

THE HOWLER

New Year Edition



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PANTHER**

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WELCOME BACK!

By Mr. Lines

Hello again everyone! We are very proud to bring you an extended Chinese New Year Retrospective Edition. In this issue you can find previews and reviews of school events, teacher spotlights, movie news, and much more. This issue features travel writing from Gary and Lisa, a discussion about the ethics of cloning from Maggie Gross, multiple movie reviews from Niles Yao and a special welcome message to our new students!

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!)



End of Year Trip: Ninjas, Climbers and Scientists!

By Angus Chang

The End of Year School Trip is one of the most exciting trips for many students. This year we went to the Ninja Factory and finished the day with Rock Climbing. Both activities were great experiences for those of us who like to exercise. The main point of the school trip is about taking time away from school with your friends and strengthening those friendships.

The Ninja Factory, located in Taichung, is a trampoline park. It is a great place to relieve stress. There are seven different areas, including trampoline areas, dodgeball courts, slamball courts, obstacle courses and foam pits. The interior is painted in the theme colors of black and pink, which makes it look like a scene from a Sci-Fi movie. Coaches and staff are present in all areas to keep you safe and teach you how to use the equipment.

The Taichung Rock Climbing area is great fun for everybody. The bouldering walls have varying levels of difficulty and the walls slope and angle to make each route a difficult problem to solve. Climbing is not easy. It requires strength, flexibility, concentration and balance. Rock climbing is completely safe, and suitable to everyone to join in.

While the High School students were rock climbing, the Middle School students visited the Taichung National Museum. There are different wings in the Science Museum, each dedicated to a different kind of science. These wings include many interactive experiments and activities for students to explore and get in touch with science.

One of the best things in life is to do activities and explore with your friends. The End of Year Trip was a great chance for us to do this and I know we are already looking forward to the next one.



Staff Spotlight: Ms. Phenix

By Maggie Gross

Hello, and welcome back to this month's teacher spotlight. As you may know, the classroom for art is on the second floor of our school. Paints, brushes, and all sorts of arts supplies litter the floor and creativity flows through the atmosphere. This room belongs to Ms. Phenix; the art teacher of our school. Apart from being the art teacher, she is also one of the advisers of 11th grade and runs the photography club. By reading the following interview you will be able to get to know some interesting things about Ms. Phenix!

MG: What did you study in college/university?

Ms. Phenix: Art.

MG: Have you always liked art?

Ms. Phenix: It was the first subject I was ever really good at, and then I was just very confident in it, so I kept doing it.

MG: What advice would you give to students that also want to study art?

Ms. Phenix: Just keep creating things and share your artwork with people and friends, and be a part of an artist community.

MG: If you could be someone else for a day who would it be and why?

Ms. Phenix: Alive or dead? Am I that person today walking around or am I that person when they were around?

MG: It could be anyone, I guess.

Ms. Phenix: I think, but I am not sure, I think I want to be Yoko Ono. She married John Lennon from the Beatles. Supposedly she broke them up, but when John Lennon died it was a big deal, and whatever. So I wouldn't want to be here for the missing husband thing, but definitely because she can basically do anything and call it art. She's like, an original artist; everything she does, she lives, breathes and creates art.

MG: Who do you look up to the most?

Ms. Phenix: Taller people.

MG: Have you always wanted to be a teacher? If not then what was your dream job?

Ms. Phenix: I wanted to be a rockstar, of course. But being a teacher ended up being the best job, and I love that job because I get to create art every day and make other people love art.

MG: Why and how did you decide that you wanted to come to Taiwan?

Ms. Phenix: My brother was here originally, he's been here for 10 years. I came to come visit him and stayed for a year, and then loved it and stayed ever since.

MG: What do you like the most about Taiwan?

Ms. Phenix: The people. You can travel the world and being an American, people will be really mean to you or think terrible things about you. But in Taiwan, when you come here, everybody's just as like, loving and generous, and you could be anyone. Coming into a foreign place, and being a foreigner, and then having the Taiwanese people accepting you as one of their own. It's unheard of, how kind these people are.

MG: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Ms. Phenix: The Gift of Gab.

MG: The Gift of Gab?

Ms. Phenix: Oh, I've thought about it. So, I would be in Ireland kissing the Blarney Stone, which is the stone that makes you have the ability to speak, like perfectly. Then you can convince people to do things, or just convince people by talking. I would have an arch enemy or a nemesis, who is the person who refuses to do anything that they are told to do.

-Interview Continued on Page 5

Chinese New Year Legends

By Gary Chiao



Winter vacation has come and gone; we all know that the winter also brings Chinese New Year. It's a time people can reunited with their families' members that all live far away and in different places. Family members all gather around at dinner table chatting and enjoy the time they can be together. All the teenagers and children are also excited to receive red envelopes and firecrackers, but have you ever wondered why we do these activities? Why we get free money? Why we play firecrackers? All these activities have their own old legends. Let's find out about them!

Red envelopes have many legends from the past. The most interesting one is about a monster called Chong. When it's New Year's Eve, parents give their children red envelopes to bribe the monster. If you bribe the monster then it won't hurt or eat you. Red envelopes are basically to wish for your own children to be safe and sound for a year. The other famous New Year's Eve activity is playing with firecrackers. Firecrackers must be fun but do you ever think why we are playing with such things? There are a bunch of monsters that live on the mountain and called the Shan Liao. They are not very big with only one leg. They always hide in a bamboo forest and wait for someone to pass though. When people pass though they will hunt for their food. It became a problem for people who lived in the village. One day a man passed through, and found a Shan Liao who ran away too slow. The man caught it easily and wanted to send it directly to the government. While passing through a wooden house, the owner tells him to release the monster, because last time someone caught a monster they got very sick. That day the weather was very cold so the owner asked the man to sit with him beside a fire. The man appreciated the owner and wanted to make the fire bigger. So he put some bamboo into the fire, suddenly the sound bamboo scared the Shan Liao away. After this happen the man told the villagers how to scare the Shan Liao away. That then evolved into firecracker. It's used to scare evil away during Chinese New Year's Eve.

