

# THE ECHO

## WE'RE BACK!



THE ECHO NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN PART OF MORRISON SINCE THE 1950s(BEFORE MR. DWIGHT WAS BORN!). UNFORTUNATELY, FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE ECHO WAS DISCONTINUED. THIS YEAR, WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THIS MONTHLY NEWSPAPER, COVERING THE HAPPENINGS AND GOING-ONS OF MORRISON ACADEMY.

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## HIGH SCHOOL PLUGS IN TO BYOD

by Esther Brown, staff reporter

This year, BYOD has been introduced to high school. BYOD stands for “Bring Your Own Device,” meaning students are required to bring a laptop to school to be used in classes for educational purposes. The purpose of BYOD is to promote a 21st Century learning environment and to equip students with the skills of using technology.

Many students think this program is very beneficial. They agree that taking notes or recording an important point is much easier on a computer than on paper. Junior Naomi Eastwood remarks that using a personal laptop is much easier than using a school laptop or computer. Others also mentioned the convenience of having a laptop with you in class, and how it is simpler to

turn in assignments on-

line. Brian Shih, a junior, explains that it is “a chance for students to experience a different way of learning.”

Even with this positive outlook on the new system, students point out a few difficulties. One student described how many teachers use different sites to teach their lessons, which can potentially lead to forgetting passwords. Another brought up the frustration of trying to access websites for school work, only to find the desired page to be blocked by Barracuda. Students do realize that Barracuda is necessary for our BYOD program, but this student pointed out that even Wikipedia is often blocked. One particular student addressed the issue of distraction; computers allow students to access all kinds of websites that may draw attention away from the class.

So what improvements do students think that the school could

make? Junior student Kevin Sun stated that teachers should not “force” technology use; he thinks that we should still use paper when it is more convenient. Several students suggested an improvement to the internet speed. They explained how sluggish it can get with an entire class trying to access the same website. Some also asked for more outlets, especially three-pin outlets, as many laptops run out of power quickly.

Many students are satisfied with the way BYOD is working so far. Although not quite up to its full potential, BOYD has improved already since last year’s test run. Tiffany Shen shared that last year, many students were not enthusiastic about the switch in procedure. Some were even against the idea of BYOD, but now many enjoy the freedom and convenience of this program. Students acknowledge how far they have already gotten, and are looking forward to the potential of this school year with BYOD.

# FRIENDS FAITH FOCUS FOOD FITNESS

by **Roxanne Chang**, *staff reporter*

The Daniel Plan, a student-led campaign focusing on five “pillars” launched in September. These pillars are “friends, faith, focus, food, and fitness. The friends pillar focuses on bonding with others and establishing genuine, lifelong relationships. The faith pillar covers devotion and prayer, and most importantly, it seeks to solidify students’ walks with God. The focus pillar is mostly academic; the program works with the Counseling Center to see if students’ grades improve under the influence of the Daniel Plan. This pillar also promotes earlier sleeping schedules and getting work done without procrastination. The food and fitness pillars promote living a healthy lifestyle; this includes eating the most natural, God-created foods and taking care of one’s physical body. “There will be monthly activities—biking trips, hiking trips, soup-making activities, and outdoor prayer—and we’re excited to see how they’ll turn out,” says a Daniel Plan leader. Leaders of the campaign are each assigned to one specific pillar, aiming to unite the student body and promote a healthier lifestyle.

“I have a vision that the whole high school will join in on this,” says David Lee, leader of the campaign.

However, the student body has responded with mixed reactions. From “whatever” to “I’m excited,” the Daniel Plan has been met with both approval and disapproval. “Eat only what God has created. Eating healthy helps you live better and feel better,” says Lee. But we still hear the daily “I need my chong jua bings” and “I want my boba tea full sugar”

“A little bit wouldn’t hurt so much, right?” responds an anonymous senior.



The Daniel Plan has already held some successful rallies and its number of members are growing. Leaders shared their own goals and thoughts on the campaign during the September rallies.

