

The 109 Times

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“We are not small potatoes.”

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Inside This Issue...

First Period Travels to Narnia2

Student Fails Shadow Test2

Erabelli Breaks Man-non’s Pi Record.....3

4th Period Travels to Hogwarts; 5th Period Neverland4

Border Troubles With V-514

Datemaster Absence Causes Confusion5

Concerns Over New Fire Drill Procedure6

Three-Person Race, One Quarter to Go7

Bell Finally Rings for 6th Period.....7

Departments

Ask Arvid5

SD Standings7

The Recipe Corner 8

109 Moves Out with Heads Held High

By Wes Studi

On Febraury 11, 109ers gathered in 109 for one last time to express their sorrow over their relocation. However, the proud citizens of 109 also defied temptations to wallow in their misery. Instead, the farewell to 109 turned into a celebration of 109’s ideals of unity and tradition.

“We’re a family,” declared Christine Li of 4th period, and it certainly seemed that way with 109ers of the past coming from McLean, Langley, TJ and GMU.

Every issue of the 109 Times was posted on the western wall, and photos of every class since 2003

were hung on the southern wall. After the singing of the national anthem, a song which older citizens were hearing for the first time in their lives, Mr. Huang gave his last speech in 109. He emphasized memories and relationships over the physical room. Referring to them, he said:

“It’s ok to be sad. It’s ok to shed a tear. Let us not depend on them however. If we do, we will always have our hearts broken.”

In addition to 109 citizens, the farewell was attended by Mr. Williams, Mr. Gorgia, Mrs. Postlethwait,

(Continued on page 3)

109 Unhappy with V-52 Reservation

By Tecumseh Sherman

When the Powers-That-Be informed 109 they would be relocated, 109 did not revolt. When the moving date was moved several times, 109 did not complain publicly. Neither did they cry foul when moving day finally did come. That may change now that they have settled into Villa 52.

Mr. Huang and other high-ranking officials are not happy with their new temporary home that is a “whisper of what was promised to

us.”

“There are no mango trees,” said Mr. Huang. “We were promised mango trees.” The mango, a staple of the 109 diet, is the main source of carbohydrates and the vital vitamin G-14 for all of 109. Through a process called hydro-mango-Kessemer process, 109 has even developed a new bio-fuel from mangos that will soon compete with the new electric cars. For now, 109 has to import expensive

(Continued on page 3)

First Period Travels to Narnia

By Joy Lewis

Despite having to relocate to a desolate land, namely V-52, 1st period 109ers managed to cheer themselves up with a trip to the fabled land of Narnia.

Erin Atak, who has a direct connection to Aslan's homeland, organized the trip.

Upon first hearing about the field trip,

some 109ers were immediately skeptical and refused to get the permission slip signed. Eventually however, the attraction of Narnia overwhelmed them, and all of them except Veda Prasad went on the journey.

The walk through the wardrobe took much longer than

planned, but when 1st period finally arrived, their eyes feasted on snow-covered valleys, pine trees and a plethora of interesting creatures.

They met Mr. Tumnus, Aslan himself, and creepy guys called

"It was like he knew all about me."

"creepers". They also visited Yolanda's house, situated by a river in a valley. A visit to Narnia would not be complete without seeing the Witch's castle. However, 1st period did not get too close for fear of being caught and turned to stone.

The highlight for many was

the chance to speak with Aslan and Yolanda. They both spoke in mysterious whispers, but what they said delighted the audience.

"It was like he knew all about me," said one giggling 109er.

"He is so wise, and Yolanda is pretty cool for someone who isn't in the book or movie,"

said another.

Atak also prepared gummy worm snacks for all to eat and a craft activity. The citizens made their own Narnian necklaces out of yarn and beads.

Nobody remembered that from the book or movie either. No doubt, they all just overlooked it.

Student Fails Shadow Test

By John Proctor

In April, the first shadow tests of the year were taken. Unfortunately, one resident of Long-fellow failed the shadow test.