After you've finished the stories, do you think you know more about the activities of Chinese New Year? I hope you all enjoyed the stories; those are the traditional activities done during New Year Eve. It is important to know more about the reasons these traditions started instead of just taking free money or playing for fun. I wish for everyone to have a great winter vacation and Chinese New Year.

Restaurant Review: The Park

By Sam Fan

Do you feel tired with your life? Is school making you exhausted? This situation happens day after day and you deserve a good meal for yourself. I would like to introduce "The Park", this restaurant owner is a Canadian man, he is extremely friendly and humorous, which makes you feel comfortable when you are ordering your food.

This restaurant is located in Hsinchu city, just near Hsinchu train station, it is near the ring. The designing of the restaurant is extremely relaxed, the lighting is soft, and the restaurant is clean, which makes me want to go to this restaurant again. The owner and waiters are friendly, so there is no pressure while ordering food. When you are eating your food, the owner might have some light conversations with you, asking you whether the food is good or not, you get the feeling this is not a restaurant, but more like eating at your friend's house.

The most important thing of a restaurant is the food for sure, and this restaurant has the best food in whole Hsinchu city. The type of cuisine of the restaurant is western cuisine, I recommend the ribs and burgers, the ribs are well cooked and big, so do not worry that you will still feel hungry after eating. The burgers have a lot of cheeses in it, and the meat is not dry at all.

When I went to this restaurant, the owner helped us order the food, and he is really hilarious, and he said "don't share your food to your friends, because they will keep taking your food, because that is really delicious." We ordered some pizza, chicken, ribs, burgers, and pasta, and I really recommend those dishes. The decoration is beautiful, they have a lot of space in the restaurant, and the light is bright but soft, there is a bar in front of the counter, and wood walls make me feel warm, overall, I think "The Park" is a perfect restaurant.



A Welcome to New Students

By Niles Yao

A new semester has begun. With the increase of students last month we've had a ton of new as well as some returning faces. Our school has so many interesting and fun things to do if you didn't know already.

We offer many different clubs with passionate and interesting students and teachers as leaders. We have sports clubs like the Volleyball and Soccer who are always working hard and winning games for our school. The sports teams practices are always quite intense but in the end they prove to be a ton of fun for the people involved. If sports isn't your thing, our school also has MUN or World Scholars Cup where you can test your wit and debating abilities against many others in competitions and conferences all around Taiwan (and perhaps even the world). If you just want something a bit more fun you could always choose a simple clubs such as Games or Photography clubs who offer students with the ability to join in and involve them in fantastic activities and learn a few things as well.

Aside from club our school has facilities such as the library where students can find a comprehensive collection of books our school collected over years. We are always striving to be effective and engaged learners, and this library is an excellent resource for us. We also have the student store filled with many delicious snacks, foods, and drinks that is open every lunch period to students and teachers! You should never study or try to learn on an empty stomach. There is also the gym where students can lift weights and strengthen their bodies for all those physically fit people. Healthy body, healthy mind and all that.

With so many new and interesting people showing up to our school we want to make sure we are as welcoming as possible. Hsinchu American School is a community made up of students and teachers who are all great and fun people. We hope all the arriving students enjoy it!

A History of Valentines Day

Lisa Yang

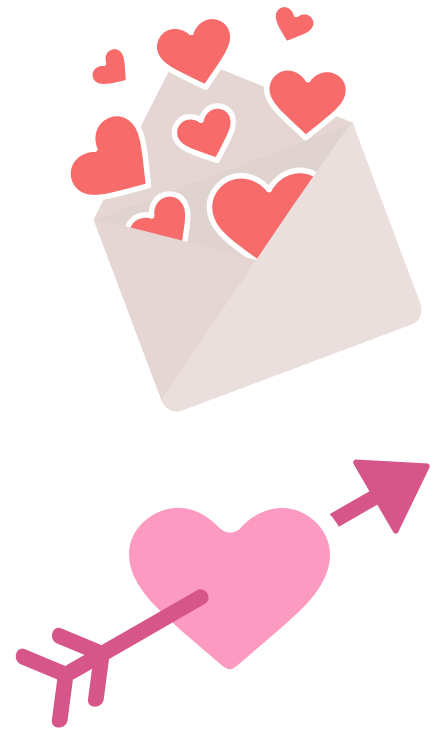
Valentine's Day is on the 14th of February. On that day couples or partners will celebrate together. According to tradition, girls will give boys chocolate as a gift, no matter if you are a couple or not. So many people will use this day as a chance to express their feelings to those that they like.

In Taiwan, people usually celebrate Valentine's Day by going to a nice restaurant to eat dinner or lunch together. Some people will choose to watch a movie together on that day, because many romantic movies will come out around Valentine's Day. Some will take this opportunity to reveal their feelings for a crush (good luck)!

But beware: this day can also be one way for lovers to test how much they care for each other. People usually buy gifts or make cards for their loved ones, others will make thoughtful plans. Whether you are a boy or girl, receiving a thoughtful gift is always a great thing to happen. There is also a great joy to be found in planning a great gesture for somebody you care about.

The origin of Valentine's Day is from King Claudius Gothicus in the 3rd Century. He wanted to have more soldiers to fight for him, so the King decided to force all the single, unmarried men to go into the army to fight. Those who were in the army couldn't get married or form attachments with others. There was a man who was named Valentinus, he ignored the rules and secretly helped a soldier to get married with a girl that the soldier fell in love with. The King found out the truth, he was very angry. The King decided to execute them both on February 14th. Thereafter, February 14th has been symbolized as Valentine's Day to commemorate those who love each other.

Valentine's Day is a really special holiday. On that day you can celebrate with your partner, and also you can show how much you love each other.



Online Shopping: From Snacks to Shirts!

