



THE MORRISON SHARK POST



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United We Stand, Divided We Fall

By: Katherine Ma

On September 25th, MAK freshmen went on their annual retreat and embraced the opportunity to grow together as a class. The two-day event took place in Hunei, Tainan at the Formosa Retreat Center that Mrs. Liu, the owner of the retreat center and parent of an MAK alumna generously allowed MAK to use.

As a part of the MAK Impact Program, "Growing Together" was the theme of the Freshmen Retreat. According to Mrs. Janssen, one of the teachers who led the retreat, "The purpose of the retreat was to challenge the freshmen to grow in their relationship with God, as well as help them understand that each person has a role in community, and to initiate growth as a community."

Students participated in various group challenges to become more familiar with each other, to establish trust, and to build teamwork skills. In their free time, the freshmen were able to expel boredom in the game room and racquetball courts.

In between activities, Mr. Janssen, a missionary, spoke to the students about growing up both individually and collectively. Following the speeches were small group discussions where students could share freely their thoughts and opinions, gaining a better understanding of each other.

The retreat center was perfectly suited for capture-the-flag and other outdoor activities. Yet, due to parents' apprehension about Dengue Fever, all outdoor activities but one were cancelled. The one activity that remained was the bonfire. Circled around the bonfire, students sang tribal songs, cooked, and mostly burnt, popcorn, while other more courageous and slightly foolhardy boys attempted to jump over the fire, following the lead of Mr. Chan. Fortunately, the day ended peacefully, and no one was injured.

On Saturday, the retreat ended with one of the most common group activities, the Human Knot. Just like how the freshmen untangled their arms, they opened up more to one another and "untangled" the invisible walls built around themselves.

After the retreat, the majority of responses reflected a positive view of the retreat. However, some students wished for a longer retreat.

Esther Yao, one of the freshmen, stated, "Two days aren't going to bring dramatic changes. It's not like the class will all of a sudden become super close together, but I think it was a really good start."

Indeed, the freshman class still has a lot of room to develop and grow into a stronger community, but the retreat has sparked the changes that are now taking place. The ninth grade students are ready to overcome all the hardships they will encounter as they venture through their high school years as a more unified class.



The 8th grade class poses atop a rock.

Embracing Leadership

By: Sunny Wang

In their last year as middle schoolers, the eighth graders must develop their leadership abilities. As part of Morrison's Impact Program, eighth grade classes across all three Morrison campuses unite in a leadership retreat each year. For this year's retreat, MAK's students joined Bethany's students and spent a few days together in Taipei.

"I felt so excited when I heard that I would get a chance to spend time with my friends for so many days," said Stephanie Tsai.

Another member of this class, Daniel Cairns, said, "Spending days with my classmates would fray the nerves, but also help us build each other up when times got tough."

The eighth graders showed cooperation in times of adversity. At one point, they faced the dangerous challenge of rock climbing. Some were horrified by the possibility that they might fall and die. Still, they did not give up, climbing rocks and supporting each other through the obstacle. Even after that tiring day of mountain climbing, they were still energetic. They shouted, "I love you!" to each other through the night.

The following morning, the eighth graders went on a scavenger hunt. "We walked ten kilometers next to the highway beside gigantic tow trucks and under the scorching sun," said eighth grader Annabelle Chien. "[We] squeezed into the tiny cracks of a locked gate, just to realize we went around and came back to where we started."

During the retreat, the eighth graders went out of their comfort zone. On the same day that everyone went rock climbing, Stephanie Tsai swam in the ocean for the first time.

"At first, I didn't want to go, but Halona, Grace, and Annabelle dragged me down into the water. I will never regret doing that," she said. Facing one's fears is an arduous task, but these eighth graders did just that and overcame.

"I was able to learn the true characteristics of my classmates," Daniel Cairns said. "Putting us out on the edge [made] us quick to snap under things that we detested. This made me able to grow closer to my classmates, being able to know what they hate and what to say when they are down and depressed. The retreat spurred us on to be influential leaders in middle school and help set a good example to the sixth and seventh graders. Poor little guys, having me be their role model. They will never be able to be as good as me," he joked.

Not only did these students learn how to develop their leadership; they also realized that they are truly blessed with their parents around. According to Stephanie, "I should be thankful that I have air conditioning in my bedroom and that my mom cooks me dinner instead of just having 7-11 for almost every day," she said.

The unforgettable leadership retreat allowed the class to create precious memories together and develop crucial leadership skills.



The Class of 2019 in the Formosa Retreat Center

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At TGIF, teachers and students gather to praise God in the library.

Thank God It's Friday!

By: Nini Lee

As many of the MAK students know, TGIF is a devotion time that happens every other Friday evening, and is a time to strengthen students' relationships with God. It is mainly for students from grade 8 to grade 12 who cannot attend church regularly. It is open to teachers, parents, or non-Christians to learn more about Christ. "I think that TGIF is a good idea because it provides a time besides Bible class and church, for those who go, to worship and get to know God better," Anna Laytham says.

