THE HOWLER

November - December









IN THIS ISSUE:

REVIEW-STRANGER THINGS 2

HOW ROCK BAND WORKS

TEACHER
SPOTLIGHT:
MR
SILVERMAN

BASKETBALL RECAP

WELCOME BACK!

By Mr. Lines

Hello again everyone! As usual, the Journalism class is proud to bring you the third edition of the Howler. In this issue you can find previews and reviews of school events, teacher spotlights, movie news, and much more. Ever thought about watching Stranger Things 2 but you aren't sure if it's worth the time? Interested in winter recipes? Want to learn about the fascinating world of Monarch Butterflies?

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!

(Special thanks to Niles Yao and Maggie Gross for helping to edit and arrange our newspapers!)



New Campus, New Staff,

New Jerseys! By Daniel Chen

With the basketball season underway, our players are starting to suit up and represent our school in games again. This year the basketball team has many new members, including 6th and 8th graders. However, when former players graduated, many of them did not return their jerseys. At the moment, our basketball team has had the same jerseys for 4 years. With these such old or missing uniforms, I believe it is time for a change.

A jersey is iconic to the school. When our players represent the school in games, many spectators and rival schools will remember the jersey as a symbol of HAS. Our own players will wear and treat their jerseys with honor and responsibility, because it represents their school. This year, 2017, our school has undergone huge changes, we have a new campus, new staff, and now I suggest we should have a new jersey.

Our old uniforms represents the old HAS, but now that our school has been reborn, we should bring in new jerseys to memorialize this moment. With a fresh new look for the school, we should also adopt a fresh new look for our players who represent our school.

The first step to make the new jersey was to design it. Gary, Anson, Elvis and myself came up with several alternative designs and received approval to poll the students. Catherine helped us to put a voting page up on the student Facebook page and we had our winning design! The school jersey represents the school as a whole, so we wanted to make sure that everybody participated in the process, from administration to student council to individual students.

The appearance we show to other schools reflects our strength and spirit. Our old jerseys represented us at that time, but now that we have reinvented the school and become more unified, our new jersey should represent this fact. A new jersey will show our new resolve.



Staff Spotlight: Mr. Silverman

By Daniel Chen, Gary Chiao & Eric Sung

For this month's teacher spotlight, we are very excited to present Mr. Silverman. During this interview we had a great time getting to know more about Mr. Silverman's interests and opinions, along with his very exciting story of how he came to Taiwan!

Gary: When did you decide that you wanted to be a teacher?

Mr. Silverman: Probably about three or four years ago.

Gary: Why did you decide that you wanted to be a teacher? Because you like the job?

Mr. S: Honestly I got really sick of working in offices and working with adults. If I have a choice between having to work with adults, or getting to hang out with students all day, students are way more fun, and they're much more positive people. Adults don't tend to be fun or positive. Daniel: What is your favorite thing about teaching?

Mr. S: My favorite things about teaching are actually seeing a student get really excited about something academically, experiencing successes, or overcoming challenges.

Gary: What did you study in university?

Mr. S: I studied philosophy and political science while I was in undergrad, and then I did a Masters in Business Administration a few years ago. I also have a Masters in Education.

Gary: Sounds fun.

Mr. S: So I have a lot of student loans.

Gary: With midterms coming up, many students feel stressed and overwhelmed. Do you have any study tips or advice for students to succeed in high school and college?

Mr. S: Anyone who has been in my class for any length of time should know that I'm a big fan of mindfulness and also meditation, I don't always do it as much as I like, but I notice myself when I don't do it, I feel much more stressed. Just taking two minutes out of your day to do nothing, truly do nothing, makes you so much more productive in the rest of your day and the rest of your life. It's unbelievable.

Gary: How long have you been in Taiwan and why did you decide to come here? Mr. S: I've been in Taiwan four years, and I came here because I got kicked out of China.

Daniel: Really?

Gary: Why?

