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High School Edition

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GIN Fights Against World Hunger By Christine Noh



Photo by Wendy Choi

Students and teachers are eating a small bowl of rice at the GIN Hunger Banquet. Over 60 percent of all who attended were given a bowl of rice, to represent the disparity of low income populations versus high income populations.

Since last year, the GIN (Global Issues Network) club has been planning its first event, the Hunger Banquet, to raise awareness about world poverty. 130 people attended the Hunger banquet on Sept. 24 and helped raise over 1.4 million won for GIN to donate to The Child Fund.

Approximately 50 GIN members and the club's head advisors, Mrs. Meyer and Mr. Martinez had many meetings to make their first official event successful. The Hunger Banquet was an event in which staff members, the entire student body, family, and friends were invited to spend an evening physically and visually experiencing the reality of their often overlooked surroundings.

Each participant received a ticket as they walked into the cafeteria. They were randomly divided into three categories: high, middle, and low class. The high class section of the cafeteria had two small tables decked out with luxurious candles, tablecloths, and nice silverware, while waiters and waitresses served them chicken, rice, vegetables, and dessert. The middle class section was decorated with black and red paper and those sitting there were served sandwiches and watermelon. The low class section took up more than half of the space in the cafeteria. There were no decorations and they were served half a bowl of plain rice.

Only 10 out of 130 attendees were able to receive the benefit of being high class. 15 were in middle class, while the rest represented low class. These class divisions were made according to statistics of how the world could essentially be divided into three sections, with the lowest class being the majority.

Most students, even those who had a bowl of rice and water for dinner, are grateful for

the experience they had on the night of the Banquet. Sophomore Tim Lim says "As soon as I received the ticket, I did not know what to expect. What would they feed me?" Many students described their first impression after being placed in the lower class as "surprising" and "worrying." Yet all of these students acknowledged that they had learned one lesson in common after the event, gratitude.

Sophomore Steven Whang admits, "It was shocking that I was only receiving a bowl of rice. But it was more shocking that there were so many people around the world starving to death- even today." Tim Lim says that he and his volleyball teammates were angry about the amount of food they got after two hours of practice. Tim thought "people around the world would do anything for this small bowl of rice in front of me." He said, "Because I was exhausted, I was able to know how people all over the world felt without food."

"I used to dump food during lunch just because I did not want to eat. Now I'm more careful about how I spend my money," says Lizzy Kim, when asked how the Hunger Banquet has changed her perspective. Allen Jang, who received his high class ticket through a drawing and pure luck of the high class section having an extra plate of food, says "It felt great being served by my classmates, Justin Cho and Lydia Kang. But most importantly, I could feel that everyone in that room had the most humbling experience and learned something we would have otherwise never known. It was one of those very few times in my life where I felt grateful."

Three student coordinators lead and took responsibility to make the event effective.

Juniors John Ghu, Jean Sohn and Christine Noh dedicated their time and effort to make GIN's first event the best it could be. The idea of arranging a Hunger Banquet began when John, Jean, Christine and Peter Choi attended the GIN Conference last spring in Thailand. There they were taught how to put on a Hunger Banquet. John said, GIN club "did not have much knowledge regarding the Hunger Banquet." Although an organization called OxFam originally came up with the idea, John had to make some changes in order for the event to be "a convincing presentation that would make people take interest in what they were promoting."

Working closely with John was GIN member Kevin Park, who had attended the 2007 GIN Conference in Beijing, China and had gone to two different Hunger Banquets at his previous school in Qingdao, China. Kevin says he was inspired by his previous Hunger Banquets and was eager to help plan the event with John. Kevin commented, "This year's Hunger Banquet showed us that we have the ability and power to change the world."

Jean Sohn headed up the decorating for the banquet, saying she wanted to create an atmosphere in which people could sense the seriousness of the issue. "I recruited some GIN members and parents from the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) to decorate. We put powerful statistics, pictures, and a Bible verse that represented the issue on a large board." Jean believes adding statistics and visual references around the room had a big impact. "People were watching these posters while experiencing hunger themselves - when in real life, looking at these statistics with a full stomach would not have had much of an impact."

