

## From Comfort Zones to Cultural Bridges

By Serena Chen 11A

In the pool of students at Kang Chiao, a few have found it difficult to embrace the language of community. Words like “us” and “we” felt as foreign as the culture around them, overshadowed by the familiar comfort of “I” and “me”. To explore the concept of belonging beyond their high school years, two graduates from the Class of 2023, Harry Hung and Annie Lai, shared how their early experiences of diversity echoed in new cultural settings. Their reflections were weighed against the voice of a current student, Ricky He from 11F, who continues to navigate the environment they left behind.

Harry spent six years between living in Manila and moving to Boston as a student in Taiwan. Born and raised in the Philippines, his cultural foundation was built on the Pinoy principles of kindness, initiative, and observation. Harry reflects on the challenge of navigating identity when your appearance is often the subject of offhand jokes and assumptions. Yet, he was able to pick out the warmth of his Filipino past and the precision of the Taiwanese lifestyle, finding beauty in both cultures. But it wasn't until college at Boston University that Harry truly tested the limits of his ability to assimilate. Despite being fluent in four languages and equipped with a new sense of confidence from his multicultural background, he admitted the missed chances, the overthinking, and the second-guessing that held him back; but he turned these weaknesses into an opportunity to evolve.

He had to take initiative to join cultural clubs like the Filipino Student

Association and the Taiwanese Overseas club, take up leadership roles in business fraternities, and find reminders of home through food and music. By actively throwing himself into unfamiliar situations, Harry embraced discomfort as a catalyst for growth. “Every step helped me unlearn fear and step into courage,” he said. He believes everyone should redefine belonging as “being intentional”.

Building on Harry's reflection, Annie described her exposure to cultural diversity as one strongly emphasized by her family's frequent traveling. At Kang Chiao, she was exposed to a foreign curriculum and a diverse group of teachers that helped her appreciate diversity in education. However, upon moving abroad, Annie realized she wasn't fully prepared for the loneliness and homesickness that came with adjusting to an unfamiliar cultural environment. These social challenges contrasted sharply with her idealized college fantasy of infinite freedom and new experiences. In her first year, fitting in with others who didn't share the same background made her feel like an outsider, especially with the contrast between individualistic Western values and the collective Asian mindset. She found that her friends were less considerate of others around them, like being loud late at night, and she found it hard to understand coming from a collectivist culture. Finding a balance between her own comfort and assimilation to the energetic atmosphere became her first big hurdle.

Like Harry, she found comfort and connection in eating Taiwanese food with her Taiwanese friends. However, as one of the few interna-

tional students in her dorm, she also became accustomed to exchanging conversation with American students about her own culture and childhood, even finding unexpected similarities along the way. She shared how these mundane interactions “helped her feel more connected and proud to share her background. It was like a two-way cultural exchange that brought her and others closer together, while giving her the opportunity to represent her Taiwanese background”.

Both of their experiences are proof that identity is redefined by the environment — not by abandoning culture, but by representing it with courage and responding to others with compassion. Harry's final reflection reads: “To students still walking the halls of Kang Chiao, the graduates agree on a piece of advice: expect discomfort, but welcome it. So if you're heading abroad, don't just bring your culture with you. Bring your curiosity. Let it break down your assumptions, shift your lens, and open doors you didn't even know existed. Because the world expands the moment you do.”

Ricky, a student who resonates with his South African background, brings a contrasting perspective to life at Kang Chiao. His experiences are not one of nostalgic reflection, but of navigating a monoculture environment that often feels unyielding to his extroverted qualities. As an active athlete, he looks back on the strong social connection of sports in South Africa that he feels is absent at Kang Chiao; “even with the house system, there really isn't a sense of mateship or school pride.” Preferring the open and social South African culture, Ricky

describes how living in Taiwan constantly pressures him to dim aspects of his personality to blend in.

In terms of Kang Chiao's inclusivity, he quickly realized there wasn't a need because students with differing cultures were drastically outnumbered by the Taiwanese student body. However, Ricky has found a taste of home by joining Mr. Taylor's weightlifting club. “Interacting with South African teachers and experiencing their teaching style serve as small but comforting reminders that there are still others from my culture,” he said. Ricky believes the issue of inclusivity is not just evident in student interactions, but also the dominance of local education policies at an international school like Kang Chiao. He hopes Kang Chiao can take a step toward supporting culturally diverse students like himself by allowing foreign teachers greater influence in shaping school policies.

Taken together, the perspectives of Harry, Annie, and Ricky reveal how belonging is never a one-size-fits-all experience. The struggles of belonging for the graduates may now be part of their past, but there are still students whose struggles are in the present tense. As Kang Chiao continues to grow its student diversity, the challenge and opportunity will be to create a campus culture where cultural minorities don't feel like visitors in their classroom, but are valued and supported just like the Taiwanese majority. The responsibility of an international school is not simply to host diversity, but to integrate it and to ensure that the word “we” includes everyone and their varied backgrounds.



Harry Hung



Annie Lai



Ricky He and his beloved biltong



**Editor's Note:**  
In our recent coverage of the Sports Day event, Benjamin Chang from 11A was not credited for his photo. We apologize for the oversight.



2025 Edition I

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## Eternal Light of the Artistic Mind: Spirit, Passion, and Heart

By Michelle Chen 11D

*Lux Aeterna*, Latin for “eternal light”, is the epitome of beauty, eternity, and mystery. True to its name, the art exhibition this year, which took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, displayed beautiful artworks that captured the unique allure of Kang Chiao's artistic students.

The mind behind this year's art exhibition theme was a group effort between IB and AP students, but the student representative was 12B Nicolas Wang, who designed the vision of the exhibition and had 7 artworks enrolled. He explained “I was trying to imitate the myths and tales of ancient stories. They are all about these ancient stories about animals or gods... I'm proud of this because everyone pays time and attention to artworks and I'm very glad to be representative of these artworks.”

Vibrant paintings and sculptures bursting with arrays of colors filled the venue, painting the empty space into a celebration of art and light. Artworks by students of all grades were included, even a few talented, award-winning elementary students from Kang Chiao's Qingshan campus attended and proudly showcased their artwork! A total of 214 artworks were exhibited, including animated pencil sketches, photographs, detailed oil painting works, acrylic paintings, sparkling sculptures, and much more.

As the exhibition unfolded, the audience could not help but be stunned, with numerous artworks described as fantastic, spectacular, and great. One notable audience member, the Vice Principal, Ms. Anne Sutcliffe, shared, “I say the same thing every year. It has just blown me away, I cannot believe the talent, and I also cannot believe the issues that students have brought up in their art... It shows that they have a real care for the world and the problems that we're facing. That's coming through in the art they have created and that really makes this an incredibly special exhibition. Absolutely blown away.”

What was once a canvas of blank white walls was now transformed into an art gallery. Behind this remarkable exhibition were the hard-working AP and IB art students and teachers. Not only did they help set up the entire venue, hanging up all 214 artworks, but they also contributed their own art creations, gracing the audience with their talents and sharing their stories as well as passion.

The art students arrived at the venue a day before the exhibition with a laundry list of things to do: label the artworks, divide them into sections, and of course, arrange all the artworks. As commented by many of the students and teachers, the preparation process was tiring for them, but specifically, IB visual art student Annie Wu from 11D explained, “Because many of the works are fragile, we have to be careful not to destroy or damage them. Also I think trying to arrange the artworks in a more visually appealing way was more difficult for us.”

More on the creation aspect, AP art student Benjamin Chang from 11B recounted, “I would say the most challenging part of the preparation is making the artworks and revising them because the exhibition requires high-quality artworks, and some of them are not strong enough to be in the exhibition.” His dedication to show his best represents the energy and passion of Kang Chiao's students, always striving to embrace creativity, pursue excellence, and push boundaries in everything they do, despite difficulties.

