



THE MORRISON SHARK POST



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A Sophomore Ascent

By: Jason Chou

It was late evening when we arrived at the base of He Huan Mountain. We stepped down from the bus and began marching toward the trail head. It was cold and foggy, and everyone was in high spirits and nervous at the same time. We ventured up through the first few hundred meters of stone steps easily, poking at shrubs along the path and making some random comments: “Hey, that’s such a furry rock!”

Yet, as we proceeded, the slope gradually became steeper, the rain began to drizzle heavier, and our cheerfulness began to fade. Some of us managed to cheer ourselves up with Oreos and puffs. How delicious those treats were for tired hikers! Unfortunately, the feeling of comfort didn’t last long. Our legs only ached more and more, and our line of hikers became longer and longer. This is also when the front group began to look eagerly for the next sign that indicated our distance from the camping ground, hoping it would somehow appear miraculously. But just as time flows slower than usual when one stares at a clock in class, the harder we searched for the next sign, the more endless the trail seemed. Finally, we somehow managed to drag our weary legs and bodies to a narrow camp ground tucked in a tiny clearing on the mountainside. The small drops of rain began to fall quicker and heavier. This was when I realized how important it was to keep my head dry and warm with my hat. Though the drops of rain were small, they pierced into our bones as we cooked with freezing fingers in the dark. That night, sleeping in the tent that my group struggled to set up, I smiled to myself as I remembered the bus that carried us up the mountain, its warm air, its soft seats, and its fresh water supply. Who would ever think that a bus could seem like a paradise?



eye level as the sun.” It was really quite a view.

After a day’s hike, we arrived at the second camp ground late in the afternoon. Here we finally had some extra time to rest. Here I realized something new: it is awesome to use the toilet in the wild. No matter how disgusting you might think such an action is (and I did before I went up the mountain), the view was the best I’ve ever seen. The dusk, the layers of differently colored clouds, and the blurry moon were just dazzling.

That night I enjoyed the best dinner that I ever had in the mountains. The curry that our cooking group made, with a mixture of sausage, veggies and rice, was just the right reward for us to celebrate our two-day survival. This was also the night when we could finally relax a bit and enjoy the view above us: shiny stars. They were everywhere and of various formations, lighting up the bare ground beneath us with a silver hue.

But as I stared up at the universe, suddenly a scream of terror pierced the vast sky. We rushed toward the source with fear, only to find out that one of my female classmates was terrified to have caught a glimpse of a human head on the ground staring at her. It turned out that she almost stepped on an innocent Tony, lying on the ground, trying to enjoy the beautiful view like everyone else. That made my day.

The most exciting day of all was the third day. Due to time concerns, we chose the shortest route down the mountain, which, obviously, was the steepest way down. For over an hour of our descent, we crashed through a bamboo forest. At first, passing through those green tunnels was quite a fresh and interesting experience. But as the hike proceeded, we came to fear the bamboo forest. It

was like swimming in a vast ocean, where we could see neither the shore nor the ground – only bamboo. After a long struggle, we laughed with joy as we finally caught sight of concrete roads, the sacred sign of civilization.

Although this account of the mountain trip doesn’t talk much about interaction with others, the importance of teamwork was what I learned about the most. This trip forced me to throw away some of my own selfish desires and forced me to walk in others’ shoes. On the mountain, we lived as a whole. When one suffered, we all suffered. When one rejoiced, the whole group felt happiness. We looked after each other at every moment - when we hiked, when we cooked, and even when we used the toilet.



Weary sophomores take a quick break amidst the fog and drizzle that accompanied their ascent.

But the second day on the mountain was different. Maybe it was because of the pleasant weather, maybe it was just that we had adapted to the environment, maybe it was the beautiful sunrise. One sophomore later recalled his amazement that morning, saying, “Watching the sunrise that was happening right in front of me, during that moment it felt like we were at the same



Thanksgiving Feast

By: Niki Huang

On November 21st, MAK did something new: the entire school celebrated Thanksgiving together. In the past the feast was offered only to the elementary students. According to Miss Foster, "Thanksgiving is a time that we should all come together as a community since it is a very huge and significant American holiday. Why wouldn't we all gather together to make it an all-school thanksgiving?" Mrs. Stowers also added, when asked about the change, "Last year we noticed that many middle and high school students walked around with big eyes and longing hearts to be able to participate in the feast. I was very pleased that we were able to pull off this all-school event because a proper Thanksgiving has a 'family feel,' and honestly it just wouldn't be the same without all our students, teachers, and parents there!"

