

# Morrison Academy

## THE 2012 ECHO 2013

*Taichung, Taiwan*

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### **Echo Staff:**

MARIA HUANG

CHIEF EDITOR/ WRITER

JUBILEE PHAMXUAN

CO-EDITOR/ WRITER

BEN DINGUS

LAYOUT/ DESIGN

CALEB STRANGE

WRITER

FLORENCE DAVIDSON

WRITER

ABRAHAM CHEN

WRITER

ALEX CONN

WRITER

NIKI YANG

WRITER

MR. MANU

SPONSOR

### **"Even I can be used..."**

BY: MARIA HUANG



David J. Begbie shares his passion for the poor.

Cruel, ruthless teachers peered at you behind their tables, time was running out, and you needed more money to sustain your family in the slums. With sticky hands, cramping legs, and duties to fulfill you hasten in making your next paper-bag. David J. Begbie's simulation was just one of the many events that Morrison had during this year's fall spiritual life week to raise awareness for the different needs around us and to experience life in a poverty stricken third-world.

During the simulation, students were put into "families" of 8 to 10 people. Each "family" had to make and sell paper bags handcrafted from newspaper and wet flour. Not only did the families have to acquire money for food, they also had to earn money for rent, sanitation, medicine, and possibly schooling. This activity showed Morrison what it would be like to be born into a family living in the slums and how difficult it was for them to get out of poverty.



Begbie has held similar simulations all over the world. When asked about how to serve, he explained: "It's...such a special thing to think that each one of us... the uniqueness, the quiriness that we bring to the table is actually part of a bigger tapestry of what can be used to serve the planet....there are a lot of things that I'm not... but I am me and the awesome thing is that even I can be used and that's such an encouraging thing...it is also something that I truly carry with me as I speak to people in these activities, because I believe that they too have ways that they can serve; even they can too." Begbie also mentioned that it is essential for those who want to be involved in service to really put thought into: education, empathy, and empowerment.

Along with DJ's poverty simulation, Morrison also had an awareness fair with ten speakers coming from all over the world sharing on seven distinct topics culminating with the 30-hour famine. Bruce Moore, Director of Development, shared on Friday's chapel saying: "It's been a dream of mine that the school would focus a week on this subject and I'm so happy that my friends have put this together." The visiting speakers have all blessed Morrison greatly; our school can continue to partner with them in their ministries through prayer.

*What would you want our school to keep praying for you about?  
What's one encouragement you'd like to leave us with?*

### Cindy Brandt:

Pray the movement of One Day's Wages continue to grow, and more and more people are inspired to partner with us to fight against extreme global poverty. You all can make a difference, whether you're staff, student, parent, or volunteer, each person in the Morrison community can make a difference for the poor. Look into the heart of Jesus and be inspired for action.

### Kris Watson:

Please keep praying that I listen and actively do whatever God tells me. I'm astounded by the calibre of the students who shared their hearts with me, and their eagerness for eternal things and I'm praying that Christ keeps fanning the flame.

### Gloria Hsu & Lana Rempel:

Please pray that we are able to smoothly and quickly get all of the registration/paperwork done...and that God would lead us to the exact buildings He would have for this ministry...keep your eyes and ears out for any 2-3 story buildings in the area! :) We would encourage you to pray and ask God to show you personally what breaks His heart and how He wants you to be a part of His story right now. He desires to speak to you in a very personal way. Nothing is too big for Him. Give Him your dreams and be a part of the crazy awesome adventure He has laid out for you even before you were born! Eph. 2:10 "For YOU are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do."

### Lauren Biebe:

Please continue to pray for discernment and wisdom as God leads and establishes the ministry of H61 in the Philippines; pray for daily strength; financial provisions my partner who is coming in January, as she still has funding needs; and pray for the mil-

lions of people impacted by human trafficking around the world each and every day. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things when we have faith and are simply willing to say "Yes" when He calls...

### David Nordtvedt:

Pray that I pray. It's so easy for activists like myself to be inspired by Jesus but then to go about his work, leaving Jesus in the dust. I've almost done that before! I believe that prayer and action are two inseparable parts of following Jesus, so I want to live this out through a life of prayer and action like Jesus did. Initiate something with your friends today. You have one another and are diverse and creative. Get together and pray during lunch. What risk will that lead you to take? Will you be a compassionate classmate at Morrison? Will you treat the cleaning staff as if they're Jesus himself? Start small. Start today. And don't stop praying because it's Jesus himself we're seeking.

### David J. Begbie:

At the end of our days we will look back at what we have done...each one of us will give an account of how our talents are spent and I think [a question to ask is] 'Have we lived with purpose? Have our lives been spent on things that matter? Have hearts been changed as a result?'

## “Foo..food...”

BY: ABRAHAM CHEN

Blank and lethargic expressions covered the faces of students as they shuffled around aimlessly, zombie-like. Normally, these kids would be up and about, laughing as if they had no care in the whole wide world, but not anymore. Their brain activity has been flatline, only to spike up when the next juice break comes around. Just like mindless sheep who only live for the next patch of grass, lack of food has reduced these lively students down to dumb bags of flesh who yearn for the next juice break..

Sounds dystopian, but that description actually applied to an event that has, and will, help myriad lives. World Vision’s 30-Hour Famine website states that, “every year, hundreds of thousands do the famine,” and consequently, every year, countless lives will be aided.



Starving children in developing countries across the globe, be it Haiti, Madagascar, or Cambodia, have gotten access to a better life, a healthier life.

This year marks the first time the Taichung campus has held the 30-Hour Famine. For thirty hours, students from both middle and high school came together to raise awareness and overcome hunger. True, the description in the first paragraph might’ve applied to a few kids, but joyous smiles covered most of the students’ faces. With open gym, movies, and tons of games to go

around, students were kept busy, thus successfully taking their minds off of the gnawing hunger.

And the results we’ve gotten back from this event is extraordinary. With a mere 200 participants, more than 590,000 NT was raised. This money will be sent to Mongolia, a country where inflation has risen to more than 5000%, a land where more than a third of the population lack access to clean water. Needless to say, the funds we sent to this deprived country is money well spent.

