

Editors Column



Heesue Joy Shin
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New Covenant Academy

Excitement was in the air as the bus came to a halt in Camp Wrightwood. As the students stepped off and found their luggage, there was a wave of expectancy in the air. This was one of the first times that our school went to a new camp, so many were excited to explore what it had to offer.

My school is unique because of the small number of students. There are a total of two camps every school year, and they are events that everyone looks forward to. I've attended this school since freshman year, and this fall camp was the fifth that I've been to; however, there was a sense of newness because this was a new camp for everyone.

The first day consisted of settling into the cabins and playing games. However, when we played, there was a lot of dust, which triggered a lot of people's allergies. It was also relatively small, so there wasn't a lot to explore. However, there were also pluses to the camp, like its outdoor volleyball court, which was fun to play on. Other people enjoyed the swimming pool; I regretted not packing a swimsuit because the water looked very cool.



The scenery at Camp Wrightwood was much enjoyed by the campers from New Covenant Academy. [Source: Author, Joy Shin]

The second day, I spent time outside with my friends looking at interesting infrastructure around the camp. I didn't know that there were a lot of activities

such as archery, so I missed out on that. The scenery at the camp was enjoyable because it felt very forested due to the tall trees surrounding the camp.

The weather was varied. In the morning, it was hot and sunny, but when it was nighttime, it was cold. My favorite part of the camp was staying outside at night to talk with friends and look at the stars. The feeling of the cool breeze was very enjoyable, and I have grown to miss it in the midst of the current LA heat. A majority of the students didn't enjoy the food because it felt like most of it was canned and not really healthy, which I do agree with. However, it wasn't inedible, so I still ate, and the cereal was the best part for me because there was a variety of milk options and fruit. Another thing was that the cabins felt a little cramped because there were around 6 bunk beds in a cabin, so a lot of people were in each one.

I liked the camp even though there was a lot of dust and some other downsides, because it was an opportunity to escape school life and to just enjoy no stress from studying or finishing homework. I think this is a great event that my school does, and it should try to be implemented in other schools because it gives students time to reset from the school year.

Student Reporter

Climate Change Affecting A Montana Gardener



Elsa Lee
Grade 10
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Record heat waves of 111 to 115 degrees have deeply affected the growing season in Montana, threatening staple crops and economic stability. Jette Mogensen, an 82-year-old gardener, found her passion for gardening as a young girl in Denmark. She has now continued her endeavours into her later years, living on a 3-acre lot in Park City, Montana. She grows everything from tomatoes to herbs and is an organic farmer who sells her vegetables at the local Billings farmers' market. However, she is facing many challenges with the changing climate.

Climate change has dealt a brutal blow to plant growth and gardening success. Jette's gardening experience is just one example of the impacts of climate change.

Mogensen consistently wakes up at 5:00 A.M. and goes out to her garden by 6:00 A.M. to get all of her weeding and watering done early. She explains the reason behind this: "I usually can only work out in the garden until noon or 1:00 P.M., because then it gets too hot. It has not been this bad in previous years, but this year it is."

The rising heat in Montana



Jette Mogensen, a long-term garden and produce seller, has needed to make changes in her work routine due to climate change. [Source: Author, Elsa Lee]

only seems to worsen the extreme climate, with the peak temperature reaching over 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer and 20 degrees Fahrenheit or below in the winter. This results in a small window for the growing season. . Mogensen elaborates, "Gardening has been shaped by the climate because it is colder most of the time here,

so I have to get plants going pretty quickly so they will make it for the season."

Climate change is affecting not only Park City, but places all across the state of Montana. Local climate officials have stated that impacts include more fire-causing weather and mosquito days. Not only have the pest popula-

tions skyrocketed, but smoke from wildfires can be unhealthy for gardeners working outside for long periods of time. Mogensen added that when the smoke gets incredibly bad, there will be ash falling in her yard.

The gardener also aligns with the fact that the heat in the summer has been a major factor in less abundant growth and requiring additional watering. She even added, "The heat has burned some of my vegetables, like my peppers."

Ultimately, Mogensen is not the only one affected by the changing climate; all across the country and world, gardeners are being forced to adapt to new conditions. Local officials have described some impacts such as creating unpredictable growing seasons, native plants not surviving in their historic range, and important connections in the ecosystem breaking. Since food and climate are so closely linked, shortages will drive food inflation.

In future decades, from our local gardeners to agriculture to the food industry, they will have to fight major daily challenges in the face of climate change.

