

OCTOBER 2022 | VOLUME 1



# THE

YOUR FUTURE BEGINS HERE

# HOWLER



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## I. LOCAL NEWS

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| The charms of the new school  | 3 |
| Welcome to club fair          | 5 |
| Covid disruption continues    | 6 |
| Band on the curriculum at HAS | 7 |

## II. FEATURES

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Get to know your teacher - Mr. Young | 8 |
| HAS MAP test                         | 9 |

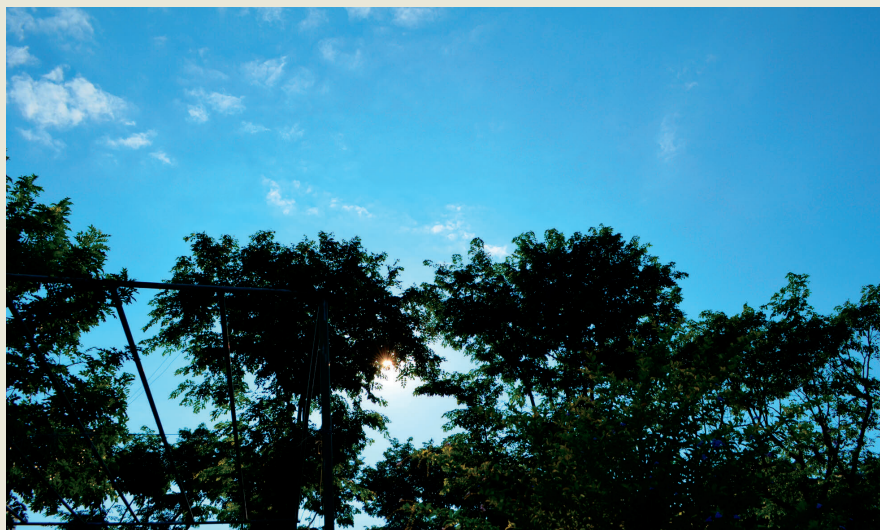
## III. MOVIE REVIEWS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Top Gun Maverick: The film of the year  | 10 |
| Dr Strange in the Multiverse of Madness | 12 |

## IV. SPECIAL FEATURES

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| AP Art exhibition | 14 |
|-------------------|----|

Photo by Michelle Liao





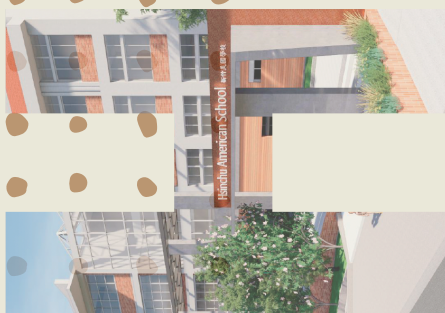
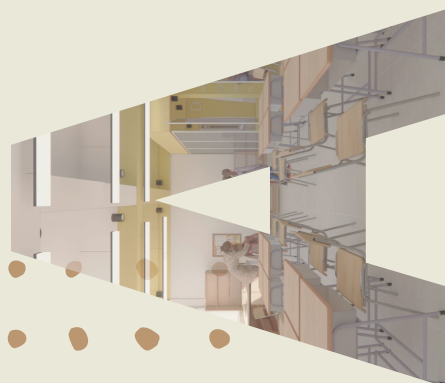
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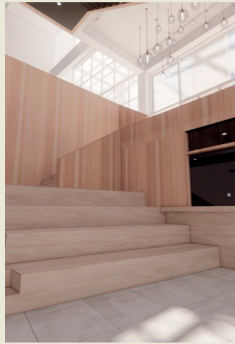
# NEW SCHOOL

By Kiki Chen &amp; Lian Chang

In the school year 2023 ~ 2024, Hsinchu American School will be moving to a new building in Chunghua University. There is a need for a new building since the current one is very small and old. There will be a lot of new features. The school is currently remodeling the building, which was a normal college building. It will be five stories high and twice the size of our current building.

There will be a lot of new features on the new campus. Darin Murphy, the school superintendent, says, "We are going to put in dedicated classrooms, like a science lab, technology lab, music room, two art rooms, gym, dance studio, student playroom, where there will be ping pong tables and that kind of stuff." There will be a lot of exciting features! If any games are wanted to be in the student playroom, feel free to go to Mr. Murphy and request them. Take Lian Chang for example. She really wants a set of Mahjong, and Mr. Murphy is currently considering it. There will also be two courts, so the basketball team and volleyball team can practice at the same time. And the elementary school will have its own playground, which is separate from middle and high school. There will also be six microwaves in the new cafeteria, so people don't have to fight for the microwave every day. Hopefully, the new cafeteria will have better food too.





