

AcaciaWood

EAGLE FLYER

Preparatory





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AGATE OUTING

Beach and Golf N' Stuff

By: Isaac Kim

On October 18th, the high school and middle school students had their AGATE outings, a day where they got to replace a typical afternoon in the classroom with fun activities. The high school students spent the day at the beach, while the middle school students went to Golf N' Stuff. Both the high school and middle school students had an unforgettable experience.

A Day at the Beach

The high school students enjoyed a pleasant sunny day at the beach where they got to enjoy the beautiful scenery. The day was filled with activities like football and volleyball. The Cross-Country team even did some running along the shoreline! After the activities at the beach, the students, teachers, and parents also enjoyed some more bonding time by eating lunch together at Cava. This day spent taking in the beauty of the beach was a great opportunity for the students to unwind and strengthen their bonds.



Golf N' Stuff

The middle school students also had a thrilling day as they went to Golf N' Stuff diving into a variety of activities like mini-golf, bumper boats, go-karts, and the arcade. The 18-hole mini-golf course was a fun way for students to test their precision, while the arcade allowed students to relax and enjoy time together.

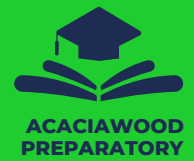


Both outings provided a fantastic break from the regular schedule and gave students the chance to create lasting memories with their peers. Whether it was the calming waves at the beach or the action-packed fun of Golf N' Stuff, AcaciaWood's students made the most of their quarterly outings, leaving everyone eager for the next adventure!

ELEMENTARY MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Shoot for the Moon and Reach for the Stars

By: Ezra Baltz



An Interview with the Director

This year's elementary music performance, titled "Reach for the Stars" and performed on November 8th, was organized and directed by Mrs. Blatz. We asked her some questions about her thoughts on the performance and her role in its success:

Q: How long have you been teaching elementary music class?

A: This is my fourth year teaching the AWP Elementary Music class, and this was our third large production on stage.

Q: What was the theme of the performance, and why did you choose this theme?

A: This presentation involved a growth mindset theme, including learning to set smart goals and apply tools for resilience. Through seven songs and scripted scenes, students were encouraged to strive for their full potential following the metaphor of "reaching for the stars." This is in line with our view of Jr. AGATE to aim toward a goal and achieve it with toil and effort.



Q: Is there anything else you'd like to say about your experience leading the students?

A: In the words of Norman Vincent Peale: "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." Our goal is not perfection, but rather learning to aim high and do our best. Before the performance on Friday night, I felt we may have shot for the moon to land among the stars, but the energy, commitment, and teamwork displayed by the students during their presentation felt like they soared to the moon! I am honestly so proud of them. Friday night on stage came and went, but the messages shared through lines and lyrics memorized are now in the students to equip them for the coming years.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Shoot for the Moon and Reach for the Stars

By: Ezra Baltz



Q: What ideas did you mean to convey while planning the production?

A: We have a God-given capacity to dream big and set SMART goals. We start by taking one step at a time, persevering to overcome obstacles, and, in the process, we never stop learning. We can seize the day to redeem the time, filling our life with worthwhile pursuits. A key phrase when considering something daunting is to simply say "I can't do it...yet."

Q: How do you think the students did in this performance?

A: I was very pleased with the students' commitment and diligence to work toward our goals this year. In the process, I believe we lived out the theme of the presentation by reaching for the stars step by step. While every class had to practice their part, The 5th graders worked especially hard to achieve high goals, both musically with harmony and in their memorization of content.

Q: What was the most memorable part of the performance for you?

A: It was memorable to work with each class and see the growth in each student. One unforgettable scene was acted out by the 4th grade class, showing us what it means to be resilient using the example of a bouncing ball vs. an egg. The question was asked: "Do we fall apart when life knocks us down—like the raw egg? Or do we bounce back, realizing that we CAN overcome the obstacles we face?"



Thank you to Mrs. Blatz for the inspiring words, and congratulations on a well-deserved successful production!

THANKSGIVING LUNCH

Celebrating Gratitude

By: Zachary Lee

A Time of Celebration

Our annual all school Thanksgiving feast took place on November 22, 2024, the day before the Thanksgiving break began. All of the students, faculty, along with some parents and board members gathered in the MPR to enjoy lunch together and to give thanks to one another. While there was no turkey, delicious ham and other mouthwatering dishes were prepared by families and parents such as the Villanueva's and Mrs. Suastegui, whom we greatly appreciate and are grateful for their unforgettable service!



