

Student Reporter

### The Highlight of Summer at Crossroads Bible Church



Hannah Hong  
Grade 11  
Issaquah High School



Sophia Hong, six years old, participating in a flashlight Space game at Summer Splash!  
[Source: Author, Hannah Hong]

Splashing into mid-July, from July 17th-July 21st, children from all over the west side of Seattle, Washington, gather around at Crossroads Bible Church to participate in one of the highlights of the kids’ ministry, Summer Splash. Children from church partnerships and those from regular at-

tendance to Crossroads all filed into the church bright and early, at 9 am, every morning. Known for its creative themes every year, the children were surprised this year with a “Stellar Space” themed retreat. Volunteers organized into their own “space crews” or groups of children joined to form a bigger group of either Comets (1-2nd grade), Asteroids (Kindergarten- 1st grade), Meteors (3rd-4th grade), and Nebulas (4th- 5th grade). Most importantly, Crew Leaders were assigned to enchant the 1-week Bible Camp with “Stellar fun” while also mentoring students with their understanding and belief of the gospel. The volunteers, also known as Crew Leaders, started off the day by welcoming the children with high energy and unintended awkward smiles. I vividly remember the shy children’s faces, reluctant to leave their parents’ side only to be released

into the care of a group of chaotic dressed-up teenage volunteers.

The first activity started off with a worship song with a few Crew Leaders on the stage showing off their space costumes and guiding the crowd of children with fun and engaging dances to children’s Christian songs that went along with it. Then, after the morning jitters wore off, Renae, the kids’ ministry director, directed the children into participating in a huge group game where the kids had the opportunity to volunteer; such games included water bottle flipping, space-modified rock paper scissors, and other creative space themed interactive games. Most importantly, they were then introduced to a Bible verse or a gospel objective that would be emphasized throughout the day. I remember that rotations from station to station would end off in

“3,2,1 blast off!” I personally was assigned with the Meteors (3-4th grade), and the station rotations throughout the entire day included outdoor games, snacks, crafts, and Bible adventure! The children were also introduced to the “Pie and Points” system, where each group of kids, had the opportunity to gain points throughout the daily activity station rotations by demonstrating important takeaways and their application of the daily’s message/objective. Crew Leaders were nervous to see if their group would win, because awaiting back in the gathering room was their unfortunate fate: a pie smashed into their faces as the children squealed in pleasure at their satisfying reward. At the end of the 5-day long camp, Madison (8 years old) exclaimed, “I wish camp was longer!” as she left with glistening drops of water from the magic of Summer Splash.

Student Reporter

### Korea’s Climate Crisis



Joseph Cha  
Grade 8  
Calle Mayor Middle School

Everyone has heard of climate change, or as most people call it, global warming. Everyone also knows that it’s a big deal. For those who are still unfamiliar with the situation, global warming is a crisis felt throughout the world. It is caused by the excess use of greenhouse gasses such as carbon dioxide and methane emitted by factories, and gas vehicles, heating the earth to extreme levels. It is causing devastating weather changes such as heat, drought, and an increase in hurricanes. One country in particular has recently felt a hint of what Mother Nature is capable of, due to climate change.

In July, South Korea was already drenched due to being in the middle of a great typhoon season. For days, Korea experienced “torrential rain,” ultimately causing extreme, widespread floods, overflowing dams, and landslides. It was so bad it even forced the government to urge its people to “refrain from going outside.” But on



People all over the world are heartfelty watching the climate crisis in Korea from afar.  
[Source: Author, Joseph Cha]

a fateful day, many people’s lives faced grave danger.

Saturday, July 15, in the central region of Cheongju, South Korea, south of Seoul, river dams lining the Miho River proved to be unsuccessful against the sudden downpour of rain and the overflowing of the river. Water began to flood nearly the entire city at an alarming rate, and with no warning at all, an underpass near the center of the city, just 600 meters away from the river, began flooding, trapping nearly 15 vehicles as well as a bus. The death toll rose to

more than 40 people, with 34 others injured. More than 10,000 have had to evacuate due to extreme weather hazards and flooding literally coming up to their doorsteps. 200 homes and 150 roads were swept away and destroyed due to hazardous downpours and brisk floods.

Nearly 400 rescue operators were needed to save and recover as many lives and bodies as possible. During that process, the South Korean fire department was still taking action by pumping out the muddy water even though six days had passed.

Survivors say they had barely any time to know what was happening before the water reached all the way up to the roof of the underpass. Many people blame the government’s lack of preparation. They are upset that they weren’t able to close off the bridge in time, even though they knew that the levees were not able to withstand such floods.