There are a lot of benefits to moving to a new campus. Having a new building that is at least twice as big as the current building can make our education better. Darin Murphy said, “We will be larger and we will be able to recruit more students and when we have more students, we can have more programs. We can have more sports clubs because we have more students.” However, there are some challenges the school is facing right now: Planning, constructing, moving, and getting new things. There are so many things the school will need to move to the new building and they also have to buy new equipment. With a new school building, our school hopes to expand and improve students’ learning experience.







# WELCOME TO CLUB FAIR



By Casey Chiu and Joanne Peng

On August 26, there was a club fair. The club fair is an event that happens annually where students create or join clubs at school. In the fourth block, students went to B1 to listen to short speeches by each club leader. Each club leader briefly talked about what their club is about and why students should sign up for it. Then, students got to walk around in B1 to check out clubs and sign up for the ones they find interesting.

There were plenty of options that they could choose from. We interviewed some students about how they felt about the club fair. Andrew Kao said, "There are enough clubs to get me busy". Though there were many clubs already, some students think there could be more. Such as Sophie Gau, "I am happy with the current options we have, but it would be nice if there were more academic clubs." Clubs like the basketball club, MUN, Student Activity(SA), and Community Service(CS) were popular options. There were also some new clubs this year. For example, rock climbing and business club. Students had a good time on Friday walking around and choosing the clubs they wanted.



Photo by Casey Chiu and Joanne Peng



# COVID DISRUPTION CONTINUES

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By: Andrew Kao



Photo by: Bevis Wu

Have you ever felt excited about an event and later disappointed about it? The continuing struggle with Covid-19 caused the postponement of Lock-in from Sep. 2nd to Oct. 21st and the Stuco retreat from Aug. 28-29 to Oct. 16-17.

It is clear that Covid-19 limited our freedom to socialize. This is caused by social distancing, restrictions on the number of people in certain areas, and more. This virus brought inconvenience to us and postponed school events from the start of the first quarter into later in the year. As most people would say, life without COVID-19 was way better than our current lives.

"I will not have any special feeling if events are postponed but if it is canceled, I would feel upset," said Bevis Wu, "The only thing about COVID that has affected me so much is that I'm not able to hang out with my friends as much as before."

Obviously, there are way more restrictions than just not being able to hang out with your friends. Some students think rescheduling events isn't the worst ongoing inconvenience about Covid, some argue that they can't go on vacations. Some claim they don't even want to set foot outdoors, "I can't travel abroad!" said Joanne Peng. Thus, it is unfortunate that events have been postponed. However, the possible cancellation of events is what we are apprehensive about.



Photo by: Andrew Kao





# Band on the curriculum at HAS

-BY SOPHIE GAU-

HAS adds band into the high school curriculum for interested students in the 2022 - 2023 school year. The class is led by Ms. Wu, who enjoys teaching and has a great interest and experience in the music field. In class, students spend most of their time playing instruments they have expertise in. Ms. Wu hopes the class will not only improve students' instrumental skills but also boost their confidence and teach them how to cooperate with one another.

"I can tell you guys put 100% of your effort into this class. Hold it until Winter Performance, and you will rock it!" According to Ms. Wu, the current goal of the class is to bring the audience an entertaining concert at HAS Winter Performance. Different from music appreciation class or typical music class, it would be ideal if students know how to play an instrument beforehand. However, there are students who have expertise in singing and dancing. Musical performance is not restricted to instruments.

In class, students prepare for the performance both individually and together. When the bell rings, students help each other and communicate to piece the sound of piano, drums, woodwinds, and guitars into one beautiful chord, while the teacher offers guidance to students who are struggling. Thus in individual practices, students can pick out the songs they want to play. "Pop, rock, and classical music are the most popular genres," said Ms. Wu.

Band class is in the 4th period of A Day. After an exhausting day, students sometimes have trouble concentrating in class, so Ms. Wu encourages students to practice at home for at least 30 minutes a day. Besides, practice is the key to overcoming stage fright. Performance is mandatory in band, therefore students spend a lot of time performing in front of their classmates. By performing in class, students can get used to the feeling of being on stage. Ms. Wu loves watching her students grow and appreciates their eagerness to learn and improve.