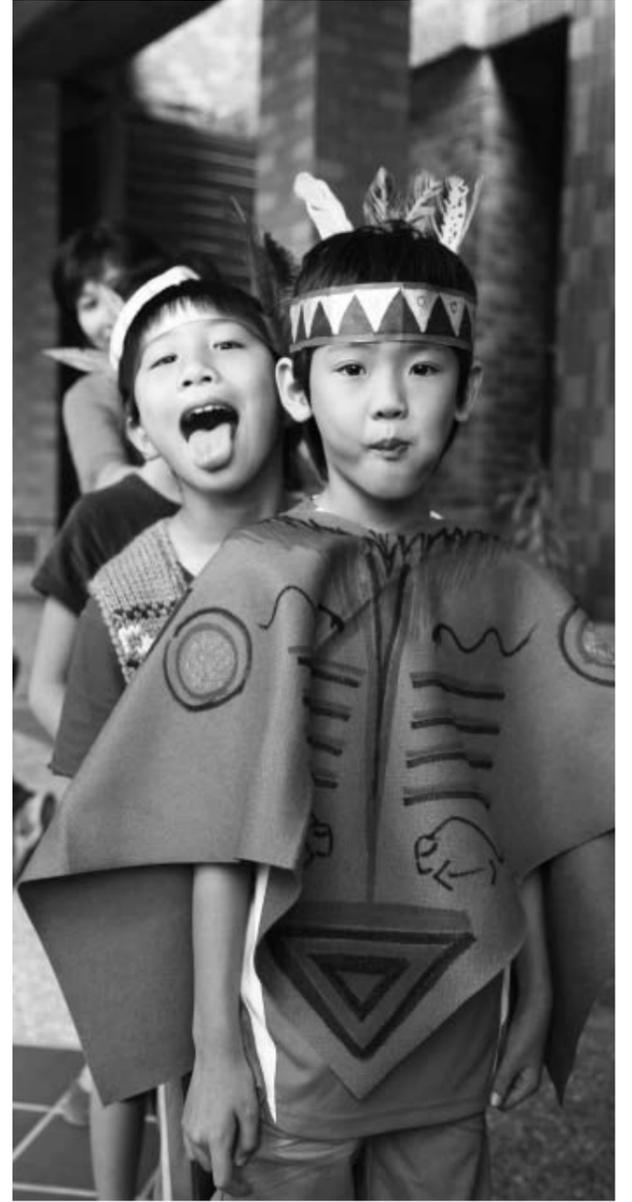
The idea for the Thanksgiving event began with Ms. Hatcher. She said, "In 2011, I did just the feast with my class because we studied about Native Americans. The parents and kids loved it so much that I decided to do it for the whole elementary last year. Then the middle and high school also complained about not being able to eat the food, so I decided to do it for the whole school."

On the feast day, students came to school dressed in pilgrim and Indian costumes to add to the festivity. Students were creative with their costumes, with feathers sticking out of their headbands, with paint on their faces, or with a hats and long sleeved gowns. Some students also came to school with plates full of food, prepared the night before by Morrison parents. Parents even arranged for a chef to prepare and cook a delicious turkey.

Before lunch, as students' stomachs grumbled, parents and teachers prepared the food outside the MPR on long tables. As soon as the clock ticked 11:15, students rushed out of their last classes, and headed toward the cafeteria.

After sitting down for announcements and a prayer, students went outside excitedly to take a plateful of the variety of foods, which even included sushi and tiramisu. Then, as they ate, they discussed what they were thankful for. Many included family, friends, MAK, and God.

More, to our surprise, even a local newspaper and TV station came and reported on the feast! Thanks to the success of the preparations and the efforts of MAK teachers, parents, and students, we had a delicious feast that truly represented the spirit of MAK.



Bathrooms for Christmas

By: Jeffrey Chen

Imagine yourself standing in line in the frigid Himalayan air for thirty minutes, waiting to go to the toilet. This is the situation of students at Lighting the Life English School in Nepal. Two hundred and fifty miles away from one of the largest cities in the country, the condition of the area is destitute. “The school was very simple, they had way too many students, and the infrastructure was not strong enough to withstand the weather very well,” said Mrs. Brandt, who is organizing this year’s Christmas project. In the last few years, the school decided to reconstruct some facilities of the building, and that is the project we are helping this Christmas at MAK.

Mrs. Brandt explained the reasons to help this school in Nepal. “It is a Taiwanese Christian organization that is trying to do some good in the world. We thought that it is really worthy of helping them and encouraging them,” said Mrs. Brandt. She then went on. “The other thing we like is that since we are a school, it seems very fitting to help build

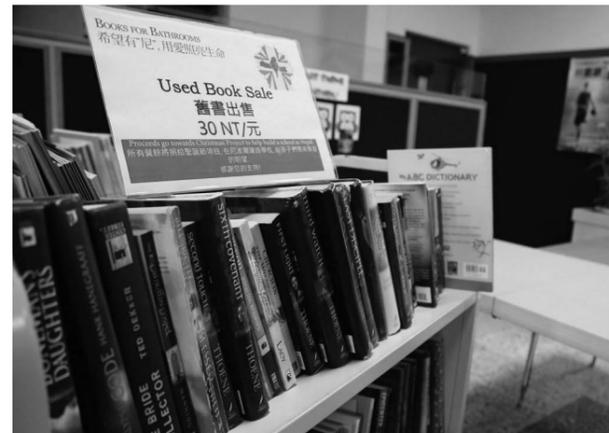
another school,” said Mrs. Brandt.

