

THE MORRISON SHARK POST



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Beyond Red Books: A Hope for More

By: Gabrielle Liu

If you open the locker of any high school student at MAK, you will find a red book no thicker than one and a half centimeters. This ubiquitous red book is the *Foundations of Faith* workbook, the key component in the Bible curriculum taken by every high schooler within the three Morrison campuses.

To begin, this article is in no way a criticism of the Bible teachers at MAK. They are some of the most passionate, devoted, and experienced teachers. Each full of life, adding their preference of teaching styles when given opportunity, they make Bible classes ever-changing, fruitful, and always filled with the hope of future spiritual growth. The following is solely what needs to be said about the curriculum itself.

This *Foundations of Faith* Bible workbook has single-handedly worsened the attitude of MAK's freshman

class, if not the entire high school, towards faith. Perhaps I can't speak for the other grades, but conversations about the new Bible curriculum are often tainted with negativity, and it's not difficult to see why.

This workbook is ineffective in making any student want to ask the bigger questions about their worldview. No one wants to think, write, discuss, or annotate about what truth, reality, perfection, or purpose is after a few weeks going through the workbook. The introductions of each chapter are essentially the same question asked in a different way. Fill-in-the-blanks are catered to fish out only one acceptable answer. Additional required reading contains seven repetitive chapters which progressively lose their flair and interest from readers. If writers want to make the already-wary students care, throwing one question over and over in our faces in different forms *Does. Not. Work.*

There is no doubt that the writers of this book had good, Christ-centered intentions. It just wasn't executed in a way that engages high school students or makes us feel like actual people. I don't blame the teachers, nor even those in the Morrison system who chose to try out this curriculum. It was new, an experiment. No one knew what would happen, but now it's clear the results haven't been positive.

What has happened is that we scribble the "Christian answer," give vague follow-ups, and then repeat. If children are asked to write the answer to 2+2, which the textbook (the supposed authority) insists is 5, and the question comes up again and again, they'll eventually spit out 5, even if they don't believe it. "Five, five, five,

five," – we've turned into dead robots, ones that have no will to think because, surely, it is a waste of time to write your true opinion 20 times, right?

Why are we learning weak arguments for an unexplainable God? Why has the book taken such thought-worthy questions and turned them into ones students are anxious to flip past, with the sliver of hope that the next pages might contain something enjoyable? Some of the most profound thoughts I've heard were not prompted by questions from the text but from those commenting on why this curriculum should not be used. It is concerning for the atheist, for the Christian, and for all people of other religions.

Our Bible teachers pour out their hearts to students by answering questions, clarifying concepts, and encouraging honesty. Mrs. Henwood, the freshmen's Bible teacher, can explain the concept of revelation in 30 seconds using a chocolate kiss wrapper concealed in her hand. But sadly, in stark contrast, the workbook has been so much of what they are not.

More so, I feel ashamed of how we've let the text change the way we view ourselves because it has isolated people and labeled individuals as this one type of human that can box in for the lesson's own advantage. We've raised up walls without realizing it, becoming defensive of our own personal beliefs in a manner that can end up being more harmful than helpful.

The crux of this is that we are deeply passionate people: a community of high schoolers who are complex, thoughtful, unique. We need a Bible curriculum — and a good personal

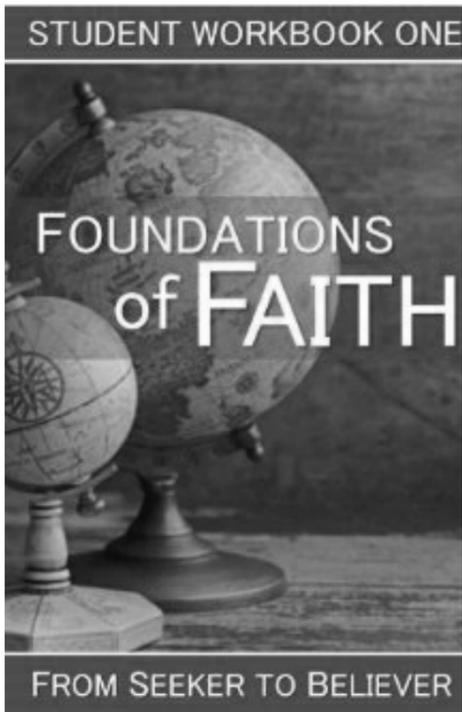


To many students, this book is filled with repetition. //photo taken from Amazon

attitude — that brings out the best in us.

Editor's note: After having been at MAK for the past 13 years, I've heard so much about the Christian worldview, but too little about everything else – completely understandable as Morrison is a Christian school. I know there are many new students who have yet to build a strong foundation in Christianity, but the world outside is broad and diverse.

The more we are kept in a "bubble" right now, the harder we will crash in the outside world. Encouraging Christianity shouldn't only be learning everything through a specific Christian view, but should also be about comparing this religion to all the others from a more objective standpoint so students can make the choice for themselves. — Sabrina Tsai



The source of frustration for many students. //photo taken from Amazon

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THRICE THE ADVICE

Do you have questions about high school, relationships, religion, or just about life in general? *Thrice The Advice* is here to provide guidance as you go through the school year. Any questions –genuine, funny, or serious– are welcome.

By: Anna Laytham, Gabrielle Liu, and Jasmin Kong

How do I pick out the perfect gift for my family and/or friends? What if I don't give them a gift they like?

A: First, consider something that is consumable—such as food or lotion – or meaningful to the person or the two of you together. Another idea is experiential gifts, such as movie tickets or a massage coupon. If you still cannot think of something for them, you can always buy a gift card at a shop you know they like. Also, remember it's mostly the thought that counts.

J: If you have no idea what to get for your family or friends, find out what their favorite food is and just buy a ton of that. Maybe add some other kinds of treats (candy corn :D) to the pile of food you're giving. The more food you buy, the merrier it will be! To find out what their favorite food is, just subtly ask them in a conversation. Honestly, food is always the right answer when it comes to giving gifts.

G: I've always wanted a miniature pet whale that I could keep in a fish tank. As it is highly likely your friends/family have similar requests, you must drill down to the very essence of the fantastical beast they desire. The essence of mine is to shrink the massiveness of the world into one potato sized being, at least for an instance, so I don't feel so insignificant or useless. So take the essence of the unicorn, the phoenix, and the Loch Ness monster they want, and transform it into a greater experience where it'll still feel all right if they never get the animal.

How do I manage my time now that I am in Middle School and have more homework?

A: In middle school, you're going to need to adjust your time towards homework rather than the other things

you used to do (such as chatting, playing games, watching Youtube videos, etc.). Start by eliminating the unnecessary activities to make time for homework and other things you have to do.

J: Managing your time for homework is hard. You will most likely procrastinate and fail to finish your homework before class. This leads to sadness (for some people) and regret (like why didn't you spend last night doing your homework instead of playing Clash Royale?). When you feel sad, the answer is (again): buy some chips and chocolate bars from Mr. Newkirk's store and consume your sadness!

G: Take a hammer and smash your alarm clock into as many pieces as possible. Then group the fragments into – groups where groups group the groups of your daily life groups. Grouping the groups will help you visualize the priority groups within the groups made from groups. (Editor's note: Group the fragments to represent portions of your daily life so you can see what you need to prioritize.)

I always get really down during Christmas. How do you deal with seasonal blues?

A: I would first ask yourself why you feel down. Is it because you don't have many activities going on during this time? Do you have unrealistic expectations for a perfect holiday? Assessing the cause of your blues may be the best thing to help you. Set realistic goals – ie. Spending time with friends/family & less time on media exposure, and developing some non-tech hobbies. Social media will often make you feel more alone as you see all the snowmen your friends in other countries are building or the culture of Christmas Taiwan doesn't have.

