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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TERM



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Spirit Day: Showing school spirit in diverse ways

By Agatha Hu | Reporter

BCA Spirit Day occurred on October 13, 2019. The competition between Houses was intense. Students from different grades worked together as a team. School spirit was everywhere.

House Pride: Chanting the House slogans - The toy clappers used by House Rockies may have been laughed at by other Houses; however, the clappers produced loud sounds which made the team sound stronger and more united. Although it was a struggle to shout out in perfect unity, House members tried their best to proclaim their House slogans for all others to hear. Everyone could not help but be excited when they were standing together with their House members. Their spirits could not be hidden.

Co-ed competitions: Boys and girls given equal opportunities - Almost all the sports on spirit day are co-ed competitions. What is interesting is that boys are usually physically stronger than girls. Thus, the girls are seldom able to play as competitively as the boys. As a result, the boys were exhausted after playing on the field. By comparison, table tennis had a more even playing field, allowing for the same level of competitiveness between boys and girls. Co-ed competitions also provide a great opportunity for boys and girls to cooperate to reach a goal. It also provides a

good balance in the energy of the games and prevents competitions from becoming too intense, which may cause serious injuries. In these games "spirit" was the harmony between male and female House members.

"Ice Hockey: Competing in the rain - Because of the lack of ice, we were only able to practice and play "ice hockey" on the school field. Unluckily, it started to rain during the co-ed hockey game. The field started to get wet and people started to slip. It was mesmerizing to watch the ball "run" quickly across the field. However, it was also quite difficult to control the ball. In the end, the field was so slippery that it felt like we were playing on real ice for our "ice" hockey game. Despite the pouring rain, students played excitedly. Nothing could reduce our spirit.

Scholar's Bowl: A House Shield victory - While sports competitions were held in the morning, the afternoon saw more academic competitions. Houses with many athletic members had an advantage. Meanwhile, Shield fell behind in the morning, which put a lot of pressure on their afternoon competitors. Even though Shield struggled with the spelling bee, members of their House refused to give up, and they made a comeback in the Scholar's Bowl. They answered almost every question cor-

rectly. After earning high points in each round, the other members of Shield became hopeful and excited again. With the support of their own House members, the competitors became energetic and gained more points, eventually winning the Scholar's Bowl. The two Scholar's Bowl competitors were not alone in their fight: their whole house was fighting with them. In this game, "spirit" was about support from teammates.

Spirit Day 2019: A balance between academics and sport - The most distinctive trait that Spirit Day has is the balance between academics and sports. In the Apache relay, the mix of sports and mental challenges remind us that it is important for students to invest their time in both sports and academics. Meanwhile, competitions like the Memrise Challenge and the spelling bee tell us that academic competitions can be just as interesting and exciting as sports. Furthermore, being a good academic also requires teamwork. Our spirits need balance.

In the end, Maritimes won the most points. Even so, spirit comes first, competitions come second. Spirit is something that can be enjoyed by everyone. Spirit can last forever. •



Houses face off against each other. | Photo Credits: Barry Jiang



By Rachel Cheng | Comic Artist



SPIRIT DAY PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSIONS



Maritimes | Photo Credits: Tommy Yu

Rockies | Photo Credits: Jellia Ma, Barry Jiang, Rachel Cheng

Tundra | Photo Credits: Olivia Qiu, Sloane Sun, Melody Ru

Shield | Photo Credits: Tony Lu, Sibyl Zhang



NFLS Sports Day: Competing and having fun

By Roxana Wang | Reporter

For many, October 18th is the day they start a countdown for. In the early morning, students flood into the Wutaishan sports stadium in twos and threes, chatting and carrying bags of snacks and drinks. Athletes in their new running shoes dare each other to sprint past the finishing line first, eagerly rubbing their hands, ready to hit the red running track.

This year's sports day carries unique meanings for everyone, from those darting and dashing in the sports field to those smashing game cards onto their seats. For the grade 12s, who have already attended this sports festival three years in a row, this is one of their last chances to compete and have fun with their friends in a school event.

"My friends enjoyed playing board games and watching the races," said Frank Zhang, "I guess I will miss this day when I leave high school." For the new grade 10 students, who still have three years ahead of them, sports day is the time to see their new classmates in a new light. "He is just so...so fast," exclaims a grade 10 athlete returning from the boys' 100-meter race, panting and swallowing another gulp of water. "It's wholly different from our PE classes...I never knew how strong he was."



Gearing up for the race. | Photo Credit: Barry Jiang

As the day reaches its highest point at noon, so does the students' mood. The student versus teacher soccer game was the highlight of the day. Under the attentive gaze of the whole school, the teachers and NFLS soccer team members enter the field. Audience members toss up their arms and bounce up from their seats to cheer at the sight of their classmates and teachers. "I am not especially excited about playing in front of

such a large crowd, because I am used to it," Theodore Wang remarks casually. When asked to address a few lines to the BCA teachers on the opposing team, who ended up winning over them by 3:1, he could not withhold his compliments: "Mr. Duggan has an extraordinarily good understanding of soccer, and Mr. Kubin takes excellent advantage of his physical fitness."

The excitement of the afternoon games defeated the drowsiness that usually possesses the students on normal days. The 4x100 meter relay, boys' 1500-meter and girls' 800-meter long run were avidly anticipated by everyone. The heroine of the afternoon was Hannah Wang, who won the 800-meter race without any difficulty. She walked with a relaxed pace away from the race, and then, to everyone's surprise, jumped head-straight into the 1500-meter race and the 4x100 relay. Evaluating her performance as professional student athlete, Hannah commented modestly, "This is not actually my best performance, and I think there are still some areas for improvement. I could have managed my speed better." •



Long jump event with Harbeth Zhang. | Photo Credit: Barry Jiang

New club leaders share their thoughts

By Nina Shangguan | Reporter

As another school year begins, a lot of grade 11s are taking over the responsibility of organizing club activities. How do the new club leaders feel about their new roles? BCA Insider has conducted interviews to find out.

