

SHARK TIMES

November 2025: News from YHIS

Letter from Vice President, Sarah Lee

Dear Sharks, Parents, and Staff,

Welcome to the November issue of The Shark Times!

I am Sarah Lee, the Vice President of the Secondary Newspaper Club for 2025 to 2026. Our Newspaper Club members have put a lot of effort into research and writing articles, which has allowed us to publish such a wonderful edition.

This month has been extremely busy with numerous events taking place. With the support of teachers, parents, and students, International Day was a great success. We also enjoyed watching the talents of our classmates in the elementary and secondary Talent Show. Additionally, YHIS students had the opportunity to meet and discuss with honorable delegates and expand their knowledge and perspectives on TIANMUN. Furthermore, our YHIS StuCo worked hard to organize Spirit Week and the HS Lock-In.

This edition of Shark Times covers the start of the NBA season, book and movie recommendations, student spotlights, and this month's LifePlus quality. We are also excited to include the LifePlus HS Volleyball Tournament and the LifePlus MS Soccer Tournament, which we couldn't feature last month.

Due to the hard work we have put into preparing this issue, please take good care of our newspaper. We hope this edition will be a meaningful keepsake and help organize the memories of November 2025. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Sarah Lee





EDITORS

Advisor: *Mrs. Carson*

President: *Joy Tham (G12)*

Vice President: *Sarah Lee (G11)*

Editor: *Jay Vars (G10)*

Designer: *Libby Moon (G11)*

Instagram Manager: *Charles Kim (G10)*

Writers: - *Jesmin Jung (G11)*

- *Daniel An (G10)*

- *Jin Kim (G8)*

- *Ellie Lee (G7)*

- *JiWoo Hong (G6)*

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HS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Written by Sarah Lee

From October 16th to 18th, the LifePlus HS Volleyball Tournament was held in Wuhan. YHIS, YIA, TIS, ISQ, CDIS, and WYIS played games for two and a half days.

On October 16th, our YHIS players left the airport with cheers from teachers and students, and Mr. Miller's prayer. After about two hours of flight and a few hours of bus driving, players arrived at WYIS.

The Boys' Games

The first game for the boys was between CDIS and TIS. TIS won the first set with a score of 25:18. Both teams displayed fierce performances, but TIS secured the second set with a score of 25:23. The second game was between WYIS and YIA. WYIS won the first and second sets with scores of 25:12 and 25:16. The third game was between YHIS and TIS. This game was very exciting, and even students from other schools were thrilled. YHIS won the first set 25:23 but lost the second 25:16. In the third set, both teams played intensely and continued into overtime, with TIS winning 17:15. Neither team was able to overshadow the other's skills. The fourth game was between CDIS and ISQ. Although ISQ won the second set 25:21, CDIS took the first and third sets 25:20 and 16:14. The fifth game was between YHIS and WYIS. YHIS easily won the first set 25:13, but lost the second 26:24. However, they performed perfectly in the decisive set, winning 15:9 and demonstrating their skills. The last game of the first day was between ISQ and YIA. ISQ won the first and second sets swiftly, 25:15 and 25:16, respectively.

The second day began with a match between TIS and ISQ, where TIS won the first set 25:22. The second set was particularly intense, with TIS ultimately winning 29:27. The second game featured WYIS against CDIS.

CDIS secured victories in both the first and second sets with scores of 25:21 and 25:16, respectively. Next, YHIS faced off with YIA. YHIS dominated the first two sets, winning 25:18 and 25:19. The fourth match was between TIS and WYIS. TIS claimed the first set 25:16, but WYIS responded by winning the second set 21:25. In a closely fought third set, TIS emerged victorious again with a score of 15:7. The fifth game pitted YHIS against ISQ. YHIS lost the first set 19:25 but made a remarkable comeback, winning the second and third sets 25:14 and 16:14, respectively, to secure the win. In the sixth game, CDIS played against YIA and won the first two sets with scores of 25:17 and 25:22.



The seventh match featured ISQ and WYIS. Both teams showed great skill in the first set, with ISQ winning 27:25 in overtime. ISQ then won the second set 25:13. The eighth game had YHIS facing CDIS, where CDIS emerged victorious in the first two sets, winning 25:20 and 25:23. The final group stage match was between TIS and YIA, where TIS triumphed with scores of 25:14 and 25:17. After the group stage matches, the quarterfinals commenced. The first quarterfinal featured seed 4, ISQ, against seed 5, WYIS. ISQ won the first two sets 25:14 and 25:18, securing a spot in the semifinals. The second quarterfinal match was between seed 3, YHIS, and seed 6, YIA. YHIS won easily, taking the first two sets with scores of 25:13 and 25:20, also earning a chance to advance to the semifinals. At the end of the day, the players were exhausted but satisfied with their performances.

