

Morrison Academy, Taichung

The Echo: Christmas Edition!

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Faithful Friends

Niki Yang



The money raised for this year's Christmas project, "Faithful Friends", will be used to assist Jibei Church, On the Rock Ministries, and Kids International Ministries. This year the Christmas project hopes to raise an astonishing amount 700,000 NT, and as the largest amount morrison has ever aimed to raise, the money will be used to pay a coworker's salary at Jibei Church, construct a second floor for the Ati tribe's elementary school, and send 20 orphans to school in Manila.

All three organizations have expressed their thanks for our help in the past: "Morrison's caring to Jibei Church is a mark of God's love. It tells of God's unchanging grace...whatever JiBei accomplishes, you are part of it," said Mu Lin Lin of the Jibei Church.

"The forgotten Ati tribal children are now being nurtured, given a quality education and lifted to a place of social dignity. We are so grateful for the Morrison community's continuing partnership with us to make a difference in the lives of these children, who because of their black skin and decades of passivity, have been rejected and demoralized in the Philippines." said Dan and Tori Beaver, directors of On the Rock Ministries.

Jeff Long, director of Kids International Ministries had this to say: "Morrison Academy has helped Kids International Ministries educate the next generation of Filipinos. We experience God's faithfulness every day because we have friends who remain faithful in meeting needs. It is a blessing to see God continue to minister to kids and families in our community through your partnership."

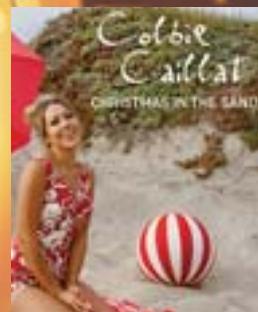
It's Morrison's pleasure to meet the challenge by assisting them once again. Several fundraisers have already started across the campus. One that has really caught the students' attention is Mr. Myburgh's challenge to the elementary and middle school where he has each class competing for the right to shave his head bald. Mr. Myburgh says that he created this competition because "students love challenges, fun, and creativity." Mr. Myburgh's challenge, on the other hand, is to memorize the names of every student from kindergarten to grade eight. For every student's name he memorizes, parents have offered one, three, or even ten NT.

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Elementary and middle school students have decided to make money their own ways. Examples include Kindergarten is selling homemade Christmas cards and 2nd graders having a ‘Math-a-thon’, in which they answered up to 130 questions for money. The 3rd graders have made a set goal of money to reach and if they reach it will have a “Bedtime Stories Day”. Every 4th grader is being creative and earning money by doing chores at home and asking their parents to ‘double the money’. A few fifth graders have organized bake sales that take place twice a week during recess, and the annual 6th grade rummage sale is scheduled to take off very soon.

The campus principal, Mr. Robinson, has also issued a challenge for every high school Bible class and the class that raises the most money will receive teas from Mr. Robinson himself. If Mr. Robinson cannot recall a student’s name when they ask him “What’s my name?” he will donate 100 NT in the student’s name. STUCO is also pitching in with their annual “candy grams”. Students have the opportunity to buy a candy cane and a card to wish their friends a merry Christmas. These are just some of the many creative fundraising techniques that have been used so far. We hope that with everyone’s participation we can reach our massive goal of 700,000 NT. With the money we can then really prove ourselves to be “Faithful Friends”



Madrigal Dinners

Niki Yang

Surrounded by dozens of candles, elaborate draperies, and soothing music, guests at the Madrigal Dinner had the opportunity to travel back a few centuries in time and were welcomed into a world of fantasy. The night started with a cup of Wassail, a sweet spice drink, enjoyed by both the lords and ladies. Immediately afterwards, many forms of entertainment commenced, music was played, and dinner was served. Food was served efficiently and beverage glasses were never empty. Not only could guests enjoy festive music during their dinners, later in the evening there was a short drama, “A Midwinter’s Dream Knight”, filled with fun, humor, and a touch of romance. The meal ended with some classic Christmas hymns sung by the chamber singers. Performer and musician Owen Enoch recalls, “It was hard work but fun. It was cool to see everything eventually come together.” With the entire audience participating in singing, “God Rest you Merry Gentlemen”, to slowly exiting with “Silent Night”, the dinner had an air of innocence from a bygone time.