Her inability to cast a shadow under any type of light confirmed suspicions that she is a witch. The paranormal police have taken her into custody. As the paddy wagon drove away, one could hear her shouting:

"No, I can cast a shadow! Just give me another shot. It was the fluorescent light. I can do it under halogen bulb, I promise!"

"The shadow test is just one test of witchcraft," said I.M. Wright, sheriff of the Fairfax

County Paranormal Police. "It's sad that this student got involved in it."

Other indications of witchcraft include flying, talking to animals, smelling like potions, and being very good at staring

"It's sad that this student got involved in it."

contests. Not all of these traits are conclusive of dabbling in the dark arts however.

"You have to be careful when accusing someone or putting someone away," continued Wright. "The tests have to be

confirmed with other things like change in diet and what they watch on TV. Do they watch reruns of *Buffy* and *Charmed* all the time, for example?"

And how about those who sometimes temporarily lose their shadow through no fault of their own?

"Yes, that's a perfect example of being careful when accusing," continues

Wright. "Peter Pan could have been accused if Wendy had not waited and noticed it was the shadow who was avoiding Peter. Just imagine what kind of world we would have if Peter Pan had been taken away."

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Gillespie, Mrs. Kihm and even Mr. Cheney, former president of Tieland.

109 premiered the first 10 minutes of the upcoming documentary *Mangoes and Large Potatoes: A History of the Kingdom of 109*, slated for release in May, and the film was met with many thumbs up.

Then Mr. Huang led the 109ers out of 109 on their ceremonial Trail of Tears to the cafeteria for refreshments. The halls of Longfellow were filled not with sounds of wailing but voices of victory, proudly singing the national anthem again and then the 109 fight song.

“The last time I heard the fight song was when we liberated Tieland on the battlefield,” said one teary-eyed 109 alumnus. “It’s very emotional for me to hear it again.”

Many of the old-timers were awed by how

much 109 had developed since their time. Not only had 109 finally written a national anthem, but half of the murals had been completed within the last two years. The flag had not changed however, and all looked on it fondly.

As the evening wore on, orcs began moving other nations out to the villas, but 109ers kept arriving, and the last 109ers remained until well after sundown. Several who could not attend the party came two days later to see their home one last time.

“The story continues,” said Mr. Huang, who long ago decided to keep the name Kingdom of 109.

“You cannot end 109. It will always be 109,” said Zack Sanders.

“It’s the only class where I’ve actually had my name on the wall,” said Nick Anthony from 1st period. “Makes me feel important.”

“They are important,” said Mr. Huang. “Every single one of them.”

(Continued from page 1)

mangos from Taiwan, and the PTB are not subsidizing any of it.

The hunting and fishing are also poor. The PTB promised abundant open land with plenty of game. Instead, V-52 is largely dry and windy. The water quality is poor, and the soil has less than optimal chemical balance for farming.

109ers have had to get used to a land with no mountains, no stars, no sun and no moon.

“It’s weird looking up during the day and seeing no sun,” said one citizen. “I didn’t think places like this exist.” Without any star or moonlight, nighttime is extremely dark.

“It’s a totally different feel at night,” said one frightened citizen. “Sometimes I think I see the boogeyman or some vampire coming around the corner.”

The low ceilings make walking around treacherous for some of the taller 109ers like Zach Glissman, Randall Kim and Shelley Collins. Fortunately, that won’t be a problem for Elliot Kim or Jack Martin.

Much of the lack of comfort stems from the unstable and loose foundation that characterizes villas. For fear of being blown away by a tornado, Mr. Huang placed cinderblocks in each corner of 109 to hold V-52 in place.

Erabelli Breaks Mannon’s Pi Record

By Raja Jorbendae

Ending the year-long suspense, Saroja Erabelli did finally break Will Mannon’s 4-year Pi record of 956 digits. The new record to beat is now 1020. We may have to wait around for a long time.

“I may retire before this one is broken,” said Mr. Huang.

After winning last year and narrowly missing out on breaking the record last year, Erabelli was the odds on favorite to win this year. However, everybody was really interested in the possibility of breaking the “unbreakable” record.

