

# **THE HAROLD POST**



Official Newsletter of Hong Kong Adventist Academy, Vol.1, No.7, March 2025

HKAA is where students achieve academic excellence and find Jesus

## **Pastor Soontorn Highlights The Importance of Gospel Week**



In his interview with Ivan, Pastor Soontorn Thanteeraphan shared that Gospel Week is a vital spiritual highlight at HKAA, with the theme "In Search of Me" chosen to reflect God's active pursuit of each individual, encouraging students to recognize that God seeks them personally and has been with them all along.

## Why is the Gospel Week significant for HKAA students and teachers?

Adventist Education highlights three essential aspects of life: the physical, mental, and spiritual. Gospel Week plays a crucial role in enhancing the spiritual dimension of education. Students and teachers seek God's guidance during this special week, making it a significant highlight in the school year.

## Why did your team choose the "In Search of Me" theme for this Gospel Week?

The High School Teacher Council chose the theme "In Search of Me" for two primary reasons. First, we want to highlight a key aspect of God's nature. While everything around us is focused on what we are searching for, the Bible reveals God's essential character as a shepherd. A good shepherd actively seeks out his sheep. The second reason is to emphasize God's grace in meeting each of us individually, on our terms. These two rationales resonated with the student speakers as they shared their journeys and how God found them.

## What is the key thing you want students to take away from Gospel Week?

I want all high school students to know that God constantly seeks them. It doesn't matter how hard or long it takes; God works on our terms and will find us.

## Do you have any encouragement to share with the students who presented in this Gospel Week?

As we listen to our friends share their journeys, I encourage each student to reflect on their own path and consider allowing God to find them. This doesn't mean that the students are lost or that God doesn't know where they are. Rather, it is an opportunity for the students to open themselves up and accept the invitation to recognize that God has been with them all along.

Please take time to read "In Search of Me" novel, written by the fellow high school student speakers!

#### Pastor Soontorn plays a crucial part in spreading God's message.

## **The Unplanned Plan** Presented by James Tsang



James confidently shares his experience with the high school students.



The talented trio – Kyle, Audrey, and Jasmine – accompanied by Sekela on the piano.

## Leli, The Hidden One

Presented by Pansy Marjee





## How does your message relate to "In Search Of Me?"

My message was about looking for myself alone but couldn't because of the different identities that I went by and because of the different views of me that people saw in me. I went to God to find myself. In search of me was not really by myself, but I searched for myself with God.

## What challenges did you overcome while preparing your message?

I overcame the challenge of acknowledging my faults and allowing myself to change, doing the best I could.

Interviewed by Doll Doll Dai

What challenges did you overcome while preparing for your message?

me means that I look to reflect on my past years. I learned a lot.

The challenges that I overcame during the gospel week were my introverted characteristic and trying to find something meaningful and proactive in teaching God's lessons.

**James Reflects On His Speech** 

My message relates by allowing me to look beyond my perspective and to see

how God has worked behind the scenes in my life, and that searching through

Interviewed by Doll Doll Dai

## What message do you hope people can take away from your speech?

God is always working behind the scenes. -James, G12

How does your message relate to "In Search Of Me"

James Tsang was very proactive in using his skills to allow students to pay attention to God's message. He used visuals and informal things in everyday life to attract students' attention. He was charismatic in the way he spoke talking about his crazy experiences like dislocating his arm or almost drowning. He showed that even if things may seem like it is not a plan it is like he said about how God is always working behind the scenes. Furthermore, he encouraged students to reflect on their lives and how God has worked his way in tough times. James further acknowledges how he grew in the eye of God through meaningful lessons he learned through mission trips and the recent Norway trip. His speech was fruitful and impactful for many.