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Last Minute Christmas Presents

Maria Huang

During the January first semester finals last year, rumors floated around school about “finals before break” in the 2012-2013 school year and the excitement grew. Yet as finals came around this school year, the stress meter sparked sky high for both teachers and students as the first semester became shorter with the same benchmarks to cover, trips to plan, and concerts to hold. Weekday and weekend schedules have been packed to the max, test calendar inevitably are filled up with overlapping subjects, and sports teams try to get in their last few games before break. During this hectic period, it is close to impossible to get a free day for Christmas shopping.

But fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all Morrisonians. For unto us is given the chance in the village to find all sorts of presents, which are.... practical.



If you only have five minutes.....



If you have no clue what they like...



If you can't get a reservation on Christmas Day...



If your friend likes to sag their pants...



If you live in Taiwan...

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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大眾 TV-GAME 專賣店

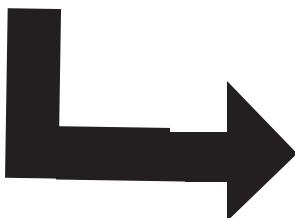
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How Not To Get Bored Over Christmas

Alex Conn

It's 11:55 in the afternoon, and you are anxiously looking at your watch. Five more minutes until Christmas break. After what feels like years of waiting, the bell rings and you are finally free. You pack up your bags, say goodbye to your friends, and go home. The first couple days of Christmas break are luxurious. You can just relax, and recover from all of the stressful finals and tests that were taken the week before, but gradually as time goes on, you find yourself becoming more and more bored. Depending on where you go over Christmas break, some people may be more inclined to boredom than others, but regardless of where you are, there will always be some point in your holiday break when you'll realize that there is nothing interesting to do. To save you from boredom, here are some tips on keeping yourself busy and entertained.

- 1.) Since it is Christmas season, you can try and write your own Christmas Song.
- 2.) There are always interesting things to do on the computer, maybe you could read random articles on Yahoo.
- 3.) Exercise! Stay in tip-top basketball shape by exercising on a daily basis. Try crunches, sit-ups, and maybe even running!
- 4.) Bake. Make your mom happy and try baking an assortment of Christmas cookies.
- 5.) Read. Perhaps you could try reading something intellectually stimulating such as "How the Grinch Stole Christmas", by Dr. Seuss.
- 6.) Go caroling throughout your neighborhood with some of your friends.
- 7.) Explore the location around your house, and try to notice things that you've never noticed before.
- 8.) Practice your dancing skills (or maybe learn new dance moves).
- 9.) Play a boardgame, or build a masterpiece out of legos.
- 10.) Drink some Eggnog.

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Who Do You Want to Be Under The Mistletoe With?

Caleb Strange



Teardrop

MCA Student

**In times of war, in times of peace
In balmy waters or frigid seas
The hidden machine lies submerged under an
Ocean of salt and tears. Enemy ships scour the horizon for a sign, for
Anything.**

They can sense

They can

Feel deep in their bones, the metal beast is under placid waters.

The enemy torpedoes into the

Murky depths, in hopes of provoking the steel Kraken.

A dulled flash.

A muffled boom.

Water vibrates.

Sea is tranquil again.

**Unfruitful hunts due to the beast's constant
Evasion.**

But nothing can hide forever.

The sea shudders.

Gulls flee.

An eerie wail cuts through briny air.

The machine has been suppressed, bullied, lashed at

Far too long.

Must resurface

No matter what.

The ocean

Holds its breath.

Like a tiger pouncing out of tranquil grass,

It tears through the sheet of calm.

Quaking with anger and pain,

The steel god unleashes his wrath, fueled by burning rage.

Enemy flees, unable to withstand the

Blinding fury.

Satisfied, the submarine melts beneath the waves,

Which are

Calm again.

Grant----- Jocelyn Rivera, "Why not? Her voice soothes my very inner soul."

Ilona----- Hunter Hayes "He can sing amazingly well, and he's hot."

Zach----- No one "Ephesians 5:3, kissing is gross"

Yen-Jin----- "Anyone from the opposite sex"

Anna Yeo----- "Francisco Lachowski, he's perfect enough said"

Diean Manu----- "Alex Pettyfer, he's hot."

Rachel Strange----- "Wilson Bethel from Hart of Dixie!"

Jason Soegiharto----- "William Shen, because he wants me!"