HS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMNET

Written by Sarah Lee



The first game of the last day featured seed 1, TIS, against the winner of seeds 4 and 5, ISQ. ISQ took the first set 25:20. In the second set, ISQ defeated TIS 25:19. Finally, TIS won the third set 15:12, demonstrating their strength. The second game was between seed 2, CDIS, and the winner of seeds 3 and 6, YHIS. Unfortunately, YHIS lost the first set 25:20. However, YHIS won the second and third sets 25:16 and 25:12, showing the skills and mentality from being last year's champion. The third game was between WYIS and YIA to determine the 5th and 6th places. WYIS easily won the first two sets 25:12 and 25:12. The fourth game was between CDIS and ISQ to determine the 3rd and 4th places. CDIS won the first set 25:19, but ISQ won the second set 25:21. CDIS overcame that loss and won the third set 15:10. The last game of the tournament was the championship, TIS vs. YHIS. Unfortunately, TIS won the first and second sets 25:21 and 25:13. In the end, TIS won first place, YHIS second, and CDIS third.

The Girls' Games

The first game of the girls was between CDIS and TIS. TIS won the first two sets 25:17 and 25:21. The second game was between YHIS and WYIS. WYIS won the first set 25:9 and the second 25:18. The third game was between ISQ and YIA.

Despite the sets being very close, ISQ won both sets 25:19 and 25:20. The fourth game was between TIS and YHIS. TIS utilized their impressive ability to win the first and second sets, 25:11 and 25:18. The fifth game was between CDIS and ISQ. CDIS lost their first set 25:23 but won the second and third sets with 25:21 and 15:11. The sixth game was between WYIS and YIA. WYIS won the first set 25:10, but YIA did not give up and won the second set 28:27. However, WYIS won again in the third set 15:8.

The second day started with a game between YIA and YHIS. Both teams played their best, but YIA won both sets 25:22 and 25:13. The second game was between TIS and ISQ. TIS won their first set 25:15; however, ISQ made the biggest comeback of the tournament and won the second set 25:4. In a tight third set, TIS won 15:13. The third game was between WYIS and CDIS. CDIS easily won WYIS 25:16 and 25:11. The fourth game was between YHIS and ISQ. Both sets were very close, but ISQ ultimately won both 25:22 and 25:23. The fifth game was between YIA and CDIS. CDIS proved their ability by winning both sets 25:18 and 25:10. The sixth game was between WYIS and TIS. TIS won both sets 25:13 and 25:20. The seventh game was between YHIS and CDIS. CDIS won big at 25:8 and 25:9. The eighth game was between YIA and TIS. TIS easily won the first and second sets 25:14 and 25:12. The last game of the group matches was between ISQ and WYIS. WYIS showed their amazing skills and won the first two sets 25:20 and 25:18. After the group matches, they started the seed games. The first game was between seed 4, ISQ, and seed 5, YIA. ISQ won the first and second sets 25:13 and 25:15, and got a chance to go to the semifinal. The next game, the quarter final, was between seed 3, WYIS, and seed 6, YHIS. WYIS won the first set 25:20. However, YHIS made a comeback and won the second set at 25:22. This set was the first set that the YHIS girls' team won during the tournament. However, WYIS won the third set at 15:9, granting them their ticket to the semifinal.

HS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMNET

Written by Sarah Lee

The last day began the game between seed 1, TIS, and the winner of seeds 4 and 5, ISQ. TIS won the first two sets 25:21 and 25:16. The second game was between seed 2, CDIS, and the winner of seeds 3 and 6, WYIS. CDIS easily won at 25:12 and 25:14. The third game was between YIA and YHIS to determine the 5th and 6th places. All sets in this game were very close. YHIS won the first set 25:19 but lost the second and third sets 25:21 and 15:13. The fourth game was between ISQ and WYIS to determine the 3rd and 4th places. ISQ won the first and second sets 25:22 and 25:17. Finally, the last game was a championship between TIS and CDIS. Even though CDIS was seed 2, they won the first two sets 25:19 and 25:13. In the end, CDIS won first place, TIS second, and ISQ third.



Closing Remarks

Although the YHIS girls came in 6th place, they viewed this tournament as a source of encouragement for future tournaments, as many noted that the team's performance this year was better than previous years. Their greatest excitement was being announced the receivers of the sportsmanship trophy. According to Joy, a senior on the girls' team, the best part of the tournament this year was the bonding and improvement that the YHIS team underwent. Even though YHIS did not get any placement trophies this year, she believes that the YHIS girls put up a good fight and performed better than in previous years. According to Cecilia, a freshman on the girls' team, the best part was the opportunity to represent the school in a tournament, experiencing the thrill of competing as a team.

