

## Student Reporter

## Inje County, Home to Extreme Sports



**Jiyong Kwak**  
Grade 8  
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The group stops for a rest at one of the rocks for a photo.  
[Source: Juniper Christian School]

Inje County is located inside Gangwon-do Province. The untouched nature in the mountains provides a bright color of autumn and a pastel-toned sky during sunset. My school, Juniper Christian School, went to Inje to learn about nature and fellowship. During the trip, the two critical fellowships were paintball and rafting.

Paintball is an activity where participants are in two teams—each player has a paintball gun and safety gear. The game's objective is to stay alive and shoot the other

team with paint until they vanish. You are eliminated if you get hit or run out of bullets, and we cannot shoot others closer than 5 meters to the target to ensure safety.

Before we started paintball, we listened to all the rules and the dangers, and then warmed up. When the game started, paintballs passed by with paint splattering everywhere. One bullet hit my kneecap, which gave me a bruise the following day. At the end of the chaos, our team won

after several battles.

A few days later, our school went out rafting at Naerincheon Stream, Inje, Gangwon-do, South Korea. The stream water comes from the Soyang River Dam, and the Soyang River Dam is one of the largest dams in the world. The safety drill taught us what to do when we were thrown overboard. The instructor told us to make a butterfly shape and hold the paddle until, hopefully, someone came to rescue.

After the health and safety training, we were on the stream. The strong current carried the boat across it. The instructor was very skilled in dangerous situations on the water. Jumping into the freezing water was the best and the worst decision ever because the water almost killed me, but it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that made it special. After the rafting, the boat needed to be taken onto land. Even though the boat was

inflated with air, it was very heavy. After the boat ashore, we cleaned ourselves from the sand and gravel.

Kaylyn Yu, an 8th grader from Juniper Christian School, stated, "Rafting was really interesting because I've never tried it before, and it was exciting going out with my peers. It was fascinating to see the beauty of nature around the water, especially since it was autumn. Our guide was nice and supportive throughout the whole event too. The water was ice-cold as of the season, so I would recommend rafting closer to the summer season."

Inje County also has beautiful mountains and forests, such as the Seoraksan Mountain and a grove of birch trees. This trip allowed me to be with nature and learn more about it firsthand. Some ways were hiking, trekking, and catching mantis. This once-in-a-lifetime experience made me appreciate nature and the harmony it has.

## Student Reporter

## A Resource Center on Fire, and Explosions Start Within



**Hannah Lee**  
Grade 10  
South High School

Only a couple of weeks ago, the Kakao Data Center broke out in fire, not hurting many people inside the building, but damaging the opinions of those who use Kakao on a daily basis. Until I could research this and realize how big of an impact this event had on society, I never understood why people were so dependent on this app.

Kakao is a company that has over forty-seven million users, which is about eighty-five percent of South Korea's population. Not only is Kakao Talk a common messaging app used throughout Korea, but Kakao pay is also used for many other apps, where you can use it to buy food, or any other payments that can be made in-store or online. Kakao Taxi is also a service where you are able to download an app to call a taxi to your location, but none of these applications were working at the time of the fire, and for a couple of days after, until Kakao was able to fix the situation.



Kakao is an app that I use between family, friends, and different organizations, but it is also used as a source of connections.  
[Source: Author, Hannah Lee]

This common app, Kakao, is just one of the most opened apps in the world. People, regardless of where they are, are opening messaging apps, social media, and game platforms anytime they want. The apps are in front of them, so why not have some entertainment? In unpredictable, spontaneous events such as the fire in the Kakao Data Center, people who are so

used to paying on this specific app can run into a lot of trouble. After all, what if you're at the grocery store and can't pay for your groceries? Or you're at the cafe with friends, just ordered a drink, and now can't pay for it?

However, not depending on these services is nearly impossible nowadays. It's so much

easier to have a virtual card in your pocket rather than carry cash and change around. So much lighter, and so much easier to organize... what's not to like? But being stuck in a technology-filled world is not always the best option. Emergencies are bound to happen, and we never know when one will spring out of the darkness.

Once one incident such as this occurs, people forget about it. It's no longer a big event, but sometimes, it forever will leave a mark in society. This article isn't made to convince people to start carrying change around, but it is a reminder that an event can occur where people can't pay for emergencies.

But don't worry. America doesn't have to worry about that, because the option of paying has so many directions. Credit, debit, cash, gift cards, you name it! It's all there, for our convenience.

## Student Reporter

## Larchmont Charters Victory



**Dion Jung**  
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The Larchmont Charter School Girls Varsity Volleyball team recently won their last match, putting them first in division IV. Larchmont Charter school has four campuses: Hollygrove, Fairfax, Selma, and Lafayette. But we're taking a closer look at the campus called Lafayette, the high school campus. Recently, the school changed the grade levels on this campus. Since the beginning of 2015, they have homed 6th grade to senior students, but starting in 2022, only freshmen to seniors occupy the school. The main motto of Larchmont is to provide a socio-economically, culturally, and racially diverse community of students with an exceptional public education.

