

THE ECLIPSE

Illuminating News by East-West Students

Fall 2013



Back to School Blues or Back to School Belonging?

Reflections On Our First Days

By Jenna Choi

I have been the “new kid” before. When I entered sixth grade, I felt scared because I didn’t know anyone. I was the only student from my elementary school to attend *East-West*. I felt like everyone had a friend to hang with but me. I was that awkward kid sitting at the end of the table just waiting to say, “hey!” to someone I knew. Within a year, and with a little luck, I made friends. Below are some quotations from our classmates about their first impressions at *East-West*.

East-West seventh grade student, Lovepreet Kaur, was asked how she felt about coming to here for the first time. She replied with an interesting and honest answer. She said, “At first, I was scared because I didn’t have friends. But I did feel at home here. Science was my first class and Mr. Kuang was really friendly.”

Amrin Ahmed from 701 commented, “My first thought about *East-West* was these people are really friendly. I made a few friends when I first came here and I felt at ease.” In a similar vein, Michelle Wei from 702 felt afraid that she wasn’t going to make any friends but soon found it wasn’t difficult. Collin Waldron joined class 702 just a few months ago. He states, “I was afraid because I didn’t know anybody and it seemed like everyone had their friends already.” Today, he feels more comfortable here.

Other students expressed anxieties about the school itself. Johnny Ouyang stated, “I was scared that I would get lost in the big hallways!” Jing Su from 601 states, “[The first day] was scary, awesome, and embarrassing all at once. The halls were crowded and walking to class was frustrating at first.” Peter Adinolfi from 604 states that despite the crowded halls sometimes, “It’s okay. I like the teachers here. Japanese and science are my favorite subjects.”

To all the newcomers at *East-West*, I hope that, like me, you find your place here. We are a community of friendly individuals that wish to make each other feel like we all belong.

O.M.G. O.S.T.

By Tayla Rector

Many of you may have heard of the OST Program. OST stands for out of school time. This program will not only save your parents money (since they don’t have to pay a babysitter) but it’s also a lot of fun. I bet that you’re wondering what goes on during OST.

Besides homework and studying, most students have a chance to participate in activities. You can dance *Step*, watch movies, and have snacks, or play flag football. We have the Child Center of New York to thank for funding this great program. Join us!

OST meets Monday-Friday in the auditorium. Monday -Thursday 3-6 Friday 2:20-5pm. There is an application process and a waiting list.



OST students doing homework.

Unlocking the Key Club

A Brief Rundown of the Mysterious Club

By Patrick Wong (Key Club Editor)

Many of you have heard of us but few of you know what we do. To clear up any misconceptions, Key Club has nothing to do with walking around with a set of keys in hopes of unlocking a secret door. Key Club is also not a club that practices any particular sport or art form. Key Club, part of Kiwanis International Charity Organization, is one of the oldest and largest service organizations for high school students in the United States. We provide opportunities for high school students to donate, volunteer, and do good for their communities.

The community service we do includes but is not limited to participating in various walks to raise money, hosting fundraisers for deadly diseases, and participating in environmental conservation efforts (like park clean-ups, etc.) We recently held our first event, called “Light Up The Night,” a walk to raise money for Leukemia and Lymphoma research and cure. This event was held in Victory Field/Forest Park on October 5 and ran most of the night. We had a wonderful turnout.

As the holiday season approaches, we wish to remind everyone of the giving spirit we all hold within us. Be sure to donate to your Key Club as we host drives and fundraisers to make a few families’ holidays a little bit brighter.



SPORTS

Baseball's Race to the Top

Two Teams Battle for One Chance to Compete

By Bijan Zavieh

The NCLS is an amazing tournament in which the National League and the American League compete for the World Series Championship. So far, within the National League, the Pittsburgh Pirates have a good chance of winning. The other possible champion team of the National League is the infamous Cincinnati Reds. They have a great record and are capable of stealing this potential win from the Pirates. Star Center-fielder Andrew McCutchen certainly helps too.

Former Pittsburgh Pirates team owner, Kevin McClatchy states, "the business of sports management" may work to the team's disadvantage this year.

We'll see who comes out on top of the National League. The victor will play the Cleveland Indians for the World Series Championship.



FEATURES

Bullying 101

Amanda's Todd's Story

By Kelly Loc

Have you ever been bullied before? Have you've ever felt like you don't belong?

Amanda Todd was an average teenager. She had friends and family who cared for her and a normal life at school in Canada. When Todd was in the seventh grade, she inappropriately revealed herself over the internet to a man she had never met. This man turned out to be a pedophile and continued to stalk her through the internet, eventually revealing a topless picture of her to all of Todd's friends on Facebook. Todd lost all of her friends. She also lost the respect of a lot of her teachers and people she admired. From that point forward, Todd began attempts to hurt herself, including attempts to kill herself using bleach. She tried countless times to "start fresh" but the teasing, the remarks, the bullying, followed her everywhere she went. On October 21, 2012, Amanda Todd ended her life.

