

Acacia Wood
**EAGLE
FLYER**
Preparatory





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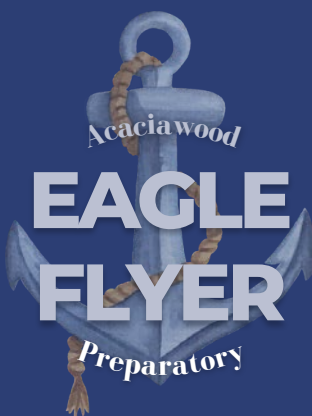
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Acaciawood's Fight For Consistency

By: River Wang and Daniel Lim



As the Acaciawood boys volleyball team pushes through the middle of the season, their recent stretch of games has highlighted both strengths and areas still needing improvement. In a strong performance against Liberty Christian, Acaciawood secured an impressive 3-0 win, showcasing their ability to play with control, discipline, and sharp focus. The team maintained a lead throughout the match, taking all opportunities to capitalize on their opponent's mistakes and extend their advantage. Their performance was carried by setters Isaac Kim (#2) and Paul Lee (#10), whose consistent efforts and keen court vision kept the team going. Through minimizing errors and taking advantage of scoring opportunities, Acaciawood was able to dominate each set and effectively close the match.



However, as the season progresses and competition intensifies, areas for growth have also become increasingly noticeable. This was especially evident in the boys' match against Calvary Chapel, where Acaciawood suffered a 0-3 loss. Despite displaying moments of promise and resilience, the volleyball team ultimately fell behind due to a lack of coordination. Minimal communication made the rallies difficult to sustain, and frequent passing errors disrupted the team's rhythm and led to lost points. Even so, these challenges provide valuable learning experiences and opportunities for the team to develop further. Through continued efforts and steady improvement, the team continues to prepare for the matches ahead.



One standout perspective comes from senior #67, Dimitry Yang, who reflected on the team's journey so far, saying, "Every mistake has brought us closer, every obstacle made us stronger." His words capture the mindset of a group that is learning and growing through both victories and setbacks.

Now halfway through the season, Acaciawood holds a 4-3 record, showing steady progress as a team. They've demonstrated strong chemistry at times, especially through clear communication and solid defensive play, but are still working to find consistency. Practices have remained intense and competitive, with players constantly pushing one another to improve and strengthen their connections on the field.



THEIR LAST YEAR, THEIR BIGGEST LEAP



COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

By: Deborah Miller and Casey Lee

As Quarter 3 draws to a close and Spring Break approaches, a new terror looms over the senior classes year after year: college results.

While for some this process began back in January with early action, for many the real trial began during their senior week trip (see Miles of Memories). For some, these results would lead to disappointment, but at the same time would help them discover paths they had not seen before.

One senior, Bethel Enriquez, was accepted into UCSD for biology but plans on going to Cypress Community College. She believes that in community college, she can explore different classes and find out what she truly wants to do as she gets older. "You don't have to have everything figured out yet," she says. "It's ok to take your time. I think it's better to explore different things and find what you love than to go hard on yourself and force yourself to do things other people want you to or society believes you should do."

William Chiang emphasized the importance of discipline and well-rounded achievement: "Maintain strong grades and SAT scores, stay involved in sports, adopt that 'Mamba Mentality', involve yourself in research, ASC, and pursue meaningful extracurricular outside of school. Most importantly take time to find your goals and passions" He is currently considering schools such as USC, UC Berkeley, John Hopkins, and West Point.

William's hard work paid off, he was accepted into an impressive list of universities, including UPenn, Columbia, UChicago, West Point, Air Force Academy, Cornell, UCLA, UC Berkeley, UCSD, UCR, USC, and John Hopkins

Another important lesson that several seniors took away from this year's college admissions cycle was the importance of preparation. Zachary Lee, who will be attending Cal State Fullerton once he graduates, tells students to "not procrastinate when it comes to college apps" and to "begin to figure out what you would like to study in college and options of where you may want to go. Whatever you do, do not wait until the last minute to apply to a college."

