

Acacia Wood

# EAGLE FLYER

Preparatory





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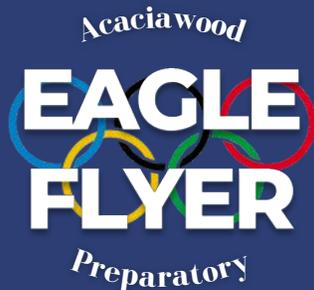
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# SENIOR WEEK

By: Jay Yang

Before spring break, Senior Week was held. A special week to show respect to the current seniors for all their hard work, dedication and accomplishments in AcaciaWood. Both students and teachers organized multiple activities, events and gifts to show this respect to the seniors.

The main event was the Senior Lunch that had the theme of a “awards show”. The Seniors initially entered walking on a red carpet where then the parents took photos of the seniors imitating a classic red carpet photoshoot. Afterwards the seniors, parents, close-friends and staff all sat down to have a pleasant lunch. They enjoyed a variety of foods and beverages, such as fruit tarts, chicken, rice, falafel balls and apple cider disguised as champagne. The seniors had a wonderful and joyful experience.



The sophomore class decorated the senior’s lockers with the respective senior’s best photo, and photos of their accomplishments.

Junior High students prepared posters and the freshmen prepared a mafia game.

# SENIOR TRIP

By: David Polezhaev

Over Spring Break, the senior trip embarked on a trip to Taiwan, filled with warmth, adventure, and cultural immersion. From exploring Taiwan's vibrant streets and unique transportation systems to witnessing the genuine hospitality of local saints, in Tainan, every moment was meaningful. Bonding with the local young people over shared interests, and enjoying moments of relaxation at a hot spring added layers of depth to their journey. It wasn't just a trip; it was a heartwarming and wholesome experience that will stay with them forever, showcasing the beauty of the saints all around the world.

**Q: How was the cost of things compared to the US?**

A: Everything was INSANELY cheap---around \$1-5 USD for individual items. 7-11 is a very popular convenience store in Taiwan and they have pretty much everything for extremely low prices (toiletries, accessories for electronics, different types of milk, coffees, ramen, desserts, small meals, onigiris, meats, tea eggs, etc). We used the MRT, bus, train, and car to get around, with a majority of them requiring something called a Yoyo card, however, walking was our main source of transportation.



**Q: What were your favorite moments in Taiwan?**

A: My favorite moments were going through all modes of transportation, meeting the saints, and just overall, seeing how different Taiwan is from the US.

**Q: Any other unique experiences the you all enjoyed?**

A: Sieun and Ben enjoyed the hot spring. For one night in Tainan (before staying with the saints), we stayed in a hotel that was about a 15-minute walk away from a hot spring. It was like a fancy jacuzzi with hot water that relaxed our joints from walking all day. Afterward, our group also ended up swimming at the hotel where the workers let us stay an extra 20 minutes after it was closed.

**Q: Any unique experiences the other seniors enjoyed?**

A: Sieun and Ben enjoyed the hot spring. For one night in Tainan (before staying with the saints), we stayed in a hotel that was about a 15-minute walk away from a hot spring. It was like a fancy jacuzzi with hot water that relaxed our joints from walking all day. Afterward, our group also ended up swimming at the hotel where the workers let us stay an extra 20 minutes after it was closed.



**Q: How was the hospitality of the saints in Taiwan?**

A: Vincent and I enjoyed our hospitality. To be more specific, the hospitality we received towards the end of our trip when we stayed in Tainan. Although we had never met them before, all the saints were excited to meet us and host our group in their homes. We hung out with their YP consisting of ages from 13 to 18. For Vincent, he stayed with a family who had 2 sons in a 4-story house. In the 3 days that we stayed in Tainan, they exercised together, played video games, and bonded over plans and college. Miss Chao and I stayed with a family who lived in a meeting hall, consisting of one 7-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl. And something that I admired about them was their care and love for us, because when we went there, the whole family was sick with a cold except for the daughter... but they still took the time to get us food in the morning and care for our every need while we were in Taiwan. Daniel also loved meeting the saints and getting to know what church life is like in Taiwan---how they are a pattern for us to follow in their devotion toward the Lord.





# ELEMENTARY FIELD TRIP: IRVINE REGIONAL

By: David Prim

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On March 26th, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th attended a field trip to the Irvine Regional Park. At this festival, they visited a variety of rooms and exhibits about local water issues and the environment. Through illustrations and unique activities the students learned useful information about water preservation and environmental strategies to help protect animals and the land. Fun games, cool experiments, and many other things packed into the trip gave the 3rd to 5th grade students a fun way to learn.





