that you know some of his background, you might want to know why he chose to come to Taiwan of all places. In the end it was "through prayer, missionary agencies, and God's encouragement through the scriptures," that helped him make the decision. Even though he likes Taiwan, he misses the ability to drive with ease in Ireland.

Finally, I asked Mr. Cairns for his most embarrassing moment (come on, we all have them!). He answered, "I remember one day, ... a parent asked me about how his kid from my class was doing. So I started telling him, but about halfway through I realized I was talking about the wrong kid!" He had "a bit of a red face on that one."

Clubs: Increasing Diversity

By: Ray Kung

This year started out with a bang with the first ever MAK high school club fair held on August 19th in the Multi-Purpose Room. The entire high school partook in this exciting event that showcased the available clubs this semester. Hosted by the student council, the club fair consisted of an array of activities from board games to scientific experiments to World Scholar's Cup trophies. With MAK's addition of a new junior class, the options for available clubs increased remarkably, with the inclusion of the Cross-Country Club, Film Club, Engineering Club, Red Cross Club, and numerous more.

The MPR was bustling with activity before the club fair even started. Anxious club leaders rushed back and forth preparing for their stations, adding decorations and food where necessary, and student council members were bursting with excitement and anticipation as time came close to the beginning of the fair. At precisely ten past three in the afternoon, high schoolers flooded into the MPR, accompanied by enthusiastic middle school students huddling by the stations set up by club members with curiosity. Most of the students were familiar with clubs including the Sharkpost, Art League, Science Club, Peer Tutoring, and the World Scholars' Cup Club, which many were able to participate in last year.

But with the integration of new clubs established by the juniors and sophomores and sponsored by the many teachers of MAK, students were provided with the opportunity to experience not

only interaction with other kids but even advanced filming equipment and software capable of producing high quality videos. Sign-up sheets filled up rapidly with enthusiastic students eager to begin their adventure in the field in which they were interested in.

In the end, the club fair was a huge success as clubs were able to present special and unique features of their club, demonstrate the multitudes of activities that joining the club may entail, and appeal to students with similar interests in various specific fields.

After a couple weeks of planning, the student council was ecstatic to host their first event of the year. The president of student council, Jasmine Teng said, "I think the club fair was a great opportunity for students to get to know what clubs were available on campus; furthermore, it enabled each club to introduce and display their distinctive qualities, a chance that they didn't have last year."

Kent, the president of the Engineering club, also commented that the club fair was "pretty successful, in terms of attracting new club members and making the process more interesting. I really liked how students were able to find out what each others' interests were during that time. As a side note, the desserts were a nice touch for attracting hungry freshmen students." Overall, the club fair this year was a meaningful event that celebrated the passion MAK students have for their diverse interests and talents.



Challenge Accepted: #ALS

By: Kent Hsieh

An ice cold shower is something that many people do to cleanse themselves of the day's toils, but the ALS ice bucket challenge is no ordinary shower; these nominees are drenching themselves for a cause. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a neurodegenerative disease which attacks the nervous system causing one to eventually become immobile. In some cases, patients lose their ability to eat, speak, and breathe properly. Among ALS victims, the most famous examples would be of course Lou Gehrig, Stephen Hawking, a world renowned physicist, and Pete Frates, a former Boston College baseball player who popularized the Ice Bucket Challenge. The purpose of the challenge is to raise awareness for ALS. The results, as apparent on numerous social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr, go far beyond what Frates hoped for. Not only are people more informed of the disease, but many also have taken the initiative to donate to the ALS Association. The association "fights to treat and cure ALS, through global research and nationwide advocacy, while also empowering people with Lou Gehrig's disease, and their families, to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support." But, the question remains, how did it all start?

During the summer of 2014, the ice bucket challenge, possibly created as an excuse for soaking oneself with cold water, came into existence; but it was not tied to a specific charity or cause at that

time. Participants, most of whom were professional golfers, could donate to whichever charity they felt compelled to support. Initially, there was no connection between Lou Gehrig's disease and the ice bucket challenge, but thanks to Chris Kennedy, who selected ALS as his cause, the challenge eventually spread to Pete Frates, who at the time had already been diagnosed with the malady. Through Frates' friends and former teammates, the challenge was then spread to other teams across America, and eventually the world. However, not only did other sports teams participate in this movement. Celebrities and politicians also engaged in the challenge. Contestants such as LeBron James, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jimmy Fallon, Jon Bon Jovi, and Kermit the Frog, are among the many famous contenders that accepted and popularized the challenge. This worldwide social phenomenon is not based on a hard task but an easy one; one that everyone can be involved in without much effort.