J: OH RIGHT, I WILL REPEAT ONE

MORE TIME! FOOD IS THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING! FEEL SAD? FOOD. FEEL LONELY? FOOD. Here's another answer: spend your Christmas with your friends and family. Plan fun and memorable things for this upcoming season! Fill up your time with activities to do with people you love! “Keep your friends close, and your snacks (WHOOHOO) closer.”

G: Don't be that toddler you once were sliding down the McDonald's play-place backwards as your arms flailed to keep yourself from going down that dark spiral slide. Just don't go to McDonald's. Drop everything and scream, “RUN AWAY!!!!” at everyone nearby because you never know, they may be going through the same thing.

Should I leave out cookies for Santa Claus?

A: Yes, and then your parents will eat them.

J: Just leaving out cookies won't be enough! You should leave out a bowl of candy canes, a glass of milk, chocolate chips cookies, peanut butter cookies, snickerdoodles, cupcakes, and just any kind of baked goods. And if you find any leftovers the next morning, give it to *Thrice the Advice* and *I* (*heavy emphasis on I) will happily eat up all the leftovers!

G: Santa Claus is obese, which doesn't take any worth away from him or make God love him less. But the buttery goodness actually clogs the arteries of the man who delivers all the gifts, so if he has a heart attack, that would not be very Christmas-y. Instead, lay out baked potato fries because they are just as tasty as the deep fried stuff. They provide an abundance of carbohydrates so he can make it through the night.

Should I buy a candy gram for my

crush?

A: Of course! All you have to do is bring your money, buy the candy gram, write a note, and the hard work is done for you – you won't have to face your crush when they get the candy gram. In my experience, it can help your friendship/relationship get closer and it's also fun to eat a candy cane!

J: Ah yes! Thank you for reminding me! *grabs a microphone* HELLO GUYS! I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IF YOU KINDLY LEAVE A CANDY CANE IN LOCKER NUMBER 12 IN THE HIGH SCHOOL WING! THANKS~ :)

Anyways, yes, buy one for your crush and if there's a deal like buy 5 and get 1 free, put 5 candy canes in locker number 12 and give the candy cane that you got for free to your crush!

G: SHOULD YOU BUY A RING WHEN YOU PROPOSE? SHOULD YOU PUT THE LID ON YOUR 7-11 SLURPEE CUP FIRST SO YOU CAN FILL UP THE DOME ALSO? SHOULD YOU UNTANGLE YOUR EARBUD WIRES INSTEAD OF LEAVING THEM IN THAT MESS OF SJLKDJFL:SAOIJSJAF? SHOULD YOU NOT COVER THE ENTIRE SURFACE OF A SLICE OF TOAST WITH JAM? SHOULD YOU NOT DRAW A SMILEY FACE ON A FOGGY WINDOW?

Maybe you can even crush the candy cane as a subtle way to signify you have a crush on that person (but I suppose it won't be so subtle because the school newspaper is read by, you know, the school). They're so cheap! You can let him/her know they're worth 10NT of your money, that you love giving them diabetes wrapped in plastic, and how amazing it is that all that high fructose corn syrup comes from CORN!

Have questions? Thrice the Advice is ready to answer them!



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Mission Statement:

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

Crossing Over at Sun Moon Lake

By: Vivian Lu



6th grade had a great transition retreat at Sun Moon Lake. //photo taken from MAK's flickr/

On October 31, the 6th graders set out to Sun Moon Lake for their Impact retreat. After arriving, they split up into their rooms to change before they went kayaking and paddleboarding.

Afterwards, they went to shower and clean up and had some free time around the campsite, "Joy Love Camp." For dinner, the students started a fire and cooked their dinner by themselves.

Then they had their night session, during which the sixth graders sat around a campfire while they sang songs and talked about "Crossing Over," the sixth grade theme that represents the crossing over from elementary to middle school. Afterwards, they split into their advisory groups to further discuss what they had learned.

The next day, some of the boys were woken up at 5AM by a fellow classmate who couldn't sleep anymore. Adventurous as they are, the boys decided to continue exploring the forest they had visited the day before.

However, they could not keep their energy in and quickly woke up the teachers and were forced to return to the campsite. After breakfast, the students were split into 5 groups and had one hour to make a raft with bamboo sticks, barrels, and string.

They tested their construction by taking the rafts out into the

water. Then, they played some games – mostly won by the girls – before the students disassembled their rafts and went to get lunch. In the afternoon, the sixth graders went on a long hike only to find out that the destination was a temple. Instead of staying there, the students walked around the area and ended up in a street market.

On the third and last day, Mr. Muir woke the students at the crack of dawn to go kayaking. They set off for a small fishing dock on the shore of Sun Moon Lake and wrote and burnt pieces of paper with characteristics they wanted to get rid of as they cross over from elementary into a new stage of life.

When the students returned to the campsite, they took the bus to a paper factory, where they made their own paper from plant pulp and other natural materials. After shaping their paper as they liked, the students wrote characteristics they wanted, such as courage, joy, and happiness. Students then placed their still-wet papers on a hot plate to make it dry and crisp. Finally, the students left with their paper creations and started on their long journey back to school.

The trip is over, but memories made on the trip are long-lasting.

Joseph Tsai said, "staying around the bonfire at night reminded [me] of many fun times in my life."

Mikayla Tam said she particularly enjoyed the hike to the temple. "Our class had fun laughing and talking with each other."

Clearly, the sixth graders really enjoyed getting to know each other better on their trip and became better equipped for challenges ahead of them.



6th grade students enjoying a ride on their successfully built raft. //photo taken from MAK's flickr/

The Night Before Christmas

By: Nini Lee and Sabrina Tsai

Are you excited? Magic will spark on the 38th floor of the 85 Sky Tower Hotel on December 16th. I hope you've had a good Finals week (or as good as week of stress can get), but now, it's time to relax. House Council set the date to the last day of school in hopes that the banquet will be a night full of joy and memories. Who wouldn't want to dress up and celebrate after a week of intense brain cell-killing assessments?

Hopefully, by now, if you wanted to go with a date to the banquet, you've already asked that person. If not, it's not too late! Remember that you do not have to be in a relationship to ask someone to be your date. It can simply be a friendly gesture.

If you have not asked out a date yet, and are totally freaking out... don't fear! We know the process of asking has always been terrifying – who wouldn't be afraid of the embarrassment of potential rejection? That's why we have created an "Asking out a last-minute date" cheat sheet.

1. Quickly choose your date. If you had a person in mind but just never asked... go make sure they're still single and ready to mingle! If they're taken, you need to figure out who doesn't have a date yet, and finalize your decision.

2. By this point, you've probably panicked over finals so much that this is no longer a big deal, but when you see that person at school, DON'T PANIC. It is very important that you stay calm and act normal; the less suspense, the better.

3. Go to the bathroom and practice smiling in front of the mirror. You might attract some weird looks from others, especially since the banquet is almost happening, but it's okay. If you really want a date for the banquet, this is just a process you need to go through for preparation!

4. Go buy some food for your date. Everyone loves food! Newkirk is selling some fantastic chips and chocolate in the guidance office in the middle school wing (just FYI). (Please also make sure your date is not allergic or hates chips/chocolate –

highly improbable, but who knows?) 5. Walk up to the person. Smile. Hand them food, and ask, "Will you go to the banquet with me?" If the person says yes, YOU'VE GOT A DATE. If not, then repeat steps 1~4 on your next candidate in mind.

Simple, right? Your own enemy is not nerves, other people who were more productive than you and already got their dates, but TIME! The clock is ticking, so hurry up, "YOLO it" and don't let your anxiety take over.