With the newly established high school, MAK has introduced many spiritual activities in recent years. Among them are the Catalyst, which is held every September, the mentoring and accountability program, and the latest addition – TGIF. Since the Catalyst from last school year, a group of high school students started gathering every week to pray about the plans that God has for MAK. At the same time, a group of teachers also meet regularly to ask God what He has prepared for the community. Towards the end of last school year, they came to a conclusion of establishing a high school youth group, where teachers would lead the students more in depth in their spiritual journey.

Before the sessions begin, students gather in the MPR to pray and enjoy the food that the Lord has blessed. Dinner time is a great opportunity where attendees sit around a long table and share the things going on in their lives.

Apart from growing spiritually, Nathan Lee said, "TGIF is also a good time for getting to know your teachers and peers on a more personal level." It increases interaction between students from upper middle school to high school that does not happen regularly during school hours, thus widening our understanding of one another beyond the goals of academic pursuits. After dinner, there is a time of worship where anyone can bring their instruments to praise God.

The theme for each TGIF differs. In the first two TGIFs, Mr. Chan, Ms. Brabon, and Mr. Torgerson each took a different role in a Bible story and shared with students the perspectives

of their characters. The first session focused on Luke 10:38-42, when Jesus taught Martha the priority of His teachings over hospitality. The second session centered around Mark 2, when Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man. Mr. Torgerson, who spoke from Jesus' perspective, learned the "different perspective Jesus must have had as the Son of God in a human body." He further states that "[he] really finds [himself] in the passages we've looked at more in the shoes of the other characters in the story, especially the flawed ones!" The third TGIF, however, was a bit different than the previous two. It was centered around the importance of quiet time with God.

"My life is so busy that I find it hard to find time to be with God," Douglas Scott said. Each participant was given a notebook where they recorded their spiritual journey through writing, drawing, or even doodles.

When asked about what they think of the new spiritual activity, students and teachers alike have positive comments to say about TGIF.

"Since it started, I think we have grown deeper in community in worship and relationship," Ms. Chandel said.

"It is a wonderful idea," Douglas Scott remarked, "because it gives students an opportunity to get closer to God, while still being able to socialize over dinner and small groups."

It is true that MAK's intense academic culture reduces students' time for socializing and spiritual devotion, so TGIF is a great chance to achieve both at the same time. For Nathan Lee, he finds TGIF "really fun and beneficial to [his] faith," and he's glad that "it has become a regular school routine."

Still deciding whether to come or not? Whether you are a Christian or not, as long as you have a heart to learn more about God or if you're just curious, TGIF is the place to go.

"It is a great opportunity for students and staff to hang out together and have fun, while learning about who God is and what the Bible says," Mr. Wyss commented. "Did I say there is good food too?"

High school students choose their own chapel adventure

By: Joseph Luther

The Choose Your Own Adventure program starts again this year with the goal of engaging high school students in spiritual exploration during their chapel.

"We wanted to create spaces in which students can explore their relationship with God and others," said Mrs. Tam, the high school chaplain.

Based on the book genre of the same name, Choose Your Own Adventure began two years ago. The freshmen and sophomores, the only high school students at the time, filled out a survey to choose one of three groups they wanted to attend. Each group then met periodically throughout the second semester during TTT, their Tuesday chapel.

"We only met a handful of times, so it was much more sporadic," said Mrs. Tam. "It needed to be tightened up and a bit more purposeful, and I felt like we were able to do that this year."

This year, students will pursue their interests in a similar fashion, with some changes from last year. CYOA meetings are now more frequent, happening every other week. Students also were able to select from a wider range of groups.

"The groups have very different focuses so that students can connect with something that's meaningful to them," said Mrs. Tam.

Winning Ways, a Bible study for boys, looks into the lives of figures faithful to God. Currently they are studying the book of Daniel and analyzing his character, says Elijah Gregg, a freshman. A similar group for girls, Dig Deep, studies Scripture to find its meaning and relevance to daily life.

Devotions, Discussions, Debates is another group that seeks to establish Bible study as a habit by finding devotion methods that suit each student.

"We read a book [of the Bible], analyze it, discuss anything that's on our minds, and then pray," said freshman Kevin Lin. "It's like a normal Bible study, except with three people."

Several groups are centered around service to the community. Speak Life is one such group that serves by bringing life to the high school, as its name suggests. Its mem-



The Adventure group learns collaboration through various group challenges.



The Service Group distributed positivity to MAK.

bers have collaborated by offering encouragement to students in the form of multicolored sticky notes. "Take what you need," read the signs that students wore when they distributed these notes.