The art teachers not only helped to set up the exhibition but also taught lessons and guided students in creating their artworks throughout the school year. They root the foundation of art into the minds of students, preparing them to be the pillars of society with art. As art teacher Mr. Jon Nevin described, “The most important [part of this event], I would say, is just the students realizing they have an artistic skill and they can use those skills not just in art but in a lot of different content with different subjects. When it comes to science, when it comes to math, when it comes to a lot of different things, it could help them for their future and not just painting or drawing. It's going to help them realize that ‘I'm really good at something’ and hopefully they realize that they can use those skills for the future and continue using those skills in the careers they choose.”

Each year, the art exhibition seems to surpass the last with more stunning creations. Furthermore, according to Ms. Jeannette Engelbrecht, the head of the art department, they are currently advocating for art teachers to procure iPads, which would then allow students to learn about digital art. This could possibly introduce a whole new world of art to the exhibition in the future. Stay tuned.



All images above taken by Benjamin Chang 11A



News

3



Features

6



Clubs

8



DEIB

12

View previous editions

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## Voices of Change: 2025 KCIS Student Council Election

By Conny Huang 10F

From February to March, the school hallways buzzed with excitement as students campaigned, voted, and made their voices heard during this year's highly anticipated student elections. All candidates showcased their leadership skills, fresh ideas, and commitment to representing their peers, making the election season both competitive and inspiring.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, it was announced that Candidates 5: Anna Su from 11G and Charles Yang from 11D won with 443 votes. Anna noted, "The main purpose of student council elections is to bring students together, understanding what our school truly needs." The student council election allows the candidates to listen, to learn from student voices, and compete in a friendly manner. Anna also stated, "In the end, it's not about who stands on the stage, but about making sure every student feels seen, heard, and valued." As the new student council president for 2025, her words captured the true spirit of the election — that students foster a stronger, more connected school community where leadership is not measured solely by titles, but by the genuine desire to serve and uplift others while creating a more inclusive and forward-thinking environment.

Each candidate used their creativity to delve into aesthetic campaigns and creative policy videos to show teamwork spirit. During the March 7<sup>th</sup> student council policy presentation, Kang Chiao members saw the candidates' determination and passion for making a difference. Charles Yang from 11D, as the new student council vice president, shared, "I think the most important thing to focus on when we were making our posts and videos is to appeal and connect more to students... to make those feel relatable, genuine, and to speak directly to the students' interests and experiences while still presenting our visions".

Beyond promises and slogans, the candidates demonstrated their genuine commitment through thoughtful proposals that reflected the needs of the students. Every poster hung in the halls and every video shared online showed not only leadership but also imagination, adaptability, and a true understanding of how to reach and inspire peers. Many candidates were supported by friends who helped create posters, brainstorm a campaign, and manage social media promotion. These moments of shared effort reflect that understanding success is not achieved alone, but through cooperation and mutual support.

While only one group of candidates could ultimately be elected, every participant demonstrated remarkable resilience and sportsmanship throughout the election. Those who were not elected responded with grace, congratulating their peers and reflecting thoughtfully on their own experiences. Candidate 4 vice president candidate Cheryl Chen from 11F expressed, "For me, this election has taught me to be confident. Our group may not have had much popularity at the beginning, but in the end, we had so many people supporting us. The most important thing is to believe that we have a chance and can break public opinion. Have faith and be confident."

Rather than viewing the outcome as a loss, many candidates embraced it as an opportunity for personal growth and a deeper understanding of leadership. This spirit of maturity among high school students set an inspiring example for the entire student body, showing that true leaders are defined not just by titles but by their character, humility, and willingness to continue contributing to the community regardless of the result. The new student council election results were not only a celebration of student voices but also the beginning of a new chapter where collaboration will guide KCIS toward an even brighter future.



## Reigniting Theater Spirits with Drama Club

By Isabella Liu 9F

As the stage lights dimmed, a wave of excitement rippled through the seventh graders seated in the audience. Backstage, hands trembled and hearts raced—months of dedication led to this very moment. The students leaned forward, eyes fixed on the curtain as it slowly parted, revealing the cast and marking the beginning of the highly anticipated drama performance.

Last year, Ms. Nicholls revived the Drama Club at Kang Chiao with a group of junior and senior students, hoping to reignite a passion for theater within the school. After a round of auditions where we were asked to showcase our acting skills, those selected, including me, began meeting every Thursday during the Performing Arts period.

In the beginning, everyone was a little nervous. We didn't know each other, and the atmosphere was tense. To break the ice, Ms. Nicholls introduced a name game. We sat in a circle, name tags on, and passed around two balls while trying to remember each other's names. The room quickly filled with laugh-

ter and energy as we called out names and encouraged one another. It was chaotic, but it brought us together. That game became the first step in building our club's spirit and the teamwork we would need for the journey ahead.

We soon began working on our first production: *The Hoodie*. Ms. Nicholls shared, "I chose *The Hoodie* as the Drama Club's first performance because it resonates with seventh graders by conveying the message of staying true to yourself." From memorizing scripts to rehearsing in the gym, every student committed themselves to the process. Whether portraying an overconfident cheerleader or a stubborn child, each role required us to step out of our comfort zones and truly become our characters.

It wasn't easy. I struggled with memorizing lines and remembering my stage positions. But thanks to my peers' support and countless hours of rehearsal, I gradually improved. We learned how to move naturally on stage, how to communicate as a team, and most importantly, how to bring our story to life.

When the big day finally arrived, excitement and nerves filled the concert hall. We clipped on our microphones, adjusted our costumes, and gave each other words of encouragement. As I stepped under the bright lights and saw the audience watching, I reminded myself: everything has led to this. I gave it my all, and so did everyone else. The performance was a huge success. As the final scene ended, the auditorium erupted in applause. We knew we had created something special.

After the show, Ms. Nicholls beamed with pride: "Everyone did such an amazing job! I'm incredibly proud of each student's hard work—and even more so, the fun they had performing. I'm thrilled the seventh graders enjoyed it just as much as we did!" 8A's Patrick Wang reflected, "Drama Club is a refreshing and interactive experience, from strangers to some of the best people I've known in this entire school." 7D's Zoe Wang added, "The show was not only entertaining, but also shared a message everyone should hear—we don't have to be perfect. We just need to be proud of who we are."



## From Practice Rooms to Prestige: KC Orchestra Earns National Spotlight

By Ula Chang 11B

After months of hard work and dedication, the KC orchestra received top honors in the National Student Competition of Music in March and is now continuing its streak. With the excellent performance, they were invited to perform in Taiwan's National Concert Hall on April 28<sup>th</sup>, an event the ensemble eagerly prepared for.

Preparations began in the summer, as students practiced their chosen piece and were also assigned a teacher-chosen piece afterward. Monday after-class programs started once the school year began. As the competition in March approached, their practice intensified with the added weekend rehearsals and during winter breaks. These efforts were driven by responsibility and commitment, showcasing how seriously the orchestra team took this opportunity.

The orchestra decided to perform Berlioz's *Roman Carnival Overture*, selected by the school for the competition, highlighting the versatility and the dynamic range of the group. In addition to their dedication, there were challenges that prevented harmonization between the string and wind sections,

particularly between the English horn and the viola. Chloe Chang from 10A said, "It was a struggle for us to stay in sync." Due to the complexity of the repertoire, only a couple of players maintained the rhythm, having others follow and persistently overcome the obstacles.

After achieving success, Rebecca Yu from 12D said, "The unity was especially engaging during the grand finale when everyone played together with the same rhythm, volume, and expression." As Jethro Chuang from 7B, a viola player, who thought they made a strong impression, said, "The large size of the team contributed to the power through coordinated swells and vibrant dynamics."

Through the preparation process, Ray Chang from 8B emphasized that leadership came from the students and faculty, the conductor who effectively shaped the ensemble's sound, and the section leaders who managed and kept their peers motivated. Abbie Wang from 10D stood out for a nearly two minute oboe solo. It was one of the highlights essential for the piece's success.

The experience was challenging and unforgettable for all the

members. Abbie emphasized the pressure of her solo part. Similarly, others struggled with the heavy practice and the exhaustion, and some worried over the limited number of spots available. Still, the sense of accomplishment was lingering in the team.