## BOYP Rains Down on Morrison

BY: CALEB STRANGE



The beginning of the year party nearly always sets the tone for the upcoming school year. The pressure is on STUCO to get it right and assure the student body that they will handle the high school’s planned events with tact and thoughtfulness. This year’s Beginning of the Year Party definitely had its fair share of challenges, as most Beginning of the Year Party’s do. A big part of this year’s party was to open the pool to the high school for a time, but this was made impossible by the intense rain shower that dampened the campus. Though initially one might think that this would have ruined the party, STUCO took a different approach to the party.

The plan for this year’s party centered around a chill environment, and for most part, that’s what they accomplished. STUCO president, Tiffany Yeh, says “We didn’t plan on

having the rain, so our plans for the pool didn’t work, but our goal was to have people chill and chill they did.” Before and after dinner was served, STUCO offered an open gym, which turned out to be a huge success. After interviewing several different high school students, they offered mostly positive feedback on the chosen environment by STUCO, and no one had anything negative to say about the open gym. The general thought on improvement came from the lacking of any mixer that had been planned. Otherwise, the party was an overall success. So in the long run, STUCO handled the nasty turn of events with tact and it paid off.



# The 2012 Class Elections

BY: ALEX CONN

Along with the new school year comes a batch of new representatives for each class in high school. Similar to the elections in America, each contestant has worked hard to win their place as president. But unlike the elections in America, Maria Huang, senior class president, does not have Joe Biden as her right wing. The presidents of each class were eager to answer questions about their inspirations and goals for this year, showing a high level of maturity and dedication.



This year, Howard was elected as Freshman class president. Seeing how the middle school STUCO interacted with the student body, he hopes to see that the student body will be more involved in making important decisions, saying “Let their voice be the difference”. As the president this

year, he wishes to “improve the communication between the class officers and the student body.” He also wishes to “try to plan events that will make this an unforgettable year.”

Kevin Liao was recently elected to the position of Sophomore Class President. In 8th grade, Kevin was a member of the Student Council, STUCO, which helped plan parties and pep rallies for the class. The following year, Freshman year, Kevin was elected Treasurer, which he described as “Fun, especially making sure that the cash box wasn’t stolen.” Although Kevin doesn’t have a political hero, he does look up, literally, to NBA star Jeremy Lin, because of Lin’s ability to prove all those stereotypes wrong: “[Jeremy Lin] was the person that kind of broke the rule that athletes can’t do well in school...he proved that it is possible to play really well in sports and maintain good grades.”



Kevin is very clear of what he wants to achieve, “I want to help make the activities more organized, including our concession, and kind of make it so that people can understand it more.” Kevin says that this will be different from the past, when

things were “a little bit chaotic because the steps weren’t given so clearly... so people were kind of confused.” But it’s not all about education, planning and organizing. Kevin says some of his goals this year include making “our activities more fun” so that the class will want to “engage in it.”, and Kevin wants to create clubs for students so that “people can interact and learn stuff together, and also get to make friends with everyone.”



Jamie Wong was elected as junior class president this year, and is very enthusiastic about the goals she plans to achieve. Jamie said that her biggest goal this year is to have a good junior carnival. It’s not all about the money though, as she just wants this carnival to be

“big and easily remembered by everyone”.

Jamie described the junior class as being “fun”, and “likes to talk a lot”. Which she explains can be hard at times, especially when functioning as a class, but she did say that she was impressed the last few times they were working, because everyone seemed to have “good attitudes”, and that they “actually worked”. Jamie is influenced by both her brother and her sister, who have had experience with being and working in office. Jamie explained that her brother was STUCO president six years ago, and her sister was STUCO president four years ago.



The last president interviewed was Maria Huang. Maria was elected as Senior Class President this year, but this is not the first time she has been in office. Maria was class president last year, and says that “I really enjoyed the experience”. Maria decided to run again this year because “I felt like

I had a responsibility” and also because, “I had been through so much with the class and wanted to stick it out.” Along with being class president two years in a row, Maria was also STUCO rep freshmen year. Someone who inspires Maria is a former STUCO president Janice Wong, whom she claims is “a good example of a student leader”.

This year Maria plans on helping her class realize that they don’t have to be what people want them to be saying, “we are ourselves, and we don’t have to live up to anybody’s expectations.” She also plans on just “having fun”. When asked about any improvements she is planning to make, she replied, “I’m hoping that we could bond with underclassmen somehow.” Maria is not so much “impressed” with the senior class, but says that she loves her class, because they cannot be “defined by anything”.

All four presidents, Howard Chang, Kevin Liao, Jamie Wong, and Maria Huang, are hopefully going to lead their class through a fun yet productive year where each goal will be achieved and demonstrated through the students. Although the elections at Morrison weren’t quite as chaotic as the presidential elections in America, these four class presidents have worked hard to earn their place in office.

# Miss Hearn Interview

BY: JUBILEE PHAMXUAN



Walking into Miss Hearn's office, the place looks organized, yet homely. Memories are scattered throughout; fading pictures framed and propped up; snapshots of past graduates resting on the bookshelves. She turns in her rolling chair to face the door, looking like summer with her cropped, auburn hair and brightly colored shirt. Somewhat rowdy students hustle back and forth jokingly, and she offhandedly chases them

away saying, "Get out, I'm busy" whilst wearing a practiced, but undoubtedly genuine smile. Then she nonchalantly stands up, and goes in for the hug. In a good way, this is not where Miss Sharon Hearn ever thought she would end up being.

Despite being the daughter of two TCKs, Miss Hearn spent some years wandering away from the Lord while growing up in California, moving to three towns and attending five different schools. After college, Miss Hearn ended up in a good-paying technical marketing and communications profession. However, it was not until she was in her thirties

that she found the calling to be a counselor. This all eventually led her here to Morrison, and upon first arriving in Taiwan and on campus Miss Hearn commented that, "It was green, exciting, new. [But] I was scared because I never worked in a school setting. I was the first counselor here [to have a clinical background] too". Regardless of her initial insecurity, she has survived working here at Morrison for the past four years.

Working as a high school counselor can prove to be difficult though and Miss Hearn describes the daily challenges of the job as "Getting my schedule worked out [and] working with kids," giving a good-humored laugh, "but I get to sit and talk to people all day" she adds.

