

THE ECLIPSE

Illuminating News by East-West Students



The Eclipse, Volume 7, January 2017

East-West Gets Political

Assembly Woman Nily Rozic is sworn in by East-West Student Government

By Shahram Rahman, Grade 11 (Editor-in-Chief)

JANUARY 17-- On Tuesday morning, East-West Student Government hosted a very special Muster to honor Assemblywoman Nily Rozic. In an effort to teach East-West students more about the political process, and also to get them to be more politically active, Ms. Rozic was invited to perform a mock swearing-in ceremony. Student Government President Corey Cheung facilitated the ceremony, in front of the entire school. Afterwards, Ms. Rozic and Mr. Sherman said a few words about the importance of being politically active in your community. After the ceremony, *Eclipse* Editor-in-Chief, Shahram Rahman and *Eclipse* Advisor, Ms. Seide, asked Ms. Rozic a few questions about her ideas and visions for the future. Below are the questions and her answers.

What are your thoughts on school communities? What can we do to improve ourselves?

School communities need to be very inclusive. We need to work together to improve school outcomes.

What do you intend to do to ensure the success of the public schools in Flushing?

Ensuring that there are resources for every child is very important.

From your own personal perspective, do you believe education is a right or a privilege?

It's a right, and it is stated in our state constitution.



Your web page indicates that you are protective of the environment. What do you intend to do in the upcoming term to help to protect the natural environment here in Flushing?

Climate change is real. We need to find ways to make our businesses and homes more sustainable.

How do your views on immigrants differ from President, Donald Trump?

We could not be more different. I was born in Israel. I am a first generation American. I believe that the immigrants of NYC make for a rich, diverse community.

Girl Power Parade

A quick look into The Women's March of 2017

By Liza Tuyuc, Grade 8

JANUARY 21— After Trump's victory, the female population of the United States came together in a way no one could have expected. The Women's March began as a movement in Washington D.C. and quickly spread from Boston to New York to D.C. to L.A. to Chicago to London to Sydney and back again. Women all over the world protested the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States, Donald John Trump.

The idea for the national march began when a Hawaiian woman named Teresa Shook made a Facebook post, wondering if anyone would be interested in marching in Washington DC, come Inauguration Day. Before long, her inbox was loaded with messages from people from all over the country, interested in joining her. By the time the day came, over 1,000,000 people around the world registered and paraded down the streets of their cities, holding signs in protest of Donald Trump's inauguration and also in outrage for his sexist remarks about women.

Protesters reminded the press and all those watching that though this is a women's march to reclaim the power and

strength of women, the struggles of immigrants, LGBTQIA, Native Americans, special needs populations, African Americans, and other minorities were recognized. All were encouraged to march. The march's purpose was to demand equality for everyone. Even though the hatred for Trump is great, the protest remained peaceful. This is because the event was well-organized and well-attended.

(continued on page 5)

Recognize anyone in the photos below ?



Happy Year of the 鸡 !

By Annie Dong, Grade 6

Chinese New Year is the most important holiday for the Chinese. This year, Chinese New Year fell on Saturday, January 28, 2017. Each year of the Chinese New Year is named after an animal. This year, the animal is the chicken.

The customs and traditions for Chinese New Year vary widely. Traditions include having family gatherings, watching lion or dragon dances and giving red envelopes to your loved ones.

Certain foods are eaten on the new year for their symbolic meanings. Lucky foods are eaten on the New Years because they are believed to bring good luck for the coming year.



Artwork by Casey Macedo, Grade 12



Tangyuan (sweet rice balls) = Family Togetherness



Fish = Prosperity

Dumplings = Wealth



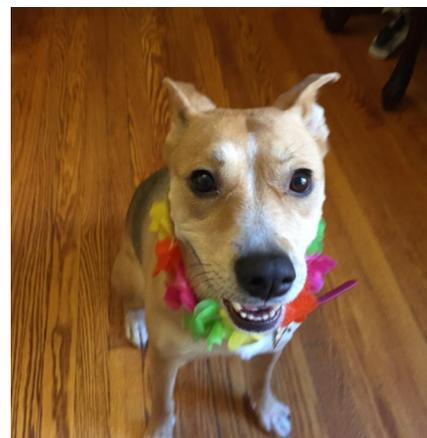
New Year Puppies!

