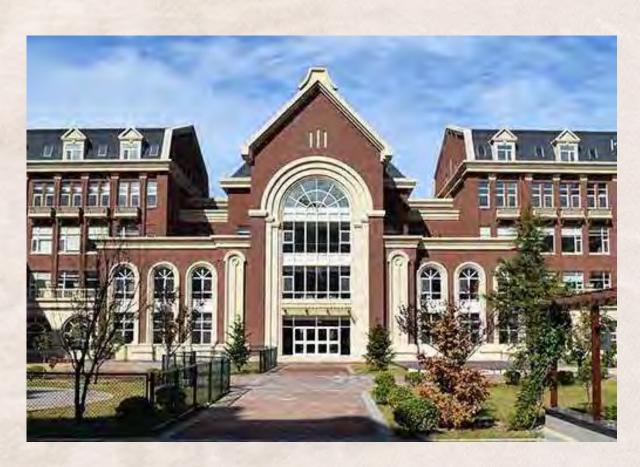
## SHARKTIMES

### **ROLLING PAPER FOR 2024-2025 LAST EDITION**



### SARAH LEE

It has been an honor to spend such a pleasant year with our dedicated editors and Mrs. Carson. If our newspaper has been a place of respite in your busy daily lives, akin to the shade of a tree, then that would be enough for us. This time has been meaningful to learn, love, and lead. I hope to see many of our editors again next year!

### **EUNSU KWON**

Thank you all, and well done! It was my pleasure to serve all as the president/vice president for two years.:)

### JUSTIN JIN

It has been most enjoyable to be a part of the Newspaper Club this year! Thank you all for making this a memorable experience and let us cherish and further build upon the lessons we may have learned here! Let us continue to be critical writers and researchers.

### MRS. ALANA CARSON

The 2024-2025 Newspaper Club stepped it up to a new meaning this year as we published monthly newspapers and put out far more content than any of the years past. You all worked as a cohesive team to create professional and interesting newspapers, and I am impressed with the ways you informed your peers about our local school, community, and globe! May we stay committed to being educated global citizens and sharing news with others!

### JOY THAM

Thank you for following *The Shark Times* this year. A key achievement has been expanding our coverage to include middle school news, better representing our entire secondary body. Your responses to surveys and interviews have helped showcase the diverse experiences within our school. Stay tuned for next year!

### KATE BOWER

I had a lot of fun being in the newspaper club this year! The Shark Times is cool, and I think that the idea of a newspaper club in general is great. I really liked writing a lot more, because I stopped writing in the past, but the newspaper helped me to pick up writing again and I'm glad that it has because I now realize how much it means to me. I think that our group has been very fun and inspiring, and I thank all who read our newspaper because it means a lot to appreciate our hard work!

### DOJIN KIM

Thank you for letting me join an amazing club like the YHIS Sharks Newspaper Club! I had so much fun writing articles or doing other things! I usually like to write and draw stuff, for example, stories, articles, comics or other writing things. Joining the newspaper club is the right choice for me! Even though my writing skills and my grammar is not perfect, I think I always improve my skills when writing an article. Sometimes, I got to make fun things like comics! I think this club is both fun and educational! Thank you for all the people who joined this club! I really had fun! I think I will join Newspaper Club next year, because I will still enjoy writing or making articles or stories! See you next year!!!

## SHARKTIMES

### ROLLING PAPER FOR 2024-2025 LAST EDITION

### JAY VARS

Newspaper Club was very fun and a great and relaxed way to improve writing skills. Thank you to everyone who helped publish the newsletters and the people who spent time reading them.

### JIYOUNG PARK

I had a good time, even though I only wrote one article. Thank you everyone for helping me! It was a fun time!

### JOE RAUHALA

Thank you to everyone who worked hard on the newspaper this year and to everyone who gave it a proper read. The newspaper almost felt like a real organization because of how it functioned. While the monthly release date kept us busy, I really enjoyed it, as it meant that the Newspaper Club stayed active throughout the whole year.

### JESMIN JUNG

I really enjoyed participating in this Newspaper Club this year!!! I appreciate all our members; they worked extremely hard to make our articles better!! And I loved seeing students and teachers reading our articles and having fun.

### SAM LEE

I'm honored to be a contributor of this club and enjoyed writing articles. I promise to write more advanced articles next year. I really appreciate Mrs. Carson to lead me properly.

### JENNA BELCHER

Thank you all for all your support of the Newspaper Club! It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of a platform where we get to share about all the awesome things we're doing in the school year! I truly hope these pages don't become simply pages you forget about at the end of the year but rather something y'all can look back on and remember all the awesome times in the year, like a time capsule. Thank you again to all our hardworking editors who made all this happen!

### ELLIE LEE

It was really nice working with all of you this year. Planning articles, writing, and editing together helped me learn a lot and grow as a writer. Even though it wasn't always super fun or exciting, we still got things done as a team—and that's something I'm proud of. Everyone worked hard and did their part, and I'm thankful for that. I'm planning to stay in Newspaper Club next year, and if we get to work together again, I hope we can create even better newspapers! Thanks for all your effort this year. I'm glad I got to be part of the team with you. Keep writing great things, and I hope we meet again!

### HANNAH JUNG

It was a very memorable experience to be a part of the Newspaper Club, even though I was only in during the last month. It was so fun, and I learned a lot! Special thanks to all the friends, teachers, and others who helped me out through this experience!

### ANIA LASIEWICZ

It was a great opportunity to be a part of this! I truly hope that this was enjoyable for everyone all around, for both the readers and the writers! In joining this club, I've been able to experiment with different types of writing that I never really used previously. Thanks for all the help from everyone!



## SHARKTIMES

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## TEDX

### **SARAH LEE**



On April 19th, the third TEDx Youth event at YHIS took place in the Aihua Theater. A total of seven speakers—Dr. Andy Platt, Dr. Ruth Chang, Jenna Belcher, EunSu Kwon, Hannah Jung, Jimin Yu, and Selina Jin—shared their insights on world hunger, passions, learning languages, conflict in war, and the value of life.

TEDx is an event focused on a local or geographical area that highlights speakers' perspectives. The 2025 TEDx YantaiHuashengIntlSchool began at 2 o'clock and concluded at around 4 o'clock. The speakers shared their thoughts on various issues and lessons based on their personal experiences. Their insights offered many valuable lessons and moved us profoundly. According to sophomore Jason, who was an audience member at the event, the most interesting part of TEDx is that numerous people shared a variety of opinions on topics from their perspectives. He found the speeches engaging as they suggested solutions to problems drawn from personal experiences. He also thought that it was awesome to hear others' opinions and experiences. Like him, many listeners took time to reflect on their values and learn how to love and lead in their lives. Another audience member, Judy, a freshman, noted her appreciation for understanding diverse perspectives, reflecting on her thoughts, and discovering things she did not previously know.

However, some listeners suggested areas for improvement to enhance the TEDx event. Jason pointed out that it was unfortunate not to have the opportunity to ask questions to the speakers. He believed that if attendees had a chance to ask questions, the event would have better facilitated understanding of the speakers' messages. Additionally, Judy and sophomore Libby noted that fewer people attended than they had anticipated, suggesting that incorporating elements to attract more interest could be beneficial.

The TEDx volunteer team, along with Ms. Forstrom, worked diligently to organize the event. They designed and prepared materials for the TEDx event, including sticky notes, key rings, and eco-friendly bags. Libby, the President of the Volunteer Team, expressed that communicating with her friends and teachers during preparations and the interest shown in her designs was her favorite part. The team also organized activities for attendees to enjoy during the break. Thanks to their efforts, the TEDx event was well-structured, allowing many people to gain knowledge from it.

As we wrap up the 3rd TEDx event at YHIS and look forward to the 4th, I eagerly anticipate sharing thoughts and learning from more individuals.



# High School Soccer Season Ends with Pride

### JOE RAUHALA



The soccer season for both the Yantai boys' and girls' teams was incredibly eventful. The boys' team enjoyed immense success, winning the Yantai Education Association of Sport and Art (YEASA) Soccer Tournament, and placing second in the LifePlus High School Soccer Tournament, which was hosted by YHIS. The girls' team also did quite well, finishing second in the girls' division of the YEASA Soccer Tournament, and despite unfortunately finishing last in the LifePlus tournament, they played incredibly well and gave many opponents a tough time.

The boys' team had high expectations for this soccer season, as the team was full of quality and individual talent. They played one 11-aside game on March 7th against local Chinese school Wang Yi Rong, and despite leading 2-1 at half-time, they unfortunately ended up losing the game 3-2. There were initially plans to play many games during late March and early April, but due to scheduling conflicts and weather problems, only one game against Yew Wah International Education School (YWIES) took place, which the boys won 7-1. The YEASA Tournament took place on April 19th. Hosted by YWIES and comprising of YHIS, YWIES, Weihai Zhongshi International School (WZIS) and Wang Yi Rong. The tournament was incredibly competitive. The boys' team ended up winning the round-robin tournament, beating YWIES 8-0, WZIS 1-0, and Wang Yi Rong 6-1.

The girls' team had confidence that this year they could be more competitive than in previous years, which was a wish that came true. For their first game, they played YWIES, and despite playing competitively, they lost 3-1. Because of the lack of available teams, for the YEASA Soccer Tournament, the girls' team had to face the Wang Yi Rong girls' team twice. For both games, Wang Yi Rong got the best of the Yantai girls' team, winning in quite a dominant fashion despite the best efforts from the girls.

### THE LIFEPLUS SOCCER TOURNAMENT

The LifePlus Soccer Tournament took place on the following weekend, from April 26th to April 27th. On the first day, the teams played against each other to decide the seedings for the knockout stage. The Yantai boys' team was exceptionally dominant, securing first seed with one game to spare by beating CDIS (Chengdu) 5-1, TIS (Tianjin) 2-0, and WYIS (Wuhan) 2-0 before losing to ISQ (Qingdao) 0-2. The following day, the Yantai team faced CDIS, who had beaten TIS earlier that day to secure a semi-final spot. Despite only leading 1-0 at half-time, YHIS ended up beating CDIS 4-2, and in the process, securing YHIS' first-ever finals appearance in soccer. They were to play ISQ during the championship game, who narrowly beat WYIS 2-1 in the other semifinal.



### High School Soccer Season Ends with Pride

### JOE RAUHALA

According to Arkadii, who played as the striker in that game, "The final match was the Shandong Province Derby. The tempo of the game was slow, as both teams tried to possess the ball. Both teams still had chances to score, including a YHIS header that hit the post. The teams went on the half-time break with the score being 0-0. At the start of the second half, the game started becoming more open, with both teams having good chances. YHIS had one attack where they almost scored, but unfortunately, ISQ counterattacked and scored the first goal. After this, YHIS began playing higher, taking more risks in hopes of catching up to ISQ. Unfortunately, at one point, ISQ got to counterattack again and scored another goal." Furthermore, the game was very aggressive, with both teams committing multiple fouls and tough tackles. With this being the last LifePlus sports tournament for many of the players on the Yantai team, the team was understandably disappointed by the result. However, they are still proud of their achievements.

