



# THE MORRISON SHARK POST



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## Spirited Away

By: Ray Kung



Quarter one flew by in the the blink of an eye, and as quarter two began the high school hallway was filled with buzz and excitement about the upcoming Spirit Week. Students crowded around the posters, straining their necks to catch a glimpse of the themes to this year's Spirit Week.

The week kicked off with Character Day, and students were all dressed up as characters from their favorite movies, TV shows, cartoons, books, and anime series. With one look down the hallway, you could catch sight of green hulks, ninjas, NBA basketball players, and even students ridiculously covered with stuffed animals (Ditto from Pokemon, if you were wondering). Not only were the high school students able to get all dressed up, they were able to participate in a lunchtime activity that differed every day of the week. Points classes earned from these activities would ultimately decide which class would be the Spirit Week champion of 2014. The Character Day activity consisted of Jeopardy that tested the students' knowledge of various celebrities, novels, movies, TV shows, and anime. The sophomores came out on top, beating the other high school classes with the only score that had a positive value.

Tuesday was Aloha Day, and students were given the opportunity to express their inner Hawaiian with festive overalls and tropical floral wreaths.

The hallway was an explosion of color under the fluorescent lights. The activity that day was an intense Limbo competition, and classes fought to see who could bend the lowest. This time, the freshman beat the sophomores and juniors with their impressive flexibility.

Fashion Disaster Day whirled in the next day, and students were encouraged to dress up in outrageous, disastrous, or silly outfits that expressed their inner crazy. Amongst the students, you could witness some of the most controversial fashion choices that included underwear over shorts, mismatched shoes, and wild socks. The student council threw a fashion show that tested the students' abilities to throw on fabulous outfits and work the runway. They all had a great laugh at their classmates' uproarious ensembles and comical runway walks. The sophomores finally beat their younger competitors with their bold fashion choices and fierce walks and finally won their first victory.

Apocalypse Day crept in next, and you could hardly recognize the students as they shuffled to class as zombies dripping blood from their scratches and wounds. Here's a tip: never wear that much blood on your face; it really does creep people out. The day was absolutely thrilling because the student council organized a haunted scavenger hunt that prompted students to search for materials to add to the drink mix that they would chug down at the end of the hunt. The race wasn't easy as the high school students were forced to go through haunted hallways and stick their hands into a gag-worthy combination of rotten fruit, spoiled milk, squashed pastries, and a small sprinkle of trash. The juniors, with their iron stomachs, came out on top as they became the first to chug down a whole cup of unidentifiable mush.

On the last day, students came to school in their comfy pajamas. Most came in sweatpants, oversized sweatshirts, and fluffy slippers. It was a bittersweet day as it was the last day of Spirit Week, yet on the same day, it was the most anticipated pep rally for the high school boys' soccer team and girls'

volleyball team. After lunch, the high school gathered in the gym to cheer on both teams enthusiastically and to wish them good luck with their tournaments.

Overall, the junior class scored the most points and won the prestigious title of the most spirited high school class in MAK. The week proved that students at MAK not only have great fervor for sports and academics but also have great spirit for their school!



# Color Me Grit

By: Kent Hsieh



When Newton first discovered the color spectrum by refracting white light through a prism into the various elements we call colour, he did not imagine the possibility of his discovery being used in a video project. Much like Newton and his pioneering enthusiasm for science, this year high school junior Jessica Kong, the director and video editor of “Color Me Grit,” has created the first MAK-produced short film through her independent study class to exemplify the school theme, GRIT. Since Jessica couldn’t be the actor, director, and cameraman all at the same time, high school students were asked to participate as actors and crew members. In order to better understand the purpose of the film and how it was created, I ventured forth to interview the mastermind behind this adventurous project.

Normally, people are supposed to meet in person for an interview, but since our schedules didn’t match, I had to use Skype as my means of communication. The first question I asked was, “Why ‘Color Me Grit?’” The answer to this seemingly simple question is not that straightforward; to answer this, one must consider the role of the main character.



According to Jessica, Evanna, the female protagonist, is a “girl without color or personality.” Evanna is less of an extrovert than her successful sister, and she is not particularly good at anything. Her sister is sick, so she decides to participate in a marathon to help her. It is during this run that she finds her true “colors.” As you might have predicted, this journey towards a more colourful life is not paved with gold. In order to overcome these obstacles and find her true “colors,” Evanna must have grit, just as the name of the film suggests. Of course, that does not fully answer the question, so to follow up, I asked, “What is the purpose of ‘Color Me Grit?’”

“To enhance my filming skills and to give students an opportunity to have real film production experience,” Kong answered. Her enthusiasm for film piqued me to ask whether she was going to make another season or film, but unfortunately she dismissed the idea. “[The independent media

class] is only a semester class because Mr. Griffin does not have enough time to help me and his other Audio-Visual Productions class at the same time,” she stated disappointedly. In the end, it appears that Kong does have an idea for a second film, but she wants to keep it a secret until she announces it next semester.

To continue the discussion on the difficulties in filming, I asked which part of production was the hardest. Jessica replied, “Organizing everyone and making sure everyone knew what to do was probably the hardest part. A lot of times it is hard to manage a bunch of high school students who would much rather throw paint at each other than listen and do what I say. The worst part, or the most boring part, would probably be script writing.” However, not all of the production was tedious, of course, so I asked what her favorite moments were while shooting the film. Pondering for a moment, Jessica said, “I think the auditions went pretty well. It was really fun directing, and we all enjoyed playing with the color powder in the end.”

As a conclusion, I asked Jessica what she’d learned from this experience and what she would do differently if she were to do something similar. She replied, “I learned how to deal with high school students and how to direct better. Overall it was pretty good, but I would try to communicate better with my crew and actors and do more blocking session with them.” I thanked Jessica and pressed the red button on the bottom of the screen. As I stared at my notebook, I wondered how I would ever start my article. Then... an apple hit my head.