"We walked around wearing these big posters, and we would tell someone, 'You need kindness,' and stick a 'kindness' note on them," said senior Jessica Kong.

Those who joined the Worship Team can serve God through their musical talents. Under the guidance of MAK parent Mr. Shaffner, members practice worship songs together and have led elementary students in worship on several occasions.

For those interested in service outside the school environment, Service Quest is a viable option. So far, they have served in trips to Jiacheng Elementary School to read English books to the students there.

"You could really see [the kids] opening up," said Kent Hsieh, a senior.

Two final groups remain for students who seek something else. Some have invested their time in Culinary Chefs.

"I like to bake, and [the high schoolers] like to eat, so I thought I'd do a baking group," said Mrs. Newkirk, art teacher and the leader of Culinary Chefs. So far, they have made cookies and learned how to make pies. "The biggest constraint is time," said Mrs. Newkirk. "You only have an hour to do things."

Still others have joined Adventure Time, in which Mr. Chan, the middle school counselor, prepares this group's students for collaborative work in the future. They have gone on several adventures, including "riding marshmallows across a river of hot chocolate" and "moving a pile of toxic waste without touching it," said sophomore Samuel Tsai.

Each group of Choose Your Own Adventure brings a different area of life for high school students to explore.

"You see how high schoolers are willing to extend themselves [in ways] that they would never do in a normal class setting," said Mrs. Tam.

From Texas How to to Taiwan Save a Life

By: Grace Hsieh

Almost halfway through the year, students are becoming more and more familiar with the new faces around MAK this year. A soft voice and a charming smile has appeared around the third grade classroom - and it's from none other than the new third grade teacher, Mrs. West.

This is her second year of teaching. She spent her first year of teaching in Texas, USA. Moving to Taiwan has been a big transition for her and her family, but she explains that things are going great and that she loves Kaohsiung. She likes how Kaohsiung has the mixture of both urban and countryside elements, with beaches and mountains alike.

Mrs. West grew up in Alexandria, Egypt, while her husband grew up in Taiwan and went to Morrison Taichung. This is how she found out about Morrison. Mr. and Mrs. West love to travel and know the feeling of growing up overseas, embracing different cultures. They wanted that experience for their two young sons, who are six and two.

Originally, she had planned to apply to a number of other international schools in Taiwan, but she ended up only applying to Morrison. Smiling, she shared about the amazing work God has done: after she applied to Morrison, God put peace in her heart, telling that this is the one. She listened and waited, and now, as we all know, she has joined the MAK community.

In the MAK community, there are always friends and experienced people that we can depend on to share stories and give advice, especially before a big transition. Likewise, Mrs. West had the same support. Before she came, people in the U.S. and Taiwan told her what she should expect from the kids, but she believed that it was more important to meet the kids in person and discover their personalities through one-on-one interaction. Her third graders this year, she says, each have unique personalities and great potential.

Obviously, the three Morrison campuses are distinct in their environment and general atmosphere. What makes MAK special is how "we can do a lot of things just because we are a small community," Mrs. West said. "The way people in this small community lift each other up and help each other out is with closeness."

In the classroom, her curious, energetic kids can easily become bored if subjected to the same rou-

tine repeatedly. To keep the students engaged, Mrs. West said that she is always seeking new ways of conducting activities because "learning should be fun."

The one idea she hopes to pass down to the kids is that they are all unique and special, and to remember to always trust God for finding their place and position in life. Going to Morrison, a Christian school, really helps the kids to establish the foundation needed for growing with God, Mrs. West said. It is one thing to know about God's Word, but another thing to really put his teaching into one's heart and apply it in real life. Her hope for the kids is that they can remember the Christian foundation they've received at Morrison and implement it in their lives in the future.

Each new teacher this year brings their own experiences and stories to share. We hope that as the school year progresses, the third graders will continue having fun learning and growing their great potentials and personalities under the exciting guidance of Mrs. West.



Drawing by Jessica Kong



Mrs. West is a welcome new addition to our MAK community!

By: Vivian Lu

With the grand purpose of teaching people how to save lives, the anatomy club gives students the opportunity to dissect animals, discuss case files, and most of all, listen to Mr. Cairns's funny jokes! So far, students have dissected squid and pig feet.

The objective is different for each meeting. Sometimes, students are asked to remove all internal organs without destroying any of them. Other times, students are simply asked to explore to their mind's content and then share with everyone what they've learned afterwards.

Club members are divided into groups of two and are given one set of tools and one sample to dissect. Before the experiment begins, the club leader, Tom Su, gives the club members a brief lesson on how to achieve the goal of the day. For example, he has taught students the proper way to hold a scalpel, the terminology of different tools, and the precise method of cutting through internal organs.