Ultimately, the most memorable aspect of this experience was being able to meet new people and build new friendships. According to Nooa, a junior on the boys' team, and Enoch, a sophomore also on the boys' team, the best part of the trip was being able to play volleyball with their teammates. According to Leon, a junior on the boys' team, one of the memorable experiences was working hard to win 2nd place, especially when they won the game against Chengdu on Saturday and celebrated together on the court after the game. According to Rafael, a junior on the boys' team, they often struggled in the first set. However, these challenging moments revealed the team's true character under pressure. Over time, they learned to read each other on the court, adjusting and covering for one another. More often than not, they managed to turn things around. Even when they fell short, there was no blame, only support. They not only won the trophy but also built trust from knowing and relying on each other, both on and off the court. In the end, what mattered wasn't the title, but that they gave their best together. Through this experience, the students accumulated good memories and ended the volleyball season on a positive note.



INTERNATIONAL DAY

Written by Sarah Lee

On November 1st, 2025, YHIS held International Day. This event is a LifePlus activity aimed at experiencing a variety of cultures and fostering cooperation throughout the preparation process. Each grade studied an assigned country, prepared food, and created games. Many parents and teachers also worked hard to share their own country's culture and support the students.

In the morning, even though the event officially started at 10 a.m., students, teachers, and parents arrived by 9 a.m. to set up their booths. Some students even wore traditional costumes to represent other countries.

At 10 a.m., the event kicked off with the annual band performance and flag parade at the main entrance of the school. After the parade, the band finished its performance in the courtyard and the festivities began.

Students, parents, teachers, and other visitors visited each booth, enjoyed food, and participated in games. Notably, at the Brazilian booth, they played music and held a dance party, which helped create a lively atmosphere. One student and some of the Brazilian parents attempted to teach the Brazilian Samba dance, offering the opportunity for cultural exchange. The Korean booth also displayed traditional foods like tteokbokki, jeon, and rice cakes, delighting both eyes and taste buds. According to Sam, a junior at YHIS, and Judy, a sophomore, the best part of International Day was the chance to experience various cultures.



During the event, there were dance performances by parents and choir performances, making the day lively. Judy mentioned that although the preparation was challenging, on the day of the event, everyone enjoyed their booths, and she was able to wear a traditional costume, making it a memorable experience.

In this way, International Day began with cheers and excitement and ended on a joyful note.



TIANMUN XIII: CONSENSUS BEYOND SOVEREIGNTIES

Written by Charles Kim

From Thursday, November 12th, to Saturday, November 15th, selected students from the MUN club went to Tianjin and participated in the annual TIS-hosted MUN conference, TIANMUN. Students enjoyed their experience of meeting new people from other schools, improving their public speaking, and building teamwork.

This year, the theme of the conference was “Consensus Beyond Sovereignities,” emphasizing the need for international cooperation and agreement rather than simply asserting countries’ authority as a powerful country in order to solve global threats. The committees included the General Assembly, World Health Assembly, Human Rights Council, Disarmament Commission, Economic and Social Council, Environment Commission, Advisory Panel, and Security Council. All committees handled four urgent and attention-worthy worldwide threats, including health problems, inequalities, wars, pollution, and other such issues.



Day 1

The students arrived at school at 5 a.m., rode a bus to the train station, and suffered a total of 6 hours of travel on train and bus to Tianjin. Students grabbed lunch quickly, checked into their hotel rooms for the night, and headed to TIS. For many students, this was their first-ever conference, and they were becoming nervous. Once they arrived at TIS, TIANMUN XIII officially began with an inspiring opening ceremony.

Afterward, all the students headed to their committee rooms. The delegates presented their well-prepared opening speeches, with their hearts pounding, but it was just the beginning. The merging and lobbying session began, where delegates from different schools who chose the same topic were required to come together and construct a feasible resolution for the topic. This process requires teamwork, agreement, understanding, and curiosity in order for several people representing different views to come to a compromise if disagreements occur. After hours of working, students had dinner and headed back to their hotel rooms. Unfortunately, despite the exhaustion from transportation and hard work, several teams had to finish their resolutions overnight. Some students complained about the bad food and meeting unhelpful teammates, but overall, the first day of TIANMUN was a good challenge with meaningful progress and connections.