# NEWS

# GOOOOAAAALLL!!!

By: Migo Lai and Samuel Tsai



Football is one of the most addicting sports in the world; people from all around the planet partake in its tournaments. Our high school is not to be excluded! JV football is first in the seasons of sports for high schoolers each school year at MAK. Leading our shiver of Sharks are coaches Tony Love, Chandel Block, and Joe Torgerson. Here are the valiant football legends of MAK: Daniel Chiang, Derek Huang, Samuel Stephenson, Samuel Tsai, Kent Hsieh, Antonio Pan, Dennis Huang, Andy Shih, Elijah Gregg, Jeffrey Chen, Austin Wang, Leo Hsieh, Eric Kuo, Bill Chen, Nathan Lee, Joseph Luther, Andrew Dunn, and Kevin Lin.

On the first day of November, our JV football team participated in the JV football tournament in MAC. Stepping on the pitch, fresh for the first game in their crimson red and black uniforms, our Sharks dominated and demolished the KAS

2 team with an outstanding score of four goals to none. The goal scorers of this fantastic 45-minute battle were: Andy Shih with two goals, Bill Chen with one, and Samuel Tsai with yet another. It was a sensational effort from our JV football team!

Immediately after game one, our Sharks had to play another game against the Taipei European School, or TES. This was a difficult challenge as it was a back-to-back game against a rested opponent. After a controversial first half that included a possible offside goal by TES, the Sharks were down 0-1. In the second half, our JV team rose to the occasion, putting in some sensational efforts in a fast-paced, devastating counter-attack. A soaring high punt by Derek Huang, our goalkeeper, landed the ball at the feet of Elijah Gregg. Nimble, the 8th grade midfielder darted down the field, and passed the ball through the legs of a TES defender. With surprising agility, center forward Samuel Tsai intercepted the pass and sprinted full speed at the goal. The goalie charged, but it was too late as the ball ballooned the back of the net, putting the score at 1-1. Unfortunately for our Sharks, TES gained the upper hand in the final intense minutes. As the referee's whistle blew announcing the end of the game, the score was 1-3, our JV football team suffering their first defeat of the day.

Even with such a loss, hope was still in the air. There was another game, game three, at 2:00

sharp. This time their opponent was ICA, a new foe that they had never contended with. The first half began disastrously. Within moments, ICA had scored their first goal, and MAK could do nothing but watch as the ball slowly rolled across the goal line and into the goal. As the half time whistle blew, the score was 0-3, and the morale of the team was an empty gas tank.

Coach Torgerson and Coach Love however, had more planned for our JV team. With fiery words and inspirational remarks, the coaches pulled the team back up and onto the pitch. Playing hard in the second half, the Sharks had two extremely near goal, with left midfielder Kent Hsieh, who was still recovering from injury, hitting the crossbar twice. The final score was a fatal 0-4, however, resulting in the end of the 2014-15 MAK football season. Nevertheless, our Sharks battled hard, and even in the face of a catastrophe they showed surprising tenacity - and above all, extraordinary grit!

#### STATS:

MCA JV	W	3-2
MCA JVB	L	1-7
IS UNIVERSITY CLUB TEAM	L	0-9
KAS JV	W	3-1
KAS JV	T	3-3
IS MED SCHOOL CLUB TEAM	L	0-12
KAOHSIUNG KNIGHTS	L	1-5
IS MED SCHOOL CLUB TEAM	L	0-4
KAS JV2	W	4-0
TES	L	1-3
ICA	L	0-4

# Bump! Set! Spike!

By: Rosa Lin and Nini Lee

“Sharks on three!”  
“One, two, three...”  
“SHARKS!”

Together, hands raised in the air, our voices echoed in the gym.

On the first day of school, girls from the sophomore and junior class came excitedly to the gym with their knee pads and water bottles, ready for practice. After a long summer vacation without exercising, many of us were not in shape and weren't playing well. Additionally, at the beginning of the season, most people on the team were not confident with overhand serving. Our coaches, Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Gregg, spent a lot of time coaching each player on our form and timing.

One of the goals of the season was to do “bump, set, spike” as much as possible. We spent a lot of time working on controlling the ball and passing it to our setters. The JV volleyball team was blessed with two amazing setters, Elisa and Kelly, and they worked tirelessly on getting their body position right and on setting the ball to the hitter on the outside. The rest of us practiced hitting the ball over the net. One of the difficulties we faced was our timing and the strength we put on our hits, as often the ball would hit the net or go out of bounds. Throughout the season, we had some scrimmages against KAS and the community. There were times when we lost our intensity on court and times when we worked well together as a team. However, with the help of Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Gregg,

our volleyball skills and the communication on the court definitely improved. Eventually, we were able to control the ball, make nice passes to our setters, and do the right approach to hit the ball. We came so far, and it was time for the MAK girls JV volleyball team to show what they had in the tournament on November 1st.

That night we went to Taipei to stay overnight Morrison Academy Bethany and got a chance to explore a part of the busy city. Instead of celebrating Halloween or the ending of the season, the team hurried back to practice in the gym shortly after dinner. We warmed up with light conditioning and some passes, then jumped into receiving hits and hard passes. We wrapped up the late night practice by having a small scrimmage. By the time it was over, all of us were sweaty and tired, but we felt adequately prepared for the tournament the next day.

The boisterous athletes and the rowdy crowd could be heard before we stepped into the gym, where eleven teams from eight different international schools in Taiwan gathered to compete. We kicked off the tournament with a huge victory over I-Shou 2. Although we started off great, the second game against Taipei European School 2 didn't go as well. The feeling of anxiety and fear were over us as we were trying to receive their hard overhand serves and hits. We lost the first set but did not give up. The second one remained close along the way; both teams had the lead in different parts of the

game, but neither showed a bit of fear or fatigue. With encouragement from our coach, Mrs. Campbell, we did our best on the court and won the set after coming back by ten points. That meant a tie. With ambition to win, we fought till the very last point but unfortunately lost the third set.

With rumbling stomachs and tired limbs, we were able to defeat Dominican International School 2 easily during for our third game with a beautiful score of 25-14. We were tight on schedule but managed to have our lunches. It had been a long day and we were all exhausted, but there were more teams to beat and more games to play.