Of course, if you want to be totally fabulous, you can also go without a date.

Pros: You can hang out with everyone, you won't have fallen to that unspoken social pressure of getting a date, and most importantly, you won't have that "You look nice," "Yeah you too," *awkward silence* encounter.

Cons: You might still feel a little awkward because

- 1) Where will you sit? Who will you sit with?
- 2) You can't partake in couple games
- 3) No special couple photo time

Speaking of photo time, if you happen to take awesome/funny/embarrassing photos, or if you're staying at home and would like to troll the whole high school, #MAK-BANQUET2016 will be live streamed during the event.

HouseCo would also like to remind you that this year's night of elegance and style will contain delicious food and amazing desserts like tiramisu, macaron, and more.

Think about it, but don't get too worked up over it. The banquet is just a fun event for students to relax, hang out, dress-up, eat, and take pretty pictures.

Say goodbye to school and start off your Christmas break with a night of fun at "The Night Before Christmas!"



Hope to see you there on December 16th! //photo provided by MAK HouseCo

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Mr. McDillion the Mathematics Guy

By: Sunny Wang

Every year, when old teachers leave, they open up opportunities for new staff to come and begin another part of their life. MAK always welcomes them and sincerely invites them to join the big family. This year, there are several new teachers and one of them teaches five classes at MAK: Mr. John McDillion.

Mr. McDillion teaches Pre-Algebra for middle schoolers as well as high school Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Physical Science, and Physics. He has been teaching for five years in the United States and this is his sixth year teaching math and physics.

Mr. McDillion taught in Warsaw, Indiana before he decided to come to Taiwan in early February this year. Mr. and Mrs. McDillion found out about Taiwan and MAK through a missionary conference.

“My wife and I have been interested in international mission work. We went to a mission conference and talked to people from different in-

ternational schools so that we could support missionaries by teach[ing] their kids [so] they can keep doing their work. We looked into that and we found out about MAK!” Mr. McDillion said.

In December, 2015, and January, 2016, Mr. McDillion was interviewed by Mr. Tim McGill (the superintendent in Morrison Academy) and decided to come to MAK in early February.

Despite the fact that Mr. McDillion and his wife made the decision of coming to MAK, he also believed that God was also a big part of this decision. In fact, he believes that this transition was “definitely” part of God’s plan. He also mentioned that this is the first time that he and his wife have ever lived outside of the USA and they are joyful and content that the Lord has brought them here to us.

Mr. McDillion says he enjoys teaching here at MAK so far. “I love it!” he exclaimed. He noted these classes are

much smaller than the ones he had in Warsaw, which means he has the opportunity to know most of the students in high school and middle school even if he doesn’t teach them at the moment.

This situation is really different from what Mr. McDillion is used to, but hopefully he will find it more comfortable as school continues.

Mr. McDillion finds math and physics to be really interesting when he sees how it connects and links with the real world and “all the cool things you can do with it.”

In fact, he says that physics is math applied to real world scenarios. Most importantly, he is amazed to see how God is part of everything in this world and what He has given us.



Mr. McDillion is all smiles to show how enthusiastic he is about teaching! //photo taken by Sunny Wang

Mr. McDillion wants to give a message to the MAK community: “We’re excited to be here, excited to get to know you guys, and I look forward a great time!”

A New Science Shark at MAK

By: Evan Hsu

“Do you know why doctors study chemistry? Because if you don’t helium, you can’t barium!” The fact that he made me laugh at his “stupid science joke” made me more comfortable talking to the

MAK family’s newest member, Mr. Chesebro.

Mr. Cairns was greatly acknowledged as a funny and amazing teacher during his wonderful two years with us. However, the new leg of

his journey has begun, which left an empty spot in the Middle School Biology Science Department. Don’t fear yet, because Mr. Chesebro has decided to take his spot!

The Chesebro family consists of Mr. Chesebro, his wife, and five children; three are in the Morrison

system while two are not.

His family loves playing games and sports and anticipates more adventures as they live in and visit places in Taiwan.

They look forward to being outdoors in their spare time, enjoying activities such as going to the beaches in Kenting and riding bikes.

Mr. Chesebro absolutely loves the food in Taiwan, especially boba tea. The weather here in Taiwan is a bit more humid than he is accustomed to, but he is willing to try and explore new things, such as taking on the stinky tofu challenge and climbing mountains.

Moreover, Mr. Chesebro said the main reason behind his finding out about Morrison was his eldest son, Roger, who knew many people at Morrison Taichung and had a strong desire to study there. In the past, they have lived in Texas and Shenyang, China, where Mr.

Chesebro taught science for 7 years. The Chesebro family also knew the Cairns, and that is another reason why Mr. Chesebro is a great replacement for Mr. Cairns.

Currently, Mr. Chesebro teaches Middle School science as well as 9th grade Biology and Foundations of Algebra. After almost a semester, he noticed that the majority of students use computers at school in every class for basically everything. Fascinated by this observation, he compared this behavior to American schools, where computers in the classroom are not as prevalent as in MAK classrooms. He likes this aspect of MAK because in the future, colleges will expect people who know how to use computers well. I really believe Mr. Chesebro is a wonderful teacher, and I am sure he has more “stupid science jokes” to share with you all!



Don’t mess with Mr. Chesebro. His experiments, as seen in one during his Chemistry class in Shenyang, can get pretty wild! //photo provided by Mr. Chesebro

Freshies! Retreat!

By: Jasmin Kong and Anna Laytham

The high school hallway was unusually quiet one afternoon. The teachers and other high school students wondered why until they realized that the freshmen had left for their Impact retreat. Shortly after lunch on Friday, November 4th, the freshmen gathered at the front office and helped load the bus while a joyful and exciting atmosphere filled the air.

Once they arrived at the retreat center, the freshmen eagerly jumped off the bus but were quickly ordered to help carry all the luggage and supplies into the center. Their phones were also confiscated for the duration of the retreat, but the freshmen were too excited to care.

After exploring the room in which they would be sleeping and spending the most time, the 9th graders were given some free time so the teachers could sort out the schedule. During this time, a few students played the piano, others sat around and talked, a group of girls danced and jumped around, and a few boys played card games on Vince's HUGE air mattress once it was blown up.

On the Peak Through Ups and Downs

By: Katherine Ma

In the afternoon of November 18th, MAK's sophomores started their mountain trips with mixed feelings; some were extremely excited while others were very anxious.

After arriving at the Outward Bound base in Longtan, the first course of action was to organize all the sleeping bags, backpacks, head torches, food, and other equipment into neat piles. After seeing everything laid out, it was clear that we had a long night of packing and learning in front of us. Finally, everything (packing, setting up tents, and most importantly, taking the last shower of the next four days) was completed a little after midnight.

In order to get to the starting point of the Nanhua Mountain trail, there was a four hour bus ride. The ride consisted of a group of girls continuously singing throughout the four hours stuck in the bus. Hopefully, the teacher and the driver enjoyed the music!

Gearing up to begin the tough journey at the starting point, we refused to let the massive backpacks



Sophomores successfully made it onto the peak of Nanhua Mountain (3184 m)! //photo taken from MAK's flickr

The freshmen participated in some group activities, such as "Never Have I Ever." In this particular version of the game, the person in the middle of the circle would say something they've never done before. If someone else has done it, they have to find a new place around the circle while the person in the middle tries to find a place to sit.

Everyone was laughing and sliding on the floor, and everyone learned new things about each other during this game, such as the fact that Graeme Muir had actually dyed his hair before.

