



HSINCHU AMERICAN SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Back to School Edition



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WELCOME BACK!

By Mr. Lines

Welcome back to school everyone! The Journalism class is very proud to present you with the first newspaper issue of the year. In this issue you can find previews and reviews of school events, teacher spotlights, movie news, and much more. Have you ever wondered why we celebrate Double Ten? Or what the legendary story behind Mid-Autumn Festival is? Or perhaps you've just asked yourself why we have homework? Or maybe you're interested in wildlife and the ecosystem? If this sounds like you, then read on!

If you're not in Journalism but you like to read and write and you have a topic that you're passionate about, we will also be accepting opinion and guest articles starting with our next issue. Just get in touch with a member of the Journalism team and we'll be happy to feature your article!

It was a pleasure bringing this month's news to our readers. We hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed writing it. Thank you very much and catch us next month!



A New Start

By Daniel Chen

It was August 28th, our first day back to school. The first day back is always exciting, but today there was something more. There was curiosity in the atmosphere. This year, we were seeing the brand new HAS, including a new building and an enthusiastic staff.

I entered the school to see people standing in the lobby. Everyone was there, students and teachers, new and old. Like magnets, people came together and formed groups, chatting about their summers. After about 20 minutes, I heard the announcement to go into our new cafeteria. It was assembly time.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Donnelly welcomed everyone back to HAS. We were introduced to the new staff, who were still mysterious to the students, but seemed interesting and nice. After assembly, we moved to our advising rooms.

At advising we talked about new policies, including homework, attendance, dress codes, and so on. I felt like the new school year and its policies were going to be more organized. When we finished discussing these things, our advisors took us around the school. This was our school tour. I was very confused at first at the numbers and order of the classrooms. I was surprised by how big the building was, but I thought that the space was good and we could use it for student events. After this, we picked up our textbooks and got our locker keys.

Now, school has been running for almost a month. Classes are going well and everybody seems happy. Our student council president and vice-president May and Spencer have already made plans on how to use our new campus to plan better student events. After this good start, I am really looking forward to our new school life in HAS.



Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Perez

By Maggie Chen

It's the beginning of the new school year, and that means we get to meet our new teachers! This month I will introduce our new Spanish teacher to you. His name is Mr. Perez, and he is from Mexico. From our first Spanish class, I found his teaching style to be relaxed and fun. It felt like we were chatting but he was actually teaching us a lot. I had the chance to interview Mr. Perez for this month's newspaper!

Maggie Chen: Why do you want to be a Spanish teacher in Taiwan?

Mr. Perez: I have been Taiwan for 7 years, Taiwan offered me the chance to learn language (Chinese) in return many friends have been interested in Spanish, so I have a chance to teach them, especially one on one.

MC: What is your first impression of the school?

Mr. Perez : It's awesome! From my perspective everyone has been great to me, all the staff they are friendly and amazing and nice. I am also going to be coaching the soccer team which also excites me.

MC: Is this your first job in Taiwan?

Mr. Perez: No, this is not my first job in Taiwan. My first job in Taiwan was being an English teacher for little kids.

MC: Why did you want to learn Chinese?

Mr. Perez: Because Chinese has been gaining a lot of importance around the world for business especially. I wanted to learn it for personal growth and communication skills around the world.

MC: Which part of the Chinese culture did you like the most?

Mr. Perez: I like the traditions here, there are a lot that are similar to Mexico. I am interested in religions here. I like Buddhism and I enjoy visiting temples.

MC: What kind of Taiwanese food do you like?

Mr. Perez: I like most Taiwanese foods... I love hotpot and night markets

-Interview Continued on Page 5

Lock-In Preview

By Anson Feng

Our school offers a lot of activities that the students love, but there is one that is the most memorable: the HAS Lock-in. The Lock-in is an activity that the Student Government runs where the students are allowed to live in for one night. The purpose is to let students get to know each other and build relationships.

We have Lock-ins and Lock-outs, but these are different types of activities. A Lock-in is when all the students remain in school through the night. Lock-outs are when the students only stay until the evening.

During these events we often plan games and activities. Most games are team games, such as dodgeball, basketball, or volleyball. These build team spirit. This lasts until midnight, and then the students will stop their scheduled activities. At midnight, some students will sleep, but most of them will stay awake and socialize. During this time, teachers supervise any student activities.