Selina Peng----- "(giggles)"



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It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas...The Apocalypse

Abraham Chen

Roland Emmerich's film 2012, which was released back in the fall of 2009, is known for its extravagant special effects rather than for its storyline. Because of its finely-crafted disaster scenes, it isn't surprising that it claims a place on the list of most expensive films in history. Glittering skyscrapers teeter and crash into each other like dominoes, effectively creating a snowball effect as it wreaks havoc in the cities. The ground tears itself up, caused by abnormal movement of Earth's tectonic plates, and countless lives are swallowed up by the earth. A herculean wave rises above the highest mountains and floods the Himalayas.

All these phenomena are what 2012's filmmakers depict will occur, according to the ancient Mayan calendar. While many historians disagree that the Mayan's calendar actually states the "end" as December 21, 2012, that date is set for the sake of media and entertainment. This has inevitably led to infinite internet memes concerning this subject. Most people do not fall for such outrageous propositions of the world ending, and continue to mock the idea. When asked how ridiculous the theory of a 2012 apocalypse is, student Curtis Drevets said, "it is more ridiculous than saying Santa is real, or eating hamburger without ketchup."

NASA has made a page on its website dedicated to addressing the end of the world. It assures readers that "there is no credible evidence [for these phenomena of]...taking place in December 2012." The site continues with, "Just as the calendar you have on your kitchen wall does not cease to exist after December 31, the Mayan calendar does not cease to exist on December 21, 2012...your calendar begins again on January 1," so it also "begins [again] for the Mayan calendar."

Music Review: Christmas in the Sand by Colbie Caillat

Jubilee PhamXuan

Imagine a typical holiday image of small kids bundled up in woolen hats, scarves, mittens, fluffy coats, and heavy boots, surrounded by crisp, white snow and chilled air.

Now turn that image upside down and think of sunny weather, crashing waves, miles of smooth sand, and lying on a beach towel whilst sucking on a candy cane.

These two sides of the same coin are definitely what comes to mind when listening to Colbie Caillat's Christmas in the Sand, which was released on October 15. Known for her effortlessly smooth vocals and her hit singles "Bubbly", "Fallin'

BRACE YOURSELF



In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus once said, "No one knows... [the] day or hour" that he will ride down from the heavens and triumph over Satan. In 1st Thessalonians it says that Jesus "will come like a thief in the night," catching those who are unaware, but those who believe in him will rejoice. In 2nd Peter, the apostle informs the recipients of his letter that the end of our world will not be caused by earthquakes or floods, but by fire. "The present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgement...The heavens will disappear with a roar...the elements will melt in the heat." Everything on this earth "will be laid bare," to make way for the new heaven and earth. It is in the new heaven & earth that Satan will be trumped and God will rule for eternity.

In conclusion, there is no need to freak out on the day of the winter solstice, for the world is probably not going to end. By looking at Scripture and Biblical teachings, one will realize that proposals of the world ending on a particular date is sure to be false. Since God is the only one who knows the time of the Second Coming, there's no need to be led astray by contemporary apocalypse theories. What we do know is one day, Jesus will ride down from heaven and deliver judgment to sinners. Bomb shelters and high ground will not save you then, for salvation is only obtained through faith in Christ.

For You", and "I Do", along with her collaboration on the Jason Mraz song "Lucky", Colbie's addition to the holiday mix is a cause for appreciation. Basking in its own uniqueness for currently being the only seasonal album aimed towards those who celebrate Christmas in tropical to subtropical weather, like all of us who go to Morrison and deal with Taiwan weather, it also balances itself out with the familiarity of traditional Christmas songs.