For the girls' division, they played many of their games on Friday. The Yantai girls started with a great game, narrowly beating CDIS 1-0. For the next game, despite playing an incredible game and almost coming to a draw, the girls' team lost 0-1 to ISQ, with ISQ scoring their goal with only a few minutes left in the game. The remaining games against TIS and WYIS were more difficult, with the Yantai girls' team losing 0-3 and 0-2. This meant, despite having a win, that the girls were last seed, and would face Chengdu again on Saturday morning to make the semi-finals. However, this game didn't go as the team wished. CDIS beat Yantai 0-3, marking the end of games for the Yantai girls' team. Despite this, the team still played an incredibly competitive tournament.

Audrey, one of the key players on the girls' team, expressed that she is "very proud and happy" with the team's performance. She shared, "We improved so much from the start of the season and previous years which makes me so happy. We saw a lot of improvement over the entire season and even just during the weekend itself. We also had really great chemistry as a team and bonded with each other and made lasting memories and overall became closer to each other and the coaches. In the end, it was a great season for everyone on the team."





All in all, both the boys' and the girls' soccer teams can be very proud of their performance throughout the season. Both teams have shown immense improvement compared to previous seasons and performed better in the tournaments. The boys came agonizingly close to winning the whole LifePlus tournament and the girls nearly defeated the reigning champions during the tournament.

# Middle Schoolers Take Over the Night

### JIYOUNG PARK

From Friday, May 16th to Saturday, May 17th, the Middle School Student Council hosted a lock-in for YHIS middle school students. This was the final event of the 2024-2025 school year organized by the MS StuCo.

The event began with tie-dyeing shirts, which many students found exciting and fun. However, a few students accidentally dyed their uniforms and were a bit disappointed. Even though it was the first activity, the Student Council was already tired from cleaning up all the paint and water that got everywhere.

After some more games, like Capture the Flag, it was time for dinner. Students enjoyed pizza and ramen, though a few accidentally burned their hands while eating the hot noodles. During this time, the Student Council also opened a small snack shop for additional treats.

Once dinner ended, the next activity was partner running, which many students enjoyed. Then came the Mafia Game—but with around 55 students participating, it quickly became chaotic. The game moved slowly as everyone waited for the mafia to be chosen, and some students got bored. It ended earlier than planned, but the winners received a 20-second deduction from their mile run time in PE class.

At 9 p.m., students had three hours of free time. Boys took part in a video game tournament, while others played board games, chatted, or relaxed. Meanwhile, the Student Council was busy preparing for the next day by filling up around 1,200 water balloons for the upcoming water fight. Some students kindly helped with this task.

At the end of the night, as everyone got ready for bed, the Student Council held a quick meeting to plan breakfast for the next morning.

On Saturday morning, the Student Council served French toast and scrambled eggs for breakfast, but some students opted to eat ramen again. After breakfast, the highly anticipated water games began, including water balloon tosses, dodgeball, and water gun fights. Students had a great time, although the weather turned cold and many ended up shivering. The winning team received a fun prize: personal ice cream makers.

Overall, the lock-in was a fun and memorable event to wrap up the school year. While students had different opinions on their favorite parts, the highlight for many was the water fight. It was a tiring but rewarding event and a great way to end the year.

# A Symphony of Student Spirit and Song

### ANIA LASIEWICZ

Friday, May 30th was the 2025 Secondary Spring Concert. Every year, during the winter and spring, our school holds a concert for the secondary students to showcase their talents from their fine arts classes. Secondary students who took choir, band, and French this semester presented songs that they have worked so hard on. Those who attended art class had the opportunity to showcase their artwork in the theater's lobby.



The concert began with a song from the French Department, followed by middle school bands, high school bands, middle school choir classes, and finally the high school choir to end the performances. There was a variety of songs that were both sung and performed on instruments. Some included familiar ones such as the Jurassic Park theme song, "The Circle of Life," and "Over the Rainbow." Several of the songs were full of energy while others were softer pieces.

Upon asking Ms. Forstrom, our secondary band teacher, about why it's important to have a spring concert, she answered by saying that it's a good chance for all the students who worked hard learning all year to get to share what was learned. The concert also serves the purpose of allowing the audience to have something fun to listen to. Her thoughts about this year's concert were very positive.

She mentioned that it was a very fun program this year and that there was a good variety of music styles showcased. She also added that each year, the music program develops, and she enjoys getting to see that happen.





Kate Bower, an eighth grader who performed in both the choir and band, thought that the concert turned out really nice this year. She felt that her band and choir class both did a good job and that all the performers tried really hard, and once it was over, everyone felt accomplished and happy with how things turned out.

All in all, the 2025 Secondary Spring Concert was a success. Good job to everyone who participated! Hopefully, next year we'll be able to come back with an even better concert!

## Ballots and Ambition

### **JOY THAM**

Next year's high school student body elected the 2025-2026 High School Student Council officers this week following two days of campaign speeches and voting. Candidates presented their platforms during special assemblies held before lunch on May 28 and 29. After each assembly, students cast votes through a plurality system, and the results were announced after school on May 29.



PRESIDENT TIMOTHY CHI

focused his campaign on student input and engagement. He pledged to introduce a lunch menu influenced by student suggestions, implement a betting system to increase interest in school sports events, and create more opportunities for studentproposed spirit days and events through the use of surveys. While the idea of a sports betting system was met with applause during his speech, a few students and teachers expressed doubt over whether the school would permit it, given its association with gambling. Overall, his platform reflected a broader theme of elevating student voices in campus decisions.



PRESIDENT ANNIE CHOI

proposed a series of changes aimed at improving convenience and equity. One of her key promises was to allow all high school students to use the school café, which is currently reserved for seniors. Annie suggested a rotating schedule by grade level to prevent overcrowding. She also proposed adding paper cups next to water fountains and serving ramen twice a month. During the Q&A segment of the assembly, she also revealed her goal to organize one spirit week per semester and introduce budget-friendly Student Council events.



PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR CHARLES KIM

emphasized the need for school events to be inclusive and enjoyable rather than feeling like "extra chores." He also promised to create an "actually functioning" suggestion box for student feedback, referencing the "StuCo Suggestion Box" introduced by President Neo Kim during the 2019-2020 school year that was largely forgotten during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. It currently sits unused in the collaboration space. Charles' campaign emphasized listening to the ideas of students and incorporating them into the decisions of the Student Council.

## Ballots and Ambition

### **JOY THAM**



ASSISTANT
PUBLIC
PUBLIC
RELATIONS
DIRECTOR
JENNIFER
LEE

pledged to use "popular and trending" Instagram Reels to promote school events and increase student engagement. In her speech, she also explained that her experience as a grade representative in this year's Middle School Student Council taught her the importance of communication. Additionally, Jennifer and Charles were among the few StuCo candidates to post campaign posters on school bulletin boards—a gesture that may suggest a proactive approach to visibility and student engagement beyond the assembly speeches.



ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR DANIEL JUNG

emphasized fun, transparency, and using money efficiently in his campaign. Unlike the outgoing assistant finance director—who pledged to install a vending machine for student use between classes when the StuCo Store is closed, a promise that ultimately went unfulfilled—Daniel's promises were notably less ambitious and specific. His platform focused more on general values than concrete initiatives, signaling a shift toward a simpler, more cautious approach to the role.



FINANCE DIRECTOR TOMMY KIM

campaigned for more consistent ramen days—at least once a month—and a broader snack selection in the StuCo Store. Many students were surprised that Tommy chose not to run for President since he is the current Vice President. In his speech, Tommy explained that he ran for Finance Director specifically to fulfill a campaign promise he made last year: to make ramen days more frequent, which the current Student Council was unable to do. His decision suggests that he values completing specific goals over holding a higher position. He also proposed distributing a survey so students can suggest new snack options. During the Q&A session, he responded to a question from Justin Jin about bringing back Binghongcha—a popular drink removed from the StuCo Store this year—by saying, "If you write Binghongcha on that survey, I will try my best to serve you Binghongcha." His response highlighted a commitment to factoring student input into decisions about the StuCo Store.

## Ballots and Ambition

### **JOY THAM**



SECRETARY IAN CHAN

focused his speech on personal qualifications rather than specific policies. He emphasized his competence by citing prior experience in a similar role at his previous school in the United States, assuring voters of his ability to handle the responsibilities of the position effectively.



SERVICE DIRECTOR ISABELL KOH

proposed volunteer opportunities in our school's theater productions to help students earn service hours and suggested offering simple lunch alternatives, such as bread or microwaveable corn dogs, for students who skip lunch "because it's not good." She also proposed spirit day competitions, offering StuCo Store coupons as prizes to encourage greater student participation and boost school spirit. Before the pandemic, spirit day competitions were facilitated by teachers and organized by Mr. Bond, the former athletic director. These events were discontinued after the 2019-2020 school year and have not resumed since. With Isabell elected, students and teachers are hopeful to see more participation in spirit days through the revival of spirit day competitions.

#### MAJOR TALKING POINTS

Across multiple campaigns, several issues stood out as common ground: school lunch, ramen, surveys, and visibility through social media.

Discussions about the lunch menu have been ongoing for years, involving not just students but also parents and school staff. Complaints about food quality and accessibility have persisted despite recent improvements and even a parent meeting dedicated to the issue. Many students this year have skipped lunch, attempted to order food to school, or ate StuCo Store snacks for lunch. The fact that multiple Student Council candidates chose to raise the issue signals a shift—students may now be attempting to take the matter into their own hands. Whether that effort gains traction remains to be seen.

Selling ramen at school was first introduced by President Angela Kim during the 2022-2023 school year. Under the current policy, ramen is sold once a month via a pre-order system. Students complete an online survey to reserve their ramen, then pick it up on ramen day and prepare it using the school's hot water or microwave. Because the school normally restricts access to hot water, the introduction of ramen days was considered a major achievement. However, this year's Student Council was less consistent in hosting ramen days monthly, for reasons that remain unclear. With both Tommy and Annie elected, students are hopeful that ramen days will become a reliable and well-managed part of student life again.

## Ballots and Ambition

### **JOY THAM**

Surveys also emerged as a recurring tool proposed by multiple candidates, reflecting a growing emphasis on student input. The surge in survey-related proposals may reflect a shift in Student Council culture toward transparency and responsiveness, suggesting that candidates see greater student voice not only as a campaign promise but as a way to rebuild trust and engagement.

Instagram has been a recurring campaign topic since last year's election. Last year, the outgoing assistant public relations director had pledged to grow the Student Council's Instagram follower count to a specific number by the end of the school year, a target that was ultimately not met. This year, using Instagram to promote events was mentioned by Jennifer, as well as by Luna Seong, who ran against Charles for the Public Relations Director position. The continued focus on Instagram suggests that candidates recognize the platform's potential, even as past efforts have struggled to meet expectations.

