

Acacia wood  
**EAGLE  
FLYER**  
Preparatory

HOME		GUEST
	PERIOD	
BONUS		BONUS
FOULS	PLAYER	FOULS
T.O.L.		T.O.L.





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# A FRESH PUSH TOWARD SUCCESS

## QUARTER 3 BEGINS

By: Deborah Miller and Isabella Hernandez

Hello Eagle Nation! Winter break has ended, and Quarter 3 has officially begun, bringing with it a variety of academic changes, new activities, and more. After a season of hard work, the girls' basketball season has come to a show-stopping end, and the boys' basketball team has advanced to CIF! Continue to show support for your AcaciaWood Eagles! In addition, the next Buddy System activity is arriving soon, so stay tuned for that as well. Quarter 3 hints at two exciting activities, one to meet the buddies and the second to be announced in the upcoming weeks. Also, look for upcoming fundraisers from the girls' basketball and volleyball teams, as well as from the FPS Club.

Students are looking forward to the second semester!

Spirit Week is also coming up soon, so gear up and get ready for a week filled with costumes, fun, food, and cultural displays. Remember to continue planning for Cultural Day. Let's show Eagle Nation spirit!



# A Year of Grit and Growth

By: Sarahi Rincon and Nebi Ermias



The girls' basketball team wrapped up a tough season, but what truly defined these months wasn't the scoreboard; it was the heart, effort, and determination every player brought to the court. Even without a win, the team pushed themselves through long practices, tough matchups, and moments that tested their confidence, yet they never stopped fighting for each other. Our freshmen stepped up in huge ways: Acacia showed raw shooting talent, Viera and Minjee locked down opponents with impressive defensive instincts, and Kyrie brought relentless determination that lifted the whole team. Juniors Nebi and Sarahi led with heart and grit, setting the tone through their leadership and intensity. The sophomores made their mark as well, with Isabella and Naomi finding their rhythm as reliable shooters and Deborah delivering absolutely amazing defense, shutting down plays and giving the team crucial stops when they needed them most. Throughout the season, there were moments, tight defensive stands, unexpected scoring bursts, and small breakthroughs that reminded everyone why the effort mattered, even when the results didn't. Through it all, the team is deeply grateful to Miss White and Mrs. Bautista for believing in them, lifting their spirits, and creating a space where they could grow, learn, and give their absolute best every single day. Last night, the girls showed perseverance by enjoying the company of each other and finishing the season successfully, as each girl was able to score a point this season. Congratulations to our Lady Eagles for finishing this tough season strong and with a positive attitude. Go Eagles!



# Basketball Boys Bring Home the Crown

By: River Wang and Ethan Loewen



Following the strong start the boys had during their first few games, a wave of injuries and sickness came through. This took out several players and forced those healthy enough to fight hard. Through steady perseverance, the team battled hard, which eventually paid off. After getting back players from sickness, the boys pushed through the competition, and on February 2nd, finished off the regular season beating Southlands Christian 69:58. This made the boys league champions for the first time in the school's history. Another first-time event occurred when the boys and girls basketball teams took a boat to Catalina Island to face Avalon for the second time this season. The boys entered the game fighting hard and defeated Avalon in their home gym for the first time in AcaciaWood history.

In addition to events, it was the school's senior night on Friday, January 30th. This celebrated the contributions of seniors Paul Lee, Issak Villanueva, David Chiang, Dimitry Yang, and Will Chiang, as well as statskeeper Zachary Lee. The game followed a strong effort from the junior high team, and started strong, with the boys playing good defense and scoring efficiently in front of the home crowd. In the second half, the boys continued to fight through fatigue, but they prevailed. Afterwards, the boys and the fans celebrated the game at Raising Cane's. Captain Sherlock Li says, "We didn't have it easy. We didn't have it healthy. We chose to play through it anyway."

The strong group of seniors has provided the boys with encouragement and leadership throughout the season. Veteran Paul Lee has provided helpful scoring through his quick first step and strong three-point shot. Issak Villanueva has also been contributing to the team since he was a freshman, utilizing strong finishing and three-point shooting to give the team scoring. Dimitry Yang has come in this year and has helped lead the team through his IQ, playmaking, and scoring. David Chiang has provided much-needed energy and defense to motivate the team, as well as high levels of scoring that have led to many wins. William Chiang, though sick for much of the season, has helped lead the team through his high-level shooting and finishing. Lastly, Sherlock Li's precise shooting and offensive prowess have helped the boys achieve a winning record and regular-season excellence. The boys are on their way to CIF, so let's continue to support them throughout this journey!



