

THE

# LEOPARD PRINT

VOL. 4 NO. 3

# THE ROAD

# NOT TAKEN



# Editor's Letter

"I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference." - Robert Frost

As Robert Frost once wrote in his famous poem, choosing the road not taken makes all the difference. This year, that is what a lot of our secondary students have been doing. This has been a packed year for QSIB: cross country trips, soccer and basketball tournaments, Model United Nations trips, Week Without Walls Greece and Week Without Walls Bishkek, and not to mention the normal academic field trips taking place throughout the year. This has been a year of adventure for the students and we decided to reflect it in the last issue of this year. Although the beginning of the magazine is something you would expect - the usual submissions, in the middle it switches to staff-written articles. We took on something that pushed us a little outside of our line of comfort - not only collecting written pieces and designing pages for them, but also conducting our own interviews. Leopard Print staff member took the lead on writing up one of the year's events. Some took a standard journalistic approach while others took a less-travelled road and explored using satire or a tabloid-esque approach.

This is what this issue is all about - not being afraid to go to one's personal unknown. Let me challenge you to do the same. Do something brand new, push yourself beyond your limits, achieve greatness.

Thank you for your support of the Leopard Print. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Sincerely,

Alisa Kravtchin  
Leopard Print Issue 3 Senior Editor

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### Editorial Note:

As is our custom, we have not edited the articles we received (with only a few minor exceptions.) Grammar and spelling errors have been retained as an artifact, a record, of where each student was at a certain time in his or her writing career.

### Issue 1 Staff:

Issue 1 Senior Editor: Alisa Kravtchin  
Anna Matheron  
Hyerin Yoo  
Daryn Usupova  
Sasha Loboda  
Evelyn Kim  
Advisor: Chris Hilgeman



# THE PERFECT SHAPE OF A SANDWICH


BY: MARAT UZBEKOV



What do you know about bread? A simple baked food made out of flour, water and yeast? Surprisingly, there is much more to bread, especially the way in which it is cut. The way you cut your bread can affect your health, possibly tell about your personality, and finally influence your experience when eating.

The way you cut your bread affects your health. An explanation to this is, “If your bread is square, and if each side is 4 inches long, you

have 16 inches of crust. Cut that bread down the middle, and you get 8 inches of crust-free surface. Cut that same bread diagonally ... and you end up with almost 11 inches of crustless surface. That’s a substantial increase” (Rectangles Vs. Triangles: The Great Sandwich Debate). In essence, the more times you cut your bread, the more crustless surface you have. While this sounds pretty convenient for some people, it is actually a bad thing. According to



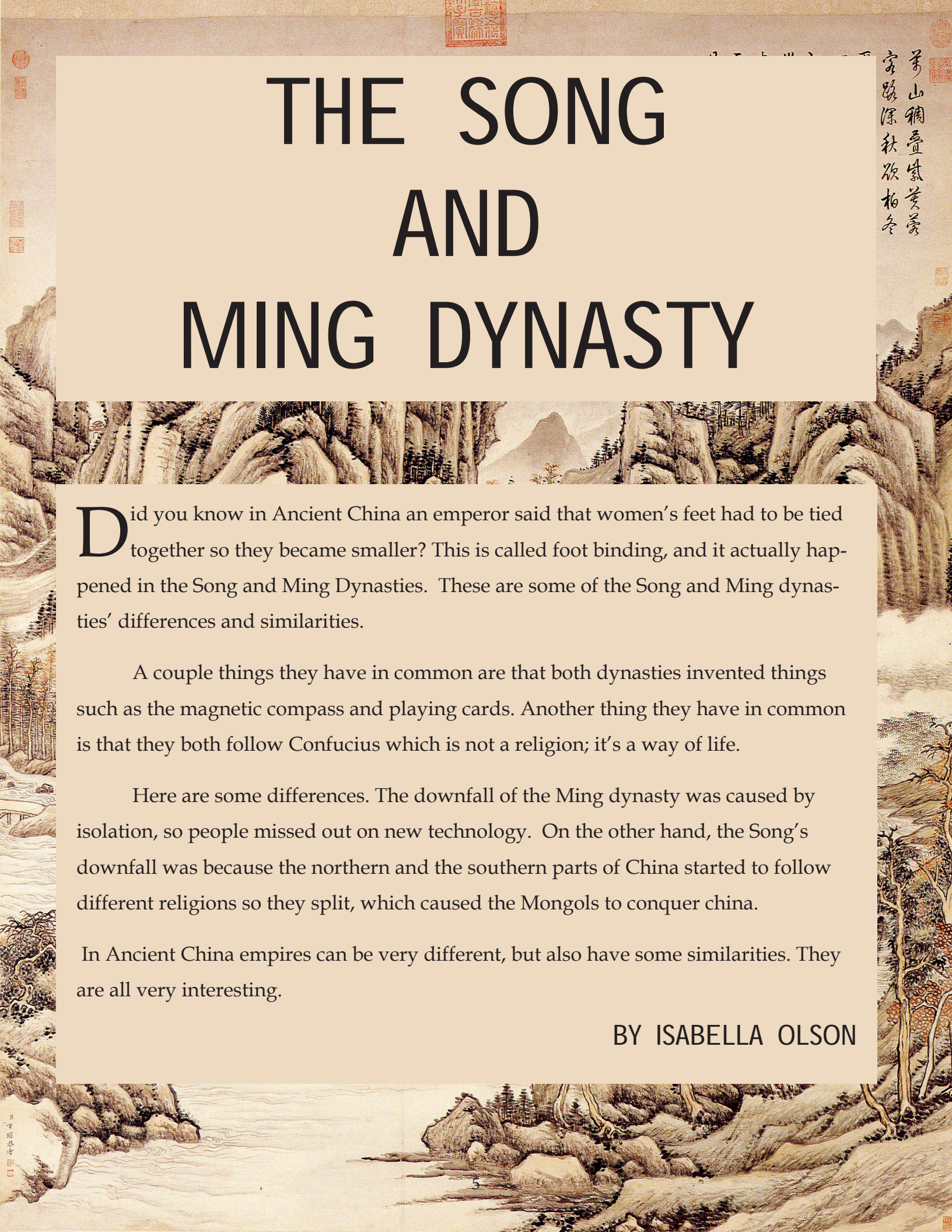
Science Daily, the crust is rich in antioxidants, which significantly affects health in a good way, like preventing cancer and strengthening the heart (Bread Crust And Stuffing Rich In Healthy Antioxidants). In addition, “Crust-derived antioxidant is the most effective component in bread for boosting the level of phase II enzymes, which have been shown in previous studies to play a role in cancer prevention” (Bread Crust And Stuffing Rich In Healthy Antioxidants). Although the biggest reason for cutting off crust in the mind’s of people is because it is hard or just overall untasty, there may be other factors that come into play, such as the personality of the sandwich consumer.

