



ISSUE 1

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THE HOWLER

Voice of The pack

HSINCHU AMERICAN SCHOOL

新竹美國學校

BUILDING DREAMS,  
SHAPING MINDS:  
OUR NEW CAMPUS  
COMES TO LIFE

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# HSINCHU AMERICAN SCHOOL FINDS NEW HOME

BY: ISAAC LUTHER

Hsinchu American School officially opened its new campus this semester, and students, teachers, and administrators couldn't be happier with the results. Among the features of this new campus are enormous, modern classrooms featuring the latest in touch screen technology, wireless internet, and a spacious, bright design. A host of new features are now available to students including, a student gym and weight room, an enormous library, a dance studio, new science lab, an amazing music room, and much more.

With so much to offer, different students have a wide range of favorite features in this new campus: "My favorite room is the library," said Joycelyn Yang. Other students offered different answers: "I really love the cleanliness of the new campus. It's not just the new rooms that students love." Junior Peter Yon said. "Personally, my favorite feature of the school is the cafeteria; I like how large and broad it is, as well as the illumination it provides," said Isaac Luther.

A large number of the students also really like the new gym as they often go after lunch and school. The facility provides them with a fantastic space to unleash their energy, stay active, and work on their fitness goals. With a wide range of equipment including newly added weights and a supportive atmosphere, our school gym has become a favorite spot for students to stay healthy and motivated throughout the day.





A great number of students also value the school cafeteria, where they assemble for lunch. They enjoy wonderful meals in a friendly setting and fully sate their appetites. The menu options at our cafeteria appeal to a wide range of tastes and dietary preferences, ensuring that everyone leaves full.

No matter what your favorite feature is of this new campus, one thing we can agree on is that it is a magnificent new home. There is something here for everybody. Welcome home Hsinchu American School!





## FROM DREAMS TO DEGREES

BY: ISAAC LUTHER

On September 9th, juniors from Hsinchu American School attended the college fair at Taipei American School. More than 100 colleges from around the world arrived there to present their incredible institutions to all the students. It was truly an international event with universities from America, Canada, Hong Kong, the UK, Singapore, and Dubai sending representatives.



While many of the universities were small, private institutions, there were also those that were quite large, like The University of Chicago, which resulted in a long line with up to a 20 minute wait just to get to talk to the representative of the school. Other popular schools included Purdue University, Boston University and many more.

There were numerous opportunities for students during the college fair to make connections with the institutions that will help guide their college choice. With events like college fair, one thing is for sure; The future of HAS students is bright.





# HAS BASKETBALL'S RISING STARS

BY: KERDIS PAN

The amount of raw talent on the HAS basketball team decreased significantly following the departure of the seniors, which consisted of more than 50% of the team the previous year. However, this is not all bad as there are some promising young stars ready to take on bigger roles in this year's team. While some may worry about the team's lack of experience, others believe otherwise.

Basketball is among one of the most popular sports at HAS. The HAS basketball team currently consists of three seniors, four juniors, three sophomores, two freshmen and three middle schoolers. "The immense amount of raw talent we lost is indeed shocking, hopefully it won't bring us down too much", says Chloe Low, who has served as the HAS basketball general manager for two consecutive years.



One player on the team, Emmett Tung, a sixth grade rookie, made a bold statement on social media that reflects the amount of confidence he has in his abilities. According to his Instagram biography, he stated that Kerdis Pan, who led the team in scoring the previous year, "can't beat me" while putting emojis of various types next to his statement. This type of confidence, even from a rookie, is extremely vital as the team is looking for new and innovative types of ways to score and get wins.





Moreover, the team’s basketball team was provided with a major upgrade following the relocation of the campus. Thanks to HAS’s collaboration with Chung Hua University, a court that once had dirty concrete flooring, broken rims, and limited possibilities has transformed into a court with shiny hardwood floors, sturdy rims, and endless potential.

The team had the chance to experience the new indoor court first hand on Tuesday, September 5th. The current captain, Kerdis Pan, a senior on the team, expressed his excitement for the court and the team following the end of practice: “This is just truly amazing. We’re just so grateful for this opportunity to be able to play in a court like this. Hopefully this will lead to some wins.”