However, Miss Hearn is only working part time this semester, focusing more on the missionary kids on campus to fill in for the other counselor Mrs. Julie Heinsman who is currently on furlough. Next semester, she will be working off-campus, but wants to assure students that she will still be around to freely talk to and give a hug whether or not it's needed. Either way, Miss Hearn's various appearances on campus will dip down. When asked about one thing she'll miss most about Morrison, she paused thoughtfully, then said with certainty, "The support of my colleagues", while the least are mandatory meetings, which she chuckled somewhat guiltily at.

## Hsu's Corner: Anger Management

What does Mr. Hsu know about anger management? Does he ever get angry at all? Well, you'd be surprised...just ask the Hsu boys. =) The stereotypical view of anger management (there's even a movie called Anger Management) is someone just losing it, throwing plates, yelling, and just plain old going crazy. But I'd like to include those people who know they get angry but don't necessarily act on it. And so it gets buried and ignored. Then it happens again and again and again. Eventually you become a bitter person that just oozes cynicism and skepticism and everything makes you angry. I've been there before. So with all of that in mind, here are 5 tips for managing your anger. Disclaimer: the true expert in the CC is Mrs. Craker. She NEVER gets angry. So please direct all questions to her!



- 1) Walk away. I think we all know when we are reaching that snapping point. It takes maturity to recognize that point and CHOOSE to not go there and walk away.
- 2) Exercise. We've all heard that exercise releases happy brain chemicals, gives you more energy, and helps you feel better about yourself.
- 3) Replace anger with something positive. Or funny. Or both. When Carter and Hudson are fighting, sometimes I'll tell them to stand nose-to-nose, hug, and then sing "Why can't we be friends" together. What I really mean is choose something positive to focus on when you start feeling angry.
- 4) Forgive yourself! You're a teenager. One day you're best friends and the next day you won't even say hi. OK, I'm exaggerating but as a teenager you're still figuring out who you are, how to interact with people, and what your values are. Allow yourself to experience your emotions in a healthy way without beating yourself up about it.
- 5) Ask for help. If you need to cry, see Ms. Hearn. If you need to be fed, see Mrs. Craker. If you just need a beating, you can come see me! All kidding aside, talking about situations and venting can prevent you from bottling things up inside and will help diffuse some of that anger.

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

# Up Close with Misty Miller

BY: FLORENCE DAVIDSON



It's almost 3:30 in the afternoon, and Misty Miller isn't around. I did get an email saying that she would be at her office, but I can't find her; Misty is eventually discovered in the basement. "I'm sorry," she says, "I got tied up," and we go to her office together.

For those of you who don't know who Misty Miller is, she works in the K-8 division of Morrison Academy, as guidance counselor and as the leader of the middle school worship team. She also serves as the assistant coach for the girls' HS soccer team.

Miller is originally from Cincinnati. She tells me that this is her second year working at Morrison, and her third time in Taiwan. Why Taiwan? "God's plans," Miller smiles. "It's a funny thing, the first time; I had graduated with my bachelor's degree and was looking for work. I ended up teaching English." Even though she had returned to the US, Taiwan's appeal somehow kept calling her. "It was interesting for me, as a Christian, to see a nation that didn't know about God, or at least not very much. That was a first-time thing for me, and eventually I began to feel God calling me back. What attracted me to Morrison was the counseling program they had."

How does Miller find her job of counseling at Morrison? "It's very fulfilling," she says. "Before Morrison, I had done counseling with senior citizens, but I think that working with children and preteens is something I like better, because providing guidance to people in the beginning

stages in their lives is one of the most important things we can do."

Besides giving exploratory, or e-classes on Life Topics to K-8 classes once a week, Ms. Miller also leads the middle school worship team. "Challenging," is how she describes it. "I hadn't expected a lot of the things, and at first I didn't know where to get things or just how things worked, generally speaking. It's very enjoyable, though. I really like working with the students in my class." "She reminds us to pray," says Marie Drevets, a student on the worship team. "She helps us by reminding us that we are doing it for God, not just performing for a crowd." This year is Miller's first year on the worship team. "Miss Miller is very much like an audience," comments worship team student Karissa Kimble. "She will give us tips on how to do better, she will critique us, but she isn't hard on us. She gives us good coaching."

Last year's worship team was initiated by Morrison students themselves, but this year, it has been added to part of the class schedule as an official class, with its own time period. "This way," Miller explains, "We don't have to work schedules around to see who can meet after school – chapel practice is part of the school day." The middle school worship team sings in the morning chapel for middle school, and once a month the elementary grades and the middle school students have a joint chapel, which the middle school team also performs at.

In closing, I asked Ms. Miller if she has anything to say to potential readers of this interview, especially the K-8 group. She pauses for a while before she responds. "I think that what I want to say is to just bring all your worries to God. Even though I, or a parent, or any teacher are there for the students to talk to, the One who will always be there for students, and the one who can help you with any problems or difficulties, is Jesus. We should never be hesitant to bring our problems to God."

# Rage

MCA STUDENT

Feel it boil beneath  
Feel it tremble below  
Feel it grow in you and let go of control

Let loose fury  
Let loose anger  
Let loose that which burns from within

Unleash your wrath  
Unleash cruel pain  
Unleash it all on those who are near

Use it to take them down  
Use it to break and burn  
Use it to silence those who mock and scoff

Watch and you will see  
Watch them run and hide  
Watch, as your world crumbles about you

Feel its condemning flow  
Feel its fatal sting  
Feel the regret grip your heart

Pray for forgiveness  
Pray to forget  
Pray for the strength to grow

Accept their fury  
Accept their judgment  
Accept it with a heart of love

Know that it's over  
Know you need help  
Know your savior's peace



# New Faces. New Record

BY: MARIA HUANG

Morrison sent off our crazy, fun-loving, and easy-going 2012 class earlier this year, the campus thus shrinking in size. Consequently a population boom occurred when school started. When asked about how she felt on the first day of school, senior Gaothajying said: "I felt like I was brand new because there were so many new faces." As all the new students swarmed into school few noticed that all the blue Morrison lockers were filled up! Mrs. Craker said that this has never happened to our school in the past. Each year there would be a few lockers left empty, but that isn't our case this year. The lockers are not the only thing new students would notice about our school. Senior Alex Finch, who went to GCA last year,

gave his first impression of our school: "I thought it was really American. I was super surprised...[The campus] seemed big... [it] was huge but the school is well-organized..." To make each individual more welcomed, the Counseling Center assigned buddies to each new student on the first day of school. Senior Florence Davidson says: "I thought it was a good idea to have someone who's already been there and knows stuff; it's convenient that he/she is from your class too." Not only did we have more than 50 new students, there were also more than ten new and returning teachers added to our campus. Get to know two of the new teachers.