These statistics sunk deep and well into the students' hearts. Sophomore Lizzy Kim says "Until that day, I never knew more than 50 percent of the world struggled with lack of food." Junior Allen Jang felt the same. "It startled me that thousands of children die each day from starvation- it's something that our fortunate society could never imagine."

The profit made from the Hunger Banquet, which exceeds 1.4 million won, will be given to a non-governmental organization, The Child Fund. The organization's main objective is to protect children's health and rights in a local, national, and international scope. It not only assists children in South Korea, but also in North Korea. The money raised will be donated specifically to help alleviate poverty in the local area of Suwon.

GIN club member Louis Kim expressed his hope that the Hunger Banquet is "one small piece that will complete the puzzle of making a better tomorrow."

A New Journey By Heather Lee

The high school has gone through many changes: having some of the school remodeled, adding new rooms and 11th-grade, growing in size by more than 80 students, welcoming 10 new high school teachers, and most importantly, getting a new principal.

Mr. Wendling, the new high school principal, was one of the high school math teachers and a varsity boys' volleyball coach last year. He states the two reasons why he accepted the principal job: "Great kids and great teachers made my decision to become principal very easy."

When Mr. Wendling first got into administration, he didn't want to, but he felt it was a call from God. Before arriving at GSIS, he didn't know what to expect. He had never gone overseas and was surprised at how supportive the school and teachers were.

As principal, Mr. Wendling, has already had to deal with several things, such as H1N1 (swine flu). Due to the school closing for a week the school is anticipating some changes to the schedule but is quickly recovering and getting back on track. The cafeteria being overcrowded has also been a new issue this year. To deal with the overcrowding, students go to the cafeteria during lunch time in 5 minute intervals based on their grade.

Another change is that the LUP policy is being enforced more strictly this year. French is the first language of Mr. Wendling's wife and daughters, therefore, he understands the language difficulties many students face.

Students at GSIS are expected to follow the LUP policy, especially since they want an international education. Having a positive attitude towards an English education is key. This is why Mr. Wendling expects students to work to the best of their ability and ask for help when they need it.

English LUP is a policy meant to help students, especially if their ambitions include going to a North American college. It is meant as a positive thing designed to help us, and not an "I gotta," as Mr. Wendling puts it.



Mr. Wendling gives a pep-talk to the 11th-grade IB Diploma students during the IB Retreat.

Now in its fourth year, the high school is often compared with other International Schools in Korea. Though it may seem like an obstacle to overcome, an important thing to realize is that as a new school, it cannot be judged by the same standards. The school prides itself on having great teacher-student relationships, and it does not need a long-standing tradition to do that. Great teachers and students who work very hard is what makes a great school. Teachers care about the students. Mr. Wendling is confident that if the school continues to do the best job it can, it will in time meet all expectations within the international school community.

Mr. Wendling has no firm plans to leave GSIS. He is looking forward to seeing the first graduating class. He himself was the first graduating class at his school, so he has lived it, and knows what students are going through, including the fears and issues that they face.

Mr. Wendling hopes GSIS students will leave school to become lifelong learners, have a relationship with God, and also remember to have a balanced lifestyle. What Mr. Wendling hopes to communicate is that learning is not limited to school. He hopes to inspire students to become life-long learners, because there is a lot to learn after high school. High school is only the beginning.

Upcoming Events

October 12
Secondary Picture Day

October 14
PSAT

October 15
High School Band Concert at 7:00pm

October 16
End of First Quarter

October 17
High School Outreach

October 22
Half Day- Parent Teacher Conferences

October 23
No School- Parent Teacher Conferences

October 26
No School

October 29
Information Meeting for
Mission Trips at 7:00pm



Dreams of The Championship By Ma Im Cho



Kyle Cha, 11th-grade, bumps the volleyball in hope of scoring against ICS-U.

The goal for the boys' varsity volleyball team has not changed from that of last year- the goal to achieve their dearest wish: to win the championship. Failing to accomplish their goal last year, the coaches and players are working harder than ever.

A new season means many changes. The team lost three of its starters from last year. However, five new players were added to the team. Many of the players worried about the possible impact of losing these starters, yet Mr. Rains, the boys' volleyball coach, is satisfied with the potential the new players all possess. With new players added to the team, the boys' team is adjusting and determined to perform its best.