Akrang, the remote mountain village of Nepal where the school is located, is a rural place. MAK will work with the organization to help reconstruct the infrastructure. After looking through the budget breakdown for the reconstruction, Mrs. Brandt chose a practical need for the school: bathrooms. MAK, a school similar in size, has more than a dozen of bathrooms while this school has only a handful of them. “It is a very practical need,” said Mrs. Brandt. MAK has named the project Books for Bathrooms.

“I hope the kids here realize what a privilege it is to be able to go to school and have education. I know every time we talk about this, the kids are like, ‘It would be awesome if we don’t get to go to school!’” said Mrs. Brandt. “But in reality, going to school, being able to read, allows these kids to be able to find jobs, think for themselves, climb out of poverty, and not be so vulnerable. There are so many benefits to education,” said Mrs. Brandt.

“That’s why we are doing these activities, like book swap, reading, and sponsorship, because we focus on the idea that education is life-saving,” said Mrs. Brandt.

The goal for the entire project is 300,000NT, and there are three ways that we can fundraise. First,



the main event is the school-wide read-a-thon for 30 minutes. Family members, friends, and neighbors can sponsor students to achieve the goal. Second is the book swap that is being held at MAK to which families have donated books for sale among the MAK community. “That’s another really easy way for parents to get involved,” said Mrs. Brandt. The third way is simply to donate at the front office. People can donate any amount to Lighting the Life English School in Nepal. “Together, we can do something so significant,” said Mrs. Brandt. “Christmas is the time to think about being generous and loving, so this is a really good way to do that. It’s a really good time for students to feel like they can do something together to make an impact,” Brandt said.

For all of these years, the concept of the Christmas Project has taught us compassion, love, and generosity. “We are all very busy, busy with all the activities, and we forget to help others. I just want to encourage everyone to be involved, to be reminded that this is worthwhile,” said Mrs. Brandt, “to be excited about the opportunity to be generous.”



On Fixing School Lunch

By: John Lin

Originally, this article was meant to criticize the injustices of our school lunch. I disliked the way they make us eat off prison trays and how we cannot tell what we’re putting in our mouths. However, after spending three days on a mountain, my definition of “good food” has drastically changed. Eating dirt-flavored curry on not-so-clean plates will do that. Having a larger appreciation of what’s on my (clean) plate, I thought it was only proper that I carry out a less biased and more factual investigation, its purpose to find out more generally how students feel about the MAK lunch program.

The school lunch program is catered by the food company Mitty Food Serves, and the opinion of its quality varies greatly among students. Its general approval rating varies from 20%-80%, averaging around 4.8 out of 10. With a program with such a low approval rating, you can easily deduce that

students have a generally low opinion of the school lunch. Some people, like Sabrina Tsai, detest the lunch. “I don’t like all the food,” she said simply. If she could, she would change it all: “Company, price, quality, everything!” Others, however, like Nathan Lee, think the school lunch isn’t that bad. He stated, “I like the fact that they have fruit and desserts every day.” However, he does have a few complaints: “I don’t like the prison trays, and sometimes I can’t tell what kind of meat I put in my mouth.”

For those who agree with the complaints of Nathan and Sabrina, there is, or rather, there was a chance for students to change the school lunch. Toward the end of the first quarter, Mr. Lin sent a lunch survey to the high school students asking about potential changes to the lunch program. But this was done for reasons other than you might think. The reason the survey was sent out was to ac-

commodate the high school’s unique schedule. “We were thinking the high school might have a different schedule, so they don’t have to line up and so they can get their food and go,” he said. It appears that this was the opportunity that many students have been waiting for. Strangely, however, many students did not respond to the survey.

With such a low approval rating, you would think that students would be clambering to switch programs; however, this was not the case. “From the survey, we [didn’t] see [much] interest in the change. The [response] did not make the minimum requirement,” answered Mr. Lin. So why did the school lunch not change at that time, despite the students disliking it so much? The answer is two-fold. First, though high school students may say they detest the school lunch, they obviously don’t hate it as much as they say they do. Second; we are lazier than we would like to admit.