But Cheongju was not the only city affected by this disastrous climate crisis. Reports have shown that halfway through the monsoon season, enough rain had already been unleashed to surpass the usual amount of precipitation in monsoon seasons years before. Nearly everywhere in S. Korea has severely been affected by these torrential rains, leading to thousands being forced to evacuate, and many farming villages being destroyed. So who can deny the fact that climate change has surely already taken over the world? We must work together to lessen the deadly impact of this global crisis.

Student Reporter

### Bridging the Work Gap



Derrick Ahn  
Grade 11  
Oxford Academy

In a qualification-driven world, a quiet revolution takes place, led by the bright minds of the next generation. Amidst towering qualifications becoming the norm, the status quo is challenged by the rise of internships.

Progressively over the last decade, corporate companies have primarily desired experience and qualification, while newcomers are met with devastation. To bridge the gap in work experience, internships have increasingly risen to prevalence. The word “intern” was developed in the 1920s; however, the concept of internships came into fruition toward the 1960s, under the term, “co-op programs.” As the desire for experience saw an influx amongst high-income careers, internships became highly sought after

This last decade has shown this innovative shift to rapidly gain in popularity, in which internships have been proven tools for career planning and introspection. This era of “internship sovereignty” over the work industry has ushered new capabilities for both the intern and the employer. The former has ben-

efitted from the extensive, applicable experience as a leveling ground to the steep expectations, while the latter benefits from the fresh perspectives and newfound productivity interns bring, not to mention the relation established with such education institutes the interns attend.

To experience the benefits firsthand, I applied for an internship at an ophthalmic manufacturer by the name of Medennium Inc. My first impression of the internship was quite daunting. The first few days were spent trying to understand the workarounds and operations of a typical company. By the second week, I felt normalized in an environment completely different from my high school, as I was completely astonished to see unexpected leniency. While my initial perspective of the company was rigid, the tangible work environment and supportive staff were able to lighten my initial apprehension. Furthermore, while not all interns get to experience monetary benefits, I was fortunate enough to experience hourly pay. Predominantly, I was able to delve into data an-



The typical manufacturing workplace has a break room, away from all stress, but this one even has a karaoke machine!  
[Source: Author, Derrick Ahn]

alytics and incorporate my work into the company report, which especially made me feel accepted. Immersing myself in the internship helped me diversify my strengths while helping me introspect and decide on the direction I wanted to move toward. I definitely would want to continue this internship, given the opportunity.

This upward trend is further nurtured by the likes of LinkedIn, the largest professional networking site, and Indeed, a popular search engine that allows interns to apply for any position at any listed company, just a few clicks away. These

networking and outreach sites have been especially influential in the rise of internships, whether it be through establishing connections or accumulating valuable work experience. Connections are severely undervalued for what they are worth, and similar sites provide great assistance in directly exposing interns to professionals.

Although we live in a world dominated by lofty qualification requirements, internships provide direct contact with an actual job, emerging as catalysts for the next generation. In turn, internships bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Student Reporter

Thrifting? What’s That?



Isleen Lee  
Grade 10  
Harvard-Westlake School



With just a few dollars, a full outfit can be made entirely of thrifted clothes.  
[Source: Erin Park]

Have you heard of Goodwill, Thredup, Depop, or a flea market? These are the names of places and apps that specialize in thrifting. With the rising interest in adolescents and young adults looking to shop on a budget, thrifting

has become a popular hobby for many nationwide. Goodwill, one of the largest and most popular thrift stores, states that thrifting can be defined as purchasing gently used items at a discounted price. So, what makes thrifting so appealing?

Firstly, thrifting is an entirely customizable process. It allows you to look through the aisles of a store and be met with hundreds, if not thousands, of products. From there, you can start to search for items that suit your style. Since these stores operate wholly on donations from the public, they cater to a wide variety of unique styles and items, including, but not limited to, clothes, furniture, and music records. Additionally, vintage and unconventional styles of clothing, as well as brands that seem out of reach, can be easier to buy in these shops.

Secondly, items that you thrift are cheap and affordable. Thrifting started as a form of a give-and-take program launched by The Salvation Army in the late 1800s, as homeless men could exchange used clothes for food and lodging. Now, we see how most items in thrift stores are very inexpensive because the products were donated by others. Prices of clothing do not exceed \$9.99, according to Goodwill’s official price list, while furniture and other appliances are priced individually. Whether it’s college students learning to manage their expenses or younger teens looking to upgrade their fashion style on a budget, thrifting is an alluring option. In addition, these shops participate in reducing fast fashion, which exploits workers, pollutes water sources, and releases toxic dyes, just to mass-produce clothes that follow the current trends. Thrifting gives

donors the chance for their items to be upcycled and purchased by people that need them.

