



The Husky Herald



“PROVIDING, PRESENTING, AND PUBLISHING NEWS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS OF TOMORROW”

February 2025

2/12-14 Winter Camp 4th -
12th grade

In This Issue

Back To School Night
Recap

Principal's Column

Teacher Talk: Ms. Stephanie
Lau

Valentine's Day Restaurant

Winter Camp

Black History Month

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT RECAP

By: KATIE KIM on February 6, 2025



Photograph by Daisy Dong (12)

On January 23, 2025, New Covenant Academy held a Back to School Night for the second semester of the new year. Both students and parents from 8th to 12th grade were invited to attend this event. During this time, parents not only got to listen to Dr. Song's speech regarding student education, but were eventually dismissed from the Chapel, allowing them the opportunity to walk around, explore the campus, and talk to teachers about their child's education. Through these discussions, parents not only gained insight into what they could expect for the following school year but also how their children were performing thus far.

Additionally, this event was also a chance for students to boost their grades by coming to school with their parents, as a few teachers offered extra credit as a form of motivation. Parents were able to meet their children's educators and discuss their child(s) performance in class. Although there were many people waiting to speak with each teacher, every parent managed to converse with the teachers, who demonstrated sincere care and judgment as they outlined both the qualities and expectations they had for each student. Furthermore, through extensive preparation, the teachers displayed student work around the classrooms to encourage discussions about the student's education and efforts.

Overall, Back to School Night fostered an atmosphere of joy among the families who attended and provided parents insight into each student's performance while also offering a glimpse into the daily life and qualities each student brings to the classroom, making a meaningful experience for the community. Thus, we would like to thank the parents for attending this event, as well as the teachers who worked tirelessly to support and inspire our students every day.

PRINCIPAL COLUMN

By: DR. SONG on February 4, 2025

Growing Old vs. Growing Up



As a school principal, I have the opportunity to observe “growth.” Much of that growth is related to students' physical, emotional, academic, relational, and spiritual development. I also witness the professional growth of teachers and administrators, and even some parents' growth in parenting skills!

So, what is “growth?” Merriam-Webster defined growth as the process of growing; increasing in size or amount; becoming greater in prevalence, popularity, or influence; of or related to the period during which something grows and matures.

Given this definition, I contend that growing old is a natural process of increasing in age, generally associated with physical and cellular changes. Every living person grows older every second. For instance, you are now seconds older than when you read the previous sentence! And, depending on one's age or age group, the body changes accordingly. Thus, growing older is just having more hours and days and years under one's belt.

Now, there is a clear difference between growing old and growing up. Growing up is what I'd call growing wiser and more mature. Growing up has more to do with the intangible qualities of a person: maturity in relationships, understanding others' needs, respecting differences, putting aside selfishness and childishness, becoming a servant or developing the servant's heart, taking responsibility rather than blaming others or making excuses, etc.

Here is the important point I want to make: while growing old happens whether you like it or not, not everyone who ages becomes wiser or matures. Many people who are old or older are still unwise or immature. If you've encountered such people, you just shake your head in disbelief.

Then, there are those who are wiser beyond their years. I've seen teenagers who understood their parents' financial struggles and curbed their desire for the latest “fruit” brand computers or phones. I've seen middle school students helping younger students in need during lunch. I've watched high school graduates choose colleges not by the ranks or name recognition but by the affordability and majors offered. I've seen young people make career choices not by salary but by principles and commitment to serve God. Yes, there are those who are clearly wiser than their “years.”



Thus, while growing older is a natural progress, growing up or becoming wiser doesn't happen automatically. In fact, it requires intent or desire, effort and discipline, learning from criticisms, and deep reflection.



Photograph from LinkedIn

For the saints of God, there's another dimension or level of growing up that is found only in God: “But true wisdom and power are found in God; counsel and understanding are his.” (Job 12:12–13). This is explained as follows by Pastor Chuck Swindoll: “Wisdom comes privately from God as a by-product of right decisions, godly reactions, and the application of scriptural principles to daily circumstances. Wisdom comes, for example, not from seeking after a ministry... but more from anticipating the fruit of a disciplined life. Not from trying to do great things for God... but more from being faithful to the small, obscure tasks few people ever see.”

