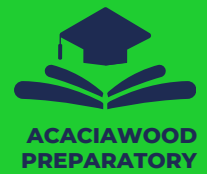


Acacia wood

# EAGLE FLYER

Preparatory





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Elementary Author's Tea.....1-2

Athletics: Boys' Basketball.....3-4

Athletics: Girls' Basketball.....5-6

Alumni Article.....7

Teacher Testimony.....8

Senior Spotlight.....9





# ELEMENTARY AUTHOR'S TEA

By: Isaac Kim

## Authors' Tea: A Celebration of Young Writers

The Authors' Tea is a special event that honors the hard work and creativity of young writers. Each student refines a piece of writing from the first semester, going through the process of editing and rewriting. Two students from each class are then selected to present their work in front of an audience, sharing their stories and experiences with classmates, teachers, and special guests. For those unable to attend in person, a Zoom link is provided, ensuring that everyone can celebrate these talented young authors.

The event is not only about sharing stories, it's a full celebration of writing. After the readings, students and their special guests enjoy treats and receive a gift bag as a token of appreciation. The audience is also engaged in the event, answering writing-related questions about the stories for a chance to win candy.

Each of these students demonstrated dedication and passion for writing and worked hard to craft pieces that resonated with their peers and guests. Their ability to bring stories to life through vivid descriptions, emotions, and personal experiences made the event a truly memorable one.





# ELEMENTARY AUTHOR'S TEA

By: Isaac Kim

## A Celebration for All

The Authors' Tea is not just about the students who present; it's an event that brings the entire school community together in appreciation of storytelling. Whether through answering questions, listening attentively, or cheering on their classmates, everyone in attendance played a role in making the day special.

A huge thank you to the students, teachers, and families who made this event a success. We are incredibly proud of our young authors and can't wait to see what stories they will share next!

## Meet Our Young Authors

This year's Authors' Tea featured an impressive lineup of students from grades 1-5, each bringing their own unique voice and creativity to the stage.



### 1st Grade – Miss Vinson's Class

**Ezekiel Gomez –  
"Making Pizza"**

**Luna Suh – "The  
Disneyland Trip"**



### 2nd Grade – Mrs. Joseph's Class

**Chrysa Bernier –  
"Birthday at Bolsa  
Chica Beach"**

**Misha Favorsky –  
"A Yummy Trip to  
Black Bear Diner"**



### 3rd Grade – Mrs. Kangas's Class

**Chloe Chen –  
"The Pirate"**

**Paul Lin – "David  
Floods the Field"**



### 4th Grade – Miss Aguilar's Class

**Ivan Rincon – "Gus  
at the Carnival"**

**Noah Sanchez –  
"The Singers"**



### 5th Grade – Mrs. Escobar's Class

**Bethel Bernier –  
"To Be Kind"**

**Nathaniel Ramirez –  
"My Best Friend"**



**Noah Lacy – "On the  
Side Window"**







# Boys' Basketball

By: William Chiang and Sherlock Li

With their season hanging in the balance, the AcaciaWood boys' basketball team delivered one of the most thrilling performances in recent history. After starting the league with a 3-3 record, the Eagles found themselves in a must-win situation against Anaheim Discovery Christian on Senior Night. A victory would secure a third-place finish in league and, more importantly, ensure a CIF playoff spot.

The Eagles had shown resilience earlier in the week, surviving a nail-biting one-point victory against Calvary Chapel with William Chiang's two clutch free throws. Heading into Senior Night, the team knew they needed another all-out effort. From the opening tip, it was clear that the game would be a hard-fought battle. The Eagles leaned on their defensive anchors, David Chiang and Jeremy Bautista, who brought relentless energy in securing rebounds and shutting down their opponents. On the offensive end, Sam Berhe found his rhythm from beyond the arc, while Emmanuel Quinones displayed his signature midrange skill. Additionally, the bench consisting of Issak Villanueva, Sherlock Li, Paul Lee, River Lee, Felipe Viana, and Ethan Loewen played a crucial role, cheering on the team and ready to step up whenever called upon. Despite the Eagles' tenacity, Anaheim Discovery Christian held a narrow lead with just 1.5 seconds remaining, and with the Eagles trailing by two, the team needed a miracle. Off an inbound pass, William Chiang took one dribble, rose for a contested pull-up jumper, and released the shot with only one tenth of a second left on the clock. The ball dropped through the net, sending the game into overtime and igniting the AcaciaWood home crowd.



**Seniors: Sam Berhe, Emmanuel Quinones, and Jeremy Bautista**

# Boys' Basketball

By: William Chiang and Sherlock Li



Overtime brought another hurdle as William fouled out, but the Eagles refused to falter. With time winding down and the game still hanging in the balance, Jeremy Bautista rebounded a miss, outletted the ball to Sam Berhe who blew by his defender and sprayed the ball forward to David Chiang who drove through the lane, absorbed contact, and converted a crucial and-one layup to put Acaciawood on top. David calmly sank the free throw, sealing the victory and officially punching the Eagles' ticket to the CIF playoffs.

