



The 109 Times

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109 thanks 1st Q Flagbearers:

1st: Zain Mirza
2nd: John Godwin
3rd: Brandon Torng
4th: Tayae Rogers
5th: Brandon Ou
LT: Eli Sporn

Datemaster: Andrew Swenson
Ambassador: Caitlin Cunningham

Cunningham Appointed Ambassador

By C. Thomas Howell

Caitlin Cunningham of 5th period was chosen from a pool of applicants to be the 3rd ever Ambassador of 109.

Applicants each wrote an essay showcasing their qualities necessary for the position. The ambassador carries the message of 109 to new lands and preserves ties with

nations with whom we have alliance. At the moment, 109 has treaties of alliance with the Hughey School of Wordcraft and Imagery, Starship Inquiry and Tieland led by Mr. Cheney (in exile). Last year, no new treaties were made. Most lands of Longfellows are inhabited by nomadic tribes

with little evidence of organized government. Convincing wild nomads to get organized let alone sign treaties is a difficult task.

“Our hope is that the protection of our new air force will attract other nations into the 109 fold,” said Mr. Huang. “I have confidence Caitlin will get the job done.”

Do Wins Art Contest

By Anthony Michael Hall

The coveted All-Purpose Trophy emerged for the first time this year. The glistening cup went to Andrew Do for his creative depiction of a planet wearing a pair of pants (trousers in Britain).

The third part of the previous night’s homework was to draw Planet 9, a planet that wears a belt around its equator to keep its pants from falling down. While Cathy Liang’s planet was much more colorful and Susan Suh’s in-

cluded continents, Do’s Planet 9 had moons, and that was more than enough to sway the voters. Initial estimates showed Do winning in a landslide with 75% of the vote.

“I was a bit surprised,” said Mr. Huang. “The moons really did the trick.”

“Andrew is a new kind of artist,” said one supporter. “We’re on the brink of a new movement in art where beauty and skill take a back seat to the power of the message.”

Chitic Draws Proper Parentheses

By Molly Ringwald

Robert Chitic went to the board with confidence but left the board with his head down after it took three attempts to write proper parentheses.

The task was to write the inverse of an expression in group language. This task required copying the expression insides a pair of parentheses and putting a capital I on the outside. Chitic enthusiastically volunteered but Mr. Huang chose Katherine Walker and Sarah Holland over him. While they had trouble with group language accuracy, at least their parentheses looked normal.

Chitic begged for a chance to write his parentheses, and Mr. Huang finally relented. With all eyes of 5th period watching, Chitic abandoned his parentheses twice before finally drawing a satisfactory pair..

Some were left disappointed.

"He told me his were better, so I didn't even copy the previous ones," said one citizen. "Then I had to copy down his. They kind of made me gag."

"They need to give Robert a break," said one friend. "Everybody has different gifts. Parentheses just aren't one of his."

2nd Period Rejects Geometry Skill Drills

By Dustin Nguyen

When Mr. Huang accidentally projected the wrong skill drills, little did he know the firestorm that would ensue.

In 2nd period, Mr. Huang mistakenly projected Honors Geometry's skill drills instead of Honors Algebra's. After realizing his mistake he switched to the correct skill drills. However, some citizens clamored for the more difficult ones. Leading the charge were Justin Feng, Sowmya Natajaran.

"We wanted a challenge," said

Feng.

Raya Jabboure led the Anti-Geometry Skill Drills Camp.

"No! Switch it back!" she shouted over and over again.

Finally, Mr. Huang put it to a vote, and Honors Geometry skill drills was voted down by a 2 to 1 margin. The Pro-Geometry Skill Drills Camp vows to stay in the fight. Their goal is to pressure Mr. Huang to let them do Geometry's skill drills at least once this year.

Kathuria Uses Non-Sequitur

By Lea Thompson

Using faulty reasoning, Ishaan showed that he either doesn't understand 109 procedure or his reasoning skills leave much to be desired.

On October 21, Jacob Paikin of 3rd period asked Mr. Huang if he had to turn in homework (the homework crate was upright). Kathuria chimed in sarcastically.

"No, Jacob. Mr. Huang gives us homework just for fun."

However, Kathuria's attempt at pointing out Paikin's ignorance only highlighted his own faulty logic. Kathuria's comment implied that if Mr. Huang assigns homework, then one must turn it in. This is obviously not true since Mr. Huang has

only checked 15 out of 26 assignments this year. Thus, being assigned does not imply the need to turn it in.

However, the condition of the crate is a sufficient condition for the decision of whether to turn in homework. If it is right side up, one turns it in. If it is upside-down, one does not. If Kathuria had noticed the upright crate, he could have mocked Paikin for not noticing that, but he didn't do that. He could have used the proper criterion for the decision of whether to turn in homework to make his point. Instead, he used a non-sequitur argument which is really no argument at all.

Song and Ma Start Strong

By John Houseman

After Adam Ardeishar’s record-breaking 21 perfect skill drills last year, few predicted that anyone would threaten the skill drill record this year. Theo Ma and Wonsup Song are trying to convince us otherwise.