Senior Dimitry Yang emphasizes the importance of starting early and giving yourself enough time throughout the college application process: "The earlier you start preparing the better. While spending more time doesn't guarantee acceptance into top colleges, it does ensure you'll have no regrets when decisions come out. You won't be left wondering "What if" – What if I had started my essays sooner or pushed myself harder earlier on." He also highlights the personal growth that comes with applying to college, explaining that the process allows you to reflect on your journey and recognize how far you've come.

Dimitry plans to attend UCR to study mathematics, drawn by its strong program and welcoming campus environment, which he believes will provide both academic support and a meaningful college experience.

MILES OF MEMORIES



SENIOR TRIP

By: Enoch Lai and Ezekiel Enriquez

The annual senior trips are a time where the 12th graders choose a destination to spend time for a week to celebrate their time together and the time away from school to relax. This year, the seniors went to the state of Washington. They traveled around and visited quite a few cities, including Seattle, Bellingham, Bellevue, and Leavenworth.

Originally, the class was split on two destinations: New York and Alaska. However, there wasn't quite enough support for New York and Alaska was deemed too expensive. They eventually came to a compromise on Seattle, which was a perfect blend of both the city and nature. Overall, the seniors enjoyed the trip quite a bit, they had a lot of fun with their classmates, the chaperones, and some YP whom they had grown up with. Although the seniors weren't allowed to go to the countryside, their trip was a lot of fun and allowed them to get to know each other a lot more. Previously, the senior class was not very close, but through this trip they were able to both connect with one another and interact with local saints from the different cities. They were very involved in a lot of activities and got to see many famous sights, such as the Space Needle, MoPop Museum, Seattle Pacific Science Center, and the University of Washington. They were also very involved in nature as they visited places such as Snoqualmie Falls, Snoqualmie Pass, La Conner Daffodil Field and Bellevue Botanical Garden. The last few days were a little rough since everyone was tired and some got sick, but they still said it was very nice to be up in the Northwest.

A highlight from the class was when they went to Snoqualmie Pass, where it was snowing and the seniors had a lot of fun playing with the snow, going down the hill snow-tubing, having snowball fights, and building a snowman. Another highlight was in Bellingham. The seniors stayed with a lovely couple who owned a lakehouse with a lagoon as their backyard. The seniors went clamming and dug up oysters which they got to eat and enjoy. They got to enjoy the scenic view of the sunset on the water and sat around a campfire to eat smores and bond with one another.

Bethel Enriquez said, "Our trip to Washington was amazing! We got to blend with a lot of the saints there that were so nice and welcoming. The greenery was a beautiful change from Anaheim and it was nice seeing both the tall buildings and city parts of Washington as well as the nature trails."

Senior Crystal Lai also gives a definition as to what the senior trip means: "Senior trip is the best way to not only blend with saints and to sight see but it's also a great way to blend with your classmates and get to know them more. It's also a way to see how your hard work turned out and for us, it turned out amazing."





CONFESSIONS OF A JERSEY GIRL

By: Naomi Velecela and Isabella Hernandez

Everyone's journey at AcaciaWood is different and many times is taken for granted. Coming to live in California, so that their parents could attend the Middle Age Training, Naomi and Taylor had to give up their lives in New Jersey in order to attend AcaciaWood and live in Anaheim, which is something that was so unpredicted and unimaginable for them. This article shares Naomi's experience throughout her two years in AcaciaWood.

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When my parents first told me I was moving to California, I was shocked, and felt immediate sadness. I was looking at all the negative factors and didn't see any positive factors. My parents were trying to soften it, but I wasn't buying it. They showed me AcaciaWood's website and I originally thought the students would be snobby and rich. I'd heard stuff about AcaciaWood before and that it was really good, but for me, I only ever imagined being in New Jersey. Although I often visited California, I knew I would come back home every time. However, living was a whole different thing, and my lifestyle completely changed.