With the new Student Council preparing to take office, the school community awaits the next chapter—and whether these recurring challenges will be met with meaningful change. While not every promise may be fulfilled, students can realistically expect more efforts toward student input and small but noticeable improvements in daily school life. Meanwhile, the grade-representative elections, which serve as a vital bridge between each class and the Student Council, are scheduled for this fall—so stay tuned for another chance to hear from potential student leaders in your class.

# The Unexpectedly Memorable Spring Trip

### HANNAH JUNG

A few weeks ago, the advisors of 6th grade informed the 6th-grade students that there will be a Spring Trip from May 21st to May 23rd. Initially, many students were upset and expressed their disappointment at being the only grade having to sleep at home on the first night of the "trip." Despite efforts from our teachers to make us understand that it was our school's policy, many were still frustrated by the unchangeable fact that we were younger than the other middle schoolers. All the 6th graders were scheduled to go to Lai Shan, which was where the 7th graders went last year. When we asked them about their experiences, most described it as 'boring.' No one expected to have an amazing experience.



On the 1st day, we all met at the lobby of our school at 8 a.m. We then rode a bus to Lai Shan. All of us participated in a movable-type activity. We had to use tiny stamps with Chinese characters on them to print a poem on a piece of paper. The students who were not familiar with Chinese characters, such as Sunny Bang from 6X, described the movable-type activity as "boring" and having "no big impact on the students in ELS or French." After we finished, we ate lunch, and then we participated in a Woodworking Workshop to make a phone stand from scratch. At this point, the feedback from the students about their first Spring Trip had been mostly negative.





On the 2nd day, everyone was excited, as this was the only day that we got to stay in a hotel overnight. We went to Suo Cheng Li, an ancient Chinese street. When we arrived, we got to participate in paper cutting and plantbased tie-dying. Everyone had a great time. However, throughout the activities, numerous students received infractions from the teachers for acting without a second thought. Some protested that they were not the ones who made unwise choices. After the activities, we transferred to our hotel for dinner and a glowstick party. All the students were shouting, dancing, singing, and some even did somersaults. At the end of the day, we gathered in each other's rooms to play board games, video games, and Truth or Dare. After that, we all had to have a good night's sleep for the day ahead. On this day, everyone had a wonderful time. Many students gave positive feedback to the tour guides and chaperones. Robin Park, a student from 6Y, described the 2nd day as "fun, except for the infractions."

# The Unexpectedly Memorable Spring Trip

### HANNAH JUNG





On the last day, we all woke up excited. We ate breakfast in the hotel buffet and then transferred to the Jiao Dong Clay Workshop, where we made whistles out of clay. After that, we went to a Chinese restaurant to enjoy our last meal of the trip. When we finished, we played a game called Mona Lisa. Everyone had a piece of paper, and we passed it around the room while each person added a part of the body onto it. By the time the game ended, everyone was laughing at the hilarious new portraits. At the end of the trip, we were all dropped off at our homes.

Overall, everyone had a memorable experience. Although the first day was full of complaints, the next two days became an experience that the 6th graders will never forget. Jiyoung Park, the 6Y grade representative, shared, "It was a good trip, but some teachers were strict about infractions," referring to the numerous community language- and unwise behavior-related infractions that were frequently given by the chaperones on the trip. Similarly, Aram Kum, a student in 6Y explained that "the trip was fun," while also commenting that "the time for lights out was a bit early," as the lights out time was at 10 p.m., significantly earlier than many of our usual bedtimes. Some boys in 6X, including Ryan Kim, George Park, and Joon Lee, also agreed that everything but the infractions was very memorable. In conclusion, this experience will remain in our hearts forever.



## Leg Day on Tai Shan

### **DOJIN KIM**



The 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes went to Tai An from May 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Tai An is known for the mountain Tai Shan. Tai Shan is very popular because of its beautiful scenic spots and visits from many kings and royal families. Shadow puppets are also famous in Tai An. Many of the students were very excited about this trip.

On the first day of the trip, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders rode a bus to Tai An at 7:30 a.m. Many were tired as they woke up earlier than usual. The estimated time for the bus ride was five hours; we were on the bus for seven of the five estimated hours. While some people enjoyed the bus ride and used it as an opportunity to bond with classmates, many were annoyed by the additional two hours they were not warned of. One person expressed their frustration by exclaiming, "It was supposed to be 5 hours, but I don't know why it took more than 2 hours from the estimated time!"

After the bus ride, students went to a shadow puppet activity and learned about shadow puppets. They made their own puppets and wrote a play using them. Many people thought it was fun because they liked playing with those puppets. After dinner, we played a game where we needed to avoid mines. After that game, many people were tired, and they went to sleep. Many had good reports on the hotel we stayed at.

On the second day, students were very excited because this was the day that they would hike Tai Shan. Tai Shan was very high but very beautiful. All students reached the goal point, but some aimed higher and reached the top of the mountain. Many agreed that the scene was very beautiful, but everyone was tired. Jude, one of the students, said that Tai Shan "is a very beautiful scenic spot." He also mentioned that the hike was "a great experience." It was planned to go down the mountain by cable cars, but just like the planned five-hour bus ride, it didn't happen. Due to strong winds, students had to climb down the mountain instead. Since this was unplanned, many were even more exhausted after climbing down. According to Ayaan, another student, reported that his legs were "shivering, and it was very hard to go down!"

That night, students had a barbecue and a bonfire. Many enjoyed it. There were mixed feelings about the barbecue, but the overall experience that night was memorable. Students held a talent show and roasted marshmallows as well. After the day, many students were tired, and they needed to go to sleep.

On the third day, many people were still exhausted from the previous day's hike and the late night. They packed their bags and left the hotel. Some went to try a flying experience. The flying experience simulated the experience of flying in the air. Students were so excited because it was their first time having this experience. One student even said that this was the best thing they did on the trip.

Overall, this year's 7th-grade spring trip was very memorable. Donghoon said that his favorite part was hiking Tai Shan. Students learned that if you work hard, it leads to greater enjoyment and fulfillment. Traveling to Tai An was one of the most enjoyable spring trips.

# 8th Graders Explore China's Capital

### KATE BOWER

Annually, the 8th graders at YHIS go to the historical and quite fascinating capital city of Beijing for their Spring Trip. This year, over the three days of May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, we saw many bold sites such as the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, and Hutong Village. All classmates greatly enjoyed the trip. Overall, the trip was a great experience full of fun adventures and relationship-building!







On the first day, we tiredly started the day early to hop on a train and take the 4-hourlong ride to Beijing. One student says that this was her favorite part of the trip because of the freedom that students had to play and laugh. Another said it was tiring but remembered nothing because he slept the whole ride. We enjoyed a traditional lunch once we arrived and started towards the Great Wall of China. The Great Wall was an incredible experience and appears to be many students' favorite part of the trip. We went to the Badaling (八达岭) section of the Wall and hiked for about half an hour. The hike was treacherous, but the scenery was beautiful. We then hiked our way down and settled back in the bus with some cold treats. We drove to an amazing restaurant for a traditional and delicious duck dinner. We then drove to the hotel and rested. Day one had turned out to be a huge feat and was the favorite of many.





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Day two started with a long ride towards an acrobatics school. While there, we saw the many amazing and terrifying performances of extremely talented people. We then got to try some of the activities that they were doing, including balanced plate spinning, balancing an umbrella, juggling tricks, and playing with fire. After our amazing experience, we went to Hutong Village for a delicious lunch that we prepared! We made the dumplings for ourselves, and they looked how you would expect 8th-grade-made dumplings to look —pretty bad. After that, we headed to a busy street of many shops and cultures. We saw a long river and took some time to shop before it started raining. At the end of the day, we drove off to a fairly nice hotel for a wonderful dinner and to see yet another amazing performance. We saw a beautiful Beijing opera which many classmates were very fascinated by.





Day three came quickly. We started the day with breakfast and packed our belongings. We then went to the Forbidden City for sightseeing and spotting of different historical pieces spread out across the city. Many classmates said that this was their favorite part of the trip because the weather was nice, and they liked the many colors of the architecture around us. We then headed back to the Beijing train station and bittersweetly went home.

Overall, the trip was an amazing experience. Letizia Godoy shared, "I liked the vibes and how a lot of my friendships grew stronger, and I could experience a different culture". Roy Kim noted that "Although it was a short trip, it was the most memorable trip for an 8th grader who is leaving middle school." He went on to compare this trip to "a last dance on the stage." From trying traditional food to running around in the rain, we all took away many memories from this trip.

### Hot Days, Clay Warriors, and a Rotating Stage

### **JAY VARS**

From May 20 to 23, the freshmen class traveled to Xi'an, which is the capital of Shaanxi. During this trip, they visited historical places such as the terracotta warriors and an old mosque. They also did some activities that were created more recently like a show and tourist street. Overall, it was a successful trip where students both had fun and learned new things.

On the first day when the students arrived, they were shocked by how hot the weather was in Xi'an, but everyone managed to stay well and hydrated. To start the trip, the freshmen visited a mosque and the Muslim Street right next to it. The mosque and Muslim Street were cool activities and many people bought souvenirs there.



The next day, it was about the same temperature. The students visited the Terracotta Warriors tourism site and got to make their own clay figures. They also visited a cave house. The Terracotta Warrior Museum was cool, but there was little information provided to the students about the history and creation of the clay army. The cave house was a cool refuge from the hot weather, and the students could ask the owner questions. That night, the students went to a show about the Silk Road. The stage rotated, animals passed by the audience, and a waterfall got some of the audience a bit wet. This was a highlight of the trip for many students and chaperones.

As the students headed back to the hotel after a long day of fun, a driver accidentally bumped into the very back of the bus. Despite the initial scare, no one was hurt, and both vehicles were barely scratched. However, this experience stuck with most of the students, even after the moment had passed.





During the third and final full day of activities, the students were scheduled to watch and create puppets for a puppet show, visit a pagoda, bike on the city wall, and visit the ever-bright city. It started drizzling in the morning, bringing the hot temperatures of the previous days down to 29°C. The puppet show and pagoda were not incredibly exciting activities and were very laid-back. The bike on the wall, however, was interesting. For some, it was a nice bike ride or walk and for others, they felt as if their legs were going to fall off, but overall, for most people, it was a fun experience, even though the bikes were too small for some.



# Hot Days, Clay Warriors, and a Rotating Stage

### **JAY VARS**

The last and final day was very packed and did not leave much time for many activities as the students and chaperones had to catch their flight home later that day. The freshmen only were able to visit the BanPo Sight Museum about the Neolithic age and the Hanyangling Museum about the mausoleum of one of the emperors of China.



In the end, most people found the trip enjoyable and a time to connect with others. Though the hot weather was not favorable, the students kept a positive mindset and were able to have fun. Overall, this was most of the students' favorite Spring Trip they have been on, with most of their favorite part being the night show.



