

# THE ECLIPSE

*Illuminating News by East-West Students*

A Winter in Review, 2014



## You Only Get What You Give

*East-West gives back and then back again*

By Tiffany Cao, *Class of 2020*

East-West is a school of roughly 600 students and 50 faculty members. Despite our small size, we have a lot of heart when it comes to giving to others. This past winter season, East-West students and faculty members were responsible for a relief effort to help the victims of the Philippines typhoon, a collaboration with *Equal Exchange* (a fair trade company that supports farmers through fair pay agreements), a *City Harvest* drive, an American Heart Association fundraiser, and a service effort called *Teens for Jeans* which brings jeans to the homeless.

On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines. The damage to homes, places of work, and general infrastructure was devastating. In response to this tragedy, Ms. Binaso, Mr. Oppenheim, Ms. Dinklelaker, organized a potluck feast complete with games, raffles, music, and tons of delicious dishes. All proceeds went straight to a Filipino non-profit which Ms. Binaso worked closely with during the summer of 2013. "West Helps East" was a great success! Gawad Kalinga received \$2000 in donations!

East-West's international outreach doesn't stop with the Philippines. This past winter, East-West's very own *Eclipse* entered into a partnership with *Equal Exchange*, an organization that promises fair trade agreements to farmers all over the world. *Eclipse* staff writers, and editors were able...

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Left to right: Carmen Nerio (grade 7), Kayla Barthelmy (grade 7) and Divya Sarma (grade 6) enjoy a potluck feast at the *West Helps East* fundraiser.

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## Say It Isn't So

By Jing Su, Class of 2020

In 1938, Adolf Hitler took over Germany and was named *Time Magazine's* "Man of the Year." *Time* representatives stated that "it was not the international acclaim he had won, rather it was the skill Hitler demonstrated to conquer all of Europe," that won him the title. I feel it is absolutely absurd to name Hitler "Man of Year," even if he was a skilled conqueror. His crimes against humanity outweigh his skills as a leader.

## On the Fence

By Alexsandro Torres, Class of 2020

I think that Hitler both deserved and didn't deserve the title of "Man of the year" because even though he did plot and carry out the genocide of millions, he did successfully build an empire in Europe during a time of economic depression.

## The Opinion Page

Adolf Hitler was named TIME's Man of the Year in 1938  
Why Would Adolf Hitler be on the cover of Time Magazine and Especially  
"Man of the year"



Dec. 21, 1931

Apr. 14, 1941

May. 7, 1945

*Time Magazine* should release a brief statement at least stating that they regret naming Hitler "Man of the Year."

## He's the Man of the Year

By Aaron Wang, Class of 2020

I think Adolf Hitler deserves to be man of the year. First, he was able to conquer numerous European countries, including Austria and Czechoslovakia. He exercised military expertise in capturing 10,000,000 people. Even though this is morally unsound, it is nonetheless the result of a brilliant example of a war strategy played right.

## He's Not "The Man"

By Divya Sarma, Class of 2020

When I found out that Adolf Hitler was named *Man of the Year* by *Time Magazine* I thought there must have been a mistake. After all the world has seen of Hitler, he should be stripped of this title. Hitler was a violent man who thought of Jews, homosexuals, and gypsies as disease. In his book, *Mein Kampf* he wants to remove them from the face of the earth. His Blitzkrieg of Poland, Denmark, Lux-

embourg, the Netherlands, and Belgium shook the world, frightened with fear. In fact, he was responsible for the killing of 6 million people from 1939-1945.

*Man of the Year* is an award for a man/woman who makes a positive impact on the world

Hitler has left a huge scar that will never heal which outweighs any good he may have done for the German economy. Therefore, he is not fit for this title.

## Politics and International Affairs

### The Never-Ending Story: The Palestine-Israel Debate

By Emily Chan, Class of 2020

On January 17, Mr. Oppenheim's Social Studies classes participated in a United Nations style caucus. There debate consisted of four different groups. One group represented Israel's interests, another group represented Palestine's interests, the third group reported on the events, and the fourth group represented an undecided UN committee that moderated and judged. Here's the scoop: While Palestine believes Israel occupied their land, Israel thinks Palestine isn't ready to become its own country and has no right to the Israeli holy land.