Photo by Ms. Wu



Photo by Ms. Wu

# ***Get To Know Your Teacher***

## ***Mr. Young***

By Neal Cheng



You might have taken Mr. Young's High School Computer Science, Middle School Computer Science, AP Computer Science Principles, Algebra 2, or Robotics. However, there might be many things you don't know about him. After reading this introduction to Mr. Young, it might blow your mind.

Mr. Young was originally named John Dall'Olio and was born in Canada. He studied at York University, but after he graduated, he didn't choose to go to work immediately. He joined the Canadian Army. "The reason why I made this decision at that time was because of our family tradition. My grandfather and father all served in the military before, and I don't want to be the first one to break this tradition." He originally planned to stay in the army for three years, but after he got used to the exciting life in the army, he stayed there for ten years until he met a new friend.

Mr. Young met a friend in the army who introduced him to a job in Shanghai, China. In Shanghai, Mr. Young taught business English at an education company called Wall Street English. After that, he also taught in Beijing and at the Guilin University of Electronic Technology before finally arriving here in Taiwan.

Before he came to HAS, he also taught literature at HCAS, but after the recommendation from Mr. Youngblut (former CS and robotics teacher), Mr. Young decided to join this big family. After a few weeks of classes, he loved the class atmosphere that the students created. He also made some wishes about what he can do to make our school better: "I wish I could stay at this school longer and build a consistent robotic team to make it a part of the HAS culture."

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# MAP TEST

By: Bevis Wu

MAP testing began in the 2000s, some schools do it and some don't. MAP testing started approximately 5 years ago in our school. MAP testing is for the grade ones to ten which was held on September 14. But what exactly is MAP testing? Let's find out! Map testing has been the most trusted and innovative test where you're able to see if you're getting better at certain subjects such as math, English, and science. Even though MAP testing is intended to be a measure of growth, it is not a good reflection of a student's intellectual capabilities.

Through the interview with the school principal, Mr. Murphy states that: the "MAP test is definitely not the test for judging students' capabilities. Although we are able to see whether the student is improving in certain subjects, I will not judge a student just by looking at the test scores. MAP testing also helps the school to see whether they are teaching the right material or if the teaching methods are helpful for the students. Last, there are some other tests that work similarly to MAP testing but currently, the school will stick to MAP testing."



Photo by: Ms. Kelly

Some students gave their opinions about MAP testing. Most of them stated that science is the most difficult subject. "I feel like the hardest subject in the MAP test is science," said Joanne. Students that have taken the test several times say that they don't feel like there is anything different and the test is kind of a waste of time. Most of the students would choose not to take the test if the test were optional because there are things that are more important than MAP testing.



In conclusion, MAP testing is definitely important for letting the school know if they are on the right track, but it may not be the same for students. Students' perspectives on the MAP test might not be the same as the school's since students don't get any credit for doing the test. Therefore students would rather choose to focus more on other subjects.

# Top Gun Maverick: The film of the year

By Hogan Wong



Plot



Cinematography



Fan-Service

After facing various delays due to production issues as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, the anticipated sequel to the 1980s action movie "Top Gun", "Top Gun Maverick", was finally released on May 25th, 2022 in Taiwanese cinemas. Acclaimed by both fans and critics, "Top Gun Maverick" is currently the highest-grossing movie (1.4 billion USD) of 2022 despite being banned in China for its inclusion of the Taiwanese flag. Unlike most modern movies, "Top Gun Maverick" reigns supreme due to its fascinating cinematography, well-written characters, and respect to the previous film.