## Mr. Doug Bradburn

Staff Position: Professional Learning Coach & Health Class Teacher

Previous school: MAK

First impression of Morrison: I felt like this school's pretty laid back compared to the previous public schools I've taught in. It's nice seeing people being friendly to each other. What also really stood out to me was how apparent the Christian culture is in Morrison.

Family:

kids: Makaela (5th grade); Cole (3rd grade), and Tyler (2nd grade).

His wife, Missy, works for System Services as the School Improvement Coordinator.

Interesting facts:

- Is Rachel and Caleb Strange's uncle
- Was enlisted in the United States Navy for 4 years active duty
- Has served in the Indiana Army National Guard for 4 years while attending college
- Has coached American football for 20 years including 5 years as a varsity head coach
- plays fantasy football with MCA teachers
- Loves watching Hockey
- into photography
- plays xBOX 360



## Mr. Dave Freeman

Staff Position: 8th grade Homeroom, Humanities teacher, 7th grade Bible Teacher, MS Team Leader

Previous School: Last five years in the U.S. - 1 yr at public school, 4 yrs at private school.

First impression of Morrison: "I was really impressed with the new buildings, the facilities, and the professionalism of the Morrison teachers."

Family:

wife and 3 kids: baby, Izzy (2nd grade), Max (3rd grade)

Interesting Facts:

- Taught at Bethany for three years
- Is a Morrison alum 94'
- Is Mr. Garret Freeman's cousin
- Has had a goatee for about 8 years now
- Goes crazy when students won't stop repeating after him when he says stop for the "repeat after me" game
- People think he is the funniest person on campus or... maybe the planet.
- loves outdoor activities (beaches, mountains, rivers...)
- Went to Chinese school until 6th grade (Binlang Guoxiao - Betelnut Elementary)
- once dunked on Mr. Manu in a basketball game.
- Loves to laugh and make other people laugh.

Looks forward to....

personally: Living in Taiwan again because it's my true home"

professionally: "...the part I get to play in my students' lives because middle school is a crucial time when kids' beliefs, direction, and self value can be shaped."

# The Tower

BY: ABRAHAM CHEN

As one of the taller structures on campus, the water tower can be seen from almost everywhere inside the school. It is so significant that it even has its own photo on the school website. In



addition to its dominant physical presence, the tower provides much-needed water to the whole campus.

It is the pump, the heart, that sends water coursing through the pipes and vessels of our campus. Because of its prestigious status, it is important that the water tower has a physical appearance befitting of its reputation. That is why the art teacher, Mr. Chang, decided to give it a re-painting last summer. "It was...ugly," he admitted, somewhat embarrassed, "I've been looking at [the water tower] for thirty-six years. It was about time to renew it."

In addition to the new painting at the top, Mr. Chang has planned a complete revamping of the bottom part of the tow-

er. If you happen to walk by the tower, you can see that one side of the wall is almost filled with glossy and colorful tiles, save for a small corner. The artwork that has been put up is only a fraction of the tiles and pottery that will be put up there. Mr. Chang plans on turning the room at the base of the tower into a small cottage-looking house. Bricks will be added on the flat ceiling, arranged in a stair pattern so that it looks like a roof, and on each step there will be a piece of pottery. The sides of the roof will also be plastered with tiles.

When asked the reason behind this project, Mr. Chang said the goal is, "to display and preserve students' work." When I walked into the pottery room for the first time, I was utterly astonished at the staggering amount of artwork that has been preserved. The shelves were literally packed with tiles and pieces of pottery, therefore, I was puzzled at the fact that he wanted to "preserve" the work, for all of it is already, well, preserved! He replied, explaining that the current art room will be torn down to make way for the new pool. Even though a new art room shall be built, he saw the water tower as "a way to save the countless works of my students. Plus, [it] is a nice place to display it."

The theme of such a project is to save a history of the art of the school. The artwork that is to be up there will be a union across the ages. Mr. Chang has been a teacher on this campus for 36

years, so needless to say, he has seen his share of antique pottery. As he gave me a mini-tour on his oldest collections, I saw a nostalgic hint of a smile crinkle on his face as he took out a dusty tile from the bottom of a stack. "This piece was made more than 30 years ago," he said, "in 1980 by a girl named Susan Sluder. She came back a couple of times to visit after she graduated, and one time, she even brought her daughter along."

Be it new or prehistoric, the artwork Mr. Chang has saved up will be put on the water tower. They will mainly be works of students, but teachers' and parents' artwork may also go up. This project has already commenced, but it will be an ongoing one.

He finished the interview with a flourish, saying, "Out of all the teachers, I've been here the longest. Thirty six years. One day, I'll have my own hand print tile on that tower."



## SWIMMING SWIMMING SWIM TEAM

BY: NIKI YANG

The Swim Team is a unique sport that has both genders practicing together. Some people don't know much about the swim team, so here's some notable information from head coach Schmidt himself.

This year's swim team, has a total of 55 swimmers, 2 managers, and 7 coaches. Among the swimmers there are 44 high schoolers and 11 middle schoolers. The coaches include Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Schirmer, Mr. Aldag, Mr. and Mrs. Falk, Mrs. Ellis, and Mrs. Olivier. Coach Schmidt says, "From beginner to experienced, middle schooler to high schooler..." the variety of swimmers are endless.

Swim Team workouts are similar throughout the week. They start with

"dryland" on Mondays and Thursdays. Otherwise the warm-up starts with a simple round of "slow and steady" laps. After a quick breather, swimmers move on to sets, which include kicking, pulling, and other drills. Near the end of practice there are timed laps so swimmers can compare their times. The practices are tough and push every swimmer to the limits of their abilities, in other words, until one may vomit from pure exhaustion.