Larchmont Charter school has a variety of sports, from basketball to baseball, tennis, volleyball, and much more. These sports teams have accomplished many feats,

such as winning league championships and tournaments and rising in divisions. Recently, for their senior night, the Larchmont Charters girls volleyball team faced off against Amino Venice on their home court and won with a remarkable score of 3-0. With this last win, they've now reached the top of their league, standing at 9 wins to 1 loss, although this score is tied with that of WISH academy. This is the best thing to happen for this school, as they lost their last match last year and could not become the #1 in their division. But now, they were finally able to attain the title of number one in their division!

Volleyball, a spring sport that involves a lot of team play, is not your average sport. It requires coordination of every player, with the main position being the setter, as this is your main source of offense. The positions include a



The Larchmont Charter Volleyball team photo was taken after winning the match.  
[Source: Rachel Kang]

middle, setter, outside, opposite, and libero. Volleyball requires the players to always rotate in a clockwise motion, whenever the ball is scored by the team that did not serve. This means that the players are always moving, and on their feet to return to their main position to get ready and spike, receive, or set based on their position. The setter is usually the head of the team, as they are the one giving ad-

vice, and making plays, while the libero is the heart of the team, as they are the one who always gives hope when times are hopeless, always receiving the balls that seem unattainable.

The Larchmont Charter Volleyball team did a great job this year, and all students are looking forward to a returning win in next year's division championship.

Student Reporter

## Paradise City Hotel: A Gem of Art



**Kaylyn L. Yu**  
Grade 8  
Juniper Christian School



“Goethe” by Yong-baek Lee expresses a being on a suitcase, looking through a telescope into the unknown.

[Source: Author, Kaylyn Yu]

Paradise City Hotel, located in Incheon, Korea, is known for its many amenities, such as luxurious rooms, fine dining, a shopping plaza, swimming pools, a theme park, saunas and spas, and more. Nonetheless, another unrivaled fa-

cility also stands—the attractive art collections that enrich every corner of the resort while impressing many tourists.

There are 74 works of art inside and outside the hotel grounds, including the lobby, walk, and gardens. Directly at the center of the Paradise’s wow space lies Yayoi Kusama’s “Great Gigantic Pumpkin,” a type of installation art. The golden-yellow pumpkin is streaked with a black polka dot pattern and is visible to every guest. It is known as the greatest piece of art Paradise has to offer, glowing to its greatest potential beneath a bright chandelier. In the lobby of the hotel stands another installation art piece by Damien Hirst, a glorious Pegasus titled “Golden Legend,” with half of its body colored entirely gold and the other half showing the interior of the mythical creature’s body

down to its muscles. The beautiful installation catches many people’s eyes, as it is also placed at the lobby’s center. The “Goethe” installation is the massive figure of a being resting on a suitcase, looking through a telescope. By Yong-baek Lee, the work rests at a point in Sky Park overlooking the Art Garden.

Besides the art collections dispersed throughout Paradise City, the hotel displays a permanent exhibition of artwork in Paradise Art Space’s main square, which is free for anyone to view. The square leads to more exhibitions, which require a fee unless one is a registered guest at the hotel resort. These emanating displays are featured seasonally and may vary depending on the time of year visited. An installation of art found in the main square is “Gazing Ball (Farnese Hercules)” by Jeff Koons, a part of his “Gazing Ball”

series. A white statue of Farnese Hercules looms imposingly, with a metallic-blue, marble-like ball resting on Hercules’ right shoulder.

Soo-Hyun Jin, a resort guest, shared, “My family is visiting Paradise City Hotel as a family vacation and break from life. The artistic touches are wonderful because we never really visit any art-related places, and I think it’s good for our boy to experience such art, like the “Goethe.” The work is easily accessible in our eyes just by residing here.”

Not only does Paradise City feature favorable entertainment, but it also renders scenic paintings, installations, and other types of crafts to guests, something most resorts couldn’t rival. If there is anything that makes Paradise City Hotel unique, it’s the intricate artwork spread across its grounds.

Student Reporter

## How a Rubik’s Cube Affects Your Life



**Subeen David Yu**  
Grade 7  
Juniper Christian School

Solving a Rubik’s Cube might seem impossible at first. Many people may have tried to solve the 3-by-3 Rubik’s Cube alone and failed. Some might have the challenging spirit to solve or look at it thinking that puzzles are complicated and not worth trying. Solving a Rubik’s Cube might be entertaining, but it can also give numerous lessons in a person’s life. A Rubik’s Cube can affect them by encouraging them, giving them critical thinking skills, and encouraging a challenging spirit.