# Immersed in Mongolian Traditions

### **LIBBY MOON**

Inner Mongolia is situated in the North of China and was established as an autonomous region in 1947. It has a unique geographical location, is rich in natural resources, and has breathtaking natural landscapes. This year, the high school sophomores spent four days in Inner Mongolia to learn about its distinctive culture and to create unforgettable memories on their spring trip.



#### DAY 1

We arrived at school around 9:30 a.m. Everyone was excited about this year's spring trip, as not many have been to Inner Mongolia. Most of us were excited about the region's desert since it is not easy to travel to the desert. We took a bus for two hours to the Qingdao airport and flew to Inner Mongolia's capital city, Hohhot. When we arrived, we ate dinner. Everyone enjoyed their first meal in Inner Mongolia. After that, we went to Saishang Old Street, a famous shopping street in Hohhot. We bought souvenirs and other items to remember our first night on this trip. After visiting Old Street, we went to the hotel. Everyone was tired and happy at the same time. Many explained that they were tired because of the long travel time, but they were happy because of the hotel, food, and Old Street.

#### DAY 2

We started the day at around 6:30 a.m. Everyone was very excited because we were going to the grasslands. Inner Mongolia's grasslands are defined by their ecological significance, cultural importance, and unique natural beauty. The grasslands are a large refuge for wildlife, a vital part of a larger Eurasian steppe ecosystem, and offer a glimpse into traditional Mongolian nomadic life. It took us approximately two and a half hours to travel to the Xilamuren Grasslands.

While there, we experienced authentic Mongolian culture. We drank Mongolian milk tea, which is less sweet than our regular commercial milk teas. The "ceremonial way of serving milk tea" left a deep impression on Mila. She reflected that the tea was "more than just a drink—it was a warm expression of the hospitality of the people of Inner Mongolia." We also wore traditional Mongolian clothes. Everybody had fun and took a lot of pictures wearing the clothes. Through these experiences, we learned a lot about the culture of this region.

After having a nice lunch, we went to see a horse performance. During the performance, Mongolians performed with their horses and told stories about Inner Mongolia's history. Everyone was surprised by how amazing the performance was. According to Ian Chan, this was his favorite part of the whole trip. He noted that the "camel that tried his best to run with the other horses but was just too slow" was "such a fan favorite."

After the performance, we came back to the hotel, where we slept in yurts. At the hotel, we ate a delicious, authentic Mongolian dinner and played a team game. Everyone was tired and went to sleep after an exciting day.

# Immersed in Mongolian Traditions

### **LIBBY MOON**





#### DAY 3

We woke up very early in the morning. However, when we looked outside, we realized that it was raining. Since most of us came with the impression that Inner Mongolia was going to be hot, we packed shorts and T-shirts. We got raincoats from our teachers to avoid the rain. We gathered and took a bus ride for about four hours to the desert. Unfortunately, due to the rain, our teachers decided to cancel the desert activities that were originally planned. Everyone was disappointed because the desert was one of the most anticipated events of this trip. Since we could not go to the desert, we went back to the hotel, where we were given one and a half hours of free time. After that, we gathered around and played team games. We also had a talent show after dinner. We sang, told jokes, danced, and told a scary story. At the end of the day, even though we could not go to the desert, we still had fun at the hotel.

### DAY 4

We woke up at 5:30 a.m. to travel back to Hohhot. We had breakfast on the two-and-a-half-hour-long bus ride. Once we got to Hohhot, we began the last activity of the trip—making wood Morin Khuur, a traditional Mongolian instrument. Despite the early morning and long bus ride, we managed to have fun participating in this activity. When we were done, we headed to the Hohhot airport, took a plane to Qingdao, and bussed back to Yantai.

### FINAL THOUGHTS

Despite the long travel time and the cancellation of the desert activities, the sophomore students still had a meaningful time in Inner Mongolia. As Nooa Rauhala commented, "The best part was playing games with friends and seeing new places." Thus, this trip was made meaningful not because of the events we participated in, but because of the time we got to spend together and the exposure to new sights.



### Lijiang Trip Deepens Cultural Insight

### **JUSTIN JIN**

This year, from May 19 to 23, the junior class traveled to the city of Lijiang, Yunnan Province, for their Spring Trip. They enjoyed the longest Spring Trip out of all grade levels, exploring the rich culture of the famous city for four days before returning on the fifth day of their travels.

Although traveling to Lijiang was a long journey, with two separate plane rides totaling over four and a half hours, the surprisingly pleasant accommodation and enjoyable activities planned by Insight Adventures were more than enough to compensate for the exhaustion of the travels.



The exploration of Lijiang essentially started from Day 2, as the previous day had been solely dedicated to the many hours of traveling. Students observed and participated in the experiences of the local Naxi minority culture, learned how to play the djembe drum, and explored Lijiang Old Town.

Multiple students said that their favorite part about this day was getting to explore the Old Town. They said that they enjoyed having lots of free time to explore the large tourist attraction with their friends, shopping for souvenirs and clothes. However, many shared conflicting opinions regarding the Naxi minority culture experience. Here, they learned traditional Naxi dances and the art of "playing" a leaf like a flute. While some found it interesting, others did not enjoy dancing.

As for the djembe drum activity, a student remarked that it was "ironic" and interesting to see the drum teacher play the djembe on various styles of songs, including slow ballads that we don't usually see drums being played to.



The next day, the students visited and interacted with a real Naxi family, partook in a Dongba Tie-dying workshop, and visited Shuhe Old Town.

Quite a few students found the Naxi people very interesting, especially the structure of their houses and their writing system. Some reflected that the Naxi characters, which are several hundred years old, revealed a lot about the Naxi culture itself, revealing aspects of their values and perspectives about the world.

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### Lijiang Trip Deepens Cultural Insight

### **JUSTIN JIN**

The Dongba Tie-dying workshop, where students decorated tote bags with tie-dying techniques, seemed fairly entertaining to the students, who had fun creating their own designs, despite straying from the instructor's instructions.

As students visited Shuhe Old Town, they found it bigger than the other Old Town that they had been to the day before. While some enjoyed exploring this larger town, many commented that the Old Town that they had gone to on the previous day was more interesting.





The final day of real tourism, Day 4, was spent hiking the Tiger Leaping Gorge, which is situated at the edge of the Himalayas. Several hours of bus ride away from the city of Lijiang, the Tiger Leaping Gorge and the mountains surrounding it presented the students with a stunning scenic view. After the vans had driven the students up a certain altitude, they were led by a hiking guide to trek approximately five kilometers on the rocky mountains.

Many students were able to appreciate and admire the natural scenery that unfolded with each additional step across the mountain path. Some students weren't as impressed by the nature scenes, however, and raised questions as to whether a simple view of the mountains was worth the exhausting hike.

There was no doubt that the hike was the most exhausting activity throughout the entire trip. Some students even had to utilize oxygen canisters to help them breathe at the high altitude. A student said that he was particularly impressed by the fact that everyone completed the hike, with no one getting sick or giving up midway.

After the hike, the students were carried back down on vans—whose drivers proved extremely skilled at driving through sharp corners, making the drive feel like a rollercoaster ride—and were transported to a popular scenic spot located right in the middle of the gorge, famous for its large tiger statue and the flow of the Yangtze River at its base. The legend is that tigers, which inhabited the mountains thousands of years ago, would leap onto the large stone in the Yangtze River to get from one mountain to the other. The nature in view was once again stunningly beautiful and majestic. The continuous, thunderous crash of the Yangtze River rushing through the valley was quite a sight.

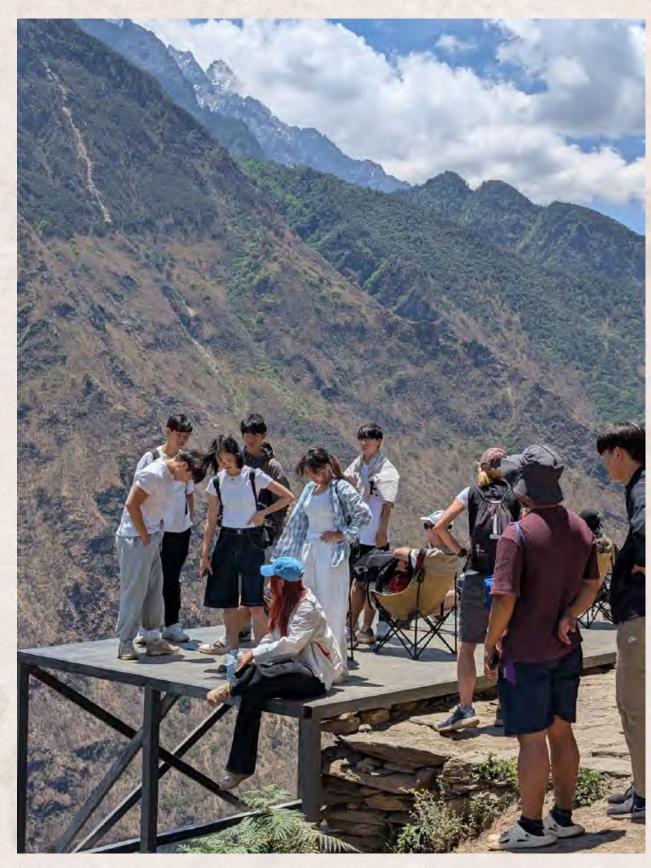
### Lijiang Trip Deepens Cultural Insight

### **JUSTIN JIN**

The students returned on Day 5 by plane. Although overall a very tiring trip, most students seemed to have enjoyed the trip to Lijiang.

Before ending the article, a special commentary on the state of the accommodations in which the students stayed at during the trip is necessary. The author's opinion is that the villas, which served as hotel rooms for the students and the chaperones during the trip, were one of the best parts of the adventure, and probably by far the best accommodations out of all that YHIS students have stayed at on trips throughout the school year. A student said that she would like to stay at places like these villas on future trips, where three to four roommates had the entire building to themselves—a building with a lawn, a terrace, a kitchen, and more than enough bedrooms. It was a consensus among the students that the hotel villas were exceptionally enjoyable.







### Class of 2025's Last Spring Trip

### **ISABELLA KIM**

From May 18 to May 21, the seniors went to Beijing for their final spring trip together before graduation. During this four-day trip, we got to learn and explore China's cultural heritages and the history behind them.

On May 18, we left early in the morning and boarded the Beijing-bound train. The ride was approximately three hours long. Once we arrived in Beijing, our first stop was Joy City. We were given two hours to shop and look around the shopping mall. After that, we headed to a restaurant and enjoyed a live traditional opera performance.



The second day was about exploring China's cultural roots. We hiked the Great Wall of China. The students were given their own time to pace their exploration. Some of us hiked to the top, while others stayed closer to the bottom to enjoy the view and take photos. Later that day, we visited an acrobatic school, where students who attend that school showed off their incredible talents. We were also given the opportunity to learn some techniques from them including fire skills, juggling, diablo, plate-spinning, magic, and balance. After 30 minutes, we got to show our performances. Afterward, we went to a Chinese restaurant for dinner and concluded the day's activities.