Class participants dressed up professionally for the debate. The U.N was responsible for deciding which side provided a better argument. Though great points were made by both sides, in all sixth grade classes, the U.N decided Israel delivered a better argument. Therefore, Palestine becoming a nation would be out of the question for now.

Once Palestine and Israel declare peace with each other, then the U.N might reconsider and one day, Palestine might become a real country. This could take anywhere from two days to 29 years. Though Israel officially won the debates (in all sixth grade classes) Palestine stands its ground. "We didn't accept the peace treaty that Israel agreed to because it did not include what we wanted like our own nation rights."-Tiffany Cao, 601.

### The Sun > Gas

By Jessica Lin, Class of 2020

Founder of *Tesla Motors*, Elon Musk, has a vision for the future. He hopes, that within fifty years, countries like China, Japan, France, England and the United States will abandon gasoline powered cars and instead look to solar powered automobiles. Cars like the *Model S* will take over highways (pictured below). Poisonous gases emitted from mufflers will be a thing of the past.

Why is this invention so valuable to our future? As the wet wintry weather has shown, climate change is a real threat to our world's future. Transitioning from gas to solar energy is better for the environment not only now, but in the long run. Less carbon emissions means less global warming and a healthier planet.

The *Model S* is a full-sized five-door car that runs entirely on electricity. When the *Model S* becomes popular, Musk intends to build recharge stations throughout the world that will help maintain the demand for these cars.



Say hello to the *Model S*

Within 10 years Elon Musk's *Model S* will be approved throughout the world. Personally, I feel once Elon Musk infiltrates China's automobile market, there is no stopping *Tesla Motors*. Let's hope for a cleaner, safer future.

## Sports and Features

### A Quick Shout-Out to Shaun White

By Alessandro Torres, Class of 2020

Shaun White received fourth in the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics on February 11. After winning gold for USA two winter Olympics in a row, he was awarded fourth place on the snowboard half pipe because he faltered his runs letting Russian Krasnaya Polyana claim the gold.

### We've Got Talent, Yes We Do!

*East-West's Talent Show  
Participants Brought It*  
By Zobia Jamal, Class of 2019

March 6- Fabulous dancers? We got em'. Star singers? Got them too. Rubiks cube masterminds? Yup.

We've got it all. Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Brainsky, Mrs. Patterson, and Mr. Oppenheim, the *East-West Talent Show* was an amazing success.

"This was truly a beautiful experience, seeing how much talent our school has, not only the students but the way the other teachers, staff, and students reacted and supported the people on stage, it was absolutely amazing," said an East-West parent.

"When I first went on stage I was really nervous and scared that people would hate me a lot because of how bad I sing. But as soon as I went on stage and realized how many people were cheering for me, I felt more than comfortable. I felt amazing," stated eleventh grader, Frank Sim. That night, Frank sang "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber. He was among the many beautifully talented members of the East-West student body.



Seventh graders, Bijan Zavieh (seated left) and Rahul Shivnani (right) were quite the MC's!

### The Year of the Ma!

*East-West Celebrates the Chinese New Year*

By Chengrong Shi, Class of 2014

The Chinese Year of the Horse began on February 28, 2014. Of all the zodiac animals, the horse is the most powerful. In traditional Chinese culture, the horse has wings and resembles the Greek mythological animal, Pegasus. People born in this year are excellent communicators, are very receptive and clever, but sometimes talk too much.

The Chinese New Year, also called the Spring Festival, is the most important holiday for ethnic Chinese people around the world. In Chinese culture, red is considered a lucky color. In celebrating, doors and windows are often painted or covered in red paper. Children often receive red envelopes called *hongbao* which contain money. This gift symbolizes good luck for the following year. Perhaps the most important (and meaningful) of the typical celebrations for Chinese New Year is the family gathering that takes place on New Year's Eve.

### Learn Chinese!!

To pay New Year's visit -拜年  
年 *bai nian*

Lion Dance-舞狮 (wu shi)  
Decorative Window

Display: 窗花 (chuang hua)





## FEATURES

### The Hour of the Angry Birds

By Peter Li, Class of 2020

The mission of Code.org is simple. Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer coding. Code.org came up with the initiative, “The Hour Code” a special, shortened computer science class that gets students across the country writing code.

At East-West, “The Hour of Code” started in December and lasted until each and every student had a chance to try his/her hand at computer coding. Students learned how to create websites and video game platforms.