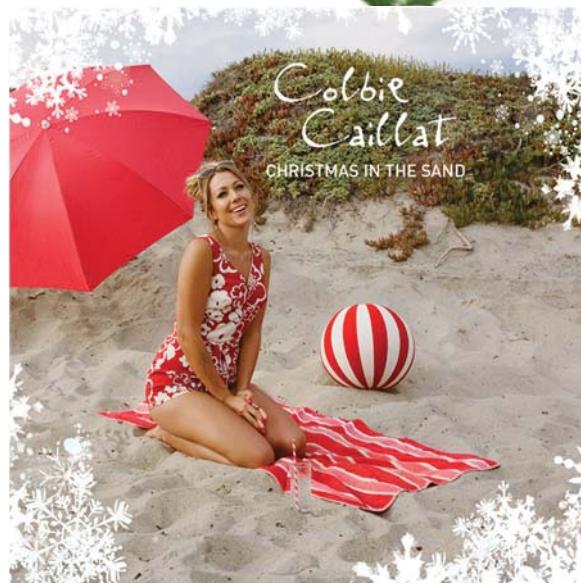
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Colbie's spin on the seven holiday standards "Santa Baby", "Baby, it's Cold Outside", "The Christmas Song", "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", "Silver Bells", "Winter Wonderland", and "Auld Lang Syne" makes for a refreshing listen with its blend of acoustic riffs, sleigh bells, orchestral instruments, and a hint of reggae. There are also the original songs "Merry Christmas, Baby", "The Christmas Song", "Everyday is Christmas", "Mistletoe", and "Happy Christmas", which give off varying, pleasant vibes of country, pop, and rock.

The one song that captures the spirit of this album perfectly though, is the titular track "Christmas in the Sand", with its easy going tune and a chorus that starts out saying, "I saw Santa in his bathing suit. Tried to catch a wave, but he tried too soon". This song showcases a dreamy, Hawaiian Christmas that is sure to be pleasantly stuck in your head.

So whether you're just on the lookout for another holiday album to add to your stack or wanting something more than the typical white Christmas compilation, Christmas in the Sand will absolutely get you in the mood for the winter time, sunny or not.



Dos and Don'ts of Social Networking

Florence Davidson

When someone mentions social networking, you probably make the mental jump to Facebook. But the social network, especially the online one, can extend to any place that you put up personal information.

You may be using Facebook, Google+, or MySpace (hahaha). It doesn't matter what website you're on, if you're on something that features you in a profile, with information about you, there are things to remember. No one is going to give up Facebook for more than a week, anyway, so it's better to learn how to use it properly than to try to avoid using it altogether.

The following lists are not meant to scare you off. Social networking can be fun and productive –the following lists are meant to increase the fun and help you avoid the not-so-fun.

DO: Make sure you don't have any embarrassing photos on your profile. You might think they are cool/funny/sexy, but trust us, they aren't. We'll get to privacy in a minute, but this should be a no brainer. Chances are, in a few years, you'll take down those photos, but you never know who's seen the pictures and/or saved them. Studies have been done which show how extraordinarily hard it is for things that are posted online to actually get deleted. Once you upload something, assume it's going to be accessible for a very long time. Then again, if you are that thirsty for your 15 minutes of fame, you can take your embarrassing photos to the Ellen DeGeneres show,

where she'll display them to laughing crowds.

DO: Get your privacy settings adjusted and limit who can see your profile. Until you figure out how to regulate your privacy settings (and these can be bypassed, so don't trust them implicitly) assume that everyone can see what you're putting on your profile. If you have your profile set on public, don't put anything on your profile that you wouldn't say in a first conversation with someone. Things like phone numbers, addresses, favorite bathrooms, etc., should not be that easily available.

DO: Reciprocate. The whole point of social networking is to be social, so use it to be social. Accept invites, add friends, and pay attention to when someone's having a birthday. Keep your profile updated, too. Not everyone wants to see 20 pictures of your cat's latest antics, but people generally connect with you online so they can see what you're up to.

DON'T: Randomly add people, or accept friend requests on a whim. We all know that the internet can be a weird place sometimes, and this is true for social networking as well. If you don't know the person, you don't have to accept them. No one gets a notification if their friend request is rejected, so it's not like they rang your doorbell and you opened the door to punch them. Don't be afraid to reject or block anyone, especially people you don't know. That being said, sometimes people don't use their real names or photos in their online profile, so just because they have a weird username and profile photo, doesn't mean you need to assume someone's stalking you, or that they're creepy (although they might be). Same thing applies in the reverse – don't feel obligated to add someone, no matter how many mutual friends you share.

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DON'T: Use social networking as a replacement for real life. Social networking, or more likely, social grouping for HS students, is lots of fun. They are not nearly as fun as actual social events. If you find that you're missing social events or turning into a loner because you are on a social networking website, or if you are justifying your real social life because you "have online friends" you need to make adjustments and get outside more. Social networks are a great way to stay in contact with people you know, but it's not the only way, and it's certainly not a way to give up interacting with people in real life.