The next group activity was a survival game where the freshmen were put into their advisory groups and had to come up with six items which they would want to bring if they were ever deserted on an island. The last activity was a Japanese line dance that some freshmen didn't like, especially Eden Liu because he just wanted to dab the whole way.

Two sophomores, Esther Yao and Logan Muir, led worship for the freshmen before each session. In the

weigh down on our spirit. We enjoyed the amazing scenery, and everything went well until the first hazard point.

A hazard point is a location where you are literally walking right next to a cliff on a path no wider than a meter, and where rocks might fall down. If you fall, it'd be the end of your life. There were many people with acrophobia in our class; however, they were extremely brave as the others encouraged them. Thankfully, all of us were able to safely cross these hazard points and bridges later on.

The first day was an easy hike of 4.5 kilometers; we arrived at the first camp site relatively early. Tents were set up properly, and the students cooked their first meal on the mountain. The sky turned orange and pink as the sun slowly disappeared into the horizon. It was a splendid view, yet it was only when the sky darkened that people were truly dazzled. Up above, a blanket of stars covered us like thousands of diamonds shining, a view that lingered in people's minds. Many students have stated that this was one of the highlights of the trip.

The second day began with a great mystery. Food was all packed on the first day, but no one could find cheese in their backpack. Even now, the exact location of the bag of cheese remains unknown. Setting aside the food mystery, the second day was fantastic. With people's cooperation and the leaders' guidance, we were able to finish the 13 km hike and reach the campsite four

first session, Mr. Torgerson talked to the freshmen about their identity and role in their community. The students were told that although they're always asked what they want to be when they grow up, an even more important question is "Who are you going to be?"

Mr. Torgerson mentioned that this question is something they can work on right now. In the second and third sessions, he talked to the freshmen about how the person you are influences your role in the community and how a community that seeks God as a common goal is more unified and strong.

At night, the teachers organized a bonfire and students made s'mores. Some students also explored the retreat center, while others played squash and racquetball together. Lights were out by 11 PM, but some freshmen decided to be rebels and whispered quietly amongst themselves until they fell asleep.

Early risers on Saturday, November 5th, helped the teachers

hours earlier than the intended time. The instructor, Eric, even said that we were the best team he had ever hiked with.

The real climax happened on the third day, the day we were going to hike to the peak. Several warnings and precautions were given about the difficulty of the hike. The wind was blowing hard and it was pouring. Through the fog, you could occasionally catch a glimpse of how high we were on the mountain. There were parts of the trail where we had to grab the plants for support. During the hours of hiking, we saw many hills, and would often be encouraged that the end was in sight, but they would frequently turn out to be fake "peaks," telling us there was still a long way to go.

After many hours, we finally arrived at the peak. It was so cold up there that we simply took one group picture and then moved to an area where the wind was blocked. Some people could not feel their hands at all and failed to even open candy wrappers. For Daniel Lee, "The peak was the best part yet also the most difficult part of the whole trip."

Some might assume that everything would be easy after the peak, but this was not the case. The heavy rain did not stop when we arrived at the campsite. Everything – like tents and the sleeping mats – was soaking wet and it was freezing. Our spirits were down, but some people, like Brandon, Austin, Vivian, and others, decided to make hot tea for everyone.



The class of 2020 on their freshmen retreat. //photo taken from MAK's flickr set up breakfast, and when everyone else woke up they went downstairs to eat. After a few more activities, another session, and lunch, the students packed their bags, took a group picture, and loaded themselves onto the bus.

The freshmen had a great retreat together and came up with several ideas of how to be more unified as a class. However, it must also be said that after 24 hours at the center and a 40 minute bus ride, the students were ready to leave each other and go back home. As they said goodbye to their classmates, the freshmen walked off the bus and into their parents' arms.

The owner of a nearby hut also decided to let us stay inside, which was an amazing blessing. Inside the hut, local people invited us to sing with them. One of the aboriginal guys seemed especially fond of Mrs. Gregg and sang to her. Overall, it was an awesome night with singing and a Gangnam Style dance by Daniel Lee.

In the morning, the mood was lightened by the successful Mannequin Challenge done at 2860 meters above sea level (check it out on Youtube if you're interested). As we headed downhill, however, problems started to occur. Joyce Wu twisted her ankle, shoulders were hurting, and Jessica Kuo had blisters all over her feet. Scout Newkirk even tripped and rolled, only centimeters from falling down the cliff. There were a few challenges that were not handled so well, yet it was through these problems that the group grew closer together. When we finally arrived back at the base, people sang in celebration of showers, pizzas, and a warm place to sleep.

Weird as it seems, the trip closed with setting up and triggering mousetraps. The class was challenged to arrange mousetraps in the shape of 2019 and used them as dominoes. Fortunately, everyone's fingers remained intact. Through the ups and downs, the tenth grade students were able to reach the peak and form a stronger bond with each other. As Joyce Wu stated, "Just because it was hard doesn't mean that it wasn't worth it."

Mirror, Mirror On the Wall

By: Anna Huang

A magic mirror hangs in the small room between the art room and the staff room, a strategically secretive location given its overshadowing neighbors. Some try to ask the mirror who's the fairest of them all but are often met with no response.

Other (more informed) users ask the mirror to make a Skype call, check emails, read news, play music, or even miraculously control the projector screens at school.

No, this mirror was not created to satisfy a queen's jealousy or vanity, but instead is made of some rather humble materials, including a raspberry pi (a single board computer the size of an index card, not to be confused with a raspberry pie), old monitors, and wooden frames. No, you can not see this mirror in Disney animations, but you can find it in almost every science fiction movies - as a smart mirror that acts like a smartphone.

So who owns this magic mir-

ror? The same person who appears when you send out an SOS signal from your chrome browser, who makes sure the printers are spitting out papers, and who solves your technology problems: Mr. Travis Hu.

Raised in a traditional Taiwanese family, Mr. Hu, more commonly known as Travis, worked with computers and managed servers before coming to MAK, primarily to polish his English. His job is to "relieve Mr. Griffin's workload so that Mr. Griffin can focus on making technology more accessible to teachers and thus increase the efficiency of their work."

Travis takes over the trivial matters that used to go to Mr. Griffin, from fixing the printers at 8 AM (while whole class of students wait to print their 10-page essays at the last minute) to fixing computers injured by an impatient owner's abusive treatment.

Other than these ordinary jobs, Travis also works on several side

projects with Mr. Griffin. The automatic plant watering system located outside of the fitness room, for example, uses a moisture sensor to send signals to switch the water pump on and off depending on the water level of the soil. While the pots of plants are reminiscent of the liquid-filled pods in *The Matrix*, this design did not involve ulterior motives to harvest electricity but was meant to simply be more environmental-friendly.

And Travis said, "Let there be light, and there was light." (Genesis 1:3). Turning his Siri from a virtual assistant into a willing laborer that turns various appliances on and off upon request, Travis has garnered the ability to perform technological miracles. This ability to command light, elements, and energy, however, does not transform Travis into a couch potato. Instead, the computer fanatic also enjoys playing drums and played in a band during his military service in Jingmen.



When you need tech help, Travis is always ready to work miracles. //photo taken by Anna Huang

If you bump into something mysteriously intriguing or hear the muted rumble of engine working in MAK, do not fear, it is probably Travis secretly expanding his technology empire on campus.

Muse Trump Wins 2016 Election

By: Rosa Lin and Sabrina Tsai

The literary journal *Muse* is the new artistic voice of Morrison students, a collection of original content including fiction, poetry, short dispatches, essays, photography, and art.

General guidelines

- Online submission
- Originality - Please submit original content; if your work has been inspired from another source, please share your source with us.
- Morrison-appropriate
- EDITOR'S RIGHT TO EDIT - All work submitted will be subject to review for grammatical accuracy, etc. We reserve the right to edit and publish the edited piece.