If you've been bullied, I urge you to please stand up for yourself. A lot of people think that if they stand up for themselves, they will get bullied even more. If you are bullied either stand up for yourself, or tell a responsible adult. Bullying is something only you can get out of bullying if you are being bullied. If you ignore the bullies, then will never stop. If you don't stand up for yourself, then you can put your life in danger. For all you people out there that are planning on committing suicide, here's a message for you too: stop. You can kill someone if you continue to bully. Why lose a life when you can see one?

Tragic Car Accident in Sunset Park

Why Cell Phones Are Dangerous Devices

By Yue Yue Chen

On the afternoon of September 26, in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, a five year-old girl named Kiko Shao, was hit and killed by a white Cadillac Escalade while she was traveling home from school. Shao was rushed to the hospital and pronounced dead that night.

The driver, a 28-year old unnamed man was very upset over the incident. Witnesses nearby said the young girl had suddenly crossed the street and the driver did not see her. This tragedy is currently under police investigation. Children of East-West, be sure to look both ways before you cross the street.

Moonwalk to Heaven

A Tribute to Michael Jackson

By Bryan Ang

Have you ever wondered how Michael Jackson really died? There are many rumors about how he died. Some say he overdosed on drugs. Others say he committed suicide due to the pressure of blackmail. Here's the truth. Michael was found by his personal physician in his room. He wasn't breathing, and his pulse was undetectable. A little after midnight, on June 25, 2009, after CPR had failed to revive him, 9-1-1 Emergency was called. At Ronald Reagan's UCLA Medical Center, he was reported dead. It is important to note that before his death he was administered Propofol, (a sedative) and three anti-anxiety benzodiazepines. On June 26, 2009 his body was transported for an autopsy. During this time, the true cause of his death was realized. The fatal mixture of sedatives and anti-anxiety drugs led him to suffer cardiac arrest. His family requested a second autopsy. Since Michael's death record sales went through the roof, people started buying his songs everywhere. Jackson five's sales were also boosted since Michael's death. His music is and will always be entertaining and inspirational to all. R.I.P Michael Jackson

Notes from our New Editors, Anaya Pheonix and Deanna Barbarito

Hi everyone! Welcome back to school. I hope that the transition has been smooth and easy for all! I'm Anaya Phoenix and I will be this years Editor-In-Chief. With the help of Deanna and our staff writers, I hope to shake things up to bring you a colorful, exciting newspaper. I've always loved to read and write and I hope to inspire that in others. —Anaya

Hello, East-West. My name is Deanna Barbarito, and I am the Assistant Editor of The Eclipse this year. I'm excited to be working on the Eclipse in part because I want more experiences writing. I want to be an author someday. I hope my hard work as your editor makes for an interesting read! —Deanna

What's UP with the shutDOWN? Editorials on the Government Shutdown

A Compromise?

By Aaron Wang

As the second week of the shutdown came and went, those that enjoyed such federal services as the *Head-Start Pre-School Program*, *Meals On Wheels*, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (known as WIC) were hit hard. These services rely on annual government grants. Without a spending agreement in D.C., these workers' organizations don't get paid. States have made up for the some of the funding lag, but as long as the shutdown dragged on, the approach becomes less sustainable.

In parts of the country, programs had to stop providing services. The National Head Start Association has guessed that an additional nineteen thousand children weren't in preschool due to the shutdown. Last week, low-income families in central and northern Florida found out that their Children's Head Start programs closed. Nationally, nearly two dozen major Head Start programs closed. Additionally, nearly two dozen major Head Start program were supposed to get grants on October 1 and have been affected by the government shutdown. So, the programs relying on this money will close.

My opinion of this issue is that Barack Obama should keep *Obamacare*, but let go of some points that irritate the Republicans. That way, most poor people would still get health insurance, but the Republicans could also maintain rich peoples' support.

The Facts

By Joyce Yeh

Last month, for the first time in 17 years, the government closed its doors. Officials claim the government shut down because the Republicans could not agree on the terms of *Obamacare*, a name used to explain the Affordable Care Act, which was enacted in March of 2010. The Affordable Care Act is supposed to ensure that all Americans, regardless of wealth, get affordable health care that is subsidized by the government. Democrats are in favor of it. Republicans are horrified by it. So what happened because the parties could not agree? The government shut down.

At the height of the chaos, 11 national parks were closed, including the National Zoo, and Smithsonian Museums and air traffic controllers as well as all federal employees were not being paid. Even worse, many hospitals could not accept new patients. And, YES we still had to pay our taxes. The question on the table now *why*?

