



The 109 Times

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Thank you....

1st Q Flagbearers:

1st: Aika Yamazaki

2nd: Gage Lyons

3rd: Kat Rylatko

6th: Sofia Spasojevic

7th: Kendall Sano

DM: Emma Cox

Ambassador: Audrey Czarnecki

Attorney General: ??

Lin Catalyzes Seat Change

By David Marks

The unprecedented royal decision had been made. The plans were in place. And then it all changed when Isaac Lin opened his mouth.

For the first time in the history of the Kingdom of 109, Mr. Huang had planned to NOT change citizens' seat at the beginning of a quarter. On Nov. 8, students were not going to move any-

where. But 5 days before on Nov. 3, Isaac Lin of 7th period said those fateful words.

"Like a puppy dog, he asked me not to change seats," said Mr. Huang. "How could I resist?"

As soon as the weekend began, he switched seats for 7th period and then proceeded to switch seats for all periods. In 2005, seat-changing

became a nationwide affair.

"We can't have part of the realm changing seats while the other parts don't," said Mr. Huang. "It wouldn't be fair."

The seat change in 7th period breaks up the dream team that includes Lillian Sun and William Jiang.

"Serves Isaac right," said one anonymous citizen. "Now he can't ride their coattails."

Rajesh Swipes Homework

By Dennis Wilson

On Oct. 6, Kaylee Marinus and Aditi Shukla were patiently waiting for their homework. It never came, and now we know Neel Rajesh was the reason why.

Rajesh decided to keep multiple copies of the Bill and Ted Problem instead of passing them back. Why? To sell them on the black market.

"It's actually a surprisingly lucrative business," said Lt. Barney

Miller. "The seller holds on to it until they meet someone who needs to go all the way back to 209 to get their homework, shows them the copies, and then tells them the asking price. Some pay it because they don't want to walk all the way back."

However, this time Shukla and Marinus cornered Rajesh and got their copies before he had time to leave. Rajesh claimed he made an honest mistake.

Rylatko Warns of Explosion

By Cass Elliot

On Oct. 19, just before 3rd period began, and just before Kat Rylatko picked up her Skill Drills paper, she gave everyone a stern warning.

"If I didn't get a 5 on this one, I'm going to explode."

She had two consecutive 5s on Skill Drills that week, and she desperately wanted a third. Moreover, she thought the week's SD problems were relatively easy. Hence the warning, or more aptly put, a threat.

Mr. Huang and the early-arrivals ducked for cover, but Rylatko didn't explode. It actually didn't matter what Rylatko got because she was speaking figuratively, not literally.

The non-incident has caused some to rethink the use of hyperboles.

"Yeah, I wondered if we should be allowed to use them in crowded places," said one nervous citizen. "What if I had hit my head while ducking for cover?"

"Yeah," agreed another citizen. "Every time someone says they're so hungry they could eat a horse, I have to hide my horse in the trees. It's so inconvenient. How do I know they don't really want to eat my horse?"

Lunchbox Stirs Controversy

By Al Jardine

No one thought a lunchbox would set off controversy, but it did.

On Sept. 18, Vayun Malik left his Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles lunchbox in 209. The next day, he was back...with another lunchbox, identical to the first one.

At first, Mr. Huang was surprised that Malik had the same lunchbox as someone else. After Malik explained that the first lunchbox was actually his too, things got interesting.

"I couldn't believe it," said one citizen later. "He has two of the same! I can only have one at a time and my mom says I can't

have a new one until I'm 16. My current one has holes all over. My grapes keep falling out."

Other citizens don't let it bother them.

"I'm proud to have one lunchbox," said another citizen. "I have to clean it each day, and that builds strong character."

Others wonder what else Malik has.

"The other day I was looking for one of those lunchboxes. The store was out. . How often does that happen? What if he has 50 of that lunchbox at his house? What if he has every Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle lunchbox in the whole world?"

Rodriguez Explains Cancellation Law in Loudinese

By Jill Gibson

On Sept. 21, only Loudin Rodriguez dared to answer when no one else would. He answered correctly, but only he knew what he said because no one in the room speaks his language.

6th Period was analyzing system tables at the time. Specifically, they were trying to find how a system table shows that there is no cancellation law in the system. Everyone was stumped except Rodriguez.

"When the thing and the thing are in a line with the thing," he said with confidence.

Silence.

Mr. Huang eventually understood. Others weren't so sure.

"I knew exactly what he meant," said one citizen with a smile. "That's why I was silent."

"He said 'thing' three times in the same sentence," said a skeptical fellow citizen. "How could anyone understand that?"

There were strong opinions on both sides of whether the language of Loudinese should be permitted in 109. If it is allowed, introductory classes in Loudinese will be taught by Loudin Rodriguez himself.

Kang Ties Record

By Bruce Johnston

For the first time since 2012, a 109 citizen did not miss a single Skill Drill question in the first quarter.

