

ACACIAWOOD PREPARATORY

# EAGLE FLYER

Winter Issue



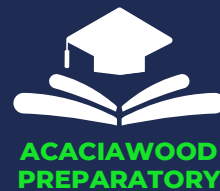
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# FUNDRAISING FUN

By: Sarah Bolton, Carissa Kuan, and Emmanuel Quinones



A true AcaciaWood winter is marked by cold chills and fun-filled fundraisers. On December 13th, the elementary hosted their annual Jog-A-Thon in which students are generously sponsored by friends and family as they run. Our elementary students made great strides, raising around \$19,000 for the school through their efforts.

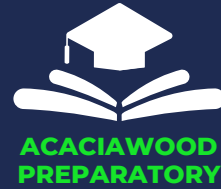
An aggregate \$8000 was raised at the Semi-Annual Winter Training concessions stand. Parent and staff volunteers, the senior class, boys basketball, and girls volleyball teams helped sell packaged meals, pizza, soup, baked goods, and beverages to training attendees. These funds will help support the athletics department and the senior spring break trip to London, as well as other academic endeavors.



The athletic teams and senior class continue to raise funds through Dining for Dollars, brownie, and pizza lunch sales. Pizza lunch has raised \$4000 for the senior class trip. These events bond the community and provide necessary experience in service and care. Thank you to everyone who contributes and volunteers to carry out these events!

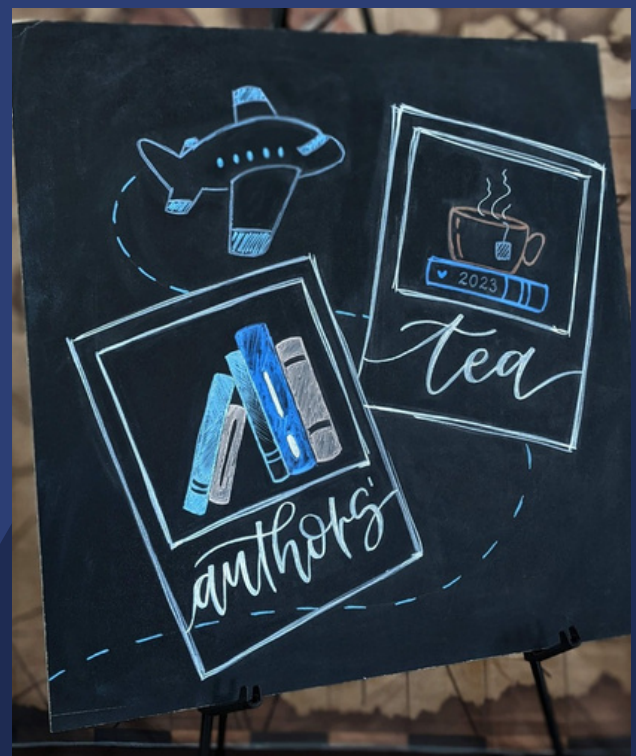
# AUTHOR'S TEA

By: Arwen Dy Buco, Silvia Aramburo, and Sieun Kim



Each semester two talented elementary students are chosen from each grade to participate in a poetry reading event known as Author's Tea. The winners and their pieces are chosen by their teacher from a specific assignment they complete each semester. Each presenter has the privilege of enjoying an array of desserts and refreshments after the event. Author's Tea allows parents and peers to get a glimpse of what exceptional work goes on inside the classroom.

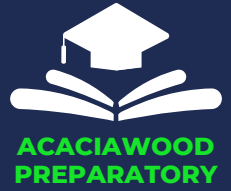
The students highlighted were Keinan Li (1), Lyvv Dy Buco (1), Anaiah Forest (2), Levi Magallanes (2), Benjamin Hale (3), Daniella Hernandez (3), Johanna Cook (4), Aryan Patel (4), Rebecca Kusumo (5), and Kathryn Loewen (5).