A Magical Night

By: Jasmine Teng



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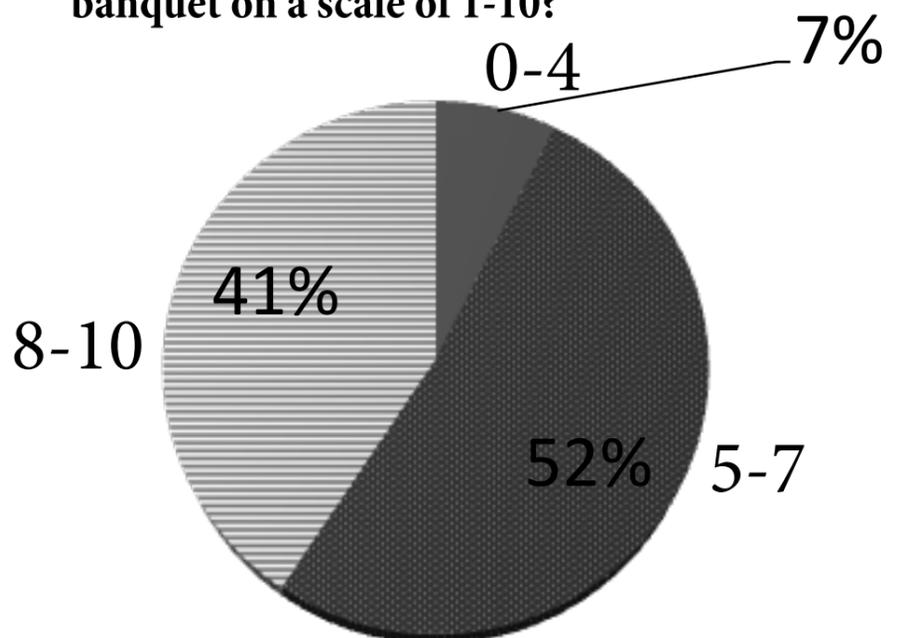
Mark your calendars, high schoolers! On January 24th, from 7 to 10pm, MAK will be hosting its first banquet for the ninth and tenth graders. The banquet will be held at the luxurious Lee's Boutique Hotel (麗尊大酒店). Formal attire is required of all who attend, and students are welcome to bring a date with them. The dinner will be a buffet, filled with a variety of good food ranging from savory appetizers to delectable desserts.



"We hope that the banquet will be a memorable experience, something the students will be able to reflect back on in a couple years. We've been planning this for a long time now, so I really hope that everyone will enjoy it. We also hope to establish a high school tradition. Planning this banquet has been such a fabulous learning experience. Usually the school plans out everything for the students, but now the StuCo has an opportunity to experience how difficult it is to organize events. We're really looking forward to it!"



How excited are the high schoolers for the banquet on a scale of 1-10?



Heroes in the Making

By: Sabrina Tsai

Children with special needs don't often get to participate in track and field day events. Perhaps you think that's weird. Why shouldn't they be allowed to participate? Mr. Uwe Maurer, father of a girl with Cat's Cry syndrome, was disappointed when his daughter did not have a chance to join the track and field events at her local kindergarten. In response, after much planning, he hosted the first ever Hero Games for children with special needs in Taipei. Now his organization, Taiwan Sunshine, enables special needs children to have their very own track and field days.

November 26, 2013, marks the second year that MAK got the chance to help with Maurer's Hero Games. Both middle and high schoolers buddied up with a kid with special needs and helped them through each track and field event. For Mr. Maurer, the most challenging thing in doing the Hero



Games is finding volunteers who actually help, ones who don't just stand around doing nothing. He was happy to say that MAK provided that help. One of the best things he saw was that when the kids crossed the finish line they were just so excited, with everyone's around them cheering and giving them high-fives and having that passionate air about them.

For me, my greatest accomplishment that day wasn't just helping my buddy finish all the events and get a prize; it was the fact that I made his day. He was really happy because he was the one who earned a medal. It was a tiring event, but it was satisfying to see everyone having a great time. The day was a smashing success.

MAK students also learned a lot. Those of us who are shy learned to be the ones to initiate conversation and to get close to our buddies. If we didn't try to be excited about the event, our buddy would notice and might not be as enthusiastic about the event as before. We had a clear choice: to face the event with a shy façade and go through the day just doing what we were supposed to do, or to face the event with passion and energy. We went through the day having fun, and we helped our buddies have fun as well!

Taiwan Sunshine's goal is to give several thousand kids in Taiwan a chance to participate in Hero Games. They have two more games before Christmas, and they plan to have six more in the spring. We can support their cause not just by being volunteers but also by being sponsors. Taiwan Sunshine is a non-profit organization, and they are dependent on generous donations that we can give.



With joy all over their faces, Mr. Griffin and Sam Stephenson work hard to make this long jump as epic as possible.

Check out Taiwan Sunshine's facebook page here: [facebook.com/twansunshine](https://www.facebook.com/twansunshine)
Or their wordpress blog: taiwansunshine.wordpress.com.