As the sun set, our team was ready on the court, waiting to play the game that determined our qualification for the finals. Our opponent, AST, didn't show any sign of exhaustion. The Sharks JV team showed their best performance in the game, but we still lost to the AST girls in the end. Although we didn't play in the finals, we showed the skills we learned and had a blast at the tournament. And that is what matters the most.



# Seeking the Culture of the Aborigines

By: Evan Hsu

On October 30th, the seventh graders woke up enthusiastically, ready for their first culture trip of the year to Sandimen Aboriginal Culture Park. Along with Ms. Zrinsky, Mr. Muir, and some other parent volunteers, the seventh graders piled into the bus and took a forty minute bus trip over to Pingtung.

Screaching to a stop in the parking lot, everyone burst out of the bus, admiring the tall, lush mountains, as well as the aboriginal artifacts that they could already see around them. Heading to the history museum after buying tickets, they began learning tons of information about Taiwan's first inhabitants. As the seventh graders vigorously scribbled in their worksheets, they carefully studied the artifacts, tools, models, and lives of the tribes of Taiwan.

The welcoming ceremony was a blast. The tribal people started off with a song of appreciation, welcoming everyone into their cultural park. After that, everyone watched in awe as the tribal people filled several cannons with minerals, sprinkled it with water, and heated it with a torch. One by one, Aboriginal men yelled out a tribe name as the cannon roared, deafening everyone's ears.

Later, the class took a mountain walk as they made their way to an indoor theatre. Free trams were available, and the majority thought they were cool because they had no sides. Even though most relaxed in the forest air as they rode the tram,

some saw a long rope bridge on the trail ahead and didn't hesitate to jump off and walk twenty minutes. Most walked across the bridge, admiring the lush greenery and the amazing artwork on the walls. Some stayed in the tram and missed the fun, but for those who went, it was an unforgettable experience. 10:30am brought the weary seventh graders to the theatre. Watching a sensational and complicated dance of fourteen tribes made everyone who walked the twenty minute trek forget the pain. Drums, guitars, and bells accompanied the shield, the harvest, and the New Year celebration dances. At one point, the dancers dispersed from the stage and shook hands with many in the audience. One seventh grader remarked how "the dances were very unique and interesting."

Toward the end, the hungry seventh graders got out of the big theatre and went to a small eating house nearby. As they ate regular bento boxes, the class was reminded by Ms. Zrinsky that it was Mr. Muir's birthday. A parent had secretly brought three simple cakes, and someone had hid a card and poster signed by the whole class. After they finished eating, Graeme Muir distracted Mr. Muir from the picnic tables. During that time, everyone crowded around a table, set up the poster, the card, and the cakes, and got ready for a surprise birthday celebration! When Mr. Muir returned, everyone burst into a cheerful Happy Birthday song. Mr. Muir was so surprised and thankful that he said, "I am blessed to

have such a great class!" This shows that the seventh grade class is very united.

Everyone piled back on the tram at 12:30 and, after a short while, arrived at a tribal village filled with many unique homes made of straw, bamboo, wood, hardened mud, or stone. The seventh graders showed intense curiosity as they peered into the houses, looking and learning how people slept and lived in the past. Different tools and artifacts were examined, too.

Finally, the worn out class, teachers, and parent volunteers were ready to return to MAK as they piled into the bus for the trip home. One seventh grader later said, "It was a thrilling experience, and I learned plenty about the aborigines."



# Elementary Soccer Club

By: Evan Hsu

On a blazing Saturday morning in mid-October, teams of elementary soccer players gathered around the fields of MAK. Before the clock struck eight, the courtyard teemed with parents, coaches, and soccer players. A total of nine teams had signed up for the Kaohsiung Soccer Club Tournament. Invited and organized by Mr. Laytham, teams from different regions of the southern part of Taiwan showed up that day, including the Tainan Eagles, the Avengers, and the Knights.

Game after game was played on all three fields at MAK, with different age groups competing against each other. The coaches pumped up and encouraged the players from the sides of the fields, players ran after the balls enthusiastically, and the referees ran circles around the fields, madly trying to follow the game and keep score. In the end, the tournament was a blast. Every team performed its best, and around noon the tournament was wrapped up with the final cheers for the teams in the championship.

In an interview with Mr. Laytham, I asked him about the performance of MAK throughout the season. "The result of the season to date was the U8 team that played in the Tainan Youth League Tournament placing 3rd out of 9 teams," he said. He also added afterwards, "Our kids played well, winning some games and losing some, but more importantly we are seeing a lot of progress individually and as team this year."

The MAK soccer teams are the product of the school's after school soccer program, which started a number of years ago with Mr. Kris Knuston, who organized multiple seasons with different sports for elementary after school. Later on, with the help of Mrs. Stowers, Mr. Laytham came up with the decision to host a formal soccer club for the elementary students. Mr. Laytham has put immense effort into every single practice and into planning the games, with more than 60 players participating this year. Participants are able to learn teamwork and to discover interests outside of the everyday classroom. As Mr. Laytham said, "There is a very high interest in playing soccer among the elementary kids!"



# Character Parade

By: Chantal Liu

MAK's annual Character Parade from the Elementary has been awesome once again! Elementary students dressed up as their favorite characters, including Snow White, Elsa, and even Geronimo Stilton! The kids paraded around school in their creative outfits, displaying their fabulous getups. Can't wait for next year's parade!



# Tales of an 11th Grade Traitor

By: John Lin

As students transition from grade nine to ten in MAK, the more traitorous ones begin to consider "other options" when it comes to their schooling. Should they go to Taichung? Or should they stay at MAK? But before they think about either option, students must first decide whether or not they want to go to the dorms. To make the best possible decision, it would be wise for students to first understand what dorm life is like. Thus, here is a firsthand (though not exactly unbiased) description of the MAC dorm.

