

The 109 Times

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“We are not small potatoes.”

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The Others Win 3rd Pd Team Challenge

By Niccolo Polo

Half-way into 3rd period’s Team Challenge, the Chinese team had a comfortable lead over the Others (the Koreans were way out of it at this point). All the Chinese had to do was match The Others for the last two rounds, and victory would be theirs. Then something unforeseen happened.

On Dec. 21, Mr. Huang designed a special round consisting of a single logarithm question. Any single player could answer with a raise of the hand. A correct answer would earn six points for their country. An incorrect answer would result in a

loss of six points. As the Chinese were ahead of the Others by exactly six points, there was potential for a major shift in the standings. Everyone expected all the Chinese to play it safe.

The logarithm questions was multi-layered with plenty of room for error. Mr. Huang did not expect to see a hand for at least 10-15 seconds. Within five seconds, David Chao’s (Chinese) hand shot up. His answer was wrong. Before anyone could react to the shock of the Chinese losing their lead, Devon Wood-Thomas

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Vijayakumar Defends Tissue Box

By Paul Getty

There are times when principles must be defended. That is what Nithin Vijayakumar did, and that is why Shriansh Singh could not blow his nose.

On Nov. 29, Shriansh Singh innocently approached the 109 Museum’s tissue box. He started to take a tissue in order to blow his nose when Nithin Vijayakumar stopped him.

“Those are for tears,” he said with conviction.

The 109 Museum has a tissue box

clearly marked “for tears only” so that citizens may mourn the ruins of 109 with dignity. Those needing to blow their nose for other reasons must travel to the tissue box near Mr. Huang’s desk.

“There is no need to waste money hiring security guards when we have citizens ready to defend even the smallest details of our nation,” said Mr. Huang. proudly

No charges were brought against Singh. Vijayakumar has earned the title Defender of Tissues.

PTB Wishes 109 “Happy Thanksgiving”

By Roger Williams

On November 21, PTB leader Carole Kihm visited 109 to wish Mr. Huang and the 109 citizens a Happy Thanksgiving. That is what came out of her mouth anyway.

As one citizen put it, “What she was thinking inside was, ‘Be thankful for what you have because you are never getting your land back.’”

Recently, Mr. Huang has spoken publically of retaking 109 when the time is right. The PTB have no intention of giving up what they stole, so Kihm’s visit and message seem to be either a way to appease the kingdom while at

the same time a way to remind the kingdom that nothing will ever change.

“What happened on February 11, 2011 was a tragedy,” said Mr. Huang. We will never forget. Our allies will never forget. And, we will make sure the PTB will never forget. 109 has a home, and that home is 109!”

Some 109ers want to raise an army, but not all 109 citizens support retaking 109 by force.

“I kind of like it here in 209,” said one citizen. “While the mangoes aren’t as plentiful here, we have other fruits and nuts. The land is fertile and the weather isn’t bad. Maybe we should just let it go.”

109 Merchandise Prices Fall

By Milton Friedman

After 109 auditors warned Mr. Huang of an impending tissue shortage, Mr. Huang did not act. When the tissues ran out, Mr. Huang had to act.

The Kingdom has to provide citizens with tissues, especially during the winter months, so Mr. Huang ordered that the Kingdom would accept tissue boxes as payment for 109 merchandise.

The Kingdom was desperate, so prices were low. Ethan Wu purchased 40 stickers for several boxes of tissue. The Kingdom’s inventory was saved, at least for the time being.

Wu has been called a savior

by some, but others say he took advantage of the falling prices for his personal gain.

“There is no crime in taking advantage of a good deal,” said one Wu supporter. “Plus, where would we be if he had not paid with tissue? We would be wiping our noses with our sleeves! Ethan saved our sleeves!”

Some economists are worried that the sudden introduction of cheap prices for 109 merchandise will throw the kingdom’s economy out of whack.

“I’m not concerned,” said one citizen. “The king has the power to adjust prices whenever he wants to fix things. State-controlled economies rule!”

Embassy Opens in Starship Inquiry

By Christine Knickmeyer

The new 109 embassy in Starship Inquiry opened to much fanfare in early December after one of its designers showed off its impressive defenses to 1st and 6th period.

The twin brothers Noah and Teddy Daniel designed the embassy that is manned by autotropic munchkins. Much larger than the 109 embassy in the Hughey School, the embassy in Starship has apartments, condos and a dwelling for Mr. Huang when he visits.

But most impressive were the embassy’s defensive capabilities. This embassy can fly. Plus, the walls are equipped with fire defenses. The autotropic munchkins have also been trained in several martial arts styles.