Spell it!

By: Ann King

A few weeks ago, many MAK students participated in a spelling bee that was hosted by The Edge and held at KAS. A spelling bee is a competition where students take turns spelling given words. The winner is the one who can spell the most words correctly. It can be nerve-racking for kids because they are called up individually to spell their word in front of a judge and an audience. In addition to the traditional spelling bee, there was also a part called the "Spelling Challenge" in which kids had to spell a list of words on a paper which was then graded for top scores. According to Mr. Choi, whose son was one of the participants, the most exciting part of the competition was when it was down to two spellers. The rules changed a little at this point as it included sudden elimination! When one person spelled a word incorrectly and the other person spelled a word correctly, the person who spelled the word correctly still needed to spell an additional word correctly in order to be crowned the champion! "I'm looking forward to hosting the Spelling Bee at MAK next year," said Mr. Choi. "I think it is a great opportunity for friendly competition, and it also really helps students improve in their spelling!"

Spelling Bee

Division A (grades 1-2)
Jonathan Hsieh – 1st Place
Division C (grades 5-6)
William Hsu – 2nd Place

Spelling Challenge

Division A (grades 1-2)
Jonathan Hsieh – 1st Place
AJ Choi – 3rd Place
Division B (grades 3-4)
Gloria Tsai – 2nd Place
Mikayla Tam – 3rd Place
Division C (grades 5-6)
William Hsu – 2nd Place

Thanksgiving Word Search

Can you find these words below?

- apple pie
- beans
- ham
- casserole
- gravy
- caramel
- turkey
- macaroni
- pecan pie
- cheese
- pumpkin pie
- roast
- squash
- yam
- drum stick
- cranberries

By: Ray Kung

- corn
- cornbread
- bread
- cider
- potato
- asperagus
- chicken soup

b r a s p a r a g u s p e a t e i r c
r e h m e u p p e t d t r e c h i k a
c d a d a l m s c r a n b e r r i e s
e i p n a c e p u o s n e k c i h c s
o c h a s e a m k r r a p p l e p i e
t n s s h d s r a i g n i e m m d r r
a s d c a t a c o r n b r e a d o o o
t d l e i u c u a n a p e h y d d a l
o p r c p m q v i t i c i o i c e s e
p b k y r i y s i r s r y e k r u t i

Defining the Shark Spirit

By: Joseph Torgerson

Take a look at the first two scores in the JV boys soccer results table, and it's clear the season did not start out too well. As a warm-up to their early season exchange in Taichung, the JV boys took on a hodge podge from the MAK community and got absolutely thrashed. Granted, in this game they faced the golden foot of Mr. Love, but it still did not turn out well as they lost 3-10. "You just bumped me out of the way like a fly," lamented Justin Chang to Mr. Torgerson after the game as he recalled one particularly bruising collision. Their first game of the Taichung exchange did not fare much better as they lost 0-5 to MCA. But behind this lopsided pair of numbers hides a different story.

At half time in Taichung, Mr. Campbell was hopeful in his comments about the team. "These guys could be tied 2-2," he said, "if it weren't for a couple missed chances." And Mr. Campbell was right. The team put in an excellent first half, and despite the loss of sophomore starting winger Kent Hsieh to an ankle injury mid-way through the half, the boys pressed the MCA defense and induced two just-missed breakaways that could have opened up the game. There was hope. But it wouldn't clearly shine through just yet. Instead, their missed chances led to a slump in spirits and three more MCA



goals in the second half.

While the JV team did fight back to walk away with one well-fought win in the tournament against Bethany, their next few games added more to the loss column as they lost consecutively to KAS JV at home, their record now at a lowly 1-5. The team was further set back by the news that, along with Hsieh's continued absence, Sam Stephenson, their starting center-back, would be out for several weeks because of an operation.

But then, illuminated by the glow of the LCD projector in HS1 prior to watching some game footage, the team began asking a question that would resonate as a mantra throughout the rest of the season. Scrawled in manwriting on the board were three words: PAIN OR INJURY? It was an important question to discuss in light of not only the recent injury setbacks but also the continued bumps and bruises of the season.

Athletes are always faced with this dilemma. When should I give up? If it hurts, should I complain? Should I stop? But on a team, each player is depended upon. In their discussion, players accepted the fact that pain was part of the bargain. Sure injury is something players should take seriously. But pain? That's another matter. Pain should be embraced.

Here was a transition, a turning point. Players began to practice like a unit, challenging each other physically and mentally in practice and learning that their individual efforts could make or break the team. One player slowing up in a passing and movement drill could upset the whole sequence of events.

