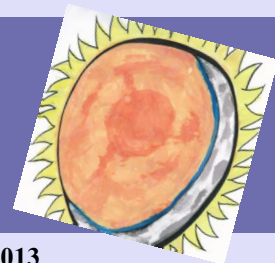


THE ECLIPSE

Illuminating News by East-West Students



February 2013

Halfway There: A Look Back at Our Lives at East-West

By Sequoya Fahie

It feels like 2009 was yesterday. I was a freshman, an East-West *Niner*, trying to find my place in the world. Though I had no idea what to expect, I strangely felt at home. Fast forward: it's 2013. I am an official East-West Senior. In less than five months, I will graduate and go onto college. As I finish my final semester of my high school career, I thought it would be meaningful to hear about the sentiments of other East-West soon-to-be graduates.

It seems all seniors are looking forward to our final moments at East-West, to taking "the walk" across the stage for graduation. Everyone I have talked to also seems to agree that overall, these last couple of years has been a tiring yet remarkable experience. Though we are seniors, we are still extremely busy (and stressed) filling out financial aid forms, college applications and of course doing homework. Some of us have admitted to feeling the beginnings of senioritis but have promised to fight it for the remaining five months. Senior Grace Oh commented, "These last four years has helped us in preparing for college. We are greatly thankful for Ms. Washington and Ms. Park for their help. It has been a stressful experience."

We are also beginning to feel nostalgic about leaving our friends here. Senior Vivian Chen, describes being a senior as "a stage of development where we learned the most about ourselves and our friends." Some seniors mentioned the East-West Olympics that occurred during the beginning of our sophomore year. My best moment was being a part of *Rachel's Challenge* and working to end bullying and promote friendship. I knew I wouldn't be the same person I am now if I didn't have my friends with me for the past four years. With events such as the prom and graduation coming up there is still a plethora of moments to look forward to for the class of 2013. Although June is far away, I am proud to say that we're halfway there!



The Israeli-Palestinian Debate: Student Viewpoints

Thoughts From An Observer

By Rahul Shivnani

The problem between

Israel and Palestine really started in 1947. The two countries claimed rights to Jerusalem and other small areas of land in the area. The UN thought the best way to solve this issue was to give Israel half and Palestine the other half. Palestine refused to share the land and decided to declare war on Israel. The war ended in 6 days. The Israelis won. Instead of recognizing the Israeli victory, the Palestinians asked the UN for the rights to form their own nation. Class 601 represented the two sides at this point in the argument. The Palestinians spoke for their right to become a nation. The Israelis fought against the Palestinians' request.

The first side to talk was the Palestinians. The opening Palestinian representative, Justin Deng, stated that the land belonged to them at first and the Israelis had no right at all to take that land from them. The UN asked a couple of questions to try to get a better understanding of the Palestinians as to why they should get their own land.

The Israeli representatives spoke next. The opening Israeli speaker, Nicky Blanco, stated that the Israelis won the war against Palestine fair and square and therefore, Palestine has no right to the land.

After both sides made their closing statement, the UN representatives decided that the Palestinians won the debate. Unlike 601, the UN representatives from 602 and 603 concluded that Israel had won the debate. Regardless of winning or losing, all sides learned a lot about an important issue. Congratulations to all the participants.

On January 10, in 601's Social Studies class, Mr. Oppenheim hosted a mock-United Nations debate between Palestine and Israel. Eclipse reporters, Rahul Shivnani and Justin Deng share their thoughts and observations post-debate.

Thoughts from Palestine's Rep'

By Justin Deng

Israelis and Palestinians have been in a conflict for decades. It is easy to look at the Palestinians as terrorists. However, when the world considers the bombs and hijackings, the Palestinians become simple people fighting for their homeland. After all, the United Nations has failed to stop war, so what choice do they have? However, let's look at the Israeli side before we make any rash judgments. The Israelis claim that they will eventually grant the Palestinians a state. However, in the foreseeable future, Israel's number one priority is the safety of its citizens. After all, who can condemn a country for protecting its citizens? Neither the Jews nor the Palestinians are going to give up all their land easily. Before David Ben Gurion formed Israel, the Jews lived in scattered diasporas across the entire world. This is the first time in a long time since the Jews had a homeland, and they certainly don't want to hand it over. However, this is also the homeland of the Palestinians, and they aren't going to give the land up either. It doesn't matter how many treaties are signed; someone is going to have to resign their land.



Palestinian Faris Odeh throwing rocks at an Israeli tank.



Mr. Diaz and **The Veiled Dragon** have joined forces to ask you, the student, a question. Read on. If you feel like you can give this person some good advice, we want to hear it. Send responses to Mr. Diaz at cdiaz@ews.org:

"I have a friend who makes fun of me a lot. She laughs at how I dress, and she makes fun of my nationality. She interrupts me to talk about herself. I don't want to be her friend anymore, but she talks about what a good friend I am to her. What should I do?"

Excerpted from *Scholastic Choices*,

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After searching the East-West community for artistic talent, *The Eclipse* brings you sophomore, Haruna Yabuki...

“A Cross Friendship of the Moon and the Sun”



No Practice Needed: Taylor Swift's *Red*

By Keana Saunders

Taylor Swift is taking the new year by storm with the release of her fourth studio album, *Red*. Unlike the more subtle albums of the past, in *Red* Swift exposes her love life, in all its rawness and intensity, to her eager listeners. The album evokes a feeling of moving forward and being honest with oneself.

