

Acacia wood

# EAGLE FLYER

Preparatory





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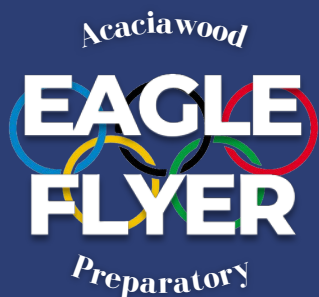
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# FAMILY FUN NIGHT

By: Alethea Fong, Crystal Lai



On September 29th, AcaciaWood hosted its annual Family Fun Night, where the entire community enjoyed food, games, and prizes. Guests fiercely bid on the extensive collection of over 60 baskets at the silent auction, the popular school fundraiser organized by ASC. Additionally, event enthusiasm was facilitated by the Art Club's face painting booth, decorating the faces of students, friends, and parents.



Throughout the day, families also had the opportunity to capture these special moments at the Olympic Photo Booth and take home printed souvenirs of this memorable event. The event also brought exciting competitions with all the class booths, presenting the opportunity for students to win their class a medal for ASC's Olympic Games. Emerging victorious in the elementary division was 4th grade for Gold, 2nd grade for Silver, and 5th grade for Bronze. The upper school winners were the 6th grade for Gold, 8th grade for Silver, and 7th grade for Bronze. Lastly, one of



the most popular attractions was the Olympic Themed Cupcake Competition. Congratulations to the families winning best tasting, best themed, and most creative entries! We express our gratitude to everyone who participated and offer special thanks to ASC for organizing this fantastic event! We can't wait to see what next year's Family Fun Night has in store for the AWP Community!

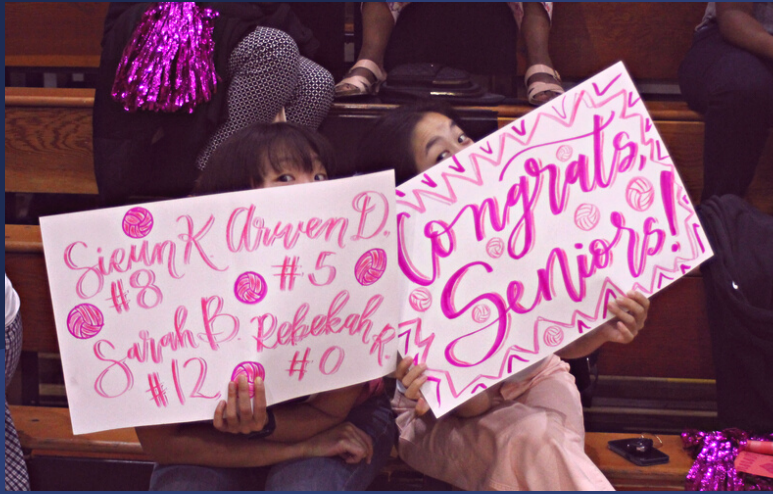
# THE EMPIRE SPIKES BACK

By: Silvia Aramburo, Crystal Lai, Zoe Lee

During the last month of their fall season, the Lady Eagles persevered through their rigorous schedule. Battling illness and injuries, they completed their last eight games, emerging victorious in all but one non-league match against Avalon. From seasickness to trekking up the island's mountainous terrain, the overseas adventure proved quite challenging. Although returning from a tough loss, the Eagles were determined to dominate their last remaining games before qualifying for the CIF playoffs. After sweeping the last three teams 3-0, including a memorable Senior Night victory against Magnolia High School, the Lady Eagles were in the final stretch.



# ATHLETICS: GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



On October 19th, the Ladies fought to advance against Beacon Hill, pushing the game to a fifth set. In the last few moments, the Eagles held a lead of 14-11, and everyone was on the edge of their seats.

Beacon Hill served for the win, but destiny had other plans as the game concluded with a simple serving error. Euphoria filled the air as the entire team ran to embrace each other, screaming and shedding tears of relief. Creating history, the Lady Eagles became the first team in thirteen years to advance past CIF round one.



The Lady Eagles' second CIF round proved to be more of a challenge, facing Moreno Valley, who ranked 2nd in the division. They battled aggressively, delivering powerful swings and chasing after every ball. Despite their loss, the Lady Eagles have really made this a season to remember!