By Maggie Chen

Many people in this generation like to go shopping online, because it's easier and you don't even need to go out, you just go online and see which product you want to buy. Also people are really lazy, they would rather do their shopping online. But if you're shopping online there are still risks for buying things. Some sellers might lie to you, so you need to have the ability to tell if the seller is credible or not. I really enjoy shopping cosmetic, clothes and food on Shopee. So I am going to recommend the shops I like on "Shopee" (蝦皮)

The first shop is called "Winnieks" this shop is focused on snacks, these snacks are from Hong Kong, Japan and Korea. So you can buy some snacks that are not found in Taiwan, this is a reason why I like this shop. The second reason is that the seller is really nice, because I have sent messages to her asking questions about her products. She was really patient in answering my questions, and she replies to the messages really quickly, this is really important to me because it make me feel like the seller cares about the buyers. I have bought this shop's snacks, it's really good and she sends the product really quickly, (出貨速度很快) so you can get your product within a week.

The second shop is called "Eshop520". This shop sells girls clothing, pants, accessories, and skirts. You can trust this shop completely because this shop has a physical store in Taipei you can go to. But if you are lazy to go to Taipei you can just buy it from Shopee. The clothes that is sold is really cool and unique and it's not expensive! So I really recommend girls to take a look of this shop.

The last shop that I want to recommend is called "Millicent" this shop is all about cosmetics from Korea. There are hundreds of cosmetics to choose from, and all the cosmetics are really famous and useful. You might ask me why would I choose this shop, because there have hundreds of shop that sells cosmetics, the reason why I choose this shop is because all the products are bought directly from Korea (代購) so it might not be as expensive as some physical store in Taiwan which are imported. So if you really love the cosmetics from Korea you can go check it out!

Those are all the shops that I want to share with you guys, and hope you guys enjoy it! If you want to buy something from other shops, just be careful of the product and check the shop's appraisal.



The Mustang: Evolution of an Icon

By Eric Sung

Cars have always been one of the most important inventions throughout history. In this article, I'm going to discuss the different generations in one specific car company. The company that I'm going to be introducing is Ford, one of my favorite companies of all time. The car model is the Mustang. Ford Mustang is an American muscle car manufactured by Ford. There are six generations of this car that have been produced. The first Ford Mustang was brought out five months before the normal start of the 1965 production year. The production of Ford began in Dearborn, Michigan on March 9th, 1964. The new car was introduced to the public on April 17, 1964 at New York World's Fair. The first generation of Ford Mustang was manufactured by Ford from March 1964 until 1973. The introduction of Mustang created a new class of automobiles known as "pony car".

The second generation was produced from 1973 until 1978, it was also known as Ford Mustang II. It was introduced in showrooms during September of 1973. The new Mustang II returned to a size closer to the 1965 model, ultimately winning the Motor Trend Car of the Year.



In 1979, Mustang introduced the third generation. The third generation was produced by Ford from 1979 until 1993. The third generation's production with the introduction of the fourth generation Mustang for the 1994 model year.



The fourth generation was produced by American manufacturer Ford for the 1994 to 2004 model years. The 1994 model year underwent its first major redesigns in fifteen years.

The fifth generation Mustang came one year after the fourth generation, from 2005 until 2014. It was manufactured in Michigan. It began with the 2005 model year, and was changed for the 2010 model year. The latest generation was from 2013 till present. The sixth generation is the current repetition of the Mustang pony car.



The sixth generation Mustang includes fully independent rear suspension on all models, it is also the first Ford Mustang that has been sold globally.

The Ford Mustang has become an iconic American car. To me, the best Ford Mustang is the third generation of Shelby Mustang introduced in 2015, because of its high performances with a top speed at 186 mph, and also with its long hood and short deck, proved wildly popular and inspired a host of competition.



Ni's NBA Niche

By Ni Shiue

Ni's NBA Niche is back for this month's latest NBA news! Happy Chinese New Year to everyone who is reading the HAS newspaper. In this month's article, I will talk about all the things that happened during the NBA All Star Weekend, including players' stats, trades, and results of All Star Weekend activities like 3 Point Contest, Rising Star Challenges, Skill Challenges, Dunk Contest, and the All Star Game.

Blake Griffin was traded to the Detroit Pistons! The Blake Griffin Trade was between the Clippers and the Pistons. According to the NBA, "the deal will send Griffin, guard Willie Reed, forward Brice Johnson and a second-round draft pick to Detroit for guard Avery Bradley, forward Tobias Harris, center Boban Marjanovic, plus a first-round and a second-round draft pick." On February 1st, Blake Griffin played his first game as a Piston against the Grizzlies. According to ESPN, "Griffin scored 24 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and dished out five assists as his new team pulled out a 104-102 win over the Memphis Grizzlies."

Isaiah Thomas was traded to the Los Angeles Lakers! The Cavaliers decided to trade Isaiah Thomas, Channing Frye, and their 2018 first round pick for two young players Larry Nance Jr. and Jordan Clarkson from the Lakers.

The Cavaliers continue a three team trade with Jazz and Kings. According to the NBA, "Cleveland has acquired Utah guard Rodney Hood and Sacramento guard George Hill in a three-team deal, the team announced. The Cavaliers will reportedly send Iman Shumpert to the Kings while dealing Jae Crowder and Derrick Rose to the Jazz. Joe Johnson also goes from Utah to Sacramento in the trade." Cavs really want to find a new way to fight for the NBA championship 2018.

The NBA All Star weekend started on February 16th and ended on February 18th and located at Staples Center, Los Angeles. On February 16th, there were NBA Celebrities Game and NBA Rising Stars Challenge, and the MVP of Celebrities Game is Quavo the rapper, and the MVP of the Rising Stars Challenge is Bogdan Bogdanovic from the Kings.

On February 17th, there were NBA Skill Challenge, 3 Point Contest, and Slam Dunk Contest. The winner of the Skill Challenge is Spencer Dinwiddie from the Nets. The winner of the 3 Point Contest is Devin Booker from the Suns. And finally, the winner of the Slam Dunk Contest is Donovan Mitchell from the Jazz.