# CELL PHONES ON LOCKDOWN: STUDENTS SPILL THE TEA



## INSIDE STUDENT OPINIONS ON THE CELL PHONE POLICY

By: Deborah Miller and Daniel Lim

The cell phone policy, one of the newest addendums to AcaciaWood, has faced both criticism and praise over the last 7 months since it has been implemented. Some students believe that phones are beneficial, due to helpful productivity apps such as the calculator and calendar, which are better than physical versions. Others believe that the cell phone policy is beneficial for stopping students from being distracted by their phones during class.

One such student, Sam Liu, believes that banning cell phones during class is good, but it isn't necessary to put them inside of lockers. He believes that having them put away is good enough. According to his line of reasoning, "phones teach the students how to resist temptation and personal control. In the future, we will not have an overarching person watching over us, telling us when we can or can't use our phones. As such, through practicing the skill during high school, we will be better equipped during college."

Many other students believe that it is not necessary to completely restrict phones during school. They believe that cellular devices should be allowed during free time, such as lunch or home room. "Sometimes, when I'm off early and done with my homework, I'm not allowed to use my phone," junior Sarahi Rincon shares. "I don't see what's wrong with being able to use my phone then."

On the other hand, some see the phone lockers as an opportunity for them to be less distracted. "I believe it is a good policy," says Nebi Ermias. "It ensures people aren't on their phones, which encourages human interaction and makes lunch time more sweet."

Mr. Miller, the school's principal, also has his own opinion on the cell phone policy, which he himself introduced at the beginning of the year. "The cell phone policy," he reminded us, was to "prevent [the students] from having the ready temptation to get distracted on their phones."

Overall, Mr. Miller believes that the cell phone policy has served its purpose, to separate the students from distraction and to keep them in touch with their school community face-to-face during the school day.

"It's a testament to the students following the rules," he says. "They have been very good about handing in their cell phones."

In conclusion, while students may have differing opinions on the policy, the teachers seem to be satisfied with its results. Do you think the school cell phone policy has had a positive effect on your school life? What aspects of the policy do you agree with?



# STUDENTS SUPPORTING STUDENTS



## BUDDY SYSTEM

By: **Sarahi Rincon and Deborah Miller**

This year, ASC proudly brought back the Buddy System, a tradition that pairs upper school students with elementary students to build friendships, mentorship, and a stronger sense of community. In previous years, buddies spent time together by sharing lunch, playing games, and reading side-by-side. This year, the program added a fun twist by keeping the buddy pairings a secret at first. Students began by writing letters to their buddies, giving small hints about their personalities, interests, and favorite activities without revealing their identities. The second activity was a gift exchange, where the buddies were still anonymous, and ASC helped deliver the letters and items to the correct partners. Finally, this month, the long-awaited reveal took place. Each student wore a sticker with a number on their back, and their buddy had the matching number. Everyone gathered in the white top and searched for their partner, leading to a lively mix of laughter, excitement, and conversation as buddies met face-to-face for the first time. It was a memorable experience that brought joy to students of all ages and strengthened the sense of connection within the school community.



# STUDENT ATHELETES OF CHARACTER

By: **Daniel Lim and Sam Liu**

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Student Athletes of Character are not only students who excel in sports, but also those who demonstrate good sportsmanship, respect, honesty, and good teamwork skills both on court and in their daily lives. They set a positive example for their peers, exemplifying a strong character and high standards. This year, two AcaciaWood student athletes were recognized and honored for their model character: Nebi Ermias and Enoch Lai.

Nebi, the girls' basketball captain and point guard, has demonstrated exceptional character, sportsmanship, and work ethic. She supports her teammates, communicates well on court, and puts the needs of the team above her own. Even when her team loses, Nebi displays an unmatched positive attitude, congratulating the other team for their victory. Deborah Miller, a sophomore and fellow teammate, states that Nebi "exemplifies what it means to be a leader. She takes the time to lift us when we are down and leads by action, not just by words. Nebi is humble and always willing to help and encourage the rest of us. We truly appreciate having such a role model."