One of the best things about Lock-ins are the barbecues. This is a group activity where all the students gather together to cook food. This creates a family atmosphere for the school. This year the student council decided to have a Lock-in on November 10th! We all hope you can come! For lock in this year, Student council said that they would like to have nicer games and also some great food, we hope the students can have fun in lock-in!

Happy Birthday!

We would like to wish all staff members born in September a very happy birthday!

Happy Birthday to Ms. Burden (September 13th)

Happy Birthday to Mr. Ricotta (September 16th)



Halloween or Samhain?

By Gary Chao

October 31st is Halloween, a famous day that people celebrate all over the world. People everywhere will wear costumes and go trick or treating. We all celebrate Halloween, but do we really know how it began?

The festival started 2000 years ago from the Celtic celebration of Samhain. The Celts live in what is now Ireland and the United Kingdom. For them, October 31st marked the end of summer. Winter brings the Celts cold and darkness, which is tied to death. Celts would dress in costume to trick dead spirits who returned in winter to attack people and crops.

You might wonder how trick or treating started. It began in the 19th century with immigrants in America. These immigrants started to wear costumes to ask for money or foods. People started to have parties and modern Halloween was born.

To celebrate Halloween, HAS usually has activities and games. Last year the school prepared a game where each student had a balloon on his or her back, then the lights were turned off and everybody had to protect their balloon and break everybody else's. Last year, very few students dressed up, but this year we hope that more people will join in the celebration. Halloween is a tradition, and we at HAS can be more involved in bringing it to Taiwan.



Image courtesy of History.com

Who Let the Wolves Back?

By Maggie Gross

The Butterfly Effect, as many know, says that small causes can have larger effects. This might seem like an easy idea to understand, but sometimes it is hard to imagine how significant the effects will be. For example, imagine what would happen if an entire species was removed from an area.

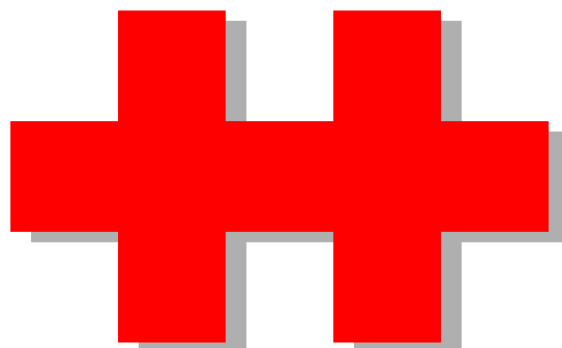
In the 1930s, due to safety reasons and nearby ranchers' fears of their livestock being killed, wolves were driven out of Yellowstone National Park. After they were all gone, the people felt more secure. Although the wolves might have seemed like a very small component in the enormous park, they were crucial to the environment. The absence of the wolves caused the elk population in the park to increase significantly. The elk ate lots of the plantation, including the young brush and trees. The situation worried scientists, and they thought of bringing the wolves back into Yellowstone.

In 1995, eight wolves were brought into the Yellowstone National Park from Canada. At first the scientists were afraid that the wolves might leave the park, but thankfully, the wolves stayed. As time went on, the population of the wolves increased, and as scientists expected, the population of elk decreased. With less elk, more plants were able to grow out. More animals started to move into the park, such as birds and beavers. The wolves also hunted coyotes which allowed the number of rabbits and mice to increase, which then brought more hawks, foxes, and other animals into the park. Somehow, the wolves also changed behavior of the rivers. The increased plants, trees, and vegetation in the park meant that the riverbanks were more stable, allowing the river systems to grow and become more healthy. The park had slowly become healthier and more prosperous.

Since the wolves have been reintroduced, the environment of the park has changed significantly. Although many of these changes have been good

Double Ten: Taiwan's Birthday

By Angus Chang



As most of us know, every year we have a holiday on October 10th. If you are in Taipei, you might see people marching in the streets, celebrating the day, but do you know why Double Ten is a special day for Taiwan? To know the origin we need to take a look at our history.

At the end of the Qin Dynasty, the Wuchang Uprising happened. Sun Yat-sen overthrew the Qin Dynasty and declared the October 10th as the beginning of the Republic of China. This has become Taiwan's national day.

On this day, lots of people will gather in front of the Presidential palace to watch the raising of the Taiwan flag. People join to show respect for Taiwan, and this creates unity. There are also military parades where soldiers goose step. The reverberating sounds from the uniform steps of the march are thrilling.