On February 18th, was the NBA All Star Game, all of the best players in the league played in the game. Team LeBron had beaten Team Stephen 148-145, and LeBron James won the MVP award for the third time with 29 points, 10 rebounds and 8 assists in the All Star Game.

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/nitringtonba for more NBA highlight videos.

Staff Spotlight: Ms. Phenix (cont'd)

MG: If you had to choose one song to recommend to someone, what song would it be?

Ms. Phenix: 1979 by the Smashing Pumpkins.

MG: What is one book that you would recommend to everyone?

Ms. Phenix: What age group?

MG: I don't know, just anyone?

Ms. Phenix: Um... American Gods by Neil Gaiman.

MG: Would you rather have to read aloud every word you read or sing everything you say?

Ms. Phenix: I already sing everything I say.

Thank you so much for reading this month's teacher spotlight. It was very fun and interesting to do this interview, and of course, special thanks to Ms. Phenix for spending time to do the interview and answering all the questions. That's all for this month, and please look forward to next month's interview!

Volleyball Season Preview

By: Anson Feng

There are a lot of sports teams offered at Hsinchu American School. Our Basketball season has just ended and now we have Volleyball! Volleyball is not as popular as sports like basketball, baseball and soccer, but in recent years, volleyball has started to become a sport that is very popular, both in our school and outside.

We have a boy's team and a girl's team for volleyball, and our total number of the players are 19. We are excited to welcome all our new players this year. They are all very interested and engaged. Their coaches and captains have been impressed with the fact that these new students often ask for additional coaching and help.

Our volleyball team just began their practices. It has been a long time since many of us played, so it's like a fresh start for some. We have set up our practices to revisit all the basics. Once we are good at the fundamentals, we will move onto more complicated techniques..

We are looking forward to our games against schools like HIS, AST, TPCA, etc. Our goal for this year is to work hard, play hard, and represent the school as well as we can! We hope you will come and cheer at our games.

Winter Performance

By Elvis Feng

Winter Performance is a Hsinchu American School tradition. The school sets up a stage and students take to the stage to show their talents. We invite parents to come and experience the performances as well. Traditionally, two of the most important clubs for Winter Performance are Rock Band and the Dance Club. Every year we know that Rock Band will show us their songs, and Dance Club will show us their moves.

On December 14th, all the Hsinchu American School students experienced a buzz of excitement and nerves, because it was the day of the performance. This was a night where we could suddenly see all of our friends in a completely different way. For example, your shy friend might be an enthusiastic dancer, but you would never know on a normal day. Suddenly, when they have a stage, they shine. This is how Winter Performance can sometimes let us see our friends' true selves.

Rock Band is one of the most important clubs for the Winter Performance, and this evening is a central part of the Rock Band calendar. The Hsinchu American School Rock Band needs to put on a good show no matter what, and so they must prepare and perform an excellent show. They must be role models and bring everyone in and get all the students involved. Winter Performance was a night of fun for everybody. We thank you all for coming and we look forward to seeing you next year!



HAS Basketball Game Review

By: Angus Chang

On January 22nd, Hsinchu American School had its final basketball game. This game was played at UMC, against Taipei Primacy Christian Academy (TPCA). The final score was 74-72, ending in overtime.

At the first quarter of the game, our team was already on fire. We had a huge leading of the game with stable shooting rate and our players can cut through the paint easily. TPCA seem didn't has any ways to stop us. Started the second quarter, TPCA changes their tactics. They substitute their best player into the game. He is a player who has a high and tough body. His defiance and offense let TPCA started to catch up our score.

We had no idea they hide their best player till the second quarter of the game. There strategy shows a great result for them.

The first quarter of the game was played very well by the Wolves. We generated a huge lead with stable shooting, good driving, and strong play in the paint. TPCA did not seem to be able to stop us. Starting in the second quarter, however, they stepped things up and caught up to our lead. They made some adjustments and before we knew it, it had become a very close game.

During the third and fourth quarter the Wolves played their starting lineup almost exclusively. Both teams were tied up and trying their best. By the end of the fourth quarter, the game was tied and we went into overtime. In the final five minutes, the Wolves took a lead and won the game. Lead by Peter Cheng, with 38 points, 15 rebounds and 7 steals, the Wolves put on an impressive performance. Allen Yang scored 22 points, along with 12 steals, 6 rebounds and 3 assists, while Angus Chang notched 10 points, 13 rebounds, 4 steals and 2 blocks. This game was the perfect end to our season and we hope to continue this winning record next year.



A Foodie's Guide to Japan

By Lisa Yang

Japan is traditionally a popular vacation destination for Taiwanese people during the holidays. Growing up, my family and I went to Japan many times. On average, we have gone to Japan at least one time a year. I first went when I was about 1 year old and I have many memories from Japan since. It is a clean, neat country with no trash on the streets. The food is delicious and the people are kind. Japan is also home to many interesting toys, technology and gadgets.

When I go to Japan, I think the thing that excites me most is going to the Tokyo Disneyland. To me, Disneyland is a place full of happiness and joy. I could spend my whole day there and not get tired of any of it. There are simulation rides and all kinds of activities there such as shows and many opportunities to take photos in their beautiful Disney sets. This is a place that is great for everyone, no matter their age.

This trip, I focused more on food and food reviews. I had a great time in Japan and I hope this gives you a guide for places to visit for your future trips!



Location: Tokyo, Ginza Six, 5F

Price: ¥2980 (set)

Score: 4/5

Taste: This is an Indian - Japanese fusion dish, it is grilled chicken, with many different kind of spices, and it was a little spicy with a hint of curry.

Date visited: 2017.12.23

Location: Tokyo Disney Land

Price: ¥ 380

Score: 4.5/5

Taste: These are chocolate churros. There is nothing particularly special about them. They were just delicious!

Date visited: 2017.12.25



Location: Tokyo, Shinjuku (Harbs)

Price: ¥800

Score: 4.8/5

Taste: This is a strawberry cake with cream. This is my favorite food in Japan. These cakes look (and taste) like they came straight out of a fairy tale!