Coach Schmidt says, "We don't care about place, being in the top ten is amazing in itself...our real goal is that swimmers work hard and try their best." The team follows a program called "Champions of Character". This year the Swim team will be participating in several

meets: The Morrison Community Swim Meet, the Brent invitational in the Philippines, the meet with TAS, the intersquad meet, and to conclude everything, a meet at Ming Dao.

The team has a lot of improvement to do, but the swimmers are excited for this season, as well as the coaches, and hopefully, the student body.





# Varsity Volleyball Expectations

BY: NIKI YANG



This year's Varsity Volleyball team is a lively, fun-loving one and has the responsibility of defending their championship. Some girls return to play on the team, and others are new and looking forward to the experience. This year, the team consists of 4 seniors, 5 juniors, and 1 sophomore: Victoria Huang, Ilona Heiskanen, Bridget Homer, Karen Yates, Hanna Kim, Dean Manu, Bethanie Pagel, Selina Taylor, Teresa Chen, Nicole Turner. Both of their coaches, Mrs. Beth Turner and Mrs. Nancy Wittgow were interviewed concerning their team.

Do you think you have a good chance this season? Any specific goals? Coach Turner replied that they "absolutely" have a chance to be champions again. She recalled that the goals for the year were to improve attitudes and competitiveness. Coach Wittgow mentioned an acronym they went by, "TOUGH". "T" stands for "Teamwork", "O" stands for "Outstanding", "U" stands for "Unity", "G" stands for "Glorified", and "H" stands for "Hustled"

Do you think your team is a lively one this year? Do you think they'll work well as a team? Both Coaches responded with a simple word, "Yes". Coach Wittgow also mentioned that they were a fun, lively group, but knew how to work hard. Coach Turner then added that they "all have great attitudes, high potential, young, and focused."

What events will you be participating in? The Varsity Girls will be participating in the Far East Tournament near the end of the season (November 2nd-10th), located in Daegu, Korea.

Anything that you're hoping to improve about your team? At this Coach Wittgow laughed and asked "Is there anything not to improve? It's the beginning of the season after all". Coach Turner emphasized and mentioned that she'd like the team to improve their confidence.

Remember to support the Volleyball team and their motivated spirits as they continue to glorify God with their talents and energy. Both coaches are looking forward to this season, they hope that the school is too.

# Surging Mustang Soccer

BY: CALEB STRANGE

This new school year has brought many new students, and with these new students, come new attitudes, new faces, and a lot of new personalities. Little more than half way through their season, both men and women's soccer teams are looking up.

The girl's team, which usually suffers from small numbers of players, hasn't let that faze them. Team captain Gaoythajying Her added "We're a really hardworking team, with more skill than I initially thought we'd have. This year's team really knows how to push. They're all really motivated and I'm happy to call us the Varsity Soccer Girls". Though tight on numbers, they make up for it with the heart and passion that they play with. Starting the season with a tied game and a recent 5-2 win over Community, they're optimistic about what future games hold, as well as the Five Nations Cup, which will be held at Morrison this

year for the ladies.

The men's Mustang soccer teams, who are nine games deep into their season with only one loss, are looking forward as well, with hopes at taking back the Five Nations Cup. With last year's tournament ending with Morrison placing third in the tournament, it has left the returning Mustangs hungry for a championship. Returning veteran strikers, Stephen Tong and Aidan Van Singel are leading the way on the offense for the Mustangs, many times leading them to victory. "Yeah, we're really looking good this year, I feel we have a good work ethic and it's going to take us places in the Five Nations Cup this year" said team Captain Grant Robinson. The tournament this year will take place at Grace International Academy in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Be sure to watch and cheer on our Mustangs as their season continues!



# Music Review: Life Will Write The Words by The Rocket Summer

BY: JUBILEE PHAMXUAN



Having taken the phrase “one-man band” to a whole new level for twelve years and counting, The Rocket Summer’s 2012 summer release *Life Will Write The Words* provides a fresh spin on the pop-rock he’s known but not well known for.

The Rocket Summer is actually a solo-project headed by a certain man of faith named Bryce Avary. In a very tedious process, he writes, sings, plays the instruments, records, and produces every single song on his albums. Avary started out his music career with three

records: *Calendar Days* (2003), *Hello, Good Friend* (2005), and *Do You Feel* (2007). It wasn’t until his fourth album, *Of Men and Angels* (2010), that Avary’s talent was recognized on a big scale. In the present day, Bryce’s 5th release *Life Will Write The Words* is chock full of various musical influences and wide-ranging vocals, bound together with controlled creativity which in turn makes a remarkable twelve-track album.

“Run and Don’t Stop” and “Underrated” are songs that are self-explanatory but motivating, getting your head nodding to the beat while also comprehending the uplifting lyrics. On the flip side, there are also emotional songs that deal with growing up, a struggle in faith, and memories past such as “Just For a Moment Forget Who You Are”, “Soldiers”, and “Scrapbook” which reflect Avary’s maturity in both personal and melodious terms. There are also the downright positive songs like “Revival”, “Old Love”, and “200,000” that also contain traces of various bands, such as Coldplay, Owl City, and the

Fray. But past listeners will also be glad to hear “The Rescuing Type” and “Prove It”, which are reminiscent of Bryce’s older work, with catchy riffs building to an explosion of structured noise that keeps you in time with the rise and fall of the song. However, a personal favorite of mine would have to be the seventh track, “Circa ‘46”. The opening discordant piano and fast rhythm instantly catch your attention, and this sunny song ends up being a fantastic display of Avary’s vocal flexibility. The whole album then gets a strong ending with “Ashes Made of Spades”, going full out rock-and-roll with a forceful culmination and concluding with a soft fade-out.

All in all, *Life Will Write The Words* is a well-rounded, tuneful record with happy-go-lucky sounds and some diverse experimentation which will please first time listeners. Add to that an undercurrent of familiarity, and this definitely makes a notable addition for those familiar with The Rocket Summer.

## Bullying: Worse on the Internet?

BY: FLORENCE DAVIDSON

Whether you are listening to music on YouTube, checking news on FaceBook, or simply exchanging opinions on an online forum, you have probably encountered cyber bullying in some form. But what IS cyber-bullying?