Allison Lee from 8B, Ning-Ning Wang from 903, and Claire Lo from 10B recalled the anxious moments before stepping on stage, but gained confidence mid-performance as they focused on the conductor and saw the viola players standing faithfully by their side. Abbie and Allison mentioned the joy when they were applauded and when the results were announced.

With the experience behind them, they were focused on their next performances, including the annual Performing Arts Showcase and their debut at the National Concert Hall on April 28<sup>th</sup>. For many members, it was their first time performing in a prestigious venue. As they continued their preparations, one thing was certain: their persistence and teamwork had brought them this far, and we believe that all future performances will be just as unforgettable.



## From Hypothesis to Highlight: A Showcase of Young Scientists

The KCIS Science Fair took place on the morning of May 21<sup>st</sup>. The exhibition brought together creativity, research, and innovation from both the International and Secondary Programs. Below are photo highlights captured by the Public Relations Team, showcasing the impressive work and vibrant energy of the event.



Words That Won: Chloe Cheng Recognized for Outstanding Book Report

Chloe Cheng from 11G won the Bookman Book Report Competition run by Bookman Books in Taipei.

Blocks of large familiar words stared back at me as I opened up one of my cherished childhood novels: *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. This Newbery Honor Book felt light in my hands, the wrung out paper and yellow-faded edge carrying me back into the world of Ada, Jamie, and Susan – a world that once felt like my own.

Ada, a ten-year old English girl, has a clubfoot. Such “disability” resulted with her own mother resenting her and keeping her at home to save embarrassment. In the miniscule flat, Ada suffers from her mother’s cruel treatment, only seeing the world through her window. When World War II breaks out, she seizes the opportunity to escape the cage and break free, to the countryside, where no amount of chains and cuffs can stop her from breaking through the wind and bathing in the sun. She and Jamie, her younger brother, meet Susan Smith, a middle-aged lady who accepts them into her home and takes great care of them, bringing new light into Ada’s life for the first time.

The leap Ada took led her to a new world. Here, away from her mother, Ada learns to live with her cripple, falling in love with riding horses and tasting the life she always dreamed of. Butter, Susan’s pony, became her joy and escape, flying her across endless fields of flower and freedom. Regardless, war goes on and they live under constant fear, the cacophony of bombing and crashes haunting their dreams, filling their days and nights with dread. Through it all, Susan became the mother figure to Ada and Jamie, offering them a true home that embraces the children for exactly who they are, healing hearts she never scarred. A bittersweet mix of loss and Ada’s new found family ends the story, where war finally resides but millions now walk amongst the stars.

The paradoxical title: “The War That Saved My Life” ironically encapsulates Ada’s journey, a war that set the world but also destroyed her mother’s oppressive

prison, granting her the long awaited freedom to discover where she belongs. For Ada, the war is more than a political strife and hardship, but rather symbolizes the turning point of her life, a helping hand in battling her mother’s wicked confinement. Bradley depicts Ada as a stubborn but determined character from the beginning, despite the sufferings, she transforms from being a girl crawling in the shadows to one who’s finally “standing.”

I also find myself drawn to Susan’s gentle, selfless spirit.. In a matter of one night she takes on the demanding responsibility of two children, all while dealing with the insurmountable grief from the death of her best friend Becky. Once isolated and shut off from the world, bound by her sorrow, Susan discovers a new purpose in caring for Ada and Jamie, where she heals her broken heart by accepting pieces from them. It takes courage to open up to others, especially after losing all hope, but Susan’s story serves as a beautiful example for how sometimes helping others heal, can also mend our own wounds.

“The War that Saved My Life” is precious to me in every way possible, a sliver of hope that even in the darkest of times, love and courage endure. Ada’s story is both tragic and encouraging, her bravery and perseverance was my role model as a child, and a nostalgic reminder as a teenager. She may have lost her first home, but it brought her a life of freedom where she can roam free, a life undefined by the uniqueness of her foot, a life far above the chaos and misery, a life worth living. Ada taught me that happiness is not found in material things, but in freedom, laughter, and love.

War can be devastating, but perhaps it is in the most tragic hours, we finally find the door to love and happy endings, opened widely, embracing us into a world of light and true victory.

Teen Diplomatic Envoys Contest: Age of Ubiquity

By Chloe Chang 10A & Conny Huang 10F

Imagine standing on a stage in front of hundreds of government officials and peers, heart pounding, as the judges announce our team. The room held its breath, and in that moment, we realized the impact of our participation on global sustainability goals. The Teens’ diplomatic competition not only trains future young diplomatic leaders, but also raises awareness of global challenges not yet been solved.

The Teen Diplomatic Envoys Contest, held annually, is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the topic of “Ready to Lead, Taiwan’s Teens Realize the SDGs”. This meaningful event gathers young leaders in teams from different schools across Taiwan passionate about sustainable development, aligning their initiatives with the UN SDGs. Our team chose to focus on recycling, aiming to contribute to the SDGs goals, which emphasize contributing to a healthier planet.

Our journey began with collaborative brainstorming and drama practice to express ourselves as we delved deeper into making an impact on our future. The competition provided a

well-established platform to amplify our voices. Challenges tested our resilience. We adjusted our script more than twenty times, and the running-in with teammates during acting, endless practice questions about international etiquette, and diplomatic knowledge tested our limits. Yet, all the obstacles became our strength, acting as a catalyst for growth, improving our bond, and sharpening our focus.

In the first part of the competition, we presented the SDGs through drama and performance on stage. It was our first time writing the play on our own and presenting it in front of the public. From brainstorming the key SDGs we wanted to highlight to bringing our concept to life, we spent the entire summer crafting a well-structured, visually engaging script. Incorporating elements like Barbie to challenge stereotypes and plastic bags to spotlight environmental concerns, we aimed to create a play that was both practical and imaginative. We wanted to prove that we, Gen Z, genuinely care. After all the practice, we showed our very best on the stage and got the

ticket to go into the finals. The finals were as challenging as we expected, with two sections: speech and knowledge approaches.

In the speech section, we had to memorize two speeches for given prompts, however, only one would be chosen. It was the hardest time for us since the scripts are as long as a dictionary. It took us dozens of nights preparing for the script, cutting off lines, and inputting new ideas that made more sense. It was indeed exhausting, but satisfying. The last section was to answer the diplomacy questions. It was highly based on our fundamental knowledge of the world, which is what the competition is all about. Although we earned as many points as we could, challenges don’t always come with victory.

We were one step away from qualifying for the top four, which would have given us the opportunity to travel as Taiwan teen diplomacy representatives. The disappointment showed on our faces when we were announced as the second prize winners. It was not because we didn’t win but because we knew we

tried our very best. However, life isn’t about fighting for the first place but finding the value in the journey. We believe the competition isn’t all about getting qualified as the representatives, but more about what we can do for the world as teenagers, as the leaders of the next generation, and as the representatives of our world.

Recycling is not just about sorting plastic or reusing paper—it is about rethinking the way we live, consume, and care for the world around us. As Gen Z, we are in charge of changing the future. Through the Teens Diplomatic Envoys Contest, we learned that youths are not too young to create change. Our voices, our creativity, and our enthusiastic passion are exactly how to change the world.

To anyone reading this: start small. Bring a reusable bag. Talk to your friends about the sustainable improvements you have made. And if you ever have the chance to join the Teens’ Diplomatic competition, take it! You might be surprised at how powerful your ideas are! Making a difference doesn’t start someday— it starts with us.



All screenshots taken from Youtube.

Yale MUN Taiwan: A Community-Building Experience

By Claudia Su 11D

The Yale Model United Nations Taiwan XI conference was held from March 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. Across the span of the three days, Yale MUN Taiwan hosted seven committee sessions in total, along with a variety of optional activities that provided an opportunity to become connected with the rest of the community. This year, there were nine councils, which were categorized into different levels of committees: beginner-friendly, classic, and crisis. This allowed delegates to sign up for the committees that suited them the best, providing them a friendly yet challenging environment to push for personal growth.