On day three, we visited Universal Studios Beijing, which became a favorite part of the trip for many of us. We explored the amusement park in groups of three or more. There were many theme parks in Universal Studios to enjoy. Some popular sights were the Minions Land, Transformers, Kungfu Panda, Harry Potter, and Jurassic World. Enzo shared that his "favorite part was going to Kung Fu Panda Land because it was his childhood. It was exactly how [he] imagined it'd be, and it didn't disappoint." He also mentioned that "the Untrainable show was amazing because it...brought back so many memories." For dinner, we went to the same restaurant as the day before. After we finished eating, the chaperones and the guide handed out four medals to students who showed the four qualities of the Insight Learning Program: Resilience, Creativity, Leadership, and Community.



### Class of 2025's Last Spring Trip

### **ISABELLA KIM**



Our final day was spent walking through the historic Forbidden City. Peter, our guide, explained the history behind its architecture and purpose. According to Jenna, exploring the cultural heritages of China was "a very enriching experience." She shared that "it was very eye-opening to see the different cultural heritage and practice of Chinese architecture in building the Great Wall and Forbidden City. The intricate carvings and details in even the pillars leading up to the emperor's chambers were gorgeous to see how they were handcrafted to perfection. Also, it was astounding to realize that those monuments have truly stood the test of time, holding for a couple of hundred years. The monuments illustrate such honor, strength, and power to continue to stand tall." For lunch, we were served one of Beijing's most famous dishes-Peking duck. After lunch, we headed to the Beijing train station to catch our ride home.





Overall, the trip was meaningful as it was the last spring trip for the seniors together as classmates.

## Student Spotlight

### ELLIE LEE



The following is an interview conducted by student journalist Ellie Lee, featuring eighthgrade student Jimin Yu about her experience serving as the President of the Middle School Student Council this past year.

ELLIE: Can you briefly introduce yourself?

JIMIN: I'm Jimin from G8, serving as the MS StuCo president.

ELLIE: What does being part of StuCo mean to you?

JIMIN: Being part of the StuCo, especially as a president, means a lot to me as it was my first time in an official leading role of a team.

ELLIE: Was there a special reason or motivation that led you to apply for StuCo?

JIMIN: I've been part of the MS StuCo since sixth grade, and my memories with working in StuCo have always been fun and special, which was the main motivation why I also applied this year.

ELLIE: What kind of tasks do you handle in your current StuCo role?

JIMIN: As a president, leading and organizing the tasks is my main responsibility, and everyone usually contributes when preparing for an event.

ELLIE: Which StuCo event are you most excited about?

JIMIN: As it's the end of the school year, we're done with all of our major events. We've done two afternoon events and one overnight event this year, and I feel like our last event, the lock-in, was the one I was most excited about.

ELLIE: How is the teamwork with your fellow StuCo members?

JIMIN: This year, I personally think that we've worked really well with each other as a team.

ELLIE: What has been the most memorable moment in your StuCo experience so far?

JIMIN: As mentioned previously, the lock-in event was really a memorable experience to me as there were a lot of challenges both while preparing and during the event, but it was really rewarding to work together to overcome those problems.

ELLIE: Who or what gives you strength when things get tough?

JIMIN: We really got a lot of support from our StuCo advisors who encouraged us and helped us out when things got tough and I am truly grateful for them.

ELLIE: What do you do to ensure students' voices are heard and reflected in your work?

# Student Spotlight

### ELIIE LEE

JIMIN: While planning for an event, we based many of our decisions on the students' thoughts and reactions from the previous events. We also tried to improve in whatever area we received complaints on as best as we could.

ELLIE: If you had to describe your leadership style in one phrase, what would it be?

JIMIN: It would be "a beginner, but working hard" and "Not really decisive but always open to ideas."

ELLIE: When you graduate and look back on your time in StuCo, what would you like to say?

JIMIN: It was amazing!

ELLIE: Outside of StuCo, what are your other interests or hobbies?

JIMIN: I enjoy drawing, reading, and watching movies!

ELLIE: Lastly, is there anything you'd like to say or ask of your fellow students?

JIMIN: I am a leaving student, returning back to my home country this summer. I would like to say thank you to all those who made my memory in YHIS so full and valuable, and I will miss everyone.

## Teacher Spotlight

### **JACKIE ZHANG**



Mr. Bower is the drama teacher at both YHIS and YIA. He is the first drama teacher at our school and has directed five theater productions, including the recent musical, Oz!, and play, Treasure Island. The following is an interview conducted by student journalist, Jackie Zhang, on the behind-the-scenes work that brings our school plays and musicals to life.

JACKIE: Could you introduce yourself to our audience?

MR. BOWER: I'm Paul Bower, drama teacher at YIA and YHIS.

JACKIE: Why did you become a drama teacher?

MR. BOWER: I became a drama teacher because I have been a performer on stage since I was a little boy. I love theater, acting, and especially, singing.

JACKIE: How did you end up in China, teaching at our school?

MR. BOWER: I came to China for a change of pace in my life, to have an international experience, and to influence students in China in a positive way.

JACKIE: How is directing productions at our school different from in the U.S.?

MR. BOWER: Directing in China is quite different from directing in the U.S. in three ways: 1. Acquiring props and supplies is a different process. I can't just go to familiar stores and get what I want. Most things are purchased online here, which is easier in some ways, but can be challenging when you can't see and touch what you are purchasing. 2. Of course, for most of the actors, English is their second language, so I need to stress some pronunciation points more than usual. 3. Since I'm working in China, some play and musical titles that are familiar in the U.S. are not familiar here, so that's a learning process as well.

JACKIE: As a teacher who teaches both YHIS and YIA students, how does teaching theater to YHIS students differ from teaching YIA?

MR. BOWER: I approach YIA and YHIS students basically the same.

JACKIE: Many theater enthusiasts at YHIS are eager to find out what the next production will be. What's your process for choosing which plays to put on? Could you give us even the smallest hint of what the next production could be?

MR. BOWER: Yes! The process of choosing a production is multi-layered. Considerations include duration, familiarity, cast size, securing the rights to perform in China, and appropriateness. The fall play is very popular and will be perfect as a December production!

# Teacher Spotlight

### JACKIE ZHANG

JACKIE: What do you think makes a great actor?

MR. BOWER: A great actor has no self-consciousness. He or she is very comfortable doing anything in front of a crowd.

JACKIE: What are some factors you consider when casting students for roles in productions?

MR. BOWER: Casting is an art form. The director must consider the appropriateness of the role, the experience of the actor, the strength of the audition, and the look is important, too.

JACKIE: At this school, are there any trends in who typically auditions for theater productions?

MR. BOWER: I see two trends at our schools: one is that many students move on to other activities and participate in theater productions less once they begin high school. Two, more YHIS students are auditioning than YIA students. I would like to see both trends change.

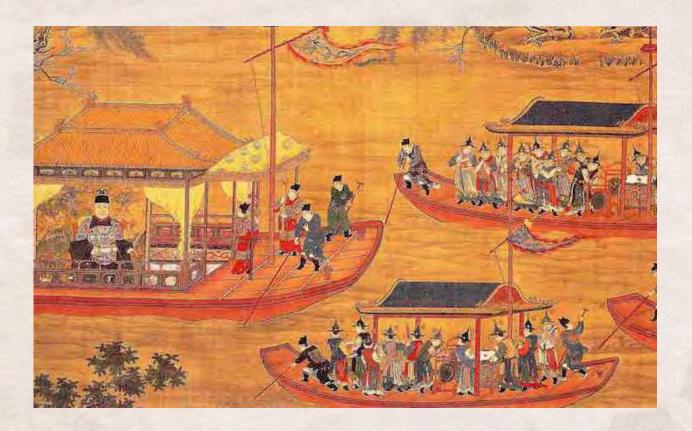
JACKIE: What is one piece of life advice you would like to give to the secondary student body?

MR. BOWER: Here's a good life principle: happiness is found in living your life for others. It may seem counterintuitive, but the more you help others succeed, the more joy and satisfaction you will have in your life. Try it!

## Dragon Boat Festival

### JENNA BELCHER

China's done it again! They've created a roaring festival that combines delicious food with dragons, boats, sports, rivalry, music, and evil spirit-fighting festivities!
Introducing China's Dragon Boat Festival or 端午节(duān wǔ jié), in Mandarin. This festival started at least 1,500 years ago in Southern China. It is also known as the Double Fifth Festival since it is celebrated on the 5th day of the 5th month in the lunar calendar.



#### HISTORY

While the exact reason for this holiday is unspecified, this competitive festival was inferred, by scholars, to have originated as a fertility ritual to ensure a bountiful rice harvest. It was said that the people used to worship the Dragon God. Thus, the supposed influence that the mystical dragons had over the rainfall and rivers led to the inclusion of dragons in the festival. The timing of this festival is in-line with the summer solstice which indicates a shift between growth and decay, a reference to the yin-yang philosophy; these festivals were seen as opportunities to balance the energy between growth and decay. The rituals performed were done in order to free people from the misfortunes of the fifth month.

Dragon Boat Festival is now seen as a holiday full of rituals to ward off evil spirits and diseases, promoting good fortune and health.



### TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES

Today, the Dragon Boat Festival is recognized globally in not just China, but also Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, the USA, and the UK. This Chinese tradition has spread from the hearts of the Chinese people to the rest of the globe and was officially added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009. This festival became an official holiday in 2008, and the celebratory fun happens over three days. Some activities one may expect from a Dragon Boat Festival in China are...



## Dragon Boat Festival

### JENNA BELCHER



### FOOD

During this event, Chinese people typically eat zongzi (粽子). These are rice dumplings with sweet or savory fillings, covered with glutinous rice, wrapped up in a triangle with bamboo leaves, and bound together with string. They are commonly steamed or boiled. People also consume tea eggs, thin pancakes, eel, and glutinous rice cakes along with realgar wine, sprinkled with realgar minerals, which are said to fend off diseases, snakes, and evil spirits.



### **BOAT RACING**

A long narrow boat, approximately 12 meters to 35 meters long, has a hull decorated with a dragon head while the end has the design of a dragon tail. Each boat comes with two rows of approximately 20 to 80 members that row to the rhythm of a drum beating.

Fun Fact! Boat racing was added as a demonstration sport in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



### SPIRIT-FIGHTING ACTIVITIES

Chinese people implore a number of acts to protect themselves against wicked spirits. They create talismans; bathe in flower-scented water; wear perfume pouches; use the colors blue, red, yellow, black, and white; and hang plants such as calamus, mugwort, or a portrait of the mythical figure Zhong Kui who the Tang emperor dreamed of after a month-long illness.

All in all, this is an event to have fun, eat great food, compete, and ward off any unwanted negative outcomes!