It's no mistake the album is called *Red*. Red is a color many of us associate with life, love and, at times, brutality. The use of colors as symbols runs throughout the album. In the song, "Red" Swift writes, "Losing him was blue like I'd never known, missing him was dark gray all alone, forgetting him was like trying to know somebody you never met, but loving him was red."

Music lovers who aren't even Swift fans have jumped on the bandwagon for *Red*, shouting the lyrics to her chart topping song "We Are Never Getting Back Together." A sign of a true artist is someone that can connect to people regardless of their musical taste. With *Red*, Swift does exactly this. We look forward to her next hit album.

Get Ready for the All Stars!

The NBA Warms Up for the All Star Game

By Rahul Shivnani and Nicky Blanco

The NBA's *All Star Game* will be held February 17 in Houston, Texas. Like any all-star event, the best players of the league are hand picked to play as part of the East or the West, depending on the player's conference. Each team has a total of 5 people in the starting lineup.

This year, the West boasts the following frontcourt players: Kevin Durant, Dwight Howard, Blake Griffin, Tim Duncan, Pau Gasol, Kevin Love, Omer Asik, Rudy Gay, Serge Ibaka, Pau Gasol's brother Marc Gasol, LaMarcus Aldridge, Zack Randolph, Dirk Nowitzki, Metta World Peace, and Chandler Parsons. Backcourt players include Kobe Bryant, Chris Paul, Jeremy Lin, James Harden, Russell Westbrook, Steve Nash, Tony Parker, Ricky Rubio, Stephen Curry, and Manu Ginobili.

The East has quite the line-up as well. In the front, there's LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, Kevin Garnett, Chris Bosh, Tyson Chandler, Paul Pierce, Joakim Noah, Josh Smith, Anderson Varejao, Shane Battier, Amar'e Stoudemire, Andrew Bynum, Loul Deng, Brook Lopez, and Jeff Green. In the back, Dwayne Wade, Rajon Rondo, Deron Williams, Kyrie Irving, Ray Allen, Monta Ellis, Raymond Felton, Jrue Holiday, Jason Terry, and Brandon Jennings.

As the talent on each team suggests, this will be a very close, exciting game. It's difficult to predict who will win at this point.

Why East-West Is Awesome:

A Sixth Grade Perspective

By Zobia Jamal

The East-West School of International Studies is a great school. It enriches students' lives academically, socially and physically. In addition to all the classes we can take and the Asian languages we can learn, we also have over 20 clubs! I love that each club teaches you something specific and different.

Another great quality of EWSIS is that it's small. This has allowed me to get to know all my teachers and classmates really well. I feel like I am part of something here because I get to see everyone almost every day!

One area we can all improve upon is our grades. We need to strive for the 85% in order to ensure our success in college.

What do you think East-West can improve upon? What do you like about East-West? Send your e-mails to theeclipse@ewsis.org

IT'S OFFICIAL! *The Key Club's Story of Charter-hood*

By Dolly Pao

The Key Club is part of Kiwanis International, a non-profit community service organization dedicated to changing the world. When a new Key Club is formed at a school, the club has to raise \$600 in order to be chartered. Once a club is chartered, the club has connections with all of Kiwanis. It seems like an easy job (and it is for a big high school) but East-West is only one floor with barely 700 students. Raising that kind of money is a challenge. During the first year the Key Club was active, there weren't many members so we remained unchartered. That is not to discount the hard work of the few founding members, many of whom worked very hard to design fundraisers. For example, the Key Club held a Valentine's Day Carnival last year, one of our most successful events to date. Despite its success however, Key Club did not raise the \$600. In addition to in-school fundraisers, the Key Club also holds events outside of school premises, such as ice-skating. Though events outside school are a lot of fun, they do not necessarily help us to raise money for our charter.

Luckily, the International Kiwanis Club of Flushing chimed in at exactly the right time. Kiwanis Club Board Member, John Yu awarded the Key Club a \$600 donation. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of Mr. Yu and hope to meet him soon. Though the charter is a work in progress, we now have the funds necessary to see our plans through. Here's to hard work, dedication, and the generosity of others.

TASTE TIME! EAST-WEST'S FIRST EVER TASTE TEST EVENT

By Bijan Zavieh

Special thanks to assistants Kayla Fermin and Kayla Barthelemy

On Wednesday, January 16, the middle school members of *The Eclipse* hosted an in-house blind chocolate taste test. Eight participants tested five different brands of milk chocolate: *Milka*, *Godiva*, *Hershey's*, *Lindt*, and *Cadbury*. Contestants were unaware of which chocolate they were consuming.

Milka was characterized as "very smooth and milky," while others said it had a "bad after-taste." When *Godiva* was up, contestants agreed that it was "sweet but not too sweet and easy to swallow." And, as taste-test designers predicted, *Hershey's* turned out to be "too sweet" for many of our panelists. Next up was *Lindt*. Some sensed a "fruity" taste that they had not experienced with any of the others. Another panelist characterized it as "biting a brick." Last but not least was *Cadbury*. Panelists agreed that though *Cadbury* had good flavor, "it was too thick and difficult to swallow." The final tallies and comments revealed that *Godiva* came in first with *Milka* trailing not far behind. *The Eclipse* looks forward to serving up future taste tests to our community.