All high school students are invited to join the Daniel Plan, and at the moment, there are fifteen senior leaders dedicated to the campaign. At the most recent Daniel Plan dinner meetup,

junior Brian Shih says the gathering was “fun, new, and refreshing. It was a great experience.” Shih adds, “we talked about normal [daily] things, even things like anime.”

The Daniel Plan is striving towards achieving its goal of uniting the Morrison student body. It has already brought together a number of students from different grades—all who are willing to commit to a healthier and happier lifestyle. The leaders are excited to see what the near future may bring.

INTERESTED IN JOINING  
US AT THE ECHO?



JUST CONTACT ONE  
OF OUR MEMBERS!

## NEW TRACK CONSTRUCTED AS SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

by **Meeghan Sheppard**, *staff reporter*

The track, which has been with Morrison since the 1970s has been demolished and replaced. And despite having a gorgeous new rubber track to run on, some students miss the the old cinder one.

Alicia Tsai, an alum and former long distance runner of five years with the track and field team, recalled the comments that people made after running on the track. She shared several of her favorites such as “I’ve always wondered what running through a desert would be like, well know I know.”

A popular comment made by veteran

track runners was “running on the Morrison track is more likely to give me lung cancer than smoking ever will” She also thought it was funny That after running on the track she would take off her sunglasses and realize that she became “a panda because my eyes are white, and the area all around is black.”

However, there are some who do not miss the old track at all. Track coach, Mrs. Julie Heinsman, who had run on the cinder track since the 70s, says she cannot think of a single thing that she could ever miss about the old track.

Both Tsai and Heinsman say

Th’Paër’s Due T’day

the paër’s dew, today  
reapd from my eph’m’ral windows  
w’f’ly is it received

- Joshua Strange

getting a rubber track is a wise decision. According to Heinsman, getting a rubber track has been discussed for decades, so running on the new track for the first time was like a dream

finally coming true.

However, Mrs. Heinsman thinks it is unlikely that it will bring any additional runners to the track team. "Track is a tough sport," she said, and combined with the conflicts of both basketball and soccer, she doesn't think that more people will show up simply because of the track. She is, however, looking forward to hosting more pleasant track meets.

Alicia summed it up saying "Our old track has a lot of sentimental value and I do miss it, but honestly we need a rubber track. The dirt track had to go, and I can't wait to run on the new track when I'm back."



Photo by *Tina Wang*



Photo by *Jessica Lin*

**YOUR AD  
COULD BE  
HERE!**

**JUST CONTACT AN ECHO MEMBER**

# CLASS RETREATS BRING TOGETHER STUDENTS

By **Melody McCrary**, *staff reporter*

Beginning of the year Class Retreats were held on August 21st to the 22nd. The retreats allowed students a time to get to know each other better and bond as a class outside of school. The freshman class stayed at school for the evening; the Sophomore class stayed at school for the night; the Junior class took a trip to the Sun Hot Spring Resort for the night, and the Seniors went to Xiao-Ken-Ding waterpark in Changhua. Although some see this time as "forced" upon students, they all had a great time and got to catch up with all their friends and classmates after summer.

The freshmen had their first high school class retreat with a "progressive dinner," as Mrs. Jennifer Finch called it. "It started with appetizers at the Manu's, salad at the Minnich's, soup at the Dingus's, dinner at the Shepard's, and dessert at the Finch's." After dinner, students played games such as Zombie Tag and Capture the Flag. Unfortunately, some thought the retreat did not help the new class transition into high school as parents and teachers would have hoped. One student said, "the class retreat was fun, but it didn't really dramatically help transition into high school."

The sophomore class had their

class retreat at school, welcoming new students from MAB, MAK as well as other places. At the party, students played games and had lessons on how to bake cookies and make snow cones. The students then cleaned out the fridge for concessions, all the while making friends. Esther Park, a student from Bethany, said that she "got to know some friends because of the retreat." Chrystal Gilpin, a student from MAK, said that her favorite part of the class retreat was "the food and the open gym time." The sophomore class had a fun time bonding and making friends with the new students.