On days when there are no dissections, club members discuss case files or learn about what to do during an emergency. Stu-



Tom Su demonstrates the proper method of dissection of a pig's foot.

dents are asked to figure out what to do in that particular situation and find out what type of disease the patient has. Discussing case files, Tom says, helps students to know what course of action to take should an emergency happen in real life.

"My dream is to become a surgeon," said Tom Su, the club leader. "I want to save lives, and through this club, I hope to teach others how to save lives."

Before joining this club, many students were afraid of touching squid and looking at internal organs. Over time, however, they slowly got used to touching slimy organs. Dissecting animals has become their favourite part in the anatomy club. If you have an interest in medicine, or even simply a strange fascination with animal parts, feel free to join the club.

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Mock Test Schedule	9:00-12:30		14:00-15:30	16:00-17:30
5 times Mock Test	Mock Test		中級班課程 進階班 Study	進階班課程 中級班 Study

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From reporting to teaching: the story of Mrs. Shaffner

By: Niki Huang

Before Mrs. Shaffner came to MAK to teach 7th and 8th grade language arts, she was a radio reporter. Her stories have been aired across the United States, and she has interviewed people from many different places. She generously shared with me some memorable interviews she's had with me, such as the time she interviewed firefighters and went to one of the firefighter's parties, which she thought was very crazy. Another time, she was kicked out of a bar by the bartender for trying to conduct an interview.

Moving overseas with their kids has always been in the back of Mrs. and Mr. Shaffner's minds, but they really loved their jobs and lives in the United States. As a result, it was a very difficult decision for them to move to Taiwan, especially for Mrs. Shaffner

who had to leave her job as a reporter.

In the end, she decided to come to Taiwan to teach, saying, "It's hard for me to explain why we're here, but we really felt that God was bringing us here, and we thought it would be the best thing for the family." She added on, saying, "We really felt that God was telling us to be open to different opportunities overseas, even though we were very settled in our lives in America."

This is Mrs. Shaffner's first time teaching, and even though she misses reporting, she really loves teaching, mostly due to the students. They make her laugh everyday, and for her, "everyday is different. It's very unpredictable."

Even though Mrs. Shaffner is new to teaching, she is not new to Morrison. Her parents were mission-

aries who moved to Taichung, Taiwan when Mrs. Shaffner was three years old. She went to Morrison Academy Taichung from first grade to twelfth grade, and grew up at MAK with another MAK teacher, Mr. Torgerson. For her, MAK wasn't just a school, but it was a community with very caring teachers.

She also talked about one of the funniest memories she has when she was still a student at MCA, saying, "One time we got caught vandalizing and got sent to the principal's office because we had found a piece of broken clay outside. So we started drawing on the walls, thinking that it would wash off. This is how stupid I was. I wrote my name and I wrote bible verses. So we got called into the principal's office, and they handed us a toilet brush and a bucket of water, and we had to scrub it off the walls."

Mrs. Shaffner talked about looking forward to not being so new anymore, whether that is familiarizing herself with how to do report cards

or teaching in general. In terms of events, she hopes to go on class trips with her class, believing that the trips will be really good opportunities to spend time with and get to know her students.



Mrs. Shaffner has some great memories to share as a former radio reporter.



Mrs. D'Brass is MAK's new second grade teacher.

A Brief Chat with Mrs. D'Brass

By: Jennie Tung

The start of this school year brought along many new students and staff to MAK, including second grade teacher Mrs. Martha D'Brass. Born in Patchogue, New York, Mrs. D'Brass was four years old when her family moved to Grand Prairie, Texas, where she lived for the next 47 years.

She has three sons, two of them living in Texas and one in northeastern Europe. As a parent, D'Brass describes herself as "loving and firm." She has taught her children the importance of keeping God at the center of their lives.

Her hobbies include travelling, reading, and experiencing new cultures. She cannot go a day without her morning coffee and Bible study.

Although not born in the state of Texas, she considers herself a Texan. She grew up with the same friends from elementary school to high school.

Her most recent move brought her and her husband here to Kaohsiung, where she has been living for three months now. Having both taught for over twenty years, the D'Brasses wanted a change, and started looking for international schools. They then found Morrison, which they believed to be ideal due to its Christian environment. She says that retiring, selling her house, and moving here was the most adventurous thing she has ever done.

Asked how she chose her profession, she said, "I have always loved working with children." She recalled how "as an elementary child, I would play teacher." She would pretend that her dolls were her students, and she would give them lectures. She always knew she wanted to be a teacher and eventually grew up to be one. "I believe God called me to be a teacher, and I can't think of anything I would rather do!" she said.

Mrs. D'Brass says that the best part of her job is "getting to have fun every day. Every day is different. I get to challenge myself by preparing lessons that are engaging for my students. I love seeing the light bulb come on when a student learns something new. My most favorite thing of all is having my students sitting at my feet and reading a story to them."

Currently, D'Brass says she loves her new job at MAK, adding that the kids

are great and the staff have been very kind and helpful.