One of the most important jobs of club leaders is promoting clubs. This year, Nina Shangguan and Lucia Xu, the leaders of Science Club, together with former club leader Alisa Li, put a lot of effort into Club Day preparation. Nina and Lucia also plan to do a "fake blood" experiment before the Costume Party to make the activities more fun. Pearl Li and Nina Shangguan, the leaders of Poetry Club, are also trying very hard to get students to participate in club activities. This year, they incorporated on-

line activities to provide club members with a wider range of choices because not everyone has the time to participate in meetings after school. They are also compiling works of club members.

Other than organizing activities, according to Mike Zhao and Jacob Hu, club leaders also have to collect permission forms from new members, and that can be very tiring. According to Ruby Gao, one of the club leaders of Food Union, she had to do a lot of preparation before organizing an activity. The most difficult part was borrowing the ovens in the cafeteria. She had to contact the school to get the permission to use the ovens, and it took quite a while. That being said, being a club leader is still very fun. Organizing and taking

part in activities like baking is fun, said Ruby, and it brings her a sense of fulfillment. •



Mixing chemicals at Club Day. | Photo Credit: Barry Jiang

Once upon a time...in the BCA building

By Ginny Yan | Reporter

BCA (British Columbia Academy), which used to be GCA (Grand Canadian Academy) before 2012, started in 2003 when a Hong Kong company rented space at NFLS and ran a Canadian curriculum school.

In the beginning, GCA was small lacked publicity. There were less than 30 students in the first graduating class, so classes used to be held in metal trailers that contained one classroom, one computer lab, one teachers' office, and one principal office.

The school got bigger quickly and the trailers obviously could not accommodate more people. The "little white building" (as it is called by many students) was originally a building for Chinese students to learn Japanese, and it was soon put to use for GCA. There have been a lot of changes made, especially concerning the functions and designs of the rooms over the past 10 years. The teachers' office in that build-

ing used to hold a mix of Chinese and international teachers. When Mr. Noble came, the international teachers moved to a bigger room in another building, while the Chinese teachers stayed in the BCA building.

The classroom on the second floor (used currently by Ms. Najam) served as a dance room before. There is still a large mirror and wooden flooring, and there used to be stretching bars on the side. Students danced ballet and traditional dance there, and it tended to be a quiet and clean place.

Before 2011, the principal's office functioned as a small classroom for ESL (English as a second language), a course designed especially for students whose English needed improvement, based on their entrance exam results. They needed to study for four years instead of three to graduate from BCA because the first year was spent in ESL classes before starting Canadian high school

courses. If you look up in Mr. Lawlor's office, the ceiling still has the projector used for these ESL classes.

In 2008 and 2009, the garden beside the BCA building started to become overgrown. NFLS permitted Ms. Bartell and Cameron Archie, a landscape designer and architecture major, to redesign the garden during summer, based on student input. In 2011, they changed the back wall into a large mirror and added paintings of grass all along its base. Art students at GCA were allowed to paint the wall to gain extra volunteer time, but soon this painting tradition was abandoned and no one has taken up the task of painting this wall since those days.

Many changes have taken effect on our beloved campus since the good old days of GCA, but our community has thrived and one thing about our school will never change: we are family. •

Wear it proud: House T-shirts

By [Hilda Xu](#) | Reporter

This year, students from Art Studio 12 designed the new House T-shirts for Spirit Day. The front side of the T-shirts were designed based on the distinct geographic features of Shield, Maritimes, Tundra and Rockies respectively, while the back side of the T-shirts used word cloud programs to include all the names of the members of each House. BCA Insider interviewed the designers to get a closer look at what went into the designs this year.

Shield - Designers: Belle Liu, Tony Lu

To create an image of the endless forests on the Canadian Shield, pine trees were the dominant feature on the T-shirt for House Shield.

“We first navigated a number of pictures of the beautiful sceneries in Shield online, and narrowed down our main designing elements to trees, mountains, rivers and birds,” said Belle Liu, one of the designers for Shield.

In the beginning, only several trees and their reflections in a river were drawn on the first draft. However, they realized that the original design was too abstract, and images that were more realistic might demonstrate the landscape more effectively. Therefore, they redesigned the front side of the shirt, and added a few more elements, such as birds and mountains, to create a dynamic and vivid image.

Shield’s pine tree symbol is also emphasized on the back side of the shirt by putting all the names of the house members in the shape of a pine tree.



First drafts (top) and final designs (bottom). | Photo Credits: Designers



Tundra - Designers: George Cheng, Hans Hou, Tiffany Dai

The Tundra designers faced major challenges in deciding the main theme of their design. “We could hardly reach an agreement on the standards of proper shapes, harmoniousness of colours, and so on. The designs for both front side and back side were significantly changed throughout the whole process,” said George.

They first put the names of House members in the shape of an igloo but found that the igloo was hardly recognizable. Later, they had the idea of making the word cloud in the shape of a snowflake, but this brought another problem: the placement of the word “Tundra”. They realized that letters in a circle might confuse the reader, and eventually decided to replace two branches of the snowflake with “Tun” and “dra.”

At the same time, they also faced difficulties while designing the front side. The first draft, with plants in an icy region, was soon replaced by a breaking iceberg. “As an interlude, we also considered adding an aurora and put great effort into constructing ordered, dim aurora lines. However, since this artistic style conflicted with the other parts of the image, we abandoned that fancy idea,” said George.

Rockies - Designers: Leo li, Alice Ju

Unlike the designs for other Houses, which all depict specific landscapes in each geographic region, the design philosophy for Rockies was all about simplicity.

Alice Ju said, “We intended to apply the ideology of minimalism and explore the tools of our Photoshop software while designing the front side of the T-shirt.”