Cubing can encourage people. Many people can solve a 3-by-3 Rubik’s Cube blindfolded and in one hand. It might seem impossible at first; however, solving Rubik’s Cube blindfolded or with one hand is not hard. With much practice, it will be as easy as solving a 3-by-3 cube without a blindfold. Teaching other people how



Different types of puzzles displayed at WCA (World Cubing Association) events (left) and three fun puzzles (right, stacked). [Source: Author, Subeen Yu]

to solve and waiting with patience will motivate people. This way, Rubik’s Cube can cheer people up by making things possible that they thought were impossible.

Different types of puzzles will give people critical thinking skills, creativity, and the ability to focus. Many can be solved with algorithms; however, many steps to do puzzles need critical thinking skills. The first two

layers or two blocks (depending on the method that people are using) can be done intuitively, which requires critical thinking. Moreover, it will give creativity and power to focus in order to solve quickly. Also, using those thinking skills might help people to react to certain situations that they face in real life.

Various types of puzzles or cubes may make people want to try other

new puzzles. After people learn how to solve a 3-by-3 Rubik’s Cube, they may want to try new puzzles such as 4-by-4 Rubik’s Cube and Square-1. People might want to try out different ways of solving these puzzles, such as blindfolded and one-handed, while others might want to practice more and average 7-12 seconds on a 3-by-3 Rubik’s Cube. Cubing will give challenging spirits to people.

Cubing is very similar to everyone’s life. Rubik’s Cube has about 43 quintillion different scrambles. However, there is always a solution to that. In real life, there might be difficulties; however, there might be solutions for those difficulties. Solving a Rubik’s Cube will encourage people, give critical thinking skills, and give challenging spirits. Try speedcubing and learn numerous life lessons from Rubik’s Cube.

Student Reporter

## Summoning All Writers



**Alexis Choi**  
Grade 10  
South High School

It’s November, the month of autumn leaves, pumpkin spice, and Thanksgiving. But for others, it is also the month of keyboard malfunctions, hand arthritis, and conversations with fictional characters. Known as National Novel Writing Month, or “NaNoWriMo”, the month of November is dedicated to a challenge of writing 50,000 words in 30 days. The challenge was founded in 1999 by a man named Chris Baty and a group of his friends, and since then, hundreds of thousands of writers of all ages and interests have participated in this annual challenge. Divided into a minimum of 1,667 words a day, writers commit this time to rewrite an old project or start fresh on a completely new story.

Between midnight on November first and 11:59 P.M. on November 30, anyone who has successfully written at least 50,000 words is considered a winner! Although it seems simple on paper, writing a book—especially within a month—is no easy task. Here are some ways to have a successful month of writing with NaNoWriMo!

Although it isn’t required, creating an account on the official Na-

NoWriMo website makes the experience easier and definitely more fun! On the website, you can join group discussions in the forums, discover a community of writers, and take advantage of the various resources provided by authors and other professionals in the field. Writers can also announce their projects and track their progress throughout the month, not to mention gain adorable badges and titles as they hit new benchmarks.

There are a few main problems that many writers encounter which that prohibit them from reaching the 50k goal. The first is simply a lack of time. However, there is only one way to overcome this: do not try to find time to write, but make the time. Whether this means getting up an hour earlier in the morning to squeeze in those words before going to school or work, or giving up that hour of Instagram to work on your story, the only way one can actually finish their project is to make time for it every single day. Of course, there are days when it seems impossible to get all the way to 1,667 words. In that case, a little extra can be done on other days, such as during the weekends, to make up for it.

The second problem that arises, especially in the middle of the month, is that the story itself starts to smudge a little. Perhaps you’ve run out of ideas, or the plot isn’t working out the way you were expecting. Perhaps all the plot holes are making it difficult to continue. For those who want to keep this from happening, it may be a good idea to plan beforehand. This doesn’t mean mapping out every detail of your story; even simply identifying the introduction, midpoint, and resolution will make your future self extremely grateful.

Finally, there is simply a lack of motivation. Here is where external support comes in handy. In NaNoWriMo, you can talk to other writers who are also trying to write their novels. You can join writing groups, find accountability buddies, and participate in mini-writing challenges to stay motivated and productive. There are even pep talks from famous authors!

Sometimes, the most daunting part of writing is pulling up the blank page and starting from nothing. However, NaNoWriMo is a challenge that forces one to simply sit



Be a part of NaNoWriMo this year and make your writing goals come true! [Source: Author, Alexis Choi]

down and write, without going back to edit. It’s just about getting those words out on paper, no matter how wordy and ugly they may be. At the end of the day, even if a person doesn’t succeed in writing 50k words, they will have something, which is better than nothing at all! So whether you have always wanted to write a novel, want to improve your writing skills, or simply want to take on a challenge, this is the year. Perhaps, by the end of the month, you will have a fresh draft of a novel, new writer friends, and most importantly, the satisfaction of knowing you rose up to the challenge!