You can visit many of the museums on this day to learn about Taiwan's history. If you like art, you can visit the Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei. If you like history, you can visit the National Palace Museum to learn about the country's past.

Even though this is a holiday and an impressive celebration, what is the real meaning of this day? We celebrate Double Ten because this was the day Taiwan was founded, but also to honor the revolution. The people who sacrificed for the revolution deserve our respect, for Taiwan would not exist without them.

for the environment, there is still a debate over whether we should reintroduce species.

What happened to the Yellowstone National Park is a good representation of the idea of the Butterfly Effect, and it reminds us that even our smallest actions can have major consequences. When someone litters, it might seem like one small piece of garbage that is thrown onto the ground, but the effect of everyone doing this could create a disaster. On the other hand, even small actions to try to protect the environment can be significant in the long term.



Mid Autumn Festival

By Sam Fan

Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the most popular and important events in many Asian countries. We celebrate it by meeting with our families and eating mooncakes, so it is also called Mooncake Festival. In Taiwan, we normally have Barbecues and eat Pomelos to celebrate it.

Even though we all celebrate it, do we know the history of the festival?

In ancient China, the Jade Emperor had ten sons and they were unruly. One day they transformed themselves into actual suns. People could not ignore them. The earth cracked and animals died from the heat. The Emperor could not tolerate them anymore so he summoned Hou Yi, a powerful archer, to shoot down the suns. He shot down nine of them and left only one alive because he wanted the Sun to light the Earth and keep people warm.

Some people might ask why we barbecue if the festival comes from this story. In the mid-1980s, a barbecue sauce company launched a TV commercial with slogan "The pleasant smell of barbeque from a family flows to thousands of households."

People started to barbecue during the festival, and it became a tradition in Taiwan during the Mid-Autumn festival.

Here are some tips on how to successfully barbecue:

Step 1. Prepare the coals, grill, and your ingredients

Step 2. Don't forget the chairs!

Step 3. Light the fire and prepare the coals.

Step 4. Put the ingredients on the grill and cook them

Step 5. Enjoy your dinner!

In Taiwan, we don't normally celebrate Thanksgiving, but to us Mid-Autumn Festival is our version of this holiday. If you have not celebrated it yet, don't wait and don't forget to bring the chairs!



Image courtesy of Focus Taiwan

History of Homework

By Lisa Yang

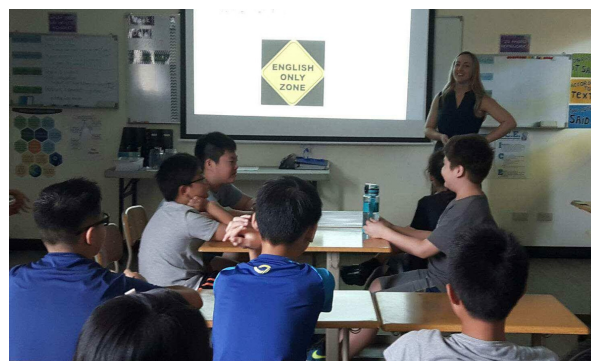
Have you ever wondered why we write homework? Homework can be one of the most difficult things about a struggling student's school life. Was it always this way?

Let's discover the history of homework.

Education started in the 6th century BC, but homework didn't begin until much later. Modern homework like we all do now only began in the 1980s. During the years leading up to that time, Americans debated the importance of homework.

Some people believed that students needed to review class materials for the next day, but others thought that too much homework would give students no time to socialize. When the Cold War made Americans worry more about falling behind other countries, homework became more important. Since then, it has become normal all around the world for every student to have homework.

I have always thought that homework could be difficult and sometimes even annoying. Like most students, I don't like homework. Nobody does, right? But I think that the history of homework is pretty interesting. I learned that homework can be important even if it is difficult. Writing homework can help a student's academic abilities and improve critical thinking too. So, even though it can sometimes be boring or hard, I think it is still indispensable for our school lives.



NBA Preview

By Ni Shiue



Attention NBA fans: The regular season is starting soon! In the Summer League we saw some young stars perform well. This will be followed by the preseason and then the regular season will begin. The regular season and playoffs are the most important because they lead directly to the championship. Players will play their best basketball over the 82 regular season games and then the playoffs. Things will get intense and teams will fight for the championship spot.

