



The 109 Times

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Thank you...
2nd Q Flagbearers:
1st: Rebecca Zhang
2nd: Kacy Lee
3rd: Derek Liu
5th: Miranda Xiong
6th: Otto Janke

LT: (none)
DM: Zara Adams
Ambassador: TBD

6th Period Reinstated

By Evangelina Mills

On December 6, to a chorus of applause, Mr. Huang reinstated 6th period.

Since that day, the citizens of 6th period have enjoyed the privileges and protections that the 109 Constitution affords. The first order of business was choosing a flagbearer. They had been without one since mid-1st quarter. Otto Janke, who was briefly the

1st quarter FB after FB Charlie Wu had his citizenship taken away, became the 2nd quarter FB by consensus.

The reinstatement allowed 6th period to view the documentary *Mangoes and Large Potatoes*.

"I'm happy to be back in," said one 6th period citizen.

Mr. Huang also ex-

pressed his extreme pleasure.

"I'm glad."

Other citizens still harbored resentment for being punished for something one person did.

Moreover, the jury is still out on whether Mr. Huang will have to take extraordinary measures again if citizens can't hold their tongue.

Charlie Wu was unavailable for comment.

Grau Drinking Incident Sparks Water Debate

By Mimi Creveleau

On November 11, Eva Grau reminded us of something we often forget. Water is dangerous.

A casual swig from her water bottle turned into a near catastrophe as some water went down the wrong way. She quickly recovered, but Mr. Huang used the incident as a teaching moment.

"This is why you shouldn't drink water," he said. "The dangers outweigh the positives. We

almost lost Eva."

Evian, Poland Spring, Deer Park and Dasani immediately voiced their displeasure jointly with the FDA and ACLU in a public statement:

"Drinking water is essential to life, and the human body is unable to create its own water. People have to drink. Mr. Huang is being anti-water. We should welcome all liquids into our bodies including water!"

Alphabet Difficulties

By Penelope Liu

A new obstacle now confronts 1st Period...the dreaded alphabet.

1st Period citizens shuddered when Mr. Huang told them that the values for ordered pair solutions to 2 by 2 systems should be put in alphabetical order. X comes before Y. Ah, the dreaded alphabet!

Fortunately, Mr. Huang said he would allow alphabet cheat sheets...for now.

"I'm ok for now," said one 1st period citizen who keeps two versions of her alphabet handy in her spiral. "But I need to master the alphabet before Mr. Huang stops allowing the cheat sheet. If I don't have it memorized by then, I'm toast."

"I use my fingers to help me, like when I count," said another citizen. "Just yesterday I confirmed that p comes before q."

Adding another level of complexity to the alphabet struggle is the abscissa and ordinate. To remember that the abscissa comes first, Mr. Huang instructed citizens to remember that the abscissa comes first because the word abscissa comes first alphabetically.

"My heart just sank when he said that," said one citizen. "As if I don't already have enough to study!"

Hole Punchers on Strike

By Paula Irving

Three holes on the left side of the paper has been taken for granted since the inception of 109. Now, 109 citizens must punch their own holes, and some are not happy about it.

The United Hole Punchers Union (UHPU) decided to go on strike mid-November over wages and working conditions. Some hole punchers are not union members, so a few hole-punching machines are still functioning, but the machines closest to 209 are not.

Hence, the 109 citizens who

prefer holes in their papers have been punching their own holes since then.

"It's a pain," said one 3rd period citizen who has a side job modeling bracelets and watches. "My hands are my life. What if I develop arthritis?"

Other citizens aren't fazed by the strike.

"I don't need holes. I just stick papers in my folder."

"I'm going to lose it anyway, so what's the difference?"

"I'm with the hole-punchers. They should have better working conditions and higher wages."

Foreign Policy Slowdown Worries Citizens

By Tress Planck

With the 2nd quarter over and no K109 ambassador as yet, citizens are worried that the kingdom will shift into isolationist mode and cease to be the beacon of light for Longfellow.

"We need to be involved in the world," said one concerned citizen. "We saved Tieland in 2007. We saved Longfellow from Dr. Donut. We have alliances. That shouldn't change."

Four alliances were forged since 2007, but this year, K109 has reported no potential new ones. Since the last treaty signing in Feb. 2016 with the Queendom of 163, Mr. Huang and Mrs. Collins have not met,

and citizens now wonder if Mr. Huang regrets the move. Mr. Huang denies this.

When the year started, citizens were excited about rumors of an alliance with Ms. Godwin of 200 or Mr. Bantle of the Duchy of LITV, but nothing has come of it.

Before anything materializes, Mr. Huang must choose an ambassador. The constitution does not state that an ambassador is necessary for a treaty signing, but moving forward without one would be highly unusual. Hence, citizens are worried that as long as there is no ambassador, there will be no new alliances.

2nd Quarter, Different Story

By Willamina Pequena

In a stunning turn of events, the race for the Skill Drills Cup has turned upside down.