The long and boring definition tells us that cyber bullying is using digital communication systems to intimidate, embarrass, hurt, abuse, or humiliate another individual. More simply, cyber-bullying is like real bullying, except that the nasty words are exchanged over the Internet. Cyber bullying is most often applied to children, adolescents, and teenagers, but just like in the real world, this kind of bullying can also happen to adults. So what effect does it have? What happens when people cyber-bully each other?

A Morrison student speaking anonymously commented on the issue of cyber-bullying, saying that seeing some comments on a forum made him think that, “They didn’t care what others had to say, they didn’t think any one’s opinion was important. All they wanted to do was

push what they thought, and bully anyone who disagreed.”

Another Morrison student described cyber-bullying as “Very personal - these people didn’t even know me and they called me the worst things, kind of like we had been enemies forever. I felt like they hated me.”

Using the Internet to bully someone else is often considered by the bully to be far more convenient, easy, and effective than normal face-to-face bullying. For one thing, due to the easy anonymity that the Internet provides, it is usually hard for the victim to be able to tell where the attacks come from.

Victims of cyber bullying may be bullied by people they know, or people they have only met digitally – through an Internet chat room or an online forum. Things like temporary emails or changing user-names give the attackers easy access to their victims and almost no fear of retribution. Also, as a faceless enemy, cyber bullies may feel more comfortable expressing ideas and views that they wouldn't normally say out loud.

Many Internet forums today lack proper moderators and supervision, allowing whatever comments to be posted despite what the forum's rules may be. This is especially true of social networking websites such as FaceBook or MySpace, where little, if any, moderation goes on, and things are only removed if/when they are reported. Electronic bullying also goes past outdoors and right into the victim's home, a place where traditionally victims hide from harassment. Cyber bullying is not limited to hurtful comments or hate mail – it may not even involve the victim being targeted personally. A popular form of cyber bullying is posting edited or embarrassing photos of the victim online with derogatory captions or with the simple goal of exposing the person to ridicule.

According to research, cyber bullying is one of the fastest growing problems many American youth face today – at least when it comes to digital communications. The National Crime Prevention Council reports cyber-bullying is a problem that affects almost half of all American teens and children. 43% of U.S. teens have experienced some form of cyber bullying in the past year, according to a survey conducted in 2006 by Harris Interactive. In September 2006, ABC News reported on a survey prepared

by I-Safe.Org. This 2004 survey of 1,500 students between grades 4-8 reported:

- 42% of kids have been bullied while online. One in four have had it happen more than once.
- 21% of kids have received mean or threatening e-mails or other messages.
- 58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online. More than four out of ten say it has happened more than once.
- 58% of the kids that have been bullied have not told their parents or an adult about something mean or hurtful that happened to them online.

The suicide of a 13 year old girl, Megan Meier, that resulted from cyber bullying drew attention to the problem of cyber bullying, but the harmful effects of that case are not unusual; one of the most common effects for people that have been bullied this way is that the person begins to avoid friends, family, and socializing. (Wikipedia)

Efforts to raise awareness and combat cyber bullying have resulted in several projects and films. Laws have been passed and organizations formed in recent years in an effort to stop cyber-bullying.

In 2007, YouTube introduced the first Anti-Bullying Channel for youth, (BeatBullying) engaging the assistance of celebrities to tackle the problem. A film called Adina's Deck was created by Debbie Horowitz, a Master's student at Stanford, based on accredited Stanford research. The film is now being used in classrooms nationwide, designed to alleviate problems students had understanding the topic.

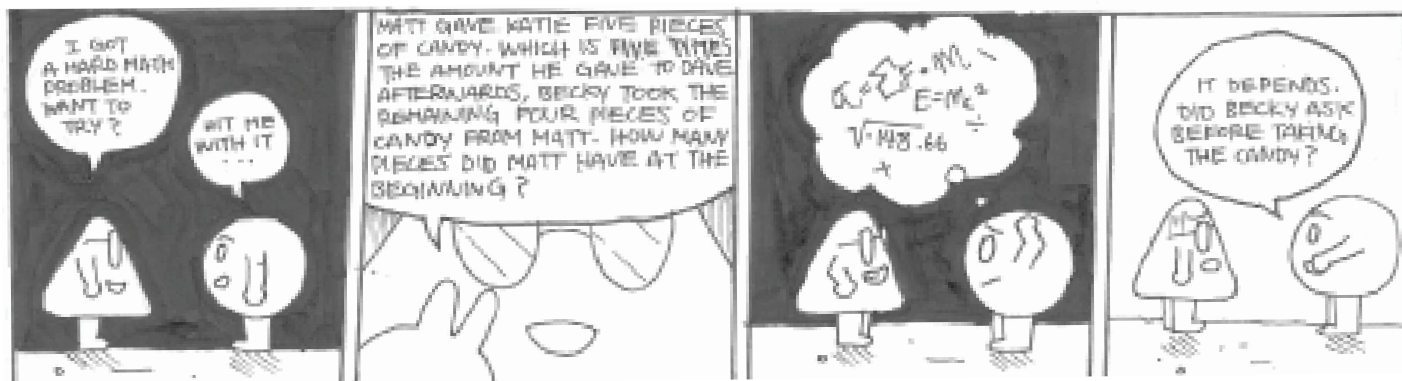
Knowing about cyber bullying is important to everyone, especially children



in middle school and teenagers in high school, as they use the Internet arguably more than most. Children and teenagers learning about proper online behavior is important because it will help them to recognize cyber-bullying when it occurs, either in their own conversations or in other people's online interaction.

If you think you have been cyber-bullied or have cyber-bullied yourself, you probably recognize many of the things mentioned in this article. The most important thing to remember about cyber-bullying is that it is harmful and has damaging consequences. It is not a light matter --it is possibly even more serious than normal bullying. If you have been cyber-bullied and it is bothering you, talking to a school counselor, parent, or someone you trust will help matters.