On the final day of the season, MAK high school again faced new yet friendly rivals MCA. They again lost, this time 0-2. But the tone was entirely different. Terry McGill, MCA's varsity boys head coach, was thoroughly impressed. "This was like a different team," he said. And they were. Their movement was good, they worked the ball in and out of the wings, and if not for a stellar performance

by MCA 'keeper and former MAK student Dennis Huang, MAK might have walked away with a draw or even a win. And most importantly, MAK battled throughout. It is fitting that in their final game of the season and of the tournament they battled back from behind to defeat ICA 2-1.

In the end, the Sharks learned to embrace pain: the literal pain of bruises and twisted ankles, the discouragement of losing, the frustration of having an injured teammate, and the struggle of fighting against a losing score. For pain, or at least some form of it, is the only way to improve. And that attitude is what is slowly coming to define the Shark spirit.



Date	Game	Result
8/28	MAK Community	L 3-10
9/7	MCA JV	L 0-5
9/7	Bethany JV	W 2-1
9/7	MCA JVB	L 0-2
9/13	KAS JV	L 1-3
9/27	KAS JV	L 0-5
10/13	ISIS JV	W 1-0
10/13	ISIS JVB	T 1-1
10/28	ISIS JV	W 2-0
10/28	ISIS JVB	T 1-1
11/2	MCA JV	L 0-2
11/2	ISIS JV	W 2-0
11/2	DIS JV	L 0-2
11/2	ICA JV	W 2-1

The Challenge of Change

By: Tiffanie Lin

Volleyball season for high school was great this year, but it came with a lot of changes. Practices changed from Tuesday and Thursday to Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and practice time, from 3:15-5:00, was much longer than previous years. Another change was adding JV. Coach Torgerson said, "The biggest challenge for me was working with two grades together. I found that within those two grades there was a mix of skill level which made it hard for me to find drills that were a challenge to all." This change was also challenging for players.



Niki Huang said, "We didn't know each other well enough, because in the past we worked with our own classmates."

Despite the challenges, there were also some really fun moments, like when the JVB team won second place in the final tournament. As for Mrs. Torgerson, the best time was passing out Shark Magnets to everyone who showed exceptional work. "Passing out magnets on occasion throughout the year was really fun for me. I enjoyed the opportunity to acknowledge hard work and leadership in individual players. It was also a way for me to thank them for being a good example to the team," she said. As for players on the team, they had great teamwork and some great memories. Jasmine Teng said, "We always played really well against KAS's ACAMIS team, which is their varsity team. For some reason we had good teamwork against them. We didn't win, but it was a good experience."

There were also big improvements over this season. Coach Torgerson said, "By far everyone improved the most on overhand serving. At the be-

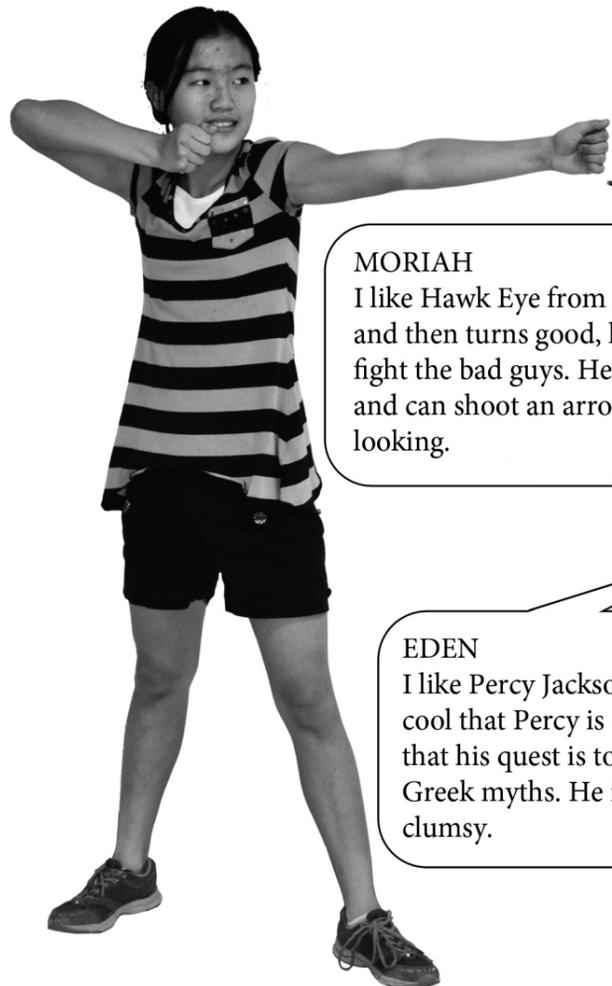


Coach Torgerson worked not only on skill development but also on strength training to help the team with their overhand serves.