During the MUN committee sessions, the delegates engaged in vigorous debates, discussions, and negotiations. They worked on drafting resolutions and writing directives with other delegates within the same bloc. An award-winning delegate from the Cabinet of Taiwan council, 10B Erika Yeh, expressed her appreciation towards the dynamic nature of the crisis council, which she believed had enhanced her public speaking, collaboration, and critical thinking skills. “In response to the diverse crisis updates, I had to actually think outside the box, and the experience not only challenged my

ability to resolve an issue within a limited amount of time, but also how negotiation can be achieved effectively and quickly,” she remarked. Other than the delegates, the YMUNT secretariat also gained valuable experiences from the conference. As an Assistant Secretary-General, 11D Charles Yang shared, “It was quite tiring as we managed all the logistics for over 350 delegates from over 10 countries. But at last, seeing all the delegates enjoying and laughing during committee sessions, all the secretariats feel that it’s worth the work!” With both local and international delegates attending, the YMUNT conference promoted diplomacy through simulating a diverse environment.

Other than the formal MUN sessions, the YMUNT secretariat also held social events at the venue, including the community fair on the first day’s evening. During the fair, many student-led non-profit organizations set up booths to connect with the local community. To encourage participation, the YMUNT secretariat also designed an activity for the visitors. At the entrance, visitors would receive a stamp card, which they could use to collect stamps through engaging with each booth.

While the visitors could exchange their filled stamp cards for prizes, the students managing the booths also enjoyed the fair and learned from the event. 11G Ethan Chiu, a member of the Kang Chiao Health Council, explained, “The YMUNT Community Fair was an excellent opportunity to promote our club and expand our community connections... We were able to share our mission with students across multiple schools, and some other clubs who were interested in our work even offered to collaborate for future events!” Another member of the KCHC, 11D Joanna Liao, reflected, “I learned that including physical surveys makes the booth and presentation more engaging and increases the participation rate”. Through fostering connections within the community, the YMUNT conference built and maintained the network between participants from around the world and local organizations.

Overall, the YMUNT conference this year continued to expand its network and encouraged delegates to challenge themselves. As the conference ended, the network it created and the diplomatic experience it brought linger within the community.



Photos above taken by Charles Yang 11D



KCMUN activities

Empower Your Health, Enlighten Your Mind

By Erika Yeh 10B

During the Community Fair of Yale Model United Nations Taiwan 2025 (YMUNT XI), the members of the Kang Chiao Health Council gathered to set up a booth for their club. The booth not only included posters that showcased their club’s mission and activities, but also an awareness test that enhanced the interaction between the members and participants. The members also made a series of short speeches that introduced their club and its goal.

The Kang Chiao Health Council (KCHC) was founded by Anna Su from 11G and Charles Yang from 11D in 2024. The club, with the motto “Empower your health, enlighten your mind,” aims to raise awareness of complex yet common medical issues through advocacy. Considering its fields of research and methods of promotion, KCHC finds a shared interest with YMUNT, which desires to bring together NGOs to extend the learning experience of the students who join their event. Before joining

YMUNT XI as a non-profit partner, KCHC had been researching the misconceptions about one’s looks, especially regarding the use of medicine in maintaining body appearances.

The team divided itself into three groups: Research & Web, Media & Activities, and Arts & Graphics. They coordinated and collaborated, striving to collect the most credible information, develop the most interactive projects, and create the most visually appealing designs. Finally, after months of effort, the team had prepared itself fully for the Community Fair.

On the evening of March 14<sup>th</sup>, the KCHC team gathered at GIS NTU, prepared to share their valuable insights with the future world changers who attended the Community Fair. With a strong sense of enthusiasm and determination, the team tirelessly engaged with participants from different schools, cities, and even countries and ethnic backgrounds. The common will to

obtain knowledge on the topic brought the people together, as the team explained the theme, distributed stickers, and emphasized the real-life consequences of misinformation on health-related concerns. 9A Sam Chang, one of the students who stopped in front of the KCHC booth to learn about the focus of the club, mentioned his memorable encounter during the Community Fair: “[I]t was really inspiring and meaningful to see how they connected their causes to real-life issues, making their messages more personal and impactful.”

The booth, despite existing only for a short hour, successfully carried the message of KCHC and linked the issue at hand with students who took part in the event. This not only signifies the impact of the club on its target audience but also encourages it to continue marching on its journey of medical pursuit. After all, people came and went during the event, but lessons stayed in the minds of all those involved.



Dorm Celebration Brings Zootopia Magic

By Jane Lee 9C

Cheers and laughter filled the gymnasium as the residential students experienced one of the most delightful dorm birthday celebrations on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The dorm's "birthday" takes place every semester with unique activities organized by the dorm faculty. This celebration not only served as a relief from the midterm exams that took place a few days earlier, but was also an excuse to eat pizza and fried chicken late at night.

Being in the dorm may not be everyone's cup of tea, but the annual birthday celebration is a warming experience. While students were busy preparing for their exams, teachers were hustling to finish the birthday preparations. Many dorm students and envious classmates gathered around the intriguing new posters for the party. As the celebration approached, students peeked curiously at the decorations being delivered into the offices.

This year, the theme was "Zootopia", a Disney movie that received great recognition due to its unique premise and memorable characters. The students

gushed over the gym, which was transformed into a Zootopian world. The area was filled to the brim with Zootopia-themed decorations, including Judy and Nick cardboard cutouts, and the teachers even wore headbands to represent the Zootopia characters.

"The theme this year is so cool! I hope we get to take some of the decorations home," 9B Sophia Lin commented excitedly as she dashed in. "But I don't even like Zootopia. This is going to be so boring," complained Amber Yu from 9D.

Those who initially believed the event would be boring changed their minds after participating in the games. One of the dorm teachers, Ms. Huang, said the dorm preparations took a long time to set up, and it was good to see the students finally enjoying themselves after a long week.

This year, there were three creative activities planned, with each activity being taken from challenges on social media. Sudden screams erupted from the crowd whenever their team was about to lose, followed by sighs of relief when a last-minute save turned the game around.

The activities were certainly interesting sights to see, with many giggling from embarrassment. Students even fell to the ground while tackling each other to win, and the gym was filled with laughter.

Overall, the activities were spectacular, and students' efforts paid off as the teachers announced the final part of the party—prizes! This year, the prizes varied from snacks to pillows, card holders, robes, and even movie tickets. As the winners were announced one by one, the students screamed at the top of their lungs and filled the gym with excitement.

As the exam week ended, the dorm rooms were filled with satisfied smiles. This year was beyond many students' expectations with the more trendy challenges and unique themes. The gym became filled with smiles, cheers, and screams of joy that will certainly make this an event to remember. The dorm "birthday" may not be the most fitting name for this celebration, but it is certainly an event students look forward to as much as they would for their actual birthday.



Final Serve, Last Laugh: KC Volleyball Defines ‘Complete’

By Ula Chang 10B

From December 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the KC boys' volleyball team showcased skills, strategy, and growth in the New Taipei City League, advancing to the top eight and highlighting their efforts.

During the training and preparation for the competition, Ryan Wu from 12F mentioned focusing on minimizing avoidable mistakes and adapting their defensive setup. Along with the adjustment in defensive rotations, having the opposite player join the serve receive adds stability to the backcourt coverage through the four-person line, explained by Jensen Tsai from 12E. Although the team faced new challenges after adjusting their roles and new setups, they struggled with communication and took each other's roles. They quickly found their rhythm with a couple of sharp drop shots, turning the momentum in their favor as it lifted the team spirit and helped the members regain trust in their abilities. Building on the strong confidence, the strong serves and defense that kept their energy high on the court helped them push through

the hard moments. As Jensen believes, his serves, defenses, and attacks were impactful, but could've been better.

Since the season's announcement began, the team threw themselves into extra training and built trust in one another. Their improved communication and support among each other also became foundational for the team's identity, skills development, and bonding. The extra hours or days spent together forged their connections and made encouragement a team-wide instinct. Progress has become visible across the board: "The amount of encouragement from each other is extraordinary," Ryan shared.