# RUNNING ON WAVES

By: Emmanuel Quinones, Sherlock Li



## P A C I F I C A I N V I T A T I O N A L



The cross country team recently had their second meet at Crystal Cove, where they ran along a beautiful course beside the ocean. Our top three runners were Vincent Chiang with a time of 20:53, Daniel Nicasio at 21:13, and Sherlock Li at 21:37. The rest of the team finished, with nearly everyone setting a personal record on the rugged course. Overall, the meet went fantastic and AcaciaWood cannot wait to see what else these boys will accomplish!

## C A T A L I N A I S L A N D

A week after the Pacifica Invitational, the cross country team took a trip to Catalina Island for their third meet and first official league race. The first half of the course was a gradual, yet constant, uphill battle. Then, after the turn on a steep mountain top, it was a downhill cruise to the finish line.

Sherlock Li led the Eagles with an impressive time of 16:19, maintaining a solid pace of 6:30 per mile. Following closely, Vincent Chiang finished at 16:27, and Daniel Nicasio crossed the finish line at 17:35. Emmanuel Quinones followed with a time of 18:30, and Issak Villanueva was not far behind, finishing at 18:50. Finally, Zachary Lee completed the course in 20:55, while Paul Lee finished at 27:10. Paul reaching the race's end was undoubtedly the trip's most memorable highlight!



"Please don't believe that victory is as within reach as a dandelion on Mt. Ada's hillside, but do believe that there is always something precious in our lives that we should fight for with our best efforts. The team is young, and the future is bright."

– Sherlock Li

# 6TH GRADE SYMBOLISM

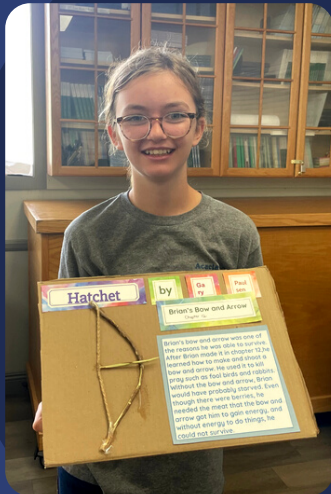
By: Arwen Dy Buco



## HATCHET COME TO LIFE

On October 13th, the 6th grade-class presented their long-awaited projects, depicting the pivotal events from the book *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. This young-adult adventure novel follows the adventures of Brian Robeson, a thirteen-year-old boy who survives a plane crash and must learn essential wilderness skills in the Canadian Woods. Through this project, the class examined the hidden symbolism in their book. Here are some of the students' remarkable creations:

Kathryn Loewen built a



bow using sticks she found in her backyard. This piece was inspired by Brian learning how to make a weapon and hunt animals. As this gave him a new means to obtain food, Kathryn's creation demonstrates his strength and ability to

adapt to such dire situations.

Lucas Menendez

dedicated his project to chapter 8.

In the middle of the night, Brian wakes up to hear a noise coming from outside and finds a porcupine. For a few minutes, the two fight and Brian leaves the battle with quills in his legs.

He cries while removing each quill, but in the process, he grasps a vital survival lesson – that self-pity will get him nowhere if he wants to continue living.



Joshua Rodriguez showcased his project:

a handcrafted gun made from two Nerf guns, contact paper, and ample tape. His inspiration came from the end of *Hatchet* when Brian finds a survival kit containing a rifle and ammunition. After fixing it up, he reflects on his former city life, which causes him to put the gun away. This represents

Brian's transformation as he values the person he has become through plane crash and the dangerous wilderness.



For Rebekah Miller's project, she dedicated time and effort into crocheting a beautiful wolf.

This creature was accompanied by artificial moss and paper

to replicate wildlife seen in the book. The scene unfolds as Brian hears something in the woods one day and finds a big wolf. Although initially afraid of the animal, he eventually accepts the wolf and its power as merely another part of nature.



# TEACHER TESTIMONY: DAISY ESCOBAR

By: Silvia Aramburo, Esther Jou



## Q: How many years have you been teaching at AcaciaWood?

A: I've been a teacher at AcaciaWood since August 2021. Initially, I taught elementary P.E. and worked at the Eagles' Nest. In 2022, I transitioned to teaching fifth grade, and I'm presently still in that role.

