

SPIRIT OF THE MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA

This year – we have been privileged to have a young man in our class who was going to need some extra help on the trip to Corpus Christi. I asked some of the guys if they would consider taking him under their wing for the duration of the trip. I explained that they would need to be his mom and dad and that they would have a LOT of responsibility.

After a required waiting period of two weeks to think hard about taking on this task – Yeong was the first to come to say that he would like to volunteer to be Kevin's caretaker. You have to understand that when Yeong was a Freshman – he was going through a pretty rebellious stage and was testing me and my rules whenever he got the chance. We took a couple of field trips that year and both times – Yeong ended up having to stay in eye contact with me the remainder of the trip because I just couldn't trust him to make good decisions.

Through the years – Yeong has matured in many ways. He has advanced greatly as a violist. He has come to understand and respect the rules of the school and the orchestra. I have seen occasions where he was trying to work with some of his friends, trying to convince them to make good decisions. I have seen the moral values that I know Yeong truly believed in become a part of his everyday life. It has been wonderful to watch this progression.

During and after the Corpus trip – I can't even count the number of times another student would come up to me and say that Yeong was going to make a GREAT dad – after watching him interact with Kevin. Yeong would play and tease with Kevin on the trip – yet when Kevin needed instruction – Yeong gave it in a loving and positive way. Yeong helped Kevin buy groceries and eat – he helped Kevin get dressed and organize his things – he even helped Kevin take his showers. Even when Kevin was off playing with some of our other students – Yeong would move over and entertain one of the other kids (other families at our condo, but not in our group) as if he was their best friend.

Kevin came back to Houston absolutely delighted with the trip and I can't help but think that Yeong was a major influence in Kevin's life. I am extremely confident that I made the right choice in pairing up Yeong and Kevin. Yeong made a great sacrifice to do this for Kevin. The other kids on our trip had time to enjoy leisure time and fellowship. Yeong was committed to Kevin and took the responsibility of this task very seriously. It was a great sacrifice.

To me – this is the heart of a mustang. A person who is giving, loving, committed, responsible. I am pleased to present Mr. Yeong Lim, violist, Class of 2003 as the very first recipient of the *SPIRIT OF THE MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA AWARD*.

- Bingiee Shiu