Mr. S: I started a business in China, and it didn't work out because one of my business partners angered the wrong person in the government. One day I got back to my apartment in Shanghai and two armed policemen told me that my business license (and my resident permit) had been revoked. I had 12 hours to leave the country. My Taiwanese friends I had met in China told me I should just go to Taiwan while I figured things out. Almost five years later and I'm still here "figuring things out".

Daniel: What do you like the most about Taiwan?

Mr. S: I think that Taiwan has very few negatives. People are very friendly and honest. Foreigners share in mostly all the same rights and benefits as citizens, which creates an especially comfortable life for expats (the ones who don't complain all the time...I ignore those people). The food is very delicious, the weather is fantastic (mostly), there is so much unspoiled nature to explore, it's very easy to get around because the transportation infrastructure is amazing, and it's very centrally located in Asia, so if I wanted to take a trip somewhere, it's very quick and easy to do so. What am I missing?... Oh my god, health care! It's so cheap! Do you know what our health care plan is in America? It's called "don't get sick!"

Happy Thanksgiving!

By Maggie Chen

Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated in Canada and the United States. It's a public holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States. It started as a day to give thanks for the blessings of the forthcoming harvest of next year. Thanksgiving is a time to gather with your loved ones for a meal and give thanks to all the things we appreciate. This year, HAS had Thanksgiving activities on November 24. We ate lunch together as a school and invited our parents. Every student needed to prepare some food to share with others, so our lunch will have many different food from different countries. This is also known as a potluck. Also, we had activities after lunch, including American Football and Capture the Flag. HAS Thanksgiving lunch was really great! We had lots of different food, but the main meal in Thanksgiving day is turkey! The turkey was really nice and delicious. All the food are delicious, and I think everyone had a fun time. Also the Thanksgiving decorations were really beautiful and amazing. Especially the candle on the table, it makes me feel relaxed. Finally, to bring everything together, there was a tree where people could post things they were thankful for.

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving!





Winter Recipes

By Sam Fan

Thai Red Curry Soup

In the cold winter having a hot soup is probably the best thing ever. Thai Red Curry Soup has bold flavors. Featuring chicken, coconut milk and warm spices, this super easy Thai Red Curry Soup is guaranteed to keep you warm this winter! Ingredients

Serving size:6

- 1 x 1.6 kg whole free-range chicken
- 1 butternut squash (1.2kg) (You can also use pumpkin)
- 1 bunch of fresh coriander (30g)

100 g Thai red curry paste (You can also use curry powder as well. it's still tastv)

1 x 400 ml tin of light coconut milk

Method

Sit the chicken in a large pan. Cut the squash in half, and remove the seeds, then cut the squash into 3cm chunks. Slice the coriander stalks, but don't cut the leaves. Prepare a pan, and put the squash, curry paste and coconut milk in the pan, then pour 1 liter of water in it. Simmer on a medium heat for 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Use a tong to remove the chicken to a big plate. Remove the oil on the surface of the soup with a spoon, then sprinkle half of the coriander leaves. Last step, season with the sea salt and black pepper.

Sausage Pasta

Chili can warm you up at your core. Try this hearty sausage pasta dish for a spicy new and exciting meal this winter! Ingredients

Serving size:1

1 or 2 sausages (any sausages you want)

88g chopped broccoli

1 chili (Change according to preference)

1/4 spoon olive oil

Salt

1/4 tea spoon Cumin

1 Garlic clove

half onion

1/4 can of tomato sause

75g pasta (any kind you like)

7.5g Grated parmesan cheese

Method

Salt the boiling water and cook the pasta. Try to time this so that your pasta is cooked at the same time as your sauce is ready.

Pour oil in a hot pan and spice with cumin. Finely chop the onion and garlic cloves, then take the sausage and chili out, cut the sausage and chili in pieces, then put the onion, garlic, chili, and sausage in the hot pan and fry them. Pour the tomato sauce in the pan and stir them well. When the pasta is almost cooked, boil the broccoli as well. After the broccoli and pasta are cooked, strain the pasta and broccoli, then put them in the pan and mix them with the sauce. Enjoy!