The image of vast mountain ranges from the Rockies’s House logo was extended to the T-shirt design. They were inspired by the mountain pictured on the House logo and aimed to depict mountains with a similar shape to reach a sort of harmony between the logo and the T-shirt.

Both the image on the front and the word cloud on the back remind house members of the great and high Rocky Mountains. At the beginning of the design process, they used a gradient effect to create mountain tops covered by white snow. However, because the design guidelines limited them to only white on a yellow background, the gradient had to be removed. Therefore, they decided to use lines and blocks of color to portray the same image, which was surprisingly elegant and fashionable.



Maritimes - Designers: Elza Chen, Lexi Dong, Harbeth Zhang

One element that distinguishes Maritimes’ design from other Houses is the wave on the front of the T-shirt, inspired by the famous painting “The Great Wave off Kanagawa” by Hokusai, a Japanese artist.

Harbeth Zhang said, “We came up with a number of ideas, such as a canoe, Maritime forests, tides, a lighthouse, and fish. While deciding how to display these elements, the tide reminded me of ‘The Great Wave off Kanagawa’, and so we simulated its style in our painting. Furthermore, we added a typical Nova Scotian lighthouse in the middle, emitting light to its surroundings.”

Meanwhile, the word cloud on the back of the shirt has the same shape as the anchor on the House logo, which creates harmony between the two. The combination of the Japanese Ukiyo-e style and the Nova Scotian lighthouse encourage House members to overcome hardships, like a lighthouse that survives a tsunami.

During the design process, the designers faced several challenges while planning the image for the front side of the shirt. Firstly, after communicating with other groups, they had to abandon their original idea of adding patterns of blue waves at the bottom of the T-shirt, as Ms. Ince (the art teacher) wanted the T-shirts to be uniform in layout.

Additionally, using electronic devices was another challenge. Since none of them had any experience using Photoshop, they finished most of their design on an iPad, which later caused a series of problems in the resolution of the image. With help from classmates, they overcame these difficulties.



Although the designs for the four Houses present the features of four different landscapes and demonstrate different spirits for each House, each T-shirt contains only two colors and a word cloud. The similar design styles illustrate that although the four Houses compete against each other, we are still a big, united BCA family. •

Grade 10 students: The lives of our newcomers

By [Joy Tang](#) | Reporter

It has been two months since the start of the school year, so BCA Insider decided to ask some grade 10 students about their experiences at our school.

BCA Insider: What are your thoughts about being at BCA so far?

Antonia: I am elated about the new school since it is fantastically interesting. When I first came to BCA, I could not adapt to my new life, but now I am willing to actively participate in all kinds of activities. I have a big circle of friends, and most of them are friendly to me. At first, we did not talk much, however, as soon as we got familiar with each other, we quickly became friends. Studying at BCA is harder than I thought, since I have a large amount of work to do, which makes me quite busy. None of us is criticized severely for his or her grammar or pronunciation mistakes, so we are better able to absorb knowledge and we have become more and more brave at speaking in English. I feel that the house system is something novel to me. I find that it can help us meet more friends from other grades and it brings us a sense of community, which makes BCA more like a big family.

Betsy: I had great fun during Spirit Day. I played volleyball as a substitute for House Tundra. Everyone went all out to play the game, which was pretty exciting. School finishes quite early, which is different from how it was at my middle school. We have a lot of free time, so we are able to relish the chance to take part in activities. I have joined a lot of clubs, such as MUN club and volleyball club. In addition, I signed up to dress as a ghost for the “scary room” that is being set up for the costume party. I think it is going to be fun.

BCA Insider: What difficulties have you faced?

Antonia: I have had a lot of small quizzes...they happen more than once a week, usually. Sometimes I feel confused about how the teacher is grading me because I am unfamiliar with the Canadian grading system. The students also have to move classrooms during each break, so I feel embarrassed at times because sometimes I forget my things in another classroom and need to go back to get them. Because of that, I am also more likely to be late for the next class.

Betsy: I think writing essays in English is still a challenge for me. Social Studies is also challenging, but listening to the teacher carefully in class helps me get a good mark. The teachers I have met are all nice. I have plenty of quizzes and long-term projects, so making a time schedule becomes important since it can help me to spring into action effectively.

Agatha: For me, English class has been difficult. However, the teachers are patient and nice to us. I learned some new skills in the past two months; for example, my classmates and I worked as a group in Science class and we learned how to do research together. We also prepared performances in drama class and now I have a deeper understanding of plays. •

INTERVIEW

New school year, new faces: Interviews with our new BCA teachers

By Lucia Xu & Ruby Gao | Reporters

BCA Insider: Which subjects are you teaching now?

Mr. Johnson: English Composition and Literature 10 and 11

Ms. Lone: Social Studies and English

Ms. Upfold: Career Education 10, English 11 as well as PE 11

Ms. Smith: Grade 10 English and Grade 10 Drama.

Ms. Sentance: I'm teaching the Grade 10 Math and Statistics for the Grade 12s.

Dr. Nelson: Physics 12 and Chemistry 11.

BCA Insider: Tell us a little about your hometown.

Mr. Johnson: It is difficult to say that I have only one hometown. I grew up in many different cities in the world.

That was due to my dad's work. I spent most of my time growing up in Western Canada. It is particularly cold and quite industrial. Many cities I lived in, like Calgary and Saskatoon, were industrial and had only one or two types of main industries. Most of the people in those cities were in the same industry. That then led to these cities having fairly... let's say... isolated cultures, so when I started to move to larger cities, I was



quite happy to see a lot more diversity.

Ms. Lone: My "hometown" has varied. I have lived all over the world. Originally, I came from a small Irish village called Smerwick, near Ballyferriter. There are only 30 people living there, so it is quite small, very pretty and very green.

