

The 109 Times

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“We are not small potatoes.”

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“Mangos and Large Potatoes” Is a Hit

By Owen Gleiberman

On May 21, over 100 people attended the premiere of “Mangos and Large Potatoes”, the first documentary made by Mango Productions, the kingdom’s own movie company.

Most of the guests were current citizens, but high schoolers and college students also returned to revisit the glory days. Among those present were Manna Fujiu who painted sunrise and sunset. Allies Mr. Williams, Mr. Gorgia, Mrs. Duggan and Mr. Calamito’s good twin brother, Luigi, also attended.

The film opened with a retelling of the founding of 109, the development of the flag and the establishment of the

office of datemaster. Sprinkled in between narration and file footage were interviews with Luke Cheng who designed the 109 flag and Meredith Doherty, the first datemaster.

Next came the tales of the Liberation of Tieland, the struggle for the One Donut, the defeat of Mr. Calamito and finally, the farewell to 109. One could hear the sobs of some citizens as scenes of the Trail of Tears played out.

Even non-109 citizens were moved. “I don’t know why I’m crying,” said one.

“This was really special,” said Doherty.

Shaw’s Decision Averts Civil War

By Henry Kissinger

When Maddie Shaw became datemater for 4th quarter, little did she know that she would be in the eye of a raging storm.

2nd period showed their lack of discipline yet again this year when they started tampering with the word of the day. 1st period began to discuss civil war for the second time and sent letters asking for help from 4th, 5th and 6th periods. 5th showed sympathy in their return letter but refused to take sides. The other periods did not reply.

On May 27, after 1st period warned of “bloodshed” to come, 2nd period then wrote “1st period is less than or equal to small potatoes” in the date box.

It is well known in 109 society that small potatoes is only reserved for the evil Mr. Calamito and any who stand by him. 109 citizens are large potatoes, so calling any citizen a small potato is the worst insult possible.

On May 31, Mr. Huang declared the insult “unforgiveable” and vowed to add that to the 109 constitution.

Instead of responding in kind, Shaw decided to remove the phrase “1st period rox ur sox” from the date box. This move seemd to ease tensions. 2nd period has only tampered with board once since then.

“I think it was a wise decision,” said Mr. Huang

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Number of days until the first day of school:

80

EC Given on Skill Drills

By Chili Amar

On May 13, 2011, Mr. Huang awarded the first-ever extra credit point on a Skill Drill to Victoria Bergeron for “an answer that went beyond the call of duty.”

On that Skill Drill, #4 on SD 26, one had to simplify $(x+2x+3x+4x)/(4x-2x-x)$ to 10. However, Mr. Huang had forgotten to write that x could not equal zero. Noticing this, Bergeron put a second answer of “undefined”.

For her quick thinking, Bergeron earned a 101 for Skill Drills that week as well as a place in 109 history.

5th period gave her a round of applause, and even rivals from other periods were impressed.

“I’m glad it was her,” said one citizen.

Inspiration Brings Forth Homework Bell for 5th Period

By Mike Eruzioni

Nobody knows why, but during the week of May 19, 5th period, who never gave a hoot about the homework bell all of a sudden cared about the homework bell.

Forensic scientists have tried to link the desire to other strange happenings that week such as Olivia Giaquinto’s hiccup fit and unusual side glances exchanged between certain citizens of 5th period, but nothing has come conclusive.

What we do know is that 5th period became obsessed with hearing the bell so much that threats were made against citizens who normally don’t turn in homework. On Wednesday of that week, 5th period came within one person of hearing the bell. The culprit was

Nate Shafer.

However, Shafer got his act together, and finally, on Friday, they did it. The bell rang loud and true, and for that day, 5th period was king.

4th and 6th periods, both obsessed with the bell since its inception, were incredulous that 5th period whom they have considered lazy and undeserving could hear the bell.

“We’ve been trying all year, and all of a sudden they get to hear it? It’s unfair, totally unfair,” said one citizen of 6th period.

“We have nobody to blame but ourselves,” said one citizen of 4th period. “I wish I was in 5th period.”

Giaquinto’s Has Hiccups

By Dieter Heimlich

On May 19, 5th period’s concentration was interrupted by something out of their control. More specifically, they were interrupted by something out of Olivia Giaquinto’s control.

Flagbearer Giaquinto, half of the only sister-sister team of flagbearers in 109 history with older sister Madeleine, was suddenly struck with the hiccups during the lecture on simplifying radical expressions.

She needed water, so she sprinted to the water cooler, but to her horror, there were no cups. What was she to do?

Fortunately, someone in 5th period was trained in the ancient art of origami and made an emergency paper cup for her. Now she could

refresh herself and more importantly, cure herself of the hiccups.

However, crises are not overcome so easily. Nobody knows if it was something in the water or her diaphragm going out of control, but Giaquinto’s body rejected the water. Immediately, she ran outside to spit out all the water.

Meanwhile, 5th period, shocked by the turn of events, tried to hold it together but was largely unable to.

Overuse of Parentheses Has Kelty’s Friends Worried

By Laura Schlesinger

Thomas Kelty adeptly solved the complicated math problem on the board, but that was not the talk of 4th period. Instead, everyone was wondering why he was putting parentheses in every place possible.

“I know what he did wasn’t incorrect, but those parentheses were everywhere...in between anything that was being multiplied,” said one fellow citizen. “I think he might have a problem.”

Parentheses-mania, a rare condition, has appeared before in 109, but it is so rare that regulated treatment techniques have not been developed yet.

Kelty admits he overuses them a bit, but doesn’t see it as a problem. Denial is always the first stage.

Ask Arvid . . .

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

Dear Arvid:

Will I always be a 109 citizen?

