

Acacia wood
**EAGLE
FLYER**
Preparatory





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Athletics: Girls' Volleyball.....1-3

Athletics: Cross Country.....4

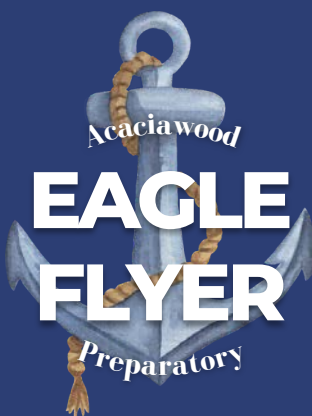
Club Introductions.....5-7

Senior Spotlight (1).....8

Senior Spotlight (2).....9

Teacher Testimony (1).....10

Teacher Testimony (2).....11



Girls' Volleyball

By: **Sarahi Rincon and Brooke Nguyen**



Girls Volleyball Season Kicks Off with Determination

The girls volleyball season has officially begun, and both the junior varsity and varsity teams are ready to bring energy, teamwork, and heart to the court. Led by their dedicated coaches and supportive captains, the team is setting high goals for this season, both on and off the court.

The Junior Varsity team is made up of **Aletheia Blatz, Angelica Heras, Minjee Jeong, Victoria Kim, Nasia Lang, and , Deborah Miller, and Viera Wang**. These athletes are showing strong potential and eagerness to sharpen their skills as they compete throughout the season.

The Varsity roster includes **Leah Alvarez Sager, Aria hna Hanan, Acacia Hearne, Angelica Heras, Deborah Miller, Brooke Nguyen, Sarahi Rincon, Naomi Velecela, and captains Bethel Enriquez and Crystal Lai**. Each player brings unique strengths, and together, they form a determined group committed to growth and teamwork.

During the summer the girls participated in the Mayfair tournament. They went up against tough teams like St Mary's, Mary Star of the Sea, Mayfair, and Riverside Prep, but ended up being 3rd overall. The whole team took a team bonding trip to watch the USA Men's National Team play at Cypress College. It was a fun experience where the team was able to bond. In their first league game, the varsity team faced their first opponent, TVT, and fell short with a 3-0 loss. It was a close game; the first set being 20-25, second set 24-26, and third set 26-28. While the scoreboard didn't reflect the fight and energy they brought to the court, the match fueled their motivation to push harder in practice and come back stronger for the rest of the season.



Girls' Volleyball

By: Sarahi Rincon and Brooke Nguyen



We interviewed our captains Crystal Lai and Bethel Enriquez and these were the following Q/A's

(Crystal)

Q: What advice would you give to younger players joining the team?

A: Don't focus on who's better than you or who's getting more playing time. I learned the hard way that by doing that, you're only bringing down yourself and the team. Focus on building your skill and making yourself better. Always go into practice or a game with a positive attitude because believe it or not it can make a big difference. Don't tear yourself apart just because you are having a bad volleyball day but always be willing to improve and make yourself better.

Q: What's been your favorite volleyball moment in high school?

A: Any time we travel. I enjoy all the team bonding moments we do because it really makes us closer as a team. From traveling to Catalina Island to play a double header but also shop and kayak to annual Big Bear Tournaments where we eat at the same pizza store and go to the park for relay games to eating together after games or tournaments. I'll definitely be missing all these times.

Q: What's one word to describe this year's team?

A: I'm going to use 3 words - small but strong. We may be smaller but we are scrappier and more determined than ever.

(Bethel)

Q: What advice would you give to younger players joining the team?

A: I would encourage them to always keep their energy up. A lot of the time when someone's energy isn't high, it sort of brings everyone else down so I think just being positive in all situations would really make you a positive team player.

Q: How has being a captain shaped you as a leader?

A: It has put more pressure on me to speak louder and take more responsibility which I think is good and develop skills which I am still working on.

Q: What will you miss most about your volleyball career here?

A: I will miss my teammates, all of our team bonding activities, and just playing the sport in general. I really loved being in a team; I think it's a good experience.



Cross Country

By: River Wang and Enoch Lai



The cross country team is officially kicking off a brand new season, and the excitement is building as runners prepare to take on the challenges ahead. With determination, hard work, and a shared passion for the sport, this year's team is ready to push themselves to new limits.