Student Reporter

My Unforgettable Kalahari Adventure



Ashley Kim
Grade 7
Little Ferry Memorial Middle School

This summer, my family and I went on a one-night trip to the Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos, located in Pennsylvania. Even though we only stayed for one night, it was a memorable experience because I was able to spend time with my family and take a good rest at a nice location. It took about two hours to get there, which wasn't as bad as other road trips that have taken longer than this. During the drive, my family and I passed the time together in the car by talking, listening to music, and watching the scenery as we drove.

When we finally arrived, I was excited to see the resort and everything it had to offer. As I entered the building, I was hit with cool air, a sea of laughter, and passing conversations. The nice display of South American designs was really fascinating. We waited for only a short while until we received our wristbands to unlock the hotel room. As soon as I entered the room, I immediately laid on the freshly made bed.

Later on that day, we all



The grand entrance and hotel at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos Mountains, where I was able to spend some fun and relaxing time with my family. [Source: Author, Ashley Kim]

dressed and headed down to the indoor waterpark. While my parents were setting up the area, I went straight to the basketball pool where I found numerous hoops to shoot basketballs in.

The water was refreshing, washing away all my worries from any work or tasks I had. I shot baskets for a while, sometimes making them and sometimes missing, but I still had fun. Unfortunately, I

didn't have much time to play at the pool since we arrived pretty late. But we were able to go back to our resort and freshen up. We then ate dinner and relaxed for a couple of hours. About two hours later, we decided to go to the arcade. I personally like arcades, especially the claw machines. I spotted one with a cute cat plush and decided to try it. Surprisingly, I got it on the first try, leaving me shocked and overjoyed. It was about to hit midnight, so we decided to go back to our rooms and call it a day.

The next morning, my family and I got up to eat breakfast and headed down to play one last time. We spent our last few hours together before heading home. We carried all of our bags in the car and soon headed off.

To sum it all up, my trip to Kalahari was a really memorable experience. The road trip, waterpark, and spending my time with my family were truly my favorite parts. The trip helped me relax, and even though it was short, it gave me and my family memories we can look back on.

Editors Column

KCON LA: An Amazing Experience



Jordyn Bak
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The world’s largest K-pop convention and festival is KCON Los Angeles, held annually at the Los Angeles Convention Center. KCON LA is a three- day event typically held during late July to early August. This year, it was from August 14 to the 16th. With about 140,000 attendees, KCON brings Korean cosmetics, food, artist meet-and-greets, interactive fan stages, and concert performances together in one place.

It was quite a difficult process entering the convention center when arriving at the event. The convention center only had one entrance, causing major line traffic. To lessen the burden, staff provided umbrellas to shade from the blistering heat. I was able to enter the convention center after a few hours of waiting in the line. Going forward, I hope KCON will have the line at least inside, like previous years, for the comfort of attendees.

Once I entered the convention center, I decided to take a look at the cosmetic booths; all of them were giving some sort of freebie. Olive Young had a particularly long line even with their online queue system. However,



The K-pop group Tomorrow X Together performed at the KCON M Countdown and was a very exciting experience for all who attended. [Source: Mikaeyla Pomer]

the smaller booths in Kentia Hall allowed more freedom with fewer lines. Being able to go from one booth to the next so easily made it feel like I was shopping.

Additionally, KCON held other activities such as panels or dance competitions. Guests like the creator of Hello Kitty had multiple panels throughout the 3-day

event. Additionally, MNET, a Korean Television Channel, hosted live idol auditions for their K-pop reality show Girls Planet. Being able to access such a wide variety of activities truly shows how versatile KCON can be.

Nevertheless, the stages are where KCON always shines. There are three stages at KCON: Artist

Stage, Music Den Stage, and Dance Stage. Each day had slightly different activities and different artists stationed at each. Since I entered the convention in the early afternoon, I was only able to see a few artists. On the Music Den Stage, I saw H//PE Princess and &TEAM at the Artist Stage. However, watching just these two groups made me realize how much of a unique experience KCON is.

Seldom does the opportunity arise to see multiple of your favorite artists and groups, especially with M Countdown. M Countdown is a final concert at the end of the day with all the performers guesting at KCON. Although I wasn’t able to attend the event, KCON attendee Mikaeyla said, “My favorite part about M Countdown was not only seeing my favorite groups like Tomorrow X Together or Meovv, but also getting introduced to groups I never familiarized with before like NEXZ and ONEPACT.”