This incredible win was a testament to the dedication and grit of the entire team. Special recognition goes to Coach James Kuan, whose countless hours of preparation and unwavering belief in his players have propelled the Eagles to this moment. His leadership has not only guided the team to the playoffs but has also fostered a culture of perseverance and teamwork.

In the first round of CIF on Wednesday, February 11, at Village Bible Gym, the boys took on Joshua Springs Christian and won in a blowout with the final score being 60-18. The Eagles played as a unified team and came out strong. The second round was a bigger challenge against Saddleback High School at Acaciawood's home court, Village Bible. Though the Eagles trailed most of the game, they persevered and tied the game midway through the third quarter and were down just 34-28 going into the fourth quarter. However, the Eagles faded a bit down the stretch and Saddleback pulled ahead, and Acaciawood ended up losing 55-41, bringing their playoff run to an end.





# Girls' Basketball

By: Nebi Ermias and Sarahi Rincon



## Crashing Through

The Lady Eagles basketball team soared to victory this season, finishing as Western League Champions with an impressive 8-1 record. Led by captain Nebi Ermias alongside co-captain Andrea Villanueva, the team dominated their competition with a powerful lineup that included seniors Anamaria Viana and Karissa Lim, sophomore Sarahi Rincon, and freshmen Deborah Miller, Naomi Velecela, Isabella Hernandez, and Isabella Carvajal.

The Eagles made a commanding statement early in the season, crushing **Legacy College Prep 46-7** and continuing their dominance against **CC Downey (30-21)**, **Anaheim Discovery (39-18)**, **Legacy (48-18)**, **Vista Meridian (42-12)**, and **Anaheim Discovery once again (43-25)**. Though they faced a tough loss to CC Downey, they bounced back in a spectacular way the very next day with a **thrilling 31-29 victory**, securing their spot in CIF.



## Senior Night

This year's Senior Night honored graduating seniors Karissa Lim and Anamaria Viana. The Lady Eagles took on Anaheim Discovery Christian with a starting lineup of Nebi Ermias, Anamaria Viana, Karissa Lim, Sarahi Rincon, and Deborah Miller. The team played strong and secured a dominant 43-25 win over the Magi.

The night was full of excitement as teammates, coaches, and fans celebrated the seniors. Karissa hit an astounding clutch shot in the fourth quarter, hyping up the crowd, while Anamaria displayed her exceptional form and lockdown defense. The team's energy and teamwork helped them control the game from start to finish.

After the game, Karissa and Anamaria were honored with heartfelt speeches, posters, cupcakes, and flowers. Their teammates also gave them gift baskets filled with their favorite snacks and small gifts to show appreciation for their leadership and dedication. It was a special night that ended with a well earned victory, lots of love for the seniors, and memories that will last long after the season is over.

# Girls' Basketball

By: Nebi Ermias and Sarahi Rincon



## Super-Stellar Eagles

This year's squad didn't just win games—they made history. The entire starting lineup earned league honors, an incredible testament to their hard work and dedication.

**Captain: Nebi Ermias – Player of the Year & MVP**

**Co-captain: Andrea Villanueva – All-Star 2nd Team**

**Sarahi Rincon – All-Star 1st Team**

**Karissa Lim – All-Star 1st Team**

**Deborah Miller – Honorable Mention**

## Interview with Coach White

**Q: What's the weirdest thing you've ever heard a player say in a game?**

A: Good question, my mind draws a blank, but we have some silly play names like Peanut-Butter and Jelly, Turkey, Baskin Robbins, and Bubble Gum. I think we might have been hungry when coming up with these names.

**Q: How do you think the team improved from the first game to the last?**

A: Most of us were very new to the game. With only 5 practices the girls took the court against a highly experienced team. We worked hard, learned a lot, but ultimately played with little confidence. We still work hard and learn, but now we actually know what we are doing. Our girls now play with confidence, and take shots without fear.

**Q: What was the biggest challenge the team faced and how did they overcome?**

Our biggest challenge this year was probably when our most experienced player got injured. Nebi did some jaor things for us on the court, but I think what hurt us the most was our morale when playing without her. The girls encouraged each other and played a solid second half.

**Q: How would you summarize the team's performance this season?**

A: The team made amazing progress and growth this year. Many started with little to no basketball experience and through hard work and effort they grew into a solid team that is now well decorated with accolades, including League Champs.