Obamacare 101

By Emily Chan

Obamacare is the newest type of healthcare. But there is speculation over whether or not it is a good idea. When *Obamacare* first came out, there were many technological glitches, especially on the registration website.

When the government shut down, the problem with the website worsened. Many people expressed concern over being able to learn what all the new updates for *Obamacare* were. After all, no one wants to sign up for something they don't know about. Only citizens

from the largest, most populated states were able to sign up for *Obamacare* before it crashed. Obama has promised to correct all technical issues as the website continues to serve millions of Americans.



Meditations

By Mr. Oppenheim

I think it is upsetting and sad that the government stopped paying employees and stopped running much of their business such as national parks. This is evidence of disagreement and bad cooperation between the political parties that need to learn to work together. However, we must keep in mind this has happened in the '70s, 80's, and 90's and is not a new problem. Our government is balanced but not ideal and this proves there are deep problems in our system.

I hope our students may work toward a government that runs better and respects their job of running the country more.

"The government shutdown is a huge controversy. Two sides- one problem, no lasting solution." - Jing Su, Grade 6

Obama's Voice

By Jing Su

A month ago, the federal government shut down. The main reason for this is because in 2008, when Barack Obama was just starting his election campaign he proposed *Obamacare*, a healthcare system which helps people with low incomes get healthcare benefits. *Obamacare* is helpful and unhelpful at the same time. The Democrats and Republicans have been fighting over whether or not to use the system, and though the shutdown is over, there does not seem to be much agreement about the system's usefulness or future success.

Now that the government shutdown is over, President Obama spoke out before signing the bill to reopen the government. "Something needs to change in the way America is being governed" stated Obama. Even though the government shutdown is over, there is still a lot of work to be done. The government shutdown is a huge controversy. Two sides- one problem, no lasting solution.

World News

Netanyahu Promotes Peace

By Alessandro Torres

On September 24, the prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu met as part of the United Nations Council in an effort to reach peaceful resolution of a nuclear dispute between Israel and Iran. Iran is currently being accused of making too many nuclear weapons. Netanyahu desires to lower Iran's nuclear weapon supply because after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Iran has been making more and more nuclear weapons.

Though Mr. Raohani explained that the weapons were just for defense purposes, Netanyahu wants Iran to stop mining Uranium to ensure Iran would never build a nuclear weapon. Khodadad Seifi, a Iran ambassador said that his country was planning on making nuclear weapons to maintain ensure self-preservation of national security.

Netanyahu is being cautious and that's a good thing. He wants to prevent future attacks on other countries including Israel. Personally, I feel three nuclear bombs just for safety precautions seems fair.



Netanyahu explains to Obama that he feels Iran is a nuclear threat.



"Autumn Dusk" by Krystal Cheung, Grade 6, pastels and crayon on paper

Farewell Dear
Autumn

Winter is to Come!!!!
Farewell
Oh dear Autumn,
Oh yes, we'll miss
you.
But there's another
season coming-
And it has
snow that glows!

This time of year
has ended,
But another
is to come...
This one is
also splendid,
But it has not yet be-
gun.

Don't worry
my good people,
This season
will be so fun!
And I'm sure you will
be very sad,
As soon as it is done!!!!



Right: "Best Costumes of
Halloween 2013" by Casey Ma-
cedo, Grade 8, ink and colored pen-
cil on paper.

Above: "Autumn Days" by Casey
Macedo, grade 8, ink and colored
pencil on paper.

Autumn Days
By Jenna Choi

Hear the leaves crunching.
Beneath your boots.
See the leaves falling
Behind the autumn sunset sky.

Everyday it's a little colder,
Everyday it's a little cozier.
The air is just cold enough to be crisp.
Crispy, crunchy, lovely,

Leaves change color.
Green to brown, orange, yellow, and red.
Sunset is golden like a royal crown.
The beauty is so much
You are smile bound.

Smell the crunchy leaves
And the pumpkin air.
Feel the autumn breeze.
Underneath your windbreaker.

And as the pollen makes you sneeze,
You see a squirrel running from the leaf.
Your mother rakes up leaves.
And makes a neat pile.

But you jump right into it
And it makes you want to smile.
And though winter is coming,
It's enough time to savor,
Every moment of autumn,
It's all in your favor.
This is autumn.



When Miley Went Wiley

A Brief Commentary on Miley Cyrus's Performance at the VMA Awards
By Raymond Goss

I want to ask you, the reader, an honest question. What does the term "weird" mean to you? Now I'm usually not one to judge, and being "weird" is let's face it, a good quality most of the time. I thought a dog wearing a bikini was the weirdest thing anyone could ever see. Sadly that title has been reclaimed by Miley Cyrus. Her performance at the VMA's this past August, was to put it lightly, out there. The Hannah Montana idol that we all grew up with on Disney Channel has taken on a radically trashy persona. Not only were her clothing choices inappropriate, her dance moves were not what the crowd seemed to want or expect from the young star. She seems to have taken on a bad habit of not being able to stop herself from twerking, as she got on the stage and demonstrated her talent on Robin Thicke. While some celebrities merely shrugged and said, 'the show must go on,' others think it was shameful and should've been dealt with. Though I don't care for her music, I feel strongly that her performance was inappropriate and severely hurt her reputation.