Some players' goals are simple yet worth pondering, like "avoiding mistakes that might hold the team back, focusing on small actions, and doing anything that helps the team win."

Even if these goals seemed small on paper, the team translated the shared determination into motivation, pushing themselves into the top ranks. Though

some challenges weren't overcome, the overall experience made players feel accomplished and motivated for harder training in the future.

The road ahead includes the tournament in December 2025. The team aims not only to secure at least three victories but also to achieve something deeper. With half the team being seniors and graduating after this tournament, this game carries emotional weight. This will be the team's last chance to share the court, laugh during warm-ups, and feel the pressure during their game point. They use the word "Complete" to describe the balance and unification of their team, despite its imperfections. "We're not the strongest team, but we have a lot fewer weaknesses now," Jensen reflected. "It's training and mentality that'll keep pushing us forward."

Win or lose, the KC boys' volleyball team is chasing much more than trophies: it is chasing a sense of identity, pride, memories, and a final push together as a complete team.



KCGIN: Focus on Timeless Fashion

By 11A Natalie Chien

As the countdown to graduation comes around the corner, fairy lights start to flicker across the gym ceilings, and the playlists for prom night begin to come to life. One throwback hit at a time, as the prom season approaches, students everywhere launch into the quest in search of the perfect outfit. For one unforgettable night, satin, sequins, and sharp suits take the center stage. Yet, more likely than not, these glamorous looks often end up worn just once before disappearing into closets. And that's where KCGIN steps in, blending sustainability with fashion through its brand-new Prom Attire Platform.

Kang Chiao Global Issue Network, KCGIN, is a student-led club that aims to raise awareness of contemporary social and cultural inequality under the Global Issues Network format. KCGIN's mission lies in informing students about issues that lack recognition or face stigmatization, encouraging them to further their understanding, and to demonstrate support through participation in student-led events actively. KCGIN mainly tackles issues related to teenagers, focusing on themes that range from LGBTQ+ rights to mental health awareness. Following months of KC Telegram poster cam -

paigns, the colorful monthly bulletins have a new focus this semester: Fast Fashion.

Fast fashion refers to the mass production of cheap clothing designed to be worn only a few times before being tossed aside, a major reason why mountains of clothes end up in landfills each year. Prom dresses, those heavenly designed outfits that are created to be worn only on special occasions, became a key component of fast fashion.

Fortunately, KCGIN's latest project, the Prom Attire Platform, offers students a way to fight back. Instead of purchasing brand-new outfits, KCGIN created a special portal that presents an online collection of second-hand prom dresses and suits. From classic satin gowns to vibrant statement looks, the site offers a variety of fashion wear donated by students, all available for lending and renting. Each listing includes photos, size details, and direct contact information, making the borrowing process convenient and simple.

By encouraging students to share and reuse these formal outfits, KCGIN hopes to inspire small changes in how students think of clothes without

giving up the magic of prom. For one unforgettable night, while prom might be all about the glam, KCGIN's Prom Attire Platform provides students with a chance to make their choices count, helping to reduce fashion waste while still looking fabulous.

In the broader context, tying back to KCGIN's primary vision, this project aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, which aims to reduce and prevent waste by promoting sustainable consumption of resources. In the end, it's all about making sustainable choices while creating great memories from within.

Apart from prom season, KCGIN is expanding its sustainability projects. The club is initiating a second clothing donation project that partners with local Taiwanese organizations, including the Eden Social Welfare Foundation and the Yu-Cheng Social Welfare Foundation. Students can donate gently used clothes to aid less fortunate communities, promoting reuse and addressing the pressing consequences of fast fashion.

Still, at the heart of all these projects is one simple idea: making meaningful change with styles that reflect KCGIN's

Behind the Magic: Prom Committee's Path Through the Mayhem

By Meredith Ko 11D

Prom has grown synonymous with High School Memories — awkward postures, high school sweethearts, photobooth shots, and, of course, the nagging supervision of DAA (that does come with occasional oversights!). Though each year, the Prom Committee receives various complaints like 'the food isn't even edible...' or 'that venue sucked...' , almost every student left Prom carrying fond memories, however big or small. Prom Committee members, on the other hand, left Prom carrying fairy lights, Christmas trees, five different types of tape, and a depleted body anticipating nothing more than dropping into a trance.

The Prom Committee is composed of the Main and Vice Coordinators, Coordinators, four team leaders for activities, arts and graphics, social media, and logistics, and one to two members under each team. The Prom Committee holds the responsibility of creating a memorable night that appeals to students while complying with the school's regulations. The 2024 Prom Committee was led by Katelyn Chan and Seline Dung, who, amid the chaotic AP exams, delivered a memorable and successful Prom. The two had worked in the previous Prom Committee in 2023 as team leaders, and took on the roles as Coordinators in the following year.

Behind the music, glamor, and laughter, Katelyn and Seline opened up about the challenges, chaos, and creativity behind organizing one of the school's most anticipated events. To start off, Katelyn and Seline emphasized the importance of listing out the timeline of the progression of events, activities, and must-dos, and of course, seeking advice and tips from the previous coordinators who have graduated but nevertheless wish a memorable prom for KCIS. When asked about the Prom Committee's most precious quality, Katelyn and Seline both agreed that communication and coordination is key; the two have complementary skills,

allowing them to optimize their strengths , for example, persistent communication where decisions, challenges, and exhaustive workload are faced together. They again shedding light on the endless possibilities that can be achieved from passion and perseverance. The communication within the team as a whole is also crucial—Katelyn mentioned her role playing the 'bad cop' to push each member to meet their deadlines, produce quality work, and revise previous mistakes, while Seline steps in to provide encouragement and suggestions. It is safe to say that all members of the Prom Committee of 2024 stuck through till the end, and all deadlines were met, eventually.

However, the process of materializing an event of nearly four hundred people is never without obstacles. From May to December 21 of 2024, the Prom Committee juggled complications in celebrity booking, venue searching, and balancing students' expectations to the school's regulations (it may be

unimaginable but they really tried their best to get the most edible meals conforming to food safety standards). While schools have their set framework of regulations, Katelyn and Seline give a special shoutout to the teacher responsible for Prom, Ms. Yi-Chun Lin, for always fighting for the students' vision of prom and maximizing the creative freedom of the Prom Committee.

Despite the exhaustion and exasperating moments, Katelyn and Seline talked about the rewarding experience of seeing months of planning materialize into a single night of chaos, memory, and happiness that will be treasured as they continue exploring their passion and potential in NYU and USC. A huge thank you to Katelyn and Seline for the incredible memories they have created for all the students.

Last but not least, Katelyn and Seline's words of wisdom for the succeeding Prom Committee: "Praying works, remember to pray. *Always* pray."



Code. Compete. Conquer: Students shine in programming competition.

By Dino Chen 11F

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 12:50 p.m., 17 students across the school gathered in room 6308 to compete in the Kang Chiao Code Combat Cup, also known as the K4C competition. This is a coding competition designed to be welcoming to coders at all level. Regardless of their programming experience, participants can learn while solving problems, master new skills, and most importantly, earn prizes.

Behind the scenes, the competition was organized by Jeff Wu from 12B, the second-term chief organizer of the Computer Science Honors Society. He organized the competition to provide a solid foundation in computer science for students who plan on majoring in related fields. He also wants to foster the competitive programming culture in Kang Chiao while highlighting the fun and charm of computer science.

“I hope that K4C could serve as the foundation for future events, whether it be a hackathon, seminar, coding competition, or something else,” said Jeff. To ensure a fair and competitive event, clear rules were established in advance. Four staff members were present in the room, monitoring the competition to ensure that all participants follow them at all times.

Each team had 2 hours and 20 minutes to solve a set of 13 questions prepared by the event organizers. Contestants could approach the problems in any order. They were allowed to use any programming language, with C++, Java, and Python being recommended since they were compatible with all 13 problems. The participants were also permitted to search and utilize any existing resources, except generative AI tools, online.

As the competition progressed, the teams began to split into two types: the sweat teams, focused on solving the problem and securing the top prize; and the casual teams, focused on learning from the problems and approaching the competition with a less aggressive mindset. Both groups made their time count and enjoyed the experience.