Date visited: 2017.12.22



Travel Diary - Vietnam

By Gary Chao

Over Winter break I went to Vietnam for the first time with my father. Neither of us had ever been to Vietnam before and it was quite a special experience. Vietnam is located in Southeast Asia. Its flag is a yellow star on a red background. Before my trip, I was worried because I had heard that Vietnam was dangerous. I did not know what to think, because I did not know anything about the country, so I did some research.

Vietnam was ruled by the French during the mid 1800s. At that time, the French imparted their culture to Vietnam. After the French left Vietnam, the next major event was the Vietnam War, where the United States waged a war in the country.

Vietnam's food is diverse. It comes from French, Chinese, and local cuisines. I was also interested in the buildings and architecture of the cities, which are as much of a mix of cultures as the food is.

On the first day after I arrived, my phone broke and I got to experience Vietnam with no distractions. The second day we saw famous Vietnamese Basket Boats. These boats resemble baskets and only fit 3 people at a time. They are propelled with a single oar and are very difficult to use. We boated to a small island where we had a lunch of fresh seafood. On the third day we explored Hanoi's old quarter, where we got to see more of the city and its history.

One interesting thing I discovered from Vietnam was how currency is different between countries. In Vietnam, the currency is very weak, so one meal could cost you hundreds of thousands of Vietnam Dong. However, this is only the equivalent of a few hundred New Taiwan Dollars.

Overall I had a great time and I would suggest that other people try to visit Vietnam.

How I Became a Youtuber

By Ni Shiue

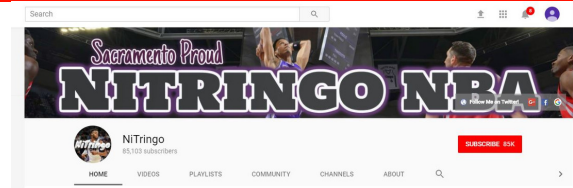
The beginning of my YouTube career started in early 2015, almost three years ago. I started the channel because I saw other people who uploaded NBA highlights and mixes got many subscribers and views, and sometimes even money. At the time, I was not very good at using computers, so I could not make some high quality edited mixes of NBA. My first ever video was just one of Demarcus Cousins dunking on Mason Plumlee. The reason I uploaded the video was because I wanted to be the first to upload an awesome play that many people who had not seen it live would otherwise not be able to see. The result turned out pretty well for me that time: I got triple digits of views. I decided to upload the latest and best plays and highlights. As my channel is getting more views, I feel so happy and excited because I could be a "YouTuber," and I heard that doing YouTube could be a way of earning money, which really excited me. Who doesn't want to get paid to do what they enjoy?



How I Became a Youtuber (cont'd)

By: Ni Shiue

On November 28th, 2015, everything changed. I posted my first series on my channel, titled, "Best Plays of 2015 - 2016 Season Including the Playoffs". Surprisingly, the entire series was very popular, the total views of the series almost reached 3 million, then I started being an NBA YouTuber. My second series of the channel is "Top Plays of Career of NBA Players", each video of the series is not long, but still gave me more than 1.1 million views. My channel is famous because of NBA mixes. The first popular montage I made was "Wow Moments", there are currently 18 episodes with over 5 million views. If people visit my channel, they will see the most famous mix is my Low Arcing shots with over 7 million views, that mix was unbelievable, even I am surprised by the amount of views it has. Currently I have more than 58K subscribers and in the future I will upload mainly NBA mixes since I got the most of views from those kinds of videos. If you are interested in this channel, go subscribe to NiTringo right now youtube.com/c/nitringtonba.



Winter Performance

By Elvis Feng

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Chinese New Year Word Search



I	E	N	S	E	F	N	H	Z	R	K	H	C	M	D
B	N	D	I	R	I	K	R	L	V	F	Q	L	T	U
L	U	V	P	Q	R	U	B	E	B	X	J	X	H	E
V	T	S	M	Y	E	V	F	W	T	E	P	W	J	T
D	R	R	Q	A	W	D	P	N	N	N	S	N	M	B
W	O	D	P	X	O	T	G	V	A	P	A	G	K	Z
V	F	K	K	T	R	J	E	C	L	T	T	L	D	R
U	T	F	J	W	K	L	O	L	O	C	F	X	R	X
T	F	M	R	E	O	I	Y	L	E	Q	I	W	A	Z
W	I	M	U	P	N	G	S	P	R	I	N	G	G	S
Z	I	Q	E	R	O	T	S	E	C	N	A	Z	O	Y
J	N	N	K	O	B	E	Z	N	W	M	O	Q	N	D
R	D	P	T	V	R	M	V	O	Y	F	L	M	I	C
H	V	R	U	E	Z	K	E	A	L	A	M	V	C	Z
C	K	C	U	L	R	S	L	I	D	L	U	S	C	Q

Ancestor
Dragon
Fortune
Respect

Coin
Envelope
Lantern
Spring

Dog
Firework
Luck
Winter

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

By Niles Yao

THIS IS A WARNING THERE WILL BE MAJOR SPOILERS FOR STAR WARS THE LAST JEDI AHEAD.

Easily one of the most well known movie franchises of all time is "Star Wars" the epic space opera known all across the world. Last December Star Wars VIII: The Last Jedi delivered all it had promised. This movie was directed by director Rian Johnson who took the saga in a bold new direction that shocked many of the people that had watched the film. The movie is also the longest of all the films, with a runtime of 2 hours and 33 minutes. The film on its opening weekend in the US earned over 220 million dollars and was a huge success, now the question is why did people love it SO much, beside the fact it's Star Wars of course.

To recap the film, "The Last Jedi" picks up right where the last film ended where we meet back up with the Resistance characters from the last film including Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac), General Leia Solo (Carrie Fisher), and Finn (John Boyega). Trying to escape the First Order who were pursuing them and in an attempt to escape but are trapped in the middle of space with no way to escape and quickly running out of time.