To complete this challenge participants are required to go through the following steps: nominate friends or family members to help raise awareness for the disease, explain briefly what the disease is and/or explain the purpose of the challenge, and finally the grand act of dousing oneself with ice-cold water. This process, however, has been gradually shortened and its purpose forgotten. Many complete the challenge without knowing the purpose behind it; they just want an excuse to pour water on themselves. So the next time you receive a facebook

request saying that you have just been nominated for the ALS ice bucket challenge, remember that "ALS" at the beginning. Of course, soaking oneself is fun and refreshing, but if one were to do it just because everyone else is doing it, then there is no real purpose in it. Although pouring cold water on oneself may seem like just fun and games to some, one must not forget that ALS is a very serious, life-threatening disease that deserves your awareness, funding, and solutions. To learn more about ALS and how you can help, visit alsa.org!



A Time For New Beginnings

By: Elisa Cheng



Already in its second month, the school year has flown by just like the summer. While veteran students return to their normal routines, new students attempt to settle into a completely foreign environment, to make new friends, and to establish some sort of connection to this school. New students' parents struggle to help their children overcome this transition and to obtain a better understanding of the MAK community. Overall, this time can be a challenge.

With this concern in mind, the High School StuCo devised a plan in hopes of providing new students and their parents an opportunity to quickly and easily grow closer together with this caring and warm community.

What better way is there to welcome them as part of this community than to have a high

school potluck? The way to one's heart is through the stomach after all, or at least that is always true for our constantly hungry students. Occurring on the first Friday of September, the potluck attracted many passionate and devoted families who brought in all kinds of delicious foods. With the heavy smell of mouthwatering cuisine in the air along with a bunch of rowdy students who just finished their afternoon sports practice, the room was filled with anticipation. After a small opening from the StuCo, the late afternoon event commenced.

People filed up along the tables of food, eagerly adventuring through the diverse types. Chatter filled the room - parents chatting and greeting each other, students joking and laughing. People suggested great dishes they'd tried while going for seconds or thirds. At the same time, even more families arrived carrying yet more new dishes to share. For the longest time, the noise never quite faded, and neither did the joyous mood.

Even after the meal rush hour was over, the warm atmosphere continued. The library hosted a showing of the classic *The Princess Bride*, and more interestingly perhaps than the movie itself was the adorable sight of the younger children all lined up and sitting in front of the screen, giving the movie their full, undivided attention.

Some of the older high school students could be found in the gym enjoying a few ball

games, and others played Uno, told spooky stories in a dark room, and even went out on a small night-adventure around the pitch black school grounds.

The high school potluck wasn't a very regimented event. There were no schedules for any particular activity except the start and the end, nor was there any particular entertainment arranged. But it was because of this sense of freedom that participants were able to relax. There were no expectations except to have fun, and people did.

The purpose of the potluck was not to have a grand opening, but to provide a chance for everyone to eat together where there were no differences between the new faces and the old. Everyone at that moment was simply someone to share with and to enjoy as a part of this loving community.



Moon Festival

By: Nini Lee

One of the three largest Chinese annual celebrations is the Moon Festival. This is the time where families, reunited under the moonlit sky, enjoy barbecues, moon cakes, and pomelos while admiring the full moon.

The Moon Festival, or the Mid-Autumn Festival, is celebrated on the 15th of September in the Lunar calendar. It was believed that on this day the moon is at its fullest, and since the Tang Dynasty people have seen admiring the full moon as one of the must-do activities on this special day. It prevailed in the imperial court and among the intellectuals and was one of the popular entertainments of the upper class.

Many poems and songs were written about the moon, often sung by families celebrating the Moon Festival. One of them is 'In The Quiet Of The Night' (静夜思) by Li Bai (李白). It is about how the moonlight looks like frost on his bedroom floor, reminding him of his hometown. Due to the lack of transportation in ancient times, the Moon Festival was selected as the day when families reunited at their hometowns. With the shape of the full moon that symbolized family gatherings, the moon cakes were originally made to worship the god of the moon, but it soon developed into the representation of joyful reunions and wishes of the future.