Ms. Upfold: It is hard for me to identify my hometown, because I grew up in two cities. The first town I grew up in was Merritt...it was very small. That was in British Columbia. And then I spent half of my life in St. Albert. It is a bigger city, so I experienced both rural life as well as city life.

Ms. Smith: My hometown is Winnipeg, Manitoba, and it has the nickname "Winterpeg," because it's so cold there. And it is snowing there right now.

Ms. Sentance: Thunder Bay is my hometown. It's actually made up of two cities. [It's] not super interesting, but that is what I can come up with off the top of my head. (Laughing)

Dr. Nelson: My hometown is very small. It is in Northern Michigan in the United States. There are about 6,000 people living in the entire city, [which] is very different from Nanjing.

BCA Insider: Could you tell us about some of your hobbies?

Mr. Johnson: Outside school, I like to read and study philosophy. I love stories, horror stories, politics. In university, I studied Economics. So I like social sciences and humanities things, but I also like doing small engineering projects and design, so I also enjoy building models or doing crafts.

Ms. Lone: I love reading. I like science fiction and fantasy. Robert Jordan is one of my favorite authors. I also like movies. I like Spanish and French movies. I also like fishing and walking.

Ms. Upfold: I have great interest in health and fitness. I enjoy exercising, cooking and travelling.

Ms. Smith: I like running. I like read-



ing. I like playing volleyball. And I like hanging out with my friends.

Ms. Sentance: Swimming, knitting and reading.

Dr. Nelson: Playing video games.

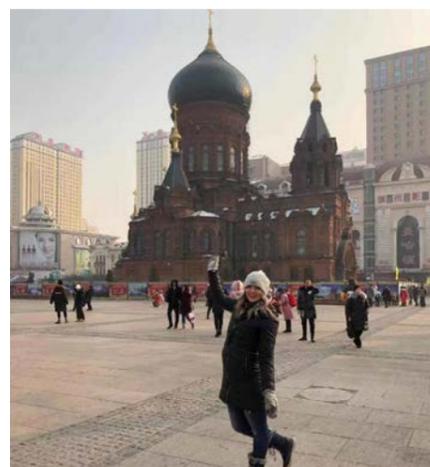
BCA Insider: What is your favorite sport?

Mr. Johnson: My favorite sport is rugby. My parents are Welsh, from the country of Wales. It is a country in the UK. There, rugby is very popular. I grew up there and played a lot of rugby.

Ms. Lone: I love watching horse racing and boxing. I used to play basketball.

Ms. Upfold: I prefer individual sports. I go to the gym, do yoga and run. Those are my favorite sports.

Ms. Smith: I like volleyball. I don't



All photos provided by teachers.



know why, but I always played it in high school. I also like floor hockey. Even though I am not good at all. (laughing) I just find it really fun to be running around. And it is not so difficult to learn.

Ms. Sentance: Soccer or basketball.

Dr. Nelson: Fencing.

BCA Insider: Do you have a pet? A kitty?

Mr. Johnson: I just got a pet. I have a cat named Lucy. She was rescued at this school...Mr. Zwirn found her.

Ms. Lone: Yes. I have a cat named Coco.

Ms. Upfold: I have two cats. One is a British short hair cat, and I just got a new cat. She is a Bengal.

Ms. Smith: Not here. But I have some pets at my mom's house. And we've got four cats. (BCA Insider: Kitties?) No, grown. And we actually have five cats, but one cat passed away this summer. She was 20 years old.

Ms. Sentance: I don't, unfortunately.

But I always like seeing my family's dogs



when I get back home.

Dr. Nelson: I don't, but Ms. Kate has a cat. It lives with me too.

BCA Insider: What is your impression of BCA so far?

Mr. Johnson: This school is very famous across China. I am starting to understand why it has a reputation. The school is pretty well-rounded. The students are quite nice and willing to learn and sometimes they may complain about getting low marks. Generally,



they are pretty nice people.

Ms. Lone: It is very different to what I am used to. I like the flexibility. I like the fact that, as teachers, you can choose some of the topics yourself. You are not being dictated too strictly by the curriculum. I've been teaching British curriculum for 20 years, so it is very refreshing and innovative. I like that.

Ms. Upfold: Really positive. The students are very hard-working. It has a really good atmosphere and there are lots of great things going on here. It is more than just a school.

Ms. Smith: I think it has a lot of energy. It's very lively. Teachers and students are both very friendly.

Ms. Sentance: I'm really enjoying it. The students are really involved in their activities. [They are] really well-rounded. It's really nice being here. Everyone is very friendly and welcoming.

Dr. Nelson: Everyone has been very friendly. Students do have problems remembering the 'no cellphones' rule on occasion, but otherwise, people do pretty well here. The grades are very high.

BCA Insider: Are you sponsoring any clubs this year?

Mr. Johnson: I am coaching the boys basketball club. That takes up most of my time. I am also running Marvel club and the philosophy club.

Ms. Lone: I am sponsoring the tea club. Also, I sponsor the media pro club and the volleyball club.

Ms. Upfold: I am sponsoring the rowing club and the dance club as well as the meditation club.

BCA Insider: What are your expectations or suggestions for students?

Mr. Johnson: My suggestion is to take advantage of the opportunities they have at BCA. They are pretty lucky to go to a school with teachers from around the world. Different places, different perspectives, both foreign and Chinese. And they should seize their opportunity to learn as much as they can in high school.

Ms. Lone: I think it is very important, particularly for second language students, to consistently read and watch English language movies and books. It takes time to develop your language skills, particularly your writing skills. I think the only way you can actually



do that is to talk and watch and read in English the whole time. Also, visiting another country is very useful. It is important to get the right balance in life.

You know when you are supposed to work hard, but you also have some time for yourself to develop your social and personal needs.