To prepare for their goal of winning the championship, the team has rigorous practice Tuesday through Friday. Practice begins with cardio training, including running and jumping steps. Through cardio training, players develop stamina in order to play games without running out of breath. The players also go through skill practice drills, which consist of fundamental techniques such as serving, bumping, and setting. The team ends each day's practice with a mock game.

According to Mr. Rains, the most important quality in a volleyball team is teamwork, "To work as a team, the teammates should trust each other at all times." Mr. Rains also emphasized that individual effort is what makes the team work as a whole, thus he always tells his players, "Hard work pays off." Encouragement is also a crucial factor to a successful game. When a player makes a mistake, it is important for his teammates to encourage the player as they work harder to do better as a team.

The boys' volleyball team started their season with wins against Global Vision Christian School (GVCS) and Centennial Christian School (CCS). CCS was last year's undefeated champion, yet GSIS won with a final score of 3-1.

On Sept. 9, the boys' volleyball team played their first game against Taejon Christian International School (TCIS), the sister school of GSIS. The Knights played the game with great effort but ultimately lost. The boys were extremely close to winning, but their final score was 3-2. The spectators, including Headmaster Dr. Penland, were proud of how the Knights played hard and well against a much more experienced team.

The boys' varsity volleyball team is aiming for its highest potential this year. Kyle Cha, co-captain of the team, commented, "As a leader of the team, I have to work harder for the team to give 100%."

Other factors can help the team win the season. According to Mr. Rains, fans have a major influence in every game. The more fans, the better the team spirit. The full and enthusiastic cooperation of the student body is needed during this competitive season.

The coaches and players are more prepared than they have ever been in previous years. It is the hope of the team that their determination will break the record and make GSIS history as they hold the shining trophy in their hands.

College Search By Amber Oh

The world is full of competitive people. Every year more and more people work extra hard to be accepted to a better college, also known as the Ivy Leagues. However, that definitely does not mean only well-known colleges have a chance of providing an exceptional life. Here is a chart of colleges, organized by majors, which could be unfamiliar to many students.



University of Carnegie Mellon



Simon Fraser University
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University of Michigan
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Purdue University
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/a-optic/> / CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Did you know...

Collegeboard.com is a great place to find a college that fits everything you are looking for, from size of school, location, major, financial aid, SAT scores, tuition, campus housing, and much more!

Majors	College
Art	Carnegie Mellon (Pittsburgh, USA) Emily Carr Institute (Vancouver, Canada) Hunter College (New York, USA)
Business	Simon Fraser University (Vancouver, Canada) University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada)
Computer Technology	International Technological University (California, USA) Kent State University (Ohio, USA) Ridgewater College (Minnesota, USA)
Engineering	BCIT (Vancouver, Canada) ITT Technical Institute (New Mexico, USA) University of Bridgeport (Connecticut, USA) University of Nevada (Las Vegas, USA)
Law	Australian National University School of Law (Canberra, Australia) University of Ghana (Legon, Greater Accra) University of Michigan (Michigan, USA)
Math	Allen University (South Carolina, USA) California Institute of Technology (California, USA) Claflin University (South Carolina, USA)
Music	Armstrong Atlantic University (Georgia, USA) Brandeis University (Miami, USA) Eastern Kentucky University (Kentucky, USA)
Science	Drew University (Miami, USA) Purdue University (Indiana, USA)
Sports	University of Auckland (Auckland, New Zealand) University of Otago (Otago, New Zealand)

Surviving The School Year By Wendy Choi



Sae Jee Bang checks her Edline account for homework and updates her planner during study hall.

The start of a new school year is a time of great expectations and anxiety. It is not as easy to have a wonderful year as it sounds, especially when students hold the burden of keeping their grades up day by day.

Even for students who have attended GSIS for quite a while, this year is a new beginning for them in regards of getting to know new friends, teachers, and adjusting to new courses. This overwhelming feeling is even greater for those new to GSIS. Having a great school year is not only a challenge, but also an important and

essential part of being a high school student. Believe it or not, it is possible to have a balanced school life and have fun while keeping grades up at the same time.

