



# The 109 Times

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## Thank you....

### 4th Q Flagbearers:

1st: Nihal Dillon  
2nd: Ayla Zhang  
3rd: James Hosken  
5th: Julie Daniel  
8th: Ravi Reddy  
Attorney Gen: Ryan McKenzie

### Frying Pans:

1st: Nathan Wongsangpaiboon  
2nd: Clement Ding  
3rd: Colin Park  
5th:  
8th: Sam Cohen

## The Fourth Darkness Wreaks Havoc

By Tom Henderson

Longfellow and the Kingdom of 109 has weathered many storms, but this year, they have had to deal with a literal dark cloud dubbed The Fourth Darkness, and there is still no end in sight.

When the Dark Cloud arrived in March 2020, K109 and Longfellow knew they were in for something much more sinister

than the Son of Alex or Dr. Donut.

After almost one year of quarantine to hide from the Dark Cloud's stench, citizens were finally allowed to emerge on a limited basis. Mr. Huang visited the

wise Phoss to find out what the source of the cloud was. With their help, he thinks he knows how to combat this present Darkness,

but all is not certain. The Cloud still hovers, darkens, and chokes. Whatever the solution is, ridding ourselves of this new enemy will take time. Mr. Huang's plan is outlined in the special message in this issue of the 109 Times.

Meanwhile, 109 traditions have been altered or entirely cancelled. Disruption has become the norm.

The most visible miss-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Not Small Potatoes Delayed

By Bob Breunig

Due to the Fourth Darkness, publication of *Not Small Potatoes*, the four-part history of the Kingdom of 109 has been delayed.

The four-part book was to come out in the spring of 2020, complete with illustrations by Logan Sumida. Now the date has been pushed to spring/summer of 2021, possibly without illustrations.

The first three parts of the book

are already available to read at the 109 website [www.kingdomof109.com](http://www.kingdomof109.com). The fourth part will not be available for viewing for at least one more month, close to when the book comes out in print.

One reason for the lengthy delay is the decision by the authors to include a chapter about the Fourth Darkness which currently envelops the Lands of Longfellow.

## 109 Awards To Go On with Changes

By Billy Cannon

Despite facing pressure from several members of the Board of Trustees of the 109 Awards Commission, K109 decided to go ahead with the 109 Awards.

Some board members cited unusual circumstances during the Fourth Darkness such as the lack of award presenters, lack of evidence to base votes for nominees, and the difficulty of delivering prizes to those citizens who are still at home.

In the end, Mr. Huang decided there was enough evidence to come up with lists of nominees and vote on. However, there will certainly be changes to this year's 109 awards.

There was no voting committee in each period. Instead, each entire period was allowed to vote electronically. There will be no guest presenters. Instead, Mr. Huang will present all the awards and prizes. There will also be no presentation of Best Penmanship this year.

In a normal year, 109 awards are presented by the winners of the awards from the previous year. In addition, Mr. Huang chooses a small committee from each period to vote on his list of nominees for each category.

## Lin Enjoys Others' Failures

By Ken Norton

On April 15, Eddie Lin of 5th period revealed one of his greatest joys in life: analyzing other people's failures.

At the beginning of class that day, Mr. Huang chose to go over #4 from the previous day's daily review, a word problem about finding the cost of renting a boat based on the amount of time the boat is rented. Less than 80% of 109 citizens answered the question correctly.

Even before Mr. Huang started solving the problem, Lin shouted with glee.

"Oooh, this is my favorite part

of class! I love finding people's mistakes!"

On its surface, the words Lin uttered could seem harmless, but it was the joy in his voice and the gleam in his eyes, not much different than the demeanor of a mad scientist, that shook some of his fellow citizens.

"I got that one wrong," said one meek 109 citizen who wished to remain anonymous. "I feel like my mistakes give him entertainment. I think if he gets that much joy out of it, he should at least be paying me for every question I miss."

## Park Ends Tumultuous Tenure

By Bob Lilly

Late in the 3rd Quarter, when Colin Park was voted 3rd period's first flagbearer of the year, Park thought he would be the flagbearer for the rest of the year. That didn't happen.

In a year of firsts and bizarre adaptations to the Dark Cloud known as the 4th Darkness, Park was replaced by Jamie Hosken after a second flagbearer vote less than three weeks after Park was elected.

Park was voted in as Flagbearer when he was the only one present in 209. The possibility of a second vote arose when more citizens in 3rd period became

physically present in 209 after Park had been flagbearer for two weeks (and carried the flag during one fire drill). Hosken won the second vote handily, and Park did not dispute the outcome.

Park has also come under criticism from 3rd citizens for his allegedly unsatisfactory run as Frying Pan, the one whose job it is to remind Mr. Huang to record class sessions, a new dynamic during this year of the Dark Cloud. As of yet, Mr. Huang has not publicly criticized Park.