## Dumb and Dumber BY: TIMOTHY BAIR





# Changing the World...With Games?

BY: ABRAHAM CHEN

Back in 2010, the average amount of time being spent on playing games was 8 hours per week. Doesn't sound like much, right? But that was two years ago. It is suggested, through extensive studies, that people spend no more than 21 hours per week. In the book "A View from the Marketplace: Games Now and Going Forward", it states that in the most extreme cases, more than five million gamers are spending up to 45 hours a week on video games. As more and more time is being used on videogames, its industry expands exponentially. It is projected that the gaming industry will hit the \$70 billion mark by 2015. Games are perhaps more seductive than the infamous song of the Sirens in Greek mythology, which lured countless sailors to their bloody deaths. So what is it that makes video games so enticing, so attractive? The obvious answer is that it's entertaining or fun. However, in "Reality is Broken - Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World", by Jane McGonigal, the more evasive reasons are examined in-depth, and flipped around on their heads.

McGonigal wrote this book to prove the bad hype attributed to videogames false by explaining fundamental advantages of games. True, many people do prefer playing games over living their real lives, but there are countless reasons and factors behind that. This book sums it up into fourteen main reasons, nicknamed "fixes" for reality. For the first section of the book, McGonigal dives into the more elusive explanations of why games are so attractive. For example, games are able to unite people around the world to be part of something bigger than themselves; gamers frequently collaborate on an epic scale to accomplish a common goal. One MCA student says the incentive for working together makes it "easier to accomplish a goal. That way, you can get the most fun out of the game when you beat it right? That's what games are there for!" The author uses examples such as Halo or World of Warcraft to prove her point. Both of these games, along with many others, have successfully united millions of people to strive towards a bigger goal. The game Halo was able to muster the

largest army on earth, albeit virtual and not real, which consisted of 15 million gamers to fight for one goal: eradicate 10 billion enemies, who are known as the Covenant Empire. This is the kind of potential that, when harnessed and applied to all 7 billion people on Earth, can truly change the world for the better. McGonigal sees that, and is working to develop a way to use games to improve personal happiness and to tap into the intellectual resources of seven billion people.

Based on McGonigal's views, reality sucks when compared to games; the real world proves to be disappointing, depressing, and altogether lacking in motivation. One particular game series that addresses this problem is the NBA 2K series. A MCA basketball



lover states, "When I am not shooting well on the court, I would go home and play NBA 2K11 on PS3 to score every single basket. It makes me feel like I am better than I actually am." Another great feeling games provide is when your character gets improved statistics and skills. The exhilarating moment when the words "Level Up" pop up on your screen, followed by various plus signs with numbers that indicate the improved stats is what one particular designer realized could elevate people's lives, for it provides the support and encouragement so many of us desperately need. With his application, anybody could send an email or message that adds one more point to his or her stat sheet, such as "+1 innovation for your mind-blowing design!"

Those applications and games are helpful to individuals or small groups, but McGonigal has seen a way to integrate game-like situations into real life on a world changing scale. For example, she has put out a game that more or less created an oil-less world that

required participants to live their lives as if that was the case. Aptly named "World Without Oil," the game tried to propose a solution to an energy crisis. Players had to cut down on their energy consumption, in their real lives, and thought up of new ways to collaborate in the environment. Basically, they were handicapped to live like they normally would. It made people imagine and invent the future as a team. The game was a huge success, in terms of the satisfaction of the gamers. It was not so in terms of the amount of participation, for only a couple thousand or so people took part of this unconventional program.

McGonigal attempts to paint a picture of a world where all 7 billion people are working together, through games, to solve problems that require scientific research and international government collaboration. One MCA student mocks her idea, saying, "[Leaders] should stop dreaming, get out of their chairs, and actually do something to solve the issues at hand." McGonigal's proposal of a near utopian world quickly falls apart, for such teamwork and collaboration would require unimaginable amounts of money and effort to be poured into crossing cultural and technological boundaries. Her ideas sound very convincing when packaged with her arguments for a better world, but when it is scrutinized under the magnifying glass of reality, McGonigal's proposal falls into pieces.

All games lose their charm sooner or later, as is the case for Jane McGonigal's book "Reality Is Broken". With clear-cut ideas and well supported examples, she is able to produce a satisfying argument on the benefits games could have on real life. She elaborates on the advantages and opportunities, but fails to fully convey her unconventional and ambitious solution of a better world. It's amusing to read about it, and is definitely stimulating to the brain, but McGonigal's eccentric vision has little, if any, chance of actually coming true. Reality cannot simply be "fixed" by games. As a MCA student puts it, games only provide a "feel good, delusory feeling of achieving something in a virtual world," and not actually capable of changing real life for the better.

# 400+ Puzzles, Tomahawks, and 12 year old Champions

BY: NIKI YANG



This October, people will have the opportunity to be in different worlds. Each game has its own respective genre. From fantasy to gore, from dancing to puzzles, the variety this month is endless for almost any console, this month there are some pretty great games to look out for!

People are expecting October 7th to be a big day. Black and White 2 has been heavily anticipated for a while. Several people are wanting translations for those who've already gotten the Japanese version. The announcement of Black and White 2 came as a surprise, as this was the first edition of Pokémon to feature a '2' in its name as a sequel instead of a separate title all together. However leaked images of new features, characters, and Pokémon stirred up curiosity and led to people demanding to know more. The fact that it was going to be released for the Nintendo DS also surprised some people, seeing as the leaked screenshots showed 3D like features. This actually excited people more because of the 3D graphics. Previous protagonists return with new designs, and new characters with new traits and importance to the plot, an example of this is former Gym Leader Iris, who has now become Champion. Having been a fan of Pokémon for a while, I'm sure I'm going to buy it!

There's a lot of controversy about the "Just Dance" and "Dance Central" series being released on October 9 and 16 respectively. Just Dance was developed by Ubisoft, while Dance Central was developed by Harmonix. The two games are receiving sequels this October, with new songs, players, and dances. Both are similar in concept and instruction, but reviews say otherwise. The

"Just Dance" series features a wide variety of songs, more or less 'modern' and 'popular' songs that are appropriate for a younger audience. However the actual game is simply dancing and doing your thing. The point system has previously been rated as 'sloppy' however, as there is actually no solid way of counting/keeping track of your score. This ended up causing the first Just Dance scoring a 49/100 on the website Metacritic. The "Dance Central" series relies more on your hands and legs, and making the movements dictated on the screen. It reads your hand/leg movements and determines if it's close enough to what they asked for. It's extremely strict and formulaic, but dancing nonetheless. It contains songs not as well known by young audience but with several famous songs available as downloadable content. The first Dance Central scored a 82/100 on Metacritic, and was mentioned on several occasions to be the best Kinect game so far. Just Dance has been recommended as a party game, something to play with a group of friends for fun. Dance Central is more for serious gamers who desire a score, achievements, and unlockable content. However, which game you want for your October gaming is totally up to you.