-Doll, G12

What message do you hope people can take away from your speech? I hope people will have the courage to reflect on themselves, judge themselves instead of others, and change that with God's help. -*Pansy, G12* 

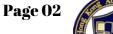
Pansy really captured the attention of the audience with her unique experience with her name. Her charisma and humor made it engaging and allowed students to become more attentive to her experience. She connected the story to God in a fun way, which made many smile and feel inspired by her speech. She encouraged others to be honest with themselves and admits her faults, which shows her deep sense of maturity. She has shown her deep sincerity in her speech, which contributed to her speech's impact! **(Doll, 12)** 

## Value of the Month--Compassion

Compassion is about caring for another person-making sure that they feel well. If one of your most cherished friends is feeling upset, you can express compassion by showing that you care about that person and making him or her feel better. Studies show that people showing compassion to one another helps their friendship levels by trusting each other better. Acts of compassion can ease depression and help prevent tragic events before they occur. -*Marcus*, *G10* 



# **GOSPEL WEEK RETURNS**



## **Earnest Yip's Journey Away from Atheism**





Interviewed by Marcus Lee

Ernest logically explaining his speech, like a college professor!

## How does your message relate to the theme "In Search of Me?"

From my talk, I attempted to bring a rather objective view of God to the table. It may sound arrogant, but I honestly believe my journey is quite the antonym of the set title: "In Search of Him" Boasting about God being the seeker was clearly not an option, though the opposite is. Often I catch a glimpse of His shadows or His billowing tunic caught in the wind whenever I peer around the pillars of skepticism in search of answers.

## What challenges did you overcome?

Once a "rebellious/scientific" atheist, I had to overcome this stigma of religion when it came to its terms of indoctrination and faith. Purely indulging in the community's satirical interpretation of God with exaggeration made me feel a belief was ludicrous: until I got to discuss it face-to-face with someone far ahead on the road.

## What message do you hope people can take away?

Being sincere in searching for Him will leave you with the final answer "God does exist, and it's the Christian God." If you're a beginner: look at the science; If you're a deist: look at the Bible; If you're a Christian: experience the world; that'll be where you'll really meet Him. Because of our limitations, it's crucial to acknowledge that this search never ends.

## Nowhere to Hide: Sekela's Testimony of God's Relentless S<u>earch</u>



#### Interviewed by Brogan Archer

Sekela Is Natural When It comes To Sharing Her Experiences.



On March 21, Sekela Mwamakamba presented a powerful conclusion to Gospel Week with a much-needed message. She shared how God found her during the lowest points of her life and how He is always searching, regardless of circumstances. Despite initially feeling reluctant to share such a personal and vulnerable story, Sekela overcame these challenges, and we are grateful she did.

Her testimony reminded listeners that no one, no matter how broken or lost, is beyond God's reach. Sekela addressed the struggles of today's generation, connecting them to God's search, especially in moments of hopelessness and despair. Even in the darkest times when we may feel that God cannot reach us, He is always there, searching and waiting with a torch in His hand, ready to guide us. Though we may not always see Him through our struggles, He is always with us. -**Brogan, G11** 

## Pastor Paulo Inspires Elementary and Middle School with Stories of Courage and Faith



## **Crystal Cen's Journey from Doubt to Discovery**

Interviewed by Amy Peng



## How does your message relate to the theme "In Search of Me?"

For this year's gospel week, I decided to share my testimony of how I transitioned from a kid growing up in an Adventist household to doubting the existence of religion, and then slowly feeling the presence of it in my life. Despite my long-standing resistance to God, I was able to feel the beauty of his presence the more I allowed and permitted Him to come into my life, which exemplifies the theme of this year, "In Search of Me," where I strongly felt His search into my heart.

### What challenges did you overcome?

At first, I rejected the invitation to do this talk as I felt unequipped and not ready to share my journey and testimony of God; however, through motivation from Pr. Soontorn, Mr. Norheim, and experiences from the Mission Trip and Norway Trip, I felt more gravitated towards doing it. I also faced challenges when I wrote my first script; I am not used to writing a script for a talk, rather, more prone to brainstorming a detailed framework than interpreting it during the day of the talk.

### What message do you hope people can take away?

I hope that through my message, people understand that a relationship with God is not scary and unapproachable, and a true connection with Him should never be imposed on you by force. Instead, if you feel gravitated, or want, a deeper understanding of Him, it would start with you wanting and permitting it to happen before He walks into your heart. Ultimately, I hope to inspire people to dig deeper into topics and concerns that fascinate them, rather than shy away from the judgment of it being too "overwhelming" – you may find truth that unexpectedly enlightens you!