## OVERNIGHT FIESTA IN LOCK-IN

BY: PETER YON

Cheering and applause erupted throughout the HAS campus, accompanied by students representing their individual houses grinding away with everything they had at each given task from the Student Council. These were the first moments of the annual HAS Lock-In, held on September 8th in the new HAS campus. In the engaging and intense activities planned by the masterminds behind the Student Council and Student Activities, students representing their houses fiercely competed against each other, doing whatever was humanly possible to win (as long as they didn't break any rules).

Morale among house members was at an all-time high, no matter their differences in age or gender, as they cheered for their representatives to claim their righteous victory over the opposing house, which also had a backing squad of morale support equally fired up and eager to win. In the arguably most intense activity, musical chairs, the HAS school spirit thundered across the campus as two houses would go back and forth, trying to obtain the sweet, sweet house points to boost their house rankings all the way to the top of the upper echelon known as first place.



After the exciting start to the Lock-In, all of the students were called downstairs to do a school-wide hide-and-seek activity, where a handful of students were selected to hide in safe spaces in the school. They were given 5 minutes to hide, and soon the school-wide search had started with the assigned seekers now searching the school with conviction, leaving no stone unturned. Some of the hiders were found quickly, while others outlasted the searchers because of their clever choice of hiding spots.

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## OVERNIGHT FIESTA IN LOCK-IN

This game of cat-and-mouse went on for a while before inevitably ending, and the pent-up hunger from hours of intense competition had finally begun to kick into their systems; the students were now starving and exhausted, and demand for food replaced their initial thirst for victory.

Fortunately, food had been prepared in advance, and soon, students were forming long queues that snaked and coiled around the whole cafeteria. The students enjoyed a wide variety of appetizing and scrumptious food, including variations of pizza from Costco, crispy and mouth-watering potato chips and doritos, baked chicken that seemed to be straight out of the oven, and much more.



After a bountiful feast of delicious food and much-needed soda, the gnawing hunger of the students was satisfied, but they were far from tired. This was because they knew that from now, they were free to visit different activity rooms in the late night, and soon revelry ensued once more in the halls of HAS. Perhaps the most memorable and boisterous event held was in the karaoke room, where selected members of the Student Council had to sing and dance to various songs mostly chosen by the audience, resulting in some entertaining performances to say the least. As the cacophony of laughter and cheering thundered throughout the night, students began to lose track of time and just like that, a whole day passed before their eyes. “It was so fast,” said Peter Yon, an 11th grader. “I shut my eyes for one second, and the next thing you know, it's a brand new day.”

Overall, the Lock-In was a very unique yet fun experience that definitely brought us closer together, and reignited the school spirit.

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# NEW LEADERSHIP AT HAS

BY: CHLOE LOW

Our new vice principal, Mr. Kensinger, enters our burgeoning campus with a boundless enthusiasm to push our school toward greatness. He recognizes the immense potential that the school's modern facilities and nurturing environment hold, and he's eager to lead the charge in realizing this potential.



Mr. Kensinger also brings a lot of experience and a dynamic perspective to our school. Hailing from San Francisco, California, Mr. Kensinger's journey in education spans over two decades, with a diverse range of countries and age groups, teaching, and administrative experience covering K-12 international education.





Among his academic milestones are a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Colby College, a master's degree in education from the University of Alabama, and a Master's degree in educational/organizational leadership from the University of San Francisco. Currently, he is over 70% finished with his doctorate from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana in international education leadership.



Mr. Kensinger's passion for education extends beyond academics. He said besides his personal achievements, he thinks individual success is very important. He said, "I love witnessing the transformation of each student as they tap into their full potential within the classroom". This shows his commitment to nurturing a dynamic learning environment where every individual can flourish.

Mr. Kensinger's arrival at HAS signifies the wealth of knowledge and experience he brings and the collaborative spirit he champions. As he embarks on this new chapter as our vice principal, we eagerly look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly make on our school community.