DON'T: Take social networking too seriously. You see this kind of thing a lot, not just on places like Facebook. Avoid posting contentious things that people might argue about, and be polite, too – don't start a discussion about politics on someone's photo of their pet. Read your comments, wall posts, and statuses BEFORE you hit enter. Facebook has gotten smart and added an edit button, but it's better to post things that are already fine. Don't post angry or in a highly charged emotional state. Make sure you sound like a sane person before you post anything. If you want to see the consequences of not thinking before you online-speak, head over to Failbook, where screencapped images of people acting like lunatics on social networking websites are displayed to the world for ridicule. Do write interesting and funny

things that you would say in real life. Avoid slamming messages out like you're a chimpanzee on steroids.

Before, online social networking seemed to be solely the property of the geeks. Now it's an unavoidable way to staying in contact. But like any method of socializing, it comes with its own upsides and pitfalls. Lucky for you, this extensively researched and spur of the moment list of dos and don'ts will guide you, and thereby maximize the fun and minimize the awkwardness.

Santa saw your Facebook pictures.
You're getting clothes and a
dictionary for Christmas.



Classical Christmas Music

Caleb Strange

Song Names:

1. White Christmas- Frank Sinatra
2. Jingle-Bells- Frank Sinatra
3. Twelve Days of Christmas- Straight No Chaser
4. Joy to the World- Mariah Carey
5. Santa Claus is Coming to Town- Jackson 5
6. Silent Night- Mercyme and Amy Grant
7. Away in a Manger- Celtic Woman
8. Carol of the Bells- Straight No Chaser
9. Frosty the Snowman- The Ronettes
10. We Three Kings- G
11. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer-Gene Autry
12. Santa Baby- Eartha Kitt
13. Grandma Got Run-over By a Reindeer- Elmo and Patsy
14. Jingle Bell Rock- Bobby Helm
15. Here Comes Santa Claus-Gene Autry
16. The Little Drummer Boy-Jars of Clay
17. Feliz Navidad-Jose Feliciano
18. It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year-Andy Williams
19. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas-Bing Crosby
20. Blue Christmas-Elvis Presley

When one thinks of Christmas, what comes to mind? Presents, mistletoe, Santa, and maybe for some, snow? Or, do you think about the music that describes it all? Christmas music is what unites us all during the time of giving, it gives us all a feeling of peace and a sense of being at home, or desiring to be home, though in recent years this music has been thought of as old fashioned and many a cover has come out for these songs, covers that take away from the Christmas spirit by entertaining "hip-hop". People like Mr.Hsu find that it brings out a festive/competitive nature with his wife when it comes to Christmas music. "Me and Mrs.Hsu don't really like the same kind of Christmas music, especially Blue Christmas by Elvis, she hates it when I sing that song." he says.

Others, like Mr. Bradburn, connect with music on a more personal level. "Music is like a smell," he reflects, "once you've smelled it once, whenever you smell it again, you instantly think back to that time you smelled it first. For me, the song 'I've Been Dreaming of a White Christmas' brings back memories and makes me nostalgic, makes me think about when I was a kid at Christmas time." And it's true, the music you hear when you're all gathered around the Christmas tree, is the music that will take you back there ten to twenty years from now. So, I've compiled a list of all time classic Christmas music in the hopes of rekindling the enjoyment of Christmas music the way it should be listened to. Whether you're in your car, in a hotel, with your family, or by yourself, you can always listen to these all time favorites and make memories of your own.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

I Dreamed A Dream

Florence Davidson



If you've ever seen Susan Boyle's amazing singing audition on the UK X Factor, you might not realize that the song is actually from a musical – or rather, a movie soundtrack. That song, I Dreamed A Dream, is one of the most tragic and moving songs in

the upcoming movie Les Miserables. If you're feeling bored over Christmas break and have already seen The Hobbit in theaters, take a look at any cinemas that might be showing this new adaptation. And no, it's not in French.

Les Miserables, which is usually referred to by its French title, can be translated into The Miserable, or the Wretched, or the Victims. So why should you go see it on Christmas Day?

Well, to begin with, the book it's based off, by Victor Hugo, is considered one of the greatest novels of the nineteenth century. In addition, the stage musical adaptation has been performed (by various groups) in 42 countries. It's a great way to prove you have good taste. And it's enjoyable.