The newly upperclassmen Juniors went to Sun Hot Spring and Resort for their class retreat. They planned for the Junior Carnival, relaxed in the hot springs, played ping pong and Jeopardy, and grew closer together as a class. Nathan Seung, a new student from AST, said that he had to step out of his comfort zone to make friends "because we had to talk with people to discuss and then naturally start asking about each other and eventually become friends." Planning for the Junior Carnival was hard work, but the class knew that it would be rewarding. Melissa Kimble said that "it was cool to see everyone come together during the Junior Carnival planning and also dis-

cover some hidden talents and interests of classmates." Callie Chung's mother, said that "she was very proud of the officers. The agenda they had planned was covered very well."

Going into his last beginning-of-the-year retreat, senior Joseph Chen said "it makes me feel that I should spend as much quality time as I can with my friends before we all go our separate ways to college." During this retreat, seniors start preparing their minds for the future and begin to finally realize that it is their last year in high school. On Saturday, the class went to Xiao KenTing Waterpark and had a blast playing in the water. Christopher Calmes said that a highlight for him during the retreat was "sliding down the waterslide on boogie boards with friends."



Photo by *Keegan Heebner*

# ALUMN STEPHEN BROOKS BRINGS SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

by **Max Ellis**, *staff reporter*

Spiritual life week, led by Pastor Steven Brookes, was held at Morrison in mid-September, bringing a chance for spiritual growth in the student body. He spoke to the combined middle school and high school students one period every day. Brooks, a pastor from Alderwood Community Church in the Seattle area, and also a Morrison alumnus from the class of 1987, spoke on understanding the gospel. He brought a message of spiritual freedom focusing on specific verses in Galatians.

Chaplain Jason Roloff explained that the purpose of spiritual life week “is to provide a focused time, out of the normal day to day schedule, that will strengthen growth and faith in student’s relationship with God.” The students met in small groups led by a teacher, student, or community member. An evening session was held on

Tuesday, and a worship night was held on Thursday.

The daily small groups, this year being coed, were designed to generate discussion regarding Brook’s teachings. Reflection questions and other discussion materials were prepared by the group leaders. Senior leaders led the freshman small groups, while a teacher or community members led the rest.

Tuesday and Thursday’s events were both optional except for dorm students. Teachers eased students’ work load so they could attend.

Tuesday’s sermon by Pastor Brooks was about the application of media in Christianity. However, one sophomore said, “he could have used more digital ways of presenting.”

Thursday’s worship night was a collaboration between student activity coordinator Rex Manu, music director



Photo by *Dwight Johnson*

Nick Brown, and Chaplain Jason Roloff. According to Praisye Yeo, worship night is “a night of worship, a night of connecting, or reconnecting with God, a time to lay everything down and come as you are.” Chaplain Roloff said that the purpose “is designed to glorify, honor, praise, exalt, and please God as a community.”

# BOYP KICKS OFF YEAR WITH A SLICE OF PIZZA

by **Kiki Yi**, *staff reporter*

On August 14th, the annual beginning of the year party (BOYP) was held on campus. The party hosted two games, both held in the lower gym, classic dodgeball and a team building exercise where participants split up and passed a rubber band on straws held in their mouths. After these activities, students had dinner in the cafeteria where pizza was served along with other snacks and refreshments. Afterwards, people were free to hang out or play sports in the gym.

The purpose of the BOYP is to stimulate social interaction between various members of the student body; as the organizer of the event Howard Chang said, “[the purpose is], one: tradition, and two: to have the student body get a feel of each other, or interaction between classes”. Principal Doug Bradburn expressed the concerns of

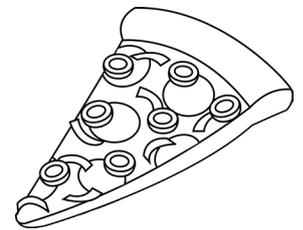
many students, saying “...the beginning of the year is always new; it’s sometimes a bit intimidating, so it’s nice to have something where people can relax and just enjoy it.”