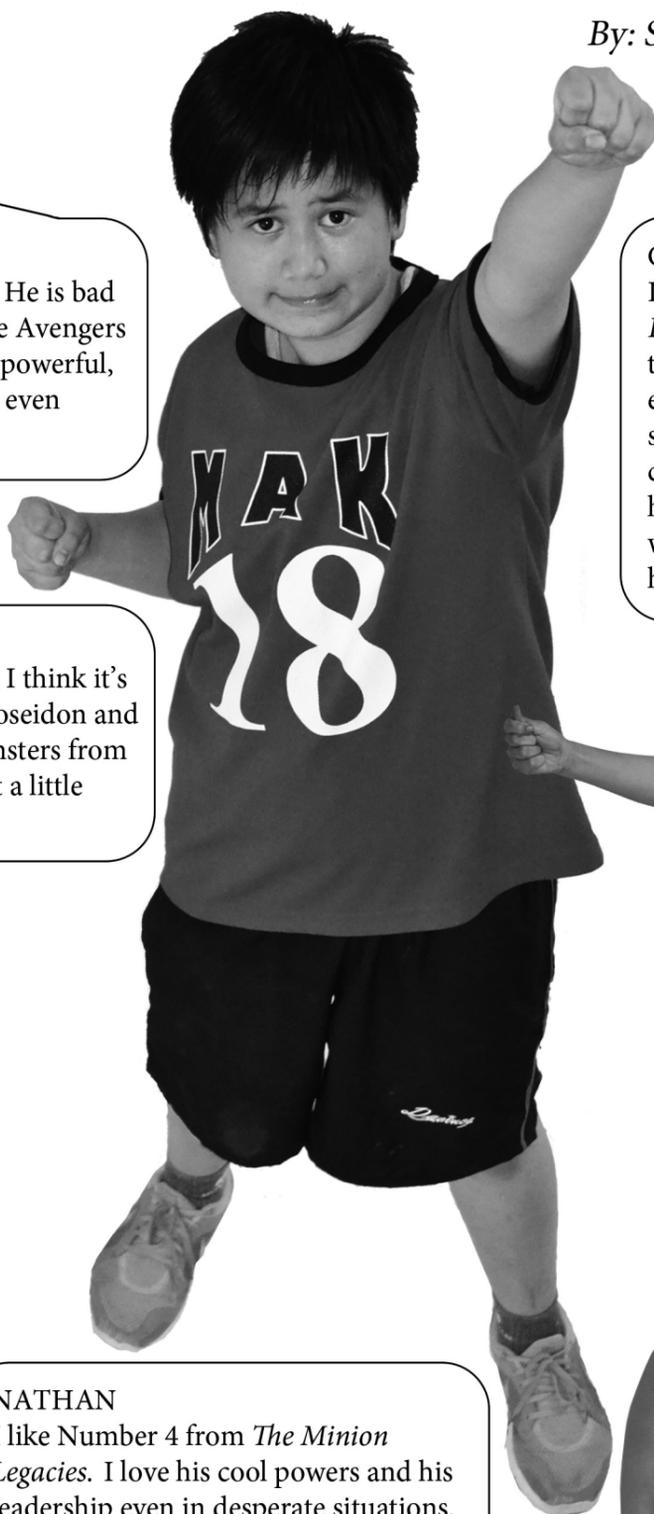
ginning of the season, only a handful of girls could successfully serve overhand on occasion, but by the end of the season, nearly every girl could get her overhand serve over the net!" In the end, the JV season was a success.

Who is your favorite fictional character?

By: Sabrina Tsai and Ann King



MORIAH
I like Hawk Eye from *Avengers*. He is bad and then turns good, helping the Avengers fight the bad guys. He is strong, powerful, and can shoot an arrow without even looking.



CARMEN
I like Merida from the movie *Brave*. I can sometimes relate to Merida. Sometimes I feel like everybody's trying to make me something I'm not, and I just can't help it but rebel. All of us have had a situation like that, so we can all relate to Merida with her struggles.

EDEN
I like Percy Jackson because I think it's cool that Percy is a son of Poseidon and that his quest is to fight monsters from Greek myths. He is kind but a little clumsy.



MR. GRIFFIN
My favorite character in fiction? Wow. So many choices! Guy Montag? Pip? Legolas? Odysseus? So hard to choose. Right now, I would have to pick Stephen Maturin. He is the doctor who travels with Captain Jack Aubrey in Patrick O'Brien's *Master and Commander* novels.