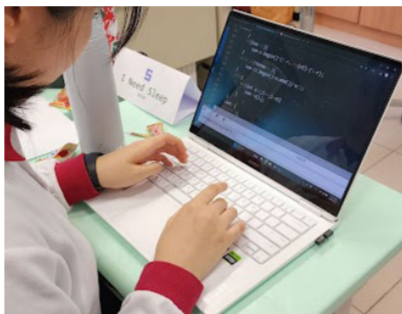
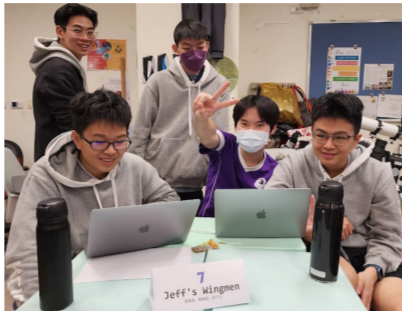
The most fascinating moment during the competition was when it reached its final moments. Three teams were tied with identical scores, and all pushed themselves to their limits to obtain the prize. As Anna Chen, one of the contestants from 11C, said, “I ran into issues switching between programming languages and couldn't figure out the bugs.” Yet, despite her obstacle, she still managed to solve a few more questions with her greatest effort.

According to the official rules, during a tie, the team that submitted its final solution first would be declared the winner. The atmosphere in the room soon became intense as the participants raced against the clock, not only to solve the problem, but also to submit it ahead of the other contestants. What had started as a calm event transformed into a thrilling sprint. In the end, as the results were announced, a sense of relief spread among all the contestants.

When the competition ended, the final results were officially announced to all participants. Congratulations to “Stiff”, who won the top prize as an individual; Team “I’ll Byte You”, who claimed second place; and team “I Need Sleep,” who earned third place.

After the event, Jeff reflected on the success of the event and expressed his gratitude to the team that made it possible.

“The Kang Chiao Code Combat Cup wouldn’t have been possible without the support of all Computer Science Honors Society members,” said Jeff. “In particular, I would like to thank Ethan Chiu from 11G for his dedicated efforts in problem testing, Enrica Tai from 11G for providing feedback proactively, and last but not least, Ms. Lali Curry for communicating with the upper office and assisting with general coordination.”



Walking Into the Nerd's Club

By Enrica Tai 11G

If you want to find a geek in Kang Chiao, go to the Nerd's club. Otherwise known as the Computer Science Honor Society. Students meet up once every two weeks, proposing their ideas and goals related to—you guessed it—computer science. Students propose their own ideas and goals they want to achieve, and then they become the leaders of the club, directing the group towards the desired result. At first, they hosted a library event introducing a variety of coding languages to students and a Hackathon competition for all high schoolers. However, then, the club died down without a new project to work on.

But on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, fueled by new determination and a new project, the CSHS leaped back into motion! This time, they are working on the "High School

Networking Project”, proposed by Diego Fan from 11D. The main aim is to create a website to help students find extracurricular activities. Diego realized that currently, there isn't a go-to platform for high school students to find extracurricular activities. Thus, he wants to create a platform similar to LinkedIn but for high school students. In order to achieve this, we divided the club into different groups: the frontend and the backend. Let's take a look!

The frontend of the project is the definition of ‘chillax’: From the professional atmosphere at the start, the group has been slowly advancing towards chaos, from praising each other abundantly to discussing their school lives or showing off pets. However, they still maintain a fast working speed, because they aim to finish

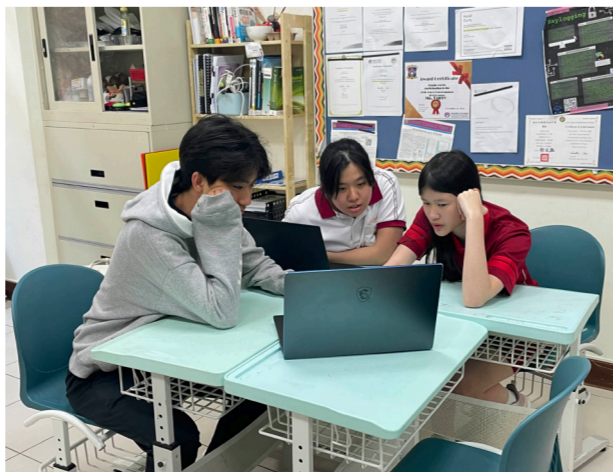
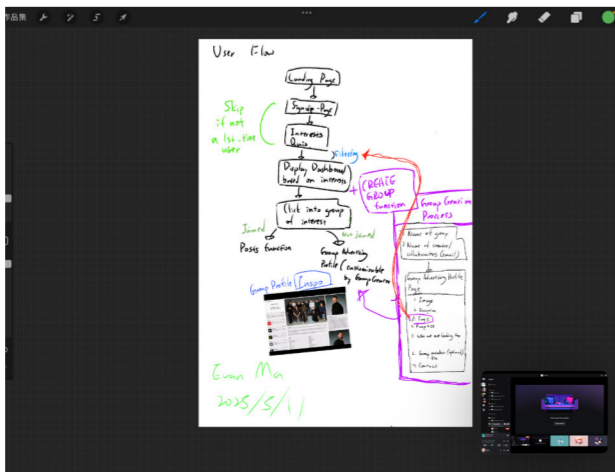
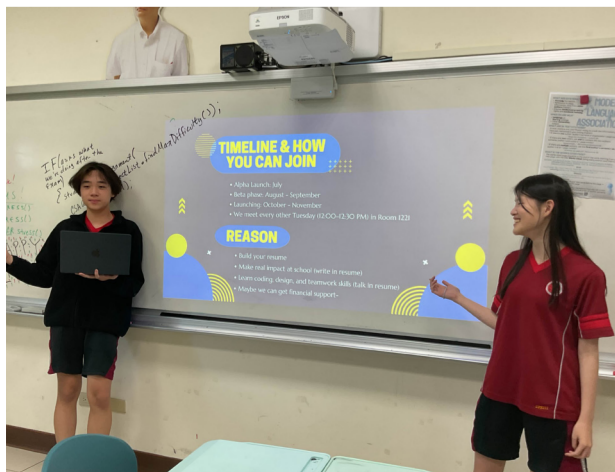
and turn in quality work as fast as possible to get praised and resume chatting.

On the other hand, the backend is made of try-hard students. Because of the busy AP schedules and the stupendous amount of other events they have on their hands, most of the teammates in the backend group have less time to focus on work. Yet, they still join the meetings to find out what they should complete. Additionally, the backend work is more tech-focused. Most students haven't worked with backend systems from scratch before, so every step is a new exploration into the digital world.

For Diego, leading the project has been exciting. When I asked him his current experience as the leader, he replied, “We're still on the road of developing, but it's been cool seeing our ideas slowly turn

into something real... The beta is coming soon, and I can't wait to see how it turns out!”

As the students in the club enjoy the process, they also learn important skills not just in computer programming or UI designing, but also the way to communicate and work as a team. Every time there is a decision to make, the group needs to stop and discuss. This experience is rare, especially because students who code usually do individual projects. So, they don't have the experience to work in teams. Through this networking project, students will learn how to divide work of the spaghetti code for the team to proceed to the greatest goal: Releasing the beta for the platform. Let's wait for it and see their results!



KC Cheerleaders: Cheer Loud! Cheer Proud!

By Conny Huang 10F

The roar of the crowd, the sharp snap of pom-poms, and the united power of every chant — these are the moments that define KC cheerleading.

The KC Cheerleader's Club, foun-ded in 2021, has made magnificent records for the school. At the Sports Day Performance, the Charity Gala, and the assembly promotion, you can see us cheering for the community. The bright sky and the roar of the crowd all blur into one exhilarating rush of cheer. Being part of the KCIS Cheerleading Team is not just about the trust we build, the extra practices we survive together, and the moments when we push past our limits as one team. This year, our journey was not about competing; it was about finding our true selves, lifting each other higher, both figuratively and physically, and showing what it truly means to lead with confidence.