The plot centers around Jean Valjean, an ex-convict who searches for redemption while trying to evade a police inspector who is determined to bring him back to jail. While it might not seem like a good Christmas flick, its themes of love, sacrifice, and forgiveness fit perfectly in with the holiday season and what Christmas stands for.

If you need further convincing, go see the trailer, and now that you're on YouTube, you can search for filmed stage portrayals. Even if the plot and acting were weak (which they are not) it would be worth seeing this film for the songs alone, which will make you both laugh and cry. It's got humor, sadness, historical significance, and even a little romance.

Starring Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway, Russell Crowe, Amanda Seyfried, and Eddie Redmayne, Les Miserables, opens in Taiwan on Christmas Day. Go give it a look. Bring tissues.

An advertisement for Burger Joint's Chaofu store opening. It features a yellow background with black text and graphics. At the top, it says 'Burger Joint' with '7份SO' crossed out. To the right, it says '[朝富店]' and '[Chaofu Store]'. Below that, it says '台中市朝富路252號' and '252, Chaofu Rd., Taichung City'. In the center, large numbers '12' and '17' are separated by a diagonal line, with '開幕' (Opening) and 'New Open' written below them. The bottom half shows a map of the area around Chaofu Rd. (朝富路), Liming Rd. Sec. 2 (黎明路二段), Henan Rd. Sec. 3 (河南路三段), Shizheng N. 7th Rd. (市政北七路), Shizheng N. 2th Rd. (市政北二路), and Shizheng Rd. (市政路). The map highlights the location of 'Burger Joint' and 'Tiger City'.

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More Than Basketball

Rex Manu



Grant Robinson leading scorer with 30 points per game was sidelined with a groin injury. Steven Tong leading point guard fractured the joint capsule of his right index finger in the 2nd half. The top half of his right index finger collapsed backward toward the back of his palm. Steven was obviously in excruciating pain, but he still wanted to stay and watch the game. Beth Turner came to the rescue and manipulated Steven's finger back to its normal position and was immediately sent to the hospital.

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After Steven left, reality set in, the team was without its top scorer and primary point guard. At this stage, someone needed to step up and lead the team against Ming Dao High School.



The night before the Ming Dao game, our guys suffered a 118-58 loss to Hou Chuang High School. Losing in sports always plays with our emotions. Were our guys going to bounce back and play tough, or was the disappointing loss against Hou Chuang going to deflate our team's confidence. The records show that the visiting Ming Dao High School team had not beaten the Mustangs in the past decade. Tonight as in every year, the Ming Dao team was sure to give their best to change history.

When Steven left the game due to his injury, the team played in a daze for a few minutes. However, as time elapsed, our team began to pick up momentum and started to play well.

In the fourth quarter our community began to cheer, jump and clap loudly for every basket made by our Mustangs. Students, teachers and parents were united tonight in being the 6th man on the court. The 6th man on the court means a crowds enthusiasm and zeal in cheering for the home team which in theory influences the outcome of the play on the court.

By the end of the night Alex Lin scored 20 points, 6 rebounds, Paul Liao 14 pts, 10 rebounds, and Albert Chi 12 pts, 14 rebounds. The statistics showed the possibilities of what our varsity team is capable of doing. Our guys played together and with a lot of heart.

It would have been nice to end this article saying that our guys beat Ming Dao that night, but they lost in overtime. Watching our guys play aggressive and determined was the best part of the game. Giving it their all is really what life is all about. Doing your best always leads to success in life, especially if you are doing it with God.

Our guys are definitely looking forward to the TAS tournament in January and the Far East in February. If you want to see courage and team unity, get on the fan bus to the TAS tournament and watch our guys play like men.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

We are Young

Maria Huang

Consisting of three seniors, three juniors and four sophomores, this year's varsity girls basketball team was referred to as "very young" by many alumni on facebook after seeing the team photo. Coach Sparrow said, "We're young, but we're also a very experienced team." Starting off the season with three straight wins, the team has cranked up the heat in the gym. Coach Turner said, "The Morrison community can look forward to seeing our basketball team play with energy, intensity and heart. Even in games where we may have an off night shooting we should be able to stay close with hard work and good defensive play."