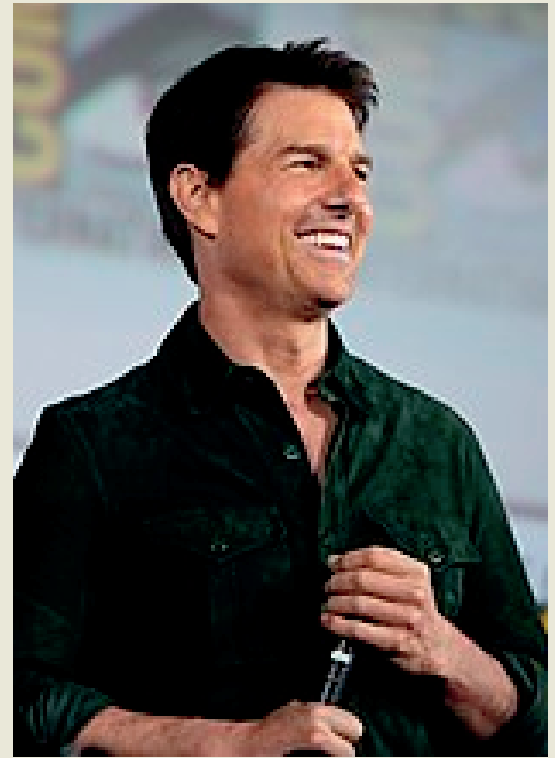


Directed by Joseph Kosinski, the film stars Tom Cruise as the protagonist, Pete "Maverick" Mitchell, who coordinates a challenging mission with his fellow pilots to take down an enemy nuclear facility. However, if he wants his mission to succeed, then he needs to confront his prior mistakes and work side by side with Rooster, played by Miles Teller. Additionally, Jennifer Connelly, Val Kilmer, Jon Hamm, Monica Barbaro, Glen Powell, Lewis Pullman, and Ed Harris star in supporting roles. Instead of diversity casting, all of these actors are talented and depicted their personalities brilliantly.

Because the VFX artists and the cinematographers spent a lot of effort in creating this movie, watching this will undoubtedly be one of the most exhilarating experiences you will ever have. Every action scene, from start to finish, will put you at the edge of your seat. Thanks to the work of the aerobatic squadron Blue Angels, all of the shots use appropriate angles and capture the intense emotions it intends to portray. Moreover, the IMAX cameras installed in the cockpits ensure that the footage is as high-resolution as possible. Although the nose and mouth of the pilots are covered by oxygen masks, the positions of the cameras allow the audience to rely on their upper facial expressions to create an atmosphere of tension. Apart from the stunning camerawork, the filmmakers made the right decision to rely on practical effects instead of CGI, which adds a sense of realism.



The film's plot is undoubtedly remarkable. Even though the film didn't have a tangible antagonist, the conflicts the characters have carry weight to them and are not mere plot conveniences. In addition, the writers handled the character arcs of both new and old characters in a satisfying and logical manner. Unlike most contemporary sequels, "Top Gun Maverick" does not disrespect the legacy of the previous film and instead keeps the characters consistent with prior portrayals. For example, Maverick remains hot-headed and persistent when faced with various obstacles and conflicts throughout the movie. The newly introduced pilots, who were picked based on aptitude instead of diversity, were all distinctive and likable. In contrast to most movies that attempt to pander to a feminist audience via underdeveloped female characters, the newly introduced female pilot is likable, sympathetic, and a 3-dimensional character.



Last but not least, the film is definitely a treat for fans of the original movie. Various call-backs to the original movie are present. From the memorable theme songs to the return of fan-favorite characters, the film tries to prioritize the fans first and foremost. Although some may argue that the fan-service feels like a cheap cash grab, the film sets these moments up initially and delivers a satisfying pay-off. Various movie reviewers had criticized the original film for being a 2-hour long music video, but now they acclaim it for having a plot.

In conclusion, the movie is just fun, enjoyable entertainment. It doesn't try to be preachy towards the audience; its first priority is to present a carefully crafted story. On top of that, it justifies its existence by proving itself to be a worthy successor. The cinematography definitely deserves a 5 out of 5 due to its uniqueness; the plot is worth a 5 out of 5 since it's consistent, entertaining, and doesn't feel formulaic. The fan service element also warrants a 5 out of 5 due to its organic nature and how it doesn't feel like it was shoehorned inside.



# DR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS

By David Kim



Plot



Cinematography



Average

Dr. Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, the sequel to the movie Dr. Strange (released 2016), is a movie that was released in Taiwan on May 4, 2022. The movie's director, Sam Raimi, is best known for directing the Spider-man trilogy. The film stars a few of the most prevalent actors/actresses like Benedict Cumberbatch, Elizabeth Olsen, Patrick Stewart, and more. The movie was a massive blockbuster hit, with the film earning more than 900 million dollars in the box office worldwide. Regardless of Dr. Strange in the Multiverse of Madness being part of the biggest cinematic franchise in film history, it still managed to be the 2nd most grossing movie from Phase 4 of the MCU.

