

ACACIAWOOD PREPARATORY

EAGLE FLYER

August 2022

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! Our team is committed to bringing you monthly news regarding students, school events and activities. Please enjoy our first issue!

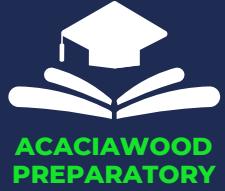
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BACK TO SCHOOL

By: Rebekah Rosario and Sarah Bolton



On August 9th a new school year began. Students were welcomed and gifted by ASC to start off the day on a good note. This year holds a lot in store with traditional Acaciawood events such as Family Fun Night and Spirit Week under this year's ASC theme of travel. Make sure to check out the Acaciawood website and Instagram page to keep up with current announcements and upcoming events as well as enjoy snippets of everyday Acaciawood life!

Website: acaciawood.org

Instagram: [acaciawoodstudentcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/acaciawoodstudentcouncil)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 10-11

Oak Glen Retreat

High school students and their families will spend the night in Oak Glen and participate in recreational, fun, team building activities!

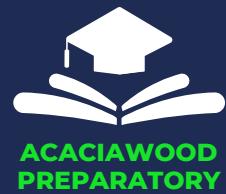
Sept 23

Family Fun Night

Annual all school event with food, fun, games and more. Will take place at school on the black top. More details to come.

CHESS CHAMPION

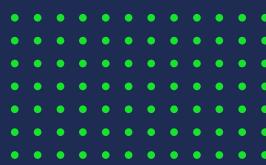
By: Alethea Fong and Silvia Aramburo



Sophomore Esther Jou, is a rising star in the world of chess. She got her start as an elementary student, participating in chess camps and tournaments, but in the last two years she began to take chess seriously.

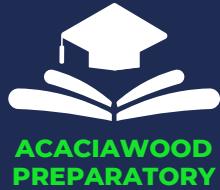
When asked what re-sparked her interest in chess, she answered, "*In 2020, I got back into chess because I had unused chess lessons during the pandemic, and had nothing else to do so I played online and improved, which motivated me to go to tournaments again.*" One of her goals is to become a National Master before she graduates high school, which from her stats seems like quite a possibility. Currently, she's impressively ranked #82 for top 15 year olds in the US, #5 for top girls aged 15, and #89 for top women overall.

In the Pacific Southwest Open, she tied for first with four others. In the Pacific Coast Open, she won 4.5 of 6 games and tied for second place with ten others. In the US Open (a large tournament including everyone from beginners to grandmasters), she won 6 of 9 games and was the second lowest rated person to achieve this score, an outstanding accomplishment. She has an upcoming tournament on the 21st, the Southern California Open on September 3-4, and more. We can't wait to see her upcoming accomplishments and wish her the best of luck!



ATHLETICS: VOLLEYBALL

By: Anamaria Viana and Karissa Lim



The 2022 volleyball season has begun! The team is working harder than ever to continue last year's success, which includes winning Western League Champion and making it to CIF round 1 for the first time in a decade!

Our captain is senior, Carissa Kuan. Being last year's MVP and Western League Player of the Year, she's been playing for 5 years as a middle. Her favorite part about being on the team is collaborating and supporting one another. She says, "*The best players train outside of practice, whether that be watching videos, conditioning, skill drills, etc. Don't be afraid to ask teammates for advice.*" Co-captains Rebekah Rosario and Sarah Bolton were voted 1st team all league last year and have been playing for 2 ½ years. Rebekah's position is outside and her tip for improvement is "*Use what you have to your best abilities.*" Sarah Bolton is the first setter with hopes of becoming a middle next year. Her tip is, "*Don't ever settle for mediocrity and don't let your nerves or self-doubt get in the way of fulfilling your potential.*"

We know our captains will lead the team to great heights this year, and we look forward to watching them soar even higher than before!



The volleyball team is coached by Susanna Rosario. Here is what she had to say about the upcoming season...

By: Lianna Alvarez-Sager and Camila May

Q: Why did you decide to become a coach?

A: I've always loved playing sports in High school and I know how valuable being on a team and playing a sport can be. So as a parent with a student at Acaciawood, I originally just wanted to help out the team as much as I could. I first inquired only about assisting the team, but soon discovered that the coaching spot opened. I was happy and peaceful to become a coach

Q: Where do you see your team at the end of this year?

A: The most important thing I see for the team is focus on growth. I really want them to strive and improve their game personally and as a team. With concrete goals they can learn to be the best that they can be in whatever they choose not only in volleyball but in life.

Q: What team experiences have you enjoyed the most throughout your time as coach?

A: There are so many wonderful moments, but to date it has been the group time with the team outside the games. Whether we get dinner, boba, or we watch a college volleyball game together, it is these special moments with the team and their families that bonds us in a way that would be hard to find at a larger school.



Q: What is a good way to increase group morale?

A: Learn to find and speak to the positive in each situation.

Q: What are some good traits that a coach needs in order to be successful?

A: A good trait is to be a learner, to lead by example, and to be well prepared.



ALUMNI ARTICLES: RIN KIM

By: Daniel Nicasio and Arwen Dy Buco



Q: How was your Acaciawood experience? Any memories or highlights

A: When I was at Acaciawood, I remembered that I really enjoyed being a stat keeper for the Basketball team. Even though I didn't have enough knowledge about basketball games and their rules, I loved to join all the games and supported the team. Sometimes, it was hard to manage my time after school but I didn't want to miss any games. Because of this experience, I understand basketball much more than before.

Q: What college did you go to? Did you live on campus? What was your experience like living on or off campus?