LEGENDS OF THE MOON

Before Armstrong landed on the moon, it was widely believed that the dark shapes on the surface were shadows of a beauty named Chang Er (嫦娥) and the jade hare (玉兔) pounding the elixir. According to the myth, in the ancient past,

there were ten suns in the sky, and animals were dehydrated and crops were destroyed. Then, a man named Hou Yi (后羿) became a hero by volunteering to shoot down nine of them and ordered the last sun to rise and set regularly. He soon married the kind and gorgeous Chang Er, and together they lived a happy and loving life. One day, when Hou Yi came across the Heavenly Queen Mother (王母娘娘), he asked for the elixir of immortality. It was believed that whoever took the medicine would float to the palace up in the sky and become a fairy. However, Hou Yi didn't want to leave his wife yet, so he asked her to keep it safe for him. Unfortunately, one of his apprentices knew his secret and wished to become immortal. He sneaked in while Hou Yi was out hunting, Chang Er knew that she could not beat the apprentice so she swallowed the elixir, and up she floated. She chose the closest planet to Earth, the moon, to be near her husband. When Hou Yi returned and learned of what had happened, he was so sad that he displayed the fruits and cakes that Chang Er liked in the yard as a thanks for her sacrifice. Since then, worshipping the moon has become one of the traditions of the Moon Festival.

TRADITIONS

During the Moon Festival, there is much more to do than just admire or worship the moon. A lot of stores repaint and re-decorate their walls, and some even sell the finest fruits they have on that day. Night markets are crowded with people. Most families go up to the balcony and share stories about their lives under the full moon.

It would not be the Moon Festival if there

weren't any moon cakes. The delicious round snacks were originally homemade, but nowadays, there are thousands of stores that sell all kinds of moon cakes. Its shape, design, and stuffing has definitely improved over the past ten centuries, providing lots of different tastes to the traditional snack. It is often used as a gift for friends that people wish to keep in contact with.

A lot of different traditions have formed in different places. In Guangxi, men will go boating, women will prepare a feast, and everyone must eat watermelon no matter their economic status. In Shangdong, people worshipped not only the moon but also their ancestors; they would stay up all night in exchange for the additional time their parents would live. In Sichuan, people worshipped the god of land and also act dramas and play in a concert.

The Moon Festival is one of the most important traditional events in Chinese culture, just like Christmas and Thanksgiving are in Western culture. It brings families together and reminds people how beautiful the moon is. It provides couples a perfect night to spend together. Even if they're not at the same place, watching the moon makes it seem like they are together in another world.



5

ACCENT

Summer of Universities

By: Sabrina Tsai

How was your summer? Perhaps you went traveling. Maybe your mother forced you to cram school. Three high school students did two of these things at the same time; they traveled to the United States to attend summer programs hosted by universities.

Jasmine Teng, our current Student Council president, went to University of California, Irvine to attend their medical program. She got the opportunity to experience what medical students had to undergo, including operating the Da Vinci machine, specialized for minimally invasive surgeries. Leo Hsieh, currently in tenth grade, went to University of Southern California to try out the hard life of architecture students. Although to him it was challenging trying to get everything done, he had lots of fun designing things and actually creating his designs. Meanwhile, I attended the Summer Institute of Stanford to take screenwriting class.

All three of our experiences differed greatly. During Jasmine’s course, she not only got the opportunity to experience what medical students had to go through but also got to work with some equipment that normally only fourth year med students can work with. Jasmine’s biggest challenge during the

camp was when her group had to interview patients in the hospital without any prior research. “It was difficult to come up with questions on the spot since [they’re] not skilled experts in the medical field.”

As for Leo, he had to do a lot of hands on work. Everyday, many of their hours were spent in the studio working away at their projects, and sometimes it was hard to even find time to eat lunch. There were times when they had to stay really late to finish their models, and they had to sacrifice camp activities time just to keep working.

