

Acacia wood  
**EAGLE  
FLYER**  
Preparatory





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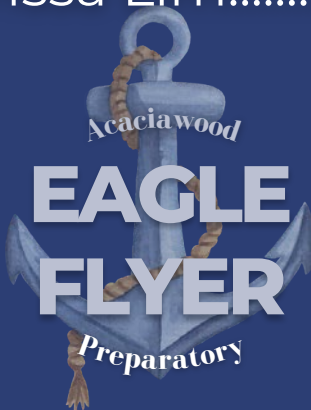
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# STUDENTS BRING HIGH ENERGY AND HERITAGE TO THIS YEAR'S CULTURE DAY

## SPIRIT WEEK: CULTURE DAY

By: Isabella Hernandez and Nasia Lang



AcaciaWood reached the grand finale of its most eventful Spirit Week on Friday, February 20, with the vibrant and highly anticipated culture Day. The campus was transformed into a global village, as each grade level brought a unique corner of the world to life through authentic attire and national symbols. The students serve as ambassadors for their assigned nations. The younger grades kicked off the journey, with 1st through 3rd graders bringing Caribbean flair to life as they represented Cuba. Moving across the globe, the 4th through 6th grade classes honored Korea, while the Junior High (7th and 8th) students showcased the timeless style of Italy. The 9th and 10th graders portrayed the rich heritage of Egypt, and the Juniors and Seniors represented France.

At noon, the event turned into an International Food Fair. The MPR and outdoor tables became a lively marketplace, thanks to the tireless efforts of parents, teachers, and volunteers. Students had the opportunity to sample dishes from around the world, such as spicy Korean kimchi and BBQ, Egyptian koshary and aromatic Middle Eastern treats, and artisan French pastries and classic European delicacies, which gave everyone a chance to experience something new. Each table was decorated with flags, drawings, and culture artifacts, providing a backdrop that was as educational as it was festive. Beyond just a festive conclusion to Spirit Week, Culture Day also helped students learn about and appreciate different cultures from around the world.



# The Eagles take flight

By: River Wang and Enoch Lai



The AcaciaWood boys' volleyball team has opened the 2026 season with grit, growth, and a series of hard-fought matchups that are shaping the identity of this year's squad. The Eagles started strong with a solid win against NOVA, setting an early tone of confidence and energy. Their next game against OCCA ended in a loss, but the team quickly regrouped and secured a nice victory over MSA, showing improved execution on both ends of the floor.

The next few games tested the team's toughness. A hard-fought loss to Bethel Baptist challenged them to tighten their serve receive and defensiveness, allowing them to make a comeback with a great win over Liberty. Their most recent match ended against the ranked #1 Fairmont Prep with a 3-1 loss, but the Eagles' energy, hustle, and competitive spirit remained evident throughout the game. With each game and practice, the team continues to build chemistry and strengthen its presence on the court.

This year's roster blends veteran leadership with rising young talent. The Eagles are led by captains Daniel Lim (#8) and Isaac Kim (#2), whose steady presence as outside hitter and setter, respectively, anchor the team both on and off the court. Senior contributors include middle blocker Dimitry Yang (#67), and libero/setter Paul Lee (#10) giving aura on and off the court. Junior River Wang (#35) brings versatility as an oppo and service/receive presence, while sophomore Enoch Lai (#7) adds an important outside hitting presence and serving pressure on the opposing team. The freshman class—consisting of middle blocker Jasper Chen (#12), versatile hitter Woody Yang (#11), and consistent server Julian Chu (#11)—provides depth, energy, and promising potential for the future of the team. And as team captain Daniel Lim quoted "Although our record may not be perfect, our commitment to improvement is what sets us apart. What matters to us isn't just wins – and in that aspect, we excel more than any other team."



# BRINGING STUDENTS TOGETHER

## UPPER SCHOOL OUTING

By: Sam Liu and Nebi Ermias



On Friday, March 6, AcaciaWood’s Upper School Students were able to take an outing to Craig Regional Park. Many students were able to enjoy several different activities. This included students being able to play volleyball, basketball, soccer and even football. There were many pleasant conversations that went on while sitting on picnic blankets.

After our outing in the park, many people went several ways to eat at In-N-Out, Chick-fil-A, Chipotle, and even Vietnamese or Japanese places. After eating out amazing lunches, students were able to go out with the chaperones for dessert. This whole day was filled with new experiences and the enjoyment of spending time with the AcaciaWood student body. We hope we are able to enjoy many experiences such as these in the future.