The first time I arrived, I saw the building and I thought the school was really small and I wasn't used to it. On the first day of school, I saw that everyone already had their groups, so I was worried about fitting in and who I would be with. The only person I knew was Sarahi at the time, but I didn't want to intrude on her friendship, and wanted to have my own high school experience with friends that I made on my own. Then, Isa (Isabella Carvajal) and Bella (Isabella Hernandez) invited me to lunch. People told me that AcaciaWood didn't have any of the other high school experiences, and we had to clean, and I thought it was very out of the ordinary. Their system was completely different and I wasn't used to it. I wasn't used to the severe consequences, but looking back it has helped me be responsible for my own things.

After a while, I became best friends with Isa and Bella and since I now had two genuine friends and I thought that was all I already needed, but I also wanted to make other connections. In the beginning, I thought that as an outsider, I would not be welcomed, but I was wrong. Although I got used to all the rules and the people around me, the schedule, and the system, I never truly got used to the feeling of living in California. It still feels like I'm on a vacation and waiting to go home, but a part of me will always have California there, but it will be a memory. I'm grateful for this experience, because it helped me be more grateful for things I took for granted and learned the true value of everything. I learned to look at the value of the people of my life even for the tiniest of things. I'll always be thankful for my experience in California for helping me grow as a person.

The main thing I will miss is the connections with my friends because it's shown me what true friendship is. California will always hold a special place in my heart, and I'm grateful for all the lessons the time here has taught me and the friendships that I've gained.



NOT JUST VISITORS

A LOOK INTO THE LIVES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



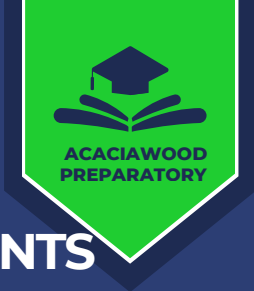
By: **Nasia Lang and Sam Liu**

Moving to the United States is more than just a change in location – it is a transition into a new culture, language, and way of life. Many international students face challenges such as adapting to a more open and diverse environment, where socializing and personal attitude play a significant role in school life. Language barriers can also make communication and learning difficult, especially for those still developing their English skills.

In addition, differences in educational systems require students to adjust their study habits and expectations. To overcome these challenges, students often dedicate extra time to improving their English and actively participate in class activities and school events, such as joining sports teams. Through effort and involvement, they gradually adapt, building confidence and finding their place in a new environment.

Here are some stories from the international students:

- **Jasper Chen** - After coming to the United States, Jasper Chen faced many challenges. The biggest problem is English. Sometimes he cannot understand his teachers or classmates. He feels shy to speak because he is afraid of making mistakes. School is also different from his country, so it takes time to get used to it. He also misses my family and friends. But he tries his best to study hard, practice English every day, and make new friends. As he said, "I believe I will improve."
- **Henry Liu** - For Henry Liu, being an international student meant first learning independence and how to cope with solitude. Arriving in an unfamiliar society at a young age, he had to navigate new environments, interact with strangers, and handle complex social situations on his own. He still remembers his first day – having never attended an international school, he couldn't speak English and had to learn everything step by step through experience. Over time, he adapted and grew, and he remains deeply grateful to everyone at AcaciaWood, whom he considers a second family that welcomed him into this new chapter of his life.
- **Victoria Kim** - Moving from Korea, Victoria Kim found the attention around her overwhelming. Unused to speaking English and understanding others, she often didn't know how to respond and sometimes felt like avoiding conversations. In class, the language barrier made it difficult for her to follow. Her experience reflects the struggles many international students face when adapting to a new environment. "I kept questioning myself, wondering why I was here, using English, when I am Korean. However, everyone was kind to me, and I gradually adapted. Now I don't think life in the US is that bad anymore." She shared.
- **Casey Lee** - After finishing middle school in Taiwan, Casey Lee moved to the US. She went to Houston, Texas, and she joined ESL for a semester. Everything has changed since she moved to the US. Not only is the learning environment different, but also the workload. To get on track with English, she keeps memorizing vocabulary and reading the Bible to help with comprehension. She admitted that her first English Bible reading was tough, she read super slowly and she couldn't understand the spiritual vocab, nor get the life study message. As time went on, reading the English Bible felt manageable. "Moving to the US shaped my character a lot, I started to pay more attention when my parent's driving, I became more independent, and started doing all my stuff independently without reminders."