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## World Press Freedom Day

### JOY THAM



Each year on May 3rd, journalists and media around the globe recognize World Press Freedom Day – but how many of us actually know what it's about or why it matters? As high school students, we may not think too much about the news beyond the headlines we see on our phones, or we may not even read the news that much or think about what happens beyond the gates of our school or communities. However, press freedom shapes everything from what we know about global events to how we understand our own community. World Press Freedom Day is more than just a date on the calendar – it's a call to protect truth and the right to speak freely.

### **ORIGIN**

World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, following a recommendation from UNESCO. May 3rd marks the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration, a statement of press freedom principles created in 1991 by journalists in Namibia. These journalists pushed back against government censorship of the media and called for independent and pluralistic media across Africa. Their efforts laid the foundation for international recognition of press freedom as a cornerstone of democracy and human rights, eventually leading to the global observation of World Press Freedom Day.

### RECOGNITION

This year, World Press Freedom Day was recognized through events organized by UNESCO. From May 5 to 7, UNESCO hosted its global conference in Brussels, Belgium, under the theme "Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom," which references the novel Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, a dystopian work that explores a future society controlled by technology, conformity, and the suppression of individuality. The event brought together journalists, media professionals, and policymakers to explore how AI is changing journalism – from its potential to improve news delivery to the risks it poses for misinformation and censorship. During the conference, UNESCO also awarded the 2025 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize to La Prensa, a Nicaraguan newspaper operating in exile, in recognition of its courageous reporting under intense political repression. The decision sparked controversy, leading the Nicaraguan government to announce its withdrawal from UNESCO.



## World Press Freedom Day

### **JOY THAM**

### WHY IT MATTERS

As students, we're taught to ask questions, cite reliable sources, and think critically. Good journalism does the same – it digs deep, checks facts, and holds those in power accountable. However, in many places around the world, journalists can't do that safely. They face threats, censorship, harassment, and even violence. Even in democratic societies, the press can come under pressure through lawsuits, disinformation, or political intimidation. Threats to the press can also cause journalists to quit or self-censor out of fear of government intervention.



FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WORLDWIDE 2025

This past school year, the Shark Times focused more on voicing student opinions than simply reporting events. This is why you may have found your classmates from the newspaper club asking to interview you or share your opinion on a school event or noticed emails from the Shark Times in your inbox with student surveys on topics like the school's community language policy and self-studying for AP exams. The journalists in the Newspaper Club use the Shark Times as an outlet to express the thoughts and ideas of students, which is what differentiates the news articles on the Shark Times from the newsletters or WeChat articles from our school's communications department.

Therefore, World Press Freedom Day is a chance to recognize the role of a free press in promoting informed discussions, uncovering injustice, and protecting rights. It's also a reminder that we can all play a part — whether it's supporting trustworthy news, learning media literacy, or even participating in the student surveys the *Shark Times* sends out.

World Press Freedom Day isn't just for professional reporters and media experts — it's for all of us who believe in truth and transparency. In a world where information is everywhere but facts not always are, supporting press freedom means supporting the right to know, question, and speak up. Therefore, the next time you read the news, think about how privileged we are to be able to conveniently access information about the world beyond our community and consider how precious the truth is and how important it is to keep it alive.





# Tottenham's First Trophy in 17 Years and Heung Min Son's Tears

### SAM LEE



On May 21, 2025, at San Mamés Stadium in Bilbao, Spain, Tottenham Hotspurs defeated Manchester United 1-0, winning the UEFA Europa League. This marked Tottenham's first European title in 41 years, as the last was in 1984, and their first major trophy since the League Cup in 2008—17 years ago.

Both teams did not perform well in the premier league. Tottenham was in 17th place and Manchester United was in 15th place. Their ranking fell far short of their reputation. Therefore, this final match was really important to both teams. The winner would be qualified to go to the Champions League and receive the honor of winning the Europa League. However, the losing team would leave trophy-less and in the lower ranks of the league.

The result was 1:0, Tottenham's win. The only goal of the final came in the 42nd minute when Brennan Johnson connected with a cross from Pape Matar Sarr. The ball deflected off United defender Luke Shaw and into the net. After the goal, unlike Ange Postecoglou's usual stubbornness about not dropping the defensive line, the coach took a defensive approach early in the second half and focused on protecting the lead.

The important sight that caught the interest of many was Heung Min Son's first trophy in his career. He has dedicated himself to Tottenham for 10 years even though other players left the team to win other trophies. Son spent his prime time only in Tottenham. He has achieved numerous accomplishments at Tottenham, including the Puskás Award, Premier League Golden Boot, Goal of the Season, inclusion in the Premier League Team of the Season, 11th place in the Ballon d'Or rankings, and four Premier League Player of the Month awards. Son is Tottenham's and the Premier League's living legend. He didn't become a player who failed to leave at the right time—he became a player who chose to stay for the sake of the team. As soon as the final whistle blew, Son dropped to the ground and shed tears of joy. At the award ceremony, he lifted the trophy as captain, more proudly and gracefully than anyone else.



### Advice from the Class of 2025

### JENNA BELCHER



As we seniors approach the threshold between childhood to adulthood, we'd love to impart some advice we've learned in these formative years to our lowerclassmen. The class of 2025 proudly presents some tidbits of advice we've learned...



JENNA BELCHER

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take. The key to success is having the confidence to push forward through the hardships and grab what you want. Put one foot in front of the other and soon you'll reach the finish line; no matter how difficult, you'll make it!"



AUDREY BOWER

"Time moves by so fast! Make sure to take advantage of opportunities that come your way and make the most of the fun and exciting experiences and memories!!"



LEO CHOI

"Discover what genuinely intrigues and motivates you within, and let that passion drive your efforts."



SEHYUN JUNG

"Take care of yourself—mentally, physically, emotionally. School is part of life, not your whole life."



RYAN KANG

"Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone."



JACK

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

# Advice from the Class of 2025

## JENNA BELCHER



JUNG

"Small habits today make a big difference tomorrow."



JIHOON KANG

"Set clear priorities and goals in life and make wise decisions based on them."



HYEONJIN KIM

"Just do your best to live each day in life, and this will make you the person who you wanted to be."



ISABELLA KIM

"Get involved. You'll regret what you didn't try."



ENZO NATIVIDAD

"Use YouTube to your advantage for answers in school."



JONATAN RAUHALA

"Don't focus on academics TOO much...
there is more to high school life than them...
believe it or not."



ZOE

"No matter how many works you have to do, sleep at least 6 hours a day because if you don't sleep well, it is hard to control your emotion and going to bed at certain time provides you a daily deadline:)"

Thank you!
This is the class of 2025 signing off!

# Purpose

#### KATE BOWER



What is purpose, and how do you find it—a question that has lurked in the back of every person's mind and has never had an answer, even when asked by great philosophers and education pursuers. However, what if there is not a specific purpose in life? What if your purpose in life is to find your purpose—your reason for living? What if the key to increasing energy, blooming confidence, and feeling true fulfillment is simply to find and know your purpose?

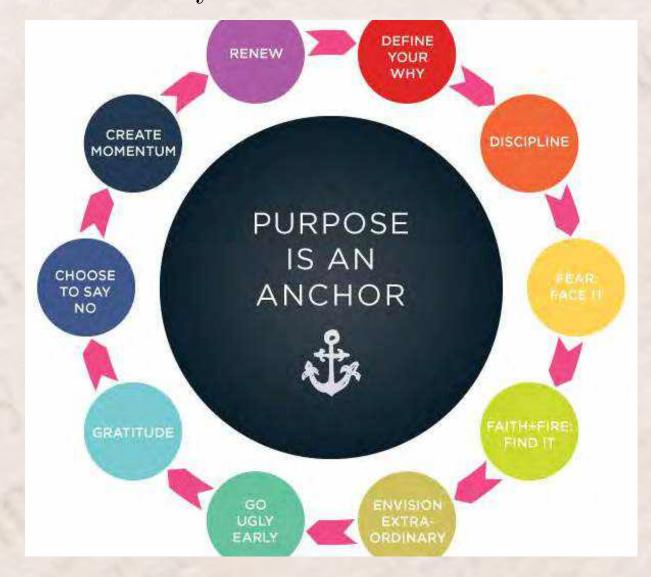
It is scientifically proven that the most successful, happiest people on earth are not lucky; they are purpose-driven. People with a clear purpose live longer, earn more, and recover from setbacks faster, because they know what they are doing. They know their purpose. They know what they need to do, and they do it. They also see what they need to improve on and improve. For instance, a doctor is not going to spend a week lazily in bed, continuously swiping from video to video. They are going to go out and save lives because that is their purpose. That is what they put their whole life into—saving others.

Once you find your purpose, you will outwork everyone else, because your purpose relates to your passion, and your passion will never feel like work or a burden. Your fears will disappear because as soon as you know your "why" (your purpose), the "how" gets easier, and you'll attract opportunity because passion is magnetic.

So, how do you find it? How do you achieve your purpose, passion, and dreams? Two tricks can help. The first is called the "Tombstone Trick." Imagine your epitaph: What do you want it to say—"Stayed in bed," "Made great spreadsheets," or "Changed lives"? Be brutally honest.

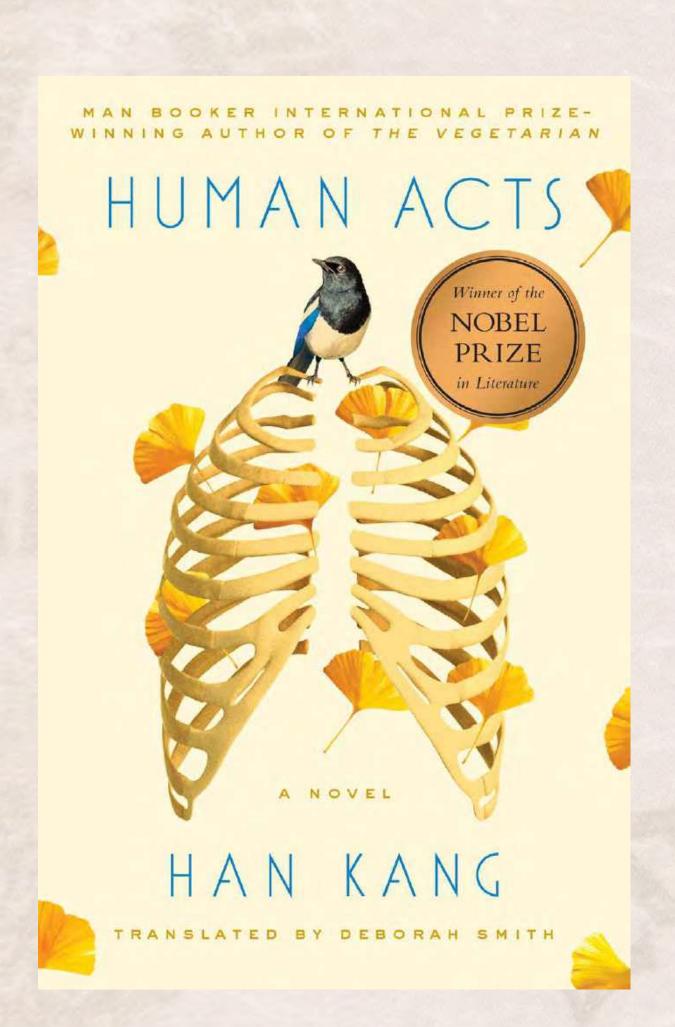
Another way is to try the "Screw-Up Strategy." Harvard research shows people who reframe failures as "data" become 42% more resilient. Our brains naturally fixate on problems we care about, and that's why you keep circling back to certain challenges. The things you've repeatedly tried—even unsuccessfully—reveal your subconscious values. For example, the time you organized a disastrous charity event might tell you that you're wired to serve, or the time you bombed sales but loved teaching clients could be your subconscious mind telling you that you're an educator at heart. A realworld example can be seen from Oprah. She was fired as a television reporter for being "too emotional", so she found her purpose required that exact empathy.