Michelle Kang of 2nd period tied Harry Jung with seven perfects in the first seven SD weeks. Accomplishing this feat with speed and meticulous checking means that not only is she the clear frontrunner for the 2018 Skill Drills Cup, but she is a strong candidate to finally break Adam Ardeishar’s record of 21 perfects set in 2014. Kang’s breaking the record would be even more impressive in light of the fact that Arde-

ishar had 29 weeks of Skill Drills to work with. Since 2014, 109 has never had more than 28 weeks of Skill Drills.

“It might happen this year,” said Mr. Huang. “She triple checks everything. How can I compete against that?”

And we can’t forget the competition either. Fellow 2nd period citizen Ziyao David Wei has six perfects out of seven. Donghwa Shin (2nd) and Hyunjae Chung (3rd) have five.

Traditionally, SDs get progressively more difficult, but Kang so far has shown she can handle almost anything.

2nd Period Debates Mascots

By Denny Doherty

On October 19, something that everyone takes for granted became a hot button issue in 2nd period. Mascots.

It was recently discovered that both Haycock Elementary School and Cooper Middle School have the same mascot, the cougar. Putting aside the fact that there are no cougars in the vicinity of either school, having two schools in close proximity with the same mascot does seem awkward and could be a lightning rod for future conflict. How can we avert disaster before disaster strikes?

Surprisingly, current Haycock

students had little opinion on the matter. The 7th graders were a different story.

At first, some citizens argued that the newer school should be obliged to change their mascot, but their argument fell when it was revealed that schools did not choose mascots until years after their founding.

At that point, some argued that the school who chose their mascot more recently should change their mascot.

“They could change it to panther, mountain lion or lynx,” said one animal expert. “They’re basically the same thing.

Skill Drills Standings (after SD #7)

- 7: Michelle Kang
- 6: Ziyao Wei
- 5: Donghwa Shin, Hyunjae Chung
- 4: Max Wang, Ramya Reddy
- 3: Ritika Rohatgi, Brian Du, Bethanie Hackett, Ellie Chen, Shiwoo Yoo, Kristina Knauss
- 2: Jackson Baldrate, Rhea Chanda, Alina Chen, Logan Pinkston-Sayers, Laura Zhang, Tim Johanson, Lianhao Li, Seonghyun Park, Ram Reddy, Elliott Lee, Vihaan Mathur, Odessa Zhang
- 1: Noah Chin, Thomas Ham, Peter Hinckley, Derek Li, Nidhi Sathyanarayanan, Grace Guan, Russell Karlin, Eujin Lee, Vayun Malik, Kaiden Wu, Yewon Choi, Yejun Lee, Aditi Shukla, Antigone Stark, Elaine Li, Victoria Wang

Ask Arvid

Answers to Questions in an Ever-Changing World

Dear Arvid:

Can I change the date when the datemaster forgets to change the date?

Dear Citizen:

Actually, you can't. Only the datemaster may change the date. Even Mr. Huang is not allowed to change it.

Dear Arvid:

Someone keeps leaving stinky gym clothes under my desk. It's really gross. What can I do about it?

Dear Gaggig:

You might want to carry around a mask to

mask the smell (did you see how I used that word both as a noun and a verb in the same sentence?). Also, always alert Mr. Huang so he can bring in the hazmat people to move the clothes.

Dear Arvid:

I still don't get baseball.

Dear Huh?!:

So there's this stick of wood called a bat. You hold it. There is also this ball coming at you. You hit the ball with the bat. Then you run to first base. That's the thing northeast of you. When the umpire calls you out, you put your head down and walk back to the dugout to be consoled by your teammates.

Hole-Punching Strike Continues

By Bardish Chagger

The ongoing disagreement between the United Hole Punchers Union (UHPU) and the Kingdom has now lasted 11 months, and there is no sign that the two parties will come to a labor agreement anytime soon. Until then, the hole-punchers are on strike, and citizens have to punch their own holes.

The two main grievances are compensation and working conditions. The hole-punchers, mostly male elves, want a living wage as well and a color television. Frosty McWhale, president of the UHPU and grandson of Patty McWhale of the McWhale clan, a family of failed Irish-Elf whalers who gave up the business after a leprechaun promised to show them

the end of the rainbow if they gave up whaling (the leprechaun lied), pointed to other unions that have much better arrangements with the Kingdom.

"Look at the paper clippers. Their wages are twice as much as ours! And they have flat screen TVs! I've heard they might even have the right to change channels soon. Everybody knows how we feel about those paper-clippers. It's unacceptable that those Scottish know-nothings have better terms than we."

"It comes down to demand," said Millie Brown, advisor to the 109 Finance Office. "There just isn't enough demand for holes these days. Too many citizens use simple folders. We can't afford to pay hole-punchers the same as paper-clippers."