Golden Eagles

During the lunch, Mr. Miller announced the two Golden Eagle Award recipients of the semester. The Golden Eagle Award is an award given by the faculty and board to students to honor their hard work and strength in character over the entirety of their time at Acaciawood. The recipients for the semester were the hard-working Karissa Lim and the ace-a-tron Esther Jou. As the vice president of ASC and president of CSC, Karissa Lim always maintains her diligence and resolve as shown by her involvement in extracurricular activities. As the president of the Chess Club, Esther is a national chess champion ranked second place for her age demographic in the entire country. Both individuals are incredibly studious and exceptional role models who are always hard-working and cheerful. According to the school's motto, "strong in character, high in standard", the two students who received this award strongly exemplify the values we strive for here at Acaciawood.



JOG-A-THON

By: Paul Lee and River Wang

On December 6, all the elementary students gathered together to have their annual Jog-A-Thon, which was set up by teachers to help with the fundraising efforts for the school, in order to buy PE equipment and other useful items. This year the elementary students were able to raise a total of \$17,975! During their hour long intense marathon, all the students persevered and showed great determination, pushing themselves to get as many laps as possible. As they pushed on, AcaciaWood students, teachers, and parents showed immense support, clapping, cheering, holding up posters, and even running alongside the elementary students! The Jog-A-Thon was concluded with popsicles as a reward for all of the elementary

students hard work and a lovely picture with the entire school. It was extremely enjoyable and we hope to support them again next year



The elementary students lining up to run!



After their running, the elementary students enjoyed popsicles!



The elementary students excited and ready to run!



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HOLOCAUST ART AND WRITING COMPETITION

By: **Sherlock Li**

The Holocaust Art and Writing Competition, hosted annually by Chapman University, is a prestigious event which invites students worldwide to reflect upon the lessons of the Holocaust through art, poetry, and film. The 2024 prompt, "What do you bring when you don't know where you are going?", inspired participants to delve deeply into Holocaust survivors' experiences of resilience, loss, and hope in the face of unimaginable persecution and adversity.

Congratulations to the winners of the competition! These students will represent AcaciaWood at Chapman University's competition, where their works will be evaluated alongside students worldwide.



High School Winners

In the high school category, three poems have been recognized:

"Carry A Song" by Alethea Fong (12th Grade)

"The Cello" by David Polezhaev (11th Grade)

"The Last Card" by Sherlock Li (11th Grade)

Middle School Winners

The middle schoolers illustriously demonstrated their art and filming skills!

Art: "The Final Wish" by Kyrie Valdez (8th Grade)

Video: "The Spark of Hope" by Lucas Menendez (7th Grade)

Art: "Wheels of Resistance" by Isabella Orozco (6th Grade)

Honorable Mentions

In addition to the winners, the following students received honorable mentions for their remarkable work:

High School Poetry: "The Light You Carry" by Isaac Kim (11th Grade)

Middle School Art: "Gone with a Dream" by Rebekah Miller (7th Grade)

Middle School Video: "Carried by Humanity" by Nikhaya Li (6th Grade)

Again, congratulations to our winners, and let's hope that we will see their names again in the International Finals!

Boys' Basketball

By: Felipe Viana and Issak Villanueva



The boys' basketball team had a busy December, starting with a tough loss to Oxford Academy on Wednesday, December 4. Despite their efforts, they fell short, losing 72–36 at Village Bible.

After that rough start, the Golden Eagles bounced back with three straight wins. On Friday, December 6, they defeated Magnolia Science Academy 67–55 in a solid home game. The momentum carried into their matchup against Century High School on Wednesday, December 11, where they secured another victory, 56–46. They kept the streak alive with a strong showing against Bethel Baptist on Friday, December 13, winning 47–38 in front of their home crowd.

The month wrapped up with a close battle against Santa Ana Valley on Friday, December 20. The Golden Eagles fought hard but came up just short, losing 54–58 in an intense away game. It was a tough loss, but every player gave it their all, and the team showed grit and determination until the final whistle.

December was full of challenges and highlights for the Golden Eagles, and they'll be looking to build on the progress they've made as the season continues. Led by captains Emmanuel Quinones, William Chiang and Sam Berhe, the team continues to persevere through the ups and downs of the season as they begin league - let's go Eagles as they try to qualify for their 5th straight CIF appearance in a tough league.