Dear Precious:

Yes, according to the 109 Constitution, you are a citizen for life...unless you commit the unforgivable insult or post any part of *Mangos and Large Potatoes* on the internet.

Dear Arvid:

I heard that 109 citizens get a special 109 pencil at the end of the year. Where is mine?

Dear Greedy:

Unfortunately, they will not arrive from the factory in time. You will get yours next year. Keep your ears open.

Dear Arvid:

When will 109 go to its new home?

Dear Reggie:

That's up to the Powers-That-Be, but all indications point to room 209 in Spring 2012.

Dear Arvid:

I will miss 109. What do I do?

Dear Dorothy:

Just click your heels three times and say: "There's no place like 109. I am not a small potato." Then put on your 109 t-shirt and pop *Mangos and Large Potatoes* into the DVD player.

109 Will End Up in 209

By Nicholas Cabasilas

109 has been informed by the PTB that they will relocate to Room 209 in the spring of 2012. According to the PTB, Mr. Huang was given a choice between a new 109 (not located in the same place as the old 109) and 209.

"Mr. Huang chose 209 for its proximity to the allies of 109, allies like Mr. Williams and Mrs. Burnett," said a PTB spokesperson. Hard-line 109ers have expressed some displeasure over Mr. Huang's not choosing to go with Room 109.

"It's not the same 109, so the name is not important. Anyway, we will keep the name Kingdom of 109 wherever we go," said Mr. Huang in an official statement.

What has happened to the real room 109? Apparently, the PTB have taken it over, knocked down walls and painted over murals. Rumors are swirling that they are taking the plentiful mangos and genetically engineering them into grenade-like carriers of deadly pathogens.

"You see?" said Mr. Huang. "I knew they wanted

109 for something. Now we know they just wanted to exploit the mangos for some devious plan of biological warfare."

The PTB have not responded to repeated calls about their supposed genetic engineering of mangos.

Shafer Proudly Cancels X's

By Deshawn Stevenson

Once a year, Mr. Huang levels the playing field by offering one week of easy Skill Drills. This is everyone's chance to finally get a perfect. However, easy is not always so easy.

Even the weekly stars figure that out. This year, on an easy expression to simplify, Jesse Cai (5th period) for some unknown reason did not cancel x over x. However, Nate Shafer did, and he made sure he let Cai know it, over and over and over again.

"I cancelled the X's. I cancelled the X's. I cancelled X's," he said to Jesse, who conveniently (or inconveniently, depending on who you are) sits right behind him.

Like several others, Shafer did end up getting his only perfect Skill Drill that week while Cai and many other weekly contenders had to settle with disappointing 95's.

Sridharan, Kim Tie for Skill Drill Cup; Record Not Broken

By Billy Packer

In dramatic fashion, the 2010-11 Skill Drill Race ended up in a tie between Mira Sridharan (5th) and Peter Kim (1st) with 15 perfects.

Randall Kim (1st) and Sophie Zhao (4th) finished one back with 14. Julianne Stratton (6th) finished with 12, and Hyeon Su Lee (6th) finished with 11.

Going into the last week of Skill Drills, Sridharan and Kim were tied with 14. However, both missed a question on Thursday. This allowed Randall Kim to inch closer, but he needed one more week to tie. Unfortunately, he had squandered chances, missing questions on both SD 28 and 29. Despite that, Kim did lead 4th quarter with 5 perfects.

Julianne Stratton, considered to have an outside shot at the title, also did not have a strong 4th quarter, only scoring three perfects.

"I think nerves and the warm weather got to everyone. Warm weather always messes with concentration," said Mr. Huang. "It takes someone with great fortitude and focus to maintain a high pace of perfects in May and June."

While Sridharan and Peter Kim will be placed 3rd on the all-time Skill Drill list and Randall Kim and Zhao 4th, the all-time record of 18 perfects by Han Kim and Seungin Sohn remains at the top.

"It's going to be hard to get 18," said Mr. Huang. "Those two guys were really special when it came to Skill Drills."

Final Skill Drill Standings

15: Mira Sridharan, Peter Kim
14: Randall Kim, Sophie Zhao
12: Julianne Stratton
11: Hyeon Su Lee

10: Ava Lakmazaheri
8: Dana Ryu, Junyoung Hwang, Tai Kao-Sowa
7: Ashley Kim, Billy Rindone, Steven Pyon, Yerim Park
6: Angela Wang, Justin Sher
5: Julianna Kang, Matt Evanko, Julius Fan
4: Rojeen Kamali, Christine Li, Marc McDonald, Sherry Wang, Karen Shedlock, Kaela Wilbur, Autumn Brenner
3: Anthara Gnanakumar, Lyric Yu, Jesse Cai, Katherine Carris, Shirali Nigam, Cliff Yang, Irene Song, Katherine Howley, Shelley Collins
2: Erin Atak, Noah Flaxman, Abraham Haji, Jeewoo Kim, Rachel Ho, Lavanya Shukla, Victoria Bergeron, Minjae Kwon, Nadim Najjar, Sarah Frey, Harrison Lloyd, Jack Martin, Amir McGettrick
1: Ari Ghasemian, Zoe Le Menestrel, Andrew Makris, Elizabeth Radcliffe, Ashley Zhang, Michael Jung, JJ Foster, Paula Jaramillo, Shivani Saboo, Yo-han Kang, Daniel Ducic, Daniel Englund, Thomas Grady, Gillian Wright, Philip Carr, Blake Daniels, Patrick Mullery, Julia St. John, Lindsay Hart

Mr. Huang and the Fellowship of Citizens of 109 wish to thank

1st period, 2nd period, 4th period,
5th period, 6th period
And
Knowledge Masters

For making this year memorable

Keep in touch. 109 will always be your home.