A large, stylized blue anchor graphic is positioned behind the main title. The anchor has a thick rope wrapped around its shank and flukes. The text "Acacia wood" is written in a white, serif font above the top of the anchor. The words "EAGLE" and "FLYER" are written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the anchor. The word "Preparatory" is written in a white, serif font below the bottom of the anchor.

Acacia wood  
**EAGLE  
FLYER**  
Preparatory





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Athletics: Boys Volleyball.....1

Athletics Recap: HS.....2-5

Athletics Recap: JH.....6

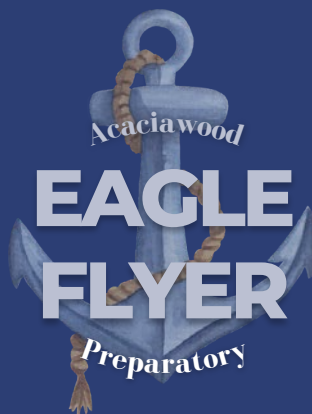
AP Testing Tips .....7

Teacher Testimony: Mr. Jeng.....8

Alumni Article: Carissa Kuan.....9

Poetry Tea.....10

School Year Recap.....11





# CLOSING OUT THE COURT

By: Naomi Velecela and Isabella Hernandez

All things considered, this year's boys volleyball team had what many would consider a successful and memorable season. Despite bringing in four new players — three of whom started in most, if not all, games — and having no club volleyball athletes on the roster, the team worked hard, improved steadily, and finished strong.

The Eagles placed second in the Garden Grove Boys Volleyball Silver Division and qualified for CIF as an at-large team, finishing behind Fairmont Prep and Calvary Chapel-Downey, last year's CIF runner-up. Although the team lost in the first round to Le Lycée from Los Angeles, they delivered one of their best performances of the season. Daniel Lim led with strong hitting, Dimitry Yang contributed key blocks, Isaac Kim ran the offense with consistent setting, and Paul Lee made an impact with both serving and libero play. The team also benefited from all-around contributions from Enoch Lai and River Wang as well as important support from Woody Yang, Jasper Chen, and Julian Chu.

Overall, the boys volleyball season was a clear journey of growth. The team demonstrated dedication, resilience, and a willingness to overcome challenges throughout the year. Team captain Daniel Lim reflected on their progress, saying, "Our teamwork and communication improved a lot over the season. Initially, we had a lot of communication errors as we tried to implement the new players into our system. However, as the season progressed, we became more unified and coordinated, especially after the implementation of a libero."



# High School Athletics

By: River Wang and Enoch Lai



## CROSS COUNTRY

### Captain's Season Spotlight: Sherlock Li

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1. My biggest highlight of the season was breaking the course record at Webb with a time of 18 minutes. This was definitely one of the best races I have run in my career. Even though CIF extended the distance of the race course on top of the devious hill, I was able to try my best and beat last year's version of myself.
2. The 2025 season was definitely the season that this team has improved the most. I saw many of my teammates lower their mile time for two whole minutes. I saw Sam develop from a gym bro who has never run a long distance before to a sub 21 runner and a big part of the team's future. I witnessed River show up to every practice and pushed himself as hard as possible. There are many more people I could mention, but overall I am very glad to see how strong the team's future is.
3. The toughest challenge I faced was battling the flu at the very end of this season. It wasn't just a physical struggle that brought my performance and endurance down, but also a mental challenge that made me worry about my final race. I did my best to rest, recover, and sleep. But most importantly, I learned to give my burden to the Lord and take His yoke, realizing that in my own strength and nature I am weak, but I can fully depend on Him as the Almighty One.
4. One thing I would like to leave to the team is the 40% rule: when your mind tells you that you are completely exhausted and have reached your limit, you are actually only at 40% of your actual physical or mental capacity. You can apply this in cross country, but also in academics and life in general. Therefore, learn to push through discomfort. Make discomfort your comfort.
5. What I will remember most is our Tuesday speed workouts at Barton Park. I think running speed workouts is a completely different experience. Every run where you give everything just to improve your time by one second can feel like a near-death experience. But those moments made us feel that our teammates are more than friends and classmates, but companions going through battles together. This sense of camaraderie is the best part of cross country. Many times, Coach Hale and Coach Dawson would run with us. Shout out to the coaches: I really appreciate the time and effort you put in, and your guidance and care for every one of us. Hope you will train the next generation of AcaciaWood runners who will break new course records and bring our team to the next level.