The basic, daily schedule for a student:  
Week Days\*

6 AM-7:45 AM	Wake up (sort of) and eat breakfast
8 AM-3:15 PM	School
3:30PM-5:30 PM	Free time/homework time/ club/sport
5:45PM-6:25 PM	Dinner
7:00PM-9:00 PM	Study hours/procrastination time
9:00PM-9:30 PM	Devotion or dorm cleaning
9:30PM- 11:00PM	Free time/wash up before bed

\*On weekends the only things on a schedule are procrastination and meals.

The dorm rooms themselves are very comfortable. Students will have their own shower, desk, and closet. Rooming with a stranger can be a bit strange (and awkward if your roommate isn't particularly conversational), but you'll soon grow accustomed to it. The rooms, while not particularly elaborate, are clean and spacious. In the living/study areas are an abundance of couches (John Green reference) and sofas. There are two dorm computers available for student use. This may not seem like much, but there are plenty of students with computers of their own.

On the weekdays students are expected to perform their dorm chores and finish their homework. The chores are not particularly difficult, and since students live right next to school, homework can be worked on the instant they are let out of school. After school hours offer a large variety of clubs and sports, though the latter may be somewhat difficult to get in to due to the large numbers of students trying out.

During free time, students can hang out, go the village, or play board games with their fellow dorm-mates. Speaking of board games, don't ever go to the Stacey dorm to play Settlers of Catan. Those players will rip a student apart.

At 9:00 PM every day on weekdays, students are expected to do devotions or clean up the dorms.

On weekends, dorms will often do fun activities together, whether this be watching a movie or taking a trip to a water park or nature reserve.

Overall, life in the dorms can be a new and welcome change in pace to the academic routine of MAK. Here students have much more freedom when it comes to their time management. Going to the dorms can be a unique and useful experience and may help with the transition when students leave Taiwan to go to college in the U.S. Though students may be somewhat disoriented by the sudden change, they'll soon grow accustomed to their new life at MAK. The possibilities are endless; it is a chance to see new things, try different activities, and meet many great people.



Img source: <http://dbradburn.wordpress.com/2013/04/22/morrison-academy-taichung-taiwan/>

## Eye Contact

By: Joseph Luther

Everyone's face has an inherent brightness. Even in your peripheral vision, you notice when someone is facing in your direction. Meeting someone else's eyes in the hallway, however, is another matter. This new force is unbearable. Your will is overpowered, you quickly mumble a "hi" or an "excuse me," and suddenly even the blindest of walls demands your attention. This person walks past, leaving regret behind.

After seemingly hundreds of these fleeting, discouraging connections, you steel yourself and meet their gaze. With great effort, you project your own force back at them, if the faint flicker can be called that at all. Contact lasts a second longer as you supplement your reply with a few words. Surprised by your response, they smile and send words back, until finally the connection gives out. Taking a deep, shuddering breath, you turn and continue on your way. In the midst of your exhaustion is a trace of fulfillment.

Subsequent encounters with this person still require willpower. You berate yourself for how uncomfortable it is to face the radiance despite all your previous interactions. But slowly, aching slowly, it gets easier, and they take notice. Eventually, you reach a point where their force no longer overwhelms you. Rather, your force merges with theirs. Or their force joins with yours; it's hard to tell which. You never thought you would welcome the blinding blast, but now you do. And how wonderful you feel.

You never could say what it was that made you strike up these conversations—something in people's eyes, but not just the brightness. It scared you witless at first, but now it draws you to them. After seeing it manifested in every person you've talked with—her insight, his optimism, her talent—you find the word for it: beauty.

Thank you, guest writers John Lin and Joseph Luther! If you want to contribute any of your own submissions to the Shark-Post, feel free to email them to [maksharkpost@gmail.com](mailto:maksharkpost@gmail.com).



### 見山仍是山 仁者樂山 VISION & VALUE

串連美術館園區、中都濕地公園，  
視享難得的54公頃的綠海！  
【聖山道仰】以心造境，拉展美術館園區核心，  
從選地之初就開始思索土地與人的對應關係，  
以開闊的視野，蘊藏無盡的美好，  
更融入細膩人文的知性元素，並融入藝術的精神，  
用繁華與寧靜，完成建築與城市、人與空間的藝術品，  
只為了把最好的呈獻給您！

The scenery of Walden is on a humble scale and, though very beautiful, does not approach to grandeur, nor can it much concern one who has not long frequented it or lived by its shore; yet this pond is so remarkable for its depth and purity as to merit a particular description. It is a clear and deep green well, half a mile long and a mile and three quarters in circumference, and contains about sixty-one and a half acres; a perennial spring in the midst of pine and oak woods, without any visible inlet or outlet except by the clouds and evaporation.



## I Am Not A Distraction

By: Jasmine Teng

To many teachers, the protests over the dress code are merely teenage girls whining to wear shorter shorts and revealing clothes. While this issue of vehement protest may seem insignificant, some of the underlying ideas behind the dress code are quite sexist and are a result of society's objectification of women. I do agree that the dress code is definitely necessary as school is a semi-formal environment for students to learn, but I disagree with some of the reasons behind enforcing the dress code.

Before addressing some of the reasons given for the dress code, let's tackle some of the issues in following the dress code. Obviously, students do not deliberately disobey the dress code for unjustifiable reasons. The first issue is that we live in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. For anyone who has ever been to Taiwan, the blazing weather is the first thing that anyone notices, even when you've only arrived for five minutes. The average temperature in Kaohsiung during warm season is over 30°C. It is *roasting!*

But boys can still wear shorts that adhere to the dress code even in this terrible weather, can't they? Yes, they most definitely can. Why? Because boys' clothes are tailored to be looser and longer, while girl's clothes are made to be much tighter, shorter, and pricier as well. Thus, it is incredibly hard to find shorts out there that pass the dress code. It's even more difficult to find shorts that pass the dress code and aren't hideous. Some may raise the idea that school isn't supposed to be a fashion show and looking fashionable isn't a priority. However, it does not concern you. If someone wants to dress up, let them. If you feel like you

cannot handle seeing a girl's shoulders because they're *so* distracting, then you should probably realize that you won't be able to function in society very well. Please, go home and weep in your pile of ugly clothes about how girls these days have no standards anymore. You have no right to judge us about what we choose to wear. Ultimately, sometimes it's just more comfortable to wear shorts. Honestly, we know well enough not to wear clothing that exposes too much of our body, because it's school, after all. But often times, we are stopped from wearing what we are comfortable in because it doesn't pass the dress code and is a "distraction."