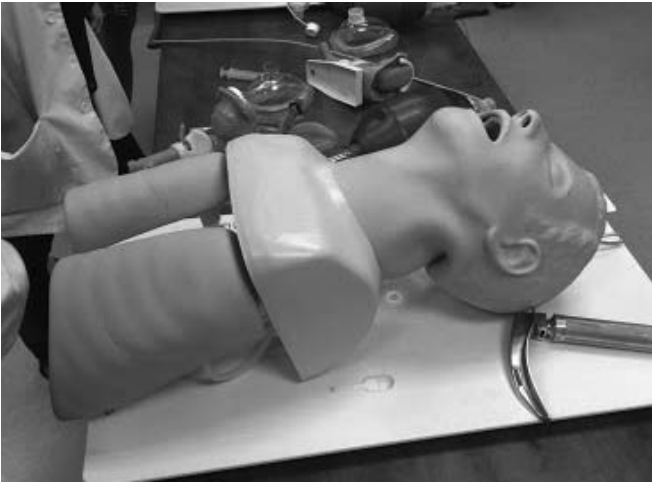
During my course, my mornings were spent with my professor as he threw out many prompts for us to think through on the spot. Afternoons were spent watching and analyzing movies, and the rest of the time were either for activities, more script writing, or free time. My biggest challenge was trying to squeeze out my creative juices to write around half of a full movie script. It was hard trying to think of ideas, dialogue, and to just commit to one idea.

Even though our three camps differed greatly in subjects, the experience of going to the camp was similar. When we head to a new environment, we often get become frightened and can be afraid of speaking up and showing our true selves. But as Leo advises, “Don’t be afraid to speak up; it’ll be easier to

make friends if you do.” Meeting new people can be scary at first, but everyone at camp is usually pretty nice, and it’ll make your camp experience even more memorable if you make friends and share in the fun.

Going to summer camps really help you see if you’re interested in a particular subject in the future. For Jasmine, “it helped [her] realize a lot of the obstacles that [she] would be undertaking if [she] chose the medical path”, but it also helped pique her interest in the field. When thinking about possible camps you might want to attend, don’t forget to try out for the subjects that you think you might be interested in. It’s also helpful for yourself if you sign up for camps in schools that you want to go to in the future. Not only does it allow you a chance to live in the campus for a few weeks, you also get the chance to meet professors and other students from the university.

Overall, summer camps are great ways to spend your summer. Not only do you get learning experiences, you get to have fun, meet new people, and have a chance to focus on a certain field for a few weeks, allowing you to see if you actually want to take on the path or not. For more questions, feel free to find these three students or email them.



Learning about life support at premed camp at UCI



A field trip with Stanford.



Leo’s many classmates at his class in USC.

MAK

Questionnaire

By: Nathan Lee

	What’s your favorite word or phrase?	What’s your favorite food?	Who’s your favorite celebrity?	What’s your favorite movie or tv show?	If you could be any superhero, who would you pick and why?	If you were to be any animal, what would you pick and why?
Mr. MacDonald	“I like when people say, ‘that Mr. Mac, what a guy.’”	“Wisdom - food for the brain.”	“Myself.”	“Keeping Up With Mr. Mac.”	“I’m already a superhero.”	“Probably a hybrid between a falcon and a lion.”
Selina Chang (8)	“Oh My Gosh.”	“Spaghetti.”	“Amanda Seyfried.”	“Never Let Me Go.”	“Ironman. He’s rich.”	“A dog, cause they’re cute.”
Dennis Huang (9)	“Perseverance.”	“Sandwiches.”	“Kevin Durant.”	“Jimmy Kimmel.”	“Cyclops.”	“A leopard - fast and skillful.”
Rosa Lin (10)	“Rad.”	“Pizza.”	“Caspar Grant.”	“Keeping Up with the Kardashians.”	“Superman, because he has superpowers.”	“A koala, because it sleeps and does nothing all day.”
Kent Hsieh (11)	“Swag.”	“Crepes.”	“Robin Williams.”	“Frozen.”	“Clark Kent, because I am secretly Superman.”	“I’d be a sloth because I won’t need to do anything all day.”

SingaPWAA

By: Samuel Tsai



A hush fell over the theater as a groups of well Addressed young men and women entered the Star Theater, where the global round of the WSC would commence. As if they had all been waiting for this moment, the crowd burst into applause for Mr. Daniel Berdichevsky, the World Scholar's Cup founder. Flashing lights, loud music, and a comedic presentation marked the beginning of the seventh World Scholar's Cup Globals that MAK has participated in. Held in Singapore this year, this round had the largest gathering of scholars ever seen: over two thousand participants from forty different countries. One MAK scholar described the competition as "harder than we thought, but we still gave our best."