"He doesn't do a good job," said one 3rd period citizen.

## A LETTER FROM THE KING

June 2021

Dear 109 Citizens,

In the 18-year history of the Kingdom of 109, we have faced many challenges, both within and outside the walls of 109. We have protected the realm of Longfellow from Mr. Calamito and Office Morris, secured the One Donut from falling into evil hands, fended off the Son of Alex, who, like Dr. Donut, tried to gather immense power, and preserved 109 as best we could from fractures and divisions within the citizenry.

But now, we are faced with the Dark Cloud, a Fourth Darkness, a supposedly alien force that literally hovers over us, putting us in a perpetual state of uneasiness and fear. I have learned recently from the Phoss, that this Darkness is unlike any other we have faced because of its source. It is actually not a foreign invader. It is not a traitor within our midst. There is no object to protect from evil hands this time. No, I have learned that the source of this cloud that literally hangs over us is ... ourselves. Yes, we ourselves, each and every one of you and myself, have created this Fourth Darkness.

I myself do not understand how, but the Dark Cloud is a manifestation of all that is dark within us, and to my surprise, there is much of it. Apparently, the frame of nature that binds our world, keeping it from bursting into a million pieces, could no longer contain the ugly picture that our most selfish, fearful, wicked desires were painting. At least the world didn't explode. Instead, nature redirected that energy into this Dark Cloud. But all is not lost.

According to the Phoss, there is exactly one way to combat this cloud. Since our hearts created this darkness, it is our hearts that will solve it. Dedicating ourselves to selflessness, courage, and goodness will cleanse the skies as well as our own hearts. This is the winning formula. Join me in the greatest rescue that 109 has ever taken part in. If we remain steadfast in this endeavor, the cloud can be eliminated, and the sun will shine again.

Mr. Huang  
King of 109

*(Continued from page 1)*

ing piece to 109 normalcy is the lack of flagbearers. No flagbearers were elected for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters. There will be no Date-master this year. Mr. Huang did not appoint a new Attorney General, so last year's AG, Ryan McKenzie has stayed in that position. Moreover, this issue of the 109 Times will be the only issue of the year, the first time in its 15 year history that the 109 Times did not publish at least three issues in a year (last year's 4th issue was also cut due to the Dark Cloud).

"I feel very sad for this generation," said Mr. Huang. "They will never have the same experience that their predecessors had. Since we

didn't have flagbearers for a long time, some of them don't even know the national anthem."

Due to the reduced number of days, The Skill Drills Cup was cancelled for the first time in 109 history. The most high profile K109 competition was lost to an entire generation.

The end of year committee is scrambling to preserve end of year traditions as best they can. The class pictures, 109 March, and 109 Awards will be tricky undertakings given the restrictions put on all nations in Longfellow.

The one bright spot will be the first screening of *Mangos and Large Potatoes* after its debut on YouTube. Prior to this year, only owners of the physical DVD had access to the film.

## Ask Arvid

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### Answers to Questions in an Ever-Confusing World

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Dear Arvid:

Why is the Kingdom of 109 in Room 209?

Dear Curious:

K109 was originally in Room 109. In 2011, K109 was forced out of 109 and eventually settled in 209.

Dear Arvid:

Why is the 109 flag blue and yellow?

Dear Wondering:

The blue represents the sea which brought Mr. Huang to 109. The yellow represents the sun which made the mangoes grow.

Dear Arvid:

Why is the national anthem titled “Not Small Potatoes”?

Dear Curious #2:

At the Battle on the Field, Mr. Huang called Morris and Calamito “small potatoes”, an insult that labels them as insignificant. Since 109 citizens are not insignificant, they are considered *not* small potatoes.

Dear Arvid:

Can a 109 citizen ever lose 109 citizenship?

Dear Wondering:

You can lose your citizenship if you call a citizen a small potato, the ultimate insult. If you don’t do that, you are a citizen for life.

Dear Arvid:

How long will the Dark Cloud remain?

Dear Waiting:

Even Mr. Huang, the Phoss, and myself do not know that. At least we have a plan detailed in Mr. Huang’s letter on page 3 of this 109 Times issue. Trust the plan, and be patient. The sun will rise again in the east...and set in 109.

## Quiz Bowl News and Notes

On May 1 and 2, Longfellow A and Longfellow B participated in the 2021 Middle School National Championship Tournament. LMS B placed tied for 10th, the second best finish for an LMS B team at MSNCT (in 2012, LMS B finished 4th). LMS A finished in 2nd place, the 3rd time Longfellow has lost in the final match.

LMS A: Deven Hagen, Abigail Lee, Ryan McKenzie, Anthony Zhao

LMS B: Sarah Trainer, Aarushi Kanigich-erla, Eddie Lin, Hudson Keeler

At the Individual Player NCT, Deven Hagen and Abigail Lee both made it to the semifinals.