The primary argument given for enforcing the dress code is that girls' shorts will "be a distraction or an unnecessary temptation to the opposite gender." The problem with this argument is that 1) as a female, my education comes second to that of my male peers and 2) it assumes that the male students are uncontrollable animals that cannot restrain their rampaging hormones.

This quote sums it up quite nicely: "When you interrupt a girl's school day to force her to change clothes because her shorts are short, you are telling her that hiding her body is more important than her education. You are telling her that making sure the boys have a distraction-free learning environment is more important than her education. You are telling her that boys are more entitled to an education than she is." Instead of teaching the girls to cover up, teach the boys to have some self-control and to respect girls. Instead of blaming the girls for "distracting the boys," teach the boys that it is not appropriate to look at girls as

sexual objects. Teach the students that a person's value is not determined by what he or she wears.

The idea of victim blaming, a predecessor to rape culture, can stem from something so "minor" as the dress code. It is not girls' fault that the boys are supposedly so "distracted" by an extra inch of leg skin. If you have to blame something, don't blame the clothing - blame the minds that oversexualize the female body.

The concept behind the dress code is mostly based on the premise that boys, upon seeing girls' legs, will succumb to their id and release their inner monster. The whole notion of how boys should not be held accountable for their actions, that "boys will be boys" because it's their "nature," pushes the blame onto the victim and is an unacceptable excuse. If a dog bites a stranger, is the stranger at fault for "provoking" the dog by walking down the street? Nobody is "asking for it" simply by wearing shorter shorts or tighter clothing. No woman deserves to be disrespected because of what they choose to wear. If these male students can't handle an extra inch of skin, then they probably wouldn't do very well in life in general. Furthermore, I don't think boys would take very well to being treated as animals. They're people too, not beasts.

Am I trying to say that the dress code needs to be abolished and students should come to school in skimpy clothing? No. Nor am I trying to criticize the dress code at MAK (nor the dress code enforcers) for being misogynist. But please don't accuse me or any other girl for "distracting the boys" just because my shorts are two centimeters shorter. Don't treat me as a walking piece of meat.

## Survival Guide: Dress Code

By: Elisa Cheng

Walking through the ladies wear and you are bound to find a whole shelf filled with neatly aligned "shorts" that all extend no farther than the length of your small pack-in-your-pencil-box ruler. I mean even a random pair of boxers might go further than those pieces of cloth. These are moments where I wonder what is wrong with society today.

Already at MAK we are graced with the privilege of having not to wear those hideous uniforms. I'm sure more than once you've looked at one of those students with public school uniforms walking down the street and silently delivered rays of pity to the pathetic-looking guy who had to put it on every single morning. I know I do at least, and very often. Students should realize that with every freedom comes restrictions and that the freedom should be used but not abused. Wear what you like, and all they ask for is that it cover enough of your body. How hard is that to understand?

There is no excuse that the dress code cannot be abided by except for the personal unwillingness of students. If students are willing to put on short-shorts or thin-strapped tank tops and shiver in the rooms blasting with AC to train their heat resistance to wear skinny jeans in the midst of summer all in the name of fashion, then some more effort could be put in the name of the dress code.

It is not like Morrison students lack the money to buy clothes. In fact, having enough shorts for going a month without repeating is probably

closer to the actual situation. Not to mention that with today's clothing style we have more options than just shorts or long pants. There is just about every length in between, with every style that you can think of.

Don't think for a moment that teachers like to be hot on your trail to inspect your shorts. They are simply trying to retain some form of modesty in this school environment. It is also a part of their job to educate students on how to present themselves. Dress code is in a way preparation for the future. You could say that they are practically paid to hunt you down, and you are the ones paying them.

The moment a student step out of his or her house, he or she is open to the judgment of everyone. Unfortunately, for sloppy people who dress messily, society judges on first impression, and you've just landed yourself in the "unreliable, untidy, unorganized, not useful, and bound to fail zone." The dress code is the most fundamental restriction that teaches us to dress for the occasion. While a student is still just a student, there is space to make errors and to get to school dressed like you've just rolled out of bed. Yet once we step out into society, nobody cares if you had a rough night, a terrible hangover, a mistake, or got ripped off.

As a student, your teacher is your only line of judgment who aren't out there to ruin your life. They are the only ones who would be willing to dismiss your immodest and revealing attire as in-

correct first impressions. Don't be mistaken. Dress code isn't really an option. Society runs on the idea of dressing correctly; dress code is necessary for survival.

In the future, to get a good job, dress like you are up to the job. If you want to get a scholarship or admittance, dress like you are ready to learn and put in effort. Going by the trends may make you feel fashionable, but it won't prepare you for the job.

Dress code retains our understanding of proper clothing in a period when the media and society advocates the idea of dressing scantily. So pull out the rulers and bring out the gym shorts, teachers. The apocalypse for modesty is approaching, and immodesty is spreading amongst the easily-swayed teenagers, faster than fire.



# Man of Mystery

By: Ann King

Remember hearing the intense whistle blowing when you first arrived at school this morning? Remember seeing this person that always wears a bamboo hat and bikes around the campus? Yes, I think you and I both are thinking about the same person, and maybe even wondering the same question, who is this mysterious guy that's always somewhere around the school? The answer is Mr. Hsiao."

Mr. Hsiao has devoted fourteen years to his position at MAK, ever since the opening of Dashe campus in 2000. As he stated, "I first heard about the school from my church, and I heard that they had a few positions open, so that's why I came and applied for it." He said along with being the security guard, he has many other roles at MAK such as tending to the gardens and organizing the facilities around campus.

"Which part do you think is the most tiring part in all of the work that you need to do?" I asked him.

Mr. Hsiao answered with a grin on his face. "There isn't really anything that can be consid-

ered tiring because I treat MAK like my own house and I always have a cheerful heart whenever I work. So to me, having the privilege to work at MAK is very joyful."