NOT JUST VISITORS

A LOOK INTO THE LIVES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

By: **Nasia Lang and Sam Liu**

- **Nasia Lang** - Nasia Lang moved to the U.S. from Shanghai in 2024, having visited before but now needing to fully adapt as her family planned to settle. After attending Orange Lutheran High School for ninth grade, she transferred again and noticed major differences from China's intense academic environment. Cultural differences and socializing were challenging for her shy personality. Gradually, the more open environment helped her gain confidence and form friendships. She shared, "Moving to the US greatly changed my personality. I became a more confident and independent person, and I expect to contribute more to the school."
- **Sam Liu** - Sam Liu, an international student from Canada, highlights several key challenges students may face when adjusting to life in the U.S. One major difficulty is the earlier school start time, which he claimed "I need to wake up a lot earlier," and he suggests students to build healthier habits and ensure they get enough sleep. He also notes differences in social norms and ways of communication, encouraging students to step outside their comfort zones, "make new friends, and learn from those around them." Additionally, the varying levels of academic difficulty can be challenging, so developing an efficient study plan and strong study habits is essential for success.

Together, these stories show that while the journey of international students is often filled with challenges, it is also one of adaptation, growth, and transformation. From language barriers to cultural differences, each student faces their own struggles, yet through effort, courage, and support from others, they gradually find their place. Their experiences remind us that adapting to a new environment is not easy, but it is through these challenges that students become stronger, more confident, and ready to contribute to their new communities.



TEACHER TESTIMONY: MRS. PANG

By: Nasia Lang and Aletheia Blatz



Q: How long have you been teaching at AcaciaWood?

A: I started teaching in 2021, and since then, have taught two years at AcaciaWood.

Q: What classes have you taught or do you teach at AcaciaWood?

A: I have taught Math 5, Math 6, Algebra 2, AP Pre Calculus, and Computer Skills.

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

A: For me, the most rewarding part is seeing students progress in their understanding and seeing the joy on their faces when they are rewarded for putting in the extra effort. It doesn't matter about the letter grade, what is most important is understanding.

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

A: I always leaned toward the stem subjects, particularly math and chemistry and also found joy in helping others, like tutoring in high school. I decided to study math in college. Additionally, one of my algebra 2 teachers in high school influenced me to become a teacher.

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

A: My favorite memory was celebrating pie day during my first year teaching. We ate pie and played the pie face game. Also I enjoy cheering on the lady eagles at games outside of the classroom.





SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: HENRY LIU

By: Felipe Viana and Max Luna



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

A: Personally, I have begun to weigh pros and cons and have started to cultivate the habit of self-reflection; academically, although I still struggle with procrastination, I generally manage to complete my assignments.



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

A: Do not be overly hard on yourselves when you make mistakes, and do not let anxiety about the future consume you; above all, you must learn to maintain your inner peace.

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

A: Cultivate a character of high moral standards.

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

A: The Senior Trip gave me the opportunity to witness what my classmates are truly like in their everyday lives.



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

A: I look forward to my university life—a life of true independence—yet I also feel a sense of unease and anxiety regarding the uncertainties of the future.

ALUMNI ARTICLE: JOHNSON WU

By: Heesung Lee and Ethan Loewen



Q: When did you graduate from AcaciaWood?