Literary work

- Word limit: 1000 words
- Could potentially be: short story, poem, essay, etc.
- Format - Please do not submit an image (JPG, PNG, PDF, JPEG, etc.); we only accept text formats like Word and Google Docs.

Artwork

Could be: poster, photography, sculpture, paintings, drawings, craft (eg., sewing)

We will be accepting submissions starting in Quarter 3. Please stay posted for more detailed submission guidelines. E-mail Kelly Chen chenk1@mca.org.tw for questions.

Against all odds, projections, and polls, Donald John Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States on November 8th. Announcing his candidacy on June 16, 2015, Trump's campaign slogans ("Make America Great Again," "Drain the Swamp") and policies captured the heart of millions across the country. In his victory speech, Trump pledged "to every citizen of our land that [he] will be President for all Americans."

He also tried to unify all citizens, telling his non-supporters, "I'm reaching out to you for your guidance and your help so we can work together and unify our great country." The President-elect also appealed to his opponent's supporters, saying "Hillary has worked very long and very hard over a long period of time, and we owe her a major debt of gratitude for her service to our country."

The Republican nominee, who was previously the reality television star of "The Apprentice," pulled the greatest upset victory in modern US political history. He is the first person who has never served in the government, military or elected office to be elected the President of the United States. Since being elected, thousands of people have been protesting in front of Trump buildings across the nation chanting, "Not my President." Security remains tight and will remain tight in the following four years at Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue (in New York

City).

The President elect already paid a visit to the White House to meet President Barack Obama to talk about America's future. While in his campaign Trump said that he will completely repeal and destroy Obamacare, he is now saying that he will keep parts of Obamacare. Trump is now actively appointing members of his cabinet, some of which have been extremely controversial, such as Sid Miller, who only days ago got into trouble for bad-mouthing Clinton on his twitter. Even so, it's clear to see that the cabinet is filling up with billionaires.

Whether this wealthy cabinet, in which many of the members profits off the common citizen's misfortunes, can successfully relate to the other 99.99999% (according to CBNC) of the United States remains unknown.

There is also a great conflict of interest in Trump's presidency. He was a businessman before becoming the president-elect, and there is fear that Trump will use his powers to further his empire.

In response to these concerns, Trump has already stated that he will be transfer-

ring his global business empire to his children in response to fear of corruption. However, that brings up the question of how involved his *children* will be with governmental affairs.

Ivanka Trump, the eldest daughter, and her husband were present at a meeting with Japan's Prime Minister. All three kids, to which Trump is handing his empire to, are part of the transitional team. The involvement of his family certainly raises eyebrows, and draws questions on if this is even legal or ethical.

Despite the controversies that have already sprung up, it looks like Trump is here to stay. Whether or not you like the outcome of this election, there is almost a zero possibility that the election results will change. It's better to accept the outcome and move on with our lives.



On November 8th, reality fulfilled the prophecy of the *Simpsons*. //photo taken from *The Express Tribune*

One More Bathroom

By: Yosub Lim

Your break ends in two minutes, and your next class is in HS5 at the end of the hallway. Suddenly, you get that feeling from the innermost parts of your body – you gotta go. Now.

You turn around and sprint in the opposite direction of where you were previously headed, only to get stopped by a teacher, who spends 15 seconds telling you not to run in the hallway.

Forced to use speed walk, you jump down the stairs and hurry into the bathroom. You hear the bell when you're almost done, and as soon as you're finished you sprint back to HS5 as fast as possible. When you enter the classroom, everyone is staring at you. You sit down with a tardy, and realize that in your hurry, you forgot to bring your notebook.

Almost every high schooler is familiar with this experience. There's only one bathroom available for the whole high school body – and you even have to walk down the stairs. At times, it will even be occupied by elementary and middle school kids, making high schoolers wait in



Going to the bathroom is time consuming and inconvenient. //photo by Yosub Lim

long lines.

With how busy high schoolers are, and how precious time is, waiting in line for the bathroom shouldn't what students spend their break times doing.

I can understand that space in the high school wing is limited. However, I'm not asking for another huge locker room. All we need are extra bathrooms in more convenient locations.

Obviously, this should be located on the second floor of the high school wing, possibly near HS5. There are many benefits for all of us. For one, teachers need to go to the bathroom too, but it is just too far away from the classrooms. The longer the teacher is away from the classroom, the higher the chance of students goofing off. If there's a bathroom nearby, then teachers can return to their classrooms really fast and not have to worry about students causing mischief.

Since the locker rooms don't always smell nice, many people would also greatly appreciate a bathroom-sans-lockers upstairs, which, with the help of the cleaning ladies, shouldn't smell as bad.

Students should not have to choose between going to the bathroom or getting to class on time everyday. To prevent this, all we have to do is construct an upstairs bathroom, allowing students to fulfill mother nature's needs and get to class on time.

Issues with Vending Machines

By: Halona Stephenson

Is it just me, or is anybody else bothered by the fact that our current vending machine has a very small selection of drinks and snacks, compared to the diversity we had years ago?

This is because parents didn't want their kids spending too much money on junk food, and so the school decided to remove the "unhealthy" snacks and drinks from the vending machine. Personally, I think the complaints and the school's reaction were ridiculous.

Seriously, if you don't want your kids spending all their money on drinks in the vending machine then why are you giving them money in the first place? Parents are the ones enabling their kids to buy all these "unhealthy" snacks from the vending machines. It is wrong for the parents to blame the school when, really, they are also partially responsible.

Additionally, the vending machine is not just for the elementary students and middle schoolers and students who lack self-control. For the high schoolers, teachers, and other students who only buy snacks and drinks once in awhile, it is unfair to remove student favorites.

The concern for health has led to an addition in sports drink options. But how does that help when all sports drinks are more or less the same? They contain so much sugar and chemicals they aren't "that" different from a can of



The vending machine contains only water, tea, and Aquarius. //photo by Halona Stephenson

Coke. Healthier alternatives are welcome, but they shouldn't replace the old options. Students should be presented with many different options and have the choice to buy what they want just like in the real world. After all, students spend money on the vending machine to fulfill their cravings for junk food. By removing those options, the school is essentially removing the opportunity for students to develop wise decision-making habits for the future.

In conclusion, I think that the vending machine should have a balanced amount of selections. If the old vending machines were brought back, not only would all the students rejoice, the vending machine company would make more money and the general school atmosphere would be more positive. A small and relatively easy change like this one has potential to increase the happiness of the MAK community by a tremendous amount. Who could object to that?

The Student Store Came Back, But...

By: Annabelle Chien

If you have been at MAK long enough, you might vaguely remember a student store that was basically heaven in an alternate universe, full of trays of junk food of all kinds: chips, milk tea, chocolate bars, candy, you name it.

So where is this wonderful student store that supposedly exists in some obscure corner of MAK? When no one's around to listen, those who have heard whispered rumors sometimes explain:

"I heard from so and so that the student store closed down because parents disliked the unhealthy food choices it provided."

Someone else might counter, "But I thought that they closed it down because elementary kids abandoned their lunches to buy chips to fill up their junk-food-desiring stomachs?"

Another person stated, "From my 100% trustworthy sources, I heard that they closed the student store because they found out that people were infiltrating the store and taking snacks without paying for them."

I myself personally heard that it's really because no one wanted to be in charge of running the store. Regardless of all these reasons, none of it matters because THE STORE IS BACK...as the SharkShop!

The store now only sells MAK merchandise like shirts, drawstring bags, sweaters, hoodies, and more. But

what about the food? WHERE IS THE FOOD?