Girls' Basketball

Soaring From the Start

By: Nebi Ermias and Sarahi Rincon



Breaking History

This year marks the first girls' basketball team ever at AcaciaWood. The AcaciaWood Lady Eagles had their first game against Nova Academy on December 9th, and despite their loss, the effort shown by the girls was inspiring. As this school year is the first time many of the girls on the team played basketball, they are eager and willing to play throughout the season so far. The Lady Eagles worked hard before their next game on January 10 against Legacy College Prep and their efforts were shown by their astonishing win, with the score of 46-7. Despite this being their first season, the Lady Eagles have been doing exceptionally well and their immense progress has been shown. The coaches, **Miss White** and **Mrs. Bautista**, and their new team manager, **Crystal Lai**, are eager to guide them and help them along the way. They can't wait to showcase their potential. Led by captains **Nebi Ermias** and **Andrea Villanueva**, and featuring hard-working players like **Sarahi Rincon**, **Karissa Lim**, **Anamaria Viana**, **Naomi Velecela**, **Deborah Miller**, **Isabella Hernandez**, and **Isabella Carvajal**, they're ready to give it our all. Come out and cheer them on—it's going to be an exciting and competitive season as the Eagles try to qualify for CIF in their first season—let's go Eagles!

A Word from the Coach

I'm so proud of my girls, every opportunity to brag gets me excited. The first game everyone was kind of nervous but we worked hard. Our last game we played as a team, and I felt like we had new fundamentals and the effort was higher, which caused us to win. We had great leadership from Nebi and Andrea and the scoring from Naomi and Karissa both led the team to a sound victory over Legacy Prep. The girls are encouraged from the win and fans and how they played together and they created a standard of what the Lady Eagles should be. I'm very happy to have the opportunity to coach the first women's basketball team at AcaciaWood.



TEACHER TESTIMONY: MISS WHITE

By: Bethel Enriquez and Henry Liu



Q: How long have you been teaching at AcaciaWood?

A: This is my third year teaching at AcaciaWood

Q: What classes have you taught or do you teach at AcaciaWood?

A: I've taught 4th grade, 7-10 English Language Arts, and a computer skills class.

Q: What makes your teaching style so unique?

A: I'm just goofy with y'all like talking and getting to know you and that's what is most important. I always like making sure my kids are having fun, getting to know one another, coming to school and being happy. I know it's nice to feel loved and cared for and I want all my students to feel that way.

Q: What has been your favorite memory teaching here at AcaciaWood?

A: There are so many moments that I've enjoyed. But mostly it's the small conversations in class, my students smiling and having fun, when someone is enjoying what they're learning.



Q: What caused you to decide to be a teacher?

A: So my high school basketball coach (Fun Fact: I used to also coach at my alma mater) said that she thought I would be a good teacher, but I didn't like the idea. When I got into college, I got the opportunity to teach at USC's elementary school, because I was taking a hard science class and teaching would give me extra credit. Teaching there, I had the time of my life. I was approached by Teach for America but I turned them down. And then I had the opportunity to teach at AcaciaWood in South Korea.

Q: What is the happiest thing or benefit to being a teacher?

A: Getting to hang out with students. They keep me young and I'm very fortunate to have them. The best thing about being a teacher is that teaching kids is like reading books, every page has a different innocent view for observing this world. I enjoy going through their childhood with them.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: DAVID PRIM

By: David Chiang



Q: What has been your favorite memory at AcaciaWood?

A: Not any specific memory but going on field trips with the boys in school have definitely made some funny moments. Definitely not in class, but in the breaks and lunch also have made school way more fun.



Q: What is one hobby or passion that has brought you the most joy?

A: I would say the one passion of mine that has brought me real joy is the pursuit of the Lord. Whether it's coming to Him in the morning in the Bible or just talking and getting to know the Lord as a person has brought me life and peace. "Taste and see that Jehovah is good; / Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." (Psalm 34:8)



Q: How long have you been a student at AcaciaWood?

A: I have been a student for about 12 years, except a couple years throughout.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to the younger students?

A: I would say learn to enjoy the things you hate. Many things in life including school, work, or responsibilities might not be the most enjoyable, but there are ways to make those things more fun. Only doing the bare minimum or just trying to get by will always make those things remain boring, but focusing and giving yourself a set time to accomplish whatever it is will help you get through those things much easier.

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Thank you for reading this
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2024! We hope to keep you
updated with school
events and help you get to
know our community a
little better.