

THE ECLIPSE

Illuminating News by East-West Students



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Grace Talks About Orlando

A Student Perspective on the Orlando Shooting

by Grace Mahony, Grade 11

“Say their names!” the crowd chants at the Stonewall Inn Vigil, late on Monday, June 13. “Say their names!”

The first name is called and the crowd erupts like the sound of rain under a gray sky. More names are called. “¡Presente!” the crowd shouts in reply, a Latin American saying invoking the memory of those who have died. “¡Presente!” Both of my friends’ eyes become more and more misty with each passing name. “¡Presente!” The densely-packed crowd hold up with phones with the flashlights on, some even with real candles, and they light up the night as if it were day. “¡Presente!”

On the morning of June 12, 2016, 29-year-old Omar Mateen opened fire on the patrons of Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. It was Latin Night, and thus, the Pulse was filled with a primarily Hispanic crowd. Mateen managed to enter the nightclub armed with a semi-automatic rifle and a handgun, both obtained legally, and started to take hostages. Confusion and panic erupted in the hundreds of Pulse’s patrons, some believing it was firecrackers or the music. At 2:09am, a post was made on the club’s Facebook page, “Everyone get out of pulse and keep running.” At 2:22am, Mateen made a 9-1-1 call, expressing sympathy for the 2013 Boston Marathon bombers and claiming allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). At 5:00am, Mateen was shot and killed during a shootout with eleven officers.

Fifty people were immediately dead, including Mateen,

More Student Voices About the Shooting in Orlando

By Evina Chen and Dilan Cordoba, Grade 6

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community are constantly oppressed. Some people are afraid to hold hands outside because of the increasing hate crimes; especially after the Orlando Pulse shooting. The Orlando Shooting was a hate crime directed against the LGBTQIA+ community. The shooter repeatedly displayed hatred towards gay men and therefore targeted Pulse purposefully, since Pulse was a famous gay club. Though the shooter pledged allegiance to ISIS, most agree that this was not an act of terror but rather a hate crime, since the shooter did not practice Islam in the past. Many homophobic churches said that “God sent the shooter” and “being gay is a sin.” But isn’t killing 50 people also a sin?



San Francisco Pride organizers pray for the victims of the Orlando shooting. - Channel 7 News.

and 53 more people suffered injuries, making Mateen’s stunt the deadliest shooting in modern United States history, the worst incident of violence against LGBT people in the U.S., the largest targeted killing of LGBT people since The Holocaust, and the deadliest terrorist attack in the U.S. since September 11, 2001. Ninety percent of the victims were of Hispanic origin and about half of them were of Puerto Rican descent; most of the victims were also men, and eighteen of them were younger than 25-years-old.

The perpetrator, Omar Mateen, was born in New York to Afghan parents and had a Muslim upbringing. Mateen worked as a security guard, had an active firearms license, passed psychological and criminal background checks. However, a former coworker described Mateen as “unhinged and unstable,” and said he “had talked often about killing people and had voiced hatred of gays, blacks, women and Jews”. Mateen was questioned by the FBI three times for making comments about having connections to terrorist groups, but investigations were closed after no more information could be gleaned. Mateen was also found to have accounts on multiple gay dating apps, such as *Grindr* and *Jack’d*, and had visited gay nightclubs, including Pulse, previously. *(article continued on page 5)*

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East-West Honors Silence

GSA Hosts Another Successful Day of Silence
By Evina Chen, Grade 6

On May 5, the East-West School Of International Studies participated in the national event, the Day Of Silence with the help of Ms. Pazia Miller and the Gay Straight Alliance Club (GSA). The Day of Silence raises awareness of LGBTQIA discrimination issues. Members of the LGBTQIA community are victims of bullying, judgement, and other forms of abuse. On this special day, students and staff at East-West vowed not to speak, a symbolic act meant to remind everyone of the silence many LGBTQIA members must face everyday because they must hide their sexual orientation.

The Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN) organizes the Day of Silence. GLSEN is a worldwide student campaign that wants a “safe school” for all students. GLSEN wants to create a world that students can grow up respecting everyone and anyone, no matter their race, sexual orientation, or anything else that makes them individuals. The Day Of Silence was created by GLSEN to educate people about what it means to be a part of the LGBTQIA community.