Last season, the Golden State Warriors defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers to win the NBA finals. This year, LeBron James and the Cavs have only one wish: to become the 2018 NBA champions.

The 2017-2018 season will begin with two games on October 18th. The first is the Celtics vs the Cavaliers, and the other is the Rockets vs the Warriors.

The Cavaliers just traded Kyrie Irving to the Celtics, so we shall see how the fans respond to Irving's return. Will he be booed or welcomed?

The Rockets just acquired a star point guard in Chris Paul, so this game will also be interesting.

To check the scores for the games, you can go to nba.com. In order to watch the games live, you can also subscribe to the NBA League Pass which is offered on their website.

Be sure to watch the games, and keep your eyes open for my next sports article where I will review the first games and talk about trades.



Image courtesy of NBA.com

The Film Corner



Image Courtesy of Vanyaland



Image Courtesy of IMDB

By Niles Yao

This fall marks the release of two films to be quite excited about: "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" and "Blade Runner 2049." Both films expand on already established fictional worlds and introduce new threats the characters must confront.

Slated for a September 20th release in Taiwan, "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" is the sequel to the well-received "Kingsman: The Secret Service" (2014). The plot of the film is this time the Kingsman have been attacked and their headquarters destroyed. With the fate of the world in the balance, they need to travel to America and ally themselves with a covert US organization named The Golden Circle to try and save the world. Much of the cast will return, with Taron Egerton's starring as Gary 'Eggsy' Unwin and Mark Strong as Merlin. Alongside the returning cast are newcomers Channing Tatum and Jeff Bridges playing US Agents Tequila and Champagne respectively. This sequel promises to bring the comedy and wit of the first film along with some unexpected twists.

The second film being released in America on October 6th, is "Blade Runner 2049" a sequel taking place 30 years after the original "Blade Runner", (1982). This film is set in the year 2049, 30 years after the original which was set in 2019 of a Futuristic Los Angeles filled with replicants, bioengineered androids, indistinguishable from humans, made to serve us. This new film has us following Ryan Gosling's character, Officer K who is a Blade Runner which are officers who specialize in the "retiring" of replicants. As we follow K we discover long buried secrets which leads him to find Rick Deckard (Harrison Ford) and together they go on a journey that could change the course of their world. The "Blade Runner" universe combines sci fi with deep philosophical questions about ethics and identity.

I anticipate that both "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" and "Blade Runner 2049" will be worth watching. Each of these films takes a different mood, but both build on the events of their popular predecessors. If you have the time to go catch a movie in the next month or so I would recommend going to see one of these films at your nearest theater.

Club Fair

By: Elvis Feng

On the first Friday of the year, we had an important activity for the beginning of school. It was Club Fair. This is a day when all of the students can choose what clubs they want to join during the school year. We have a club fair so all students can learn what kinds of clubs we have and can ask questions about them. This is an exciting day for all the students and staff.

Clubs are an important part of school life. I believe that every student should join at least one club. If students could not choose or had problems deciding, then the Student Council could help them to pick an activity. Here are some interesting facts about one of our oldest teams. After this year's club fair ended, we found that the most popular sports team is volleyball. People chose volleyball because they wanted to learn something new, and most people already know basketball. To many students, volleyball is a new challenge. Volleyball is our most successful school sport, and last year we got second place in a tournament!

Thank you to everyone who came to club fair, we hope you are happy with your clubs. Learn a lot and have fun!



Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Perez (cont'd)

By: Maggie Chen

MC: How many years have you been Taiwan?

Mr. Perez: I have been in Taiwan for 7 years.

MC: What is your dream job?

Mr. Perez: If I get to have my own business that would be amazing. I like cooking, so maybe I would like to own a restaurant.

MC: What is your biggest problem you have faced in Taiwan?

Mr. Perez: The biggest problems that I have faced in Taiwan are motorcycle accidents. Right now you can see that it is a bit of a problem, I broke my leg pretty badly. Learning Chinese was also one of biggest challenges I faced in Taiwan.

MC: What is your favorite country?

Mr. Perez: Mexico. Mexico is my home and I love my country. But I have to say that my second home is Taiwan, I love this country and I love the people here and I had great, unforgettable time.

If you found this interview interesting, you may want to take Spanish class next year. You will not regret it! We will be interviewing new staff members every month, so you can look forward to that. Thank you for reading!