# HOLOCAUST ART AND WRITING COMPETITION

By: Esther Jou, Lianna Alvarez-Sager, Rebekah Rosario



Six upper school students have been invited to attend Chapman University's annual *Holocaust Art and Writing Competition* in March. Students submitted poems, prose, and art pieces last semester which adhered to the theme "The Strength of Love and the Will to Survive." Winners will meet holocaust survivors and see other winning entries on Chapman's campus on March 10th.

Winning middle school entries are poem "Hold On to Me" by Andrea Villanueva, "It Only Took One Person" art by Jesse Leon, and "Notes of Strength" art by Isabella Carvajal.

Winning high school entries are poem "Little Brother" by Arwen Dy Buco, prose "In My Heart" by Karissa Lim, and poem "The Love of a Mother" by Bethel Enriquez



Eight honorable mention recipients were also chosen:

"Broken Family" by Zachary Lee, "Let the Fire Burn" by Sherlock Li "Musical Love" by Alethea Fong, "Friend, Fruit, and Fortitude" by Esther Jou, "My Treasure" by Sarahi Rincon, "Together" by Aletheia Blatz, "Believe in Something" by Brooke Nguyen, and "Choosing Kindness" by Deborah Miller.

# SPIRIT WEEK 2023

By: Sarah Bolton and Carissa Kuan



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The month of February has special significance to Acaciawoodians. It holds what is arguably the most anticipated event of the year, spirit week. From February 21st-24th, students and teachers alike dressed to the nines, working to earn class points for showing the most school spirit. The daily themes were Color Day, Minion Day, Western Day, and Cultural Day. Each class pushed creative boundaries to compete in this year's passport contest, ruling which class overall was best dressed based on participation and creativity.



Color Day started the week on a strong note with students dripping head to toe in their class colors. A variety of clever denim clad minions invaded campus Wednesday, being kept in line by none other than Gru himself...or otherwise known as Mr. Miller. The minions were ordered to participate in an intense game of "minionball" on the black top. Thursday brought sightings of cowboys, cacti and sheriffs. To cap off the festivities, Friday was a celebration of culture, inviting family and friends to feast on ethnic dishes and dress the part. Congrats to the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 10th grade classes for winning the passport contest!







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# A SEASON TO REMEMBER

By: James Kuan

The Eagles weathered sickness and injury to close out their season, making it to the "Sweet 16" of the CIF playoffs for the 3rd straight year. Thank you to all the fans who supported the team on its closing run. After losing two close games to Anaheim Discovery Christian, in which the Eagles lost two 4th quarter leads, and losing to undefeated Southlands Christian 59-55, the Eagles had to play four straight elimination games.

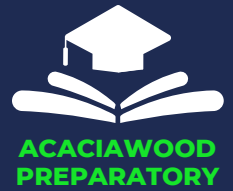
First, taking on Eastside Christian winning 57-38. Two days later, the Eagles faced nemesis Avalon High School in another league play-in game. The winner qualified for the CIF playoffs and the loser went home for the summer. Down 22-18 at halftime, the Eagles rallied with a dominant second half performance from freshman William Chiang, scoring 30 of his 33 points in the second half, resulting in a 57-39 victory to qualify for CIF. First round of CIF took the Eagles on the road for a 3 hour drive to Helendale, CA where they took on the hostile Academy of Careers and Exploration. Down at halftime, the Eagles regrouped with key defensive adjustments resulting in a thrilling 58-48 win.



Finally, the Eagles finished up two days later against 11th seeded Desert Christian Academy. The Eagles fought hard, losing 2 starters to injury and falling victim to a hot shooting team that won 80-60. Senior Samuel Quinones finished his high school career hitting 5-8 threes, keeping the Eagles within striking distance but ultimately wore down. Good job boys and great finish - it is, indeed, not how you start but how you finish!