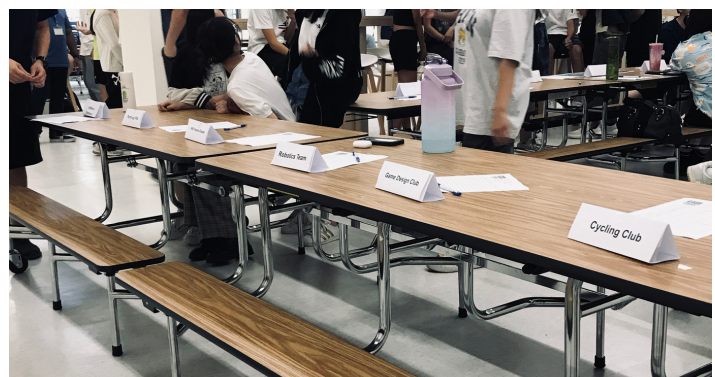
## HAS CLUB FAIR : JOIN THE FUN

BY: IKUNO SASAKI



Students at Hsinchu American School are excited about the opportunity to get involved in extracurricular activities that appeal to their interests and passions as the new academic year gets underway. The school's Club Fair, which took place on August 18, was a big event that provided students the opportunity to learn more about all the different clubs. Club Fair is an exciting opportunity for everyone to learn about different clubs and to create a sense of belonging.

Students crowded the school's cafeteria, excited to interact with the student leaders and learn more about the wide variety of clubs on display. In addition to introducing newcomers to many choices, the Club Fair is a cherished tradition at Hsinchu American School, also welcoming returning students back. This year there are more than 30 clubs to choose from, making sure that everyone can find a club that they are passionate about.





This year, along with the traditional clubs like Art Council and Student Activities, there were also great options of new clubs, including the Mahjong Club and the Singing Club. Among all the exciting new clubs this year, we are going to introduce you to the Psychology Club, where you can understand human behavior.



One of the student leaders of the Psychology Club, and a very passionate AP Psychology student, Casey Chiu said, “The Psychology Club is studying human behavior and the mind. Other than textbooks, it also involves exploring different aspects of human nature. We frequently carry out several kinds of research and experiments that make studying psychology more interesting.”

Students at Hsinchu American School have many club choices to choose from, like the Psychology Club with different types of experiments, making it easier to find a club that shares their interests and giving a feeling of being a big community. For all students, the Club Fair is the start of a journey of learning, opportunities for personal development, and participating in different activities.





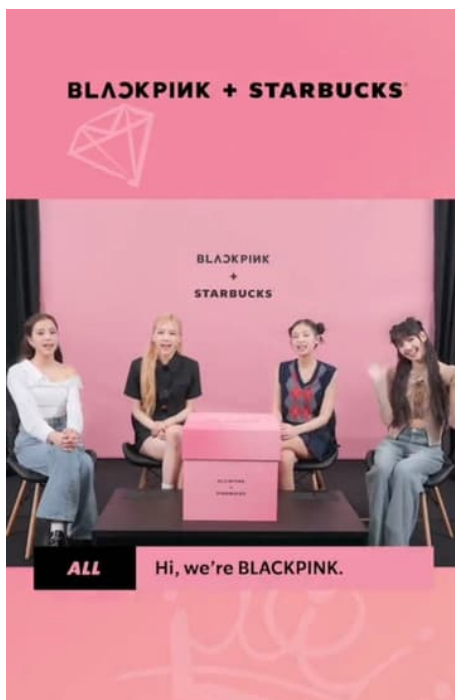
## BLACKPINK STRAWBERRY CHOCO CREAM FRAPPUCCINO

BY: JOCELYN YANG

Blackpink and Starbucks' joint project debuted on July 24—this surprised “Blinks” (The name of Blackpink fans ). The collaboration between Blackpink and Starbucks has become a globally talked-about phenomenon. The fusion of these two popular brands has drawn the attention of both fans and coffee enthusiasts alike. Blackpink, a globally renowned South Korean girl group, is known for its stylish image and exceptional musical talent. On the other hand, Starbucks is a global coffee chain brand offering a variety of delicious coffee and beverages.



# BLACKPINK



The joint venture created a unique promotion in which fans received a limited edition Blackpink Starbucks cup with their order of select beverages. This delighted Blackpink's fan base and attracted more customers to Starbucks. In addition, Blackpink members joined the promotion in person, sharing their Starbucks coffee experience with Blinks. Even though this is their first year in the program, it is still selling very well and fast. The entire collection is in pink and black, echoing Blackpink's supportive and classic color palette. The partnership not only strengthens the mutually beneficial relationship between the two brands but also provides an unforgettable experience for fans and coffee lovers, making it a successful example of two global brands joining forces. This wonderful and successful corporation happened between July 23 to 25.