Sixth grader Sabeh Ermias also said, “I enjoyed being able to be out in the sun with my friends and freely enjoy nature. I liked playing volleyball and throwing around a football, which I don’t get to do often. I also conversed with other students in order to get to know them better”.

Overall, the students enjoyed their trip and a much needed break from school.



# HONORING THE CLASS OF 2026

## SENIOR WEEK

By: **Brooke Nguyen and Casey Lee**

From locker decorations, and special snacks to poster displays, ASC worked together with different classes to celebrate and honor the senior class. On Monday, the office made personalized posters for each senior that reflected their hobbies and interests. Once those posters were put on their lockers, many began writing notes on them, sending messages of appreciation and encouraging words. As an example, Dimitry and Sherlock had basketball pictures and comments on their posters as a resemblance to their love for basketball. These comments highlighted treasured moments and gratitude from the students towards the seniors. Not only that but they were given donuts to share amongst each other which elevated their mood. On Tuesday, the 6th graders gave them colorful balloons and heartfelt cards. The sophomore class surprised them with delicious snacks in goody bags. "During nutrition break, I saw the sophomores bring snacks in creative bags with a variety of snacks like doritos and gummy bears, turning ordinary Government class into a happy picnic," Casey Lee shared. On Wednesday, the seniors were highlighted on a poster board with their pictures to showcase their achievements throughout all 4 years. Finally, on Thursday, parents and staff came together to prepare a special lunch for the seniors in the MPR with delicious food and thoughtful decorations featuring senior photos and balloons. Families of each senior joined them at the tables, where they were able to share meaningful conversations and have a great time. Congratulations to our seniors for their hard work this year! You're almost there, keep moving forward!



# STUDENTS HIT THE ROAD TO LEARN



## MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

By: Heesung Lee and Ethan Loewen

The middle school students had two field trips recently, one to Bowers Museum and the other to the La Mirada Theatre. As part of their Social Studies lesson on Ancient China, the students visited the Bowers Museum. At the museum, the students were divided by class and each class was given a tour guide. The guides walked them through displays of the eye-catching ancient clothing, artwork, instruments, etc. of Ancient China. Following the tour, the students were allowed to discover for themselves other interesting items from history such as Native American artifacts as well as other Chinese artifacts not covered in the tour guide.

On their second field trip, the middle schoolers headed to La Mirada Theatre to watch “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe,” a play derived from the second book in the Chronicles of Narnia series. The students enjoyed their time, impressed by the acting of not only the adults but the skilled kids as well. However, issues amongst the actors came about when one young actor’s headband holding his ear fell off, forcing him to support it with his hand throughout his time on the set. Also, a young actress struggled to remove a crown from her hair, forcing the boy playing Edmund to stall for time while speaking. However, though mishaps happened, the actors and actresses were rewarded with a time to greet the audience and their fans and to give autographs to those watching. Following the play, the middle school students headed to lunch and dessert. After their meal, they went back to the school just in time to head home from their fun day.

Thank you to the middle school teachers for making field trips like this possible!



# TEACHER TESTIMONY: MISS AGUILAR

By: Naomi Velecela and Deborah Miller



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

A: I have been teaching at AcaciaWood for about a year now.

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

A: I began teaching 4th grade in December 2024, and I currently teach 4th grade all subjects except math, as well as 5th grade math.

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

A: The most rewarding part of teaching is watching my students grow—seeing their skills develop and observing how they begin to think critically about the world around them. I also cherish the everyday moments in the classroom, both big and small, that make this profession so meaningful.

**Q: What caused you to decide to become a teacher?**

A: I knew I wanted to work with children when my youngest brother was born. Helping care for him sparked something in me. I also come from a family of educators and have always admired their dedication and commitment to teaching.

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

A: One of my favorite memories at AcaciaWood was when my current students surprised me for my birthday this past year. They decorated the classroom with balloons, made a birthday sign, and gave me a few thoughtful gifts. I felt so loved and truly seen by my students, which is a testament to their kind and thoughtful hearts.



# A STANDOUT SENIOR WITH A STRONG PRESENCE

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: DIMITRY YANG

By: The Editors

### Q: What's one lesson Acaciawood has taught you that you will carry forever?

A: One lesson Acaciawood has taught me that I will carry forever is to care for others and treat people the way I want to be treated. Throughout my time in school, I've learned that small actions, such as showing respect, offering help, or simply being kind can make a big difference in someone's day. Being part of the different classes and sport teams also showed me how important it is to support one another and build a positive environment. This mindset has shaped how I interact with people, and I know it's something I'll continue to value in college and beyond.