Representing our school this season are: Sherlock Li, Isaak Villanueva, Paul Lee, William Chiang, Zachary Lee, River Wang, Enoch Lai, Sam Liu, and Ezekiel Enriquez. Each athlete brings unique strengths to the team, and together they form a group that is committed to training, competing, and supporting one another throughout the season.

Cross country is more than just a test of endurance; it's about teamwork, resilience, and perseverance. As the season begins, we are determined to build a strong foundation in practice, sharpening speed, and preparing to face upcoming competition.

This new year marks a brand new opportunity for growth, both individually and together, as a team. With dedication and spirit, the cross country team looks forward to making this season one to remember.





ACACIAWOOD
PREPARATORY

CLUB INTRODUCTIONS

By: **Andrea Villanueva and Nebi Ermias**

In this new school year, AcaciaWood students have more opportunities than ever to broaden their horizons by participating in a wide variety of clubs. As of the month of August, there are a total of four new clubs for students to take part in. These clubs include the Creative Writing Club, the Regenerative Agriculture Club, The Embodiment of the Performative Theatrical Tradition Club, and the Rubik's Cube Club. But what exactly are these clubs about? Here's a closer look at each respective club.

The **Creative Writing Club** is all about guiding young authors as they bring their ideas to life while giving them space to relax, imagine, and create their own worlds. Its mission is to cultivate a passion for writing in their members and encourage them to express themselves through writing. One project CWC has in the works is a collaboration with the Filmmaking Club, also known as The Embodiment of the Performative Theatrical Tradition Club. In this activity, members will each write a script and the members of the Filmmaking Club will choose their favorite to turn into a short film. Right now, the club has 14 members. It was founded by Kyrie Valdez, who started the club out of her love for her writing and her desire to share that joy with others. She was also inspired by her middle school English teacher, who encouraged her creativity. The three people leading this club are Kyrie Valdez, the president, who organizes meetings, plans activities, and works with their teacher advisor, Ms. White, Abigail Ramirez, who helps plan events and communicates member feedback, and Viera Wang, the secretary who keeps meeting notes and shares updates through email. The Creative Writing Club has exciting and ambitious plans for this school year. In October, members will focus on character creation and world building, then in November, they will take on the challenge of writing a full novel in just one month. Afterward, they'll spend time editing their drafts and eventually designing book covers to bring their stories into reality. The Creative Writing Club is open to any and everyone who has a passion or interest in strengthening their writing abilities.

"We aspire to give the talented members of CWC the best writing experience possible." - Secretary, Viera Wang



ACACIAWOOD
PREPARATORY

CLUB INTRODUCTIONS

By: **Andrea Villanueva and Nebi Ermias**

The **Regenerative Agriculture Club** is about exploring sustainable and innovative farming practices that restore soil, conserve water, and promote biodiversity. This club's goal is to show how food systems can be productive and environmentally friendly while giving students hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture. This year, the club plans to raise awareness about regenerative farming on our school campus, launch small projects like composting and garden plots, and host workshops where students can learn practical techniques. Members of the Regenerative Agriculture Club will also connect with local farms and organizations to gain real world exposure to eco-friendly farming practices. The club was founded on the belief that agriculture plays a critical role in addressing today's environmental challenges. The founding members believe that by learning and sharing techniques such as soil regeneration, water conservation, and natural farming, members will inspire others to think differently about the future of food. Currently, the club has 22 members and is welcoming anyone interested in contributing to a greener campus. The officers of this club include David Chiang, the president, who runs meetings and oversees projects, William Chiang, the vice president, who manages member engagement and outreach, Elijah Medina, the secretary, who keeps track of attendance and handles communication, and Isaac Kim, the treasurer, who manages funds and fundraising. Their advisor, Mr. Dawson, helps guide the club in planning activities and bringing its vision to life. The Regenerative Agriculture Club is all about cultivating knowledge, experience, and a passion for protecting the planet.

The **Embodiment of the Performative Theatrical Tradition Club** is a club where students can learn about film which includes cinematography, script writing, acting, and more as well take part in creating their very own short films. Film develops valuable transferable skills of critical thinking, communication, and project management applicable to diverse careers. It provides a crucial understanding of visual storytelling and media in our image-filled culture. Their goal this year is to complete one short film per semester. The founders of the club created this club because they wanted to make their dream come true. They already have around 15-20 members as of now. Their president is Zachary Lee, the vice president is River Wang, the secretary is Daniel Lim, and the Treasurers are Ethan Lowen and Paul Lee. Their club advisor is Mrs. Bausitista and they will be meeting in her room. Some activities that they have planned this year is to produce their first short film by the end of this semester and watch some movies occasionally.