If Mrs. D'Brass were given the opportunity to say one thing for everyone in the world to hear, she would say, "God made you special, and He

made you for a purpose. Trust in Him with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Submit to Him and He will make your paths straight."

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Road to the Championships

By: Samuel Tsai



The JV Soccer team finishes the season with silver medals.

On the 17th of October, eight teams from different schools gathered at MCA to compete in a grueling football tournament for the right to be named the best Junior Varsity team within the TISSA system. This year, with a new coach, Mr. Nathan Owen, MAK sent in a fresh and young team onto the pitch, eager to win the gold for the first time in Morrison Kaohsiung history.

Arriving at the original Morrison campus, some of our athletes were still a bit woozy and sleepy from the two-hour-long bus ride and the sleepless night they had the day before. “I slept at like three [in the morning],” said Shoichi Miyazono, one of the top players of the team. Putting all the factors together, along with the lack of time to warm up, there were ample reasons for the disappointing result of the first game.

The opening game for the Sharks was against IIS, I-Shou International School. Starting off with an excellent opening goal in the top left corner by Austin Wang, the Sharks created excellent opportunities for goals repeatedly. Unfortunately, the team only ended the first half with a scoreline of 2-0. The last half was a definite put-down, and Coach Owen said, MAK “took [their] foot off the gas pedal,” conceding two near fatal goals to finish their first match 2-2.

The second game was a decisive game. Our Sharks had to overcome their initial letdown and win

the next two games in order to find a place in the championships. This was especially important since they were to face MAC, who was leading within the pool. The boys, however, found within themselves the motivation to fight, and they smashingly disarmed and clean-slated the Taichung Mustangs with a successful 4-0 score line.

The final pool game was against GCA, a new team that disappeared from the TISSA radar for a few years. The game was so uneven that MAK had a striker as goalie and defenders as strikers.

Finding themselves in the championships against rivals, TES, the Sharks had to step up and battle for the gold. The first half, a David versus Goliath half, found a ball in the back of the TES net and Morrison celebrating each shot TES missed. Unfortunately, the miracles gave out. As the final whistle sounded, it was the opposing team that ran off cheering, the score MAK 1, TES 2.

“We [were] heavily loaded with sophomores, freshmen, and 8th graders,” commented Coach Owen after the last game of the tourney. Indeed, this year’s Junior Varsity football team had only one Junior and was quite bottom-heavy with Freshmen. However, this allows most of the players for the future years to stay and play within the JV level. With such unlimited potential in the young players, next year it will be MAK running off the pitch singing, “olé, olé, olé, olé!”



The JV soccer team are quite excited after their final championship game.



Anna Huang and her crew after filming is finished

Anna Huang Makes Her Producer Debut

By: Ray Kung

This coming winter, MAK’s very own junior, Anna Huang, is coming out with her own short film, titled “As Luck Would Have It.” This is the second short film produced by an independent film-study student in the high school.

Anna has revealed that her short film will be a comedy horror, which happens to be a very popular genre in the film industry today. She is working very closely with Mr. Griffin, who is the official sponsor of her Media Independent-Study, to produce the film. Upon being asked about the inspiration for her film, Anna explained how she had come up with numerous ideas for her film and that shooting a comedy horror was the ultimate outcome after a difficult process of elimination.

When I asked her about her penchant for horror and comedy films, she confessed that “they are the two genres that I hated the most, so I combined them together.” This was definitely not something you would expect from a producer who has such a deep understanding of the genre.

Although the film won’t be released until December, Huang has already put a lot of work into the preparations for it. Starting this semester, she came up with ideas that she eventually narrowed down after a long, hard elimination process. It took her weeks to come up with a script that had to be edited and revised by teachers including Mr. Newkirk, Mrs. Griffin, Mr. Miller, and a few other students.

What came after script revision was storyboard, which, for those who are unfamiliar with film-making, is a graphic organizer that helps translate the artist’s vision into sequenced illustrations. Afterwards, Huang needed to recruit cameramen and actors; however, she noted that what saved them the most time was that there was no auditioning because of the limited number of characters and their vision for who they wanted to feature in the film. Most of the scenes

were filmed over October break, and she plans on finishing editing before December so she can share with the world the next greatest horror-comedy.

Anna was reluctant to share too many details about her film for the sake of the element of surprise, but she did reveal exclusively to the Shark Post that it features roles played by actors from our very own campus, with Truman starring as Norman, the male lead of the film. She also said that if you like some blood and gore, this would be the film for you. As a producer on-the-rise, Anna really put in a lot of effort in trying to incorporate the element of fear into the story. She plans on wowing the audience with the perfect balance of horror and comedy. According to the director, “As Luck Would Have It” is a light-hearted film—nothing that would be too intense for students from elementary all the way up to high school.