**With their eyes set on CIF, the Lady Eagles have proven that they are a force to be reckoned with. Keep soaring, Lady Eagles!**





# ALUMNI ARTICLE: SAMUEL QUINONES

By: David Chiang

## **Q: What stands out as your most memorable experience from high school?**

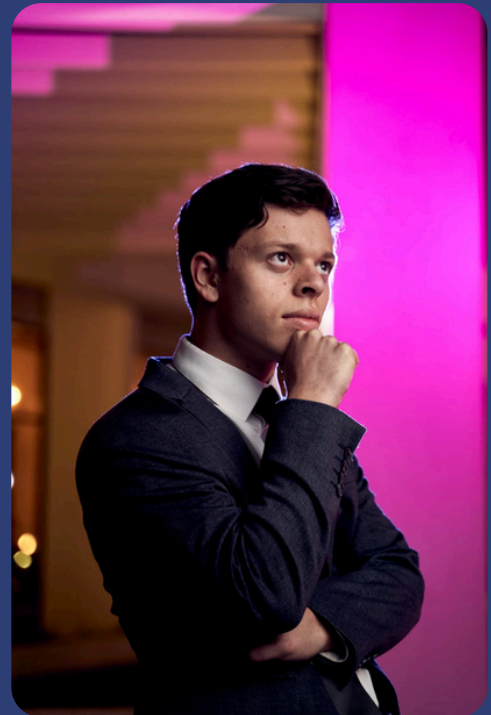
A: The most memorable experience from high school was probably our class's senior trip to London. Adventuring with the class and taking hospitality from saints in the UK was an eternal experience that I won't soon forget.

## **Q: What teachers or classes influenced you the most?**

A: I'd say that chemistry with Ms. Dutta influenced me the most. As a current biology major at UCI, I remember it as being the point where I became interested in studying science. Chemistry, calculus with Mr. Hageman, and all the AP history classes with Mrs. Kayekjian definitely helped prepare a strong work and study ethic when starting college life.

## **Q: What advice would you give to students currently attending AcaciaWood?**

A: I'd definitely suggest doing the most to maximize your time at AcaciaWood, as looking back from a college environment it definitely is a special community. While in the high school experience, being engaged in clubs and sports while having a busy schedule might seem daunting, but it is very rewarding, even beyond college applications. The lifelong companionships formed through those times are still valuable to me today past graduation.



# TEACHER TESTIMONY: MRS. KANGAS

By: Andrea Villanueva and Brooke Nguyen



## **Q: What is the most rewarding part of being a teacher?**

A: The most rewarding part of teaching is seeing the lights shine in a student's eyes when they finally understand something that has been a challenge to them.

## **Q: What's one piece of advice you would give to students about life beyond school?**

A: The most fulfilling life is one of lifelong learning. Don't think learning is only for students. It is for all of us. I am learning to be a better teacher, wife, mother, and friend all the time.

## **Q: How long have you been teaching at AcaciaWood?**

A: I began teaching at AWP in the fall of 1997. It has been 27 years. I stayed at home for 3 three years when our youngest child was born in 2006.

## **Q: What has been your favorite memory as a member of the AcaciaWood family?**

A: Since then, I have been here forever.... I have too many favorites to count. I enjoyed learning as a student myself, and I love to pass along the love of learning to those around me. I love learning with my students and fellow teachers as well. I love teaching art. I love doing science experiments and research. I love reading and discussing books that have made an impact on my heart. I have been blessed by the Lord to have been to spend my days doing something I love.

## **Q: What inspired you to become a teacher?**

A: I enjoyed school as a child. I liked learning new things and accomplishing goals I set for myself. I also loved art. I took every art class in high school and college that I could fit in my schedule. I did some paid drafting work for my high school drafting class, and thought I would like to be an architect. I started off college as an architect major, but after the first year switched to education. I truly believe the Lord knew my destination was to be a teacher at AWP, even if I didn't know it then.







# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: EMMANUEL QUINONES

By: Felipe Viana



## **Q: What is your advice to the younger AWP students?**

A: My advice would be that there's no point in stressing about things, since it will just make any situation worse. If you are worried about something and you can fix it, great, no need to worry. If you are worried about something and you can't fix it, that's unfortunate, but being anxious about it won't get you anywhere. Just press on and everything will work out with enough time.

## **Q: How long have you attended AcaciaWood?**

A: I came to AcaciaWood when I was in Kindergarten as a 4 year old. So I have attended AcaciaWood for 13 years.

## **Q: Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

A: I'm hoping I'll have gotten my Computer Science or Data Science degree and will be trying to head over to the full-time training (in Boston?)

## **Q: What is it like being in ASC?**

A: ASC really showed me the joy in collaborating with other people. Working to improve events like Family Fun Night each year has been difficult but I have never regretted putting extra effort just to make sure everything was thought out properly. I know that what I have gained from ASC will serve me well in the future.







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## Credits

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William Chiang, David Chiang,  
Andrea Villanueva, Brooke  
Nguyen

Thank you for reading this  
edition of the Eagle Flyer  
2025! We hope to keep you  
updated with school  
events and help you get to  
know our community a  
little better.