The Year of the Chicken Is For Your Puppy Too!

By Angela Li, Grade 6

Chinese New Year is not just for people. It's for puppies too!

Most owners dress up their puppies and celebrate with them. Some puppies even get to have red envelopes with money inside. Pets are also important members of a family. Don't pets make everything better? Even holidays are better with a pet. Science Teacher, Ms. Marissa Miller reports that she has dressed her puppy as a shark, a princess, a hula dancer, and a pumpkin in the past. It looks like she's going to need a Chinese New Year outfit!



Ms. Marissa Miller's puppy, Roxy, dressed in costume!

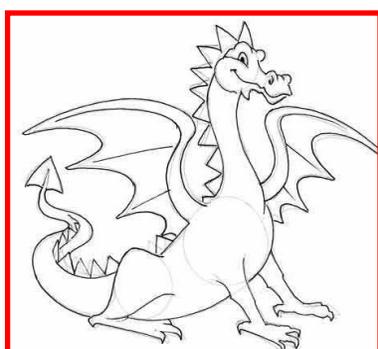
Dear Veiled Dragon,

I have big party coming up and I invited some classmates who used to be my friends, but now, I would like to disinvite them. How should I handle this? I do not want to be made uncomfortable at an event that I have been looking forward to for a long time but is it rude to return rudeness by un-inviting these former friends. Please help. The event is coming up soon.

Dear Conflicted Inviter,

Disinviting former friends isn't such a good idea because you could anger them and cause an even greater conflict. Since it is only a single event you are talking about here, it might be best to just let them come to this last party and then in the future, be sure not to extend an invitation to them. However, if you truly feel you cannot have them at the party, kindly tell them that your plans have changed and you can no longer accommodate them. Telling your former friends this will be tough. The sooner you share this information with them, the better.

Sincerely,
The Veiled Dragon



A pug in a qibao!
What more could you want out of life?



Do you love all kinds of Chinese food and culture? Consider coming to East-West's **NIGHT MARKET EVENT**, hosted by the Chinese Culture Club.

February 2, 2017 5:00-7:10PM

Nengajo 年賀状 Mania!

Japanese New Year Cards Are A Great Gift!

By Christina Wong, Grade 6

Chinese people celebrate the New Year by giving red envelopes. Korean people celebrate the New Year by giving *sebaetdon* (New Year money). However, Japanese people celebrate the New Year by doing something else. They give Nengajos (New Year Cards) to their friends and family.

There are certain ways of giving Nengajo to others. You can either make nengajos or buy them. Usually, they contain a lottery number on the right-hand corner. They'll also contain Japanese New Year greetings such as *あけましておめでとうございます*. *Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu* means *Happy New Year*. You can also say, *今年もよろしくお祈りします* (*Kotoshimo yoroshiku onegaishimasu*) meaning, *kind regards/thanks for putting up with me/thank you in advance for this year*. There's also *旧年中はお世話になりました* (*Kyunenchu wa osewani narimashita*) meaning, *thanks for everything you did/taking care of me last year*. Another thing you can write is *ご健勝とご多幸をお祈り申し上げます*. *Gokenshoutu gotakouwo oinori moushiagemas* means *wishing your family good health and happiness*.



You can get nengajos from your friends and family.



This is an example of a Nengajo. It's a horse Nengajo.

S'mores Stuffed Pizza Cookies

A Perfect Winter Treat

By Grace Mahoney, Grade 12

YIELD: Serves 4-8

Ingredients:

- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 Graham crackers, broken into large pieces
- 1 Hershey's bar, broken into large pieces
- 4 marshmallows, cut in half

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Spray 2 6-inch pie plates or cast iron baking dishes with nonstick cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, use a rubber spatula to stir together the butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar until combined. Let stand for 5 minutes. Stir in the egg and vanilla. Add the flour, baking soda, and salt, stirring until incorporated. Fold in the chocolate chips.
3. Divide the dough into 4 equal pieces. Press two pieces of dough into the bottom of the prepared pans. Divide the graham cracker, Hershey's bar, and marshmallows between the dough. Flatten out the remaining two pieces of dough and press over the marshmallows.
4. Bake for about 15 minutes, or until edges are slightly browned but the inside is still gooey. Let cool for five minutes before serving.