Volleyball League

By Elvis Feng

On October 28th, the Taiwan 2017 Top Varsity Volleyball League (TVL) began. Because of the size of this league, it is one of the most important sporting events in Taiwan. In this league, every team is sponsored by a company who they represent. There are many companies such as Mizuno, Conti, and Taipower who sponsor this league and have done so for years. So they are like old customers.

The players in this league come from all over Taiwan, from many different colleges, and sometimes even from the national team. Taiwan's best players are discovered by the TVL and invited to teams. Every year, these players will represent their companies and compete against each other in matches. From the beginning of October until the end of December, the league's 5 men's teams and 4 women's teams will compete against each other for the championship.

Of the companies sponsoring the TVL teams, Mizuno is probably the most famous. Mizuno is one of the biggest sports companies in the world, and they are especially for their volleyball gear. In fact, when many people think of volleyball, they associate the sport with Mizuno. All of the companies who sponsor this tournament have helped to popularize and spread volleyball through Taiwan.

So why should you watch the TVL? Firstly, I know that volleyball is not the most popular sport. However, I feel that watching volleyball is similar to watching basketball game. (Article Continues on Page 6)

Weather Fashion

By Lisa Yang

Winter is here! However, this is the Taiwan winter where it switches quickly from hot to cold daily. Naturally, many people will be struggling to decide what to wear. Choosing what to wear is not just about staying warm or cooling down. The clothes we choose to wear make a statement about who we are. Fashion is interesting to me because it combines things we need (such as staying warm) with things we want (such as wanting to look good).

Since the weather is switching very unusually and the weather start to change from dry and less sunlight. First of all, there is no way to give a complete guide because the weather switches so fast. Now that December brings more consistent cold weather, so it is easier to give more accurate advice. Hoodies are always a fashionable, so my first suggestion is to invest in a good-looking hoodie that you can wear a jacket over if it gets too cold. Jeans are another type of clothing that are always in fashion, so also think about buying a good pair of jeans. Finally, just as summer is a time to show off bright and vibrant colors, winter allows us to mix and match with darker colors such as dark brown, navy, black and burgundy.

The most important thing about fashion is to keep an open mind and to always be looking out for new styles that you can take and make your own. Get used to noticing styles that you like, and remember them for your future reference. Stay warm!





The World Vision Mission

By Gary Chao

World Vision is a Christian organization that helps to support poor countries and places damaged by natural disasters. Recently, our school has partnered with World Vision to hold their activities. They donate money, foods, water, and supplies to aid countries and people that need their support to help them recover.

We all know that many countries don't have clean water. Water is a basic human need and is used daily. In some countries, water is more valuable than gold. In countries where easily accessing drinking water is a serious problem, people will walk a long distance just to find water. Can you imagine walking 30 minutes for water and walking back with a heavy water jug?

To solve this problem, World Vision created an event that will be starting next year. The event is called "Global 6k for Water". According to their website, World Vision says that every participant will give 50 dollars as a registration fee and will receive a race bib, t-shirt and medal. When the event begins, participants will either run towards a water source or carry a large container of water as they run 6k towards their goal.

If this sounds interesting to you, the event will be on May 19th, 2018. We encourage you to come and support the fight for clean water.

Our most recently project with World Vision was to raise awareness for women's rights. We held a performance and raised money for them, and they interviewed our students about giving back to the community.

World Vision is a good organization that helps the world. We should follow their lead and spread love to those less fortunate than ourselves.





Ni's NBA Niche By Ni Shiue

Ni's NBA Niche is back for this month's latest NBA news!