CLUB INTRODUCTIONS

By: **Andrea Villanueva and Nebi Ermias**

The **Rubik's Cube Club** is led by Sherlock Li and Lucas Menendez. They founded this club in order to start teaching others how to solve a Rubik cube. Learning how to solve a Rubix Cube improves cognitive skills like memory, concentration, and problem-solving, as well as develop fine motor skills, and hand-eye coordination. Solving the puzzle itself can be fun, challenging, and can be a rewarding hobby that keeps your mind active and can even reduce stress. Their goal is to build a community where students can sharpen their problem-solving skills, encourage each other to improve, and maybe even host some speed-cubing competitions or events on campus. Sherlock fell in love with solving a Rubix cube when he was in fourth grade and as a senior is excited to see younger ones share the same enthusiasm he had at their age. Starting this club gives him the opportunity to bring clubbers together, create a space to learn from one another, and inspire more students to experience the fun and challenge of solving the cube. Sherlock Li will specifically teach them the advanced methods while Lucas Menendez will teach the beginner way. This encourages people of all skill levels to come and learn how to solve a rubix cube. Right now they have about 6-7 active members and are excited to welcome more people who want to give their club a try. Their club advisor is also Mrs. Baustista and they will start meeting in her room. One of their plans this year is to do a competition on who can solve the fastest. "The Rubik's Cube Club is a space for anyone interested in solving, learning or improving with the cube. We explore different solving methods, share strategies and advanced algorithms, and challenge ourselves with fun cube-related activities" - President, Sherlock Li

It is so inspiring to see many students coming up with new and exciting club ideas in which they can share all their interests. Clubs are meant to be safe spaces of learning and growing together, so we are excited to see the future connections that are made in AcaciaWood. Congratulations to all those who have made their dream a reality and we are excited to see what future ideas will be brought in addition to the awesome clubs. This should encourage students to look through these new clubs and decide which community they want to be a part of.



ACACIAWOOD
PREPARATORY

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: EZRA BLATZ

By: Aletheia Blatz and Naomi Velcela

Q: What's one lesson AcaciaWood has taught you that you will carry forever?

A: One lesson AcaciaWood has taught me is that it's good to do things in a thorough and proper way. While in the moment, it may seem like cutting corners is better and maybe less time-consuming than completing it fully, in the long run doing a task or assignment with your best effort will ultimately do more for you. Not only will your grade or assessment of that task be better, you will also gain important character skills like diligence and perseverance and build a stronger work ethic.

Q: What class or teacher had the biggest impact on you?

A: The teacher who had the biggest impact on me was Mrs. Kayekjian. To me, the way that she taught was very memorable and she helped me to work hard. Her class always stretched the capacity of what I thought I could do and made me grow a lot. Although some of the assignments she gave were frustrating or difficult, they helped me to expand my ability and made me think in new ways. I think it also improved my work ethic.

Q: What has been your favorite memory of the year?

A: While the year has only just started, my favorite memory of what has happened so far is the cave painting activity we did in art class with Miss Chen. I enjoyed expressing my creativity on the cavelike walls and I found the activity to be fun and interesting. I look forward to more art activities coming up in this year.



Q: What advice would you give to your younger self?

A: I would tell my younger self to try to go to bed earlier and get more sleep. Once you reach a late sleep schedule it is very difficult to reverse it. If you don't get enough sleep because you stay up late working on homework, you'll only be more tired the next day, making it even harder to focus on your work and go to bed on time. It becomes a never ending cycle of procrastination and later and later bedtimes, which will only hinder you more.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: SHERLOCK LI

By: Heesung Lee and Ethan Loewen



Q: What are your plans after graduation, and how did high school influence those plans? -

A: My plans after graduation are to attend a university or junior college then graduate and attend the Full-Time Training to pursue the Lord. I am encouraged by Christ's manifestation in the trainees' visiting our school every Tuesday. Their visits have persuaded me to want to attend the FTTA.



Q: What's one lesson Acaciawood has taught you that you will carry forever?

A: One lesson Acaciawood has taught me is the hustle mentality. Whether it is pushing myself to run the last mile of a cross-country race, running on the basketball court, or even grinding for big exams, this mindset is always present. It is something that keeps me going when things get tough and pushes me to always give 100%.