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Captain's Season Spotlight: Nebi Ermias

1. What made the season special was the fact that regardless of the score, we were able to persevere as a team and work even harder than we would have if we were in an easier league.
2. The last game that we played really showed that basketball wasn't about winning for us, but the memories that we make together. In that game every girl was able to score at least one point and by the end of the game we were as happy as the team that had won. This really showed the true meaning of being part of a team.
3. As I mentioned, this season we were put in a really tough league, so this meant that we had to work extra hard to even compete with these advanced teams. We all learned how to dribble, started getting more confident in shooting, and learned to have stamina throughout the games.
4. My favorite memory was probably when we all had a pizza dinner together at Catalina and watched a college basketball game. I also enjoyed the time after that where we were doing karaoke.
5. I am most proud of finishing the season regardless of how difficult it was. Due to the level that we were playing at I know that many of us just wanted to finish as quickly as we could, but as time started to go by we learned to just enjoy the season game-by-game. I am proud of all the girls that stuck through it and supported each other through every game. They were the ones that helped me make it through the season!





# GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

## Captain's Season Spotlight: Crystal Lai

1. What was your favorite moment from this volleyball season?

My favorite moment from this season was senior night. Although we lost (because we had played a 5 set game right before our senior night game), it was so encouraging seeing the AWP community come out to support. From elementary kids to alumni, it gave each one of us strength even when our legs felt like giving up and when we couldn't scream anymore. I will forever remember and cherish that night.

2. In what ways did the team improve as the season went on?

We started the season barely knowing each other and how each other played but as the season went on, we were able to adjust and improve together as a team instead as individuals.

3. What challenge did the team overcome together this year?

One challenge we had to face was losing more than half the team with very experienced players from last year to a team with a lot of new players that didn't really know each other. But as the season went on, we were able to build up our skill even though we lost a lot of our games.

4. Which teammate or team quality inspired you the most this season?

One teammate that really inspired me was my co-captain Bethel. Although very quiet in nature, she always strived to improve and always made sure she did her best. Because she was a setter, arguably the most important position, she always adjusted to her teammates, making sure they would be able to move to the balls she would set.

5. What is one word you would use to describe this season, and why?

Growth because we had a lot of growth both in skill and physical size. We had so many new players willing to learn that we made a JV team. Skill because I can say confidently that the players from the beginning of season who didn't even know how to hold out their hands can now receive hard hitting downballs. Even the experienced players still had a lot to learn and a lot of growth.





## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Captain’s Season Spotlight: David Chiang

1. Looking back on the season, what moment stands out to you the most?  
 The moment that stands out the most is when we went to In-N-Out after winning the league championship. It was a fun way to celebrate everything we worked for.
2. What do you think was the team’s biggest strength this year?  
 Our biggest strength was the seniors. They brought leadership and consistency, and the team followed their example.
3. How did the team respond during difficult games or losing streaks?  
 When things got tough, we didn’t stay down for long. We regrouped, fixed what wasn’t working, and started winning again.
4. What lessons did you personally learn from this season?  
 I learned to enjoy the process more. Instead of stressing about every result, I focused on having fun and appreciating the season as it happened.
5. What message would you give to next year’s team?  
 Don’t stress too much about your record. Just have fun, work hard, and enjoy the season while it lasts.





## BOYS VOLLEYBALL

### Captain’s Season Spotlight: Daniel Lim

1. What was the overall dynamic of the team this season?

The dynamic was mixed we had a lot of good games where everyone played hard and performed well, but we also had a good number of games where everyone was off and couldn’t pass well.

2. What was the most memorable moment of the season for you?

Nearly beating Fairmont in set 3 on senior night.

3. How did the team handle challenges, especially with many newer players?

Overall, the team handled it pretty well, but because many of them were newer, they often made silly mistakes.

4. What do you think the team did well this season?

This season, we had pretty good team chemistry, which allowed us to trust that we had each other’s backs in difficult moments or when we were in a pinch.

5. What will you miss most about this year’s team?

I’ll miss the collaborative spirit of the team and everyone’s ability to adapt, especially led by the setters.





# BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL

By: Nebi Ermias

As the school year is coming to an end, we are taking some time to reminisce over the success of our boys and girls basketball teams. Since both teams are relatively new, the students have diligently spent time learning foundational basketball skills and playing as a team. Winning doesn't always show the progress of a team, but progression may be a result of efficient teamwork and effort. This progression was shown by both teams. Regardless of the results, AcaciaWood friends and family love to come to these games to support our rising athletes. For the rising ninth graders, this was an opportunity to sense the athletic environment that will be present once in high school and for other players, it was a joyful experience to feel as part of a community. Congratulations to our Eagles for working hard this season! We continue wishing you the best in the future.

## Boys Basketball Team:

### 1. What was your favorite memory while playing on the basketball team?

- Benjamin Hearne and Daniel Chen responded saying, "When Clayton made 2 deep 3's"
- David Bentacourt said, "My favorite memory was when I played against my basketball teammates"

### 2. What do you think you can improve for next season?

- Nathan Sanchez and Jachin Watts said they would "Improve on dribbling and three pointers"

### 3. What is your favorite thing about your coach?

- When asked this, Caleb Blatz and Taylor Veleccla said, "He let us play lightning and he was pretty chill, relaxing, and nice."