Ms. Upfold: I think that every student needs to find a way for learning that suits them. So, they need to find a way to immerse themselves in English outside the classroom, whether it is in music, whether it is through sports, friendship or travel.

Ms. Smith: To not put so much emphasis on their grades, and think more about whether they are learning! You need to be more aware of whether you are progressive and really take the time to learn, versus just thinking, "I want to see my grade."

Ms. Sentance: Try their best. And try to be respectful to everyone around them.

Dr. Nelson: Study and have fun! (Laughing) If you take my classes, we will do fun things too. We will learn about engineering and things like that. We could learn about medicine. We have to work hard but then have fun too.

BCA Insider (special question for Ms. Upfold from 11 C girls): We all agree that you dress really stylishly. Do you have any tips?

Ms. Upfold: I buy all of my stuff from H&M and Zara. •





I'm Levana and I'm from 10C. I'm very proud to be a photographer for SAPC club. I hope that I can do my best in the following year and contribute well to SAPC. Mostly, I think I'm like a cat: straight, free and independent.



Hello, I am Hilda Xu from 12E. I believe I am an alpaca. Because it looks friendly and not aggressive. You know what I mean.



Hey guys! I'm Nina Shanggu from 11C. My spirit animal is a Niffler. Just because.



Hi guys! I'm Ginny Yan! If I were an animal, I would be a demiguise because the demiguise is a gentle and quiet animal, just like me. It also tends to be invisible, which I try to do when avoiding attention in a crowd.



Hi, I am Jason. Although I am slow and sometimes sleepy, there is a potential power waiting to be unleashed inside of me.



Hi, I am Lilian Cheng. It is my third year in SAPC! I am soooooo happy to get involved in recording our lives in our student newspapers. I believe I am a doggy because I'm adorable.



Student Association of Publication and Communication has been the medium between BCA and the outside world since 2009. We are in charge of publishing the school newspaper *BCA Insider*, which recollects school events and highlights students' unique points of view.

---Roxana Wang



Hello, BCAers. I am Lily Wang and I'm in Grade 12. I am the king of pigeons. Enjoy your life at BCA!



Hi, I'm Lucia Xu. My spirit animal is a lion. I am a bit superstitious and I believe my personality to be kind of outgoing since I am a Leo. Lions are rational, courageous, and adept in cooperating as well.



Hi, I am Joy Tang. I am an alpaca. I am an idealist and hedonist. Like an alpaca, I am kind and lovely, dislike loneliness, and feel happy when with friends.



My alignment is chaotic good. My spirit animal is the orca, because I touch fish all day and die procrastinating.



Hi, This is Olivia Feng. I am a quintessential Ravenclaw student with the Patronus of a Snowy Owl, which can be regarded as my spirit animal. I was chosen by a wand made of ash with a dragon heartstring core, 13 1/4" and unyielding flexibility. "Or yet in wise old Ravenclaw, If you've a ready mind, Where those of wit, Where those of wit and learning, Will always find their kind."

Hello everyone, I am Barry Jiang from Grade 11. I think the animal that fits me most is the bear in this picture. When others are showing PDA, I am always embarrassed, like this bear in the picture. This year I will be a photographer for SAPC and I am very glad to know all of you guys.



Hi, This is Joanna, a returning member of SAPC for the past three years. I enjoy sharing my personal thoughts or recording interesting events happening everyday with my words, and that's why SAPC makes up a large portion of my club time.

My spirit animal is a horse. My connection with horses started very early. When I was in primary school, I went horse riding and really enjoyed the freedom. Horses are usually mild and loyal. I'm always a friendly person who loves to make friends. I also take friendship very seriously and treat my friends warm-heartedly. However, when a horse becomes angry, it will also attack surrounding people, as I do. WATCH OUT!

I am Roxana Wang, the leader of SAPC. This year we have gathered a group of brilliant writers, comic strip writers, and photographers, and I believe together we will present the best issues of *BCA Insider* ever.

My spirit animal must be the husky. I love having fun, being silly, and of course, making mischief. (Some say I even look like a husky...fine)



Meet the Team...



Hi, I am Antony Zhou. My spirit animal is Archaeopteryx. The evil greed of humanity is demonstrated throughout history; Eden only exists in unrealistic illusions. Anyhow, I appreciate how amazing human culture is, and the unique talent in us allows us to criticize these evils. Archaeopteryx made the transition from dinosaurs to birds possible; sincerely, I wish that my legacy after graduation will still impact our small BCA community and its new blood. However, this species was lonely because it was so different from the other dinosaurs; so am I.

Hi, this is Aragorn Xu. For me, my spirit animal is the T-rex because my name Aragorn means King of Gondor, and the T-rex is the king of all animals, the symbol of power. Other animals, especially the archaeopteryx, seem small and weak before him. Moreover, the T-rex gets angry when the archaeopteryx doesn't obey him.



Hi, I am Ruby Gao from 11C. The polar bear cub is definitely my spirit animal. I am a friendly person. I enjoy learning new stuff and wandering around the campus. I prefer cold weather, because it calms me down.

I'm Agatha from 10A. I am a new student at BCA and I'm also a new member of SAPC. I am now one of the writers for the school newspaper. I hope that we can enjoy our wonderful school life together.

My spirit animal is the horse. I often put a lot of effort into my goals and keep chasing them. I look forward to freedom too.



Hi, my name is **Belle Liu**.
I have the biggest hands in
BCA.
Don't believe me?
Find me
and I will prove it!



안녕하세요~
I'm **Melody Ru** from 12A.
I really like Orcas, the master
of underworld.



I am **Tommy Yu** from
12AB.
There is only one per-
son I love besides my
parents.

Hei. This is **Evelyn Fan**
from 12A. I like drawing,
and I really enjoy the process
of creating new pieces of art
work. It is so glad for me to
be a member of the graphic
production team this year.