Students thought the BOYP was a success. It let everyone loosen up, relieve stress, and just have fun. It brought all high school grade levels together and created a more comfortable atmosphere for everyone as an enjoyable start to the school year. “I liked it. It was good because students bonded from the games,” commented junior Alice Hsiao. “It was great,” sophomore Will Yang agreed, “[we] had opportunities to meet new people”.

When asked specifically about each of the interactive games, senior Isaac Park and junior Praisye Yeo voiced different opinions. “I thought the dodgeball game wasn’t just fun, but also a good way to interact with people

you didn’t know. It

involved everyone and was just a really fun and interactive game,” said Park. “[The straw and rubber band game] helped break the ice with students from different grades, but maybe on too intimate of a level” laughed Yeo.



Untitled

afternoon sunlight  
i open my eyes and see  
but i want to sleep

- *Shawn Sul*

# BOYS PLACE FOURTH AT ACSC TOURNAMENT WHILE GIRLS TAKE GOLD

by **Kevin Sun** and **Josh Strange**, *staff reporter*

During the week of October 19-25, the ACSC (Asia Christian Schools Conference) tournament was held for varsity girls volleyball and boys soccer. The games ended with the boys bringing home fourth place and the girls being the champions. The boy's tournament was held at Faith Academy in the Philippines while the girls played on campus. Both tournaments hosted seven teams from across Eastern Asia. The attending teams were Dalat International School (Malaysia), Faith Academy (Philippines), International Christian School (Hong-Kong), Yongson International School of Seoul (Korea), Grace Academy (Thailand), and St. Paul Christian School (Guam).

The varsity boys got off the plane the night of Sunday, October 18. They played their first game the next morning against YISS with a 3-0 vic-

tory. They won their next game against Dalat, scoring 2-0. Following their winning streak, the boys hit turbulence with an intense game against Faith, resulting in a 0-2 loss. The boys also lost the following match against Grace by two points. The team then secured an additional victory in their game against ICS, a close 2-1. However, in their final battle for third place, the Mustangs lost to the same team, ICS, 0-1. Team manager Jake Strange summed up the team's performance, "I feel like the boys made the most of the circumstance, with the humid weather, the numerous questionable calls made by the referees, the injuries, and the fact that we were playing away from home".

The girls began their tournament in a five game winning streak, fending off every competing team from gold, and securing a spot in the finals. However, the team took a dip in their streak at the start of the finals, losing to

Dalat in a strenuous 2-3 match. Drops of cold sweat puddled on the bleachers as Faith took a two set lead during the following match. But Morrison stayed resolute and made a glorious comeback, winning three sets consecutively. The Lady Mustangs then trampled Dalat 3-0 in the final game for their trophy. "I think we played the best we ever had this whole season, improving in every game," says team captain Keegan Heebner. "I'm so, so, so proud".



Photo by *Kayla Miller*

## VOLLEYBALL GIRLS

MAC - 2	ICS - 0
MAC - 2	ST. PAUL - 0
MAC - 2	DALAT - 0
MAC - 2	YISS - 1
MAC - 2	FAITH - 0
MAC - 2	GRACE - 0

### FINALS

MAC - 2	DALAT - 3
MAC - 3	FAITH - 2
MAC - 3	DALAT - 0

## SOCCER BOYS

MAC - 3	YISS - 0
MAC - 2	DALAT - 0
MAC - 0	FAITH - 2
MAC - 1	GRACE - 3
MAC - 2	ICS - 1
MAC - 0	ICS - 1



Photo by *Enya Hsiao*

VEEN HAPPY HALLOWEEN  
Y HALLOWEEN HAPPY HA  
LOWEEN HAPPY HALLOW  
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FROM THE  
ECHO STAFF