The Professor Layton series is still very popular and liked. Continuing the series as its fifth game is Professor Layton and the Miracle Mask for 3DS developed by Level-5 being released October 26. It's also going to be the first Layton game to be available in 3D; in Japan it was released along with the 3DS, and sold over 117,000 copies. Like

all other Professor Layton games, it is an adventure game that requires you to solve puzzles given to you by other people to progress in the game. The story is set a year after the previous game, and there are over 400 puzzles for you to solve. Like its predecessor, it is actually a game speaking of Layton's past and how he met his assistants. The story this time features a new antagonist, the Masked Gentleman. Prophecying the destruction of the city because of the mask, Layton and co. give chase. And as usual, Layton will use his expert puzzle-solving skills to solve the mystery once again.

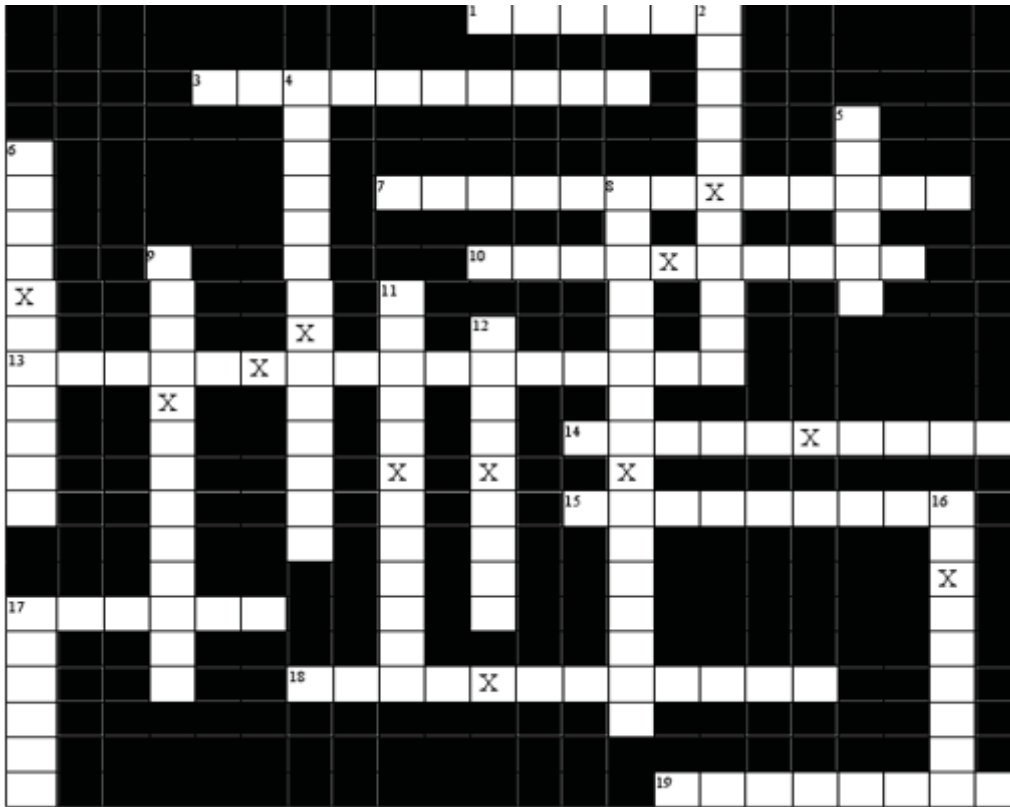


The Assassin's Creed series is probably what made Ubisoft one of the most successful gaming companies. The epic series shall continue October 30 with its third installment, set before, during, and after the American Revolution. The game also features a new protagonist introduced as "Connor", and like previous installments, will feature real historical figures. There will also be new weapons to match the time period/area, such as the tomahawk, pistols, and the bow and arrow. Other new features include better graphics, mechanics, animation, as well as a more realistic addition to the game, animal hunting. Animals may be able to tell if you're hunting them, and Connor can tell if he's being chased by an animal. Additionally, animal hide values will be determined by how, where, and with what weapon you kill the animal. Ubisoft has declared this Assassin's Creed to be the biggest and best yet, and is something to be looking forward to!

# Olympic Crossword

DO NOT FILL IN BOXES WITH AN X

BY: FLORENCE DAVIDSON



## Across:

1. Where the Olympics began, long ago. (city, not country)
3. This sport showcased female athletes like Gabby Douglas.
7. This British female runner won gold in the heptathlon.
10. This weightlifter from Kazakhstan set a world record when he lifted 418 kilograms.
13. South African runner, first amputee to ever compete in the Olympics.
14. Won gold in the Olympics' oldest sport, dubbed "Lightning Bolt." Considered fastest man ever.
15. This young British athlete is known for his abs, his looks, and his diving.
17. This sport already exists, but was added for women for the first time in 2012.
18. Qat'ar, Brunei, and this nation all sent female athletes for the first time in 2012.
19. This sport needed special permission, as it otherwise would have been illegal in the UK.

## Down:

2. This iconic girl band lent their performance to the Olympics' closing ceremony.
4. Perhaps the most famous athlete, a swimming champion who broke multiple records.
5. For this sport, mixed doubles returned to the Olympic program for the first time since 1924.
6. Known for his swimming and his "Jeah!" catchphrase.
8. This movie's soundtrack was played by Mr. Bean at the Olympics Opening Ceremony.
9. This young royal won silver in Equestrian (Horseback riding).
11. This Albanian weightlifter was the first athlete to be tested positive for a banned drug that enhanced performance. He was subsequently booted.
12. Female American soccer player who shares a last name with Harrison Ford's Star War character.
16. This female swimmer from China raised inquiries over illegal drug use when she smashed the record for 400 meter individual medley.
17. The nation in which the next Olympics will be held.