



The 109 Times

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Thank you....

2nd Q Flagbearers:
 1st: Mark Karam
 2nd: Tanner Coerr
 3rd: Jaiden Khemani
 4th: Tanmay Neema
 7th: Jean Lavigne Du Cader

DM: Katherine Zhang
 Ambassador: Faraz Mirza
 Attorney General:
 Karina Bhatt

Closings, Delays Disrupt SD Race

By Melanie Ann Norton

Frequent delays and closings have the potential to disrupt one of the best Skill Drill seasons ever by an individual, and 109 officials are trying to come up with a contingency plan.

The SD Cup always plans for 28 weeks of Skill Drills. Occasionally, there are only 27 weeks, but this year, the projection has dropped to a maxi-

mum of 26. If that projection holds, Tanmay Neema who has 12 perfects out of 14 weeks would have to be perfect the rest of the way to beat Michelle Kang's record of 23 out of 28 set last year. He would still have a higher perfect-to-weeks ratio, but the All-Time Perfect Skill Drills record book only keeps track of total number of per-

fect weeks.

Naturally, supporters of Neema say he is being treated unfairly if he only has 26 weeks to beat Kang. So 109 officials are devising a list of alternate plans such as letting Neema take two extra weeks of Skill Drills on his own time or changing the competition to Best Perfects to Weeks Ratio.

However, changing the nature of the competition would then incite sup-

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Chasse Shows Off Pencil-Sharpener

By Willie Dee Billups

On January 31, 3rd period was serenaded with the sounds of a loud new pencil sharpener. Unfortunately, this new contraption does not belong to 109.

In the middle of class, Jack Chasse decided to sharpen some pencils with his brand spanking new transparent T-1000 Electric Pencil Sharpener.

Mr. Huang and a few others were quite impressed with its de-

sign.

"It's sleek and stylish," said Chasse who put it together himself at home. "It's transparent, so you can see the pencil shavings come off as you sharpen. I have new-found respect for technology." It stood about 5 inches tall and 4 inches wide.

"It's cool, but it's so big," said one 3rd period citizen. "Do you really want to lug that thing around all day?"

2nd Period Struggles with Stapler

By Bobby Joe Wood

On January 24, when Mr. Huang incorrectly copied Quiz #12, little did he know that that mistake would reveal 2nd period's difficulty in using a stapler.

Since the quiz came in two unstapled pages, Mr. Huang passed out a stapler for citizens to staple the pages themselves. Things seemed to go smoothly until the stapler reached Shaan Vyas. He had trouble getting the stapler to work. Then he let the stapler sit on his desk and rust.

After being reminded to keep the stapler moving, he finally tried to pass the stapler forward to Sophia Lin, unaware of what was going on, who then told Vyas to stop tapping her back. After another long while, the stapler finally got moving. Then it reached Nidhi Khot.

Khot didn't have the same difficulty that Vyas had, but her loud stapling method startled several citizens into making stray marks on quizzes.

"As with any action, practice makes perfect," said Mr. Huang. "It was unfair of me to all of a sudden throw this new wrinkle on a quiz. Next time, we will definitely practice using the stapler and passing the stapler to minimize disruptions."

Macomber Criticized by Hinton

By Stevie Ray Daughtry

The changing of seats introduces citizens to new teammates for group work, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. 2nd Column in 3rd Period seems to be having a hard time adjusting to each other.

On January 28, during a ciphering competition involving laws of exponents, internal team issues came to a head when it was Kyra Macomber's turn to work on a problem. When the problem was shown, her teammate, the impatient Luca Hinton, started shouting at her to get started. Why? She needed a few seconds to tie her hair back.

"I needed just a few seconds

to get ready," she said. "He just needs to chill. What's a few seconds?"

"We were trying to win," said Hinton. "Those few seconds could mean the difference between winning and losing!"

"Look, if I don't fix my hair, it could mess me up," replied Macomber. "It could get in my face or get tangled with my pencil when I'm trying to make a move and then I might lose the pencil out of bounds. Do you want to happen?"

Needless to say, the lack of team cohesiveness hurt 2nd Column that day. They still have time to work on it, but time is running out.

K109 Blocks Extra Credit Aid from Matharchy 200

By David Van Fleet

For the first time in Kingdom of 109 history, tensions have risen with an ally.

Sensing the need for extra credit in K109, the Matharchy of 200 sent two truckloads of extra credit to the 109 border, but 109 guards were instructed by Mr. Huang to deny them entry. After a one-hour standoff, the trucks eventually turned around. No one was hurt.

"I appreciate the gesture," said Mr. Huang. "However, we have enough extra credit opportunity in 109 for 3rd quarter. We don't need outside help."

Reports are sketchy, but there is some evidence that some 109 citizens are in desperate need of EC to survive. K109 denies anyone is at such a low level and points to the fact that there are still EC points to be had in the annual Pi Contest and another opportunity yet-to-be announced.