A: I went to the University of California, Irvine and studied Business Administration. During all my years at college, I lived at a sisters' house (corporate living) which was located off campus, but was still pretty close to the school. Living with others can be hard, but it is definitely a sweet experience living with sisters. Also, you can get to know the saints a lot and build up together through corporate living. I can't say which one is better since I never lived on the campus, but I would definitely recommend asking around and seeing the options. Even if I go back to my freshman year, I think I would still end up living at the sisters' house.



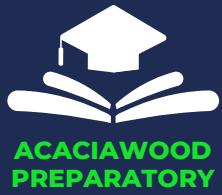
Q: What was your path after college till today? What do you do now?

A: I recently graduated from college in June. I am just enjoying my last summer break back in Korea, which is my home country, but I will be working for a public accounting firm as a tax accountant in LA in September.

Q: What advice would you give to your 18 year old self? Would you change anything about your life if you could?

A: I would say.... take it easy and try to have a more memorable time with people around you like traveling. During my college years, even though I had so many good memories, I wish I had more time that I could travel with friends and explore more. I don't think I would change anything about my life, because I could only be where I am right now because of the past. I learned a lot through so many ups and downs and I appreciated all of them. The Lord always leads you to the best so I believe that there is a reason why he has led me in a certain way. :)

TEACHER TESTIMONIES: MS. WHITE



By: Vincent Chiang and Daniel Sims

Introducing our new fourth grade teacher Ms. White! She is from North Carolina and attended USC where she played D1 womens basketball. We asked her a few questions, here is what she had to say...

Q: Why did you choose to teach 4th grade?

A: I think fourth grade chose me. I have taught at all different levels and asked the Lord to direct me to where I was needed. I rejoiced when it was fourth grade and am overjoyed that I get to be with such amazing students and teachers everyday.

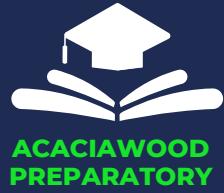


Q: Is there a moment in your life that you realized you had the potential to play at the next level of college basketball(D1)?

A: So basketball has always been a part of my life. I grew up the youngest of a family of proficient basketball players. My dad, a renowned player and coach who played collegiately and was coaching even before I was born, knew what it took to be successful. When I was younger people would go up to my dad, to be polite, and tell him I played well. His response was always the same, "She's played alright, but she is still a scrub." When I was around 13 it felt like a switch went off and I remember my dad for the first time saying "Yeah, she is really good." I guess that recognition from him was when I realized that maybe I could play in college or be good enough to even try.

Q: What are your goals 10 years from now?

A: Honestly, I am learning to live in the moment and not try so hard to do everything perfectly. I am setting goals to improve on my teaching this year, especially in Social Studies and Science. I am also learning to go to the Lord first in all matters of my living.



Q: What roles did your family have in your success?

A: Haha I think I answered this a bit in the earlier questions. My dad played a major role in my success. While my mom played a major role in holding my dad back so I could remain sane. I was required by my father to work out at least 3 times a day (around 6-7 hours) and was required by my mother to maintain a 3.8 GPA to play. I think I worked a bit too much as a kid. It was my family though that supported me through all that and we are still very close today. My mom called in the middle of me writing this ~HA!

Q: In regard to your success in sports, what percentage do you attribute to hard work and what percentage to natural ability?

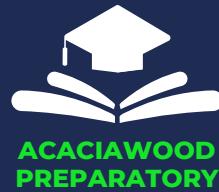
A: This is a tough one. As you know I am very tall, and I would be remiss if I said that didn't play a part in my success. You probably know the phrase, "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard." Well, I was told that quite often. I wasn't always talented, I was the girl that started playing later than everyone else and could barely run in a straight line. But to answer the question I would need to add another category, support. So I would have to say probably 50% of my success was due to my support and the other is split 40/10 with hard work and natural ability. My support includes my live in coach (my dad) and the many people who saw potential in me along the way. Their help and encouragement pushed me further than I could ever have gone with just sheer hard work and perseverance. Working hard without a plan or even with a faulty plan is not the road to success. Having a mentor or someone to direct you and instruct you might even be more important than hard work and natural ability combined.

Q: What advice do you have for future athletes attempting to pursue sports?

A: Okay I have three things. The first is not what you would typically hear from an athlete. SPORTS ARE NOT EVERYTHING! They can take you to many places, but do not sacrifice your life to it. Enjoy being a student, having friends, and a family. Time is something you don't get back. Spend it on the things that matter to you. The second piece of advice I would give is to always do your best with every opportunity presented to you. Each practice and game is a gift that may not be allotted to you the next time. Give your all, you'll enjoy it more that way too. Finally the third thing is to never compare yourself to another athlete. There will always be someone worse than you and someone better. Don't try to be THE best, but strive to be YOUR best. Set a goal to be better than the you thirty seconds ago.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By: Emmanuel Quinones and Sieun Kim



Q: When did you come to AWP?

A: I came to Acaciawood when I was in first grade.

Q: What is your favorite subject and why?

A: I do not have a favorite subject but if I had to choose one, it would have to be chemistry or math.

Q: What are some things you do in your free time?

A: I like to play piano and video games.

Q: Are you glad to be a senior?

A: Absolutely. I'm excited to be done with this chapter of my life, ready to graduate.

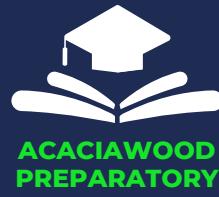
Q: What was the most important motto in AWP life?

A: The "hustle mindset" is the most important motto. My hustle mindset has carried me through high school. Just keep grinding.



Q: What are your plans after graduating?

A: I plan to go to a four year college to study something in the medical field and then go to the FTTA.



Thank you for reading our first edition of the Eagle Flyer! We hope to keep you updated with school events and help you get to know members of our community.

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions please contact James Kuan at mrkuan@acaciawood.org. Go Eagles!

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