On March 14, one by one, the contestants showed their stuff. Erabelli was 8th in the order. While waiting, nerves got to her at one point, and there was a rumor she would pull out. Instead, she pulled together and rattled off the 1020 digits about twice as fast as Mannon had done in 2007.

“I heard her go past the set of digits at the end of 956, and then I knew she had it,” said Mannon who attended the competition and handed out prizes.

Winston Ou finished 2nd with 261 and Daniel Ju finished 3rd with 176.

4th Period Travels to Hogwarts; 5th period Neverland

By Anne Rice

Led by Paula Jaramillo and Alanna Milstein, 4th period became the second period to go on a field trip this year.

They traveled to Hogwarts School for Wizardry and Witchcraft for approximately 20 minutes. The journey began at platform 9 3/4. Elliot Kim had problems even making it to the platform. His sprint toward the wall resulted in a loud thump and bruises on his chest and arms. All the citizens of 4th period eventually made the train ride complete with Every Flavor Jellybeans.

Once they reached Hogwarts, Jaramillo sorted them into the four schools. There

were more than a few who were not happy with their house.

Once sorted, Jaramillo and Milstein ran a Harry Potter trivia contest which Slytherin House won. Shivani Saboo, completely decked out in Slytherin attire, was ecstatic.

On 4/1/11, 5th period took a wild ride to Neverland that citizens are still raving about.

Led by Olivia Giaquinto and her trusted assistants, 5th period started from Neverland Station where they were supplied with pixie dust for the flight. Once there, they were treated to chips, brownies, and other tasty snacks.

On the way, they were introduced to characters such as Peter Pan, The Lost Boys, Captain Hook, Tiger Lily and Tinkerbell.

The highlight of the trip was a hat-making contest. Each citizen was supplied with one piece of construction paper to make the most creative hat possible. Mr. Huang judged the three best hats. Kaela Wilbur won for her yellow top-hat.

After a contentious vote, 6th period decided to go to Candy Land for their field trip. The boys, who mostly voted for Middle Earth, were greatly disappointed. A date has yet to be set.

Border Troubles with V-53

By Carlos Estevez

Temporary dwellings always have their problems, and Villa 52 is no different. The Kingdom of 109's problems stem from its neighbor, the land of Mrs. Burnett in V-51.

It all started on the first official day in V-52, when foreigners started criss-crossing across V-52 to get from place to place between periods. Without proper border check stations in place, Mr. Huang had no idea who was crossing through and where they were going. He had to make a quick decision.

All borders to V-51 and V-53 were closed between 7:40 and 2:50. In addition, harsh

penalties were instituted for crossing those borders without permission. Those crossing between V-53 (Mr. Gorgia) and V-52 will have a choice of being quartered or being taken to the guillotine. However, neither a guillotine nor horses have been acquired yet, so the punishment would have to be postponed.

Those crossing between V-51 and V-52 get a detention.

This was the original consequence, but after Mr. Huang heard some Burnett citizens mocking the sign, he added stoning for those who mock the sign. After that, Mrs. Burnett retorted with a sign of her own defending

her right to mock unauthorized Kingdom of 109 signs that appear in her room. Mr. Huang relented, and mocking is now allowed. The stoning sign is left up for historical purposes.

So far only two people have illegally crossed from V-51 to V-52, so the sign seems to be an effective deterrent.

Now that tensions have eased, the Kingdom of 109 and the land of Burnett have begun constructing a phone line between the two nations as a gesture of goodwill. Parsa Zand, a Burnett citizen and expert builder of all things, is overseeing the design and construction of the phone system.

Ask Arvid ...

Where all your fear and doubt comes out whether you want them to or not

Dear Arvid:

I miss 109.

Oh, definitely. After that, you can publish your discoveries of the number 30, 34 and 38. We will all be very interested.

If you can't draw, try something abstract. It seems to work for a lot of abstract artists.