Both Noah (who considers himself the more handsome twin) and Teddy (who considers Noah the female twin) likes to claim the best features of the embassy for himself. They did not keep accurate records, so it is hard to know for sure who put in more work.

“I love the embassy,” said one citizen. “If it were ever attacked, we would do alright.”

Starship Inquiry raised no concerns about having a flying embassy with weapons and killer munchkins in its midst.

“They have nothing to worry about,” said Mr. Huang. “We’re allies. As long as we remain allies, we won’t need to use the fire or the munchkins.”

5th Period Best at Bubbling

By Norma Jean Mortenson

On Nove. 13, 5th period defeated all the other periods by having the greatest success rate at bubbling in their AMC-8 answer sheets. 3rd period was the worst.

Only 3.7% of 5th period committed an error when bubbling in name, age and section letter. 6th period came in 2nd with 7.1% (including Ryan Hanusik). 4th period had 8.6%, 1st period had 17.2% and in last place was 3rd period with 18.7% unable to fill in the challenging Scantron sheet

correctly.

“Too hard,” said one 3rd period who wished to remain anonymous. “Where I grow up, we don’t have paper. We communicate by terepathee. I have rittre experience wiss bubbres.”

All of 3rd period was required to attend Bubble Filling Boot Camp before taking the AMC-10 on Feb.5.

“We could not leave anything to chance,” said Mr. Williams.

Coming out of the AMC-10, 3rd period citizens felt confident they bubbled correctly.

Skill Drill Standings (thru SD #13)

- 9: Harry Jung
- 7: Gyongjae Kim,
- 6: Chloe Andresol,
- 5: Minyoung Hwang, Royce Kang
- 3: Nina Chung, Adam Yee, Joshua Kim, Austin Zhang
- 2: Josh Havermale, Katherine Cheng, Arthur Browne, Brendan Tan-Fahed, Jaden Lee, Anneke Noe, Ayush Pamecha, Katherine Cheng, Jennifer Yang,
- 1: Noah Daniel, Linda Diaz, Cliff Lin, , Alex Marwaha, Arman Parastaran, Erin Villaronga Mulligan, Anna Zhang, Jett Bisset, Chris Jiang, Giacomo Mecagni, Rachel Zhang, Leela Abrishami, Maggie Bujor, Sneha Kripanandan, Ethan Wu, Aditya Sarkar, Sean Clancy, Teddy Daniel, Adam Eldridge, Kevin Juneau, Jake Parker

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(Other) raised his hand. His answer of 81 was correct.

Cheers erupted from the Others. The bell rang, and teammates high-fived Wood-Thomas on the way out.

“I’m so happy I want to belt out our national anthem and wave our flag,” said one of the Others. However, the Others don’t have a flag or national anthem.

Meanwhile, Chao had to explain himself to his distraught teammates (especially Haoyuan Sun) and country.

There were still two rounds to go. The Chinese and The Others were perfect and the Koreans were nearly perfect, so there was no change in the standings. When the season ended, the Others beamed with pride while the Chinese wondered what might have

been.

To this day, Haoyuan Sun walks around with a forlorn look on his face.

“Why did you do that?” Haoyuan Sun asked David Chao even weeks after the last round.

As 3rd quarter begins, the three teams have been disbanded in order to form new teams, but the drama of Dec. 21 will not easily be forgotten.

**Thank you,
2nd Q Flagbearers!**

1st: Erin Villaronga Mulligan
3rd: Alex Wang
4th: Harry Jung
5th: Sneha Kripanandan
6th: Sean Clancy
LT: Ethan Wu

Liu Wants a Tail

By Markus Snodgrass

On Jan. 3, Alice Liu of 1st period, usually the first or second citizen to arrive, admitted that she would love to have a tail. Needless to say, this admission was met with strange looks.

“At first I pictured a mouse or rat tail, and thought wow, that’s gross. I don’t want to know you,” said one citizen near her.

“I could braid it,” said Liu happily. “Like a horse’s tail.”

“I guess a tail like that isn’t so bad,” responded Mr. Huang. “You can dry your face or dust the bookshelves with it.”

In the animal kingdom, tails sometimes provide balance. Liu has been known to trip or walk into things, so her tail could provide ample protection for all.

Ask Arvid

Dear Arvid:

How do I know what number Skill Drill we are on?

Dear Mr. Perceptive:

There are a couple of ways. First, you can look at the Perfect Skill Drills board and look at the number for last week's Skill Drill. Add 1 to that number. You can also look at the number on your last Skill Drill paper. However, if you didn't write down the number for that week or if you threw it away, you will have to look at the board.

