

VIKING VOYAGERS



CAN HUYNH CAN WIN

BY CHARLES ATKINS, NAVYA SINGHAI, AND NIKKI SUZANI

A well-respected P.E. teacher, having entered his fifth year at Egan, Mr. Huynh is a favorite of students, serving as a model for leadership, motivation, and wisdom. He recently went on paternity leave to attend to and care for his 5-month-old son Aidan, but we had the opportunity to interview him, along with other students in appreciation of his work.

Q: What made you decide to become a PE teacher?

A: At first, I was planning to be an engineer like many of the Asian kids at school. However, during college I planned to take a semester off to get out of engineering, and I ended up taking three years off. My old high school coach actually saw me and needed help coaching badminton so I went and helped, and I realized that that was my passion. I went back to school to study kinesiology (movement) at Sacramento State and then became a teacher.

Q: As a father and a teacher what do you feel is the most important lesson for today's youth to learn?

A: You can do anything you want to do! I don't like stereotypes, and I like to push the stereotypes; like, have you ever seen an Asian PE teacher before? Especially a skinny one? I hope that students will be able to explore and follow their passions and push the stereotypes.



Q: You've started an Open Mic Monday for kids to be read poetry and also the club AMP'D. Why?

A: Well, Tony Robbins once said that "life is the sum of your experiences," and I believe that we should use all of our senses — touch, taste, smell, sound, and sight. We feel poetry inside, we "touch" it. I want to bridge all creative minds into a place where they feel happy.

Q: What are some of the funniest or craziest things that a student has ever done, or your best memory when teaching?

A: I actually once got peed on by a student. Once, I was the "door" for a kid who kept throwing tantrums and being very violent. One day, while doing testing, the kid kept putting his hands near me and saying, "I'm not touching you, I'm not touching you!" and I reminded them not to make contact, as that was in their rules. The kid then pulled down his pants and peed on me. I called for staff, and the female staff came running, then ran away. Finally, I got some male staff and they brought a towel for me and the kid.

DECEMBER

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Fresh off the Grill, from your Student Council

Volume 1, Issue 2

THE COOL KIDS COMIC CLUB

BY AUDREY CHANG



Crazy laughter shared through computer screens. An abundance of pizza stolen from the Chess Club. Artists of all skill levels intertwining together to create humorous art. This is the sight you see when you walk into the Comic Club at 4:30 on Friday, when most students would be huddled up in their homes, texting and whatnot. Created by Oscar Dufosse, Yash Shahaniys, and Yohan Guyomard, the Comic Club hajacksons a laid-back atmosphere, where all students are welcome to have a good time drawing with friends. Tasty pizza and a relaxing atmosphere sums up the Comic Club.

The members have access to computers, scanners, and printers, which are all generously provided by Mr. Swenson, the club's overseer.

The idea began in math class, when Yash showed Oscar one of his interesting comics. The two boys met up with Yohan and agreed that Egan needed a club where people who liked to sketch, draw, and create could meet more people with similar interests. Yash and Yohan strongly believe that finding time to do what you love is necessary for life, and that the Comic Club provides an opportunity to do just that.

When asked about the benefits that drawing provides, Oscar says that it “enhances the students’ creativity and inspires them to work as hard as their



COMIC BY YOHAN GUYOMARD

peers.” Oscar insists Comic Club also “helps the students grow because they eat a lot of pizza.”

MIXIN' BEATS

BY AKANE OZAWA

The **DJ Club** allows you to have the experience to manipulate sound to your own creation. Every Monday and Thursday at lunch, the DJ Club experiments with top hit songs, or student recommendations, near the amphitheater. They lighten up the mood while we're eating, pump the adrenaline in school sports, and make our school dances more memorable nights. The DJ Club started in the beginning of the 2016 school year when Mr. Huynh, the eighth grade P.E teacher, wanted to gather people who had the desire to perform near the stage or on the stage. In the end, he created a group called A.M.P.D. -- Arts, Music, Poetry, and Design. Ever since, people were finally able to D.J. music for the school. But this club only accepts eighth graders, so the seventh graders will just have to wait one more year to learn how to create their own unique mix!



Art by Keira Lin



PARASITE OF LOVE

BY KEIRA LIN, ELYSA LEE, SASHA SHVYDUN, KARYNA YEN

Have you ever wondered how mistletoe got its name? It came from the the language Anglo-Saxon, where “mistel” means dung and “tan” means “twig”. Mistletoe literally translates as “dung on a twig”!