Day 2

The students had breakfast and took their ride to TIS once again. Day 2 was the real stuff—the day they had to get their resolutions approved, and the debates started—and students seemed to be both exhausted and nervous. After the final hours were given for building and approving resolutions, a quick lunch break finally brought students into the realization that the real debate, where delegates make speeches, ask questions, and submit amendments, would actually begin. For the whole afternoon, from about 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., debate sessions in all committees were in action. Students needed to show courage to make their speeches, ask questions, and debate on amendments and clauses. However, this was not the easiest task. The anxiety, the doubt, and the fear of raising a placard, standing up, going to the podium, speaking, and receiving questions made the placard feel heavier than ever for everybody. After those long hours of constant speaking and staying formal, the debate session for day 2 had come to an end.

TIANMUN XIII: CONSENSUS BEYOND SOVEREIGNTIES

Written by Charles Kim



Finally, it was time for dinner and the TIANMUN Bash! Students from all participating schools showed off their talents of dancing, singing, playing instruments, and more, which beautifully and excitingly wrapped up day 2. Many students enjoyed the opportunity to speak in front of others, improve their resolutions, debate on resolutions, and enjoy the Bash, but some were extremely exhausted, did not enjoy the food or the heavy atmosphere of MUN and other powerful delegates.

When the final day, day 3, had come, students packed up their things, checked out, and headed to TIS for the final hours of TIANMUN. Day 3 had more debate. All committees debated the remaining topics that had not been resolved the previous day. By lunch time, most committees finished their sessions, which meant they could joyfully have lunch, vote for fun superlatives, and do fun debates. The Security Council and Advisory Panel, which had several YHIS and YIA students included, had a joint session about one of the largest safety and stability crises in the world: the situation in Pakistan. Sadly, our school had to leave before the closing ceremony due to our transportation schedule. After a long and exhausting train and bus ride, students were finally able to smell the air of Yantai and return to their wonderful homes at about 10:30 p.m. Many students were delighted to see their resolutions pass, clap for all of the hard work, feel the achievement, and finally head back home.



Unfortunately, no students from YHIS or YIA were able to win an award. However, sophomore Jacob Yu in the Security Council and junior Libby Moon in the General Assembly received honorable mentions during their committees' closing ceremony speeches for their amazing work.

Overall, the experience was a great opportunity for students to develop so many skills: the ability to speak in front of others, make new friends, and discuss pressing global issues. The inspiration from people with new perspectives, and all of the hard work and dedication to Model United Nations, allowed the students to grow. Some didn't enjoy the food, their teammates, or their chairs, but most were happy to be part of the experience. Those who took away valuable skills and lessons at TIANMUN are eager to become better delegates at MUNTAI, the next MUN conference, which will be held at our school next semester.



HS LOCK-IN

Written by Jay Vars



On November 21-22, the YHIS high school student council, HS StuCo, hosted a lock-in for high school students. The lock-in started at 6 p.m. so that students would have time to go home, get ready, and get what they needed to spend the night. At slightly past 6 p.m., the lock-in officially started with a pizza and chicken dinner. After dinner and some time to hang out with each other, StuCo revealed the teams for the event and then started getting the students to the auditorium to start the games. The first game played was Christmas trivia. While all teams did their best, one team completely took the lead and won by a huge margin. The next game the students played was a chicken game where players would strap squawking chickens to their feet and try not to get hit with a pool noodle by a person who was blindfolded. This game caused lots of laughter and chaos but with no injuries. After this, the students returned to the collaboration space to wait for instructions for the last game. This game was a mix between a scavenger hunt and the board game *Clue*, but in real life. Players would have to look around on the first to fourth floors for slips of paper with points and ask StuCo members, who were acting as MPC, questions to figure out who stole Santa's sled, with what, and where it was stolen.

After a while of running around and no team having answered it all correctly, the game ended with final guesses. Only two teams got the answer correct out of four teams. Soon after the end of the game, points were counted, and the winning team was declared. With the games ending around 10 p.m., the students were given free time, and a movie was turned on. During this time, people could buy snacks and drinks, play games, and a new game was created called Volleyping. At around 11 p.m., students' phones were taken and they headed to their separate sleeping areas: 4th floor auditorium for boys and the library for girls. Although students went to their separate sleeping areas at 11 p.m., it wasn't until much later that most people fell asleep.

After a fun evening and night of games, the students were quite tired when they were woken up the next morning at 7:30. They cleaned up their areas then went to the café for a breakfast of McDonald's and milk or juice. At 9:00, the students finally got to go home after the fun lock-in. A few people commented on this lock-in that they were disappointed that there weren't many people that chose to come. Even though many high school students did not go, the HS Student Council reflected that it was still a very good event and that they were pleased that all the games went smoothly. After this event, many people are looking forward to the next event from the High School Student Council.