Captain Victoria Huang said, "We are the kind of team that will not give up without a fight and I can guarantee that we will do our best to make it an exciting game." Coach Turner adds, "This group has a lot of talent and athleticism. We have strong players, but aren't dependent on just one player to score or play well." If one gets a chance to sit in the stands, one can most definitely hear voices of encouragement as the team comes together to build each other up and play as one. Team Captain Karen Yates said: "[This year's team is] probably one of the closest basketball teams I've been on out of my three years of playing varsity basketball. I love how well-rounded every player is and that everyone contributes their part."

Not only is the team young, talented, and experienced, Coach Heinsman, who is currently in the US, described the team as "confident." "When I watch the games on YouTube" she said, "it doesn't seem like anyone on the team is afraid of the game." She also mentioned, "A strength of this team is their aggressiveness on defense. This can also be a weakness if players get out of position going for the steal or leaping for the blocked shot and then get beat by the offense." In the interview Coach Heinsman also expresses her sadness of missing the first half of the season and "look[s] forward to getting back and being able to talk to each of the girls on the team."

When asked about his role on the team, Coach Turner says "My role is to help the girls reach their potential as a team... My role is also to let them know that I think that they are an awesome group and that I'm genuinely proud of them!" Therefore one should follow coach Sparrow's advice: "This team's games should be on everyone's schedule each week."



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Hsu's Corner: Compassion

Well, it's been 3 months since Spiritual Life Week when we heard a white man (David Begbie) rap, learned about various compassion ministries, and saw pictures of what it's like to live in a slum (David Nordvedt). If you're anything like me, ideas that I had or ways that God may have been moving me during that week have long faded away. I think this is definitely one area that we can all work on. When the Holy Spirit moves us and nudges us to do something, we need to actually follow through and do it. Although that is easier said than done, my hope is that over break (NO STUDYING TO DO!!!) we will all take some time to remember and reflect upon the stirrings in our hearts that God gave us during SLW. So here are some ideas to merge the Great Commission with the Great Compassion.

1) Sponsor a child. In terms of time commitment, this is probably the easiest one to do. There is no shortage of organizations (Christian and non-Christian) that will take monthly donations, varying in amount, to help sponsor a child. The sponsorship money usually goes towards clothing, food, and education. And depending on how proactive you are, you can definitely develop a relationship with the child you sponsor. The EMS has been sponsoring a child for years so why not sponsor your own? Some organizations that you can check out if you're interested are First Love International Ministries, World Vision, or UNICEF.

2) Research short-term mission trips. One way that increases your understanding and heart for the poor is to take a short-term missions trip. I went to Nepal when I was in high school and it changed my entire world view. Hearing about how dominant Mr. Manu was in basketball pales in comparison to witnessing it firsthand (in high school I went to many of his games)! So if you want to take it one step further, hop online and research summer opportunities to go on a missions trip.

Christmas Concert Pics



Talk to Frank Chiu, Henry Chen, or Jenn Kuo about their trips. It will be well worth it and who knows what doors God will open up because of it. Here are some websites you can check out: heartforafrica.org (Janine Maxwell) and christianvolunteering.org.

3) If you're not quite ready to commit to a trip you can always learn more about issues that you have a heart for and become more educated. There are countless blogs, articles, and books that cover poverty, human trafficking, orphans, and everything in between. The more you learn about an issue, the more likely your passion will grow and the more likely that you will be spurred into action. Who knows? You may get an idea on how to help or it may cause you to pursue a career fighting social justice issues.

4) Find local opportunities. This one might take some more research and digging but this is a great way to be active right away and on a regular basis. Taiwan has many of its own issues and needs to see God's love in action as well. For me, the obvious place to start with this one is Pregnancy Support Center, the organization being started by Mrs. Hsu and Mrs. Rempel. Or maybe you could start helping out with the youth group at DaYi on Sunday nights. Or you could volunteer at an orphanage. Or come and babysit the Hsu kids! =)

5) Finally, pray. Ask God what your response should be. Ask Him what your role is. Talk to friends and adults about what you are thinking. But let everything be rooted in prayer and your relationship with God. I think it is safe to say that whenever we serve, we ourselves are just as blessed as those receiving. God has a specific purpose and plan for each of you, ask Him what that is and trust Him by stepping out in obedience.

Until next time, cock-a-doodle-Hsuuuuuuuuuuuuu!



MERRY CHRISTMAS