Dear Arvid:

When I am taking a test, I look at the walls, the ceiling and Mr. Huang's face. I never see any of the answers written on them. What can I do?

Dear Mr. Preparation:

I could be wrong about this, but I think you need to prepare better. It could be months before the answers are written on the walls.

Dear Arvid:

At movie theaters, they always say walk (do not run) to the nearest exit in case of emergency. I have two questions. First, how do you define emergency? Second, my nearest exit is a window.

Dear Mr. Literal:

I would define emergency as anything that you cannot control that would cause irritation, discomfort or disgust to you or those around you. This includes a fire, but if you feel the sudden urge to sing and you know you sing horribly, you should probably exit then as well. As for the window, use your common sense.

On second thought, don't use your common sense. Use the door.

Guess and Check

Guaranteed to ALWAYS work
(given an infinite amount of time)

Guess and Check Society
www.guessandchecksociety.com

Imposter Steps in for Wu

By Henry Higgins

On Dec. 19, attendance records showed Stanley Wu was absent from 6th period. Then who was sitting in his desk? It looked like Stanley and sounded like Stanley, but if Stanley was absent, it had to be someone else.

"I'm with Mr. Huang on this one," said one citizen. "It had to be an imposter, a very talented imposter. He had the high-pitched voice, the smile and the walk down perfectly." 6th period decided the imposter posed no threat. Since Stanley is harmless, so is the imposter, they concluded.

The next day, Wu denied any knowledge of sending in an imposter so that he could skip class. An investigation is pending.

Ask Arvid ...

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

Dear Arvid:

I make mistakes on skill drills and tests, but Mr. Huang never puts my mistakes on the Never Again list. I feel left out.

Middle schoolers go for people who are nice, respectful and funny. You need at least two of these traits. If you only have one of them, bribery also works.

at the board, people laugh.

Dear Tyke:

Don't worry about that. They may laugh, but they actually like your explanations. You are generally accurate and entertaining.

Dear Forgotten:

You aren't making the right mistakes. You have to do something wrong that Mr. Huang has told you a hundred times to not do. Plus, it has to be something that flies in the face of common sense. Then you will get the recognition you deserve.

Dear Arvid:

I want to perform music on the last day of the quarter, but I'm afraid that Mr. Huang will say no.

Dear Arvid:

I can't seem to sit down in class. I have this uncontrollable urge to walk around.

Dear Rising Star:

I have it on good authority that Mr. Huang will say yes. In fact, in my opinion, he hates singing and playing guitar. He wishes to end that tradition, but he can't because it's...tradition.

Dear Ants in Your Pants:

Let's see, we could you duct tape, staples, crazy glue or nails. Which do you prefer? None of them? You could just control yourself then.

Dear Arvid:

I can't seem to win any of the elections for flagbearer? What am I doing wrong?

Dear Arvid:

Whenever I go up to explain problems

Dear William Jennings Bryan:

"Never Again!"

Brought to you by the proud citizens of 109

$$X + 18 = X - 18$$

$$16/8 = 8$$

$$5 \times 5 = 10$$

$$8 \times 4 = 34$$

$$X + X = X$$

"But 4 doesn't go into 100!"

$$(X)(X) = 2X$$

$$20 \times 2 = 50$$

LCD of 9 and 16 is 3

"Is 'o' before 'u'?"

McMahon/O'Donnell Expedition Discovers Electric Pencil Sharpener

By Jedidiah Smith

Bolstered by funds from t-shirt sales and the recent purchase of a large tract of land in the southwestern part of 209, the McMahon-O'Donnell Expedition, sent by Mr. Huang to scout out the new territory, discovered an electric pencil sharpener.

The newly discovered machine will help speed up the process of sharpening.

"This is an amazing find," said O'Donnell. "However, a quicker sharpening of pencils does not necessarily prevent the breaking of pencils during writing. Someone needs to find a remedy for that."

That someone could be Sacajawea, the gypsy who helped O'Donnell and McMahon find the sharpener. The people of the mountains and hills say that she has secrets of pencil use that could be very useful to O'Donnell

and others who do not know their own strength when writing.

"She wore cool moccasins and things in her hair," said McMahon, giggling.

"You could tell she had a lot of wisdom," McMahon said giggling.

"I like traveling," giggling McMahon said.

"Now, if we could just find the tree that grows pencils, we'll be on easy street!" exclaimed O'Donnell.

