



THE SANDSTORM SCOOP

THE SMIC MIDDLESCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Human Stratego

WRITTEN BY GEORGE HAN, SAM WANG, COCO LEI
PHOTOS BY ELIAH YANG

More than one month has passed since the start of school, students had been getting familiar with school, and there are a few events and activities going on at campus. The teachers had planned to provide the students with a fun sport event—Stratego! Stratego is a strategy board game for two players on a board of 10×10 squares. Each player controls 40 pieces representing individual officer and soldier ranks in an army. The pieces have Napoleonic insignia. The objective of the game is to find and capture the opponent's Flag, or to capture so many enemy pieces that the opponent cannot make any further moves. It is a special event for the SMIC students, instead of playing it on the table, Teacher Nick decided to put this activity on the fields.

This event was planned to take place on Friday, which is October 30th, but Teacher Nick gave up with the plan because of the costumes that some students will wear on Friday's Book Character Day, which restrain their movements. Excitingly, after a weekend of waiting, the Game Day event finally came on Monday, November 2nd. Students gathered on the soccer field during recess, and Teacher Nick separated us by 6, 7, and 8th grade.



While the game seems difficult to comprehend, still, the students got familiar with the rules quickly, and loved the game. Students had a really fun time playing the modified “Capture the Flag” Game that Teacher Nick prepared, and they enjoyed the lunch break and advisory better than ever before. Jason Liu from E8-2 said, “It is a fun game that could involve everyone. We should play it again some time.” Well, it has met teacher Nick’s expectations. The purpose of him planning this event was to “develop friendship, bonds, and community through the games,” Teacher Nick and the student council “thought of it as a cool idea to encourage the students’ participation and join recess activities.” Of course, it’s a terrific game, however, there is still room for improvement. According to Ivy Zhen from E8-1, she “thinks it’s not a bad game, it’s just that there were too many



people and everyone was confused and there were things that people would rather be doing other than that game day thing.”

Finally, when advisory is almost over, the students headed back to their classes happily, no matter how they performed on the game. Win or lose doesn’t matter now—It’s all about enjoying. And it seems like everyone had a great time in the event. We are looking forward for more things like this!





THE RED RIBBON WEEK'S SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Monday Wear Red Day - Everyone can wear as much red on them as they want.

Tuesday Vacation Dress-up Day - Where students arm themselves as if they're really going to a trip, anywhere across the globe.

Wednesday Animal Day - Various students wore animal hats to celebrate this day.

Thursday Wacky Tacky Day - When students made weird cloth matches of all kinds, from not matching socks to weird clothes and hats.

Friday Book Character Day - Students had fancy costumes from different books and movies.

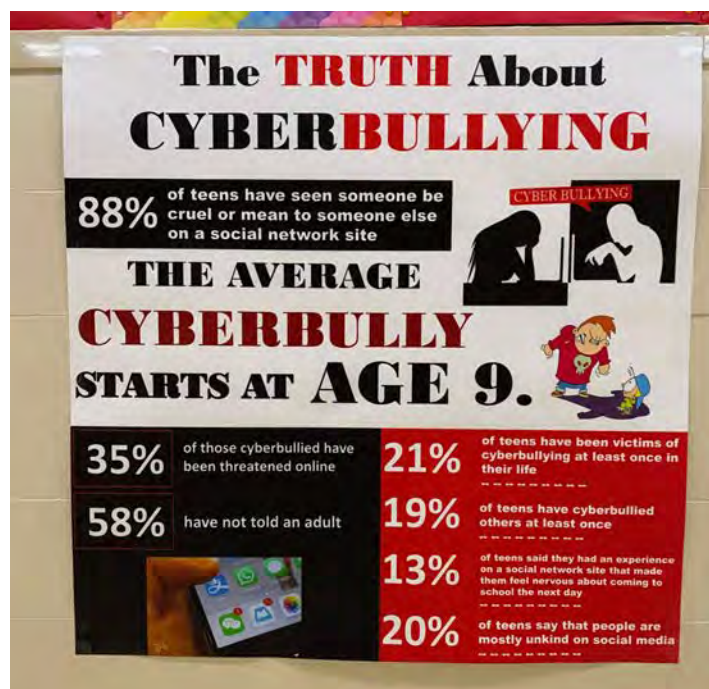
Red Ribbon Week

WRITTEN BY CHRISTY APPLETON, GEORGE HAN, JASON HOFORD

PHOTOS BY ET STAFF, TINA ZHOU

From October 26 to 30, the Red Ribbon Week event took place in SMIC. Students dressed up according the different days' events. Even though a lot of students still wore their normal uniforms, the students who dressed up had a fun time acting in a different character or dressing something "not-about-school". Red Ribbon Week was a week dedicated to help raise awareness of things like the effects bullying or cyberbullying, smoking, or drugs. Did you know that smoking one cigarette can cut about 5 minutes of life? Or maybe that victims of bullying are more likely to commit suicide? There are many





more effects not mentioned so our school has an annual Red Ribbon Week to try to stop those things.