So, are you growing just older or growing up, growing wiser? Let 2025 be the year of growing up, everyone!

TEACHER TALK: MS. STEPHANIE LAU

By: APRIL LEE on February 8, 2025

For this month's Teacher Talk, we had the pleasure of interviewing Ms. Stephanie Lau, our new 1st-grade teacher! As she settles into her first year at NCA, we wanted to get to know her better and learn about her experiences so far. We asked her some questions we were eager to hear the answers to:

1. Could you give us a brief introduction of who you are?

I am originally from Hong Kong, where I was born and raised. As an adult, I relocated to Singapore, where I lived and taught for 8 years. I moved to Los Angeles in 2024, and I have been loving it here so far.

2. What led you to teach at NCA? Why did you want to become a teacher?

Actually, I wanted to be a nurse when I was growing up, but that did not pan out. After earning a degree in Economics from university, I volunteered at a kindergarten while job searching. It was there that I discovered my passion for working with children, which led me to pursue a career in teaching. NCA is the first Christian school I've taught at, and working here has been an answered prayer.

3. How has your experience at NCA been so far? Any



surprises or favorite moments?

It has been really lovely. Everyone -- from staff and students, to their families -- have been incredibly welcoming, kind and supportive. I could not have asked for a better community to be part of.

4. If you could describe your classroom in three words, what would they be?

Inviting, Instructional, Evolving.

5. Since Valentine's Day is coming up, which would you prefer: flowers, chocolates, or handwritten cards?

I would love all of them, but if I had to choose, it'd be handwritten notes and cards. Words of affection and affirmation are my love language, so receiving a heartfelt note or card means a lot to me. I keep every single one!

VALENTINE'S DAY RESTAURANT

By: JOAN HUH on February 8, 2025

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and if you're looking for a memorable spot to celebrate, look no further than Perch in Downtown Los Angeles. Known for its breathtaking views and cozy ambiance, Perch is the perfect destination for couples, friends, or even a self-love dinner outing.

Getting to Perch is an adventure in itself. Upon arrival, you'll take one elevator to an intermediate level, then switch to another elevator guarded by security. This exclusive entry process adds an air of sophistication, making you feel like you're stepping into a secret oasis above the bustling city streets.

The highlight of Perch is undoubtedly its outdoor seating. The rooftop dining area provides panoramic views of Los Angeles, making it an ideal spot to watch the sunset or admire the city skyline under twinkling lights. Whether you're sharing a meal with a significant other or celebrating Galentine's Day with friends, the view alone makes the experience unforgettable.

Perch's menu is just as impressive as its setting. If you're planning a Valentine's dinner, I recommend starting with the baked brie—a creamy, decadent appetizer that pairs perfectly with their fresh bread. For the main course, the steak frites is a

standout. The tender steak is complemented by crispy garlic-and-butter fries that will leave you wanting more.

However, parking can be tricky. Perch offers valet service, which is convenient but comes at an extra cost. Street parking is another option, though it can be unreliable in the busy downtown area. Plan accordingly to avoid any parking stress. The

dress code is formal casual, so you'll feel right at home in a chic dress or a sharp blazer. Perch also hosts special events like jazz nights, adding a lively and romantic touch to the evening.

If you're still deciding where to spend Valentine's Day, give Perch a try. Just don't forget to make a reservation, especially on special occasions. Happy Valentine's Day, Huskies!

WINTER CAMP

By: SKYLER LIU on February 8, 2025

(The official Winter Camp recap will be in the March Issue)

Get excited, Huskies—Winter Camp is almost here!

This year's camp will take place at Oak Glen Christian Conference Center, starting on February 12. Surrounded by beautiful mountains and fresh winter air, we'll have the perfect setting for adventure, bonding, and fun. However, since it will be very snowy and cold, make sure to pack warm clothes like a thick jacket, gloves, a beanie, extra socks, and proper shoes to stay comfortable. Besides staying warm, don't forget to bring your Bible for our meaningful devotion times, as well as a flashlight



Photograph from Carryology


for walking around at night. Packing everything you need will ensure an enjoyable Christian experience.