“As Luck Would Have It” is likely to be the next biggest thing in MAK after dancing to “Watch Me Whip” (a song that is totally over-rated). We all need to pay attention to its release as Anna will be submitting it to the RiverRun Film Festival mid-December. We all wish Anna the best of luck as she proceeds with putting on the final touches and anxiously wait for her to share it with us and the world.



Truman Chiang holds a prop used in Anna’s latest film, “As Luck Would Have It.”

Shooting for a New Season

By: Nathan Lee

With the end of the boys' soccer season and girls' volleyball seasons, many athletes at MAK anxiously await the start of MAK's first ever varsity basketball season.

To add to the element of excitement, the men's varsity team will have a new coach this year, Mr. Wyss, the high school math teacher who came to Taiwan from Denver, Colorado. He grew up in the midwest, "where basketball reigns king over all other sports in America." Born in Illinois, he moved around his whole life, and has lived in Michigan, Indiana, and Kansas, Colorado, and most recently, Taiwan.

"A new coach will always be a new experience," Bill Chen from 11th grade noted. Derek Huang, in light of Mr. Wyss' engineering background explained, "I'm interested in the new strategies and plays Mr. Wyss will use."

"If you love to play the game and you love to compete, then we're gonna have a lot of fun this season," Mr. Wyss shared with players. His fervent passion for the game combined with his math-orientated mind will bring a new style of playing to MAK's men's basketball team.

However, not all students are



The 2015 Malaysia Tournament, where the boys team won second place.

completely full of excitement. As expected, the addition of any varsity program comes with higher standards. Athletes are expected to bring dedication and a certain level of skill to meet the higher level competition. As a result, this year's men's varsity team will have tryouts to assess each athlete's skill level and to determine whether or not they meet the team's needs. If they do, the best position to put him in. "We will not play the five best players, but the best five." In other words, Mr. Wyss values an athlete's contribution to the team as a whole over the individual playing skill of the athlete. Cuts will be made, as there are only a limited number of spots on the varsity team. Thus, a certain degree of apprehension goes into the tryouts.

On the other hand, the girls' varsity team will not have any tryouts this year because Mr. Newkirk, the coach, believes he knows his players well enough. This does not remove

the apprehension for some players, though.

When asked about how she feels about the upcoming basketball season, Christine Wu, popularly referred to as "Viper," says that "it's scary and intimidating because I don't think I'm ready for varsity. I'm out of shape. I often don't know what I'm doing when I'm on the court." Hopefully this will change as the season progresses with Mr. Newkirk stating that "[their] goal this year for the team is to improve everyday a little bit. This year [they] are focusing on scoring, improving our shooting, and playing aggressive defense."

Consequently, many players are hoping to expand and further develop their game with the new men's coach this year. Chia Ching Huang hopes to improve his "James Harden" defense this year. "I want to learn how to play proper, good defense," he expresses.

Keeping with tradition, the var-

sity teams will participate in international tournaments this year again. This year's tournament will be hosted at a school in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where the new athletic director, Mr. Owen, previously taught at. Many players view the trip as the highlight of the basketball season.

Jasmine Teng, an experienced senior player, shares her opinion of the Chiang Mai tournament: "I'm excited to see what teams we'll meet this year, and I really hope that we'll do well."

Coaches are also looking forward to it. "I'm really excited about the [Chiang Mai] Tournament. Tournaments are always fun. I think it'll be a fun experience to go with my team to another country I've never been to before and see how we measure up against other teams," Mr. Wyss says.

The season lasts from the start of November to the end of January, concluding with the highly anticipated Chiang Mai Tournament. "It's a shame that the season is so short!" Nini complained when comparing this year's season to last year's, which was a full month longer.

There are many mixed feelings associated with the upcoming basketball season, but one thing is for certain: it will be pivotal to the establishment of varsity basketball at MAK as MAK starts to develop its new varsity sports programs.

Spiking Season: Varsity Volleyball

By: Rosa Lin

On the first day of school, twelve junior and senior girls arrived excitedly at the gym with knee pads and water bottles, ready for practice for MAK's first ever varsity volleyball team. There were large gaps in experience from player to player, which made it challenging for the coach, Mr. Tam, to run our practices. Many could not get serves over the net or pass the ball to the setter correctly.

Goals for this season were to communicate well on the court and make as many attacks as possible on our opponent. To do that, players had to pass proficiently to the setters, Elisa and Rosa. If players passed effectively to the setter, the setter can set well, giving the hitter a better opportunity to attack. But the team struggled to get the perfect pass to the setters, and as a result, did not get many chances to spike.

As the season went on, the varsity team had remarkable achievements, including defeats of longtime rival KAS as well as the MAK teachers. After our last practice on October 17th, the varsity team felt quite prepared for the upcoming tournament. With the help of Mr. and Mrs. Torgerson and Mr. Tam, players could get passes to the setters proficiently, dive for wild balls, and spike at opponents



Nini Lee spikes, ready to earn points with her attack.

whenever the chance arose.