After the first seven weeks of skill drills, Ma and Song each have seven perfects. Just behind them are Justin Feng with 4 and Joshua Gong with 3. A host of citizens with 2 and 1 perfect follow them.

Ardeishar took last year’s hoop-la in stride, rarely showing any interest in breaking the previous record set by Deniz Atak three

years earlier. He calmly surpassed Atak in businesslike fashion.

However, this year, he has made several visits to 209 already, checking to see how many perfects the leaders have.

“Ardeishar may seem worried, but it’s a long year, and the really difficult skill drills are yet to come,” said Lee Corso, skill drills analyst. “He knows that. I don’t think he has to worry.”

Ma and Song are currently on pace to bag 23 perfects, but everyone knows the number of perfects slows down in the second half of the year.

Perez Discovers New Chinese

By Gabrielle Carteris

For centuries, Chinese people and Chinese speakers thought they understood their own language. Now, a 109 citizen has shown them that they are wrong.

Rafa Perez, a budding linguist, discovered seven characters on his desk on October 22, and immediately set about deciphering them. The first character, ‘yue’, means moon, or at least we thought it meant moon. According to Dr. Perez, it means volcano.

“I was taught it meant moon,” said one citizen who is forced to attend Chinese school weekly. “I feel like my eyes are opened. It kind of does look like a volcano. Thank you, Dr. Perez.”

Other characters Perez has redefined are the words for dog, snowflake, scorpion and baby scorpion (formerly fire, water, cloud and dad). So far, Perez has not detected any verbs or adjectives. One hopes that he will find some soon so that New Chinese can have sentences.

Experts predict that New Chinese could pose problems when Chinese and New Chinese speakers come together.

“There could be problems,” said linguist Shi Di Qin. “If a New Chinese speaker tells a Chinese speaker that it’s cloudy outside, the Chinese speaker might think he said he was going to put a scorpion down his pants.”

Skill Drills

Standings

(after SD #7)

5: Theo Ma, Wonsup Song

4: Justin Feng

3: Joshua Gong

2: Bilen Essayas, Yurim

Kim, Peter Lee, Cathy

Liang, Zain Mirza, Tiara

Allard, Andrew Li, Mark

Hamilton, Jonathan

Tseng, Haemin Moon,

Brandon Ou

1: Seowon Choi, George

Janke, Alex Kao-Sowa,

Nicholas Bishop, Alex

Jian, Jillian Keiholtz, So-

phia Kianni, Yujin Kim,

Jane Lee, Sowmya Nataja-

ran, Shalomi Nimesh,

Sean Wei, Parsa Abedi,

Sean Hutchinson, Owen

Nguyen, Sherrie Feng,

Andre Hu, Angeli Mittel,

Amanda Tang, Kevin Lu,

Jenica Fichadia, Elise Kal-

hor, Charles Olifer

The 109 Market

K109 t-shirts \$10

K109 stickers \$0.25

Ask Arvid

Dear Arvid:

I keep writing Thursday’s skill drill answers in the Friday box. I am worried that I am getting old and forgetting the sequence of the days of the week. Is there any way I can find out?

Dear Forgetful:

You’re in luck! There is a new test on the market produced by the Psychological Association of 109. Just pick one up for \$29.95, and in 5 minutes you will know if you really are forgetting the sequence of the days of the week.

Dear Arvid:

I keep forgetting to turn in my homework on time. If I turn it in late, there is no telling when I will get it back. Help me.

Dear Sticky Hands:

Here is a fool-proof system. Every day when you come to class, have someone next to you slap you in the face and yell: “Turn in your homework!”

Dear Arvid:

I keep forgetting to bring a pencil to class.

Dear Sumerian-Disser:

Remember to bring a pencil. Duh.

5th Period Bends Time

By Marla Gibb

5th period has baffled scientists so far this year, challenging the notion that time is consistent. Could a time period that is longer actually have less time in it? Apparently, the answer is yes.

5th period lasts 2 minutes longer than any of the other periods. The extra time should allow the citizens more time to cover homework, practice skills and learn new material. However, 5th period routinely runs out of time before accomplishing what other periods accomplish in plenty of time.

“Our data shows that 5th period accomplishes about 37 minutes of stuff,” said Dr. Yaskuvi of the Bennigan’s Institute. 5th period is 48 minutes long.

What does this mean? Some scientists hy-

pothesize that the irregularity could mean that time is not what we thought. Longer time does not necessarily mean more time. It could mean less.

“It’s like when you go to sleep for just one hour,” said Dr. Stanley Leibowitz. “You wake up feeling more refreshed than if you sleep 10 hours. It’s possible 1 hour is actually more time than 10 hours. And it’s also possible that 48 minutes is actually 37 minutes. Perhaps they [5th period] really have figured out how to bend time”

Who in 5th period is bending time? Time-bending detectors have come up with nothing. The phenomenon puts pressure on citizens.

“I don’t want my time bent,” said one exasperated citizen. “I’m under enough pressure. Whoever is doing it needs to stop.”