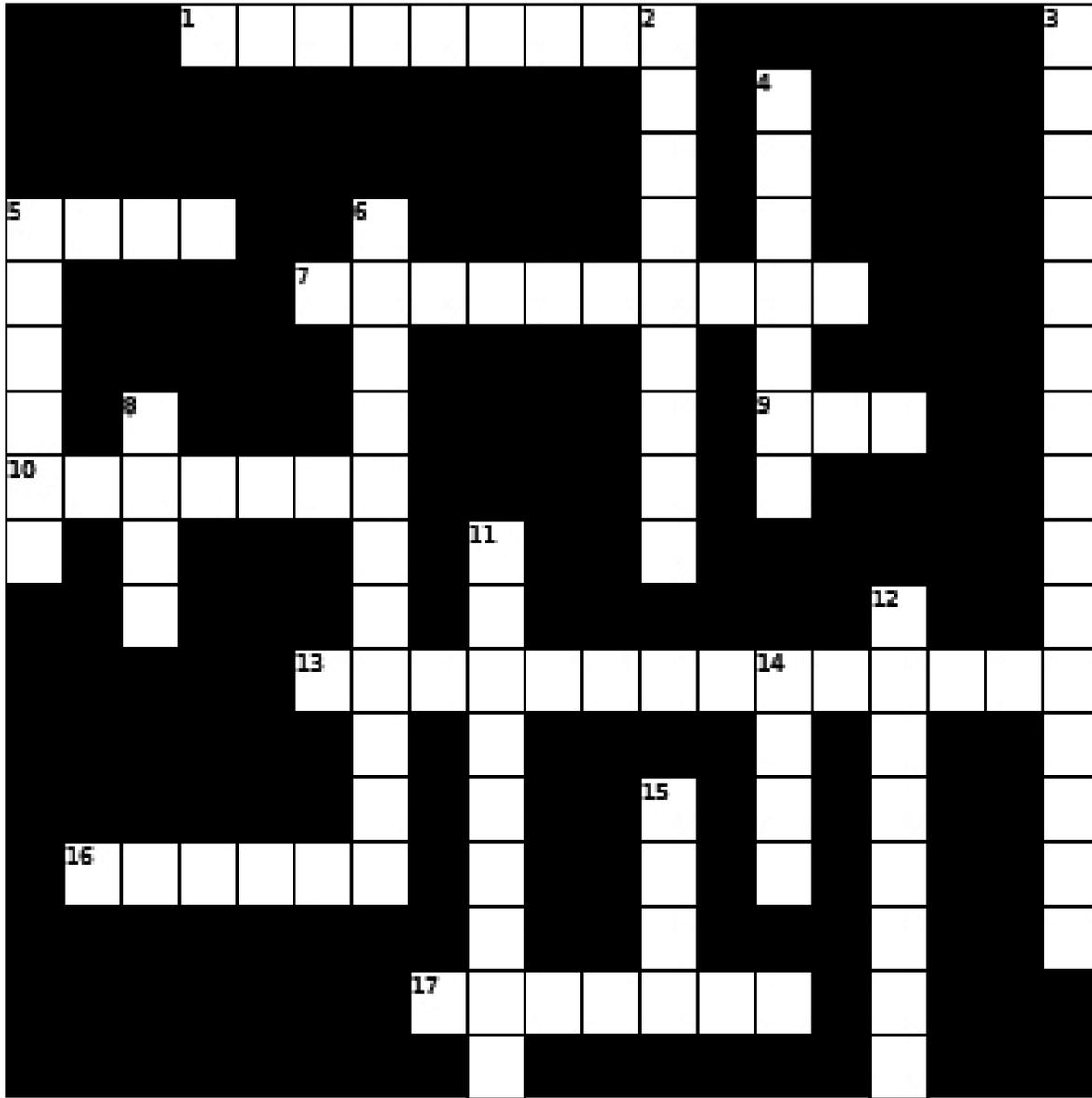
NATHAN
I like Number 4 from *The Minion Legacies*. I love his cool powers and his leadership even in desperate situations. I also like him because he just won't die!

ANDREW
Mine is Percy Jackson. I like him because he resembles me. I have the same feeling he does for people who betray a cause just to save their own lives.



Christmas Crossword

By: Ray Kung



ACROSS:

- 1 People kiss under this at Christmas
- 5 Christmas trees were first decorated with what?
- 7 Where's the world's tallest Christmas tree?
- 9 A traditional Christmas dish made in the United Kingdom
- 10 Santa's door
- 13 Santa Claus came from a Dutch folktale based on what?
- 16 Astronomers believe the star of Bethlehem may have been which planet?
- 17 A most popular Christmas story is "A Christmas Carol," written by Charles _____.

DOWN:

- 2 Christmas trees are what kind of tree?
- 3 The best-selling Xmas single of all time
- 4 Who is the red-nosed reindeer?
- 5 From which language does "noel" come?
- 6 The most popular Christmas candy
- 8 Christmas pudding is made of thick soup with raisins and what?
- 11 The word mistletoe, literally
- 12 The place where Santa makes toys
- 14 What do naughty children get in their stockings on Christmas?
- 15 Jesus was probably born in a _____ and not a wooden stable, say Biblical scholars.

Note: Spaces included in answers

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