MS SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Written by Ellie Lee

This year, Yantai Huasheng International School hosted the LifePlus Middle School Soccer Tournament. Players across LifePlus spent the entire tournament cheering, working together, and feeling the excitement at this year's tournament. YHIS players, staff, and friends came to support sportsmanship and community spirit at YHIS for this sporting event. Before the first match, the enthusiasm for participation was palpable. A couple of students remarked they were nervous but proud to be representing YHIS on our home ground. Most of the players mentioned that they had worked hard during practices, making strategies, and offering encouragement to each other. As the games went on, the energy grew. Teams cheered each other on, with sideline shouts of "Nice try!" or "You got this!" Even when the matches became tough, students stayed positive. One player mentioned the best part was "when our team scored, and everyone ran together to celebrate." Cheers echoed on the field as even teachers joined in, cheering for their teams.



All throughout the day, teamwork was shown to be at the heart of the tournament, as revealed by students. Another player remarked, "This was a really great memory for me." Several players in the tournament expressed that there was more to it than playing games, but rather about relationships, courage, and having fun together. The players were certainly exhausted by the end of the session, but they felt satisfied and proud of what the students had participated in. One player was heard saying, "We may forget the score, but we will never forget the fun we had!"

It was a day full of smiling, socializing, learning, and pride.

SECONDARY TALENT SHOW

Written by Agnes Kim



“Sit back, relax, and enjoy!”

On November 7th, YHIS and YIA held the 2025 Secondary Talent Show. This year, there were a total of 11 marvelous performances by secondary students as well as three student emcees who effectively carried out the entire show.

A high school rock band, consisting of the members Andy, Leon, Grayson, Kera, Frank, and Hugi, kicked off the start of our show. They performed a song called “想去海边” and formed a relaxing atmosphere through the dreamy combination of guitars, drum, and vocals. Audience were able to picture the calm, soothing waves of the ocean in front of them, like the song’s story itself.

Our second performance was Jin’s drumming performance. He played a song called “Poster Girl,” an exciting song that hyped up the audience. Many students stated that they were most excited about this part of the show. Jin stated that “It was an awesome experience to perform in front of all kinds of people. This made me increase my courage, excitement, and all sorts of stuff that you can enjoy when you feel confident after achieving a hard thing. I felt proud of myself and all the practice I did just for performing because of all the cheers I heard after performing. It's refreshing.”

Thirdly, Naru and Rongxi performed a calm and comforting song called “Peter Pan was Right” using a beautiful combination of their voices and the calm melody of the piano. They had quiet but firm and melodious voices, which harmonized well with Rongxi’s light piano music. Their voices echoed the auditorium, filling the audience’s hearts with the warm delight of this song.

The next performance was carried out by a student named Penny, who gave us an exquisite experience by playing the song “红梅赞” on a traditional Chinese instrument. The high and the clear melodies felt like the sound of marbles rolling. The audience fell into silence and carefully took in every single note of the music.

This performance was followed by a song called “Monsters,” performed by Mia on the guitar. She captivated the crowd and made everyone fall deep into her song full of emotions. Students all over the school agreed that her voice was unimaginably delightful to hear, and that they truly enjoyed this piece of performance.

A group of girls—Minseong, Ellie, Daim, Jiwoo, Ruby, and Sumin—entered the stage next. They brought famous K-Pop music with them and started to light the stage with their dance of the songs “Armageddon” and “Like You Better.” Their bodies made sharp and clean movements, perfectly reflecting the efforts they had contributed to this dance. After this performance, Jiwoo mentioned that this was her first middle school performance, making her nervous. However, she overcame that fear and successfully performed the dance that she had practiced for so long. She felt like she could never forget the moment she stepped on the stage and danced in front of others.

SECONDARY TALENT SHOW

Written by Agnes Kim

Gaon started his performance right after the girls' dance. He gracefully played his violin to create the encouraging melody of the song "You Raise Me Up." The song lifted the audience's hearts; this music gave them the energy to applaud him loudly.

There were a few piano performances following this. First, Isabelle played an extremely fast and energetic song called "La Tarantelle." Her fingers were racing through the keys as she was producing exciting music. Davi also gave us a piano performance of a song called "Odeon." He created a classical mood with his elaborate performance. Student journalist Jesmin Jung has interviewed him for this month's Student Spotlight article, where he elaborates on his preparation for this performance as well as what this performance meant to him on a deeper level.



Niko performed "Touch Tone Telephone." She sang a song while also playing out a theatrical scene, producing a rare musical performance. Students were very curious at first when Niko entered the stage with her props, and their curiosity was covered by the excitement of experiencing her exciting performance. She sang full of emotions, causing the audience to fully focus on this performance. Her acting was another factor that made her performance interesting.