GSA Club encourages all members of the school to participate in the Day Of Silence. Above is a picture of the school banner, signed by members of the East-West community that pledged to be silent all day.

If you felt the Day of Silence was especially powerful, visit www.glsen.org for more information on how you can help make this day at East-West even better next year.

East-West Students Share Perspectives
On Human Rights in
Mr. Oppenheim’s Class

“Everyone in the world was born in a country. Yet, as of today, the United Nations reports that 10 million people are denied a nationality. Every person on Earth should be given the right of a place to live. Mother Earth should not be denied from any person and I believe that everyone has the right to live where they wish. However in today’s world, stateless people are not considered citizens or even refugees so they are not granted rights of a person. They are not counted towards the nation’s population. Stateless people are also not granted an identification which is crucial in order to obtain an education and travel.

Logically any person that is born on this Earth should be considered a citizen of the world. During the age of exploration, explorers had the freedom of leaving their own country and possibly settling in lands that they discovered. No one denied those explorers the right to living in America when they arrived. The world has changed significantly since then and today no one truly has the right to live where they please as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We commonly mistake a stateless person for being a refugee. However, stateless people are usually denied their right to citizenship in their own country. Without citizenship, people are unable to sign up for government programs that are there to help the poor. Also, an ID is necessary in order to enroll in a school. This is an important issue because anybody can become a stateless person. This issue can cause world problems with more people being denied citizenship and groups of people being denied a government and the benefits.”

—Main Sen Koo, Grade 11

HUMAN RIGHT: A RIGHT THAT IS BELIEVED TO BELONG TO EVERY PERSON BY VIRTUE OF BEING ALIVE.



“What do your children do on a daily basis? The children in Bolivia work for long hours in terrible conditions. Child labor, among a multitude of other human rights violations, remains a large issue in the country of Bolivia. In the July of 2014, according to the World Report written by humanrightswatch.org announces that there is a legislation that ‘the vice president signed into law, allowing children as young as 10 to work.’ This new law makes Bolivia the first country in the world that lowers the working age to such a young stage of life. It is clearly evident that the issue of child labor in Bolivia

violates human rights in a variety of ways. For one, according to international standards, the lowest working age for countries is fifteen years old and fourteen for developing countries. Bolivia, despite being a developing country, has no right to lower their working age to the age of 10. Child labor violates article 24 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. This article claims that everyone has the right to leisure and rest in regards to work. The article also requires the limitations of working hours and periodic paid holidays. Despite these laws, the children in Bolivia work nearly 5-6 days in a week and only take breaks periodically to go to school. These kids work for the entire day with little to no rest as a result of these laws. This poses a problem to their education as well, which brings up the 26th article of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Article 26 states that ‘Everyone has the right to education.’ It should be known that some of these children drop out of school entirely in order to work more often. It can be argued that the cruelest form of punishment is forcing children out of an education. Without education, these children are forever chained to working low-end jobs. An uneducated society is a society without voice.”

—Kern Hui, Grade 11

Can You Really Google It?

Thinking About Google's Limitations In The Digital Age
By Michelle Xu, Grade 6

Google. It's a word we all recognize. Many of us think of Google as the answer to all our questions. You can literally type anything into a google search and you will get something related. Contrary to popular belief, Google only accesses a fraction of the web. An estimated 0.03% of the internet is accessed during a google search. According to *The Ultimate Guide to the Invisible Web*, "the sites that traditional searches yield are part of what's known as the 'Surface Web' which is comprised of indexed

pages that a search engine's web crawlers are programmed to retrieve." So where's the rest? The majority of the internet lies in what's referred to as the deep web, or the invisible web. The actual size of the deep web is impossible to measure, but many experts estimate it is about 500 times the size of the web as we know it. Now, does google really know everything?