After 1st quarter, the race looked to be a one-man show starring Alan Vladimiroff who began the year with 6/7 perfects. During 2nd quarter, Vladimiroff took a tumble which has allowed others to leapfrog into contention.

Entering the season with high expectations, Alyssa Gorbaneva of 3rd period, had a so-so 1st quarter with 3 perfects, but she has exploded with 5/7 perfects. If it weren't for two small miscues, she would be a perfect 7/7 in 2nd quarter.

Taking the lead is the consistent Jeanie Qi who has added

5 perfects to her 4 from 1st quarter. Right now, it looks as though the Cup will go to one of these two. Only two behind Qi one 1 behind Gorbaneva, Vladimiroff is not by any means out of the picture, but he has to return to his 1st quarter form if he wants a shot at the Cup.

Even though Qi is currently in the lead, Las Vegas oddsmakers have it dead-even between her and Gorbaneva because Gorbaneva's performance has trended up.

Citizens with an outside shot at the Cup are Youngmin Kwon, Alison Wan and Halasya Malladi with 6 and Derek Liu and Rohan Damani with 5.

Skill Drills Standings (after SD #14)

9: Jeanie Qi
 8: Alyssa Gorbaneva
 7: Alan Vladimiroff
 6: Youngmin Kwon, Halasya Malladi, Alison Wan
 5: Derek Liu, Rohan Damani
 4: Brian Lai, Sarina Saran, Eric Deeken, Rachel Trainer
 3: Maxx Yang, Emilie Kim, Zach Paikin, Rebecca Zhang, Ella Park
 2: Nathan Cao, Valerie Li, Abi Sastry, Audrey Yin, Kacy Lee, Avery Barnett, Jeongwoo Yoo, Benoy Sen, Dermot Molony, Daniel Leverett, Winston Chin
 1: Toby Schultz, Anjali Kesari, Matthew Xue, Blaire Zhao, Clara Hyun, Zak Scavotto, Rachel Silverman, Sean Choi, Kevin Fan, Mike Husk, Mallika Dandamudi, Daniel House, Nika Jorbenadze

Bottoms-Up Fractions Gain Support

By Ricky Blake

A short lesson in the different ways countries read fractions led to a fierce debate in 1st period.

After Mr. Huang explained that in some countries such as China and Korea the denominator of a fraction is read before the numerator, a sizable number of 1st period citizens liked it, instilling fear in the hearts of other citizens who think it makes no sense.

"Why would you do that?" asked incredulous Rebecca Hatanpaa. "Why would you

read it the wrong way?"

Others like the way that reading the denominator first puts your mind in the world of that denominator before reading the numerator.

"It's like knowing if someone is a Capulet or a Montague before you know which exact person. At least you know if the fraction is a friend or enemy."

If the number of bottoms-up proponents gets large enough, Mr. Huang might have to consider a vote whether to alter how fractions are read in 1st period.

Ask Arvid

Answers to Questions in an Ever-Changing World

Dear Arvid:

Is it true that numbers don't have eyes?

Dear Toddler:

Yes, it is true. A brilliant mathematician discovered this fact last month. "Numbers can't see," he said.

Dear Arvid:

I'm confused. Are there more than 31 days in any of the months? I heard (or more accurately, saw) that there might be.

Dear Confused by the DM:

No, there aren't 32 days in any month. Either someone is lying to you or someone is very misinformed.

Dear Arvid:

If someone who is clearly not chill claims to be chill, should I show him how he is not chill or just leave him to his delusions?

Dear Good Samaritan:

It is clear to me that you have a good heart and want to help this person. Since I don't know this person, I won't tell you what to do. Just use your best judgement.

6th Designing New Alphabet

Anthony Hitchens

In its never-changing mission to waste time, 6th period has taken on the burden of designing a new alphabetical order.

"The old arbitrary ways just don't make sense," said Otto Janke.

While a majority of 6th period believe that the vowels should be grouped together and the consonants should be grouped together, they also admit that changes to the alphabet would create some controversy.

"There will be an adjustment period for some people," said Janke. "We will have to relearn the alphabet song. A lot of toddlers will be confused. But in the end, it's a plus for society in the long-term."

There are other sequences being considered. Evans Chun is working on a sequence that actually spells words.

Mr. Huang and PTB Compromise

By Mary Berry

Mr. Huang deflected claims that the PTB stepped on K109 sovereignty after he and Mrs. Kihm jointly decided to altar the 109 learning targets.

The So-so Wednesday Agreement as it is called stated that 3 of the 5 learning targets would have to be removed and that new acceptable learning targets would be displayed. Mr. Huang was allowed to keep two of the original learning targets.

"This was a joint decision," said Mr. Huang.

"We were not coerced. We were not bribed. The decision was reached after a civil 15-minute meeting where we explored possible changes. The decisions were made with the best interests of 109 citizens in mind."

"We don't buy it," said Michael Glock, president of the 109 Independence Movement. "Mr. Huang has become soft. He's not telling the whole story. It's time to leave the PTB and leave Longfellow."