This was followed by the song "Enchanted," sung by Sydnie. Her clear and warm voice successfully carried the mysterious yet calm melody of the song. Many audience members mentioned that this song was outstanding. Her magical voice truly enchanted the audience.

Joy continued the Talent Show with a song called "Journey to the Past" from the Broadway musical *Anastasia*. She created a dramatic mood with her voice harmonizing with facial expressions and the background music of her performance. Students stated that they were fully absorbed into this performance, and that they truly enjoyed the marvelous scene performed by Joy.

The 2025 Talent Show ended with a final performance by Lucas. He cheerfully danced to a song called "Plot Twist" and brought excitement to the audience. Many agreed that it was an amazing ending to the Talent Show.

This Talent Show was created by the endless efforts of students. We also should not forget the efforts that teachers and staff put into this show. Grade 8 Esther Park stated that this show was full of diverse performances, and that she enjoyed every one of them. She also mentioned that this year, there were less performers compared to the previous talent show and that she hopes there will be more participants next year. Overall, the 2025 Secondary Talent Show was successful.

TEACHER VS. STUDENT VOLLEYBALL MATCH

Written by Jay Vars

On October 27, the YHIS high school boys' and girls' volleyball teams played against some teachers. The games were very relaxed but with both sides strongly wishing to win and doing their best. One teacher commented that it was very fun and that she especially liked that she was able to make connections with the students outside of a classroom setting. While almost all sets for the games were close, another teacher stated that the students were lucky that the teachers never practiced together.

The games ended with the boys' team coming out on top with a score of 3:1 and the girls' team tied with a score of 2:2. The first set for both teams was incredibly stressful. For the boys, the teachers managed to get the upper hand, and the students could not bring it back, resulting in the teachers winning. For the girls though, after a stressful and fluctuating first set, they managed to beat the teachers. For the second set, the boys changed tactics slightly by giving the starters much more time to play. However, the girls continued with the same tactic due to the success achieved with it before. With the adjustment of tactics for the boys and the confidence from winning the first set for the girls, both teams narrowly won. With the third set all the players were getting slightly tired but still confident. The boys' team, again, changed tactics. This time they alternated between starters and bench players so that all players would get an equal chance to play and so that their team could remain strong. The girls, once more, lacked a need to change tactics and went into the next set confidently. However, the third set brought different results again. The girls team only needed one more set to win the game but were not able to hold on to their lead. The boys' team still won, even with the new strategy. With time running out, one last set was played. Both the boys and girls continued to do what they had previously done. However, the girls' team, being fatigued, could not claim another win. The boys' team, though, won the last set and with it the game.



Overall, the experience was very fun and helped build connection between the teachers and students. Both sides showed their skills and athleticism with several students being shocked at how good the teachers were at volleyball. Overall, both the teachers and students enjoyed this time and expressed interest in there being more teachers versus student games.



NBA SEASON BEGINNNING

Written by Daniel An

With October already gone and November coming to a close, we should not forget about the NBA season.

There were many interesting events that happened in the month of October, and one unique event that happened was that NBA ushered in the beginning of new season this year.

NBA

standings

GAMES

STANDINGS

STATS

PLAYERS

League






NBA

Season

2025-26

Eastern Conference

Western Conference

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Conf	Home	Away	L10	Stk
1  Pistons	15	3	.833	-	11-3	7-1	7-2	9-1	L1
2  Raptors	14	5	.737	1.5	13-2	7-2	7-3	9-1	W9
3  Heat	13	6	.684	2.5	8-3	9-1	4-5	8-2	W6
4  Knicks	11	6	.647	3.5	8-6	8-1	3-5	7-3	W2
5  Cavaliers	12	7	.632	3.5	10-6	8-3	4-4	6-4	L1

In the Eastern Conference, Pistons is in the first place, followed by Cavaliers with second, Raptors with third.

NBA standings

GAMES

STANDINGS

STATS

PLAYERS

League






Season

NBA

2025-26

Eastern Conference

Western Conference

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Conf	Home	Away	L10	Stk
1  Thunder	18	1	.947	-	14-1	9-0	9-1	10-0	W10
2  Lakers	13	4	.765	4.0	10-3	5-2	8-2	8-2	W5
3  Nuggets	13	4	.765	4.0	11-3	6-2	7-2	8-2	W1
4  Rockets	12	4	.750	4.5	5-3	5-2	7-2	8-2	W2
5  Spurs	12	5	.706	5.0	7-5	8-2	4-3	7-3	W1

In the Western Conference, Thunder is in the first place, followed by Nuggets in second place, and third place being Rockets.