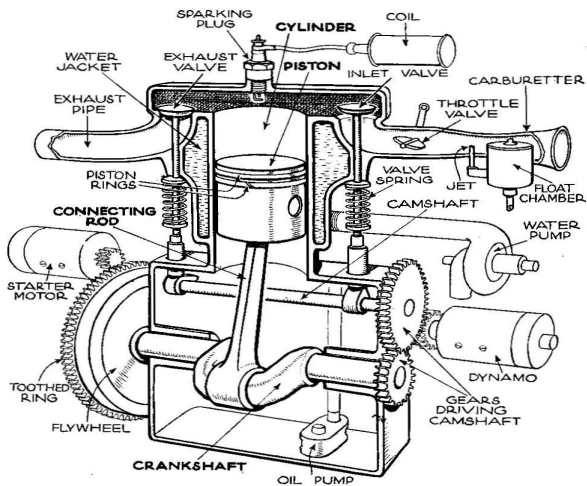


Easy Riding with Biodiesel Bikes

New Technology Makes Biking More Environmentally Friendly
By Joseph Chai 603, Grade 6

Are you interested in motorcycles but don't want to pollute the environment? Biodiesel bikes might be your answer. Biodiesel bikes run on biofuel, which is any kind of fuel made of living remains, especially recycled vegetable oil and animal fats. Biodiesel bikes can travel about 96 kilometers per hour. In addition, with only 2.2 liters of fuel, these dirt-bikes can travel 100 kilometers. If you want a motorcycle or you know someone who does, please tell them about this new technology and convince them to use this biodiesel motorcycle instead of regular motorcycles. Using these biodiesel bikes can benefit the world, from global warming, or other types of negative effects caused by diesel, and highly economical. These biodiesel motorcycles cost about the same as a petrol-powered dirt-bike. Biodiesel comes from recycled vegetable oil, and animal fats. The reason why biodiesel is made out of these

materials is because, it gives the vehicle operators, additional help by allowing them to make their own fuel. In addition to that, biodiesel is environmentally-friendly, sustainable, and easier to clean the engine, than cleaning, a motorcycle that uses regular fuel. Trust me, it is worth more than using a motorcycle that uses regular diesel.



Samsung or Apple?

Which Big Time Smartphone Producer Will Be More Popular?
By Tiffany Jiang, Grade 6

The battle for best phone is fully underway. The two main contestants are the Samsung 7 and the iPhone SE. As far as look is concerned, the iPhone SE shares many features of the iPhone 5, but is offered in the new shade of rose gold. The Samsung 7 boasts a new rounded edge. This provides better camera lighting and more effective waterproof seal. Many agree that Apple products, in general do not hold up to water the way Samsung products do. Further, while Apple's newest phone is a throwback to a previous smaller size, Samsung is sticking with the larger screen. Both phones also claim to have improved \ screens. Getting the screen to be flexible enough to withstand people dropping the phones, but sensitive enough to be an effective touch screen has been challenging for phone designers from both companies. Through trial and error, the newest version of both smartphones have created ideal screens and casings. While the newest iPhone is 100% aluminum,

the Samsung 7 is a blend of glass and aluminum. Another key difference is the battery life of the phones. iPhone has a battery life of 1642 mAh while the Samsung's battery life is 3000 mAh. Some may find this is an important feature while others have chargers handy and don't need a prolonged battery life. The choice is yours. Which company will win your vote? Apple or Samsung?



The Story of Luke and Lisa

A Fictional Account of Love,
Misunderstanding and Courage
by Kevin Brian Li, Grade 12

It was a stormy night at an orphanage. The dark clouds hovered over the worn out roof as the lights flickered on and off. An old lady who ran the orphanage gathered up the frightened children and had them sit around a small candlelight. "Tell us a story grandma," one little boy said. The old lady clears her throat and straightens her back as she sits down criss-crossed along with the children. "Boys and girls, what I'm about to tell you tonight is a story about two friends." And the old lady's tale begins here:

There once was a little boy named Luke. At a young age, he witnessed the death of his mother due to illness. Luke lived with his abusive father, who was an alcoholic and a smoker. Often times, his father got angry and called Luke over to give him cigarette burns on the soles of his feet. His father beat him mercilessly if he misbehaved.

One day, Luke laid eyes on a girl about the same age as him, rushing down the street. The little girl held a glass snowglobe with both hands and ran down the street in a hurry. As she ran, her foot suddenly caught on a rock and she plummeted to the ground, gravity ripping the snow globe from her clutches as she watched in awe as the snow globe became billions of pieces scattered glass among the pavement. Luke hurried over to help the little girl. After looking at her fancy clothing, he quickly realized that the girl came from a very rich and prestigious family. "Are you okay?" he said. "I'm fine...", the girl said nervously. "My name is Luke, what's your name?"