Recipe by Tessa of *Handle the Heat*

Grace Says:

"This is one of my favorite recipes that I bake often. It's straightforward and easy to make. With practice, you can make it delicious too. I bake this so often that my friends and I can taste the improvement since the first time I made it. Someone even asked me out on a date when he tried this! I hope that when you try this recipe at home, that it will be a delicious treat for you to share (or not). It goes great with some milk or ice cream. Additional note: make sure your brown sugar is fresh. (Seriously, make sure your brown sugar isn't rock-hard)."



Should Death Penalty Be Allowed?

Ponderings of an ongoing debate

By Rebecca Xie, Grade 6

Should prisoners convicted of the worst crimes receive the death penalty? This is a debate that resurfaced after a botched execution in 2014 that involved a prisoner taking a lethal injection that took 1 hour and 40 minutes to take effect, the prisoner in pain all the while. The same thing happened in April of 2014. A convicted murderer on Oklahoma's death row was given a lethal injection. But the procedure, intended to be swift and painless, was not done correctly. The prisoner writhed in intense pain and eventually died of a heart attack. What do you think? Should the death penalty stay legal, or should it be banished forever?

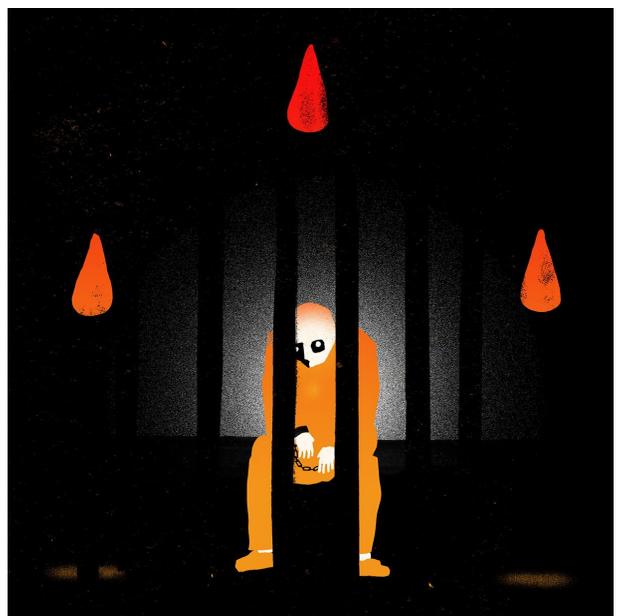
The death penalty, also known as capital punishment, is the punishment of execution that is administered to someone who committed a capital crime. Capital crimes include murder, treason, genocide and many other serious crimes. Over 1,000 people were executed in the United States between 1977 and 2009. The death penalty involves many debatable issues such as cost, religion, deterrence, possibility of executing an innocent and the cruelty of the punishment.

Liberals believe that executing people is never justifiable; even criminals that have committed the most serious crimes are better off in jail. They also argue that the death penalty is incredibly inefficient and financially wasteful, due to the number of legal appeals, and the cost of keeping prisoners on death row for years on end. One of the reasons people claim that the death penalty should be abolished is

the danger of an erroneous conviction. The death penalty is final, there is no coming back from it, whereas a mistaken conviction leading to a life sentence can result in the individual being released and granted compensation. They think that the death penalty is revenge, not justice.

Abolitionists believe that the death penalty should be legal and that it plays an important role in our fight against crime. Their argument is supported by the fact that the Constitution of United States permits the death penalty in appropriate cases. They argue that criminals convicted of the most violent crimes deserve to be put to death. The death penalty deters future crime, and serves justice for the friends and family of the victims. Abolitionists want the state to exact retribution and show that criminals must face the consequences of their actions.

So what do you think?



“On the Bus”

A Creative Piece

by Jia Xin Santos,
Grade 12

One day
My mother
Says to me
Be careful of the men you choose to please.
I know, I say.
She continues on with reality
And says:
*I gave my life to two men
Across the sea
From where I used to be.*
And they drove me mad with the sick scent of sadness.
They broke me.
I know, I say.
I can see the poison of those men
The lies they told you in the end
They don't stop.
I see you,
Trying to reconfigure your life into pieces that fit.
Affected by the hits we spit.
It's not enough.
It's never enough.
Will it ever be enough?
My mother
She wanted to be an engineer