Dear Mr. Sentimental:

I know. I miss it too. Just put on your Uggs, click your heels together, close your eyes and say: "There's no place like 109. There's no place like 109." Then, don't open your eyes ever again. If you do, you will get depressed again.

Dear Arvid:

What does "Don't play too much Starcraft" mean?

Dear Arvid:

I saw Mr. Huang smile.

Dear Arvid:

Hey, I discovered this cool number. It's called 26. If you divide it by 2, you get an odd number...every time! Do you think I can win some sort of math Nobel Prize?

Dear Captain Obvious:

Don't play too much Starcraft. Now go away.

Dear Dreamer:

No you didn't.

Dear Arvid:

In a rational expression, why can't it be factored already for us? We just want to go boom now.

Dear A Mere Mortal:

Dear Arvid:

I am not a good artist, and I am nervous about people seeing my crooked lines and stick figures. I want to draw something that won't get ridiculed.

Dear Slasher:

Truly good things only come from struggle.

Dear Artistically Challenged:

Datemaster Absence Causes Confusion

By J.D. Hogg

On February 21, the datemaster from 1st period was absent, and the rest of the day was bedlam.

Erin Atak, who is rarely absent, did not show. 1st period, so confident in Atak's

attendance, never voted on a backup datemaster, so the previous day's date remained on the board. Everyone was very confused.

"I didn't know what to write on my Skill Drill or my quiz," said one citizen in tears. In the

confusion, citizens were running all over the place, not knowing their left from right, up from down.

"We should have voted on a backup."

Mr. Huang, also dependent on the datemaster, just shrugged his shoulders in utter defeat.

"I have never felt like such a failure," he said. "I'm supposed to be there for my citizens, and I had nothing for them at that moment. We should have voted on a

backup."

Not all the periods were in the dark about the date however. Mr. Huang thought of emailing Atak later in the day to find out what the date was, and she did promptly

reply, just in time for Mr. Huang to write the date on the board for 6th period.

"I really feel for my fellow citizens," said one 6th period citizen. "I can't imagine how difficult it must have been for them today.

Concerns Over New Fire Drill Procedure

By Kurt Russell

After moving to V-52, Mr. Huang was informed that there was no fire drill procedure in place for the villas. So, he designed his own.

Following much deliberation, he decided that 109's fire drill procedure would be much different than when they were in 109.

The main building procedure was very organized and silent. In addition, for most of the fire drill duration, the classes stood still.

"I wanted to achieve a fire drill with more motion and fluidity where the flag would be used to its fullest," said Mr. Huang.

The new 109 fire drill procedure involves walking around the Villa 50s cluster with the flag and then returning to V-52 after one lap.

it's probably not a good idea to walk around it. They should try to distance themselves from it."

The Kingdom of 109 replied that they would look into tweaking that part of the procedure. The Kingdom is also considering adding a "Stop, Drop and Roll" component.

"No part of a Fairfax County fire drill addresses what to do in case someone actually is on fire," said one 109 office staffer anonymously. "We intend to address this situation.

Once the 109 fire procedure is perfected, it will be copyrighted and sold to other villas for their own use.

"No part of a Fairfax Country Public School fire drill addresses what to do in case someone is actually on fire."

"I have my doubts about this procedure in the case of a real fire," said Scott Glenn, the muscular superintendent of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue. "For one thing, if the villa is on fire,

Thank you,
3rd quarter officers!

Datemaster

Erin Atak

Flagbearers

1st: Peter Kim

2nd: Sara Kim

4th: Tina Chai

5th: Jesse Cai

6th: Pritha Sandell

109 merchandise for sale

109 t-shirts - \$10

109 stickers - 25 cents

"We are not small potatoes"

Proceeds go to 109 and KM

Three-Person Race, One Quarter to Go

By Stephen A Smith

With stellar 3rd quarters, both Sophie Zhao of 4th period and Peter Kim of 1st period powered their way back to the top of the leaderboard to make the 2010-11 Skill Drill race a down-to-the-wire showdown with the steadiest competitor this year, Mira Sridharan of 5th period.

