

Editors Column

All About the White Coat Ceremony



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The first-year medical students recite the Hippocratic Oath to end the White Coat Ceremony. [Source: Author, Rubie Choi]

While attending my sister's White Coat Ceremony, an entrance ceremony for first-year medical students, it was interesting to see the incoming physicians being coated by former or current doctors and reciting a rewritten version of the Hippocratic Oath (an oath taken by physicians that promises the best care of patients). This rite of passage, a significant transition from regular studies to clinical medical education, is a tradition for many medical schools and is also sometimes known as the Becoming a Physician Ceremony. As the event

progressed into the night, and as someone who is also interested in pursuing a job in the medical field, I was inspired by seeing many people who once dreamed of becoming a doctor being coated.

As the 20th century progressed, the white coat's status as a representation of medical expertise and purity grew. There are various hypotheses as to why white coats for doctors became more and more common, including the notion that wearing street clothing made it easier for diseases to spread. White coats had

been the norm for physicians' attire by 1915. After World War II, they had become the standard uniform for medical students, residents, fellows, doctors, and nurses in North America as a result of the development of antibiotics. The official ceremony was first introduced in the 1990s at the University of Chicago Medical School after professors complained that students were showing up to the event looking unprofessional. This formal occasion was created in hopes of informing students of the guidelines and responsibilities of being a doctor. Ever since the US created this ceremony, many other countries have followed and have also made it a part of the journey of becoming a physician.

Although it is different for many schools, during the ceremony, students are coated in their own white coats with their names and school engraved on them by other current or former doctors. For my sister's school, the doctors who were covering the students were family members of the students who were

part of the event. After the hospital's and school's important board members' speeches, students had to recite a version of the Hippocratic Oath, an oath that promises and ensures the best care of patients, that some of their classmates had rewritten. At the ceremony that I attended, the atmosphere was filled with so much emotion, joy, and anticipation. The celebration ended with a dinner where students, family, and friends could finish off their night with a myriad of cuisines.

I could not help but feel so excited for everyone (even though I was not the one getting admitted into the school) as I watched my sister and those around her earn their white coats. After a long and arduous process of submitting multiple applications and passing the MCAT, the entrance exam for medical school, this crucial, symbolic step toward becoming a doctor was a hard-earned present. This event has encouraged me to work hard for my dreams, so that I, too, can one day be coated at a White Coat Ceremony.

Student Reporter

The Ideal School Trip; Catalina Island



Rianne Paek
Grade 8
Walter Reed Middle School

Situated 22 miles off of the coast of Southern California, the nature and rich scenery of Santa Catalina Island attracts visitors from all parts of the world. As one could expect, the island is always bustling with tourists looking to experience new things, bond with nature, and learn about its geography and cultural heritage. For many schools, the island serves as an ideal place for an overnight school trip where students can take part in recreational activities.

Catalina Island is a picturesque destination known for its diverse topography and distinctive native animals and plants. Notable for its rich biodiversity, species such as the Catalina island fox and scrub jay inhabit the land, adapting uniquely to the island's isolation. Additionally, stemming from volcanic origins is a rugged terrain, making for a difficult yet enjoyable hike, rewarding you with

a breathtaking view. Thanks to organizations led by the Catalina Island Conservancy (CIC), camps offer a compact educational experience while also maintaining the pristine state of all ecosystems and emphasizing the importance of conservation.

My school's trip started with a ferry ride from Newport Beach, which offered breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean and pier's lin-



The camp had wonderful scenery, as it was in a remote location in front of a private beach. [Source: Author, Rianne Paek]

ing the coast. When we arrived at the camp, a significant portion of our trip was dedicated to exploring the marine environment surrounding Catalina Island. We had the chance to go snorkeling and kayaking in order to observe not only the animals on the surface but also the underwater world of kelp forests, which provide essential habitats for various marine creatures. While doing so, we also encountered seals and dolphins,

servicing a memorable experience, even though it wasn't captured in a picture. On our last day, we went eel feeding in the tide pools, explored caves, and even dissected a squid. These experiences highlighted what we learned about marine sanctuaries and brought our trip to a full circle.

The trip to Catalina Island was not only an adventure but also an incredible learning experience. We gained valuable insights into the island's geography, ecology, and cultural heritage. From its stunning landscapes and unique wildlife to its fascinating history, Catalina Island offers many educational opportunities for everyone regardless of their prior interests. This trip has not only deepened our appreciation for the natural world but also informed us about the importance of ecosystem preservation and the history of Santa Catalina Island.