Q: How have you changed personally and academically from your freshman year to your current senior year?

A: Acaciawood has shaped me into a more mature and academically capable person. I still remembered the challenges and struggles I faced in AP World History during my freshman year. Thanks to Mrs. Kayekjian's help, I learned how to tackle LEQs and DBQs - skills that later helped me succeed in my other AP histories.



Q: What was the most memorable field trip or school outing you participated in and why?

A: My most memorable school outing was my trip to Avalon in 7th grade. I enjoyed scuba diving in the freezing ocean water (it was tough lol). But it taught me how rewarding it can be to step outside my comfort zone.

Q: What advice would you give to your younger self?

A: My biggest advice to my younger self is go to bed early. I have spent countless nights playing video games in middle school or grinding for exams that next day. But staying up late is a really bad habit that I wish I did not practice when I was younger.

TEACHER TESTIMONY: MISS FREITAG

By: Deborah Miller and Isabella Hernandez



Q: How long have you been teaching at AcaciaWood?

A: This is my first year teaching at AcaciaWood.

Q: What made you decide to come teach at AcaciaWood?

A: I was looking to go somewhere where the Lord could use me and train me to fulfill His heart's desire, and when I found out there was an opening at AcaciaWood, my heart was full and I felt peace. I never thought I would be a teacher, but being surrounded by the saints and helping shape their children academically and spiritually is an opportunity I would never pass up.



Q: What has been your favorite memory so far teaching here at AcaciaWood?

A: My favorite memory was from the first week of school, when two of my students gave me hugs and a few of them made me little drawings during class. My first week was really hard and I was exhausted, but those few small, kind acts really shepherded and encouraged me to go on in a strong way. In the beginning, I felt like I was doing everything wrong, but they showed me that no matter how confident or intelligent I was, all they saw was a person who encouraged them, made them smile, and let them color in class. Every time I make them smile or implement an activity that gets them excited, it becomes a new favorite memory for me.



Q: What caused you to decide to become a teacher?

A: Honestly, I never thought I would ever be a teacher. Growing up, I always enjoyed spending time with kids, whether it was babysitting or just spending time with a family I knew. In college, I majored in Early Childhood Education, and that's when I truly found my love for teaching. I realized I wanted to make a difference, and give children with all sorts of learning strategies and personality types a chance to succeed in school. As a kid, I was always falling behind and struggled with anything related to academics. So, what really made me want to become a teacher was knowing I had the chance to make sure all my students had access to resources that would fit their unique learning needs so that all could succeed and go on in a strong way.



TEACHER TESTIMONY: MR DAWSON

By: Daniel Lim and Ezekiel Enriquez



Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to students about life beyond school?

A: Cherish your time with your friends and with the Lord, as every moment matters. It is usually the simplest and quietest memories that hold the most meaning, so you should appreciate the small moments. Similarly, you should spend quality time with the Lord, seeking him through prayer.

Q: What caused you to decide to become a teacher?

A: I felt called to take on this role after Mr. Hale reached out to me, asking if I wanted to step in for Mr. Hageman. I felt it was the right time to make a change in what I was doing, so I decided to come here to AcaciaWood.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of being a teacher?

A: The most rewarding part is seeing the growth of students over the course of a year, whether it is academically, psychologically, or physically. It is gratifying to see students' maturation between the beginning and the end of the school year. Seeing students show up to school every day to work hard is both encouraging and inspiring to me as a teacher.



Q: What's your favorite activity to do outside of class?

A: Running is my favorite activity. For the last decade, I have consistently run 30-35 miles each week, making it an indispensable part of my routine. Recently, I took on a new role as the coach of the cross country team, which has been an exciting way for me to share my passion and experience with others.

Visit our VisitLinkTree:



EAGLE FLYER

Credits

Editor-in-Chief
Crystal Lai

Editorial Board
Bethel Enriquez
Zachary Lee

Faculty Advisors
Mr. Miller
Mr. Kuan

Writers
Aletheia Blatz, Ezekiel Enriquez, Nebi Ermias,
Isabella Hernandez, Enoch Lai, Heesung Lee,
Daniel Lim, Ethan Loewen, Deborah Miller,
Brooke Nguyen, Sarahi Rincon, Naomi Velecela,
Andrea Villanueva, River Wang

Thank you for reading this
edition of the Eagle Flyer
2025! We hope to keep you
updated with school
events and help you get to
know our community a
little better.