## Q: What advice would you give for your students?

A: Advice I would give to my students would be to never give up and never compare yourself to others. Everyone is going on their own path to the finish line. Always reach toward your goals, and remember that every challenging point in your life will become stepping stones into building your future and character. Don't give up because the moment you want to give up it means you are closer than ever to your goals, dreams, or achievements.



## Q: What is your favorite part of teaching at AcaciaWood?

A: My favorite part of teaching has to be seeing the students smile everyday, seeing them happy and seeing them grow as a student but also as a human being. Something else I enjoy as a teacher is helping guide students to become the best versions of themselves they can be. Although teaching is a big responsibility, it is a one-of-a-kind job. Interacting with kids all day everyday is a struggle but also makes me very happy and satisfied. Teaching is not easy however having such a small and welcoming environment like AcaciaWood really helps.

Lastly, one thing I really enjoy about teaching at AcaciaWood is having coworkers that are always willing to help you in any situation. My coworkers are one of the most vital things in my teaching life. I can always come to them for help; in every situation I bring up to them, they always advise me to pray which is so encouraging for me.

## Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher at AcaciaWood? How is it different from other schools?

A: In 2019, my sister enrolled at AcaciaWood as a seventh grader. At that time, I was attending college, majoring in elementary teaching. I knew I wanted to be a teacher, but I never imagined that I would end up working at AcaciaWood. I began to serve at AcaciaWood in the kitchen and became an advisor for their running club. Through this experience, I quickly noticed that AWP was different from other schools. The environment was positive and incredibly united. I had never seen a school where the parents were so involved in everything. The school's focus was to build students using high standards and develop their character. The staff cared for both the students and each other, and the kids themselves were respectful and bright. Overall, the school had a unique quality that drew me in; it felt like one big family.



# ALUMNI ARTICLES: EUGENE LIU

By: Sam Berhe



## **Q: What was your college experience like?**

A: It was a lot of learning, internships, and having fun. I went to a school in a major city which gave me opportunities to work at places during college that I otherwise wouldn't have. I also explored classes in new areas and found a lot of new interests and friendships.

## **Q: What advice would you give to aspiring college students?**

A: In college there won't be as much supervision compared to high school, so make sure to hold yourself accountable and stay disciplined. At the same time, don't forget to have fun!

## **Q: What was your work experience like?**

A: During college, I worked at the White House and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The opportunity to be in the White House was a very eye-opening experience. It helped me better understand how decisions are made in the President's office and also taught me how to produce high-quality research for policymaking purposes. In the future, I'd like to work at a financial technology company to expand access to credit for people, or at a law firm or bank, helping companies become more financially sustainable through restructurings and turnarounds.



## **Q: How did AWP set you up for your future after high school?**

A: AWP played a critical role in shaping my success in college and beyond. I learned the value of self-discipline, perseverance, striving for excellence in everything I do, and serving my community. These are lessons that I will take with me forever.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: SIEUN KIM

By: Karissa Lim



**Q: What is your favorite memory of AcaciaWood so far?**

A: My favorite memories of AcaciaWood are the Agate outing with a raceway and Oak Glen.

**Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of school?**

A: I enjoy playing volleyball (if it counts as “outside of school” :D) and going to YP meetings.

**Q: What advice would you give your younger self entering high school for the first time?**

A: I would tell myself to enjoy the first year of high school and work hard from then on.

**Q: Where do you see yourself in five to ten years?**

A: I would like to major in business (accounting) or chemistry in a 4-year college. I hope I can enjoy studying in college and be an accountant in the future. Then I will be in California earning money for my senior life because I am looking forward to living peaceful days in my sixties.



**Q: What is the most challenging task as a senior?**

A: The most challenging tasks are pizza fundraiser and college applications. I can say that pizza fundraising is sometimes more challenging than physics. It often gives me headaches, but I really like it when I don't face any complicated problems with numbers. College applications are not as bad, but starting it is the hardest part.

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Thank you for reading the third edition of the Eagle Flyer 2023! We hope to keep you updated with school events and help you get to know our community a little better.