She wanted to build a career
She had us instead.
She struggles
Survives
Relives
Cries
Thinks of all the moments she's been wronged
In the blink of an eye.
Was it the time he hit her?
Was it the time he was her dictator?
Was it the time he clung to her,
Begged her to come back?
Was it the time when he defiled her name
With pure lies when he hit the sack?
Or was it one moment,
Or her whole life
In a country she wasn't born in
In a country where she was sworn in
Alone.
And she tried to survive
But she got stuck
In the muck of a broken family.
One day
I feel violated on the inside
Like I couldn't survive
I cried, and cried, and cried.
And she's in the corner,
Holding that knife
From me,
That was so pretty
At that moment,
And she's

Yelling,
Please...
Tears in her eyes,
The rims were red,
And she cried
She never cried.
I live.
Years and months go by
Today she looks me in the eye
She warns of a future she can now see
Because she,
originally,
Didn't see it
So she tells me
Who will be
Independently
Living alone soon,
On the bus
She says
One more time:
Be careful,
I know, I say
I know.



(continued from *Girl Power Parade* on page 1) English teacher, Ms. Matthusen stated, “Attending the Women’s March in D.C. was an incredibly empowering experience. As long as immigrants are not made to feel welcomed here, women’s rights are in jeopardy, and the free-press is inhibited, I believe we are contradicting our core values as Americans.”

“I believe we are contradicting our core values as Americans.”

and the free-press is inhibited, I believe we are contradicting our core values as Americans.”

English teacher and *Eclipse* advisor Ms. Seide, stated, “It felt great to see so many people from all walks of life join the Women’s March. It was incredibly validating, knowing that others (men and women) shared my beliefs about Donald Trump’s remarks about women. I hope that more peaceful marches ensue and that the voice returns to the people of America.

People of all ages are welcome at protests. Consider joining if you are passionate about a cause.



Ms. Matthusen poses for a picture at the Women’s March in D.C.

Donald Trump Knows No Science

East-West teachers share their opinions of Donald Trump’s environmental standpoint

By Michelle Xu, Grade 7

On November 6, 2012, Donald Trump stated, “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.” And even though he claims that he never said that, there over 100 tweets from Donald Trump, dating all the way back from 2009 about how global warming is a hoax. A few people have screenshots of his tweets before he and his campaign deleted them. Science proves Trump’s statement untrue, and scientists are very worried about him.

East-West science teacher, Ms. Marissa Miller stated, “I think he is ignoring the scientific consensus and he is saying what people want to hear. And if I met him I would encourage him to ask questions about it. I think he is also is afraid that business would suffer, if we stopped burning fossil fuels. since he is all about money and business.”

Special Education teacher, Ms. Dinkelaker stated, “He has to look at the research from both sides. He needs to come to the conclusion using all the information. Also, he needs to make sure that all the information he used is true and does not give false information.”

Backpacking 101

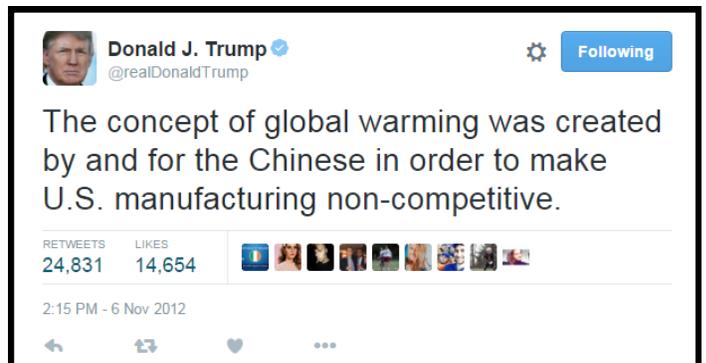
The Best Walk of Your Life is Just a Backpack Away

By Xin Yang, Grade 6

Why Go Backpacking? Simply leaving your vehicle behind can give you access to parts of the world you can’t see just by looking out your car window. Walking through nature can give you time to appreciate the world’s beauty and also lets you interact with the wildlife. Want to strap on a pair of boots and head for the mountains? To the right is a list of what to take with you.