Teacher Nick thought that he could use the Red Ribbon Week to teach the students on how drugs and smoking harm people while making it fun. Let's hear from him! "Red Ribbon Week's purpose is two-fold, which means that there are two different purposes that we considered equally important. First important purpose it's for education of the student body, I guess the dangers of bullying, cyber-bullying, drugs, and mainly smoking due to

the fact that China has a very high rate of smoking and bullying. And also hygiene. This year, we focus on hygiene because members from the student council believe that personal hygiene is a question that most students have left to be answered. There are three parts of education that the Red Ribbon Week is focusing on, posters, explanations, and videos. The second purpose of the red ribbon week is to unify the student body through what's called the spirit week activities. Which is wearing red, all the students wear red in the same day, they dress up like they went to tropical islands, dress in an animal, dress up like wacky tacky, and dress up as a book character."

Seems to us that Teacher Nick had made a lot of preparations, and all his hard works paid off. Rachel Lu from E8-2 said that, "This year in red ribbons week everyone dressed in the costumes for each day and book character day was very fun."

The dress-up is full of fun. But don't forget the purpose for the event—To call for the prohibition and banning of addicting drugs, like cigarettes, and alcohols. If you enjoyed the event, please also support the purpose of the event: To ban bad drugs and alcohols from the world together. Help put an end to those things and save more lives!

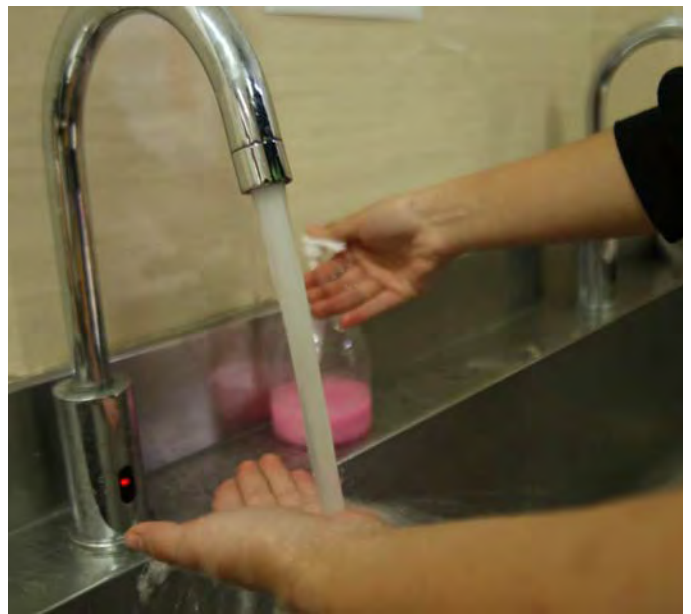
LIFE WITH COVID AT SCHOOL

WRITTEN BY TIMOTHY WU, HUDSON JONES

PHOTOS BY IAN WU, ELIJAH YANG

For many kids life with COVID has been really hard, many struggles, and job losses have occurred and have devastated many families around the world. At first, people freaked out, and everything was unorganized, and offset. However, now we go to school, play with friends, and eat at restaurants. What has changed to make these precautions worthwhile, what do we do differently that change our everyday life. How do these minor inconveniences affect us. To answer these questions, we go to our community, people at school, teachers, students, and staff

The school had done a lot throughout the COVID outbreak, but most of us does not know exactly what the school did, so we asked teacher Nick specifically about it. "There were very strict measures in accordance of the government and compliance towards the government on what they ask us to do. For starters, before any of the teachers could come back, they had to take multiple COVID tests from different countries wherever they are coming from, and they had to quarantine in China for 14 days according to the government. Students also have to quarantine if they had traveled during the break or before they came back to school, they had to self-quarantine. The school complied and agreed all of the government's measures for COVID, in addition they encouraged students to wear masks when they are



sitting together in order to support their health and make sure that germs would not be transmitted. In addition to that, I think measures to control the food that is served because COVID transmits in many different forms, so food is also important. The fact that the school does not allow students to bring in or has strict policies against students bringing in their own food shows that the school cares about COVID and make sure that the students stay healthy, and do everything we can to make sure that they remain covid free."



Jack Zheng from E7-2 says," I stayed at home, and I was super bored, and I could not play with my friends. Though it was boring, but still, we tried to find a lot of things to do, for example, playing my phone. It was hard, but we at least we tried."

All in all, we can all agree that there may be a few down sides, okay, maybe a lot of negatives, but at least we can all be together, learning, and growing as a community. We will get through this together. Go Sandstorm!



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