One More Direction

Is someone headed off the market?

By Rinoa Wang

All you *Directioners* out there, get ready for the big news! Louis Tomlinson has been thinking about proposing to his girlfriend Eleanor Calder! Though there are only rumors at this point, the evidence does come from a trusted close friend of his.

Tomlinson and his girlfriend are practically engaged anyway so I suppose we were all expecting this. They already talk about marriage without any reservation. They act like they're engaged in the way they communicate their feelings about one another. And since Zayn Malik just got engaged to Perrie Edwards, it makes sense that Tomlinson is seriously considering it. The couple has been dating for two years now. It's "time" as some would point out.

Further, Tomlinson expressed to his band members that he's "ready." As we all know, Louis is very outgoing, so he's thinking about making a big proposal. He says that he loves her. A LOT. Who knows? And even if he doesn't propose, unfortunately, ladies, it's obvious where this guy's heart lies. And it's not with us.



Now We're Here

A Review of Drake's New Album

By Rahul Shivani

As many people already know, Drake recently came out with a new album, *Nothing Was The Same*. Before the album actually came out in stores, a couple of songs were released including, "Started From The Bottom" and "Hold On, We're Goin' Home." Those songs were actually really big as soon as it released to the public. Some of the songs I really like from the album are "The Language" and "All Me." They have a unique rhythm that keeps listeners' attention. You can pick up the deluxe version of the album, (which contains more songs) for just \$14.00. This is a great deal. Drake's reasonably priced and unreasonably talented.



The Veiled Dragon: East-West's Very Own Advice Column

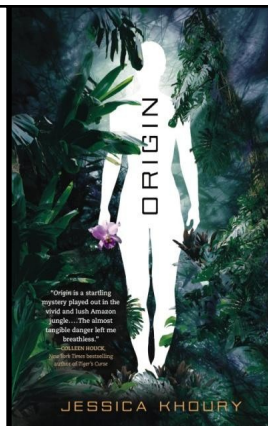
Question: At the beginning of the year, I feel like everybody already knows each other, except for me. How can I show that I have a good personality and can be a good friend?

At the start of the year, many people feel that way. Even though you might only think it's you, lots of other kids have to go through this feeling, too. Maybe a student from your old school goes to your school. You could be friends with them. If not, finding a friend can be easy. A nice person from your class will do. Be nice and start a conversation. For now only show him or her your good side, but don't lie. Just get to know each other. Slowly your relationships with that person will get better. If that strategy doesn't work for you, try and join a club or group of your talents and personality. You might find someone that you like. It's okay if there isn't because

Questions?
Comments?

Email us
at
theclipse@ewsis.org

lots of people are waiting out there for you to meet. Be yourself and don't be afraid to show yourself!



Origin

A Read in Review

By Anaya Phoenix

In this gripping scientific fiction book by Jessica Khoury, we are taken through the Amazonian forest by Pia. Pia has grown up in this jungle, though she's always been sheltered by her creators, the doctor of Little Cam; together they guard Pia's existence from the real world, raising and grooming her until she is the perfect example of human creation. Al-

though she is a science experiment, a human born through carefully planned tests, she still feels the way a human would feel. She feels love, happiness and possesses a rebellious teenage spirit. None of these feelings arise until a spark of wonder flows through her and she escapes the confines of Little Cam and bumps into "a boy of the wilderness," Eio. With his help and through the ancient wisdom of Eio's people Pia can finally find the reason why she was created, and the deadly secret to the flower that made it all possible. I highly recommend it.



Kevin Vascones and Anaya Phoenix pose for the cameras.



Jockey Chen, Summayah Wright, and Frank Sim show off their style.



Mr. Shibata is ready to fly!



A wild Miley Cyrus appears!



Mr. Oppenheim and his class are ready for candy!!!

Do you have an idea that you want student government to know about?

TELL THEM.

Below is a list of student representatives by grade. Find your grade.

Contact your representative.

Make things happen.

Grade 7: Jenna Choi and Zobia Jamal

Grade 8: Anthony Velez and Dongren Deng

Grade 9: Katherine Colindres

Grade 10: Albert Bui and Jairo Aguilar

Grade 11: Raven Waters and Leigh Singer

Vice President: Lorin Cheung

President: Edwin Bishop

***WE HOPE YOU HAD A HAPPY HALLOWEEN
EAST-WEST !!***