This is definitely not just me thinking this, but the quality of Marvel's products dipped significantly post-Endgame. Before the whole Phase 4 disaster came along, every movie seemed to serve a purpose. Every single MCU film helped to paint the big picture and set up the final fight, while also being a great stand-alone film alongside it. This is not the case now that the Infinity Saga is over. Shows and movies after Endgame now serve no meaning. Nevertheless, this doesn't apply to the movie



Dr. Strange in the Multiverse of Madness might be the most unique and distinct MCU movie to date. Sam Raimi, being the acclaimed and prominent director that he is, did a great job on making the fight scenes and the cinematography exhilarating. This makes it, in my opinion, the most differentiating MCU film up until now. Not to mention, the CGI visual effects in the film are top-tier and thrilling to watch. Kevin Feige really hired the right guy because the VFX supervisor, Stephane Ceratti, was once nominated for the BAFTA Best Special Visual Effects award



Dr. Strange 2 also) does not have a problem of having no purpose. This movie serves as motivation unlike most projects from Phase 5. This is where my compliments end though because there are equally as many criticisms of the movie. First off, the plot and the story is... disappointing. I was expecting the movie with "Multiverse" in the title to explore many multiverses, but they didn't. The plot is also tied too closely to Wandavision. Now don't get me wrong, Wandavision is not bad at all. The show is fairly entertaining throughout, but that's where the problem lies. You see, unlike most other MCU movies, you practically have to watch a total of 7 hour long TV shows to enjoy the movie. I also believe that the movie made Wanda extremely confusing and morally questionable. I was also dissatisfied with how they only used the illuminati for shock effect and for demonstrating Wanda's powers. The Illuminati were full of characters that had a high potential and could've been a great tool to ameliorate the plot. The movie is so concentrated on Wanda that it just should've been called "Dr Strange and Wanda".



Lastly, I wanted to concentrate on the main character of the movie, Dr. Stephen Strange. What made the original Dr. Strange so great was that it developed and built on a character that was once smug and egotistical. Strange went from being cocky and arrogant to a dude with more understanding and maturity. Well, he has stayed that way for about 5 years. Excluding Stephen and Christine Palmer's relationship throughout the film, Stephen's character is barely touched.

In conclusion, Dr. Strange in the Multiverse of Madness is a mixed bag of feelings with many ups and downs. The blockbuster film gripped many people's attention with the unique cinematography and outstanding CGI/VFX. However, many were also equally disappointed with the dissatisfying plot and half-done character developments.

# AP ART EXHIBITION

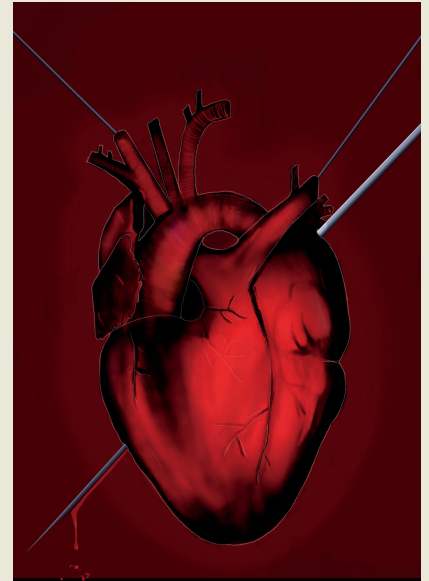
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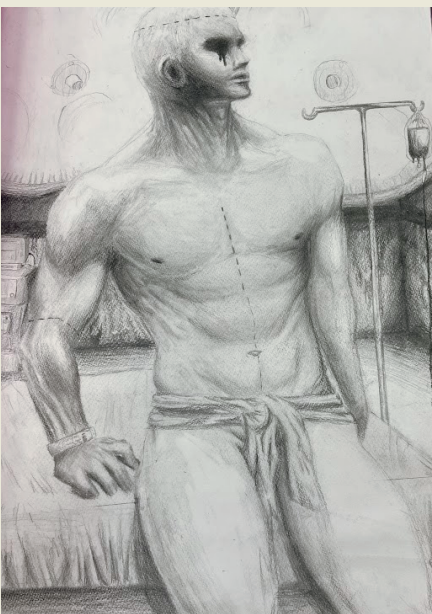
By Gregory Bazarnik



Portrait  
by Irene Chin



Hang Heart  
by Molly Cheng



By Gregory Bazarnik



Cherry Cheese Cake  
by Lilian Hsieh





Halloween  
Serena Hsieh



Portrait  
by Irene Chin



Ray Wang



Christmas  
Serena Hsieh

# HAS

STUDENT STORE  
OPEN DURING  
LUNCH

*Better  
Than  
Ever*