## Mr. Jerry Hall Guides Students Through Innovative Physics Projects



Reidy the scientist at work



This month in particular was focused toward the science department in which many high schoolers showcased their projects. There are some notable projects that I have seen specifically in the ninth graders, and for my Physics class. For my physics project for science emphasis week, we worked on building a rollercoaster that showcased how potential energy transforms into kinetic energy. This small model allowed us to understand how engineers design rollercoasters at theme parks for people to enjoy.

The elementary and middle school students had a special speaker for their Week of Prayer this year. Coming from Brazil, Pastor Paulo covered the theme of courage in a series of testimonies titled "Brave and Bold." Derived from the story of Daniel, students were able to learn about his unwavering faith and grit that allowed him to overcome his trials.

While providing inspiring messages, Pastor Paulo gave the students practical and applicable advice through different challenges. He encouraged them to read one chapter of the Bible daily as it takes 30 days to form a habit.

A great deal of thought and prayer went into preparing his sermons; Pastor Paulo sought the Holy Spirit's guidance on what to share and carefully researched the local culture and societal norms.

Because God directed Pastor Paulo to us, we were able to experience the full extent of his message, learning about how to stand for what we know is right. Aligned with the example of David, we should avoid temptation and follow the path that God wants us to. **-Brogan, 11** 



edition. Stay tuned!



Jayden and his team



Our teacher, Mr. Hall, made sure we made the presentation understandable and suited for all high school students. We included a video demonstration, a graph, and a harder explanation for those who were up for the challenge. High school students were also given the time to look at projects from other grades. Notable projects that I have observed from 9th grade were figuring out which genre of music helped us focus more, and a project done by Carina and Suki stood out.

#### -Dolly, G.12

Enoch and Jayden

#### -

### **Amy Shares Her Experience During Science Emphasis Week**

这天,高中的学生要分享自己的科学项目,分不同时间和批次给其他学生分享自己做的科学项目,以此来互相 学习。科学项目包括了生物,物理和化学,不同年级做不同的项目。我们去一个个不同的组来听他们的项目。 我们准备的是化学的项目。我们互相合作,做了一个海报,然后自己带材料来做实验,然后讲解给其他学生。 我很开心有这样的一天能够互相学习,交流各自的想法不仅能学到新知识同时也能分享自己学到的知识给其他 人。我们不仅增进了友谊也激发了对科学的热情,更有动力来学习科学。-- (Amy, G9)



# **HKAA SPORTS DAY**





We are a te⁄ām

Enoch, Kyle, and Sarang

Our Stars Of The Day Chilli For Red Team,

**Banana for Yellow Team** 



William aiming for a dodge





On sports day, Nicole thought her experience compared to last year was better. This year, even though her team lost in volleyball, she wasn't enjoy the game with her teammates. She learned -Nicole, G10

My experience on sports day was exciting and fun. Compared to the sports days of local schools, it is more fun. We play games that are related to -Dora, G10

sad; she was grateful, because she learnt to that Sports Day is important for this school because sports can be both healthy and fun.

RED TEAM TAKES THE sports. My favorite game was Capture the Flag. I only got to play one round, but I had fun leading my WIN ON SPORTS DAY teammates. Before the results were announced, I felt that everyone deserved first place for giving their best and never giving up. I'm happy the red team won, but I also hope other teams have a chance to win in the coming years.

# **HKAA HAS DEFINITELY GOT TALENT**



The participants of the HKAA talent show

**MR. BRONDO SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE AS A** JUDGE

On March 29, students witnessed HKAA Got Talent in the gym. This phenomenal event enabled certain students to showcase their talents and others to view and enjoy them. Intricately planned by our Student Association, HKAA Got Talent helped foster a more connected, engaging school community, ultimately creating a warmer student environment.