Mr. Darby, the high school counselor, advised that it is much easier to be socially apt than to be academically strong, but it is not entirely impossible to balance both abilities either. He gave a few tips for high school students to keep in mind.

Make sure to maintain a balance of nutrition and stay healthy by getting plenty of rest and eating well, because stress can be distracting during classes, and a healthy diet is most likely to increase concentration in class.

Organize time effectively. Schedule a certain amount of time each day to do school work when all distractions, such as cell-phones and computer chats, can be put aside.

Use a planner or calendar as reminders of due dates and important appointments.

Should there be any questions on school work, speak with the teacher of that class immediately before it is too late. No one is perfect, but try to be successful in everything done at school.

Mr. Darby strongly suggests being involved in clubs or any after-school activities that would satisfy personal interests. Having a position in

a certain group or club can foster leadership abilities. Being involved and active in activities besides school work also helps students to build new relationships. Mr. Darby emphasized whatever students are doing they should focus on "quality" over "quantity."

Some students also proposed helpful tips for their fellow colleagues. Sophomore Kay Lee says a priority at the start of a school year is making helpful and positively influential friends. She explained her experience in California three years back when making good friends helped her adapt to the new school easily while these friends also helped maintain her grades.

Juniors Lisa Lee and Chris Kim also presented some tips. Lisa encouraged planning out a daily schedule and finishing homework without procrastinating, while Chris said that keeping a positive attitude in class has helped him a great deal.

Remember these tips throughout the school year. Have fun, stay healthy, while keeping personal academic standards the highest they can be. Maintain an optimistic mindset, try these tips before giving up, and school life will seem more manageable.



Photo by Mr. Lawrensen

Station 2 Performs at SEW. Left to Right: Andrew, Travis, David.

How did you guys get together?

DAVID: Travis and I met in Bible school. We developed in our love for music and Jesus together. Then I met Josh at the Guitar Center. He liked my hair.

ANDREW: Josh and I went to high school together, so Josh knew me and he knew Station 2 needed a bass player.

How long has Station 2 been a band?

DAVID: As a full band a year and a half.

TRAVIS: But Station 2 formed five years ago with just David and I.

Why is the band called Station 2?

TRAVIS: I was in the car with Dave and my wife, and we were trying to figure out a band name. We didn't know what to call it so we started thinking of cereal names like Fruit Loops, Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies. But basically at the time it was just Dave and I, and we were two guys, and we worked with loop stations. Therefore we called the band Station 2.

Why did Station 2 become a Christian band?

ANDREW: I joined the band after it was formed,

so I think David or Travis should answer this.

DAVID: If you see a guy out building a house do you say, "Hmm that guy looks like a Christian builder." No! As a band we are Christians. We write songs about God. But we want to be defined that we are Christians by the way we act and not our music. To us our music is just music.

What is your favorite Bible verse?

DAVID: Job 23:10 "But he knows the way that I take when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold." That's my favorite Bible verse because we are not promised a comfortable life being a Christian but we are promised that things in our life will make us closer to Christ.

JOSH: I had favorite verses before but sometimes I think that certain verses are more applicable to me at certain times in my life than others, so I guess there is not always one verse that is above the other ones.

What is the best or worst thing that happened to you in Korea?

JOSH: The best thing that happened to me was last May when me and Travis took a group of students to evangelize to the Korean middle schoolers.

DAVID: I got the swine flu last time I was here, it was bad. Just kidding.

TRAVIS: David is probably the one who started swine flu at your school.

ANDREW: The best experience umm... Well, the worst experience is I accidentally went into the women's restroom at the Jimjilbang.

If you could make one wish what would it be?

DAVID: One wish?

TRAVIS: Wish for a thousand wishes more!

DAVID: Yeah! I will wish for infinity wishes!

JOSH: I agree, infinity wishes.

ANDREW: Samesies! (same as them)

If you had a time machine what time would you want to go back to?

TRAVIS: I want to go to the future. Can I go to the future? If it's a time machine why does it have to only go back?

ANDREW: Because, that is the question!