Enoch is an opposite hitter in volleyball, and despite last season being his first year playing with AcaciaWood, he has shown incredible teamwork and perseverance. He is widely respected by both his teammates and opponents due to his remarkable skills and strategic thinking. As an opposite hitter, he never fails to deliver when the team needs him most. With his flexible playstyle, he is able to create scoring opportunities, deliver powerful kills, and consistently earn points in crucial moments. Not only is Enoch known for his on-court prowess, but also for his ability to inspire his teammates to push beyond their limits. Even during the toughest matches, Enoch maintains a pleasant and positive attitude, making him one of the most loved team members by players and coaches alike. "Great players aren't defined by the scoreboard or their in-game stats, but by the strength of their character," Enoch stated. "To me," he added, "it is more important to lift my teammates and play with integrity rather than to win every match."

We congratulate these two athletes for their exceptional standards both on and off the court! Keep flying high!

# LITTLE ARTISTS, BIG DREAMS

## SECOND GRADE ART

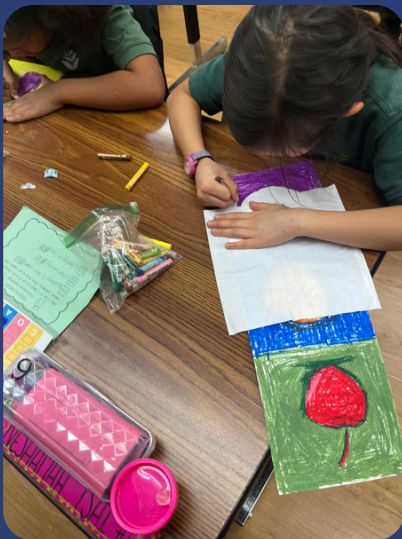


**By: Nasia Lang and Aletheia Blatz**

This year, the first and second graders have been busy creating, exploring, and learning in their weekly art classes. Once a week, students step into a creative space where they practice the basics of art while discovering just how exciting and meaningful art can be. In this class, led by teacher Miss Marti, students are introduced to seven elements of art, learn a little about art history, and get hands-on experience with different art materials and techniques. These projects help students understand that art isn't just about drawing and painting – it's about learning, experimenting, and expressing ideas in many different ways. Art class also helps students grow important skills. While creating art, students develop fine and gross motor skills, practice critical thinking, and learn how to observe, plan, and solve problems. They also build patience, determination, and confidence as they follow instructions and try new ways to complete their projects. These skills are not only useful in class, but in everyday life as well.

According to the second-grade teacher, Miss Marti, art has a positive impact on the students. They gain a more well-rounded learning experience and develop skills that connect to many subjects. Art is not just a "pretty picture"; it connects to science, math, history, and social studies. It is also a way to communicate ideas and show how we see the world.

"Students perform wonderfully. They are acquiring skills that will translate into other areas of their lives," said Miss Marti. Through art, second graders are learning, growing, and discovering just how creative they can be.



# CHIANG'S GAME, GRIT, AND GOOD VIBES



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: DAVID CHIANG

By: Enoch Lai

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

A: One lesson that AcaciaWood has taught me is the value of surrounding yourself with the right people. Being part of a place where everyone genuinely supports and looks out for each other showed me how much easier life feels when you're not doing everything alone. It changed the way I see relationships and the kind of people I want around me.

### Q: What's one thing people don't know about you?

A: One thing people don't know about me is that I love golf. I played golf in my last high school and really loved how peaceful and calming it was. It was a nice contrast compared to basketball and was the change of pace I felt like I needed. Now that I have more free time, I would like to pick golf back up. I also lived in China for 8 years.

### Q: What excites you the most and what frightens you the most about graduating?

A: What excites me the most about graduating is the freedom that comes with it and the transition to adulthood. I'm looking forward to making my own decisions, trying new things, and figuring out who I am outside of school. At the same time, it's scary knowing that more responsibility comes with that freedom, and that I'll have to learn how to manage things on my own without always having someone guiding me.



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

A: After graduation, I plan to attend college in California and continue figuring out the career path that fits me best, especially in fields like business or law. At the same time, I'm still learning who I am as a person, so I want to give myself time to grow, develop, and enjoy life instead of rushing everything. I also want to spend more time with the Lord, and possibly attend the FTTA.



### Q: If you could accomplish one significant goal before the end of your senior year or during the last summer before starting college, what would it be and why?

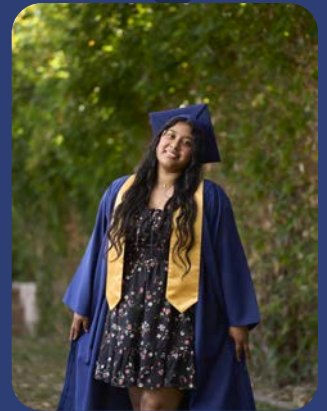
A: One goal I want to accomplish before the end of my senior year is benching 225 pounds. It's something I've been working toward for a while and has become a personal milestone for me. I got pretty close over the summer, but during basketball season, I had to lift less and focus more on training for the sport. Now that the season is over, I'm excited to get back into the gym and finally hit that goal to prove to myself that I can.