Every year, the Student Association takes great care to ensure all their events flow smoothly, including HKAA Got Talent. While potentially

seeming like a linear, straightforward process on the outside, the reality is entirely contrary; the SA has to undergo persistent trial and error before their proposals are approved. Besides their external tasks with receiving approval from administration and help from other teachers, the Student Association also meticulously brainstorms, delegates tasks, and promotes advertisements, all of which are not easy duties. The Student Association have worked tirelessly to produce HKAA Got Talent to its utmost quality and success to enhance school spirit and dynamics. They continue to host fun, exhilarating events. -Brogan, G11



WINNER: KELLY HO



Mr. Brondo, Ms. Jade, Mr. Joy, and Ms. Perla were selected to judge this year's Talent Show! The Harold Post editor, Doll Doll Dai, caught up with Mr. Brondo after the event. Here are some excerpts from their conversation...

#### How did you enjoy the talent show?

It was inspiring to see everyone showcase their different talents and performances!

#### As a judge, why do you think the talent show is important?

It is important because it helps build every student's confidence and allows them to hone whatever talent they have.

#### Was it hard judging and picking the winner?

It was hard because it was in different categories, and they all gave their best, and we enjoyed the performances. I wish all of them could win! :) -Mr. Brondo





On March 29, there was a talent show. The winner of the talent show, Kelly Ho, said: "I was indecisive about whether I should join this year's talent show." During the last two years of the talent show, she had participated but hadn't won. She also said, "When I look back at the old talent shows I did, I realize I could have done better. One day, I suddenly felt the urge to join, and I was able to sign up for the audition and participate. I felt nervous because I only had two days to prepare for the audition. I eventually found a dance I could learn in two days. I felt like God was on my side. To be honest, I believe all the performances this year were so good. At the end of the day, we are all winners. I feel really proud of myself this year and thankful to my friends for supporting me. I met more people and made some new friends, so the talent show was an awesome experience overall."

On April 30, Seriyu won the audience choice awards in the HKAA Talent Show! His performance showcased his talent in singing and playing the guitar; he executed it perfectly, leaving a great impression on the audience. Judges were also amazed at his talent; he is young, but his passion for music goes far beyond. When it comes to how he prepared for his performance, he noted that he chose a new song, so he had to memorize the lyrics and be familiar with it. When it came to the guitar part, it was a bit overwhelming, but he enjoyed learning it and picked it up quickly. He feels honored that the audience chose him, and he did not expect it. He recalls the talent show as a night he enjoyed; it was fun, and he got to see the talents of those who also performed that night!



## **SPOTLIGHT ON LEADERSHIP**





## **Ms Khim Chan** HS Study Skills / **Career Counselor** Human Resource, HKAA

The Role of A High School Counsellor involves deep and crtical thought to help students and guide them to sucess. Ms. Khim ensures to schedule personal meetings with each student in career counselling. She makes sure students plan ahead and have a fufilled future ahead of them.

(Interviewed by Kyle Chan)

## **Guiding Students, Shaping Futures: A Conversation with Ms. Khim**

great work!

#### 1. What is your role at HKAA, and how does it relate to the students and teachers?

I balance my time between imparting knowledge and wisdom to students, at times counseling students, as well as doing almost the full spectrum of human resources. This means strategizing, planning, and implementing processes to effectively manage and support the entire HKAA workforce, e.g. hiring, retaining, and ensuring people get paid for the work that they do.

### 2. What is the main reason you work at HKAA?

It was not planned at all but God works in miraculous ways. I continue to work at HKAA as my talents can cross between locals and foreigners, and also between SDA and best practices. More importantly, I believe what I do here echoes in eternity (hint! hint!).

#### 3. What is one thing that you look forward to in your work?

I look forward to seeing students fulfill their potential, be it in or out of the classroom. The experience of seeing students mature and changing for the better is priceless. I also hope to see the school grow in a way that serves the community in a meaningful and productive way.

4. What are your thoughts on the school newsletter, The Harold Post?

It is wonderful! I'm so glad to see students working together to produce invaluable pieces of information on

not for Mr. Joy. On behalf of The Harold Post team, we

Thank you for being a good advisor to me and helping

lot from Mr. Joy and how he leads well. Mr. Joy always

me with my leadership responsibilities. I have learned a

brings up excellent suggestions and always makes sure that The Harold Post team provides quality news to

everyone. He is a crucial sponsor for the newsletter and

we enjoy articles that are written by him as well. Thank

you for everything Mr. Joy and Happy Belated Birthday!

would like to thank him and show our appreciation.