There are a couple of teams who have played surprisingly well, while traditionally stronger teams have had disappointing starts to the regular season. The 76ers, Knicks, Magic, and Pistons were not even at the playoffs last year but they have put up very impressive showings so far. The Lakers, Spurs, and Grizzlies are the Western Conference teams which started the season strong. With a fresh start and a new season, certain players have performed like MVPs. Kristaps Porzingis (Knicks) started the season with over 30 points average per game and looks like he plays much better without Carmelo Anthony (who was traded to Thunder). Giannis Antetokounmpo (Bucks) also averages over 30 points, and with almost 10 rebounds and 5 assists, which are MVP-worthy stats. James Harden (Rockets) averages over 26 points, 9 assists, and 5 rebounds and has taken the team to the top of the Western Conference (first 10 games). With such impressive stats he could be named MVP, which would redeem him for missing the MVP award last season.

The Phoenix Suns have the unfortunate reputation of being the worst team in the West. After losing the first three games to start the new season, they fired the head coach Earl Watson. Even their best player, Eric Bledsoe, wanted to leave, tweeting "I don't wanna be here,". The Suns decided to trade Bledsoe and performed quite well while he did not play, but have since been underperforming as usual. The result of the event was that Suns traded Bledsoe to Bucks for Greg Monroe and draft picks.

- Article Continued on Page 5 -





Ni's NBA Niche (cont'd)

By: Ni Shiue

Gregg Popovich passed Phil Jackson for the sixth place career victories. According to the article from NBA.com, "With the San Antonio Spurs' 112-95 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Sunday night (11/5), Gregg Popovich earned his 1,156th career victory and passed Phil Jackson for sixth place on the NBA's all-time win list."

Thanks for reading Ni's NBA Niche! We will see you next month, but if you can't wait you can check NBA.com for the latest news or

www.youtube.com/c/nitringonba for more NBA highlight videos.



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Rock Band Performance

By Anson Feng

Hsinchu American School's Annual Winter Performance is one of the biggest events of the year. This is a time for students to show their talents. Every year, the HAS rock band always shows up for this activity and performs. Even though everybody only sees the end product, even a 4 minute song can take months of practice. As a member of rock band, I wanted to share the process of preparing for a performance with you.

The first step is to decide on the song. The band needs to figure out what type of music fits the mood of the event. We usually try to perform a combination of rock songs (to energize people) and then acoustic performances to calm things down.

The next step is to have each band member learn his or her part. Depending on the difficulty of the song, this can take up to a week, but this usually just takes a few hours for members to pick up the main ideas. Next, once everybody knows the individual parts, we need to practice together. The first few tries are never successful, but that is why we practice! Finally, we have performance night. Rock band members help to organize the stage and set up the sound system. This takes time and effort but it is also part of delivering a performance. You may be asking: why go to all this effort to practice, prepare, and perform for people with no reward? The truth is that there is a reward. All of the rock band members are enthusiastic about what we do, and we like to help make school activities successful and exciting. We are the (not so) silent heroes of the events! Please come out and support us for the performances, and we hope you have a great time!



HAS Basketball Game Review

By: Angus Chang

Our 2017 basketball season started in September. We have some new members this season, which makes our team more interesting. After a month of practice we have developed team chemistry and gotten to know each other better. We have also developed better conditioning. We had our first game against Hsinchu International School on October 26th/ Our first game was at HIS. The strategy was to play a fast paced game and to run more against their team because we had better conditioning. In the first half we had many open shots but we missed them (we shot at 24%). This caused us to fall behind by 12 points. However our defense was effective and it kept the game closer.

At the beginning of the second half, our conditioning practice started to pay off. HIS kept substituting their player and they looked tired. We began to catch up in points. After many turns of offense and defence, we began to catch up. When the game ended, we had closed some of the gap but we still lost by five points. Our biggest problem was accuracy. If we had shot better than 24% we would have been in a much better situation.

The second game of our season was in Taipei with The Primacy Collegiate Academy (TPCA). In the first half we fell behind again because we had many turnovers. They were a fast team so we often couldn't catch them on fast breaks. During a timeout, our coaches told us to make short passes and step up on defense. After executing the press properly, our team started the third quarter with a 7-0 run. As we rallied, we came back to win the game 43 - 36.