Whether you’re at KCON to see your favorite groups, shop for cosmetics, or eat Korean food, KCON seems to bring new surprises and discoveries each year for attendees.

Student Reporter

Behind the Celebration: Students Honor Gwangbokjeol



Jenny (Sion) Kim
Grade 10
Orange County School of the Arts

The sharp and ringing sound of a janggu, a Korean traditional instrument, echoes throughout the main hall as volunteers hurry backstage, carrying decorations and preparing for the next performance. Huge Korean flags featuring the colors white, black, blue, and red hang from the balcony, catching the attention of every passerby with their vibrance. The celebration had not officially begun, but the entire hall was already moving. As a student volunteer at the Gwangbokjeol celebration at The Source OC, I spent the hours before the event helping set up chairs in the main hall and working with my friends to create the best environment for the performers on the stage.

Gwangbokjeol, Korea’s National Liberation Day, is celebrated on August 15 to commemorate Korea’s liberation from Japanese colonial rule in 1945. Especially for Korean students like me and my friends, being able to take part in a celebration of our country’s independence was especially meaningful and special. Rather than simply attending the event, we had the opportunity to help



Student volunteers gather and pose in front of the ‘Gwangbokjeol’ banner featured in the celebration. [Source: Author, Jenny (Sion) Kim]

make it happen. Before the celebration began, all of the student volunteers worked together to decorate the main hall and ad-

vertise the event by handing out printed flyers with information about the celebration. We also helped organize materials and prepare the backstage area for

the upcoming Korean traditional dance team, which meant moving their janggus and buks. There was always something to do, whether it was carrying something to the stage, helping with setup, or making sure everything was ready before the next performance.

Once the event started, the busy preparation turned into a celebration. Traditional Korean dances, janggu performances, vocal performances, and speeches filled the stage. From backstage, I was able to watch the performers while also seeing all of the work that went into making each part of the program possible.

What caught my attention the most was that during the whole event, there were people at the mall who stopped by to watch the celebration. Some visitors gathered around the stage as the performances continued, giving them a chance to see Korean traditions and learn more about Gwangbokjeol. Others came at first not knowing what the event was but later stayed throughout the entirety of the performances. My fellow student volunteer

Student Reporter

Field Day: Fun and Competition



Jisu Wi
Grade 10
New Covenant Academy

New Covenant Academy recently held Field Friday, which is a day when students can take time away from academics and enjoy their day by participating in fun activities. As the first semester is still new to students and there is a long year ahead of them, the student council designed this day. The field day happened after lunch, when students had finished all of their work that was already planned. The teams were divided by grades: 8th grade, freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Field Friday started with a three-legged race. Each grade had to make a pair that matched the directions given. The first group was the oldest and the youngest of each grade, the second was the shortest and the tallest person, and the third was the person with the shortest hair and the longest hair. Each pair had to go through a lap, and without pausing, they had to give the stretch band to tie their leg to the next pair. In the end, the senior class won this game with their excellent collaboration.

Next was the game Red Light, Green Light. There were special judges, two of the teachers, in this



Students race toward the finish line to earn points for their grade during Field Friday at New Covenant Academy. [Source: Author, Jisu Wi]

game who shot water guns at the people who were caught moving in red light. Two rounds of this activity were conducted, and everyone in all grades had to participate. When the caller started the game, all the students ran to win and get points towards their grade. The victory went to one of the freshman boys, who was the

first one to get to the finish line for both of the rounds with his incredible speed.

After the outdoor events were done, everything was relocated into the gym. The first activity here was Captain’s Calling. All of the students had to follow the commander’s directions, and the

last one to do so was eliminated. During this time, everyone worked hard to save their classmates for multi-person actions, as this increased their chances of winning. This game was also conducted in two rounds; the first was won by the seniors, while the second was won by a freshman girl, earning points toward her grade. The activity not only required speed, but also quick reaction time to follow each direction.

The day wrapped up with the final activity, which was dodgeball. This happened in a tournament format, where they decided the winner for the winning bracket and the winner for the losing bracket. The seniors were the winners of the overall dodgeball, and the sophomores were the winners of the losers’ bracket. At the end, the final winner was the seniors, the runner-ups being the sophomores, and the third place being the freshmen. Overall, this event provided the school with a wonderful and exciting time as a community, which allowed students to bond with others while playing athletically. With all the teachers and students, having to experience this day made a special memory.