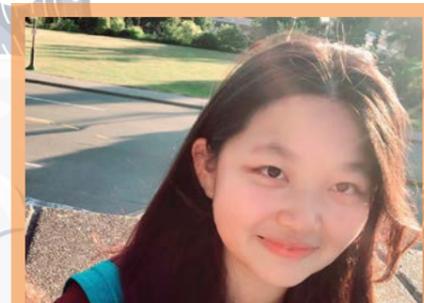


The Yearbook Team

I am **Angela Li** from 12C. I
love taking dummy pictures
of my friends, binge watch-
ing sitcoms and watching
my dog fall asleep .

I'm **Lanne Li** from 12C
Look! I'm so handsome!

Hiiiiii! I am **Tiffany Dai** from 12A.
I love hotpot and eating ice cream in
the winter. I had a French Bull dog,
called Daidai. I like dogs more than
cats, but I also had a Scottish Fold Cat
called Doudou when I was in prima-
ry school. I like baking cookies and
cakes and I love traveling to the forest
and sea. I wish I can watch sunrise
and aurora when I travel to Iceland in
the future.



The importance of humanities in a modern world

By **Antony Zhou** | Reporter



A university student reading in the park. | Photo Credit: Freepik

Do you like studying humanities?
Here, the term "humanities" seems
to be daunting, so many of you may say:
"Nope, it is too difficult; I would rather
be a 'science' guy."

But actually, humanities is not that
terrifying; it is actually a collection of
studies of ourselves as humans from
diverse perspectives. As a result, its
concept is very broad. This means that
whenever you are trying to interpret
the sub-context of your boyfriend/girl-
friend's words, or choosing a date des-
tination that satisfies your needs, you
are actually applying some principles of
humanities without noticing it.

Now let us take a step back. What
do you think of humanities now? Cer-
tainly, I do not think everyone will be
devoted to this field after reading this ar-
ticle, but hopefully, this clarification can
help you understand it better.

Although human interactions are
necessary in our daily lives, in practical
terms, humanities courses are still not
as treasured as other courses, especial-
ly here in China. To begin with, we can
try to analyze the role of humanities in
high schools.

Indeed, it is hard to master academ-
ic humanities in a western curriculum,

as it has so many subjective, intangible
factors that are hard to standardize:
teachers' preferences, writing styles,
and differences in individuals' compre-
hension. The situation in which grades
act as a key for the entrance to universi-
ty programs also contributes to the dis-
suation of students to take humanities
in high school.

In the Chinese curriculum, humani-
ties are often put aside in favour of oth-
er subjects. Since high school courses'
aims are purely to prepare students for
the university entrance exam, course
grades are more important than any-
thing else. As a result, to achieve general
fairness, all the courses are taught with
a standardized grading method, which
leads to the inability to encourage per-
sonal thoughts. When the younger gen-
eration lost creativity in their thinking
processes, it was unlikely for them to
contribute to innovative advancements
in this field.

Another reason for the decline
of Chinese humanities is historic. In
1950, the new government started to
reorganize high education in China,
following a Soviet style; in this process,
many comprehensive universities were
split into different colleges, with many

institutions' humanity departments be-
ing absorbed into other departments.
It was believed that the only purpose
of universities was to raise specialists,
including doctors and engineers, but
that humanities were less useful to the
development of the economy. Although
these faculties were gradually re-estab-
lished in schools in the 1990s, this peri-
od of vacuum brought severe damages
to China's prosperity in this field; and
all these reasons contributed to a gen-
eral misunderstanding of the field of
humanities.

In present days, the rapid advance-
ment of technology can be viewed as
both a pro and a con for the future of
humanities; the public has a better un-
derstanding towards this field due to a
wider range of information that can be
accessed, but meanwhile, most coun-
tries are putting scientific research as
a priority. Humans still desire better
technology that could revolutionize
our newly-developed lifestyles. More
and more commonly, this change is a
world-wide phenomenon: funds in in-
stitutions are removed from humanity
departments and transferred to science
ones.

Fortunately, human beings are
complex; while desperately wishing for
better external, physical conditions, we
also want to address our mental needs
and a better understanding towards
the environment around us; both the
former and the latter are becoming in-
creasingly emphasized in today's world.
Thus, optimistically speaking, the field
of humanities is not facing a dead end.
It is believed that, at the point when a
technological peak is reached, society
will once again focus on the process of
understanding ourselves; that is when
the humanities will rise.

We cannot predict anything today,
as everything is shifting fast, but cer-
tainly, a gradual change will take place. I
sincerely believe in this. •

Celebrating Oíche Saimhne with Stories to Chill Your Blood

By Joanna Wang & Lilian Cheng | Reporter

As BCA's costume party approaches, the BCA Insider has done some research on the cultural roots of our party. The festival of Samhain, also called Oíche Saimhne, is an annual holiday celebrated each year on October 31st. It originated with an ancient Celtic festival, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts.

In this Oíche Saimhne Special, we have collected two horrifying, bloodcurdling, and creepy real-life "ghost" stories for you. Wrap yourself in blankets, make a hot cup of tea, and enjoy these bone-chilling tales we are about to tell you!

The Green Light

-A tale from Lily Wang

"This is a story from one of my friends. Her bed is directly opposite to the door of her room. One night, she went to bed as usual. However, she noticed there was a faint green light shining from the direction of the door, which didn't make sense because there was no light source. She thought it was weird, so she sat up and wanted to check, but the light disappeared and everything appeared normal again. She

tried this many times: whenever she sat up, the light would go out and whenever she laid back down the light would shine again. As the spot of light became bigger and bigger and seemed to come towards her, she built up the courage to close the door. Just when she closed the door, the light shined again, even brighter than before. Then, as she got back into bed, she felt it was much colder than before. She quickly

got between the sheets and covered her head with them. She gradually slept afterwards. Later on, she covered the space between the door and the doorframe with a heavy cloth. Now, whenever she goes to sleep, she always closes that door and leaves a light on. The mystery of that night can only remain unsolved..."