# QUIET STRENGTH, BIG IMPACT

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: BETHEL ENRIQUEZ

By: Ezekiel Enriquez



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

A: My favorite memory this year was probably SSOT. I enjoyed all the messages, singing times, getting boba, laughing, and spending time with my friends. Every SSOT is always a source of beautiful memories.

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

A: I think that Mrs. Kayekjian and all of her history classes have had the biggest impact on me. When I was a freshman, AP World was the first AP class I took, and I remember that there was a lot of homework. I also remember feeling very scared for the AP test, but I got a 5 on it, and I know that the only reason I did so well was because of all of the work that Mrs. Kayekjian had us do for it. It really supplied us with the skills we needed to pass the test.

### Q: What excites you the most, and what frightens you the most, about graduating?

A: The most exciting thing about graduating is entering a new stage of my life, college. I can't wait to meet new people, study new things, and grow to become a more independent individual. I am also nervous because I will be leaving AcaciaWood, this school, and family that I have been a part of for 11 years.



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

A: I plan to go to community college after high school and then transfer to a UC, hopefully UCLA. I don't know what I want to major in yet, but I'm considering a specialization in the math field. I also want to go to the FTTA.

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

A: I would say that it's okay to be scared of doing things, but you can't let that stop you from doing them or from reaching as hard as you can toward your goals and dreams. Don't be afraid to make mistakes because everyone makes them, and failures are what can help you grow.



# TEACHER TESTIMONY: MISS MARTI

By: Naomi Velecela and Brooke Ngyuen



**Q: How long have you been teaching at AcaciaWood?**

A: This is my first year teaching at AcaciaWood.

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

A: The most rewarding part of being a teacher is witnessing students' growth—seeing their progress and the moment when a new concept finally clicks. It is also incredibly fulfilling to support students as they learn, develop confidence, and grow both academically and personally.

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

A: I have a lot of advice, but one is to let yourself be guided by the feeling of peace in every decision that you make. If there is no peace, stop. Another one is to have goals. It doesn't matter what happens along the way, and your journey might not look how you pictured it, but as long as you work hard, you will achieve a satisfying result. You can pivot or change plans when needed, but it is important to always have an unchanging foundation.

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

A: When I was young, I used to play the role of being a teacher. Although my mom was a teacher, I am not sure when I resolved to become one. I believe every decision I made along the way guided me down this path.

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

A: I do not believe I have a "favorite" memory. However, I have many moments I appreciate. One of which is when I see that my students feel comfortable in the classroom, and see them grow day by day.



# ALUMNI ARTICLE: MELISSA VIANA

By: Felipe Viana

**Q: When did you graduate from AcaciaWood?**

A: I graduated from AcaciaWood in 2015

**Q: What are you doing currently in life?**

A: I now work as an occupational therapist in Georgia, but my journey really began during the ten years I spent at AcaciaWood



**Q: What is a piece of advice you would give students at AcaciaWood?**

A: If I could offer one piece of advice, it would be to push yourself outside your comfort zone and take on challenges, whether that is learning a new skill, sport, language, or instrument. Don't limit yourself through complacency. Choose a challenge, stick with it, master it, and then move on to the next. You will be amazed at the opportunities that open up along the way.

**Q: What did you like about AcaciaWood?**

A: I was surrounded by fun, caring, and supportive classmates who made even the toughest classes memorable. One of the greatest gifts AcaciaWood gave me was its strong focus on character, not just academics. Being smart alone is not enough in the real world. Character, responsibility, and respect are what truly set you apart, and the habits I built at AcaciaWood still guide me today.

**Q: What was your experience like in AcaciaWood?**

A: Looking back, I realize how unique my experience was. Like any student, I had my ups and downs, moments of growth, moments of struggle, and even a rebellious phase where I thought I wanted "freedom" from uniforms, workload, and the typical school structure. Now I know that what we often chase at a young age can be misleading, and I am incredibly grateful I stayed and graduated from AcaciaWood.

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Thank you for reading this edition of the Eagle Flyer 2026! We hope to keep you updated with school events and help you get to know our community a little better.