The sixth grade learned how to code with *Angry Birds*, while the higher grades created their own web pages. The work was extremely fun, and everyone was pleased with it.

Below are some quotes from students and teachers:

“VERY FUN!!! It’s so easy to understand at the same time also!!” – Jiong Hao, 603.

“Uh... it was pretty fun. The best part is that it’s kind of challenging at the same time. First I didn’t understand much, and then I started to get how it works.” – Ivan Yeung, 702.

“The ‘Hour of Code’ was an interesting glimpse into the process of coding.”- Deanna Barbarito, junior.

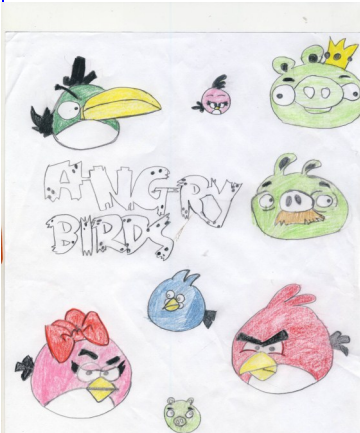
“I am extremely proud of my TEALS students, as well as my coding students. They were well focused and determined. Overall, this has been a wonderful experience.” – Mrs. Katz.

The “Hour of Code” was a great success in our school, and was favored by students, as well as the teachers. It was one of the best experiences in school I ever had. Most importantly, it teaches students how their worlds collide with the world of technology.

Thank you Mrs. Katz, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Chang and Ms. Bradsher for helping to bring this to the students.



Above, juniors Kevin Lin, Christopher Lai and Charles Liang practice their coding skills.



“Angry Bird” Drawing by Joesin Tellez, Grade 9

## FEATURES

### Care to Dance East-West?

By Emily Chan,  
Class of 2020

January 10- From the tango to umbrella dancing, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Briansky and her amazing dancers, East-West's first annual "Evening of Dance" was a stunning success.

Ninth grader, Corey Cheung stated, "the experience was new and interesting, and definitely fun!" Classes 601, 602, and 603, all incorporated Japanese Synchronized Marching into their dance, something they learned with Ms. Brainsky earlier in the year. Class 601, added some hip hop to their dance and 602 included Chinese line dancing. Class 604 decided to do Chinese umbrella dancing. The dance included many props, such as umbrellas, scarves, and fans.

High school students danced Latin with salsa, rumba, and tango. All of East-West was awed at Ms. Brainsky's ability to teach and choreograph so many kinds of dance at once. Ms. Brainsky's stated, "It was actually pretty simple. Watching many different types of performances helped me create certain dance moves. If there was a specific move I really liked and thought would work well in the dance, I would modify some parts of the movement and add it into the dance." Hats off to Ms. Brainsky and her dancers!



East-West high school dancers strutting their stuff for a packed auditorium

### Can you 24?

By Joyce Yeh, Class of 2020

This year's second annual *Can You 24?* competition at East-West was great fun. The competition was held on January 16 from 6-7pm. Thanks to the support of Ms. Lee and Ms. Kramer, everyone that wanted to had a chance to test their 24 skills! Though the rules of 24 are simple, the game can be very difficult. Contestants can use all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) as many times as they want as long as they use all the numbers on the board to make 24. He or she can only use each number one time; no repeats! This year's grand prize winner was Jimmy Matsumoto, grade 12. Congratulations Jimmy and a job well done to all the contestants.

### CHECK OUT OUR VERY FIRST COUPON!!

**Cut this coupon out and visit Hyderabad on  
Kissena Blvd for a discounted lunch!**

*Coupon designed by Casey Macedo, Class of 2019*



## Hello, We Love You, Won't You Tell Us Your Name?

By: Rinoa Wong,  
Class of 2018

This winter, the *Eclipse* had a chance to interview Kevin Vazcones, eleventh grade student and founding president of the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). The GSA promotes tolerance and respect among the diverse East-West community. What better way to further their cause than to get to know a bit more about their goals from one of their founding members, and current president?

Q: Kevin: What is your goal in running the GSA?

A: My goal is to make sure that everybody in the school knows that tolerance and respect are things we all deserve, regardless of sexuality.

Q: Why did you decide to join?

A: Last year, no one knew about the GSA, and there were only 4 members. I thought it was a good club with a positive message so I decided to join.

Q: What do you normally do in the club?