## MR JOY'S BIRTHDAY! There would be no newsletter team like ours if it were

Happy birthday Happy birt Happy bi Happy bir Happy b Artwork Done By Kelly Yip

Happy birthday, and thank you so much for putting a lot of effort and time to teach us!

-Dora

Thank you for teaching me English these past months. You truly care about your students' learning. Wishing you a birthday filled with joy, love, and warmth! - Kyle Chan

the team. -Brogan Thank you Mr Joy for teaching me a lot of useful English knowledge

-Ivan

As our sponsor, Mr. Joy

provides essential support

and insight into our

Newsletter every month.

We are collectively thankful

for his guidance towards

Thank you, Mr Joy for teaching me a lot of useful skills. -Marcus

- Doll Doll

Happy Birthday, Mr. Joy. Thank you for teaching us. -Amy



### 5. Do you have any advice for the students who will be taking their PSAT/SATs?

Do practice test questions daily for 30 minutes, if possible, starting 9th grade. There is no short cut to success!

a monthly basis to the masses -- no easy feat. Keep up the

## FAREWELL TO OUR ALUMNA



My sister's route to college was insanely convoluted. Before she was even in high school, she was fascinated with Australia and wanted to study and live there. So, of course, when it came time for her to apply, she chose an Australian university. Instead of going to just any Australian university, she chose to apply to the University of Melbourne. Despite the global top 13 ranking of the university, she got in! Now, all she had to do was get a student visa. Easy, right? We thought so, too, before that ended up delaying the process for 2 weeks after classes began. Just to get the student visa, she had to write a 450-word essay three times. Eventually, they let her in. While she was doing the process for getting in, I kept encouraging her to work on it more and more, even as she was leaving. And while I am super happy, she got into her dream college, I miss being able to talk to her whenever I felt like it.

-Mridul Agarwal, G. 10, brother of Niharika

## **Neo Industry** Painted by Hong Chai Adrian

"I created this painting, titled 'Neo Industry.' It was inspired by Diego Rivera's mural 'Detroit Industry,'

which depicts the Industrial Revolution. My title is a reference to Rivera's work. After seeing his powerful portrayal of the era, I felt compelled to explore how machines have always fascinated me, as they are both

complex and captivating to learn about."

#### EDITORIAL The Heartbeat of HKAA



CHIEF EDITOR.

DOLL DOLL DAI

March was an eventful month focused on spirituality and science. It was a month full of eventful activities. Many of us loved watching our classmates present what they had learned in science. Many others also liked watching their friends present on stage and talk about how their faith has strengthened as God has found them. We were also pumped up with sports day presented by our sports teachers. Our groupmates were working hard to ensure

## Thank you Message

Thank you for reading the Harold Post I hope you have enjoyed it over the past few months. Let me review this month's events. Middle and high school students celebrated Science Emphasis Week, and all students participated in Sports Day on March 28, followed by the Talent Show on March 29. The Talent Show is an annual event organized by the Student Association, and its purpose is to allow students to showcase their talents in singing, dancing, or any other skills they wish to share with their peers. Throughout this month's events, I am sure all the students learned new things and how to collaborate. For example, during Science Week, students worked in groups to complete their projects and present together. Once again, thank you for all your support and assistance; without your help, we could not have achieved the results we have so far. Please continue to enjoy reading our Harold Post with your parents, classmates, friends, and your teachers. Also, don't forget to keep supporting us, as your support is essential for every issue we publish. I hope everyone enjoys all the events this month! -Ivan, G11

TEAM **Chief Editor** 

THE HAROLD POST

Newsletter Sponsor

that their experiences of the events and also your experience of the events were documented for each section that HKAA could see. I believe that the Harold Post strives for connection, to become a bridge for all sections of the school to know what is going on every month. We have already come up with so many issues, and we hope to improve all the time. We wish you enjoy our articles as much as we do. Share it with families and talk about it with teachers. If at any time you wish to share news with the school, please do so and contact one of us. our newsletter is for students and students only. May God bless you every day and ensure that you are healthy throughout the year. Thank you for reading the Harold Post.

Doll Doll Dai

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"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;" Colossians 3:12