The girl shyly said "Lisa."

Luke helped Lisa get up safely, avoiding any contact with the broken glass. Lisa took a closer look at Luke and noticed that his slender body was riddled with bruises. "Are you alright?" said Lisa.

Luke responded with a warm smile "I'm fine." Little did Lisa know of the abuse Luke had to go through with his father at home. Unlike Luke, Lisa grew up in a very rich family. She had every possession she desired, but for some reason, never felt satisfied. She decided that she wanted to be friends with Luke. Everyday, Lisa would invite Luke over to her manor to play. Soon enough, the two became close friends. Luke and Lisa did almost everything together. They played, they ran, they learned from each other. Luke taught Lisa everything he could about street smarts. He taught her how to sneak around, pickpocket, and how to pick a lock. Lisa taught Luke everything she knew about the nobility, mainly about proper manners and elite education. Lisa was finally happy that she had made her first friend. She looked at Luke almost in a daze and whispered "When we grow up, will you marry me, Luke?"

Luke replied with a warm smile. "Sure thing, Lisa!"

One day, Lisa stopped showing up to play with Luke. He began to worry about her. Luke searched everywhere for Lisa. Eventually he found her at a nearby cemetery. Lisa was dressed in all black from top to bottom. She looked like a flower that had just wilted all the happiness and joy that shrouded her every action now drained from her body and soul. Teardrops ran down the side of her cheeks one by one as she

wept. He stepped closer to see what was going on. In front of Lisa was the grave of her father and mother, both whom have died in a car accident the night before. Luke decided it was best to leave Lisa alone for the time being to allow her to recover from her loss. He returned home to his abusive father. Luke began to wonder if he would ever see Lisa again.

A week later, Lisa came by to Luke's neighborhood with some bread and sweets. She found Luke tied up, shirtless, to a fence. This time, Luke had more bruises than usual. She quickly runs over to Luke to check if he was okay. Luke shouted, "Lisa! Get out of here now!" At first Lisa was confused at what he meant. But then she saw Luke's father come out of the front door with a huge bottle of alcohol in one hand and a blowtorch in another. Lisa quickly realized the situation and charged at Luke's father. Her efforts were futile, because Lisa couldn't do anything against the oversized body of a drunk alcoholic. His father threw Lisa aside effortlessly and proceeded to beat Luke.

"That's what you get for stealing money from me you ungrateful brat!" said Luke's father.

Luke said, "I only wanted to buy a gift for a friend. She recently lost her parents." Lisa laid there in shock as she watched her only friend get burned to death. The screams of pain and agony from Luke as the flames from the blowtorch consumes him body. He tries to tell Lisa something, but all she could make out from what Luke said was: "I'm sorry Lisa."

Luke's father turned to Lisa and shouted in a drunken rage "Are you the reason why this brat stole my money?" Luke's father took this bottle of alcohol, lit it up with his blowtorch and then threw it at Lisa. Lisa was able to avoid most of the impact, but some of the fire consumed her leg. She managed to escape with everything intact except her right leg burnt to a crisp. The police arrived moments later to arrest Luke's father. Lisa hated herself for being powerless as she was forced to watch as his godforsaken father slowly broil her best friend to death right in front of her. She fell into a depression. She never wanted to make another friend again. That's the end of the story of Luke and Lisa.

"Is this story even real? It sounds too scary to be true," said a little boy.

The old lady responded, "If you believe it, anything could be true."

Another clever girl asked, "Grandma, what happened to your leg?" as she points to a black part of the old lady's skin where her right leg used to be.

"That's enough storytelling for tonight kids. Time for bed."

The storm dies down, the clouds clear up, and the moon shines bright with light.

*Interested in sharing a short
story? Email your submissions
to The Eclipse at
theeclipse@ewsis.org*

“Walking Down the Street”

By Ariana Johnson, Grade 8

A block in a neighborhood.
Big dark brown Dutch houses in a single row line
each side of the street.
Tall trees with green leaves block light from reaching
the ground.

No cars in the driveways.
Windows shut closed.
There is on one on this block except a little toddler.

The little toddler appears even smaller because of the
tall trees and big houses.
She is running down the sidewalk with a red wagon.
The toddler has a determined look on her face, as if
she was trying to get somewhere.
But because she is so small it’s as if no progress is
being made at all.