Student Reporter

Blackpink Makes History Again at Los Angeles Encore Show



Aspen Lee
Grade 9
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Being a K-pop idol in this day and age results in lots of stress due to all the pressure they receive from all the different audiences. But that is even more true for globally-known groups such as BTS, Blackpink, Twice, and Seventeen. One particularly active group, Blackpink, has been gaining more attention from crowds in Europe and North America as they dive farther into their career, which has now led to their world tour, Born Pink. The group has visited cities from Melbourne, Bangkok, and Seoul, to Los Angeles, and they have traveled the world with their crew of dancers and the band to perform at world-famous stadiums such as MetLife Stadium, Hyde Park, and Dodger Stadium.

Over the course of 10 months, the four-member girl group traveled across the globe, then returned to the biggest cities to do encore stages with new songs, fresh per-

formances, and creative remixes. The first show in Los Angeles sold out, so a second show was added just weeks before they arrived. But when the group returned to LA, in a bigger stadium, the tickets went just as fast, and even the seats all the way in the nosebleed areas were sold in an instant. Many fans were unable to purchase tickets at the normal price, so the resale prices skyrocketed, resulting in seats pricing up to over \$5,000.

The competitive ticket-buying process for the venue, Dodger Stadium, was messy, and many fans were unable to purchase tickets to view their favorite artist. But although that was the case for many, the stage and background were perfectly arranged, and the seats were neatly placed so those at the show could experience the concert to the fullest. Unfortunately, as the stadium wasn't used to supporting large crowds

all at once, and lines for the VIP entrance took over 3 hours in the blazing sun and 90+ degree weather. From crouching on the ground to running back and forth to the shade, blinks, aka Blackpink fans, tried their best to keep the most glamorous look before the concert and soundcheck to begin. Once the security opened, the hundreds of VIP fans rushed in, received their merch and bracelets, and headed to their seats before the soundcheck. When Blackpink entered the stage, they performed Really, Ready for Love, and Ice Cream for those who came early for soundcheck, and returned backstage to get ready for the actual show.

Lasting a total of two and a half hours, the group sang their hearts out and danced as full out as their bodies allowed and ended the show with As if it's Your Last to show their last song of in the tour



Blackpink performing Pretty Savage under the lights of Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. [Source: Author, Aspen Lee]

before their return to Seoul, South Korea. It was a memorable show, and although the lines were long, I could confidently state that the blinks would say it was worth the wait. Celebrities like John Legend and Bella Poarch were spotted along the floor section enjoying the show with their families and friends, showing that their performances are for everyone.

Student Reporter

A Performance to Celebrate Korean Independence Day



Hannah Chae
Grade 10
Larchmont Charter School



The closing ceremony to celebrate Korean Independence Day.
[Source: Author, Hannah Chae]

In honor of Korea's liberation from Japan's colonial rule, August 15th is marked as a special holiday for Koreans. This National Liberation Day is also known as Gwangbokjeol, which translates to 'The Restoration of Light Day.' Under Japan's rule, the Japanese authorities attempted to erase Korean culture and identity. As a result, the Japanese language and culture were implemented on the Korean population. The use of the Korean language was restricted, and traditional Korean ceremonies were banned. Despite these

harsh times, some Koreans organized different forms of resistance against Japanese rule involving protests, underground independent movements, and civil disobedience. This colonial rule came to an end when Japan surrendered in World War II. The Korean Peninsula was liberated, and the people were determined to rebuild their nation and recover their cultural heritage. This period under Japanese rule lasted from 1910 to 1945.

In celebration of the 78th Ann-

iversary of Korean Independence Day, my dance school, Jean Ballet, was invited to perform at the Korean Education Center in Los Angeles. My dance team performed a fusion creative dance with the song, Arirang Fantasy, Wind. The Arirang song is a message about sorrow and anger accompanied by happiness and joy. From the duration of Japanese colonialism, Koreans were prohibited from singing their national anthem. Arirang became popular and started to replace the official national anthem. This way, Arirang became a way to resist the Japanese government and an effort to show loyalty to their home country. Alongside our performance were other dancers who performed Buchaechum, meaning fan dance. This dance is one of the most popular traditional dances in Korea and is performed by female dancers wearing Hanbok, a traditional Korean dress. The performers created beautiful and unique shapes with their peony-colored fans. The next stage presented traditional Korean drumming, an important factor in

traditional Korean music.

Many dancers, singers, and other performers came to show their gratitude for this special holiday. Additionally, a gallery walk was hosted showcasing photos of Korea under Japanese rule. Toward the closing of our show, all the performers gathered to hold up a mix of South Korean and American flags. With raised hands and big smiles, we finished the show with a group picture. Similarly, South Korea celebrates this day with its national flag displayed on streets, buildings, and homes. It is also common for people to be wearing clothes that represent the flag's colors. Ceremonies and parades are also held across the country. Some people attend the official government ceremony and sing the Gwangbokjeol song, which is a tribute to those who battled for liberty.