Meanwhile Rey has travelled to the planet of Ahch-To where she expects the legendary Luke Skywalker to train her and help defeat the First Order. But all she finds is an old man struggling with suicidal guilt. Rey then learns the truth about what happened when Ben Solo was at the Jedi Academy and leaves believing she can still turn him back to the light side. Luke tries to stop her and warns her of the dangers that await her. Then we learn how Finn and a new character Rose (Kelly Marie Tran) need to travel to the gambling planet Canto Bight and find a hacker but are soon after captured aboard the First Order Ship. Also aboard the ship is Rey who has been captured and taken to Kylo Ren's master, Supreme Leader Snoke. As this is happens the Resistance escape to the nearby salt planet of Crait which has a old Rebel base that should have enough resources to call for help. Snoke is quickly killed by Kylo Ren who chooses to save Rey and then offers for her to join him and rule the galaxy but Rey refuses and escapes to the nearby planet to help the Resistance. The final battle begin as Kylo Ren is now in command of the First Order goes down to the planet with all of his available forces to wipe out of the already miniscule Resistance. Kylo Ren is then confronted by his old master Luke who seems to have travelled to Crait to stop him only to be barraged with a wave of laser from the First Order. He seems to survive it and Kylo Ren proceeds to go and duel with him only to find it was a trap and Luke was actually using a Force Projection across the galaxy. With that the Resistance is able to all escape aboard the Millennium Falcon and escape the First Order.

Overall the film was interesting with many twists along the way, including the death of both Snoke and Luke. The reappearance from Jedi Master Yoda delivered a showcase of the abilities of Force ghosts. With all the introduction of new things in this film there were bound to be a few disappointments with critics. One of my concerns with the film was how the movie seemed to drag on a bit especially when the characters were on Canto Bight and also how we are abruptly told how Rey's parents unremarkable, despite all the build up to the contrary. In closing, although it did have a hiccup or two within it, as a whole it was one of the most intense of all the Star Wars film and always kept the audience excited and at the edges of their seats. The credits of the film also saying "In loving memory of our princess, Carrie Fisher" who had passed away earlier last year. What we know so far about Star Wars Episode 9 is that it's set to be released in 2019 being directed once again by J.J. Abrams currently under the working title of Black Diamond.

With that the review is over and I must say: May the force be with you, always.

Science, Clones, and Monkeys

By Maggie Gross

Imagine a zoo where all the animals are cloned, where they not only look exactly the same, but also all share the same genes. This idea might seem somewhat strange, but it could actually be possible. Although it's more complicated than this, but in a way, animals can be copy and pasted. After several years of doing experiments and research, scientists have successfully made two clones of the same monkey. These two monkeys have proven that as technology advances, researchers and scientists have also been making lots of process on their research.

On November 27, 2017, the two monkeys were born in a lab located in Shanghai, China. They are a type of monkey called macaques. One monkey is named Zhong Zhong and the other is Hua Hua. Although they were not the first animals to be cloned, it is certainly still a huge breakthrough for scientists and researchers.

Monkeys have been cloned before Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua were born, but they were cloned through a different technique. After making Dolly the Sheep, this is the first time that primates have been successfully cloned using the newer technique. The technique is called somatic cell transfer (SCNT). This is when scientists reconstruct an unfertilized egg, the nucleus is removed and replaced with a nucleus from another cell. Then it is stimulated to grow into an embryo, which eventually gets transplanted into a surrogate mother.

The success of these two monkey clones suggests that it is technically possible to clone humans, and it could be done in a matter of months or years. This made many people wonder and worry about scientists cloning humans. However, the scientists mentioned that their purpose was to study diseases through the monkeys, and they will not attempt to do that.

This procedure raises serious ethical concerns. There has always been controversy when it comes to using non-human primates as lab animals. Some animal welfare groups view this particular event as cruel, especially since they are so similar to humans. Some scientists consider this unnecessary due to how advanced computer modeling is, while others believe that using non-human primates for certain research is unavoidable. There have been many reports on how lab animals tend to be mistreated, and that many cloned animals suffer from health issues due to the cloning process. Although experts believe that the ethical issues are too complex for them to come to a conclusion yet, it is still an issue that should be solved.



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How to Draw Your Eyebrows: A Guide

By Maggie Chen

Have you ever had an eyebrow problem? This might sound strange to you, but an "eyebrow problem" is actually very common, especially for girls. These problems can occur when someone has an accident when shaving, shaping, or drawing their eyebrows. All of these techniques depend on the person and each other. But no matter what you do, you should learn how to draw your eyebrows. Many people ask, "how can I draw the perfect eyebrow?" The drawing part is easy, but making it look good is very difficult. Here are my quick tips and tricks to draw and shape your eyebrows exactly as you want them.

- 1.) You need to find your brow, brow ridge, the end of the brow. This will help you shape your eyebrow
- 2.) Choose the right color for your eyebrow, the color should fit with your hair color.
- 3.) Make sure you shape correctly before you outline
- 4.) You can draw the outline for your eyebrow, just like you are drawing on the paper.
- 5.) After you draw the shape you like, you can start to fill up with your eyebrow pencil.
- 6.) Remember the brow's color must be lighter than the end of eyebrow. Otherwise your eyebrow will look really fake and not natural. This is the step that many people will have trouble with.

Having a great eyebrow pencil can be important when it comes to drawing your eyebrows properly. My personal favorite is from a brand called ZA. The full name of the product is "ZA 3D 塑型兩用眉筆". It is very easy to use and understand, and it combines an eyebrow pencil with eyebrow powder in one product. This means you can use the pencil side to shape and outline your eyebrows, and then fill it out with the powder. This will give you a natural and perfect-looking eyebrow!