Again, some say that Sacajawea knows the secret location of that fabled tree, but information from her will be hard to come by. Sacajawea distrusts travelers through her land. She only helped O'Donnell and McMahon because they were near death, not remembering to pack any food or water for their long journey. They both claim that the other was supposed to take care of the supplies.

Thank you,
3rd quarter officers!

Datemaster

Hannah Scanlon

Flagbearers

1st: Gabriela Gresenz

3rd: Emilio Sison

4th: Nate Lavoy

5th: Grace Lee

6th: Helen Ngov

Kingdom of 109
merchandise for sale

Old 109 t-shirts - \$5

109 DVDs - \$10

109 stickers - 50 cents

"We are not small potatoes"

Proceeds go to KM and K109

Jung Off to Fast Start

By Erin Andrews

What seemed like a run-away season for Deniz Atak has now become a bit more interesting. Mired in a slump, Atak has lately allowed his closest competition to keep pace with him, and cast doubt on whether he can actually break the 109 record of 18 perfect Skill Drills.

After record breaking opening streak of 10 perfect Skill Drills, Atak has only five perfects out of the last 12. Meanwhile, 3rd quarter was a resurgence for fellow 5th period citizens Krystal Chao and Tom Pulliam who scored 5/5 and 4/5 perfects.

Crystal Zhao of 6th period squandered a golden opportunity dugin Atak’s dryspell by also slumping to a meager two perfects. Antonio Chan matched Atak with three.

SOL testing and other disruptions traditionally wipe out some weeks of Skill Drills during 4th quarter, so Atak’s chances at getting closer to tying Han Kim, Seungin Sohn and Care Shoaibi’s record of 18 are dwindling quickly.

Could his dream year end in disappointment?

SD Standings (thru SD #22)

- 15: Deniz Atak**
- 11: Antonio Chan**
- 10: Crystal Zhao, Habib Karaky, William Kodama**
- 9: Shawn Choi**
- 8: Mayuko Takamura, Aaron Chung**
- 6: Krystal Chao, Jinwook Hwang, Grace Lee, Peter Kim, Renne Zhang**
- 5: Tom Pulliam, Emma Fan, Hannah Scanlon, Tim Wu, Will Baxley**
- 4: Alex Simons, Aazrin Mir, Shannon Chu, Emily Stranne, Michelle Lim**
- 3: Selina Cheng, Manny Panzardi, Nathalie Thomas, Veronica Kim**
- 2: Caitlin Dozier, Ayse Bal, Josh Mosier, Brian Zheng, Johan Ketkar, Isabelle Wyerman**
- 1: Helen Ngov, Gabi Gresenz, Varun Talwar, Nate Lavoy, Evan Yang, Hannah Champness, Siri Fredriksen, Mary McMahon, Kyle Watkins, John Zele, Juho Lee, Immalla Chen, Jessica Boyer, Gaby McDonald, Yonghwan Kwon, Dylan Myrick**

Huang Meets with U.S. President and Presidential Candidates

By Skip Bayless

In a 2-hour closed-door meeting devoid of media, Mr. Huang met with presidential candidates Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul. After a 30-minute break, he met with President Barack Obama. No statement was given on what was discussed, but needless to say, this was highly unusual.

The Kingdom of 109 has always stood strong for monarchical rights—the sustainability and justification of monarchical rule despite being outnumbered by democratic governments. Could this meeting lead to an official declaration of regime change? Will Mr. Huang abdicate the throne and call for national elections?

However, it is not a secret that Mr. Huang and close associates do from time to time ex-

plore the merits of a more representative government. Usually, this exploration takes the form of letters written to and from other world leaders within and outside Longfellow. This is the first time Mr. Huang has met face to face with any leader outside of the realm of Longfellow.

Adding more suspicion that a change is coming are the strange alterations to 109 traditions. Mr. Huang delayed music day for two weeks. The 3rd issue of the 109 Times is over three weeks late. The sense is that the office of the king has grown tired of maintaining 109 traditions.

The weak economy isn’t helping. T-shirt and sticker sales are way down this year. Bartering activity is near zero.

Yogumbyo has been seen storming out of Mr. Huang’s office on several occasions. He is not happy with his pay or living conditions.

The Recipe Corner

Provided by Boys Excelling at Cooking and Sewing (BECS)



An Apple

1. Spit on the apple and rub it with your sleeve to make sure it's clean
2. Eat the apple
3. Walk to the end of the room opposite from the trashcan
4. Toss the core into the trashcan
5. Yell: "Money!" if you make it
6. Pick the core up and shoot again if you miss

109ers, congratulations on completing 3rd quarter!

You are not small potatoes!

Eat mangos

Be like Haitao.

Mr. Huang