Overall, this experience of being able to be a part of the celebration for such a significant national holiday holds a special moment in my heart.

Student Reporter

The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round...



Angel Song
Grade 9
Harvard-Westlake School

As the new school year starts, students use different methods to get to school daily. Some who live nearby may walk or bike to school, and others may get a ride from their parents. However, the most well-known way of getting to school is by taking the iconic yellow school bus.

Every school has a different way of operating their bus routes. Some may not even have buses, and others may have a ton of them! For our school, we have a variety of routes that take students near their homes. Unlike what cartoons show, the school buses at our school do not drop students off right in front of their houses. Instead, they are picked up and dropped off at a 'bus stop', located along the bus route to school. Finding the bus



The array of school buses waiting for students after school.
[Source: Author, Angel Song]

stop was a little bit of a challenge at first, but after a day, all my fears disappeared.

My daily routine goes like this: to

get picked up, I leave my house by 6 a.m. and get dropped off at the bus stop by 6:35 a.m., which is when the bus arrives. Since there are multiple stops in a single route, my stop is the second one, which means I still have a long way to go until we arrive at school. On the bus, people usually do their homework, chat with friends, or go on their phones. There are various ways to spend time on the bus until we arrive at school at 7:45 a.m. and head to class.

For the afternoons, there are several different options for students to take. For instance, I can take an early bus, which leaves at 3:30 p.m., or a late bus, which leaves at 5:45 p.m.. Our school has two upper and lower campuses, and most of my activities happen at the upper school, so

when I have to attend events like debate practices, I take a shuttle to the upper school instead of my normal bus. Taking the normal bus is just like the morning routine, but the bus stops are reversed. Getting on the bus isn't a problem, but sometimes, it can be difficult to find my exact bus because yellow buses that all look the same are lined up.

Whether it may be a bike, car, or a...yellow school bus, students have a variety of ways to get to their school. I'm one of the students to take the bus to school every day, and it is surely an interesting way to go because I've never taken a bus before. Although I do have to get up early, riding an iconic yellow bus to school will be a memory I will never forget.

Student Reporter

Housing for a Cause



Erin Ryu
Grade 10
Harvard-Westlake School

On Saturday, August 26, the Korean American Women's Association (KAWA) worked together with Hands of Mercy (HOM) to build parts for a house, which would later be sent and assembled in Mexico. The house would accommodate a family of three: a father, a mother, and their three-year-old daughter. The building process taught me new skills but also urged me to think more deeply about the matter.

When I arrived at Bouquet Canyon Church at 7:30 in the morning, there were already a dozen volunteers diligently measuring and cutting wooden blocks with blades. Volunteers were placed into stations and assembled boards to construct walls, roofs, and flooring. Though temperatures rose up to 99 degrees, the heat did not discourage the spirits and motivation of the volunteers; the parking lot was filled with sounds of incessant drilling and hammering. In the end, the construction took around seven hours to complete.

This volunteer opportunity was important to me as it not only showed the impact I could make on a stranger's life but also highlighted the privileges I took for granted. In spite of hearing about a housing crisis before, I did not fully understand the extent of its effects until after this experience. Being able to sleep under a roof may seem like second nature to most of us, but for others, it is a great challenge. A study conducted in 2021 found that 150 million people were homeless, and in 2022 found that more than 1.8 billion people in the world did not have adequate housing. Homeless rates in Los Angeles, my hometown, top the charts in the country. Though California has invested much to reduce homelessness, the rates have increased over the years.

So, how do we combat these numbers that seem almost impossible to overcome? The answer lies in adequate rehousing, which provides individuals and families with opportunities to

mitigate their situation. One example is rapid re-housing. Rapid re-housing uses the "housing first" approach in which it offers resources unique to the qualities of the household without preconditions, like sobriety. Furthermore, a strong network of connections is crucial in order to assist the client in providing temporary financial assistance to later find a lasting home. It also helps those without homes find career opportunities, as well as other programs that may be deemed necessary, like mental

health and substance abuse treatment, to permanently exit homelessness.

One of the volunteers who helped build the house, Jonathan, said, "It helped the family not have to worry about their housing situation. They can spend their money on more important matters now, like food, clothing, and raising their daughter." Our hope is for the family to enjoy their new home for a long time to come and for many more families to be able to be helped.



The experience was unique, as volunteers learned how to use special tools from veterans while constructing parts for the home.
[Source: Author, Erin Ryu]