Black Panther Movie Review

By: Niles Yao

Ryan Coogler's Spring release of "Black Panther" is the 18th installment in the ever-expanding Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). This film does not feature your average superhero though, with overwhelming positive reviews from both critics and audiences "Black Panther" is quickly becoming one of the most popular movies of 2018. Earning 292 million dollars in its first week of showing in North America alone and still gaining a lot of traction all across the globe. The movie takes place in the fictional country of Wakanda which is reclusive from the rest of the world and revolves around the Newly crowned King called T'challa (Chadwick Boseman) also known as the Black Panther. The movie is being talked about for its stunning visuals, as well as the fantastic music.

It's first interesting take on the superhero movie is "What happens when you become King to the MOST technologically advanced countries in the world?" and along with that what responsibilities and consequences come along with it. It also presents women in this movie not just as people who need to be saved but as some of the most incredible and marvelous (pardon the pun) people of Wakanda. Shuri (Letitia Wright), the Black Panther's sister, is the head of Wakanda technological division who is in charge of all the awesome tools and gadgets of the Black Panther and all his citizens. Even the Wakandan 'Black Ops' known as the Dora Milaje consist of exclusively women who are all masterfully trained and are dedicated to the country. Even the villains Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) and Ulysses Klaw (Andy Serkis) have depth to them, more so Killmonger giving us his enticing and interesting background of being tied to the past of T'challa which make him question what it means to be a good king. All the actors give amazing and intriguing performances which allow each of them to shine in their own ways throughout the film.

Its visuals have also been a talking point for the film not just for CGI but all the stunning and colorful practical effects such as the make-up and costumes used for the film. Costumes are each unique to the different factions that make up Wakanda with the different colors and styles of clothing which are blended from a combination of various African cultures. The action scenes are also well choreographed and deliver some impressive use of weaponry such as spears and swords along with some hand to hand combat. The city of Wakanda rendered in the movie is also gorgeous delivering a sense of classic architecture melded with science fiction.

The music for the movie has also caught the attention of many a moviegoer as they are all curated by the songwriter Kendrick Lamar, featuring many other artists from across the music industry. Thus, this movie has a very unique sound that distinguishes it from many other Marvel movies. It uses a lot of hip hop which surprisingly fits well when used with the tone of the movie. Some of the songs such as "All the Stars" have been heavily promoted and streamed on various platforms over 120 million times. In the end, "Black Panther" is quite the piece and definitely sets a new standard for high budget superhero movies. It offers quite an interesting story for the heroes, villains, and supporting cast. It also has amazing visuals and an unforgettable soundtrack. The film is also being talked about all over the world for all exciting possibilities of expanding on this section of the Marvel Universe in future installments. If you want to see it, it was released in theaters February 13th in Taiwan!

Club Spotlight: eSports

By Sam Fan

Today I would like to introduce the newest student-led club at HAS: eSports Club! This group is organized by Spencer Yao, and the main focus will be on a real-time strategy game called Starcraft II. This supports multiple game modes, including 1v1 and multiplayer. The goal of the club will be to teach strategy, teamwork, respect and growth mindset.

Starcraft II is a military science fiction real-time strategy game. It was made by Blizzard Entertainment. There are three races: Terrans, Zerg, and Protoss. You select one of the unique races and start on your mission for intergalactic conquest. This club will teach players the basic skills required to succeed in a game like Starcraft II, which has been described as fast-paced chess.

But aren't games bad for people, especially students? I think that as long as you do it in moderation, then it won't hurt. In fact, there might be some benefits like improved reaction times and communication skill development. The goal of this club is not to be better than everybody else. The goal is to have fun and become better than you were before. Here is my interview with Spencer:

Q1. Why did you want to start a club like this?

StarCraft is a unique game in the sense that it is essentially the founder of modern esports as we know it. As a real time strategy (RTS) game, popularity has diminished in recent years due to multiplayer online battle arena (MOBA) games such as League of Legends taking over the esports scene. The goal of the StarCraft II club is not to focus on who's better at anything, whether it's the game or how fast someone can improve. Instead, my vision for the club is to popularize a RTS game that I see as very enjoyable and rewarding, as well as presenting an opportunity for members of the student body that may not necessarily be friends to come together and socialize through common ground.

Q2. Why did you chose StarCraft but not other video games?

StarCraft is a 1v1 game with matches lasting around 15-20 minutes on average. Previous attempts at starting esports clubs involved League of Legends teams, which had 5 players per team. As a result, practice timing became very hard to coordinate, and the experience was not enjoyable for the majority of those involved. By focusing on a 1v1 game, I hope to eliminate the aspect of "flaming teammates," as well as the restrictive guidelines of practice schedules that require accomodation with the rest of the team. Furthermore, the length of each game of StarCraft is shorter than League of Legends or Overwatch (as well as a multitude of other games), and would therefore leave more time for analysis and future games. One of the largest reasons, however, is that even toasters can run the game to an acceptable level. Personally, I chose StarCraft because I enjoy the game, and would love to find some other people to play with.

How to Get Into College

By Daniel Chen

As we enter March, we leave Winter behind us. But for the seniors, more importantly, this month marks the time when most universities and colleges will release their decisions. Some of our students have already received good news from some of their colleges, so congratulations to them!

To get into a good college is every student's dream, and for many of us, the chance to study internationally is the reason why we have come to Hsinchu American School. But to get into college depends on many factors, including grades, test scores, essays, and interview skills. All of these must be practiced and prepared. I had the chance to interview May Lee, our Student Government President, to ask for her tips and insights into the college admissions process.

Daniel: What concerns you about studying internationally?

May: Well, firstly, I have never been to the mainland of America, so I'm not sure how I will fit in there. Even though we have received an American education here, I wonder if studying there will be very different. I think fitting into a new society and culture will be a bit jarring at first.

Daniel: What preparation did you do before your senior year?

May: Well I spoke to many people who were college graduates or current students, and tried to get an idea of the experience through them. I feel like I am somewhat prepared for college, and I tried to be very engaged in high school, reading up on articles, participating in MUN and other competitions to build up my knowledge.

Daniel: What can students do to get into their dream school?