Special congratulations should go to Peter, who almost got a triple-double with 20 points, 9 rebounds and 8 steals. His offense sliced through TPCA's defense and he looked unstoppable. We were happy to get our first victory of the season and look forward to many more!



Stranger Things 2 Review By Niles Yao

One of the year's most anticipated shows, the Netflix Original Series: Stranger Things, has returned for a second season. This show was created by Matt and Ross Duffer, brothers who have successfully created a show that millions of people are talking about.

The story of Season 1 takes place in the 1980's, in the small town of Hawkins, Indiana where the once quiet town was revealed to have some dark secrets. A mysterious girl with psychokinetic abilities appears and helps a group of boys find their friend, Will, who has gone missing. The series also follows the adventures of a group of teenagers as well as adults who each try to find out what is going on in their town and what secrets are being hidden from them. All the actors in it are great and have each of their own unique and interesting personalities that people can discover while watching the show. Stranger Things 2 has been received amazingly. People love it, now the question is what about it they love.

I hadn't watched Season 1 until earlier this summer, despite many suggestions to do so by a friend. When I finally did I couldn't stop watching. The Duffer Brothers and the actors capture and convey a gripping story that somehow manages to grow in scope with each season. After the success of Season 1 the Duffer Brothers were asked what the plans for Season 2.

The brothers said they wanted to "Make it even bigger" and "Raise the Stakes." I would say they certainly succeeded. In keeping with their Season 1 performance, the entire cast gave amazing performances but the real standouts are once again the children. Millie Bobby Brown in particular as the mysterious Eleven is always fantastic to watch as she gives such a stunning and emotional performance with so little dialogue, even winning an Emmy earlier this year for it. New cast members include Sadie Sink and Sean Astin.

Season 2 picks up roughly a year after the events of Season 1 around Halloween as the kids are introduced to a new girl who has recently moved to Hawkins, Max. However as the season continue we find that Will has been having these visions taking him back to the Upside Down and once again the characters must work together to find out what is happening to Will, their town, and not only that we get to learn more about Eleven's history.

Eleven's history.

Ultimately, Season 2 got off to a relatively slow start but eventually gathered speed and became a worthy successor to the well-received first season. It's definitely worth a watch if you enjoyed Season 1. The Duffer Brothers have confirmed that they are working on Season 3, so if you want to get yourself caught up with show, you can go watch both seasons on Netflix



The Magnificent Monarch

By Maggie Gross

As the year progresses, the leaves on every tree have fallen to the ground. Autumn has slowly passed by and now winter is approaching. Some animals are going into hibernation while some might have moved to another habitat to survive the cold winter. Usually when talking about animals migration, the most common animals that come in mind are birds. However, there are many other animals that migrate, including butterflies.

These migratory insects are called the monarch butterflies. They are the most well-known American butterfly species. Their colorful wings are painted with orange, black, and white. Their colorfulness is a warning sign to predators that they might be harmful to eat. Although their wings may seem delicate, they can flap up to 120 times in a minute when escaping, and their flight speed is recorded around 4 to 12 miles per hour. Every year around fall, monarch butterflies travel 3000 miles to prepare for winter.

Unlike many other insects, monarch butterflies cannot withstand the freezing temperature of winter. As the temperature starts to drop and as days get shorter, the monarch butterflies know that it is time to migrate. Millions of them will start to abandon their original feeding and breeding habitats, which are located in northeastern America and Canada, to move to somewhere safer for the winter. After flying for about two months, the monarch butterflies will settle around Mexico or California. They will continue to live there for the rest of their lives, and breed there. Then, after their offspring have grown up, the offspring will then migrate back, and the cycle repeats over and over again.

In recent years, the number of monarch butterflies has declined significantly. One of the major reasons is increase in logging. With many trees being cut down, the habitat of Monarch butterflies is being irrevocably damaged. The second major reason is climate change. As temperatures rise and drop, the changes in the environment make it more difficult for Monarch butterflies to survive.