Ms. Godwin did not respond to calls. It is still unknown if she alerted K109 of the shipment before the trucks approached the border. K109 did say that it will increase the number of guards at ports of entry.

Neema On Pace to Challenge Record

By Annie Mae Bullock

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porters of Kang. Citizens of 7th Period have already voiced displeasure in the possibility of giving Neema more weeks or changing the winning statistic to Best Ratio of Perfect Weeks to Total Weeks.

"It's always been total number of perfects," said one 7th period citizen. "You can't just change it mid-stream."

"Michelle is a legend," said another. "Changing the rules or somehow lessening her achievement would be wrong, and if that happened, I would

never draw a heart, rainbow or unicorn again."

"What's the big deal," said another 7th Period citizen leaning back with an apathetic tone while munching on a cookie he stole from the cafeteria. "It doesn't really matter."

Meanwhile, Raka Adakroy of 2nd Period is still mathematically in the race but is unlikely to catch Neema unless some freak accident befalls him while he's walking down the hallway between the office and the cafeteria on a particular Tuesday afternoon in March.

Who is Bob?

By Mary Jean Rickenberry

In January, Carmen Henick correctly multiplied to identical binomial factors together yielding a perfect square trinomial. She also drew Bob. But who is Bob?

The two-week-old drawing of a circular face with simple features has baffled archeologists for days.

"It's definitely not from the Jurassic Period," said Dr. Perkins of the Lascaux Institute. "The features look human, but we have no confirmation of that yet."

Henick is not commenting, so people are left to wonder if Bob

is a portrait of some kind or a mythological creature from 109 folklore. No ancient writings have surfaced referencing beings with circular faces, two eyes, one mouth, but if the face is from Navi myth, the Navi didn't write anything down, so that would mean Bob will remain a mystery unless someone travels back to the original 109 to locate some Navi..

"I think the face is just a monster from below Carmen's bed," said one fellow 3rd Period citizen. "That's because it's the same face I see below my bed every night. He eats my smelly socks. He says they taste yummy."

Skill Drills Standings (after SD #14)

- 12: Tanmay Neema
- 8: Raka Adakroy
- 6: Marina Lin
- 5: Rex Allard, Samuel Li, Catherine Jeon
- 4: Lucas Tao, Angeline Zhao, Khoi Dinh, Brian Kim, Oliver Wang, Teddy Winston
- 3: Isabella Cai, Hannah Lin, Tristan DeVictor, Jiwoo Hwang, Clara Marks, Ronit Kapur, Kayla Park
- 2: Emma Chen, Simrin Chowdhury, Colin Park, Sophia Lin, Victoria Zhang, Aashi Dugar, Jaiden Khemani, John Paul Gonsalves
- 1: Aman Khera, Punav Khetarpl, Suzanne Vazquez, Katherine Zhang, Dean Park, Nico Christofferson, Luca Hinton, Joshua Morgan, Maya Pashai, Daniel Qiu, Gloria Bao, Aiden Cheong, Ryan, Chun, Kyle Nguyen

Ask Arvid

Answers to Questions in an Ever-Changing World

***Arvid is on vacation, but these are some of the questions he would have answered in this edition.

Dear Arvid:

Is the homework due tomorrow?

Dear Arvid:

Is this on the quiz?

Dear Arvid:

Why do I write Tuesday's Skill Drills on Wednesday?

Dear Arvid:

It's difficult writing with a pencil that is only 1/2 inch long. Can you help me?

Dear Arvid:

What's my name?

Dear Arvid:

Should I write this down?

Dear Arvid:

What is your last name?

Dear Arvid:

Are you a 109 citizen, and if not, how do you have the expertise to answer our questions?

Dear Arvid:

I lost all of my notes. Where could they be?

Dear Arvid:

When they ship Styrofoam, what do they pack it in to keep it from breaking?

Dear Arvid:

Is it true that Mr. Huang may abdicate?

Marks Eludes Bear for 37th Time this Year

By La Toya Jackson

Clara Marks of 3rd Period has gone on a bear hunt 37 times. She has come back with no bear. Luckily, she has also come back unscathed so far.

On March 1, A.J. Sachwitz noticed in the hallway how Marks was sprinting to 209. It was then that Marks revealed that she always runs on her way to 3rd Period because this is the time of day she goes on a bear hunt.

Usually, the brown bear she hunts before 3rd Period dwells in a cave. Once in the dark cave, she feels for a wet nose. She then attempts to

corner the bear but fear overtakes her. She runs away, and the bear chases her.

She runs as fast as she can through the forest, through the mud, through the river and through the tall grass (swishy, swashy, swishy swashy) to Room 209 where she will be safe.

Sachwitz asked Marks if she feels like a failure, not nabbing the creature after 37 tries.

"I like to think of it as avoiding a dangerous creature 37 times," said Marks. "I call that success."

Marks also said that she intends to keep trying to get that bear for as long as she has the legs.