On October 24th, the varsity team joined the JV boys' soccer team on the bus to Taichung. The boys' tournament was at MAC while the girls' was at AST. They were late to the first game against IIS (I-Shou International School), but successfully won the first set. However, they lost our second set and the tiebreaker. Despite the loss, the varsity team still did not give up.

The team fought hard in our second game against ICA, but lost the first set. Fortunately, they came back in the next set, beating ICA 25-21. Neither team showed signs of exhaustion and continued to play hard. However, missed serves and lack of communication lost the team the tie breaker.

By then the team was exhausted, and the fact that they had to play MAC immediately afterward did not improve their chances. The team couldn't focus, which became a huge advantage for MAC, and in the end, they defeated MAK's varsity team.

Even though the varsity girls didn't win any trophies, they learned how to play like a team. This is extremely important because volleyball requires teamwork. The varsity volleyball team would like to thank Mr. Tam, Mr. and Mrs. Torgerson, and Mrs. Gregg for helping them throughout the whole season and never giving up on the team, even when they weren't playing their best. The team is looking forward to the next volleyball season, but they'll certainly miss the seniors who are leaving!

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Seniors are feeling the weight of applications. / Drawings by Jessica Kong

Application Anxiety

By: Jasmine Teng

“I can’t do this,” The high school senior moaned, cradling her head in her hands. “I’m never going to college.”

Suddenly, a gust of wind blew away the papers on her desk as a blue, bearded genie materialized.

“Hello, I am the College Application Genie, here to help you through the wonderful process of applying to college to ensure that you won’t utterly fail the process that represents the culmination of your seventeen years of life! After all, this is only the most important event of your life.”

The girl smiled bewilderedly, glad for some much-needed help.

“Alright, let’s get started.” After a few moments of deliberation over her transcript, the genie looks at her over the top of his spectacles, his eyebrows raised in concern.

“Only three APs junior year! What a shame.” He muttered, shaking his head. “Well, there goes your chances at getting into Princeton. Everybody knows that you have to take at least five APs a year.”

The genie swiveled back to the transcript, and then clutched at his heart, spewing exclamations in too many languages to count. “Ay dios mio! What is this?! Is that an A- I see?”

“But... I have a 4.0 GPA...”

The genie held up his hand to stop the girl’s protests. “Say no more. You bring utter shame to yourself, your family, and the heavens above. This is an abomination. It is common sense that your weighted GPA be at least 4.9.”

Casting aside the transcript, the genie grabbed her SAT score reports. After a brief glance, he promptly fainted.

Upon revival, the genie admonished the senior. “Not even a 2390? Did you not know that the SAT was the be-all and end-all of your college applications?”

Cheeks blushing a fiery red, the girl declared, “Well, at least I’m on student council and varsity volleyball.”

“Yes, but are you president of

student council? Are you the head captain of varsity volleyball?” The genie scoffed. “It is of utmost importance that you take every single leadership position, no matter the means. This will demonstrate to colleges that you have leadership experience, which obviously is the priority of all four years of your high school experience.

“Also, you didn’t even join varsity basketball and soccer; nor did you join the newspaper, MUN, or the engineering, math, and science clubs. Joining all the sports and clubs is crucial in proving your well-roundedness. You have no leadership experience, nor have you invented anything remarkable or even discovered a cure for cancer. You are, simply put, completely and absolutely mediocre.”

Her eyes began to water as she trembled.

“No time for sleep, young woman! Remember, no Ivy League degree, no job, no fulfillment in life.”

Before the girl could respond, he grabbed a pair of inextricably tangled earphones from her messy desk.

“Look at this pair of earphones. It is utterly hopeless. This is your life.”

The genie sighed and shooed her off to her pile of essays to be written.

“Now, go forth, and accomplish your life’s duty. Should you fail to heed my advice, you will remember, whilst you deep-fry french fries for customers who use you as a sad example of a non-Ivy League degree graduate to remind their children to study hard, that I told you so.”

Spike the Spirit

By: Evan Hsu

The serve flew over and hit the opponent’s side. At once, all the eighth grade boys’ hands shot up ecstatically. They had won the tournament.

“It was awesome,” said eighth grader Vince Huang. “There was really a clutch in our second round of our final game!”

Every MAK Shark can succeed, both in academics and in sports. The middle school volleyball tournament saw a blast of success, cheering, and medals. On October 17th, middle schoolers competed diligently at several venues around the island.

Volleyball is all about teamwork, clear communication, and sportsmanship. On the first day of volleyball practice, the teams were out of shape. But as practice continued every Tuesday and Thursday, the skills soon returned to each athlete’s mind. The gym was filled with loud shouts of “mine!,” powerful serves, and beautiful plays. The sixth graders were just starting out, since volleyball was new to them, but the eighth graders were already familiar with it.