Although the threats that the butterflies are facing are very difficult for us to change, we could still do things that could help some animals around us. There are some very easy things that we could do, such as disposing food wastes properly so animals won't eat them, or planting small plants which might help insects.



Images Courtesy of National Geographic

By Elvis Feng

Volleyball League (cont'd)

Volleyball players, like basketball players, need to be fast, and able to jump very high. It is fast paced and nothing is more exciting than a great team play ended with a spike. Additionally, many fans of the TVL have also mentioned that some of the players (boys and girls) are good-looking, so if you really don't enjoy watching it for the sport, maybe this could be another reason to tune in. But you should watch it for the sport!

Thanks for reading! I hope you have learned about Taiwan's TVL and are interested enough to watch a game or two! You can find the games on the TV sports channels every weekend, or online at Fox Sports' Taiwan website for a video reply. Enjoy!.

Fantastic Lion King Makeup By Maggie Chen

I believe that everybody knows that makeup can really change how a person looks, making almost everybody look better. Many of our own readers understand that makeup can make people look better, but what about the stage or movie special effects makeup? I have always found movie makeup fascinating. This type of makeup transforms how a person looks. It isn't just to make people look better, it can completely change what a person looks like. When you watch the movie, you might wonder where blood or wounds come from, and how the actors never get hurt. This is the power of special effects makeup! Makeup can make impossible thing seem real, and that's why I love it so much.

Every dramas or plays will have their own style of makeup. If the makeup perfectly fit the play, it can make the performance more memorable, and the audience might have a stronger impression of the play. I am very excited to be doing the makeup for the Hsinchu American School's version of the play "Lion King". The actors will need a lot of face painting, because the main character in "Lion King" is a lion and the others are all animals. If the actors perform without makeup will look weird. So my job is to make them look like animals, then they can fit in the play and audience can get into the play quickly.

I have researched the makeup used for the professional performances of "Lion King" and I feel like although it is great for adults, this face painting does not fit with kids. The colors are striking and the characters are memorable, but they look a little bit scary. So I will change things a little bit, adding new ideas and making this makeup more fit with the kids.

I am really excited about this, because I have not done face painting before. I really like how face painting transforms how people look, and it might be a challenge for me, but I am ready for it. I am looking forward to my work!





Staff Spotlight: Mr. Silverman (cont'd)

By: Daniel Chen, Gary Chiao & Eric Sung

Gary: If you could recommend one book or movie, what it would it be?

Mr. S: One book or movie... Fiction or nonfiction?

Gary: There's no limits.

Mr. S: One of the books that I've read recently which I have in my classroom and I'm happy to share it with anybody is called "Prisoners of Geography". It looks at the history of the world through the lens of geography. It explains why our countries' histories are the way they are, but relating those histories to where the countries are located and involving the natural resources and borders that we have. The biggest takeaway I have from the book is that everyone here is very lucky to live in the kind of place we do, because truthfully where you are from says so much more about the opportunities you will have in your life than anything about you personally. And it makes me feel very like thankful about how lucky I am not only to be where I'm from but also to live in Taiwan right now, which is a country that has a lot of opportunity.

Daniel: If you could give one piece of advice to yourself in high school, what would it be and why? Mr. S: One piece of advice... Truthfully the biggest problem I see with all students, not everyone, but the main problem that I see that is the most widespread is there are a lot of really smart people, but they don't manage their time well. You can have fun, and you can get your work done, it's just about being organized with your time. If you just get in the habit of keeping a calendar, it will immediately make your grades better. It will also give you such a sense of accomplishment when you can cross things off your calendar... you'll feel great afterwards.

Gary: If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

Mr. S: I would like to stop time. Because time is the most valuable resource we have.

Thank you so much for reading, and special thanks to Mr. Silverman for taking the time to talk with us and answer our questions. See you next month!



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