As the interview proceeded, I posed the question, "What do you think MAK could do to make it a better place and a better school?" He answered, "All the teachers, the principal, and the students need to work cooperatively so we can grow together to make MAK a better school. Also, by making MAK a better place and a better school, we could introduce more friends to know about MAK, and possibly they may attend MAK in the future."

In the end, Mr. Hsiao believes that through MAK we can share the gospel of God to everyone so every family has the fortune of knowing God. A big thank you to Mr. Hsiao for his loyal dedication and persevering faith at MAK! Remember to thank him for his efforts in helping our school to become an even better place for students, parents, and faculty alike!



# MAK Questionnaire

By: Nathan Lee

	Would you rather be ugly and live forever or attractive and die in a year? Why?	If you could be anyone for a day, who would you pick and why?	If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?	What is your favorite sport?	What is the meaning of mosquitoes?
Mr. Torgerson	Ugly and live forever because 80's fashion is coming back, which is evidence that someday ugliness will be beautiful.	Mr. Laytham, so I can check out books for children.	Easy. Dim sum.	The beautiful game.	Spelling bees.
Migo (9)	Ugly and live forever cuz you have a longer life, and that's a plus because if you earn enough money you can do plastic surgery.	I want to be Iron-man because he has such cool gadgets.	Pizza.	Basketball.	Stupid insects.
Christine (10)	Attractive and die because it will be horrible to live forever and painful to see all the people you know die.	Pororo the little penguin, because HaHa in Running Man (actor in Korean TV show) is also known as Pororo.	Korean tofu soup.	Badminton.	To decrease the human population.
Jessica (11)	I rather be ugly and live forever cuz if I get to live forever I'll have enough time to earn enough money to get plastic surgery, plus when I have all that money, I wouldn't care how people see me.	I would like to be Alfonso Cuaron because I want to feel and see what it's like to be a director, and I would know how he filmed Gravity.	Gummy bears yesh gummy bearssss!!!!	Ice skating or hockey.	The most useless insects in this world, and it's also the reason why I really want to talk to God. I really want to ask God why in the world He would create such a useless creature.
Rosalynn (8)	Ugly and live forever because personality is more important.	Myself.	Rice.	Volleyball.	Survival.

# ADVICE

# MAK Wise Up?!

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

## Note from the 7th Grade Bible

Dear Friends at MAK,

Thanks to those of you that sent us questions in the past six weeks. We appreciate your sincerity and trust in allowing us the opportunity to give you advice on the issue you are dealing with. Since our last issue – we had two questions that we wanted to address: isolation at school, and stress management. Without having too much background on either of the situations, as a class we discussed different ideas of what the issue could be and then summarized some of our practical advice and some Biblical counsel.

## Managing School Stress

First off, I think it's natural and completely normal to experience stress from school. We're all pressured by our parents, teachers, and ourselves to do well. It's okay to want to do well in school, God tells us to work hard and obey our parents.

One way to deal with the stress though, is to remember the things you love. Try to find balance between your hobbies and school work to reduce your stress. Do things you love, like listening to music, creating art, or playing a sport you really love. Also, writing (or even telling someone) your feelings can make you feel better. Don't be too stressed about your schoolwork, because school is not the most important thing in life. Remember, school is a process to find what you like to do. When you get older, you want to remember the times that are memorable all the stress and pressure that was put on you because of school.

In Matthew 6:25-27, it says, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" In the midst of wanting to do well, we often pres-

sure ourselves way too hard, criticizing ourselves on why we didn't do well, instead of being thankful and grateful for your education.

Don't compare your own grade with other people's. God made everyone different, not the same. We shouldn't complain and be worried that we're not as smart or have better grades than other. You have your own unique talents and you should be grateful for that too. Just because you aren't getting all A's doesn't mean that you're worthless. God still loves you.

Some verses to look at are Psalms 55:22, "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken." and Psalms 9:9, "The Lord is the refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble." When you feel stressed about school, the best thing to do is pray. Tell Him your worries, and know that He will sustain and care for you through everything. School is naturally going to challenge you and make you work hard. "Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." - Isaiah 40:30-31. Do your best in everything, as the Lord's servant, still have fun, and trust God will make everything turn out right.

Don't forget that life is not all about learning. Life is supposed to be a balance of fun and bad. In Ecclesiastes 3:4, it says that "there is a time to weep and there is a time to laugh. There is a time to mourn and there is a time to dance". You might be going through hardships right now, but God will always provide a way out. God is always with you. If you can't see what he has done for you, look from a different perspective. Then you might see all the great things God has planned in your life. Show gratitude.

Jeremiah 17: 7-8 -- "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water and sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

## HOW TO DEAL WITH STRESS

- Talk or write it out
- Exercise!
- Do your homework with your friends... You guys can help each other and not feel lonely while doing it.
- Think about other things and try not to dwell on what is wrong, but look to the positive side.

# Ray of Sunshine~

Whether you need advice, want to learn life hacks, or simply need a source of entertainment, Ray is ready to sunshine the dark clouds away! Email questions to [maksharkpost@gmail.com](mailto:maksharkpost@gmail.com).