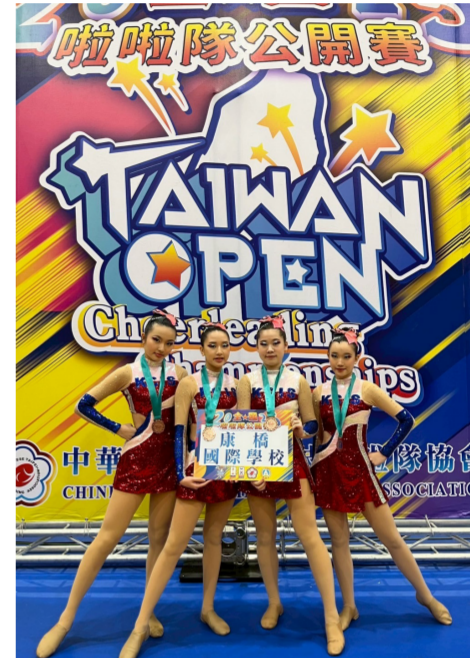
That is the reason why stepping into the 2025 National Cheerleading Open Competition felt like the stage to present everything we've worked so hard for. Representing KCIS on a national stage was both an honor and a challenge we carry with pride. As we prepared for the competition, it is not just about winning a trophy; it is about showing the heart

behind every opportunity that lifts not just our teammates but our entire spirit higher. Our captain, Erinn Cheng from 11G, is dedicated to supporting our school spirit. “We learned how to lean on one another, how to communicate, and how to push forward together. It was a moment of pride, of growth, and of realization.” This was more than just a performance — it was a powerful learning experience, and one we'll carry with us as we continue to grow.

As our coach often says, “Cheer Loud, Cheer Proud, KC Cheer is the best”. These words serve as our motivation, and they have become more than just a motto — they are promises we carry into every practice and competition. When we step onto the mat at the National Competition, we're not just representing our school name, we are carrying the spirit, hard work, and memories of every teammate who stand beside us through the early mornings and late-night rehearsals. “I believe that all the experience I gained from this competition will be of great use to me when I participate in activities at university. I wish the cheerleading team all the best in their upcoming performances and competitions”, said Eva Chang from 1203. Every motion we hit and every catchphrase we seek is fueled by a bond that runs

deeper than uniforms and routines — it is built on trust, resilience, and confidence.

At the end of the day, we, as the KCIS Cheerleaders, won third place in this national competition. However, we know we've already won something greater: a friend group like a family, a legacy, and the burning courage to cheer with all our hearts— Cheer Loud Cheer Proud KC Cheer!



From Passion To Project

By Kimberly Chou 10F

Every year, 10<sup>th</sup> graders are given the opportunity to explore their interests with the Personal Project. This course encourages pupils to delve into their interests, develop critical thinking skills, and apply knowledge within a practical setting. For my project, I chose to design an at-home plant cloning kit, allowing me to explore my fascination with plant biology and provide accessible utensils to engage in the process of plant propagation. Given how my project requires an excessive amount of research and creativity for designing the kit. I decided to focus my ATL skills on “Information Literacy Skills-Collect, Record, and Verify Data” along with “Creative & Critical Thinking.”

My interest in plant cloning stems from the desire to better understand the natural world and the mechanisms behind plant growth. Plant cloning, or vegetative propagation, is the process of creating a new plant from a fragment of the parent plant, allowing individuals to choose the most desired characteristics with convenience. This process, usually in agriculture, is referred to as plant domestication.

At the beginning of the project, there was a palpable sense of excitement, a rush in my heart, butterflies in my stomach. I could sense similar emotions from my peers during heated conversations as we shared our ideologies and envisioned the results of our products. However, as the project progressed, the initial excitement began

to give way to moments of uncertainty. Pressures from managing deadlines, annoyance from gathering materials, and distress from meeting requirements given by the teacher all fed into the growing anxiety in the 10<sup>th</sup> graders' hearts. I, too, unknowingly fell into a void of doubt, particularly at times when experiments failed and designs crashed. This period of struggle, characterized by frustration and self-questioning, made every one of us ponder whether or not the results we envisioned could be accomplished.

Yet, amid the struggles, resilience grew among us. To surpass obstacles during the project, students fought for solutions. Personally, the process of testing and refining my cloning kit was an emotional rollercoaster. The experiment itself was hectic. To test out the perfect kitchen replacement for plant propagation, I needed to plant the propagated plants one by one. If the product failed to propagate the plant by other means, it would be mandatory to start over.

Adding on to the problem, Taiwan's extreme weather made the experiment process utterly tiring (my friends complained about having to experience all four seasons within a week). I saw a similar pattern in my peers. Although the journey for personal projects could not at all be considered smooth, the sense of accomplishment afterward allowed pride and determination to arise in the hearts of these academic warriors.

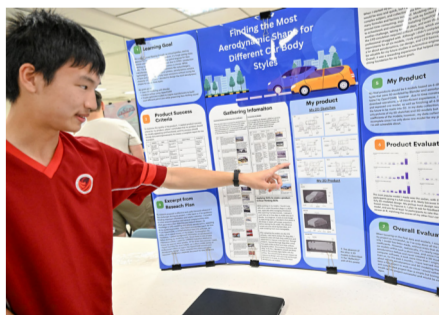
This odyssey, punctuated by triumph and tribulation, felt like navi-

gating through uncharted waters at times and sailing through unknown horizons. But once golden sunlight flashed through the fog of uncertainty, students were awed with satisfaction. Through this process, some chose to embrace the challenge full-heartedly like adventurers; others, however, found themselves lost in a puzzle like Theseus in King Minos' labyrinth, where every turn seemed to present newer and greater obstacles.

Despite individuals choosing to be adventurers or being reluctantly thrust into the role of Theseus, all students share a common sense of gratitude for the opportunity and time to explore something of their personal interest.



The interior and exterior design



Ms. Gittens participating in the Personal Project Presentations on May 21<sup>st</sup>

KC Voice: In Those Three Minutes

By April Lin 9A

Under the glaring lights of the school gym, two students stand shoulder to shoulder, their hands shaking. Excitement swirls through the air, making their hearts beat faster. The audience hushes. The music starts. They raise their microphones and let the first notes escape.

Each year, the Western House organizes KC Voice, a school-wide event showcasing students’ singing talent. Conny Huang, a Western House Prefect, stated, “I understand the purpose of ...KC Voice as a stage for students to perform their talents and nurture confidence. Everyone has the chance to use songs to express themselves, and to influence others with the power of music.”

To qualify, students must record a video of themselves singing. This year, I was one of the contestants. My singing partner, Annarella Hsu from 9A, and I recorded our video several times until we got every part right. Then we submitted it.

After we qualified, we started searching for the perfect song. No

matter what we were doing, we were always thinking—“Is this the song?”. Finally, we settled on “The Cutest Pair” by Regina Song. During that time, every lyric resonated deeply with us, making us believe that it was the perfect choice.

Then we began practicing. Every week, no matter how busy we were, I would pack a bag and head to my partner’s house. We would practice late into the night, and repeat our song until we could sing it in our sleep. This routine lasted a couple of weeks, and soon enough, the finals were around the corner.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the day of the finals, the classes blended and blurred together until suddenly the competition started. The first contestant was welcomed on stage. Suspense blanketed the room like a held breath — then the music began.

Without realizing it, it was our turn. As our names were called, cheers erupted from our friends in the balcony area, boosting our confidence. We walked

onto the stage with shaking legs and butterflies in our stomachs. The audience was filled with unfamiliar faces that stretched on forever. As the music started, I looked at my partner and thought, “This is going to be the result of our hard work.” The three minutes felt hazy and unreal. But I won’t forget the cheers we received.

As the judges started calling out names, my partner and I held hands, hoping to hear our names. Then came the words we had been waiting for: “And the second place goes to...” A rush of giddiness flooded through us; we had won second place!

My partner, Annarella, later stated, “I think that although the performance only lasted 3 minutes, everyone practiced for such a long time and put in so much effort. We hope that we can participate in KC Voice again in the future.”