TRAVIS: I want to go to the future so that I can see what the future is like and then I will know what I have to do next.

DAVID: What era was the time machine built? I want to go see the guy that created the time machine.

ANDREW: I want to go back to the glory days, when I was at my prime, just playing soccer. We were in a shoot out and I missed my shot, so I wish I could go back and redo it again.

JOSH: I want to go back to when I was an infant so I can hold my infant self. But then I will just stay in the past and see myself grow up.

DAVID: Like the movie Benjamin Button! You will be getting older and you will be getting older as a baby.

JOSH: So both of me's are getting older. So I will kind of be my own dad...

Is there anything you want to tell the GSIS students?

TRAVIS: I would challenge students to continue to ask tough questions... I want them to really take some time to ask, "Where do I stand in the eternal perspective?"

DAVID: Don't underestimate people in what they can do for the kingdom of God. I spent my earlier years underestimating God and putting people down because of the way they looked and talked.

Music Review By Ryan Kim

Children of Bodom
Skeletons in the Closet



Release Date: September 23, 2009
Genre: Melodic Death Metal
Rating: 8/10

Finnish metal band, Children of Bodom, has released another mind-blowing album. "Skeletons in the Closet" is a compilation of covers produced by the band over the span of a decade. The genres presented throughout the album range from country to metal, pop to punk, and everything in between. Bodom proves that they aren't afraid of venturing out of their comfort-zone by covering songs "...Oops I Did It Again" by Britney Spears and "Just Dropped In (To See What Condition My Condition Was)" by Kenny Rogers. However, the album only features cover songs and nothing original from the band. Bodom presents their musicianship with some original backing tracks to make up for the non-original lyrics. Overall, the album is great for the listener who wants to learn how to take cover songs to the next level.

G-Dragon
Heartbreaker



Release Date: August 18, 2009
Genre: K-Pop
Rating: 6/10

Kwon Ji-Yong, better known as G-Dragon, is well-known for his musical contribution to K-Pop group Big Bang. There is no doubt that Kwon Ji-Yong has an excellent ear for music, and at 21 he is already producing musical efforts that have spread across the globe. With his debut solo album, 'Heartbreaker,' he presents the popular Korean sound of dance and hip-hop blended into one musical monster. However, there is controversy surrounding the album. The album spawned a hit single "Heartbreaker," which was immediately bashed by critics worldwide. The musical beats and tempo of "Heartbreaker" are almost identical to those of popular rapper Flo-Rida's song, 'Right Round.' The album does have high points however, the musicianship isn't that great. Auto-tuning was overused on the album, and it does not leave the listener with anything outstanding or memorable.

Third Eye Blind
Ursa Major



Release Date: August 17, 2009
Genre: Power Pop
Rating: 5.5/10

It's not the best, but it's not the worst. Third Eye Blind's new album "Ursa Major" has both good and bad songs. The album spawns great songs such as "Sharp Knife," "About to Break," and "Don't Believe a Word." The band shows its rock/pop elements with catchy choruses and melodic guitar work. Fans who are familiar with Third Eye Blind's music know that singer, Stephan Jenkins, raps on some songs. However, with the song "Summertown" he raps for two minutes which is a bit of an overkill. A second mistake was the song "One in Ten," which horrendously placed between songs "Sharp Knife" and "About to Break," killing the vibe of the album. Finally, the album did not end with a BANG like many albums do, ending with acoustic driven songs "Dao of St. Paul" and "Monotou's Private Opera." Overall the album was just another summer record that hasn't created a lot of noise.

Arctic Monkeys
Humbug



Release Date: August 19, 2009
Genre: Alternative Rock
Rating: 6/10

This is the Arctic Monkeys? The album brings nothing but utter disappointment. The album lacks diversity, and it eventually leaves the listener rather bored after a long listen to tracks such as 'Crying Lightning' and 'My Propeller.' But what makes up for the disappointing musical aspect of the album are the mind-blowing lyrics. Amazing lyrics still prove to be the Arctic Monkeys winning point. Overall, the band shows that they are able to experiment musically, but the fact that they are missing they used to have brings the album down a few notches. Drop this album into your 'Go to Sleep' playlist on your iPod.

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