A scary pumpkin. | Photo credit: Pixabay

The Man in the Corner

-A tale from Lilian Cheng

"My great-grandfather passed away before I was born. My grandfather still remembers that it was a cold winter in 1999. To take care of my very sick great-grandfather, he returned to his hometown in the countryside of Shenyang city. My grandfather has six siblings in total, and all of them came back home to be with my great-grandfather for his last moments. One night, it was my grandfather and his elderly brother's turn to spend the night on watch. As it was getting darker and darker, my grandfather and his brother started to feel more and more sleepy, until the fatigue overwhelmed them. Suddenly, my great-grandfather shouted out loud, "Beat him! There is a man standing in the corner of the room! He is going to take me! Help!" However, when my grandfather took a look at the corner of the room, there was nobody there. At that moment, he got goosebumps and did not even dare to breathe. After great-grandfather's screaming, he gradually turned silent and passed away. No one ever got to know what he saw and why he was that scared."



Creepy scarecrow. | Photo credit: Pixabay



Dancing skeletons. | Photo credit: Pixabay

BCA Insider's personality test: What kind of person are you?

By Jason Zhang (edited by Ms. Ince) | Reporter

BASELINE TEST

1. Which Marvel hero fits you best?

- A.Spiderman
- B.Iron man
- C.Doctor Strange
- D.Agent Coulson

2. Which domain are you interested the most?

- A.Romance
- B.Cosmology
- C.History
- D.Logic

3. What kind of setting for a restaurant would you like the most?

- A.A place where I can see beautiful natural views
- B.I do not care, as long as the food is unique and delicious
- C.An elegant, decorated, high-class restaurant
- D.Any restaurant with good Wi-Fi

4. What would you probably do to spend most of the time of your vacation? (if all your personal stuff is done, like homework, part-time job...)

- A.Go to local attractions to spend time with close friends or family members
- B.Visit different kinds of amazing shows, like technology exhibitions, and sometimes daydream that you have one of those
- C.Go to a library or museum
- D.Follow a set routine; wake up at the same time, play games at home, eat well, and sleep well.

5. What word comes to your mind first when you see this word?

- A.LOVER

- B.LONER
- C.LOWER
- D.LOSER

If your answers are mostly "A," go to the Diplomats Section.

If your answers are mostly "B," go to the Explorers Section.

If your answers are mostly "C," go to the Analysts Section.

If your answers are mostly "D," go to the Sentinels Section.

DIPLOMATS

1. Which factor would you consider first when somebody asks you to hang out with them?

- A.Whether or not I am in the mood to hang out.
- B.The other person's feelings.

2. Which one of these two situations would annoy you the most?

- A.Spending a day doing boring chores for my parents.
- B.Spending an evening at a loud party where it is hard to have long conversations.

3. What choice would you make if one of your team members refuses to do his/her part?

- A.I would talk to the teacher and see if I could do this project by myself, since I work better independently anyway.
- B.Try to convince him/her first. Then, if that doesn't work, I would just do it myself to keep the peace in the group.

4. Which of the following seems to be worse to you?

- A. Not being able to come up with an original solution.



Image credit: Inside Higher Ed

- B. Making a mistake that may affect another person

Count the number of times you answered "A" and "B" in this section.

If you answered mostly A...

You are a **Campaigner**. You are a true free spirit. You are often the life of the party because you enjoy the social and emotional connections you make with others.

If you answered mostly B...

You are a **Mediator**. You are kind and altruistic and always eager to help others. You look for the hint of good in even the worst of people and events, searching for ways to make things better.

EXPLORERS

1. You go to a party, and you find someone who has the same interests as you. What is your reaction?

- A.OMG! This person is amazing! We should plan to do something together.

- B.This person is pretty cool. I wonder if I can challenge them to a competition.

2. Which action might you take if you dream up a cool idea at night or daydream something in a teacher's class?

- A.Forget that dream! I'd rather be somewhere doing something more realistic.

- B.I would keep thinking about that dream and try to make it a reality.

3. Imagine that it could rain chocolate. What would you do?

- A.I would be outside, with my mouth open, experiencing the moment fully.

- B.I would take a video of myself eating the chocolate, then I would find a way to collect and market the chocolate to the public.

4. There is a phone call coming in, and you see that it is a stranger. What would you do?

- A.I would rather let someone else take the call.

- B.I will take the call myself. I might make a new, valuable connection.

Count the number of times you answered "A" and "B" in this section.

If you answered mostly A...

You are an **Adventurer**. You are flexible and easy-going and always ready to experience something new. You use aesthetics, design and even your choices and actions to push the limits of social convention.

If you answered mostly B...

You are an **Entrepreneur**. You are smart, energetic and truly enjoy living on the edge. You love to be the center of attention and you are daring, preferring to do something rather than to sit still.

ANALYSTS

1. Based on the title of the books, which one would you prefer to read?

- A."A Brief History of Tomorrow"
- B."Mystery of the Earth"

2. If you had to persuade a group of people to do something that you believe is beneficial to all, how would you do it?

- A.I would go up to them directly and tell them to do it, for the greater good.

- B.I would use clever tricks like propaganda and subtle manipulation.

3. In a group, which role would you prefer to play?

- A.The leader
- B.The planner behind the scenes

4. Which describes you better:

- A.Bold, inspiring, charismatic.

- B.Organized, logical, imaginative.

Count the number of times you answered "A" and "B" in this section.

If you answered mostly A...

You are a **Commander**. You are a bold, strong-willed leader, and you are always finding a way or making one. You are charismatic and confident, and you are motivated by your goals rather than feelings.

If you answered mostly B...