One of the top rookies, or highly regarded rookie in NBA season 2025-2026 is Cooper Flagg. This player was chosen to be the first place in 2025 NBA Draft, or the event where the teams in NBA select new players or prospects, and he is also one of the candidates for the Rookie of the Year (ROY).

Recently, over 30 people, including current and former NBA figures, were arrested in a huge federal investigation, and it was prompted due to gambling—mostly illegal sports betting. Several major New York-based mafia families were included in the investigation, and key players in NBA, such as Chauncey Billups, Damon Jones, and Terry Rozier, were implicated. Their relationship between mafia families is still being investigated, and the players didn't get the final “guilty” verdict yet.

Who They Are:

Chauncey Billups: Former NBA player, now head coach of the Portland Trail Blazers, one of the NBA teams in Western Conference.

Damon Jones: Former NBA player, best known for playing for the Cleveland Cavaliers, one of the NBA teams.

Terry Rozier: Current NBA player who is playing for the Miami Heat, one of the NBA teams in Eastern Conference.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Interviewed by Jesmin Jung



For this month's spotlight, we interviewed Davi, a student whose lively piano performance brought energy and cultural spirit to the stage on the talent show. In this interview, he shares his inspiration, his preparation process, and the meaningful lessons he gained from his experience.

JESMIN: Could you introduce yourself and tell us a little about who you are?

DAVI: My name is Davi Ribeiro Santana. I am 16 years old, and I am from Brazil. In Brazil, I used to move a lot. But the greatest adventure started a few months ago when I came to China with my family: my father, mother, and three brothers. I like to play sports, play the piano, and learn languages.

JESMIN: What and why did you perform in the talent show?

DAVI: I performed the Brazilian song "Odeon," composed by Ernesto Nazareth. I chose this music because I think it represents the Brazilian spirit, so when you listen to it, you might want to move your body and shake your hands. And it is very happy and loud, like Brazilians are.

JESMIN: What kind of preparation went into your performance?

DAVI: To prepare for my performance, my family bought a piano for me to practice. I practiced every day for as many hours as I could until my family got mad at me, hahaha. A part of my preparation was that I also listened to the music many times.

JESMIN: What motivated you to play the piano in the talent show this year?

DAVI: My main motivation was that it is a big challenge, and I especially like challenges. Almost everything I have done was motivated by challenges. Another thing was wanting to represent my own country, Brazil.

JESMIN: Did you face any challenges during your preparation? If so, how did you overcome them?

DAVI: When I decided that I would perform, I didn't have a piano. And I started practicing later than I expected. But with faith, I practiced until I got good at playing the music.

JESMIN: How did you feel right before going on stage, and how did you feel afterward?

DAVI: Before, I was a little nervous but very excited for my performance. And afterward, I felt happy to be the only one who represented my country in the talent show. While I was performing, I stayed focused and let the music lead the performance, just interpreting the emotions of the music into notes on the piano.

JESMIN: What is one meaningful lesson you learned from participating in the Talent Show?

DAVI: That there are people around us who have talents that we don't know, that there are people around us who make an effort to learn new things that we don't know, and that there are people around us who are more similar to us than we imagined. By knowing this, we can build connections.

JESMIN: Do you have any advice for students who want to perform or start learning piano but feel nervous or hesitant?

DAVI: One piece of advice that I have for you, and that also helped me to start learning the piano, is that we are never going to have the same opportunities in the same way twice. Opportunities come and go. So, I say to you: "Don't lose it. Hold it tightly, because if you don't, you may regret it. But if you grab it with all your strength, you may find an unknown treasure."

THE POWER OF CURIOSITY

Written by Jin Kim



I am a normal boy who goes to school. But the unique thing is that I always get in trouble because of the things I do. I try a lot of things, even though the teacher told students never to try that. For example, one day, I snuck into the teacher's room, because I was curious why the teachers were keeping their room so secret. I found out that there was nothing special, and I got an infraction slip for a long place, wrong time.

I thought being curious was a bad thing. Instead of being able to learn, it only caused trouble and consequences. But I realized that curiosity is a trait that you must learn to be able to be a successful person later.

One day, I was in school, searching for something new. I searched for places I'd never been, places I hadn't observed before. I searched and searched because of my curiosity, and a strange door caught my eye.

I was thinking, should I go through that door, or not, because I felt scared of the mysterious room behind the door. Because of my curiosity, though, I just went in.

The room was dark, and there were old things that belonged to our school. This is the storage closet, I thought. It was interesting because since our school has existed for many years, there were old, interesting things in there. I didn't know time was passing, because the things in the storage closet were so interesting!

It's an old storage closet. It should be dark. But I don't know why there was light that made me see things well. I didn't know why, but after awhile, I saw a mysterious, glowing substance in the corner of the storage shining.