Purpose isn't found—it's uncovered through action. Start small. Look at what lights you up and what you keep coming back to, even in failure. Let those moments guide you. Take one honest step toward what matters. Your life is already saying something. What do you want it to say?



# Book Recommendation

#### **EUNSU KWON**



#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Human Acts (2014) is a novel written by South Korean author Han Kang that reflects the Gwangju Uprising, which happened from May 18 to May 27, 1980, in Gwangju, South Korea. Also known as the May 18 Democratization Movement (5.18 민주화운동), the uprising began as a social movement conducted by students against the coup of Chun Doo-hwan, his military dictatorship, and the implementation of martial law. Despite citizens maintaining control of the city for six days, the movement was met with severe suppression by the Korean military, and many civilians were subject to violent arrests.

#### CHARACTER

Dong-ho:

He is the central character in this novel who tries to find his friend Jung-dae after the 5.18 Democratization Movement. He volunteers to help people who protest against the Chun government and is consequently killed by the military soldiers.

Jung-dae:

He is a friend of Dong-ho who was killed by the soldiers during the Gwangju uprising. He describes the surrounding environments and the condition of his dead body while he is a spirit, vividly remembering the incident that happened in 1980.

Jung-mi:

She is the older sister of Jung-dae, who is passionate about her studies and works in a factory. She pushed herself to her limits in factory work.

Eun-sook:

She is a volunteer at the Gwangju provincial office during the uprising and is the only member of the protestors who left the state city hall, where the massacre happened.

Jin-su:

He is the leader of the student-led 5.18 Democratization Movement and works alongside Dong-ho, Eun-sook, and Yeong-chae. He commits suicide after all the incidents that happened in the 1980s.

Yeong-chae:

She is the youngest person imprisoned with the unnamed narrator. She is a young and brave girl who served as the strength of the students' uprisings.

Seon-ju:

She is one of the students who worked in the Gwangju Provincial office. She died during the 5.18 massacre, fighting against the Chungovernment.

# Book Recommendation

#### **EUNSU KWON**

#### **SUMMARY**

The story begins in May 1980. Middle school student Dong-ho is involved in the student-led uprising against the military dictatorship of Chun Doo-hwan, along with some college students: Eun-sook, Seon-ju, and Jin-su. Dong-ho, the youngest student involved in the uprising, is finding his best friend Jung-dae, who was arrested by soldiers during a protest that took place the week before. Jung-dae's sister Jeong-mi disappeared as well, and so Dong-ho heavily reprimanded himself for not taking better care of both people. The story is first written from the perspective of Dong-ho, and then transitions to Jung-dae's point of view.

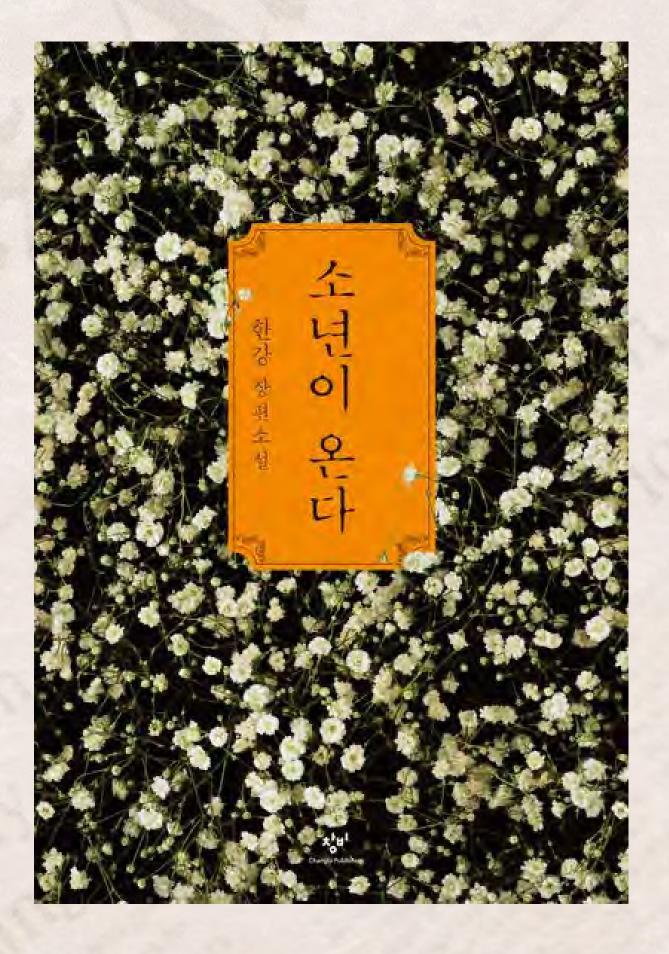
Since Jung-dae had recently died, the author writes Jung-dae's point of view from the spiritual realm. Jung-dae feels the existence of Jeong-mi, who was recently murdered by soldiers. Jung-dae feels and interacts with many spirits, following the mark of his friend, Dong-ho. Now that Jung-dae can feel and find dead spirits, he easily realizes that Dong-ho died in the protest as well.

After five years, Eun-sook works at a book publisher's office, working as a translator of books about protest plays. She meets an officer who manages the company's bookkeeping, but the memories of Gwangju continue to haunt her. She rarely leaves her house and still recalls the tragic incident of the Gwangju massacre

After five more years pass, the author displays the perspective of a new narrator, who recalls the memories of being imprisoned for protesting in Gwangju. The narrator shares his traumatic memories during the 5.18 democratization movement, including being repeatedly stabbed by a pen during interrogation — a common torture method used to inflict both physical and psychological damage.

He mentions the bad treatment by the jailer, describing "the sublime enormity of a single heart." In prison, he depicts the small protests led by the prisoner Yeong-chae, reminding the other jailed protesters of the original purpose of the movement. Many years later, Yeong-chae is educated in college and Jin-su commits suicide.

Many people have experienced severe trauma from the 5.18 Gwangju Massacre. The author displays this through Dong-ho's mother, who frequently hallucinates the presence of Dong-ho after his death. The author shows multiple perspectives of the narrators, linking events from the Gwangju uprising and highlighting its long-lasting consequences.



# Book Recommendation

#### **EUNSU KWON**

#### **COMMENTS**

The newspaper published by The Korea National University of Education (KNUE) appreciates Han Kang's memoir of this incident, allowing people to reflect on the 5.18 Democratization Movement and inspiring many people to fight for democracy. The paper expresses deep sorrow and appreciation to people who resisted the military dictatorship, emphasizing the importance of this incident as a part of the history of South Korea. It suggests that this uprising is our reality, rather than an event that happened in the past. Rather than remembering the people who fought against the military-dictated government as victims, they believe that it is more appropriate to recall them as the leaders of the Korean democratization process.

According to The Guardian, the 1980 Gwangju Uprising reminds many people of the severe state-sponsored torture and massacre. The Guardian remarked on the protesters' passion for democracy under an authoritarian government. It mentions that Human Acts is "a book that could easily founder under the weight of its subject matter," and it often depicts the unnamed narrator as "You." KNUE's newspaper refers to Dong-ho as a "boy" who chose to remain in the city hall even if it was a place where soldiers were coming to kill all protesters. He helped the people who were injured during the massacre, and the author connects each point of view to the voice of Dong-ho throughout all six chapters. Illustrating a young boy's voice reveals the cruelty of politics and society. The Guardian also remarked on the right justification of "humanity," showing how the author answers the question, "What is humanity?"





#### MORE INFORMATION

This novel received a Nobel Prize in Literature in 2024, recognizing its depth and the description of the "fragility of human life." Her unique way of narrating the story inspired many people, and her special poetic ability that connects the relationship between the physical body and spirit innovated the modern style of prose. Her literary works deeply motivate many people with the greatest benefit to humankind, making Han Kang the first South Korean author to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

#### **FAVOR RATES**

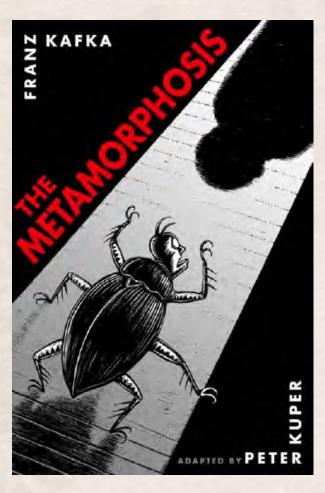
Watcha Team's mean favor rates: 4.6/5

# 2024-2025 Shark Shelf and Stream List

## **JOY THAM**

Since the beginning of the school year, the Shark Times has published book and movie recommendation articles in every newspaper issue. The 2024-2025 Shark Shelf and Stream List contains all books and movies featured in book or movie recommendation articles from the past school year. Full reviews can be found in previous Shark Times issues, which you can get access to through the weekly school newsletters, Shark Times Instagram page, or a member of the newspaper club. Be sure to add these to your summer reading list or movies to binge in the coming months!

#### SHARK SELF



THE
METAMORPHOSIS BY
FRANZ KAFTA
(JESMIN JUNG,
SEPTEMBER 2024)

Genres: Absurdist fiction, Existentialism, Modernist literature, Psychological fiction, Surrealism

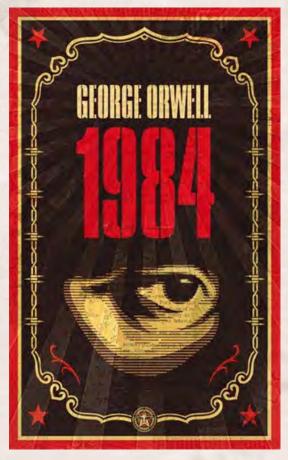
Description: The Metamorphosis is the story of Gregor Samsa, a traveling salesman who inexplicably transforms into a giant insect. As he becomes increasingly alienated from his family and stripped of his humanity, the novella explores themes of identity, isolation, and the absurdity of existence.