After an amazing launch off, we began the infamous Scavenger Hunt. Given a list of tasks to accomplish, we were put into teams by country name. Including tasks ranging from "Zombie attack Daniel" to "Challenge Another Team to an Anime Duel and Beat Them," this year's scavenger hunt was a rather exciting experience for all participants.

The first day of the competition started off with a torturous Writing event for the Juniors and some heated debates for the Seniors at SCGS. As the day continued, things got a bit better for our scholars. After the first events, the Juniors moved onto the Scholar's Challenge. The Scholar's Challenge was a battleground, as students raced against time to analyze and answer 120

questions in an hour. Those who studied prospered, and those who didn't met their demise.

After the Scholar's Challenge for the Juniors, the seniors moved onto the Collaborative Writing event. While the Juniors wolfed down their lunches, the Seniors struggled through their nebulous essays.

The final events of the day were Debates for the Juniors and the Scholar's Challenge for the Seniors. The Juniors participated in three intense debates, with topics ranging from "should WSC be renamed WSCult?" to the popular "Science is more important than art." However, the Seniors had a tough final event. Joseph Luther remembers the moment of the test, commenting, "I felt like I was guessing on half of the Challenge questions." Indeed, the Scholar's Challenge brought many a genius down to their knees in defeat, but the Seniors got through it to finish the day off.



The next day, our scholars filed into the Star Theater one last time. Onstage, the huge screen lit up as question after question, rife with pop culture references to the delight of many, were presented on the big screen. As it ended, however, we knew that tomorrow would bring forth the results; would our hard work bear fruit?

The final day arrived faster than we had anticipated. Before the awards ceremony, however, there was the Flag March, an impressive display of all the nations that participated in this competition that showed the diversity of the competitors. After the music faded, everyone knew it was time – the awards ceremony was about to begin.

Overall, our teams, when finally going into the battlefield, were able to overpower some of our 2,400 opponents. See the chart below:

BOWL

Honor Roll: Emily Chen, Anson Shyu (Jr.)

29th: Douglas Scott, Joy Tsai (Jr.)

3rd: Kelly Chen, Eric Kuo (Sr.)

WRITING (INDIVIDUAL)

Honor Roll: Douglas Scott (Jr.) / Jasmine Teng (Sr.)

WRITING (TEAM)

Honor Roll: Jerry Chou (Jr.) / Kelly Chen, Eric Kuo (Sr.)

CHALLENGE OVERALL (INDIVIDUAL)

15th: Jerry Chou, Samuel Tsai (Jr.)

Honor Roll: Emily Chen (Jr.)

Red Cross International Volunteer Service Camp

By: Ann King and Rosa Lin



SAT prep classes filled the summers of most MAK Sophomores and juniors. Other than SAT classes, however, we also went to the International Volunteer Service Camp organized by the Red Cross.

At the end of July, two weeks before school started, the two of us went to the International Service Camp at Red Cross. People from different regions of the world, including the United States, Canada, Malaysia, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, France, and Dominican Republic, participated in the camp. Even though all of these campers are international, they all have Taiwanese heritage. This camp gave us an opportunity to understand people from different cultures around the world.

On the first day, we arrived at the Red Cross base, anxious because we didn't know what was going to happen. Because we didn't know anyone from the Red Cross, we felt awkward on the first day. Gradually, we both stepped out of our comfort zones and got to know them better on the second day. Participating in lively events that required

team spirit and effort really helped each team bond; shouts and insults were heard all over the room, as each team tried to one-up each other.

The following three days we survived lectures on Taiwanese culture, safety trainings, and rope courses. Finally, the fun part came: visiting the Chi-Jin Beach! One would probably be excited about going to the beach; however, we had to pick up trash while sandy winds blinded us. Even though all of us felt exhausted afterwards, we got to visit the night market that night! The only complaint we had was the fact that we had to walk to the night market and back.

During the camp, a shocking tragedy happened: the Kaohsiung gas explosion. On the night of the explosion, both of us happened to be in a meeting. We thought people were lying to us until we saw the hundreds of boxes filled with resources sitting in the cafeteria, waiting to be delivered to the survivors and victims. People from the camp helped carry resources onto the trucks everyday so that it could be transported to aid the survivors as



soon as possible. It was intense, but it was exciting doing something for an immediate cause.