# TEACHER TESTIMONIES: SEÑOR VIANA

By: Anamaria Viana and Alethea Fong



## Q: How long have you been teaching at Acaciawood?

A: I started teaching at Acaciawood in the fall of 2005, so it is hard to believe that it 's been 17 years since then. Some of my first students have already graduated from college, gone to FTTA and now have their own families and are working or serving...and that makes me feel old!



## Q: What sparked your interest or pushed you to teach Spanish?

A: From the time I was in High School, I had an interest in languages. I also enjoyed teaching in general and this became my first job in my home country, Colombia, upon returning from the US in 1987. At that time I got a job as an ESL teacher, and found out that learning languages can be fun and engaging. In 2005, I was asked to teach Spanish at Acaciawood School. I also had taught Spanish in Colombia to a group of medical students from the US, but that was for a short time. So this was a new challenge for me, and at first it seemed dreadful to me, because I had never taught high school level before, let alone to a group of smart high achievers. However, I wanted to have that experience. Also, at that time my two older kids were in elementary school, so that also motivated me.

## Q: What is your favorite memory or any highlight from teaching at Acaciawood?

A: I find it rewarding to see the students motivated to learn and to want to do their best, especially in their projects they present, not doing things just for a good grade. Also, I love to hear that my students use their Spanish outside of the classroom or among their friends. I remember once one of my students told me excitedly that there was a Spanish speaking brother that stayed at their home and she was able to translate for him to her parents. Also, some of my students have been motivated to continue to learn and have gone to Spanish speaking countries, like Spain, Ecuador and Bolivia. One of them even became a Spanish teacher! So this is very encouraging and rewarding for me.

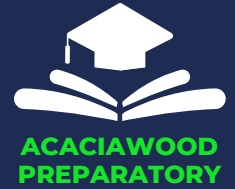
## Q: What do you think makes you a good fit for teaching at Acaciawood?

A: Acaciawood school motto is: "Strong in Character, High in Standard". According to the school philosophy, character is developed through systematic inspiration, training, and teaching motivates and equips students to set high goals and attain them. I believe that my classes inspire my students to learn and to want to excel, and hopefully even to set goals for future learning. Also, I understand that being a student at Acaciawood can be stressful at times, so in my classes I like to foster an atmosphere where the students can feel comfortable and relaxed as they learn.



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: CARISSA KUAN

By: Sarah Bolton and Camila May



**Q: In your two years as volleyball captain, what are some valuable lessons you have learned?**

A: I started playing volleyball 5 years ago, which has taught me the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork and time management. But specifically in regards to my role as captain these past two years, I have learned leadership and patience. Being an experienced player meant lending my knowledge to younger, undeveloped players and leading them to grow as athletes. These are skills I hope to carry lifelong and implement in my academic and professional pursuits.

**Q: What is some advice you would give to younger students?**

A: I think the biggest limitation on what you can accomplish is yourself. This is applicable to work, school, sports, extracurriculars, etc. Your mind is very powerful and a positive mindset can get you far. If you have a goal you won't accomplish it if you tear yourself down.

**Q: What are your plans for the future regarding your college/major/job? And what advice would you give to students applying to college?**

A: I plan on majoring in communications and want to work in the public relations field. I don't know where I am going to college yet. Ultimately, what I study matters to me more than where so I don't have a #1 dream school but will likely remain in California. My advice is to start early and utilize your time in high school wisely. All 4 years of high school matter when colleges look at your extracurriculars and grades. Colleges care about authenticity and admitting well-rounded, involved students.



**Q: What are your hobbies?**

A: I am kept pretty busy with finishing senior year and I work as a barista. If I'm not working or doing homework I spend my time hanging out with friends, reading, watching movies, or listening to music.



# THIRD QUARTER PEANUT GALLERY





**Check out AWP's socials for more third quarter content:**



@acaciawoodstudentcouncil



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

Have a great spring break, see you next quarter!

Go Eagles!

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