KC Voice is more than a competition, it shows that when you put in effort, it pays off.



Three Kingdoms Event: a journey of personal growth and class cooperation

By Anna Lu 7C

During the Three Kingdoms period, the three emperors were fighting for hegemony; as the river of blood boils, the aim of the Wei, Shu, Wu to unify great China was inherited by us seventh graders in the Three Kingdoms event. The fierce competition between the nations had blown the starting whistle on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Before the event, each class was tasked to choreograph a dance for the campfire party and draw a class flag for their assigned historic character. During the chaotic process, quarrels broke out between the choreographers and painters. However, these negative disputes also shaped us as a class, dependent on one another and cooperating as a whole. During the dance training, there was a lot of uncooperation among the choreographers and the class, but the improvement was significant throughout the semester as

we looked forward to shining bright with our dance in the official event, as well as showcasing our thoughtfully designed flag.

As we left for the Long-Men camp, we were all fascinated by the competitive atmosphere where all of us aimed for the same goal — the championship. Throughout the activities, the most memorable moment was performing our dance. Standing in the center with all the spotlights on us as we confidently performed, all of our efforts had paid off. It was pure joy and pride as the class bowed and applause boomed like thunder. At that moment, I tasted the sweetness of our effort bearing fruit from watering time and labor, and all the sweat and hardships were worth it.

On the second day of the activity, we attempted to conquer city states owned by the two other countries by challenging the game master of each class. Our mighty attempts had, unfortunately, all failed.

We referred to our army adviser for further instructions, expecting blame for our loss. However, their encouragement and advice touched my guilty heart. Their generous compassion also motivated our team’s positivity towards failures. After all, I felt the warmth of cooperation and sympathy among our class, and my appreciation for being a part of the great 7C.

As the event ended, I could see great improvement in my cooperation, leadership, and communication skills. I could feel my enhanced teamwork abilities, no matter working with familiar or unfamiliar people. I ameliorated my communication skills by embracing different perspectives and ideas, expressing myself and my identity with confidence, and further upgrading my abilities as a leader to sympathize with issues. This enhancement of myself improved me as an inquirer, communicator, and risk taker;

and furthermore, a better human-being.

As part of my personal growth, I also gained new moral values such as hard work and determination. I learned to rise in the face of adversity, and develop motivations that can help me strive in hardships. For example, in the attempts to conquer other nations, I did not quit due to several failures; however, I reflected on our mistakes and, as my I&S teacher, Ms. K, always says, “You never lose. You either win or learn”.

After all, I am grateful for every teacher and official who supported this event; I am grateful for every hard-working classmate; I am grateful for the personal growth, but most importantly, I am grateful for 7C, as the best class that has participated enthusiastically in the event. Whether we won or LEARNED, we did our very best, and that’s all that matters.



Long Roads, Steady Pedals : 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Cycling Training

By Ula Chang 10B

It was a cold and rainy Sunday afternoon; raindrops danced, clouds gathered, a breeze sang, and students cycled. On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, the grade 10 students from Kang Chiao participated in their fifth cycling training.

To prepare for the “Cycling Around Taiwan” trip, a signature event at Kang Chiao, grade 10 students are required to complete a total of eight training sessions before heading out on the actual expedition. During these sessions, which take place on the weekends, students improved their fitness. They also collaborated with classmates under the guidance of teachers to assist each other in achieving their common goal—to complete a 945-kilometer route around Taiwan with their homeroom class they have known for at least three years. Nevertheless, despite the joys and laughter people heard from these conquerors,

neither the training nor the trip was a simple task.

The biking route up Huacheng Road was considered the most difficult of all training sessions. The road seemed to endlessly extend, challenging both the mental state and physical endurance of the students. With rain falling from the gloomy sky, not only was the training more dangerous, but it also intensified the challenges faced by the students, who constantly gasped for breath with their faces covered by a mix of rain and sweat.

However, just as the highest pressure forms the most splendid diamond, the toughest task comes with the most rewarding results — the life experiences that can never be learnt in a classroom. April Yao, a student from 10C, discusses her experience: “A lot of our training experiences involve very bad

weather. Even though it felt terrible at the moment, when I look back and think about it, it makes me feel a sense of accomplishment because cycling uphill continuously in the rain is not something that I would do regularly.”

Throughout the training, both the students and teachers have witnessed drastic growth and improvement in themselves. When they were too tired to ride, they pushed their bikes. When their peers were discouraged by the obstacles, they encouraged and supported them. When they reached the top of the hills, looking down at where they had started, they cheered and found pride in themselves, recognizing their efforts while aiming for higher accomplishments. Reflecting on the training, one of the teachers, Mr. Jon Nevin, shared, “After the training, I’ll never see this mountain the same way again. Every time I come up to school, I

think to myself, Wow, I actually rode a bike up this mountain, more than once. I feel proud of myself every day when I arrive at school.”

Recalling their struggles and successes, all that the students had in mind was the final Cycling Around Taiwan trip, which began in mid-April. The feelings of excitement, nestled by concerns and anticipation, dominated their thoughts, intensifying as the day approached. The road below their bike did not end with the conclusion of the training. Instead, this temporary pause was just the beginning of a long yet rewarding experience ahead of them.

All other faculty members and students from other grade levels also looked forward to seeing them obtain such lifelong memories, while wishing them the most enjoyable and valuable journey in their high school year.



Sony Youth Photographer of the Year: A Reflection - Daniel Wu

By Daniel Wu 11F

I recently had the immense honor of being named Youth Photographer of the Year. With nearly 420,000 entries from over 200 countries and regions, the 2025 Sony World Photography Awards is the largest and most renowned photography competition in the world. Winning this award means so much to me; it is the result of years of dedication, learning through trial and error, and simply pursuing what I love.

My photography journey began about seven years ago when my mom gifted me an old digital camera. Initially, I wasn’t particularly interested in photography, but soon my passion began to grow because it allowed me to express myself by capturing moments that resonate with how I feel, and turning my thoughts into photographs that tell stories. I dedicated countless hours to learning about camera settings, composition, color grading, and post-production through YouTube tutorials. Everything I learned came from free online resources, and platforms like Instagram opened my eyes to the works of incredible photographers. Surrounding myself with people more skilled than I was, and consistently challenging myself to learn from the best, was the key that helped improve my craft.

After years of doing photography, I decided to challenge myself by entering the biggest stage, the Sony World Photography Awards, which I had always known about, but never considered before, because it felt outside of my comfort zone. The prompt was an “Open Call” to submit your best photographs from the year. It turned into one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.

The process of getting selected felt like a whirlwind. After months of anticipation, I was notified that I had been

chosen as a finalist. It was both exhilarating and nerve-racking. Being chosen as one of just 11 finalists from tens of thousands of entries made the moment even more intense. I was asked to hop on a FaceTime call with the organizers a month later. That’s when they shared the surreal news that I had won, and that I would be flown to London with all my travel costs covered. The experience itself was unforgettable. I attended press previews, interviews, and conferences with media outlets. I connected with numerous talented photographers and professionals, and I even shared meals with Sony company executives. Later that day, at the ceremony, my name was announced—I walked on stage to receive my trophy, and gave a short speech. Seeing my name later in news outlets like BBC, Euronews, and Taiwan National News felt like a dream come true.

Looking back, I’ve realized that

this journey was about more than just photography —it was about growth, risk, and persistence. Winning the Youth Photographer of the Year wasn’t just a matter of luck; I believed in my work, even when I wasn’t sure it was good enough. If I hadn’t taken the leap to enter the competition, none of this would’ve happened. Sometimes, you simply have to take that chance because you never know where it might lead. But before all that, it starts with passion. Even if you start small, start with what you have, keep learning, and stay consistent.

It might sound cliché, but having persistence in doing what you love can take you farther than you ever imagined. It’s not about what you have, but how much you’re willing to learn and grow. So for photographers, keep shooting—and for everyone, stay consistent, trust the process, and don’t be afraid to take that leap.



World Photography Organisation