# The Pursuit for CIF

By: The Editors

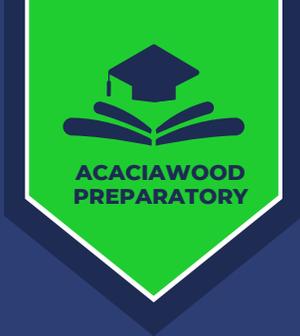
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The resilient Eagles boys volleyball team continues its chase for a first ever CIF appearance with a stunning victory over the #3 ranked and undefeated first place Avalon Lancers at Avalon this past Monday, April 8 to even their league record at 6-6. Within the 9 team Express league, the Eagles need to finish 5th or higher to qualify for the playoffs and are currently tied for 4th with Bethel Baptist and Tarbut V Torah.



The Eagles remaining games are this Wednesday April 10 hosting #5 ranked Orangewood Academy (currently tied for first with Avalon) and Friday April 12 at Eastside Christian and close the regular season with two important games next Tuesday April 16 hosting Bethel Baptist and Thursday April 17 at Liberty Christian.

The Eagles continue to be led by the hitting of Elijah Medina and Benji Bautista, the serving and setting of the Lee “brothers” Paul and Timothy, the all around play of Emmanuel Quinones and Jeremy Bautista and special contributions from Zach Lee and River Wang along with some timely play from other spot players. In his 2nd year, Coach Kuan continues to push the team to expand their game and assume a “next play” mentality as they adopt the “respect all/fear none” mantra and learn to communicate with each other on and off the court while resting in the inspirational lead of: “if you believe - you can achieve”. Let’s go Eagles!



# TEACHER TESTIMONY: MR. KUAN

By: Zachary Lee

**Q: What is your favorite thing about teaching/coaching?**

A: Having a chance to influence and be a positive pattern for the upcoming generation and drive them to achieve beyond what they thought they were capable of in this day and age has been my passion for a long time. There are so many negative and toxic patterns in today's social media, society and age that today's generation more than ever needs positive examples.



**Q: What is your most memorable experience in teaching/coaching?**

A: My most memorable experiences are when our teams fell way behind in games but never gave up displaying resiliency, pride and fight to never give up. I remember our first CIF playoff game years ago my first year of coaching when we took on a much larger school with a 6-7 center who went on to play college basketball in San Bernardino. We were a clear underdog and fell behind by over 20 points. However, with the cheers of Eagle Nation who used a bus to bring out the students and Mr. Pester who was faithfully cheering in the stands, the Eagles rallied to close the deficit to about 3-4 points before losing. However, I was proud of the effort from that team and that set the stage for many Eagle teams to follow.



**Q: What are some struggles you have had as a teacher or as a coach?**

A: I think learning to adapt and communicate with the generational gap of today's gen Z or gen alpha has been a challenge for me, as I get older, it is sometimes difficult to motivate and inspire the young people of today who are a different breed than when I first started coaching. Many of my former players tell me I am getting "soft" but part of that is learning to adapt and care for the generation with where they are with their mental health struggles, screen overstimulation, and loneliness.

**Q: How long have you been teaching/coaching at Acaciawood?**

A: I have been teaching here 17 years.

**Q: What advice would you give to someone who would like to become a teacher or coach in the future?**

A: He who waters will be watered.

**Q: What are your hobbies outside of teaching/coaching?**

A: Outside of teaching/coaching, I enjoy caring for our 15 year old German shepherd Coco who also has weathered setbacks to live longer than most German shepherds. We don't know how much longer she has with us but treasure each day with her. I also enjoy playing the piano, guitar, singing, and spending time with our little one, Faith.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: SARAH BOLTON

By: Lianna Alvarez-Sager



**Q: What is one piece of advice you would give your younger self?**

A: I would tell her that life doesn't end after high school so you can relax a little. Also I would tell my younger self to look at the bigger picture but also live more in the moment rather than just in preparation for the future. And also listen to everyone who said not to procrastinate.

**Q: What is your most memorable experience in high school?**

A: My most memorable experience in high school was winning Round 1 of CIF and making it to Round 2 with the team for the first time in my senior year after our longest and toughest season. It had been a goal of mine and the team's to make it past round 1 since my freshman year and we were finally able to accomplish it, pushing next year's team one league higher.

**Q: What are your plans for the future?**

A: My plans for the future are to go to university and possibly transfer to a higher level school that's better for my decided major. After I graduate college and get my masters, I'll probably take some time to work and save money before the FTTA.

**Q: One thing you are most proud of during high school?**

A: One thing I am proud of during high school is actually doing my reading assignments and enjoying reading for English class this year. (I definitely did it all last year too).

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**Thank you for reading the sixth edition of the Eagle Flyer 2024! We hope to keep you updated with school events and help you get to know our community a little better.**