

THE 109 TIMES

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SKILL DRILLS RACE IS TIGHT

by Hugh Novart

So far this year, the race for the Skill Drills overall title is a two-person race. As we begin week 10 of Skill Drills, Han Kim of 1st period Honors 7 and Jungmin Park of 5th period Algebra 1 are in the lead, tied with 5 perfect SDs. In the Honors 7 level, Nora Gayer (1st), Mi Na Oh (1st) and Megan Falls (3rd) are tied with 3. In the Algebra level, Sophia Li, (5th), has 3.

“Han and Jungmin are both very careful mathematicians, and that’s why they are so good on Skill Drills. They treat each problem with the same respect,” said Mr. Huang.

Most Las Vegas odds-makers are giving Han the edge in winning the end of the year title. Not only has he bagged 5 perfect SDs already, but he has also scored 95 on three separate occasions. He could easily have 8 perfect SDs at this point.

However, the year is still young. Anyone could surge at any time and upset both Kim and Park.

COW MYSTERY REMAINS UNSOLVED

by Ligia Bonilla

Despite intense efforts by students to coax the secret out of Mr. Huang, the meaning behind the pink cow remains a confounding mystery.

Rumors have spread that the cow is a religious idol. Mr. Huang did make reference to burning post and found items in a ritual fire. Perhaps the ritual fire would serve to appease the pink cow.

Mr. Huang has promised to reveal the story behind the cow at a later date, but students remain impatient.

NON-GTC STUDENTS KEEP LONGFELLOW IN THE HUNT

by Tiffany Brown

It is not secret that Longfellow is favored to win the NVCTM GTC

competition every year, but this year is different. Longfellow wants to win the NON-GTC competition, and seize a very rare double victory.

Mr. Williams, who has been at Longfellow longer than any current math teacher (though nobody knows exactly how long) can’t even remember if Longfellow has ever won the NON-GTC competition.

“Math contests should not be only for the GTC students. The rest of the school is perfectly capable of performing successfully at these special events. They just need to be exposed to it more,” said Mr. Huang.

Traditionally, the Honors 7 and Algeom students lead the GTC attack while Mrs. Burnett’s Algebra and Geometry students lead the way in the NON-GTC competition. However, in the unusually tricky November contest, two of Mr. Huang’s 6th period Algebra students, Kyle Rauch and Lawrence Peterson scored 4/6 to place in the top 10.

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS STALLED

by Prestor John

After getting off to a flying start, Room 109 beautification projects have stalled.

During 1st quarter, Amalia Flores (5th pd. last year) completed touch-ups on the number line, and Nathan Sewall (6th) sketched a tree for the west wall. Also, Evan Burch sketched a future blue star for the north wall, but painting of the star has been delayed.

Rumors have spread that FCPS has complained that permanent decorations are not allowed to promote causes such as a football team.

“The blue star isn’t supposed to promote the Cowboys,” says Mr. Huang. “It’s just a blue star. Everybody likes stars, and a blue star would look pretty. It’s just going to be a generic blue star.”

“He’s lying,” said Sam Huff, former defensive lineman and current Redskins radio broadcaster. “It’s propaganda in the public schools, pure and simple.”

4TH PERIOD PROTESTS BLACKBOARD

by Nathaniel Bumpo

In protest of the inefficient program Blackboard, 4th period A2Trig has set up a rival xanga site for homework and special announcements.

Surprisingly, Mr. Huang, known for his luddite beliefs, agreed to post homework on the site.

“I know people are surprised that I agreed to use it, but I’m doing it as a public protest. Blackboard stinks. It’s not user-friendly. I don’t know a lot about computer applications, but I know bad quality when I see it.”

Mr. Huang has already stated that he does not intend to open similar sites for his other classes.

“I still don’t like using the computer to post homework. Doing this for 4th period is more of a protest of Blackboard, not an embrace of the use of technology.”

MISTAKES MOUNTING

by Tatiana Myskina

The mistake count during 5th period is climbing, and nobody is sure what the consequences will be.

At this rate, Mr. Huang could total 50 mistakes by the end of the year, but he claims he will be able to cut down. In addition, he is working on a deal with 5th period to allow him to reduce his total if he goes extended periods of time without any mistakes.

However, the public isn’t sure what will happen if he reaches a large amount. Will he quit? Will he be fired? Will he throw the lightest person in 5th period out the window in frustration?

“We won’t find out,” said Mr. Huang, “because I intend to end the year with a mistake amount of zero.”

AFTER SCHOOL HELP AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Mondays: Honors 7
Tuesdays: Go Club
Wednesdays: Algebra 1,
A2Trig
Thursdays: Algebra 1
Fridays: Mathcounts and
basketball