Maybe you're doubtful of my passion for food. "Annabelle, remember all the reasons why the food-selling student store closed down?" Maybe I'm just naive in hoping for the return of a bit of happiness in this messed up world of ours, and maybe—just maybe—we can find ways to solve all the problems that plagued the bygone student store.

So what's the point of this opinion piece? Did you know that avocado benefits the brain? What if the store sold avocado and honey smoothies? What if it sold smoothies, salads, juices, healthy homemade granola bars, fruits, and stick veggies? Of course, products like smoothies and other healthy foods will require more time and effort, but in the end, I believe it WILL BE worth it. Just look at how successful Starbucks is at managing its worldwide, largely profit-

able company!

I'm not saying that our store would ever be as popular or successful as Starbucks, and I am aware that even in an imagined reality where healthy snacks are sold abundantly at MAK's student store, there are still challenges that come alongside the selling of this kind of food. However, I believe that if MAK works together as a community to try to abolish and prevent those problems, there won't be anything to worry about.

This time, to motivate people to run the store, we could pay the manager with a portion of the profits we make in order to ensure that the manager is truly committed to running the store effectively.

Next, I know for a fact that students need fuel for their brain to function. I, myself, have crept up to others during study hall (which is only

much food I continue to crave the rest of the day) on my "hunt for food" to "steal" chips from my classmates.

After getting out of my seat, I slowly walk up to Raymond, slip my hand in his bag of Doritos while he's busy watching one of the most recent episodes of "Attack on Titan" with Joseph, and carefully take out at least two pieces of deliciousness. Then, I move on to Joseph and repeat. As I kindly offer the same fate to Ray, Parker, and Vince, I gradually increase the amount of chips I take. Finally, I walk back to my seat with a satisfied look on my face and oily, red-powder-and-seaweed-covered fingertips. The guys will complain and groan, but it's WORTH IT because food is crucial for survival.

Moreover, I know that the student store will benefit the MAK community as a whole. The money can be used to fundraise for future events, and as a platform to connect high schoolers with middle school and elementary students, furthering the goal of unity. We could schedule and group the students together to work in shifts at different times to help manage the student store appropriately.

Although there are pros and cons to the reinstatement of the food portion of the student store, I believe the benefits far outweigh the costs, and with some improvements and a lot of planning, the store could even surpass its former glory.



What the store should also sell. //art by Annabelle Chien

the second block period of classes on Mondays and Wednesdays – just IMAGINE how

2017 CAPSTONE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Internship Program Implementation Recommendations:

1. Interns qualification: 11th to 12th grade students
2. Each academic year: only 3 classes
3. The first class (summer): 2017/6/5 ~ 6/23
4. The second class (summer): 2017/7/3 ~ 7/21
5. The third class (winter): 2017/11/27 ~ 2017/12/15
6. Each class only 4 ~6 places for Morrison students.



OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Meals and transportation fee will be subsidized by the company during the internship.

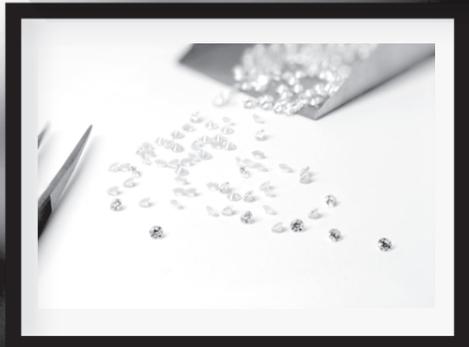
Course Outline

1. Professional Diamond identification Course
2. Marketing plans and executive management
3. Internship final presentation

Qualified interns will receive a certification after the final presentation by CAPSTONE DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Internship registration:

Email your resume to "vvdventure@gmail.com." Your resume must include personal and contact information, autobiography. We will contact you within 2 days for interview. Students who passes the interview will receive an email notification.



Bible vs Culture: Why Christmas

By: Grace Hsu

Culture: “Christmas is a time for family and friends to get together and exchange gifts.” (Source: history.com)

Bible: Christmas is the celebration of Christ’s coming into the world.

You can probably already tell that this article addresses the real meaning of Christmas. But before you flip this page thinking, “Yes, Christmas is about Christ, they tell me this at school ALL THE TIME,” I want you to stop and consider just *why* you hear about it constantly. This is repeated because it’s important.

It’s not too hard to figure

The angel said to them,
“Do NOT be
Afraid. I bring
you good news THAT
will cause GREAT joy
for ALL the PEOPLE.”

The angel’s message was a message of joy! //drawing by Annabelle Chien

out what our globalized culture thinks Christmas is all about. You might have already seen heavily decorated Christmas trees on the streets, heard traditional carols in shopping malls, or planned special events for the holidays. In this colorful, hectic season a noticeable aspect is the theme of generosity (or perhaps commercialism): we are encouraged (often by store advertisements) to buy gifts for our loved ones, and oftentimes we expect to receive gifts ourselves.

But is the purpose of this annual celebration, practiced all over the world, simply to keep up a tradition of gift-giving, decorating, and commemorating the winter season? This purpose almost seems a little shallow, but when we look to the Bible, we find a different and much more fulfilling answer.

Even if you aren’t a Christian, you probably know that Christmas is a celebration of Christ’s birth. And as a student who attends a Christian school, you probably know the general story of how this all came about and the sequence of the events afterwards. So instead of boring you with what happened, I’ll attempt to explain why.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and

rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Isaiah 53:2b-3 (NIV)

This is a prophecy made by the prophet Isaiah, hundreds of years before Christ’s birth, about Christ himself.

Christ. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Creator of the universe, who “brings out the starry hosts one by one, and calls each of them by name” (Isaiah 40:26b, NIV). This is how He was treated when He came down to earth to save us: He was *despised* by His own creation. “He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him” (John 1:11, NIV).

Apart from our sinful nature alone, wouldn’t mankind’s rejection of the Son of God have been enough reason for Him to command an army of angels to wreak havoc and destruction upon humanity? And yet, Jesus withstood all of this pain with incredible patience, carrying it all the way to the cross where he died a brutal death -- all so we could reconcile with God. This salvation is the reason Christ came to earth.

Even in the context of Christmas, we see Christ being “despised and rejected” long before

His crucifixion.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Luke 2:6-7 (NIV)

We hear the words “Jesus was born in a stable” so often that we don’t really grasp what it means. A more understandable way to say it is that Jesus was born in a barn. Those of us in cross country who have run by the cow farm have a vague idea of what it would’ve smelled like.

Jesus deserved to be born in a palace with quality physicians around to be of assistance, but no -- he was born in one of the dirtiest, stinkiest places imaginable.

Christ’s birth was just the beginning of the good news of salvation for humanity. It also reflected the kind of suffering and rejection Jesus was to experience all his life. Ultimately, Christmas is about God’s mercy towards a sinful and broken world, giving the greatest gift possible -- His own son.

And in that sense, as we give gifts to one another this Christmas, all of us, whether we know it or not, are actually reflecting a greater truth.

Wish Upon a Christmas Tree

By: Sunny Wang

We are all very blessed; we don’t lack any basic necessities, we live comfortably, and we generally get a lot of gifts every year. However, there are many people on this planet who are unable to fulfill their basic needs -- much less their Christmas wishes.

Luke 2:10-11 says, “And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”

Each Christmas, MAK is ready to bless people’s hearts with the love, joy, peace, and hope that comes through the good news of Christ’s birth.

During this season, MAK collaborates on what we call the Christmas project, with a different goal each year. Usually, this undertaking is organized by staff, like last year when Mrs. Brandt was in

charge of the Christmas project in which students fundraised to help Syrian refugees. This year, however, Mr. Torgerson asked Ms. Chandel if she would like to be in charge of the Christmas project.