THE SCARLET LETTER
BY NATHANIEL
HAWTHORNE (JUSTIN
JIN, OCTOBER 2024)

Genres: Historical fiction, Gothic fiction, Romanticism, Allegorical fiction

Description: Set in 17th-century Puritan Massachusetts, The Scarlet Letter follows Hester Prynne as she navigates shame and isolation after bearing an illegitimate child. The novel explores themes of sin, guilt, and societal judgment through symbolic and richly descriptive prose.



1984 BY GEORGE ORWELL (LIBBY MOON, NOVEMBER

Genres: Dystopian fiction, Political fiction, Science fiction, Satire

Description: In a totalitarian regime ruled by Big Brother, Winston Smith struggles to retain his individuality and grasp on truth. Orwell's chilling vision explores the dangers of surveillance, propaganda, and oppressive government control.

# 2024-2025 Shark Shelf and Stream List

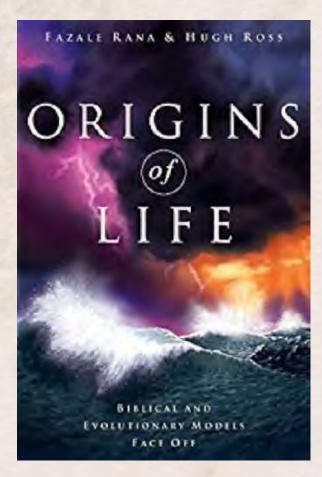
## **JOY THAM**



THE TWILIGHT SAG.
BY STEPHENIE
MEYER (KATE
BOWER, JANUARYFEBRUARY 2025)

Genres: Paranormal romance, Fantasy, Young adult fiction, Urban fantasy

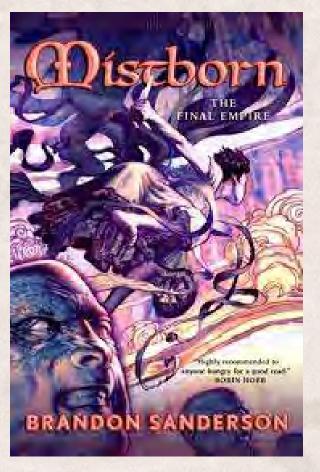
Description: The Twilight Saga chronicles the intense romance between mortal teenager Bella Swan and vampire Edward Cullen amidst supernatural conflicts and personal sacrifices. The series explores themes of love, identity, and choice through a blend of suspense and fantasy.



ORIGINS OF LIFE BY FAZALE RANA AND HUGH ROSS (LIBBY MOON, MARCH 2025)

Genres: Science nonfiction, Apologetics, Theology, Intelligent design

Description: This book examines scientific theories surrounding the origin of life while presenting a case for a theistic interpretation rooted in intelligent design. Rana and Ross aim to reconcile scientific discoveries with a faith-based worldview.



MISTBORN BY
BRANDON
SANDERSON (ANIA
LASIEWICZ, APRIL

Genres: Epic fantasy, High fantasy, Actionadventure, Magic realism

Description: In the ash-covered Final Empire ruled by the immortal Lord Ruler, a man named Kelsier dares to challenge the oppressive system with a crew of powerful outcasts known as Mistborn. As they plot rebellion and seek the secret behind the Lord Ruler's invincibility, Mistborn explores themes of power, resistance, and hope in a world built on fear and myth.

## SHARK STREAM



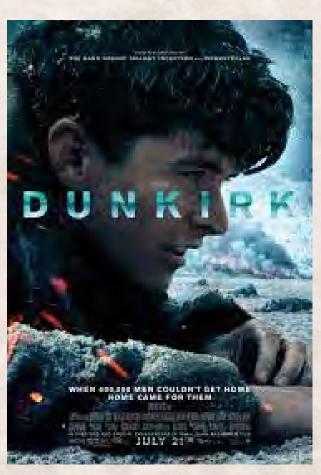
THE GREATEST SHOWMAN, DIRECTED BY MICHAEL GRACES (LIBBY MOON, OCTOBER 2024)

Genres: Musical, Drama, Biography, Historical fiction, Family

Description: The Greatest Showman follows the ambitious P.T. Barnum as he rises from nothing to create a dazzling circus that celebrates the unique and extraordinary. With vibrant musical numbers and themes of acceptance and imagination, the film portrays the joy and cost of chasing dreams.

# 2024-2025 Shark Shelf and Stream List

## JOY THAM



DUNKIRK, DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN (JUSTIN JIN, NOVEMBER 2024)

Genres: War, Historical drama, Thriller, Action

Description: Christopher Nolan's Dunkirk depicts the tense and chaotic evacuation of Allied soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk during World War II. Told through land, sea, and air perspectives, the film uses minimal dialogue and intense visuals to convey fear, heroism, and survival.



THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPYNESS,
DIRECTED BY
GABRIELE MUCCINO
(JESMIN JUNG,
JANUARY-FEBRUARY
2025)

Genres: Drama, Biography, Inspirational, Family

Description: Based on a true story, The Pursuit of Happyness follows Chris Gardner, a struggling salesman and single father, as he faces homelessness while pursuing a better future for his son. The film highlights resilience, sacrifice, and the strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity.



WONDER, DIRECTED BY STEPHEN CHBOSKY (DOJIN KIM, MARCH 2025)

Genres: Drama, Family, Coming-of-age, Inspirational

Description: Wonder tells the story of Auggie Pullman, a boy with a facial difference who enters mainstream school for the first time. The film explores kindness, empathy, and the challenges of growing up through multiple points of view.



UP, DIRECTED BY
PETE DOCTER AND
BOB PETERSON
(LIBBY MOON, APRII
2025)

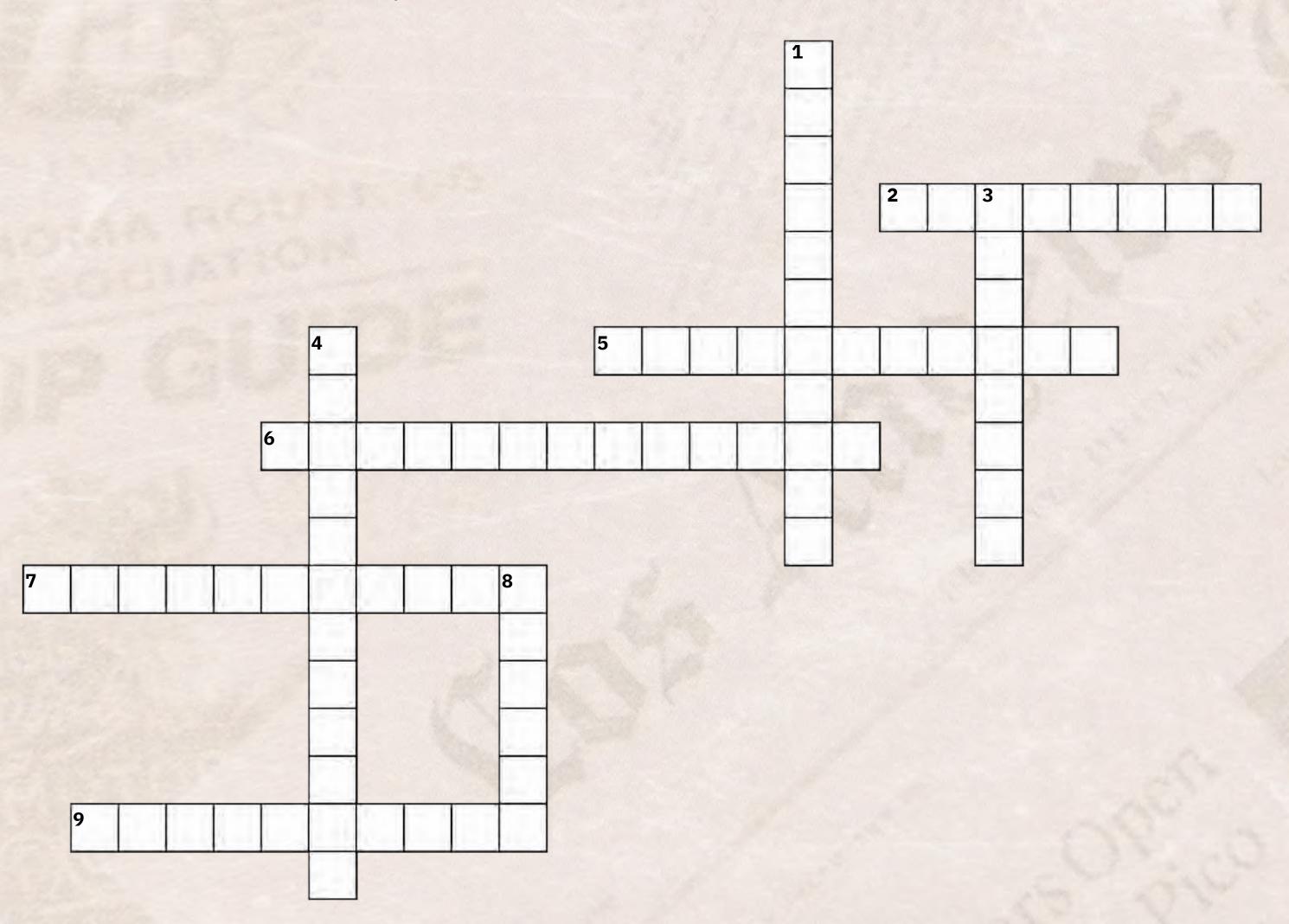
Genres: Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fantasy

Description: Up follows widowed retiree Carl Fredricksen as he fulfills a lifelong dream by flying his house to South America—with an unexpected young stowaway along for the ride. Blending humor, emotion, and whimsy, the film is a heartfelt exploration of love, loss, and new beginnings.

# Crosswords

#### **JOY THAM**

WHO SAID IT? QUOTES FROM SCHOOL EVENT ARTICLES!



#### Across

- 2. "I will try my best to serve you Binghongcha."
- 5. "It was a good trip, but some teachers were strict about infractions."
- **6.** "Use YouTube to your advantage for answers in school."
- 7. "We saw a lot of improvement over the entire season and even just during the weekend itself."
- 9. School events should not feel like "extra chores."

#### Down

- 1. "The best part was playing games with friends and seeing new places."
- **3.** the tea was "more than just a drink-it was a warm expression of the hospitality of the people"
- 4. "The monuments illustrate such honor, strength, and power to continue to stand tall."
- 8. Compared his Spring Trip to "a last dance on the stage."

# Summer Bucket List

## JESMIN JUNG

As the school year wraps up and summer begins, students are ready for a break, but that doesn't mean the learning and fun have to stop. Summer is the perfect time to explore new interests, build memories, and recharge before the next school year. Instead of letting the days fly by, why not plan ahead and create your own summer bucket list? Whether you want to try something thrilling, learn a new skill, or simply relax with friends, making a list can help you stay motivated and make the season more meaningful. Need inspiration? Check out some ideas below to get started, and then make your own list!



# Summer Bucket List

## JESMIN JUNG



# Pictures

# HIGHLIGHTS OF MAY-JUNE