## Girls Basketball Team:

### 1. What was your favorite memory while playing on the basketball team?

- Maya Cuevas, Liora Reardon, and Nikiya Li said, "Talking about strategies during halftime, hanging out with coaches & friends, learning new strategies, playing with friends, cheering them on, and making jokes after the game!"

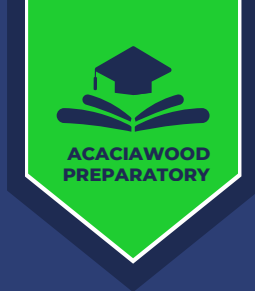
### 2. What do you think you can improve for next season?

- Karis Fong and Adalynn Hale said, "Practice better ball control, shooting, dribbling, and free throws"

### 3. What is your favorite thing about your coach?

- Sabeah Ermias and Bethel Bernier responded saying, "Ms. White was very supportive and showed us great techniques on how to improve, and also enjoyed having boba all together"

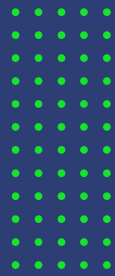




# AP TEST SURVIVAL GUIDE

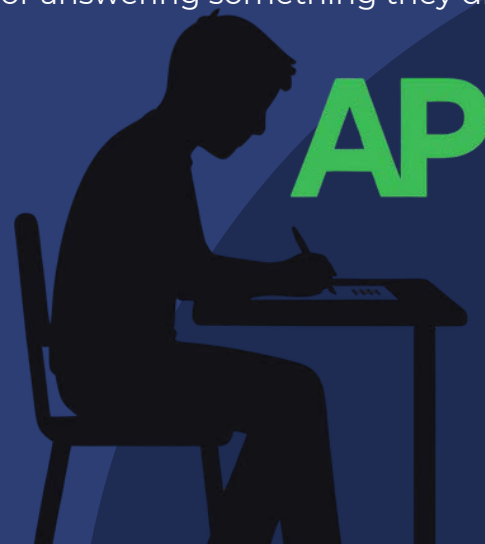
## AP TESTING TIPS

By: Deborah Miller



The AP 2026 season has come to an end! As students gear up to take their final exams for subjects like Physics, Precalculus, and Psychology, our own AcaciaWood teacher Mr Dawson provides some do's and don'ts when studying and taking APs.

- Do's for the Test
  - Always get a good night's sleep before the test, this will help you much more than any last minute cramming will.
  - Always read every question carefully, there are answers that are designed to trip you up if you aren't careful
  - For STEM tests: always include your arithmetic, your units and your mathematical reasoning (and all your return statements in Computer Science)
  - If you don't know everything about a topic, answer what you do know, there are loads of ways to get partial credit on AP free response questions
  - Relax! You've prepared for this, it can be easy to stress in the moment but you can do fine; you've got this!
- Don'ts
  - Don't panic if you don't know one or a few questions, AP tests are curved and you can get a 4 or 5 without getting everything right
  - Don't leave blanks--no penalties for wrong answers
  - Don't rush through a free response answer--ap graders expect thorough answers and they want to see everything you know about a given topic
  - Don't overthink the simple questions
  - Don't skip explanations if it asks you to explain
  - Don't give answers beyond the asked FRQ--no points for answering something they didn't ask for



# TEACHER TESTIMONY: MR. JENG

By: Sarahi Rincon



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

A: This is my first year as a classroom teacher at AcaciaWood! However, I previously served as the elementary PE teacher here from 2019-2020 after graduating from FTTA, and later completed student teaching at Eagles Nest during COVID.

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

A: I've been a substitute teacher and reading interventionist for years, so it's been exciting to finally have my own classroom! One of the most rewarding parts is watching students discover the joy of learning.

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

A: I've always enjoyed working with children through humor, engaging games, and meaningful interactions. It's especially rewarding when you can almost see the "lightbulb moment" when a concept finally clicks.

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

A: My favorite memory at AWP has been building relationships with my students (hearing them laugh at my corny jokes), and getting to know them beyond just academics and grades.



# ALUMNI ARTICLE: CARISSA KUAN

By: Brooke Nguyen

## Q: When did you attend AWP?

A: I attended AWP for elementary school (2009-2017) and my last two years of high school (2021-2023). My kindergarten class was actually the inaugural year of Eagles Nest.

## Q: What is a piece of advice you would give students at AcaciaWood?

A: Be diligent in building good habits and cultivating skills which will benefit you in your future academic and professional life. Being involved in activities in and out of school will teach you how to multitask, adapt, communicate, and be open to different perspectives.