“[I was] honored to be asked. I knew it was a huge undertaking, and I knew I had to pray about what God would have us do. And clearly, He was already confirming that this year’s project was going to be supporting local ministers right here in Kaohsiung,” Ms. Chandel said.

This year’s project is called Angel Tree. The Angel tree is located in the MPR, and there are different tags on it containing various wishes from the elderly and children who are in need. MAK is currently in partnership with three local ministries, which are to continue even when the Christmas season is over because “the goal is to develop long-term, ongoing relationships with these ministries of

which students from MAK can be a part,” said Ms. Chandel.

The project was introduced to students in the middle of October, and MAK has successfully fulfilled all the wishes! High school’s Service Quest CYOA spent their time boxing the gifts before sending them out. Just recently, we received photos from Turkey, and the homeless shelters, all with presents in their hands and many with smiles on their faces.

Through the Christmas project, students will not only learn to serve others and know that they should help if they see people in need, but they will also fulfill the wishes of needy people in the community.

The world is currently filled with conflicts and suffering, but through our small efforts, perhaps we have lightened up someone’s day in their time of darkness. For us, maybe it is hard to comprehend just

what we have truly given to these people.

As Ms. Chandel said to MAK students, “maybe it’s true the greatest gift that we can give this Christmas are the very things we desire most: love, hope, peace, and joy. Merry Christmas MAK.”



We are angels fulfilling wishes of those in need. //photo by MAK Yearbook

Making MAK History - First Mock Election

By: Nathan Lee

November 8 was this year's most critical and consequential night for America: election night. With one of the biggest upsets in American political history, president-elect Donald Trump soundly beat Hillary Clinton by 58 electoral votes in an unforeseen victory, to the shock and confusion of many. 7,000 miles away from all the turmoil, sequestered next to the infamous pineapple fields, MAK made history as well. On November 9, simultaneous with the US presidential elections, MAK held its first ever mock presidential election.

The idea came from Mrs. Shaffner, the 12th grade US Government teacher. "This year's government class is especially unique; I'm teaching it during election year! I thought it was a great opportunity for my students to watch what they're learning in their textbooks come to life." Mrs. Shaffner also wanted to know if the results from the mock election could be predictive of the actual election. Flyers promoting the mock election could be seen all around the school in the days prior to the election day.

On mock election day, the voting booth was situated just outside the high school science lab in front of the elevators. The obscure location was chosen to simulate the deliberate effort voters have to make in America to vote. Voting was open to every middle school and high school student and every staff member. However, voters were required to bring authentic photo identification.. This did not prevent the AP US History class, spearheaded by Mr. Laytham, from their diabolical attempts to commit (unsuccessful) voter fraud.

The polling staff were strict enforcers, successfully blocking the frauds' attempts and denying many middle school students who wanted to vote but didn't bring any photo

identification. Another limitation was that—as in real life—no one was allowed to vote more than once. This was not a major impediment for most. However, it did prevent Mr. Laytham and Mr. Chan, disguised as a cowboy and Sharky McShark respectively, from voting a second time (with different, "incredibly horribly made IDs," Sabrina Tsai, one of the voting booth staff, said).

After exiting the voting booths, many people were very open about who they voted for and why. 11th Grader Scott Wang voted for Clinton because "her plan for immigration is better compared to Trump's." Echoing his classmate's sentiment, Anson Shyu, another junior, voted for Clinton simply because "[he] hates Trump." On the other hand, some voted for Trump "because [they] felt like it" or because "he's funny." Still others voted for independents.

Many people gave various reasons for their vote that day, but the most common reason people gave was that they, like Anson, voted out of distaste for the other major candidate or for both major candidates.

In congruence with the US elections, the MAK mock election employed an imaginary electoral college. Essentially, this means that each grade received a certain number of electoral votes based on the size of the class, and the candidate with the most votes in each grade receives all the electoral votes from that grade. The candidate with the most combined electoral votes wins the election. With this system, 6th grade had 5 electoral votes, 7th grade 6 votes, 8th grade 5 votes, 9th grade 6 votes, 10th grade 5 votes, 11th grade 4 votes, 12th grade 3 votes, and staff 9 votes.

After tallying up the votes, Hillary Clinton won by an overwhelming majority. She garnered 57.8% of the popular vote, with 37 of 64 total voters voting for her. Her nearest contender, Donald Trump, received only 15 popular votes, equating to 23.4% of the popular vote. Gary Johnson received seven, Jill Stein received three, and Evan McMullin received two popular votes.

Interestingly, although Trump received more popular votes than Johnson and McMullin combined, he received 0% of the electoral votes while Johnson and McMullin both received 12% each. Clinton received 76% of the electoral votes, far above her contenders. Some honorable mentions in the write-in votes include Truman Chiang with one vote and

Mrs. Griffin with two votes!

Just like in the US elections, voter turnout was a primary factor of the results in the mock elections. Only one student each from 6th and 7th grade voted. This means their vote determined their entire classes' electoral vote. This accounts for both Johnson and McMullin's 12% electoral vote.

Another important fact to note: Clinton and McMullin tied for popular vote in 10th grade. To decide who would get the class's electoral votes, a coin was flipped and McMullin won. Voter turnout in 8th, 9th, and 10th grade were very low as well, averaging out to roughly 33%. The upperclassmen had substantially higher voting participation with 11th grade at 88% and 12th grade at 92% voter turnout.

Additionally, 60% of staff members voted. The school wide voter turnout was 41%, 8 percentage points lower than the estimated US election voter turnout of 49%.

Last of all, the only things unique to MAK's voting ballots were the ballot initiatives. On November 9 MAK students and staff voiced their opinions on a variety of (hypothetical) possible changes, additions, or deletions to the Student Handbook and the school policies. In total there were three initiatives, each covering a controversial topic at the school.

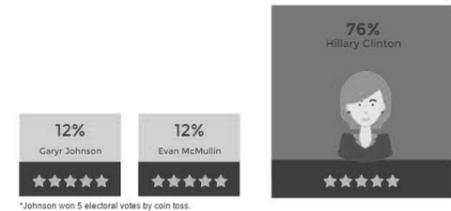
The first initiative sought to alter the existing dress code from requiring shorts being "no shorter than 5 inches above the knee" to shorts "not [revealing] any undergarments and/or private areas." Surprisingly, the results were not as one-sided as expected, with just 66.7% of students in favour and 40% of staff members against the initiative.

The second initiative sought to alter the school's typhoon day policy. Originally, "in the event that the number of school days falls below 178 due to school closure, make-up days will be rescheduled by the Principal."

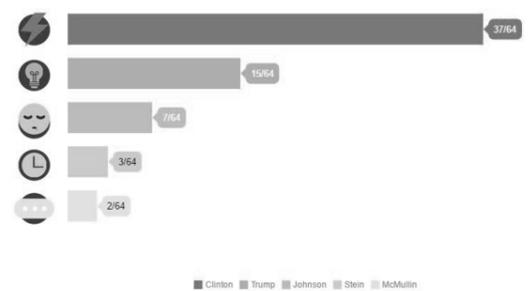
MAK MOCK ELECTION RESULTS 2016

Typeform | Piktochart

1. The electoral college chose Hillary.



2. Hillary won the popular vote.



3. Total votes showed support for two of three initiatives.



4. Voter turnout



6th grade – 1 out of 20 (5%)
 7th grade – 1 out of 25 (4%)
 8th grade – 6 out of 20 (30%)
 9th grade – 9 out of 27 (33%)
 10th grade – 6 out of 17 (35%)
 11th grade – 15 out of 17 (88%)
 12th grade – 11 out of 12 (92%)
 Staff – 26 out of 43 (60%)
 Total – 75 out of 181 (41%)

A chart breaking down the results of MAK's mock election. //graph created by Kelly Chen

However, in the initiative, students would instead be refunded for every day missed. Predictably, this initiative was very divisive, with 60.4% of students in favour but 72% of staff members against it.