I was too afraid to touch it, since it could be a chemical substance that could harm my body. But because of my curiosity, I touched it. And if I hadn't touched that substance, my life wouldn't have changed.

At first, nothing happened. I touched it, tapped it, and tried many different actions on it. Nothing happened. I realized I couldn't spend more time here, so I brought the substance home to find out what it is.

Hours passed. Days passed. I still couldn't find out what this special substance is. I also researched every source I could find to get information about this substance, but there was nothing. Did I just find a new creation?

A year later, after giving this substance to the science department, they found out that this substance was the main source of making the world develop. This substance was the fuel for a new eco-energy. Because of my curiosity, my life changed. I became the founder of the most eco-friendly resource.

I learned that curiosity can lead to new creations, and is a key to learn new things.

HIGHLIGHTS OF NOVEMBER

Pictures



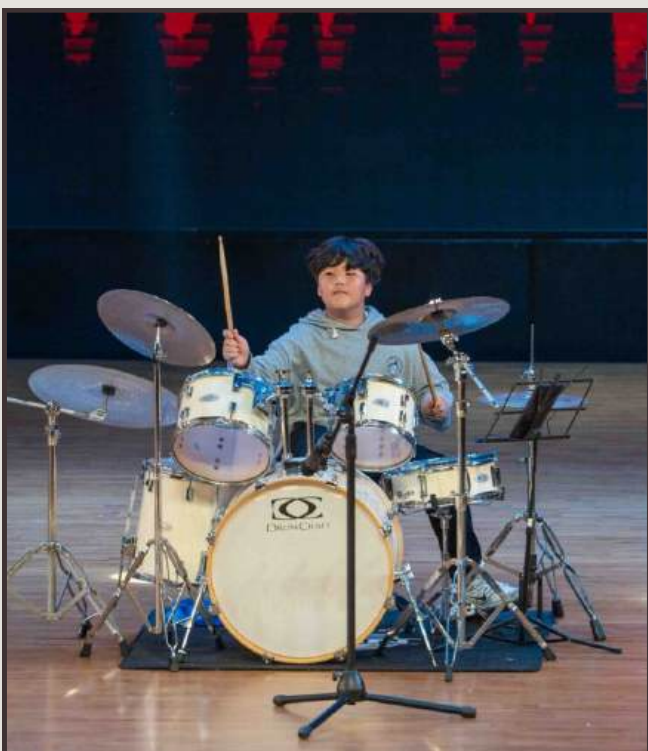
HIGHLIGHTS OF NOVEMBER

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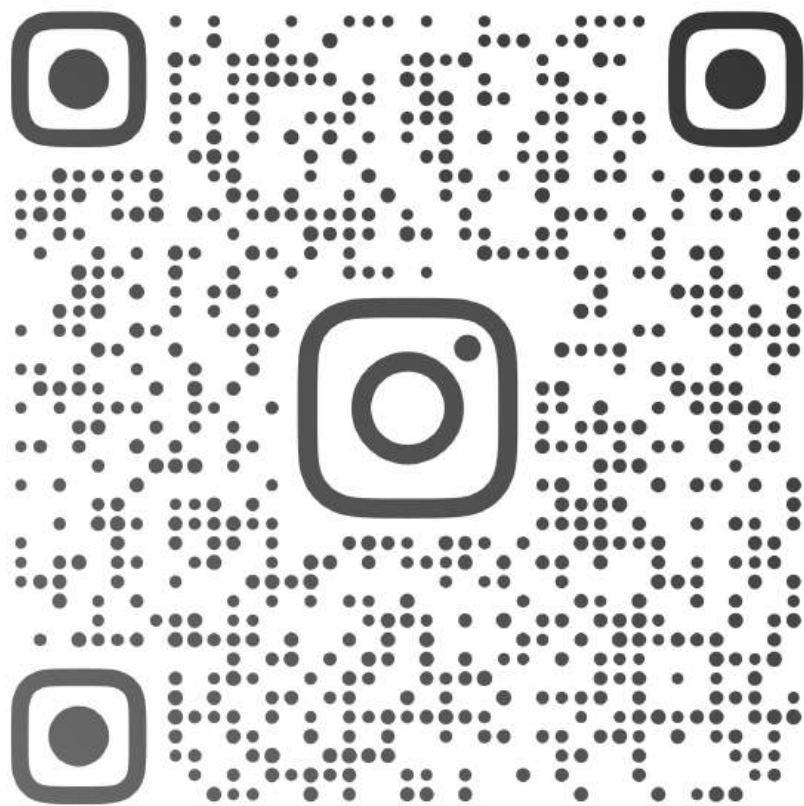


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