This year's Winter Camp theme is inspired by Disney's Cars, and campers will be divided into four teams: Red for Lightning McQueen, Brown for Mater, Light Blue for Sally, and Green for Flo. Each team represents the unique traits of these beloved characters. Throughout camp, teams will compete in exciting challenges and activities that promote teamwork, togetherness, and fun. While competition will be part of the experience, the most important goal is to build friendships, enjoy the journey, and make lasting memories together.

A special thanks goes to our high school juniors and Mrs. Bufano, who has put in great effort to organize the teams and plan this year's theme. Their dedication has helped make this camp special for everyone, and we truly appreciate their hard work. As the countdown begins, let's get ready for an amazing time filled with adventure and laughter. Winter Camp is almost here, and we can't wait to see you all there!




Photograph from the New York Times



PACKING LIST

- PERSONAL ITEMS:**
 - Bible
 - Sleeping Bag or Pillow/Blanket/Sheets
 - Extra Clothing
 - Warm Sweater
 - Hat
 - Coat
 - Gloves and scarf in cold weather
 - Shoes, appropriate for weather and walking on uneven terrain
- PERSONAL HYGIENE:**
 - Towels, washcloth
 - Shampoo/Conditioner/Soap
 - Brush/Comb
 - Toothbrush & Toothpaste
 - Medicine - Instructions with any medications
- MISCELLANEOUS:**
 - Notebook, pencil
 - Flashlight or headlamp
 - Insect Repellent
 - Sunscreen
 - Personal water bottle
 - Hangers



Photograph from NCA Huskies' Instagram

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By: KATIE KIM on February 3, 2025

Black History Month, typically celebrated during the month of February, is dedicated to commemorating and celebrating the achievements of African Americans throughout history. It was first recognized in the United States and was officially established in 1976. This event serves as a crucial reminder of the struggles and challenges that members of the African American community have faced in their pursuit for civil rights and social justice in the world.

In Black History month, prominent figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks were significant key players who contributed to the achievements of African Americans to a significant extent through their fight for racial equality. Martin Luther King Jr.'s role undoubtedly had a profound impact on history, as he is not only known for his initiation of nonviolent protests but also his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, which took the world by storm and inspired countless individuals to join the

fight against systemic racism. Additionally, Rosa Parks, recognized as the "mother of the civil rights movement," displayed both bravery and resilience against her opposers by refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus, thus sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott and ultimately motivating the desire for change.

Black History Month is not only a month of reflection of past injustices and events in the world against people of the African American community, but it ultimately serves as a source of inspiration for people to not only learn but also see how they can challenge inequality and promote justice within the world. Although this month is dedicated to honoring the strength and resilience of those from the past, it ultimately reminds us of the importance of achieving a unified society that responds to injustices, so that future generations can live in equality and respect for one another.


We have an Art & Writing column where we proudly display the talents of the students at NCA! If you would like to have your own artwork, poem, or writing piece displayed in next month's edition of The Husky Herald, please email your submissions to hylee@students.e-nca.org along with your name and grade! Submissions can also be anonymous if that happens to be your preference. We look forward to seeing your amazing creations soon!




Go to <https://giving.myamplify.io/app/giving/ncahuskies> and make a donation!

The Husky Herald is published due to the hard work of NCA's Journalism Club each month! The students who worked on this month's issue are Joan Huh, Daisy Dong, Venera Barsukova, Katie Kim, April Lee, Skylar Liu, Kailey Kim, Evelyn Lee, Emily Perez, and Hyemi Lee. Additional thanks to Dr. Jason Song and Charlie Lowry for helping make this month's issue possible.

**BIG BEAR LAKE
HOME RENTAL**






<https://www.meredithlodging.com/vrp/unit/165> - Orioles Nest-2173-15

Contact stephanie.choi@e-nca.org for a 10% discount!

This cabin is owned and operated by an organization that supports NCA.



Shipshape Studio.

PROUDLY SUPPORTS NEW COVENANT ACADEMY

BRAND & WEB DESIGN | SHIPSHAPESTUDIO.COM