**W**hy is the alphabet in the order that it is?  
- Library Rebel

*Dear Library Rebel,  
Because that's the way the song goes, silly!*

**I**f grades are ranked A, B, C, D, F, then where is the E?  
- Confused Student

*Dear Confused Student,  
The answer to this question is simple: the makers of the American grading scale really really wanted you to know that not only is an F the lowest grade possible, but it is the only one that actually stands for something -- FAIL. Harsh, isn't it? To bring fewer frowny clouds like the word "fail" into our grading system but to still maintain some consistency, I, Ray of Sunshine, propose that we instead use the letter E and say that it stands for Eff. This way, we can still say "Eff" but all know in our hearts that it definitely doesn't stand for failure. It just stands for Eff. Better, isn't it?*

**D**o you feel like Simon and Garfunkel could have made their songs a little longer?  
- Listener of Oldies Radio

*Dear Listener of Oldies Radio,  
Yes. They could have. But then we would all have to listen to several more verses of songs addressed to lampposts. And more confusing statements about talking without speaking. And more choruses about lie-lie-lie-lie-lie-lie-lie-lie-lie-lie-lie. Would that really be better?*

**C**an you cry underwater?  
- Sad Swimmer

*Dear Sad Swimmer,  
Once, when snorkeling off the coast of Xiao LiuQiu, I saw a baby green sea turtle being eaten by a grouper. In my weeping I inhaled so much sea water that I had to be rescued by a local fisherman. So no. You can't. But you can definitely cry above water, which I discovered later that evening at dinner when I found out that the stir fry I had just eaten was baby sea turtle. At least it was delicious.*

**W**here can we find life's purpose - in a slice of cheese or in a can of overdue Pepsi?  
- Purpose Finder

*Dear Purpose Finder,  
Of course, we're supposed to sunshine your worries away, so...Pepsi, because if you pour it out it sparkles, and life as we know it is just sparkly and glittery and wonderful. Like rainbows.*

**H**ow many stories would MAK have to be in order to reach space, and can we add that into the new building budget?  
- Space Reacher

*Dear Space Reacher,  
The distance from Earth to the Karman Line is about 81km, or 81,000m, and a story is around 3 meters tall. To get to that distance, it'd take around 27,000 stories with a really large base. With the size of Taiwan...I doubt it's possible. Even if it was, the price of Taipei's land is so expensive it's probably cheaper buying your own rocket. Oh, and if you do buy that rocket, I'm sure we can move our classes into the rocket!*

# Wise Up?!

(cont'd from page 9)

## Dealing With Isolation

Hey, it's ok to feel left out. Everyone feels left out sometimes. John Green says, "Pain demands to be felt." It's true! But it's just the way of life, and there's a lot of ways to solve that problem. So don't worry!

One solution that you can try is finding people that have the same hobbies as you, aka making new friends! You'll realize that you have a lot in common with that person. I think you could try being nice to people. And who knows? Maybe you guys will become best friends~ You should also let people know about what kind of situation you are in, maybe a teacher, Mr. Chan, or your classmates can all make you feel better. The most important thing is that you should pray to God and ask for His advice. He is the best counselor I know!

But, have you ever wondered about why you are feeling isolated? Sometimes, it could be your own fault, but you just didn't realize it. Anyways, I think you should try thinking about how others feel, and maybe you will understand why you're feeling left out. The important point is, you should understand that you are unique, and that God made you that way, so it's okay to be different.

One Bible verse that helps is Psalm 73:23 -- "Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand." It talks about how God is always there for you and that he will never leave you. So don't worry if you feel alone, just know that God is with you always and he will look after you.

Another Bible verse I find helpful is 1 Peter 5:7 -- "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." Let God know how you feel. He cares for you, he loves you, and if you are a Christian, he is your friend. If you feel left out, pray and know that God is there for you even when no one else is.

Finally, in Matthew 28:20, Jesus says, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Again, God says that he will always be with us. We can always trust his promises because in Numbers 23:19 it says, "God is not a man that he should lie." This means that no matter what, you can always trust what is in God's word.



This cartoon illustrates a girl thinking she is right in her own eyes. I drew this comic because we often think our choices are the right ones. The humor in this is the girl saying the teacher is distracting.

By: Gabrielle Liu

## GRIT: Marathon Miracle

By: Annabelle Chien

Last last year, my dad silently challenged himself to run the big marathon that was coming up. First, he signed up for the 42 km race. If you were going to a marathon, what would you do to prepare yourself? Yes, he trained himself every day and went through some hard trainings.

It was 7:00, I saw a shadow move across the room. Dad had been up this week, all mysterious and awake, running 3 or 4 laps around a park across the street. When I said park, it wasn't a small one that had the perimeter of 10 meters. It was the park with the Art Museum as a part of the area. A park with a perimeter of 1 mile, or 2 km. I knew that Dad ran everyday, but these days, he'd come back all sweaty and everything, looking as if the wind blew briefly, he'd tip over. He would walk shakily to the stairs, holding on the wall to go upstairs and shower. Even after the shower, he'd still look exhausted, sweat dripping down his face like the rain poured on him. He said he was training for the marathon, and I had thought that he ran around Taiwan twice.

Weeks after that, I saw some new things in the study room. I asked dad what it was. He'd said, "Equipments for workouts to get ready for the marathon." I saw an excited look on his face. He opened the big packages carefully and it revealed some gears that I'd seen in the gym. Among the things that covered half of the floor, I saw a book that had drawings of men stretching. "Even that?" I pointed at the book. "Yeah." he said. Time flew by, and whenever I saw dad, he was either working out or showering.

Finally, it was the day before the marathon. I wondered since the beginning if my dad can stick to the routine and prepared for the race. It turns out that he might be able to do it. Tomorrow. 42 km. That day, the day of the marathon, I noticed my dad wearing sport shorts and shirt, paired with a bulky large bag. We were giving him encouragements and saying goodbye. At the race, about to start, he'd said to me afterwards, "When the gun fired off, marking the start of the race, I caught a glimpse of lots of different people. After running for a while, I saw many other runners passing him, clearly not tired or looking as if they might pass out after a second. They were keeping their momentum and with full speed, running ahead." I knew that if it were me, I couldn't have accomplished what dad did. He seemed to have read my mind and said after the race, "I just thought I would challenge myself and do something new. It's all about the thought of keep going and not giving up." "Tenacity?" I guessed. "Sure..." he was probably too tired. It was his first marathon race, and he had survived.

Hebrews 12:1 says, "And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." My dad continued on what seemed like an impossible mission, but his persevered, he completed the quest.

What I learned was to never give up on things that look impossible, even if it seems like you can never do/accomplish it, you can. Endure through hard things and you WILL break your record. Work hard to get to your goal, and if you try your best, nothing is impossible.

# New Teacher Interviews

## Mrs. Fusca

By: Abby Fusca

Every new school year brings new teachers as well as new students. This year, MAK has a new fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Fusca. Born in San Antonio, Texas, Mrs. Fusca grew up in Vian, Oklahoma and graduated from Vian High School.