However, if thrifting has been around for so long, why is it that only recently are we finding out about it? Believe it or not, it received a boom of attention around the 1930s, during the Great Depression, until its resurgence during the pandemic on TikTok, even gaining its own hashtag, #ThriftTok, and amassing a huge audience. Because some people believe thrifting is not sanitary and that the quality is poor, there have been many objections over the years that reduced its publicity. With the spike of teens using social media nowadays, thrifting has been receiving more attention than ever. If you are interested in repurposing clothing, furniture, or other appliances for a cheap price, you should check out thrifting!

Student Reporter

Using Coffee Grounds for Gardening



Bo Ryang  
Grade 12  
Crescenta Valley High School

Millions of people from all across the world drink coffee every day, but have you ever wondered what happens to the leftover coffee grounds after the coffee is made? Coffee grounds that wind up in landfills significantly add to the world’s waste issue. After the production of coffee beverages and instant coffee, 60 million tons of grounds are thrown away annually. But it is possible to turn leftover coffee grounds into a sustainable way to garden. In this article, we explore the benefits, usage tips, and sustainable impact of using coffee grounds as fertilizer.

Cafes such as Starbucks created programs such as the “Grounds for Your Garden” program, which launched in the 1990s. This program allows you to obtain free used coffee grounds that would otherwise be thrown away. Although most Starbucks are a part of this program, it is still recommended that you check if they are before showing up. You can nicely ask one of the staff for these, and they will likely provide you with a bag filled with the used coffee grounds.



Starbucks workers providing the used coffee grounds.  
[Source: Author, Bo Ryang]

Using coffee grounds instead of traditional fertilizer for gardening has several benefits. Coffee grounds enhance soil fertility and contain important elements such as nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium. These give the plants an ongoing supply of nutrients. Coffee grounds also improve the soil structure of a

garden. They aerate the soil by forming air pockets, which stimulate plant growth. Additionally, coffee grounds are also great natural pest repellents, protecting plants and important insects in the garden. Furthermore, coffee grounds are known to attract earthworms, which are really important in a healthy gar-

den, because they break down organic matter, improve soil texture, and provide nutrients to garden plants.

Here's how to apply coffee grounds to your garden. The first step is to spread them around the plants’ bases in order to get them mixed with the soil. The coffee grounds’ nutrients will gradually be released, feeding the plants. Coffee grounds can also be used in your garden by being combined with a compost pile. Eggshells, dried leaves, and vegetable peels are all compostable materials that are found in compost piles. Coffee grounds speed up the composting process and make the compost nutrient rich.

Reusing coffee grounds as a resource for sustainable gardening is a simple but significant step toward reducing waste and developing environmentally conscious habits. We can improve soil fertility, encourage plant development, and decrease waste by utilizing the nutrient-rich benefits of coffee grounds.

Student Reporter

The Wonders of Jeju Island



Hannah Lee  
Grade 11  
South High School

Jeju Island: an island full of history and love, is possibly one of the most popular tourist spots located in South Korea. Depending on the season, a visitor’s preference for when to vacation in Jeju may vary for any number of reasons. Although Jeju often has rainy weather in the summer, there are many museums and exhibits that you are able to visit during your stay. With endless possibilities for exploration, rain or shine, Jeju welcomes everyone with open arms.

One of the most important parts of the trip to consider is housing and transportation. There are multiple different regions of Jeju Island, and I suggest that you research which locations and types of landscapes you would like to visit and locate a hotel or Airbnb nearby those destinations. I personally stayed

forty minutes away from all the locations I wanted to visit, and there was certainly a lot of time passed in the car. Finding transportation is usually not a problem - you can rent a car and take it wherever with your family and friends, or grab a taxi. Warning! You might accumulate a lot of taxi charges if you use this method often.

Do you know the Peanuts movie? Snoopy Garden is a very popular destination at Jeju Island, where the creators of life-sized features showcase their method for sculpting each Peanuts character, describing the art process, and exhibiting unique photo spots to take the most fun photos ever. From Lucy’s Lemonade Stand to The Great Pumpkin Patch, Snoopy Garden is an experience you should not miss!

When thinking of islands, most people think of bodies of water and the ocean. Jeju Island has oceans with such clean water, that if you are swimming, you are able to see what is underneath the waters immediately. The beaches that permit swimmers also have lifeguards on duty at all times, and the water is also very shallow, so children and adults can swim and play safely.

Jeju Island has a vibrant and delicious cafe culture. Don’t forget to eat Jeju black pork, a traditional representative food of Jeju Island. I tried this food for the first time this summer, and it simply just melts in your mouth with perfect tenderness. Hallabongs are a bigger version of the tangerine, and every market you visit will always have hallabong juice, hallabong bread... the list goes on and on!



The meat is a “must” experience when visiting Jeju Island, and you have to try letting it just melt in your mouth!  
[Source: Author, Hannah Lee]

With a little prior research, Jeju Island will guarantee an unforgettable experience. I wish you all the fun you are able to find!