The third initiative called for a completely new addition to the school policies: "to promote a genuine interest in academics, report cards and grades will be eradicated." The results were similar to those of initiative two, with 71.4% of students in favour and 68% of staff members against it. Fortunately, or unfortunately, no actions will be taken based on the results of these initiatives.

In the end, MAK's mock election results were not at all predictive of the actual US election results this time. We'll see if it will be in four years.



Mr. Chan-A shark tries to use his fake ID to vote but fails. //photo taken by Kate Lao Shaffner

The President to Trump All Others

By: Bill Scott

At the tipping point of a seventeen-month presidential campaign between the most comical of candidates, the United States celebrates the victory of the most unlikely of characters, Donald J. Trump, the underdog of underdogs.

Yet, not all is well and good in the land of stars and stripes, as protests fill the country in a petty outcry against the decision of the electoral majority, as if they themselves are more qualified to make a decision for



TIME's new cover crowning Trump Person of the Year.//photo taken from Today.com

the future of their country than the rest of the country: a typical display of western egocentrism and self absorption.

Meanwhile, many Americans are reveling in the victory. Donald Trump described his rise to power as more than a mere presidency, but the manifestation of a movement of freedom and the ever-illustrious American Dream.

In his victory speech, Trump said, "It's a movement comprised of Americans from all races, religions, backgrounds, and beliefs, who want and expect our government to serve the people." It's a movement that could not have come at a better time for the American nation.

Donald Trump represents a glimmer of hope for America's seemingly bleak future. At a time of civil unrest, record crime rates, racial tensions and a disturbingly high mass-shooting rate, Donald Trump possesses the charisma and force of will to be a model for change in these dark times.

Seeking to bring back a "strong police presence," reinstate the death penalty in most states, and institute tough anti-crime policies,

Trump may just have the strength of policy and forcefulness of will to finally curb America's rampant crime. Focusing on the internal issues, Trump promises to tighten America's desperate immigration situation and decrease the lost revenue and employment brought about by illegal immigration into the US, a much needed first step to right the economy and chip away at the twenty billion dollar debt.

In light of this and his economic reforms, including increased freedom of the market and a cutback on outsourced manufacturing, things are finally looking up for the U.S financially. Immediate gains in Wall Street followed the election of Trump, with the Dow, among many others, rising to a record high.

Despite the positive outlook for Trump's presidency, many are still viciously unsatisfied by the result of this year's election, calling for a recount and seeking to impeach Trump in favour of Hillary Clinton: the lying, heretical, incompetent, and hypocritical manifestation of the filth that generates so much turmoil for the American people.

Demonstrating the corruption

of inner Washington and completely embodying the people's dissatisfaction with American politics, Clinton seeks to merely perpetuate the divisive issues while holding outrageous policies on immigration, gun control, and abortion that would further aggravate demographic and regional tensions plaguing the nation. Although she wanted to take on the role of president, the only desk that Clinton should be sitting at exists far within a maximum security prison.

On the other hand, Trump, through the system of democratic election, has shown himself to be the best ruler for current America. He has been elected President of the United States of America and must be accepted as so. The nation must now rebound from unfounded disappointment and outrage, welcome its new President, and seek unity rather than division.

Wake up, America, Trump was elected president. Yes, it has happened; yes, it was unexpected. But no, it was not a terrible turn of events. The sooner the U.S. comes to accept this, the sooner it can move forward into positive reform as a nation.

American Horror Story

By: Rosa Lin

*Disclaimer: This article might be offensive to some. If you are a Trump supporter, please know that I have nothing against you and still have tremendous respect for you.

Shocked, heartbroken, confused, terrified, devastated, disgusted -- words cannot describe how I feel about the recent presidential election in the US. How did we switch from Barack Obama to Donald Trump? I'm not typically a person who likes to tell people who I support during a presidential election, but now, it is impossible for me to stay silent.

Clearly, one candidate is so much more qualified than the other -- and yet, on November 9th, 2016, one of my worst fears became a reality: Donald J. Trump, instead of Hillary Clinton, was elected as the president of one of the most powerful nations in the world. You may ask, "Why are you so depressed about this outcome?"

First of all, Trump's candidacy relied on the power of fear. Donald repeatedly warned his supporters that if he does not become president, this country will be doomed. His slogan "Make America Great Again" captured the hearts of angry Americans who were desperate for "change." **If you want change, voting for Trump is not the answer!**

He started his campaign by proposing "I will build a great wall... and I will make Mexico pay for that

wall." I laughed when I first heard about his idea. I thought it was a joke. In fact, I thought his whole campaign was a joke. I never expected him to be able to win the position of Republican nominee, let alone the entire election.

Mr. Trump's candidacy also relied on social media; Twitter, in particular. My all time favorite tweet of his is "[A]n 'extremely credible source' has called my office and told me that @Barack Obama's birth certificate is a fraud."

With that, Trump started this "birther movement" in 2011 and continued it until 2016. During the last few months of his campaign, however, he did admit that President Barack Obama was indeed born in the U.S.

Ironically, days before the election, his press team actually took away Trump's Twitter account from him. If this man can't even handle his own Twitter account, how can he handle nuclear codes? How can he 'MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN'? A man who has **gone bankrupt six times, who does not believe in climate change, and who cannot handle his own Twitter account** is going to be the leader of our country? What is the logic behind voting for

him?

Aside from all the rhetoric he used in this campaign to rile up many Americans' divisiveness and xenophobia, his comments on women trouble me. Here is an example:

"██████████ You can do anything." (Editor's note: inappropriate for children.)

How are these words not a national embarrassment? Do not tell me that "██████████" is just how men normally talk in locker rooms. No, it isn't. Many male athletes have stepped forward to say this is not just locker room talk -- this is blatantly disrespectful and intolerable.

I understand that one of the main concerns about Hillary Clinton in this election was her emails. Still, the FBI cleared Clinton not once, but twice! On the other hand, we have as president-elect someone who refuses to release his tax returns to the public, which every presidential candidate for the past forty years has done. What is he hiding?

Every single media outlet, even Fox News, projected Hillary Clinton to win by a landslide. Did America pull Brexit 2.0, or is this election "rigged" as Donald mentioned

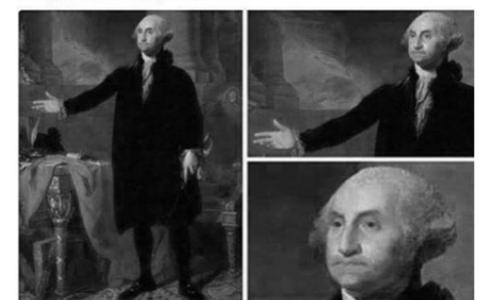
before?

We have just watched one of the most qualified candidates to ever run for president lose to the least qualified. Is being a racist, homophobic, and sexist man still more acceptable than being a woman in the U.S.?

Though not all Trump supporters are racist, I am deeply saddened by how racism is not a deal breaker for American voters.

I cannot accept such a hateful and immature person as my President for the next four years. I will not support someone who is so hypocritical, egotistical, and racist. No. Not now. Not ever for such a nasty man.

When u just got a new country & u leave your kids alone with it for a couple centuries & they've already broke it



How George Washington feels about USA right now.//photo taken from Know Your Meme