You are an **Architect**. You are an imaginative and strategic thinker with a plan for everything. You are curious, extremely focused and decisive, and you enjoy your privacy.

SENTINELS

1. You need to set up a new machine. The first thing you do is:

- A.Read the instruction manual and follow it exactly, step by step.

- B.Ask others around you for help with the task and trust their feedback.

2. Which of the following best describes you?

- A.You have a careful and methodical approach to life.

- B.You go through life trying to do what is best for other people.

3. When discussing an important and sensitive issue:

- A.I am able to stay calm and use logic to deal with the situation.

- B.I am usually affected emotionally and try not to hurt anyone's feelings when I deal with it.

4. You see someone you know cheating during an exam. What do you do?

- A.Cheating is wrong. I will report them to the teacher after the exam.

- B.I know cheating is wrong, but I don't want to betray that person – so I will talk to them instead and try to get them to change their behavior in the future.

Count the number of times you answered "A" and "B" in this section.

If you answered mostly A...

You are a **Logistician**. You use practical logic and have a tireless dedication to your duties. You take pride in your work, and you are patient as well as analytical.

If you answered mostly B...

You are a **Defender**. You are analytical but also sensitive to other people's needs, and you enjoy a very social life. You are open to change and will do things that you believe are beneficial to many people.

FIND THE TEACHER YOU MATCH!

Miss. K	campaigner + mediator
Dr. Nelson	mediator
Ms. Najam	commander + architect
Ms. Lone	mediator

Note: this test is not a professional test, however, you may learn something about yourself after taking it! Do not take it too seriously, though...it's just for fun!

The test used by *BCA Insider* has been adapted from the 16 personalities test, which can be found at <https://www.16personalities.com/>.



Image credit: Jesebel

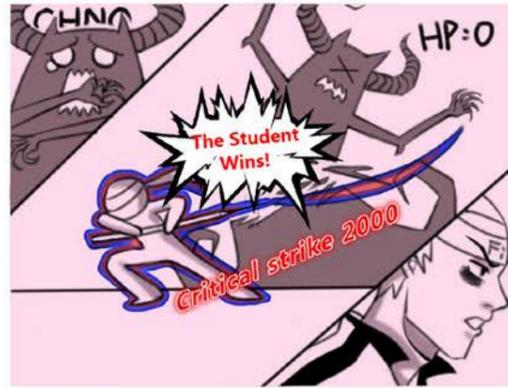
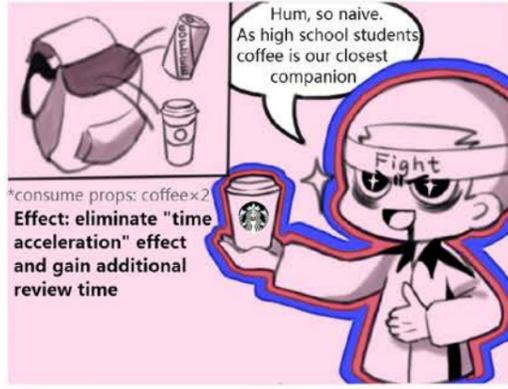
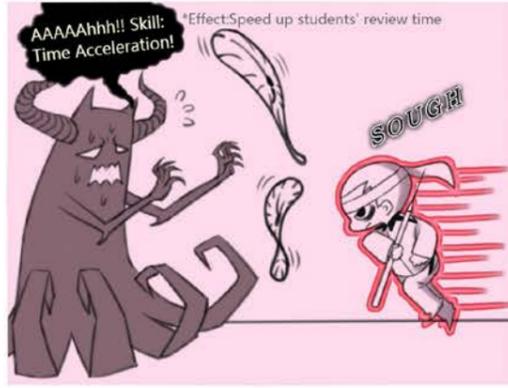


Image credit: jell-tech.com

ENTERTAINMENT

How to survive your midterms

By Lily Wang | Comic Artist



NARRATIVE

A dream within a dream: Grade 12 students freed from the English provincial

By Olivia Feng | Reporter

The Dream

Once upon a time, all students in the BCA School of Witchcraft and Wizardry had to pass an antique examination—the English Provincial Exam. This tradition had been passed down and had been torturing students for more than a thousand years. The rule had never been broken.

Until now.

"Literary vocabulary and students' quick reading and responding capabilities were tested, especially for overseas students who were required to achieve a proper level of English fluency," the Head of the BC Magical Education Ministry stated, "however, with this new generation, we have to regretfully announce the cancellation of the old Provincial Exam. Under cautious consideration, we decided to introduce a new literacy assessment this year. There are some issues with the old one as it only focuses on outdated readings, but we hope younger wizards and witches can join the Ministry and design new challenges for the younger generation."

The Dream within the Dream

She could smell the strangeness as she took her very first step into the BCA building. A compressed restlessness was burning the air. Cautiously slowing her pace, tiptoeing upstairs and hiding behind the frigid pale wall, she heard intense whispering in the principal's office.

What is going on? With so few clues, she didn't feel like she was able to put an answer into shape.

Later that day, her whole class burst into cheers. She was sitting in the classroom with her fellow grade 12 students, many of whom had never been in the same class with her. She recognized the teacher at the front but had never been taught by her before.

"For the sake of the new generation—it has finally VANISHED!" The solemn lady at the front of the classroom suddenly roared with laughter, "You no longer need to suffer from 21 multiple choice questions and 3 essays!"

They were all laughing, joking, messing around. But none of them truly understood whether the cancellation was a good thing.

The teacher's voice was still echoing in her head as she opened her eyes. A familiar ceiling came into sight.

"The first day of the new school year," she reminded herself. She was vaguely aware of some momentous dream she had in the night, but what was it exactly?

"What is common in all these dreams is obvious. They completely satisfy wishes excited during the day which remain unrealized. They are simply and undisguisedly realizations of wishes."

—Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*



Anchor | Image Credit: macrovector_official, Freepik



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