The toddler holds onto the red wagon tenaciously,
The wagon looked brand new on the outside.

But it was empty and dirty on the inside.
The wagon was big and heavy.
It caused the toddler to struggle going down the nice-
ly paved straight sidewalk.
But the toddler couldn’t let go of the wagon.

The wagon was hers,
It is her burden to carry.
It represents the part of her she so desperately wants
to forget.
Her sorrow, her pain, her fear, her anger and herself,
her anger at the world.
The reason why she can’t let go of the wagon is be-
cause
The wagon is her.
And you can’t let go a part of yourself.

So the little toddler continues to run
With her red wagon trailing behind her.
On the sidewalk covered by tall green trees
Determined to find something only she can herself
find.
Inner peace.

Untitled

By Omar Lawson, Grade 12

It is you who strengthens me,
My hair look just like mama’s

She gave it to me, only known by her
I’m her favorite.
She made it for me.

Strongest woman I know.
Cuz when she grit her teeth and bite down, mama
could
Bite coffee and split grounds
But kind to my amazement
Mama was a ray of the softest sunshine to
Someone confined inside a basement.

I would show off to her.
Tell her things that I had mastered.
I would stack dominoes for hours an end
Just to see a pleased look on her
Face because I felt it was all that mattered

She was without fear.

Mama could stare down the Devil telling him things
were going
Her way and no other. But make me
Laugh when she would call me
Her favorite son when I had 4 sisters and no brothers.

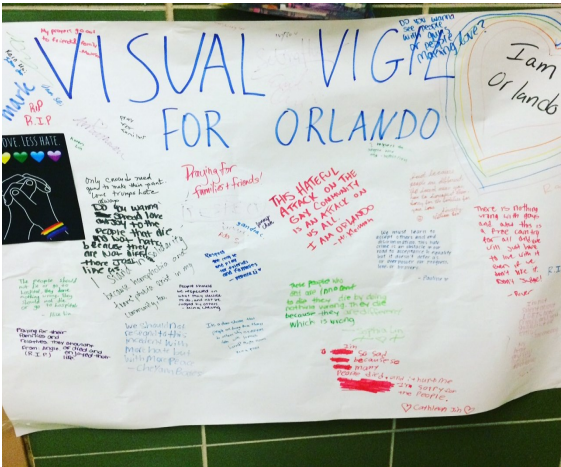
Mama wasn’t always home.
There were days when
She would leave before I
Wake up and arrive after
I had fallen asleep I
Wouldn’t have known she
Came home if it weren’t for
My older sisters. She would
Drive 2 hours to work for a
10 hour shift, then drive 2 hours back.
And we couldn’t even keep the house clean.

I would miss her.
When I would call to her to tell her she would say “I
miss you too”
And to call her again if need be.
But more importantly, she’d say “I raised you the
way I do so that you won’t need me.”
My hair looks just like mama’s.

Continued from page 1– Grace Talks About Orlando-

However, his father, Seddique Mir Mateen, stated that he saw his son
became angry after seeing a gay couple kiss in Miami and didn’t believe
that he was closeted. His first wife of four months reported Mateen to be
abusive and violent.

This was a hate crime. Religion had absolutely nothing to do with this
attack. It’s the month of Ramadan and violence is forbidden during this
holy Islamic month. This was a hate crime against the LGBT community,
pure and simple. This horrific incident just goes to show how the fight for
LGBT equal rights doesn’t end with nationwide marriage, it ends when
discrimination against the LGBT community stops, when people stop
losing their jobs and respect for loving someone, when violent acts and
mindless death against LGBT people stop. Mass shootings have become
so frequent in the United States, the validity of the Second Amendment is
apparently more important than the lives of human beings. Something in
Washington needs to change.



Headed by GSA, students at East– West create a visual vigil to honor the victims of the Orlando tragedy.

The Treatment of People With Mental Illness in Today’s Society

A Thoughtful Student Perspective

By Katrina Cuello, Grade 12

Most people have a general knowledge of physical illnesses and sicknesses, such as the flu, common cold, cancer, diabetes, etc. These types of diseases affect an individual’s physical health and well-being. But how many people do you know that are informed about mental illness?