A few days after the gas explosion, we helped lead a Rescue Training Camp for elementary and middle school kids, including activities such as rescue training at the pool and a campfire. After all the training, we finally had time to do our own thing and really enjoy the culture and city. We visited the temple at Fo Guang Shan, made red salty custard, stayed overnight in Tainan in the cabins, and made chicken kiln. Those days were the best of all.

Soon, the eventful two weeks of camp were over. Coping with 3-5 hours of sleep and at least 12 hours of activity every day was definitely an unforgettable experience. We faced challenges but gained experience that we couldn't have learned anywhere else. On the last day of the camp, there were people crying, taking selfies, hugging, and saying their last goodbyes. It is remarkable how we became close friends with others in such a short amount of time and created so many unforgettable memories.



How Was Your Summer?

By: Jeffrey Chen



Matthias Choi - Kindergarten
"I ate BBQ in Taiwan!"



Nathan Janssen - 1st Grade
"I ate ice cream over the summer with my mom!"



Georgia Chen - 1st Grade
"I went to Taichung with my family to visit my grandparents!"



Lis Yap - 4th Grade
"I went to visit a school in Singapore!"



Caleb Dang - 3rd Grade
"I went to Kenting for a week with my family and friends!"

Adele Ding - Kindergarten
"I went to a swimming pool and ate BBQ!"



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Wise Up, MAK!

Wisdom is often learned and passed on to younger people and grade 7 Bible asked to talk with their parents or another adult to hear a story of wisdom that they have learned. The assignment is one of those stories and reflections.

By: Gabrielle Liu

Here at MAK, we're lucky not to have any summer homework, let alone days during it to return to school for a reminder of upcoming horror. My dad though, who grew up in Taiwan attending local school, did have those worksheets and workbooks to ruin the meaning of a summer break. The students would complete the homework during the summer, and during summer, there'd be one or two days for everyone to return to school and turn it in. But like a normal kid, my dad didn't want to spend his summer bent over a workbook with a cramped hand, so he ditched the homework. He didn't complete one sheet, nor one single question, but instead played the whole time.

When the day came around to return to school, my dad didn't have anything to turn in. Whoops. But instead of confessing to his teacher and mom, he rode his bike out of the house with my grandma thinking he was heading to school. The whole afternoon and morning my dad rode around town, proud of what he had done. "No one will ever know I didn't do my homework! No one will know where I've been!" he satisfyingly thought to himself. Here's the thing though. My dad's aunt was a teacher at his school. You could imagine what happened when she began asking the teachers, "Where's Len?" After a call home, and a busted summer, a lesson of wisdom is not to deceive others.

In Proverbs 1:6, the Bible says that if sin entices you, do not give in. Do not give in to the temptation to sin or lie. Instead of deceiving a teacher or your parents, you should be honest-- another trait of wisdom. My dad chose the wrong path, not just by bike, but through deceitment instead of wisdom, and also being wise in his eyes. Proverbs 3:7 says, "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil." He thought what he was doing was fine, and that it would stay that way. We often make unwise choices, by doing what we think is right, or doing what we want. Instead, we should honor God by turning away from evil, and doing what he says. When we do make wrong choices and have to be corrected for them though, we should accept it, whether it's from God, your parents, or other authorities. God wants the best for us, and in Proverbs 3:11-12 it says, "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in." We can also use this verse to understand why our parents discipline us. They love us and want the best for us, even if that means some lectures and punishments. But perhaps a verse that sums up the lesson of my dad's summer is Proverbs 4:6-7. "Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it costs all you have, get understanding." Notice the last line? Though it costs all you have, get understanding. We will always be tempted to sin - to do what we want, and we have all fallen short of the glory of God. And while the wise choices may not be popular, or easy to choose, I ask that you (and I) try our best to take the wise path, the path that God wants.

This advice column is produced by the Grade 7 Bible Class, which is studying the Biblical concept of wisdom. Throughout the year, they will post stories or assignments regarding wisdom. Do you, our MAK community, have any questions or challenges that you are facing or struggling with right now? We hope that our brain power, combined with God's word, can help you lead a life that is more wise and honoring to God. Please email any questions you have to us at makwiseup@mca.org.tw or anonymously at ask.fm/makwiseup, and we'll answer them in the next issue!



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