A: I'm responsible for coming up with fundraising ideas. I also help to maintain a partnership with the F.O.R. (Friends of Rachel) Club.

Q: How does the gay community feel about being denied rights?

A: I think the gay community is strong and will not give up until they get what they want. The LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) community also helps to support our causes.

Q: What would you say to help new members join?

## FEATURES



A: The GSA is full of nice, accepting people. There is no awkwardness. GSA is part of other clubs that try to promote acceptance of homosexuality. We are part of a national movement. Come join us!

Q: Why do you think that people don't like the gay community?

A: I understand that people don't like the gay community for various reasons, because of the way they were raised, their religion, etc. You don't have to like gay people. But you must respect and accept them as you would any other person

## You Only Get What You Give (Continued from page 1)

to raise over \$600 for tea, coffee, and cocoa farmers throughout the world. Our club got to keep a little less than \$200 of that profit. "It feels great to not only help our club, but also to put money back into the hands (and mouths) of farmers' families," stated Ms. Seide.

In addition to our international efforts, East-West has not forgotten to support those that need our help at home. That's why the Key Club held their annual drive for *City Harvest*, a food rescue organization that brings "rescued" food from those that don't need it to those that do. Ms. Braverman stated, "It's the season of giving." The Key Club, with the help of senior member, Amy Chin Hong also spearheaded a partnership with *Teens for Jeans* an initiative that brings jeans to the homeless. The Key Club collected over 40 pairs of jeans! Last but not least, the *Friends of Rachel* (FOR) Club hosted a special Valentine's Day heart-shaped donut sale.

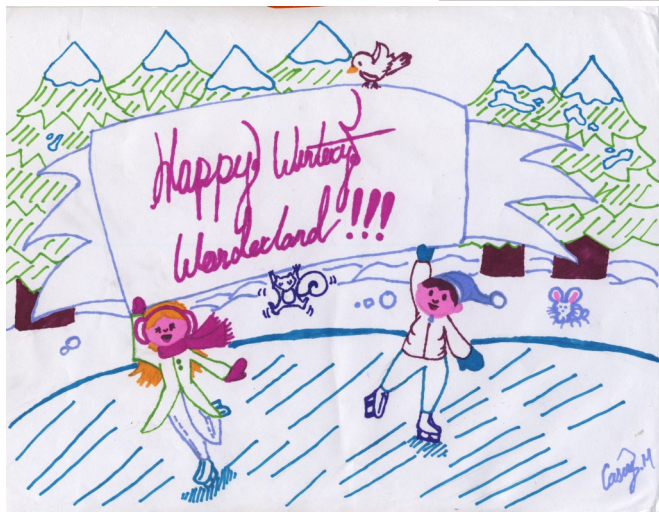
All proceeds went to the American Heart Association.

Kelly Loc, sixth-grade member, states, "It's great to be able to help people that are suffering with a health condition." Thanks to Mr. Pierini for bringing this to the FOR club!

East-West will continue to give back to others in the spring and summer season.



## Arts and Entertainment



*Winter Wonderland* by Casey Macedo, Class of 2019

### ***Cold Winter Days***

By Jenna Choi, Class of 2019

It's a frosty snowy winter day  
The slip on the ice of a frozen bay  
Smell that crisp winter air  
It's not a strong scent 'cuz it's mildly fair  
Your cheeks turn red and so does your nose  
But your bundled up in clothing so only eyes show  
You walk a bit slower the colder it gets  
But there's hot cocoa waiting for you so don't fret  
Slurp up that goodness!  
But drink every drop and don't make a mess...  
Spring's warmth melts the stubborn snow away  
Making way for a beautiful day.  
Though I will miss Winter, my friend,  
I know that you will come again.

## THE VEILED DRAGON *Advice*



### **Question:**

*Sometimes I feel like my teacher picks on me. Everyone is talking, but she only calls my name. I know that I used to fool around in class, but now I am trying to change. How can I convince my teacher that I am really trying hard to be a better person so she won't think it's me always causing problems?*

### **Answer:**

First, talk to your friends, an adult, another teacher or somebody you trust for advice. If they have nothing useful to say, try to be on your very best behavior. If your teacher still picks on you, the only other option is to talk to the teacher privately or go to the guidance counselor. Remember to be confident in your abilities and don't worry so much about being picked on.



***There's always next year teachers!! More on the basketball game coming soon...***