May: My dream school? Okay... I didn't get into my dream school yet so I can't really give you a great answer. I think I have done a lot to prepare myself to apply for top colleges and universities. I have done many extracurricular activities and I went to additional classes for the SAT. In addition I also complete my school work dilligently and have maintained a high GPA. I would say this is a standard requirement. But when you write your essays you need to think a lot and make constant progress. Juniors should begin thinking about the process before their senior year begins.

Daniel: What was your family's reaction when you got your first acceptance letter?

May: They just said "congratuations", and that was it.

Daniel: What English tests did you take?

May: I took the SAT and TOEFL.

Daniel: What is the difference between the SAT and TOEFL?

May: The TOEFL is just a basic requirement for most international students to test your English Proficiency. The SAT is more comprehensive, testing your critical thinking and problem solving abilities.

Daniel: Which country would you suggest that people to go?

May: Well I applied to schools in America, Singapore, and Korea. These are my preferred countries but it really depends on what kind of environment works best for you.

Daniel: When did you start preparing for college applications?

May: That's a tricky question, because your freshman grade goes in your transcript right? So I guess the entire process started when I began my high school career. But in terms of when I started most of my application work, I really did a lot over the summer between my Junior and Senior years.

Daniel: What are some tips you would give to Juniors?

May: Be smart with your time management. Plan ahead and be actually prepared for the process. Finish your work early.

Daniel: How did you choose your major?

May: It's definitely a hard choice, because I have broad interests across many fields. But no matter what, I tend to go back towards international relations or public policy. This interest was probably developed through Model UN and World Scholar's Cup.

Daniel: Can you give any advice to people with lower GPAs?

May: Well the college admissions process is holistic, so it is not all about the GPA. Definitely try to get the highest GPA you can, because it helps, but if you can't or you haven't so far, then try to find your specialty and really focus on expanding that strength.

Volleyball Review: AST and HIS

By Elvis Feng

For many of us, the second semester of our school year was greeted with joy because volleyball season has begun. We have a great volleyball team in Hsinchu American school and we are looking forward to the new season!

There are almost 20 people in our volleyball team, making it one of the largest teams in school. We only practice three days a week, so we must make the most of that time. This year our focus is on attacking skills for the boys teams. On February 8th and 9th, we had our first games of the season. The first game was against Hsinchu International School, and the second was against American School in Taichung. Both games were at home.

On the morning of February 8th, our players were feeling nervous because it was the first game of the year. Many of our players were new and did not know exactly what to do. However, we set up a slow start for our game plan and allowed our players to gradually get used to the game and become comfortable. We won our first set. Our second set didn't go so well, with us losing. The last set was to 15 points, so we had to win. Our captain encouraged the players and calmed everybody down, allowing us to play as well as possible. We did well, and eventually won with a score of 15:4!

The next day we played against our old rival, AST. We have never beaten them before so we were aiming to overcome that obstacle on the 9th of February. We tried to keep a close game but they had one really good spiker who was hard to stop. We lost our first set. Going into the second set, we knew we could not lose and the pressure was on. We played with heart and skill, both on defense and offense, eventually winning the second set with a score of 25:12. This brought us to a deciding third set. Although we did as well as we could, we lost the final set. However, we played with heart and did our best, and the team should be proud for that!

In the end, we won our first game and lost our second. It was a pity that we lost our second match but we showed flashes of brilliance. We are confident that when the new players grow more comfortable, and with extra time spent training and practicing, we will continue to bring home the victories for Hsinchu American School

Club Spotlight: eSports

By Sam Fan

Q3. What do you want to say to the students about this club?

StarCraft is a unique and enjoyable experience that's for players of all ages. Since it's a 1v1 game, participants do not have to worry about teammates potentially causing them to lose a game - winning or losing is purely determined by your own performance. With that being said, there's no judgement for performance whatsoever; the important part is that everyone can learn or improve at the game while having fun at the same time.

Q4. How many members do you want for StarCraft club for maximum?

As many as humanly possible.

Q5. What might be the common goals of this club?

For the club, there are two simple goals: learn a new game and have fun. I don't intend to necessarily treat it like a class by setting a large benchmark for participants to meet, but rather as a potential opportunity for members to find some new friends they never thought they'd talk to, or just find a new activity and enjoy.

Q6. Will there be competitions?

As far as competitions are concerned, if any local or national ones do exist, as long as people are up for it, I don't see any reason not to participate.

If the question refers to competition within school, likewise, as long as participants are willing, it may be a unique experience.

Q7. What do you imagine a club gathering to look like?

Club gatherings really depend on how many participants have signed up. Given that only 3 to 5 people participate, participants can play scrimms against each other or play a king-of-the-hill style rotating sequence. I would imagine some portion of time to be allocated towards analyzing replays as well. On a larger scale, given around 10+ members, a bracket/roster can be determined in advance, and players would play assigned matches on the day; the actual logistics would have to be considered after signups have commenced.



How to Get Into College (Cont'd)

By Daniel Chen

Daniel: How do you deal with a rejection?

May: I haven't gotten any rejection letters yet, but if I do, I believe it will be okay if I don't get into certain colleges. Many of the schools I applied to are very competitive so I prepare the right expectations. Prepare yourself and try to remain positive. I might not be shocked but obviously at times there is disappointment. But don't focus on the negative things.

Daniel: What did you learn from applying to colleges?

May: The best thing I got from this process was learning about myself. When you actually want to write your story and sell yourself you have to know yourself first. Even in Junior year, I did not really know what I wanted to do or what my strengths are. But this process helped me to learn that, and it allowed me to talk to many other people to discover who I am.

Daniel: What was the most difficult thing you had to deal with during this process?

May: I think the most difficulty things that you face application process is keeping managing your application time and you other academic slash extra critic, because I still very involved in MUN and community, I have go a lot conferences during that process you have to finished you application, so I felt that was my hardest part in my experience. The most difficult thing for me was managing my time between applications, school work, and extracurricular obligations. I am still very involved with MUN and the HAS school community. But I managed.

Daniel: What was your solution?

May: I didn't sleep!