Albert Einstein once said: **“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”** Of course, sometimes there are real miracles around us, and it only takes a curious mind to find them. One such example is the humble mistletoe. Around the the time of winter holidays, the popularity of this particular plant arises. It is ubiquitous! It shows up in pictures, wreaths, and especially above doorways. Of course, there is the well-known tradition of kissing the one who stands beside you, caught under a sprig of mistletoe. Even though this particular legend is widespread, there are few that know its exact origin.

Let’s begin with the basics. What exactly is mistletoe? This interesting plant is commonly found as a type of parasite. This plant stays green all year long. It can typically be on trees, living by **siphoning off of its host’s food supply**. However, like most plant organisms, mistletoe can perform photosynthesis. This allows it to grow not only by living on others, but

flourish as a bush or scrub. There are **two main varieties of mistletoe**: the American mistletoe and European mistletoe. While the American mistletoe is typically used for Christmas and generally resides in oak trees, the other version usually grows in apple trees and thrives in European countries. Due to its rarity in places like Germany and Greece, the oak mistletoe was valued as a ceremonial plant. It was also thought to be **magical** and was **considered protection against poison**.

“THE GODDESS BLESSED ANYONE WHO VENTURED UNDERNEATH MISTLETOE...”

One of the most common legends explaining the mistletoe magic is a **Norse myth** describing the tale of a god named Baldur, the son of a goddess named Frigg. His mother loved him so much that she tried to protect him by banning everything on Earth from ever harming him. However, because mistletoe grows on other beings, it was the one organism that she missed. Using this knowledge, one of Baldur’s enemies fashioned an arrow with a sprig of mistletoe. He shot Baldur, killing him. Devastated, Frigg wept over her beloved child’s wound. The tears that hit the mistletoe transformed into small white berries, reviving Baldur. In thanks of this miracle, the euphoric goddess blessed anyone who ventures underneath mistletoe, promising them a kiss.

Join Us in the New Year!

If you would like to join our Viking Crew, our meetings are held on Thursdays at lunch in Ms. Waxman’s room, Room 6. We are open to both seventh and eighth graders who are interested and motivated to contribute. We hope you can join us in 2017!

You may also submit your writing and art to vikingvoyagers@gmail.com, and we may just publish it in our next issue! If you do not feel comfortable with publishing under your name, it might be more fun to come up with a pseudonym, or a pen name, to use instead.

SIT STILL, LOOK PRETTY

BY NATALIE TRAN

Daya knew what she was singing about when she sang the song **Sit Still, Look Pretty**. Besides casting a light on female empowerment, her song title also predicted one of the newer trends that has frozen the nation — the mannequin challenge. Athletes, singers, prisoners (yes, even prisoners) and students all pause for the cameras as the first few seconds of Rae Sremmurd's Black Beatles plays in the background.

If you're wondering about the origin of this trend, the mannequin challenge started in late October of 2016 via teen Twitter user @pvrity___ and has become wildly popular ever since. Several different celebrities including Troye Sivan, Taylor Swift, Pentatonix, Hillary Clinton, Blac Chyna, and Beyoncé have helped the trend skyrocket in popularity. However, this is not the only trend that has popped up in late 2016 — other internet crazes include dabbing, the running man in addition to some memorable election memes. The only question left to answer is, "when will this trend end?"

Space Poop Challenge

Calling all inventors! NASA is seeking the public's help to design an "in-suit waste management system" for astronauts to use for up to 144 hours at a time. The name of this challenge? The Space Poop Project. Whoever comes up with the "most promising for implementation and use on missions in the next three or four years." will receive a \$30,000 prize as a bonus to their fame and bragging rights. The requirements to this challenge can be found on "www.herox.com/SpacePoop", and the deadline is December 20th!

*Happy Holidays from
your Viking Crew!*

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FRESH OFF THE GRILL

FROM YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL

Hey Egan Vikings, it's your student council here! We are five students dedicated to representing the student body by helping out the school, our local community, and participating in global projects.

Some of our main goals this year as student council include increasing our amount of community service and having a positive impact on Egan. Our community service efforts will include the Toy and PJ Drive, ODFL (the One Dollar For Life program), and the Water Project.

Speaking of Egan's community service efforts, our first ODFL fundraiser was a success! Halloween grams raised just over \$200, so thanks a lot to everyone who contributed!

And as for Egan's students, we need your help to improve on our trash problem. Both the student council and some Egan teachers have noticed that the litter in our campus has grown tremendously. We need to fix this! Remember to put your trash in the correct bin and throw away any trash you find on school grounds. If everyone does this, we will see great improvement.

Many Egan students have shown interest in starting clubs, and several are already up and running. If you are interested in starting a club, please come talk to us and we would love to help you get started! Feel free to find us out on the black top or in the halls to tell us your ideas to help make Egan better for all students. See you 'round!

From:

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Amanda L.
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