After faltering in the 2nd quarter, Zhao was thought to have fallen too far behind to catch the leaders, but she responded with 5 out of 7 perfects and leads all with a total of 12.

However, Kim was the real story of 2nd quarter with a stunning 6 out of 7 perfects including a streak of 5 in a row, a streak that as of now is still alive. He is tied with Sridharan at 11.

Meanwhile, other strong contenders faltered. Randall Kim and Ava Lakmazaheri both impressed dur-

ing the first half of the year but fell on hard times during 3rd quarter and now sit three back of Zhao. Kim managed only one perfect all quarter. Lakmazaheri managed four but still lost ground to Zhao and Peter Kim.

The most intriguing competitor in the top 6 is Julianne Stratton who only had one perfect during 1st quarter. With four perfects in each of the last two quarters, she actually has more perfects than Zhao over that same time period.

“Outside of Peter Kim, she is probably the most on fire right now,” said Mr. Huang. “It’s going to be an exciting finish because every period has a contender.”

He is right. If one counts Stratton, this is the first time in a long time that each period has someone in a top position so late in the year.

May the best 109er win.

SD Standings (through SD #21)

12: Sophie Zhao

11: Peter Kim, Mira Sridharan

9: Randall Kim, Ava Lakmazaheri, Julianne Stratton

8: Dana Ryu, Hyeon Su Lee

7: Steven Pyon

6: Yerim Park, Tai Kao-Sowa

5: Ashley Kim, Junyoung Hwang

4: Rojeen Kamali, Christine Li, Marc McDonald, Billy Rindone, Angela Wang, Justin Sher

3: Anthara Gnanakumar, Julianna Kang, Lyric Yu, Shelley Collins, Sherry Wang, Shrali Nigam, Karen Shedlock, Kaela Wilbur, Cliff Yang, Julius Fan, Jesse Cai, Autumn Brenner

2: Noah Flaxman, Jeewoo Kim, Rachel Ho, Katherine Carris, Sarah Frey, Erin Atak, Minjae Kwon, Nadim Najjar

1: Abraham Haji, Zoe Le Menestrel, Andrew Makris, Elizabeth Radcliffe, Ashley Zhang, Matt Evanko, JJ Foster, Shivani Saboo, Lavanya Shukla, Yohan Kang, Daniel Ducic, Daniel Englund, Thomas Grady, Gillian Wright, Philip Carr, Irene Song, Kathryn Howley, Harrison Lloyd, Jack Martin, Amir McGettrick, Patrick Mullery

Bell Finally Rings for 6th Period

By Victor Hugo

On March 31, all of 6th period finally brought in their homework on the same day, and finally, they heard that long-awaited sound, the sound of that beautiful homework bell.

“It was music to my ears,” said one elated citizen.

“It was actually kind of scary,” said another. “I’m not sure I want to hear it again.

Perhaps she was referring to the length and volume of

the ringing. Mr. Huang rang it loudly for almost 30 seconds. Some neighboring classes actually went outside because they thought it was a fire drill.

“It was a big deal. They had really wanted it for a long time,” said Mr. Huang.

To hear the homework bell, all students in a period must turn in completed homework on time, with names clearly indicated.

The Recipe Corner

YUM!

YUM!

YUM!

Provided by Boys Excelling at Cooking and Sewing (BECS)

Bag of Potato Chips

1. Turn on TV.
2. Get large bag of potato chips from pantry, counter or grocery bag.
3. Check if you have to go to the bathroom and go now because you don't want to get up for a while.
4. Select appropriate place on couch to plop yourself down.
5. Pick sporting event or TV show to watch.
6. Open bag.
7. Eat.
8. Don't let too many crumbs fall so Mom doesn't get mad.

Bag of Cheese Puffs

1. (See directions for *Bag of Potato Chips*)

Mangos and Large Potatoes: A History of the Kingdom of 109

- News footage
- Interviews of citizens and allies, past and present
 - Exciting soundtrack

Evening premiere event
This May!!!