Though people don’t agree with the theory that global warming is caused by carbon emissions, most of the scientific community strongly believes that global warming is a real problem that is not going away. Eric Mack, a contributor to *Forbes Magazine* covering science, innovation, products, and politics, states, “The evidence that Trump and Myron Ebell are wrong on climate seems overwhelming to me. There’s literally thousands and thousands of pages of science



and data that show, generally speaking, temperature and sea levels are rising as concentrations of gases like CO₂ and methane have also increased. There’s plenty of science on related impacts like ocean acidification, shifts in ecosystems and threats to humans populations and property as well.”

Only time will tell what President Trump will do to battle or ignore climate change.

Items to Bring Backpacking

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 liter of water | Tent |
| H2O purification system | Compass |
| Matches | Paper map |
| LED Flashlight | Towel |
| Dried food/ Canned food | Electricity generator |
| Backpacking Stove | Radio |
| Survival knife | Sleeping bag |
| Backpack | Aluminum mug |
| First aid kit | Spear |

The Midnight Spotlight with Ms. Cruz

Highlighting the accomplishments of an East-West community member

By Wena Teng, Grade 8

This January, *The Eclipse* selected a dearly loved teacher and community member, Ms. Joleni Cruz. Ms. Cruz is a math teacher for East-West middle school students as well as a Coordinator for East-West's faculty Sunshine Committee.

Students were asked, "What do you like the most about Ms. Cruz?" Many replied with, "She always take the time to explain something to you if you don't know it." *The Eclipse* is sure that even if it was the end of the world, Ms. Cruz wouldn't hesitate to help a student in distress.

Ms. Cruz actually wanted to be the teacher that she is today. She said, "I had a high school teacher and she made me feel excited to go to math class! So I knew I wanted to also be a teacher like her." As one of her students, I personally enjoy going to her class. Ms. Cruz's favorite memory at East-West is when my students used her palm tree obsession to make her really happy. "I had students make palm tree cupcakes and palm tree drawings all over the board." Ms. Cruz states the best part of being a teacher is when a student is struggling with math but afterwards gets it. "It honestly makes me very, very happy," says Ms. Cruz. Watching students feel like they accomplished something and seeing the glowing joy on their faces makes her really happy.

Even though there are lots of perks, being a teacher has its negative moments. Ms. Cruz admitted that the absolute worst part is the amount of grading she has to do. Some-

times she wants to just wants to give up! This brings us to our next topic, Ms. Cruz's word of wisdom.

Ms. Cruz states "things will get hard in high school and further on in your life, but you should never give up. No matter how hard things get, at the end it is definitely worth the hardship."

Thank you Ms. Cruz for being in the Midnight Spotlight! You are an inspiration to all of us.



Your Best Behavior

A quick rundown of the various kinds of consequences at East-West

By ZhiXuan Liu, Grade 6

Ever wonder where East-West's rules come from? The NYC Discipline Code is a set of rules and consequences that were created by the Department of Education. Certain behaviors are listed along with the corresponding consequence.

We all know that East-West is a school where there are consequences for wrongful actions. Consequences include detention, community lunch, and sometimes even suspension. Not all consequences and disciplinary measures are the same, however.

According to the NYC Discipline Code, progressive discipline uses incremental interventions to address inappropriate behavior with the ultimate goal of teaching prosocial behavior. "Progressive discipline does not seek punishment. Instead, progressive discipline seeks concurrent accountability and behavioral change," as stated in the NYC Discipline Code.

Community Lunch

Community lunch is usually assigned if a student does not wear his/her uniform or displays mildly inappropriate behavior. It is given at lunch and it is located between the vending machine and the lunchroom door.

Detention

There are two kinds of detention at East-West: Lunch Detention and After-School Detention. Lunch detention is usually given for being late, or committing slightly inappropriate behavior. It usually lasts for just one day, or sometimes two days. Usually Mr. Pham runs lunch detention, and you are allowed to do work, like homework or classwork. The other kind of detention is more severe, which is after school detention. After school detention runs one day a week, usually Monday. It lasts for one hour (from 2:20 PM to 3:20 PM), and you're allowed to do work in after school detention.

Suspension

Suspension is a mandatory leave from regularly scheduled class, that can last from one day to a few weeks. Suspension does go on your school record, which is bad when you want to go to certain colleges or even high schools.

Expulsion

Expulsion is the most severe punishment from a school, and involves the removal or banning of a student from school, due to the student persistently breaking the rules of the school.

To read more about the NYC Discipline Code visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/DisciplineCode/default.htm>. Stay out of trouble, East-West!