Mental illnesses are disorders that significantly affect a human’s thoughts, actions, mood and behavior. There are many different types of mental illnesses such as depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, eating disorders, anxiety/panic disorders and many more. Mental illness is not a new form of ailment. It has been around for as long as people have been around. In Shakespeare’s famous play, *Hamlet*, many considered the protagonist, Hamlet, to be mentally ill. Still, in today’s world we find that there are many individuals with mental illness. Though the treatment of mentally ill has improved since the time of Hamlet, many sufferers still face stigmas in today’s society.

One stigma that the mentally ill experience is being seen as “crazy.” Usually this stigma is associated with schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorders, and others. Individuals are seen as “crazy” and “unstable” due to these diseases because they do not act “normal.” Schizophrenia is one of the most uncommon mental illnesses that people have in the United States. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, “about 1% of Americans have schizophrenia.” Individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia interpret reality unusually, and often can not tell the difference from reality and fantasy. This disorder affects the human brain, causing a person to hear or see something that is not there, believing someone else can read their mind and try to harm them. Hallucinations, delusions, trouble focusing or paying attention, lack of ability to participate in activities and many more are some of the symptoms of schizophrenia. A human’s thoughts, actions and feelings are often affected. Many mental illnesses have treatments to help them overcome, but people diagnosed with schizophrenia often experience symptoms throughout their whole lives. People with this disorder are often teased because of how they act in public. They may be pointed at with disturbed looks, or have others whisper to each other. Mentally ill individuals are not treated the same as regular people.

In *The Stigma as a Barrier to Recovery: The Consequences of Stigma for the Self-Esteem of People With Mental Illnesses*, Bruce G. Link stated, “... people form expectations about whether most people will reject an individual who has a mental illness as a friend, an employee, a neighbor, or an intimate partner and whether most people will devalue a person who has a mental illness as being less trustworthy, less intelligent, and less competent.” This shows how the mentally ill still face stigmas in modern society.

Some individuals may not take mental disorders as seriously as physical disorders. They may assume that since someone is not physically hurt, what they are dealing with does not matter and is not as concerning. Their damage may not be as visible as someone with a broken arm, or has a bad case of the flu. A person may be diagnosed with depression and someone that is not aware of mental illnesses may say, “Hey, don’t be sad. Other people have it worse.” This is not something you should say to a depressed person because it is very difficult for them to just change their mood and be happy. Humans diagnosed with depression often can not control how they feel. In fact, according to Harvard University, “Researchers believe that - more important than levels of specific brain chemicals - nerve cell connections, nerve cell growth, and the functioning of nerve circuits have a major impact on depression.” Depression causes a chemical imbalance in the brain, and can affect a person’s behavior, thoughts and mood. However, depression can also result from genetics, traumatic experiences, stressful events and more. Some symptoms of depression include feelings of guilt and hopelessness, thoughts of suicide and/or death, appetite changes, insomnia or sleeping too much, etc. Individuals that struggle with depression also face many forms of stigma today. One of these would be being treated differently from others, and being seen as some sort of freak. According to Psychology Today, “From a young age children will refer to others as “crazy” or “weird”; these terms are used commonly throughout adulthood as well. Often the negative stereotypes involve perceptions that people with mental illness are dangerous.” People usually assume individuals with depression are dangerous, always wanting to harm themselves.

So as a society, we must ask ourselves how our thoughts and actions are affecting those with conditions they cannot help. Are we truly practicing understanding and compassion if the people with mental illness feel like outcasts?

The Eclipse apologizes for our previous issue’s printing mistake. Paul Seo’s complete article appears below.

Battling Depression with Rachel’s Challenge

by Paul Seo, Grade 11

We all use the word depressed in our everyday speech. “I’m depressed.” “This is depressing.” Though it’s common to use it, do we truly know what the word means? Many people think that feeling depressed is not having a good day. The textbook definition of depression is severe and prolonged

sadness. People that are truly depressed feel hopeless and even numb.

Though we often think of adults when we think of depression, this disease plagues students as well. According to *studentsagainstd Depression.org*, an average of 1 in 10 students will experience depression in his/her lifetime.

Thankfully, East-West offers depressed students a lot of support. As a Rachel’s Challenge school, students express love and compassion for one another. We all know that starting a chain reaction of good deeds and kindness is very important.