**WELCOME TO BARBIE LAND**

BY: IRENE CHIN



What did people think of the Barbie movie? And what do the people who made this movie want to tell us? Let's introduce our central character "Barbie". The stereotypical Barbie is chipper and blonde. She must travel to the human world in order to understand herself and discover her true purpose. She is eternally adored by Ken, whose job is on the beach. The theme of this movie is forging one's own identity. It's a family friendly movie that promotes positive messages about self-identity, friendship, and the importance of following one's dreams.

Can you believe that Barbie is most certainly a feminist film? It talks a lot about women. In this movie, women can't have the opportunity and power to control the real world. We can also see when Barbie and Ken leave their own town and go to the real world, they are met with curiosity. People look at them strangely and feel like they are weird, making them feel like outsiders. From this we can tell in the real world, women's decisions are often limited. This reflects the tendency for people to be seen as unique or different by society when they question standard gender roles or make different choices. This is based on the fact that women often have fewer options and opportunities in the "real world."



Barbie in its own sly, and silly ways, represents that women can be anything. After watching it, I found myself yearning for the fashion choices shown in the movie. It seems super cool to have the power to control your world. In the film, there is a big difference between how Barbie Land and the real world are run. In Barbie Land, all of the leaders are women, Barbie is president, and all of the workers like doctors are all Barbie and are all women. The real world is opposite from Barbie Land. I think the Barbie movie gave me lots of insight into how women can control the world. It helped me learn how women really can be in the real world. I love this movie because it compares and contrasts each of the different worlds. Go watch it and you will love it. It's really interesting.





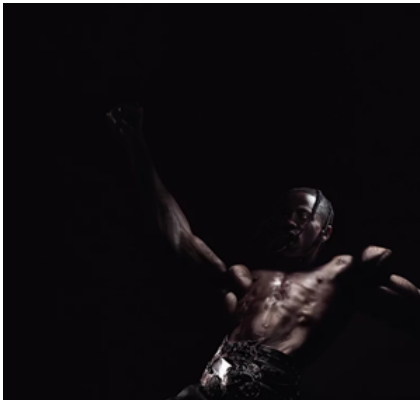
## UTOPIA OR DYSTOPIA? NEW TRAVIS SCOTT ALBUM REVIEW

BY: PETER YON

Since its release, rapper Travis Scott's highly anticipated fourth studio album, "UTOPIA", has received many polarizing reviews from both critics and fans alike. This work of art seemingly divides the popular rapper's fanbase into two groups: the disappointed who were expecting more hype anthems to rock stadiums with and the self-labeled "diehard fans" that were glad to hear his old sound coming back with a more experimental twist.



one of UTOPIA's many album covers



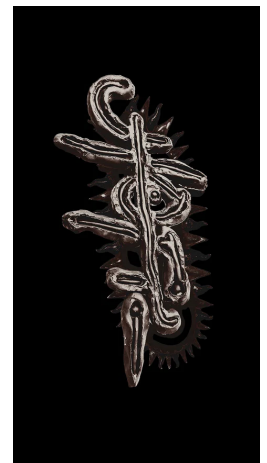
the official cover for UTOPIA

Many seem to think that this body of work will serve as a turning point for mainstream hip-hop and help change the trajectory of the subgenres popularized by streaming services in the years to come. As of now, Travis Scott's UTOPIA is trending in every social media outlet, and everyday more and more people discuss his new bold approach in this body of art.



collaboration between Nike and Scott promoting UTOPIA

Our school seems to have a lot to say about this new release from Scott, as there are many divided opinions on whether it was an enjoyable experience or not. "The album was a very unique experience. "Although I'm not his biggest fan, it was somewhat entertaining to listen to." said Kerdis Pan. "There was one good song," said Isaac Luther, an avid music lover, who seems to have a shared opinion with many of the other students who listened to the album. Perhaps it was due to the experimental approach of the album that the aforementioned students found it difficult to enjoy. I personally found the experience refreshing and enjoyable as this marks a growth in Travis Scott's artistic integrity because of its unique approach. It may not be for everyone, but it is definitely worth a listen for the hardcore Travis Scott fans that love his dark, psychedelic and grungy sound.



UTOPIA banner