A: 2006

Q: What are you doing currently in life?

A: I am a fellow believer and a father of two. I also practice law.



Q: What did you like about AcaciaWood?

A: AcaciaWood is where I developed my passion for playing basketball. It also offered a safe environment that kept me out of trouble.

Q: • What are the names of your family members?

A: My wife is Gloria Wu. She is an optometrist working for LA County. We have two daughters. My oldest daughter is Genesis, age 5, and my youngest daughter is Zoey, age 3.

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

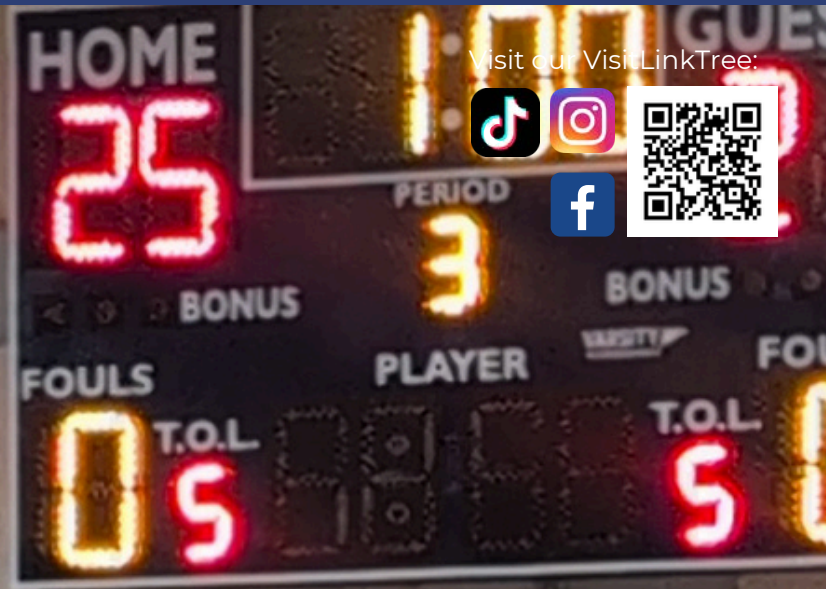
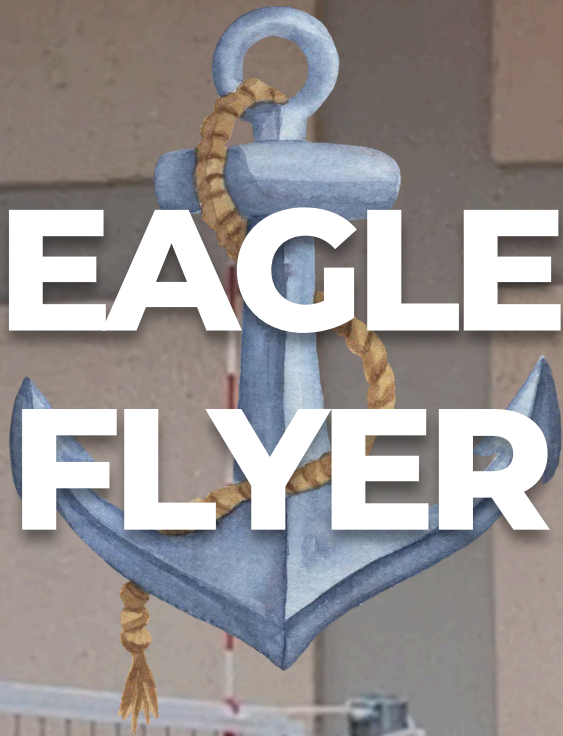
A: AcaciaWood offers unique opportunities that can be harder to access in more competitive environments. Don't take these opportunities for granted.

Q: What was your experience like at AcaciaWood?

A: At the time, it felt like being confined in a cage, but with time and perspective, I've come to appreciate the protection, and opportunities it provided.



EAGLE FLYER



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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.