## Q: What stands out as your most memorable experience?

A: The senior trip was my favorite experience. We went to London in March 2023 and it was one of the most fun trips I've ever been on. We packed our itinerary and saw all the big sights and did some fun activities. However, the best part was all the in-between moments on the train/in hospitality/playing games where we really got to know each other. I didn't really talk to a lot of my classmates until that trip and the week really bonded us. Our class still meets up for meals every summer and winter break to catch up.

## Q: What do you know now that you wish you knew back then?

A: Enjoy each step for what it is. Some days are easy and some are hard, but there is always something to appreciate and learn. Also, college goes by 10x faster than high school so savor each moment and take advantage of every opportunity.



Eagle Flyer – May 2026, Issue 7





# LITTLE VOICES, BIG POEMS

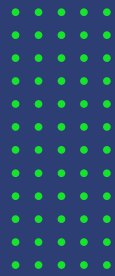
## POETRY TEA

By: Ezekiel Enriquez, Max Luna, and Felipe Viana

Acaciawood’s annual Poetry Tea offered students a warm, welcoming space to celebrate writing, performance, and imagination. The event blended creativity with community as students gathered to share original poems in front of classmates, teachers, and families.

Students arrived dressed as authors or poets, adding a fun theatrical element to the afternoon. Before the readings began, attendees were invited to enjoy snacks, creating a relaxed, social atmosphere that helped calm nerves and spark conversation.

Once the event opened, teachers selected students to present their poems on stage. Each reader brought something different, humor, emotion, storytelling, or reflection, showing the wide range of voices within the school. The audience listened closely, cheering on their peers and celebrating each performance with enthusiasm. The Poetry Tea continues to be one of Acaciawood’s most uplifting traditions, giving students a chance to express themselves, build confidence, and appreciate the creativity of their classmates. It’s a reminder that poetry isn’t just something studied in class, it’s something students can live, share, and enjoy together.





# SCHOOL YEAR RECAP

By: The Editors

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As the 2025-2026 school year draws to a close. From spirited dress-up days to CIF competitions, field trips, and community events, this year was filled with moments that brought our campus together. As we wrap up the year, it's worth reflecting on the experiences that made it truly memorable.

At the start of the year, AcaciaWood welcomed many new students, including several from overseas. The transition came with its challenges — new classes, heavier workloads, and unfamiliar routines. High school students faced the pressure of AP courses, while 5th graders entering middle school adjusted to a new environment. Over time, though, students found their footing, built confidence, and settled into the rhythm of school life.

This year also introduced several new teachers to our campus, including Ms. Freitag, Miss Marti, Mrs. Vernon, Mr. Jeng, Miss Aguilar, and Mr. Dawson. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm contributed greatly to the academic atmosphere and helped shape a positive learning environment.

Throughout the year, students participated in a variety of meaningful activities. Early on, classes visited Newport Beach, where students boarded a boat to observe dolphins and marine life as a celebration of the end of Quarter 1. In Quarter 3, middle school students explored a museum and learned about ancient cultures through interactive exhibits. The upper school later enjoyed a day at Craig Regional Park, spending time outdoors playing volleyball and basketball and enjoying boba together.

Spirit Week was another major highlight. Each day featured a different theme — from Color Day to Nostalgia Day to Trio Day — and students embraced the opportunity to show creativity and school pride. The class tables in the MPR were especially memorable, featuring Korean BBQ, Egyptian dishes, and other international foods. Students decorated their tables, played cultural games, and helped transform the space into a vibrant celebration of global traditions.

The Golden Eagle Award recognized students who demonstrated exceptional character and leadership. Senior Crystal Lai received the first-semester award for her kindness and dedication as volleyball captain, while Bethel Enriquez earned the second-semester award for her positive spirit and contributions to the school community. Both students left a meaningful impact on campus.

A standout achievement this year came from William Chiang, who was named Express League Player of the Year for basketball and Express League Athlete of the Year across all sports. He has committed to the University of Pennsylvania, where he plans to pursue pre-med as he works toward becoming a surgeon — an accomplishment that reflects both his athletic and academic dedication.

Overall, this 2025-2026 school year will surely be one to remember.

Thank you to all the students, teachers, faculty, and parents for your continued effort and support across this school year! We look forward to seeing you next year, and for many years to come!



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## Credits

### Editors-in-Chief

Deborah Miller  
Daniel Lim  
Sarahi Rincon

### Editorial Board

Casey Lee

### Faculty Advisors

Mr. Miller  
Mr. Kuan

### Writers

Aletheia Blatz, Nasia Lang, Ezekiel Enriquez,  
Nebi Ermias, Isabella Hernandez, Enoch Lai,  
Heesung Lee, Daniel Lim, Ethan Loewen,  
Deborah Miller, Brooke Nguyen, Sarahi Rincon,  
Naomi Velecela, River Wang, Max Luna, Casey  
Lee, Sam Liu

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.