### Q: What's one thing people don't know about you?

A: People probably don't know that I really enjoy watching anime. Besides basketball, I spend a lot of my free time watching. It's something I use to relax and take my mind off things. On the surface, anime may seem like pure entertainment, but many series actually explore deep themes and strong character development. What I appreciate most is how they portray growth, resilience, and difficult choices, which has influenced how I think about challenges and personal development in my own life. My top three are Attack on Titan, Jujutsu Kaisen, and Chainsaw Man.

### Q: What advice would you give to your younger self?

A: I would tell my younger self that embarrassment is an underexplored emotion and to be willing to feel the fear of cringe. As a young person, I sometimes get easily bothered by others' opinions. There were many things that I wanted to do but held back because I was worried about what people might think. I'd remind myself that growth comes from trying, failing, and sometimes feeling uncomfortable. Being a little embarrassed is a small price to pay for becoming more confident and truly being yourself.

### Q: How have you changed personally and academically from your freshman year to your current senior year?

A: I've become more mature since I moved from Taiwan to the U.S. during the summer after my sophomore year. Being in a completely new environment forced me to adapt quickly—whether it was communicating in a different language, adjusting to a new education system, or building new relationships from scratch. Through that process, I became more independent and open-minded, and I learned how to step outside of my comfort zone. The move also impacted me significantly academically. It pushed me to take greater responsibility for my learning. Facing language barriers and different teaching styles, I was able to develop stronger study habits and became more proactive in asking questions.



# ISSAC KIM MAKES HIS MARK



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By: Felipe Viana and Max Luna

### Q: What has been your favorite memory of the year?

A: My favorite memory this year was going on a hiking trip with my friends at Chino Hills State Park and also Black Star Canyon. I initially didn't think I would enjoy it because I knew there would be a long hike, but when I was there, the view was amazing and it was fun. It was nice being surrounded by nature not really worrying about anything else, and it was just a fun time being present with my friends.



### Q: What class or teacher had the biggest impact on you?

A: Mrs. Kayekjian's AP U.S. History class during my junior year had the biggest impact on me because it was my first difficult AP class, as the material was challenging and also the amount of work was more than in other classes. Because of this, it taught me how to plan out a study schedule and also good study techniques for tests. Mrs. Kayekjian was also very helpful in improving my writing skills and also in helping me analyze text better.

### Q: What are your plans after graduation, and how did high school influence those plans?

A: After graduation, I plan on attending either a Cal State or a UC and working towards dental school after college. High school influenced my plans because I think I learned what things I liked to do and what I didn't like, which helped me figure out my goals for the future. High school also helped me realize what I need to continue improving on to be successful in college and in life.



### Q: What advice would you give to your younger self?

A: One piece of advice I would give to my younger self would be to not rush life and to take it one day at a time. During my first year of high school, I felt that school was going by very slowly. However, now that I am in senior year, it feels like everything is going by really quickly. I somewhat regret not spending more time being present and worrying about things in the future and in the past. I think that living life in the moment is the best way to enjoy your high school experience.



# ALUMNI ARTICLE: KARISSA LIM

By: Daniel Lim



**Q: When did you graduate from AcaciaWood?**  
A: I just graduated in 2025!

**Q: What are you doing currently in life?**  
A: I'm currently studying human biology and health administration on the pre-optometry track at USC.



**Q: What did you like about AcaciaWood?**  
A: My senior year memories were definitely the highlight of my time at AcaciaWood. I remember laughing at dad jokes in physics with Mr. Hageman, talking about my future dreams with Ms. Dutta, and the many, many boba runs with Miss Chen. Our class also really bonded over our senior trip, so those memories of exploring Japan hold a special place in my heart.

**Q: What is a piece of advice you would give students at AcaciaWood?**  
A: Work hard but also enjoy every little moment! Life will only get busier, so seize the opportunity to make as many memories as you can.

**Q: What is your college experience like?**  
A: Even though it's only been almost a year, I'm having so much fun in college! One of the biggest things I've learned is how to stay accountable and manage my schedule while still having fun. Beyond that, I've met so many amazing friends and made precious memories I'll always cherish. Academics have also become more interesting, now that I'm studying what I love, and the clubs I've joined have really helped my transition into college.

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Thank you for reading this edition of the Eagle Flyer 2026! We hope to keep you updated with school events and help you get to know our community a little better.