Every coach, including Mr. MacDonald, Mrs. West, Mrs. Griffin, and Mr. Muir, worked for many sweaty hours to prepare the middle schooler for the tournament. As each practice went by in the afternoon, the



The victorious seventh grade boys’ team!

middle schoolers became more comfortable with the volleyball. Through scrimmages at home campus, they improved and seemed to be ready for the tournament.

When October 17th finally came, the Sharks were excited to their toes and could not wait to dominate. The sixth graders took the long journey to TAS and TES while the seventh graders stayed at their home campus. The eighth graders accompanied the JV Soccer and varsity volleyball teams to Taichung. Despite a few losses, the middle schoolers appeared to have fun.

“The game against Kuei Shan School was like a heart attack! They score a point and we score a point,” said eighth grader Akari Sato. “It kept going on like this until [our victory].”

“We had better teamwork than the other teams and we communicate well,” said a 7th grader. “That was a key factor of us winning the tournament.”

The middle school MAK Sharks indeed rocked the volleyball tournament with three champion teams and three runners-up. Congratulations to their hard work and effort. Keep dominating next year.

Alex的留學高雄媽媽茶會

每個月第三個星期二的上午
歡迎來聽 Alex 分享他的留學經驗跟人生故事
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1/19 家長該如何正確幫學生安排暑期活動

2/16 讓年輕人教您如何應付叛逆的年輕人

3/15 Alex 的哈佛之路 (一) : Alex 的高中經歷

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Logo by Jessica Kong



Students in shock after HUCC demonstration



How to make coke. Warning: Extremely unhealthy

Extreme Changes Headed for MAK?

By: Sabrina Tsai

*Sharkpost is not responsible for any damages caused by protests if the school fails to do as reported.

Good news came for the high schoolers a few weeks before the end of quarter one.

Students no longer had to look at their tea and imagine boba sinking in them. It was official: boba was back! Students were severely warned in terms of future consequences and were all educated on the proper disposal of tea in a public service announcement video created by StuCo, starring our very own "tea lady" Ann King.

"It's like heaven came back to us," Ann said while she sorted out the first tea order of the second quarter. As expected, over half of the teas ordered by students have had QQs in them. It seemed as if students who didn't regularly order boba before did so this time just to celebrate the repealing of the constricting act.

But the storm is not over yet. Students probably should not get too comfortable now, as MAK's string of extreme changes might still continue. Even though the boba ban was imposed due to students' irresponsibility, MAK might see more bans that stem from the anxieties of parents. Rumor has it that student hyperactivity and the lack of peace in hallways has unsettled several parents who visited during school hours.

"Students can get a little crazy," Mr. Laytham chuckled, "especially during lunchtime or after recess." This can be attributed to the fact that they are free to roam around, but also because recess is the time when they can

get out their snacks and eat to their hearts' content.

Unlike last year, students have been bereft of a snack food source ever since the student store was closed down and the vending machine transformed. Bottled tea, sports drinks and plain water replace the spots where Fanta and other carbonated drinks used to proudly stand. As for the former glorious Student Store of All Things...we now have two different types of crackers filling in about four spots on the vending machine. Satisfactory? Hardly.

"I need my coke to survive," StuCo Vice President Elisa Cheng told me, sighing at the closed kitchen windows. She isn't the only one.

A recent poll showed that around 80% of the current high school population depend on food as their stress reliever, and half of those students answered, "I am currently more stressed due to the lack of snacks at school" to the follow up question.

But as a representative from Homemakers Union Consumers Cop (HUCC) demonstrated to the high schoolers during The Tuesday Thing late September, a lot of the food students enjoy and use as stress relievers is actually very damaging to our health. The beloved Coke is just as capable at cleaning our toilets as it is at raising our sugar levels, proving how dangerous the energy booster is to our bodies.

Not only that, but these short term boosters steeply increase hy-

peractivity in the younger students, followed immediately by a steep decrease -also known as crashing.

Some parents who have heard about the boba ban have brought up a question that students do not even want to consider: What if we banned tea in general? According to the parents, not only does it take a lot of time just to organize a tea order, but it is also creating bad habits for students. Athletes especially should not be drinking anything of the sort before

practice, yet we see many students ignoring the warning and reaping the consequences of stomachaches, inadequate performance, and cramps.

At this point, no food loved by the general student population is safe. They are all either created with GMO products or contain artificial ingredients. Pringles, Pea Crackers, Skittles, M&Ms...There is no stopping the parents. It isn't a question of whether they'll hit or not, but when and what they'll hit.



L: All About the Boba R: The sharkshop is now open! / Drawings by Alice Lin and Jessica Kong

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