Mrs. Fusca loves to spend time at the beach, and up in the mountains. Her favorite movies include *Sleepless in Seattle* and *Thor*, and of course, reading her favorite book, the Bible. Her favorite things about Kaohsiung are the encouraging MAK staff and families. "They have been such an encouragement and a blessing since the moment we arrived. We are so thankful for each person God has brought into our lives!"

Before coming to Taiwan, Mrs. Fusca lived in Xian, China, and taught at a small international

school called XIS. I asked Mrs. Fusca how she heard about Morrison, and she replied, "We had some friends from Beijing that moved to Taiwan, whose kids attended Morrison, and they told me how much they loved it at Morrison." She said that there are many differences between the two schools, but the two main differences are that MAK is a bigger school, and here, Mrs. Fusca can teach about the word of God openly.

So far, Mrs. Fusca's favorite part about MAK are her "amazing 4th graders." She is excited to help them learn and grow this year, and believes she has many things to learn from them as well.

## Ms. Lin

By: Chantal Liu

Ms. Lin has been teaching music for three years. Her interest in teaching music came from her love of music and being around kids. What she loves about Taiwan is the beautiful places and all the amazing food. One of her favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:6, which says "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

# Who Needs A Beard?

By: Jason Chou and Niki Huang

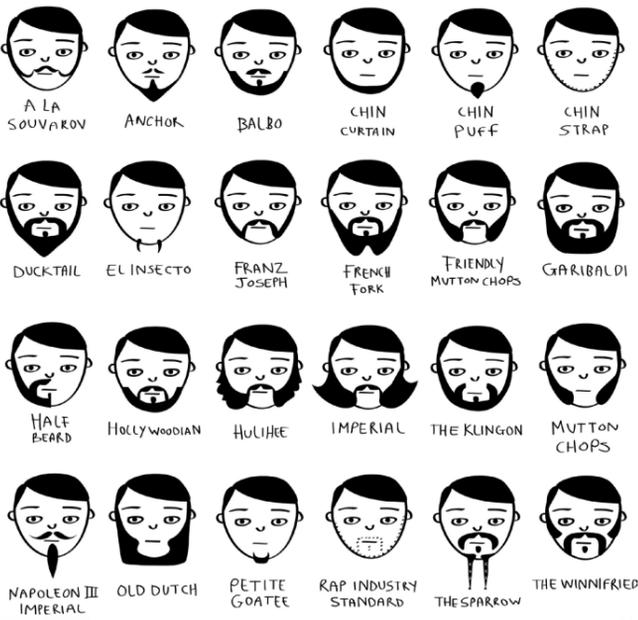
## #NoShaveNovember

Started way back in 2009, No Shave November is still quite a popular trend. Its charitable goal is to “grow awareness by embracing our hair, which many cancer patients lose, and letting it grow wild and free. Donate the money you usually spend on shaving and grooming for a month to educate about cancer prevention, save lives, and aid those fighting the battle.” As some students can’t grow beards as awesome as those of MAK teachers, we, the kind SharkPost staff, decided to give them a hand.

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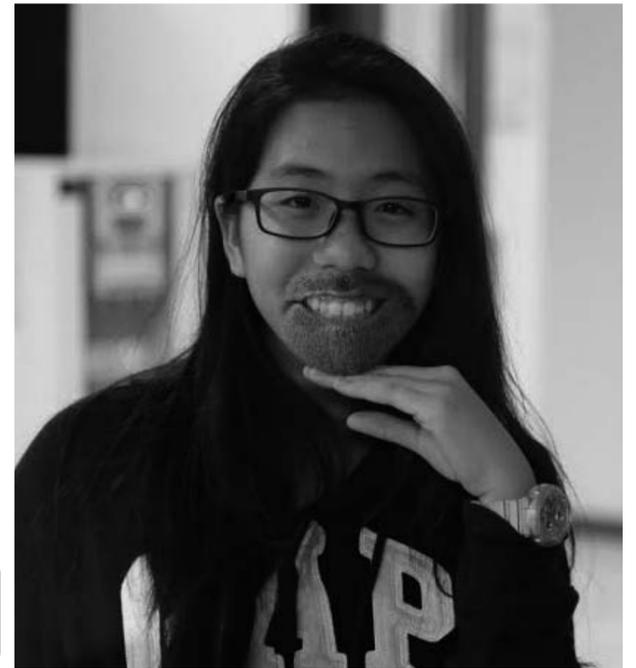
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*Rosa Lin - 10th Grade*  
“I want a Newkirk beard!”

*Mr. MacDonald - Staff*  
“One day, I’m going to be a pirate when I grow up, so I’m just getting ready.”

*Mr. Muir - Staff*  
“It looks ugly now and it’ll look even uglier when it’s off.”



*Crystal Gilpin - 9th Grade*  
“Ho ho ho, Santa Claus beards are cute.”

*Leo Hsieh - 10th Grade*  
“Chaplin’s mustache is the best!”

*Jessica Kong - 11th Grade*  
“I demand a handsome beard.”



# Got Shark Spirit?

By: Abigail Fusca

Recently, middle school had their Spirit Week. From October 20 to October 23, people dressed up in all kinds of outfits and roamed the middle school wing.

Spirit Week started off with Color Wars. Each middle school grade had a color, and the students' goal was to wear as much of their grade's color as possible. 6th had blue, 7th had green, and 8th had white. On Tuesday, students got to dress up as twins, and there were even some triplets! Wednesday was Wacky Tacky Day, and students got the chance to come to school in ridiculously wacky outfits. The wackier, the better. Some even covered their faces with face paint! Finally, on Thursday, it was MAK Day. Students dressed up in black and red to show off their school spirit. There were even some students bold enough to dress up as sharks!

Throughout Spirit Week, every lunch period students would also participate in an all-middle-school activity. The games ranged from a catwalk to a student-versus-teacher volleyball game. The middle school students loved Spirit Week, and many of them are already looking forward to next year's spirit events!



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