It is possible that the way you cut your bread might reveal information about your personality. For example, an article which reflects on personalities, “Squares...are some of the most organized and detailed people. They are dedicated and can be counted on to do what they say ”(Jacobs). Furthermore, “Triangles are a bit obsessive-compulsive and the most detailed and focused of all shapes. They’re competitive and fight to win...” (Jacobs). This sounds logical, since those who cut bread in triangles go through the extra steps in cutting the bread twice, whereas those who cut bread in squares go through the extra step in cutting off the crust (Alison Stone and Andrew Lemke). In addition, there are also those who simply cut two pieces of bread and slap on top of each other. Those people, on contrast to triangles and squares, are considered either lazy or very traditional, following the usual etiquette of sandwiches (Alison Stone and Andrew Lemke). With this in mind, you can find out what type of person your boss or your friend is, and use it to your advantage to bond with them. To broaden the idea further, you could even arrange a party and meet some new friends, however first you

would need to know which shape should you cut your bread into; this will be discussed in the next paragraph.

The shape into which the bread is cut influences the experience of the eater. “Since the time of the pyramids, architects have always understood the supremacy of the diagonal line, says Kevin Harris” (Rectangles Vs. Triangles: The Great Sandwich Debate). Diagonal lines, in the human eye, were always considered superior to the normal straight lines. According to Alyssa, a RC Willey blogger, diagonal lines are considered energetic and exciting when compared to horizontal lines mainly due to the fact that the eyes and mind are stimulated (Alyssa). If two sandwiches were laid in front of a sandwich consumer, the sandwich consumer would naturally go for the triangle, and the triangular shape would overall make the consumption of the sandwich more ‘fun’ and ‘interesting’ for the eater. “Horizontal lines suggest a solid, harmonious relationship with the earth, and offer a sense of tranquility” (Alyssa). In conclusion, horizontally cut sandwiches will not influence the experience of the eater, thus making triangular shaped sandwiches superior.

To sum up, the way you cut your bread can tell numerous things: how healthy you are, your personality, and make an ordinary sandwich seem more exciting. In all honesty, there isn’t a person walking on this Earth that wouldn’t agree on knowing everything about bread, which in most cases is wrong. For example, in France it is considered to be a cultural offense to even cut bread, instead they simply rip it in pieces (Are You A French Bread Etiquette Offender?). Knowing these things will overall impact your life in a good way, since bread is something almost all of us interact with (unless you’re allergic to gluten; tough luck).



山嶺疊嶂  
秋欲相冬

# THE SONG AND MING DYNASTY

Did you know in Ancient China an emperor said that women's feet had to be tied together so they became smaller? This is called foot binding, and it actually happened in the Song and Ming Dynasties. These are some of the Song and Ming dynasties' differences and similarities.

A couple things they have in common are that both dynasties invented things such as the magnetic compass and playing cards. Another thing they have in common is that they both follow Confucius which is not a religion; it's a way of life.

Here are some differences. The downfall of the Ming dynasty was caused by isolation, so people missed out on new technology. On the other hand, the Song's downfall was because the northern and the southern parts of China started to follow different religions so they split, which caused the Mongols to conquer china.

In Ancient China empires can be very different, but also have some similarities. They are all very interesting.

BY ISABELLA OLSON

# THE POLYNESIANS AND VIKINGS

BY DYLAN MONTGOMERY

Imagine staying up all night and pulling rope to keep your boat from crashing. Imagine having to build your own boat. Two groups of people in ancient history had to struggle through these difficult tasks. The Vikings and Polynesians had many similarities and differences.

One similarity is that both cultures built large, safe boats. Furthermore, both were willing to sail into the uncharted waters. Lastly, both claimed new Islands for their country. These are only some of the many similarities between the Polynesians and the Vikings.

Though there were many similarities, you cannot forget about the differences. The Polynesians came from the South Pacific, whereas the Vikings were from the Northwestern Europe. Also, the Polynesians navigated using the ocean and stars. In contrast the Vikings navigated using a sun dial. Finally, the Polynesians' reason for sailing was to trade; however, the Vikings' reason for sailing was to conquer.

The Polynesians and Vikings were two daring groups of people. They could not simply go down to the store and buy food and clothes. They had to get into their homemade boat and sail to trade for things they needed. I think that both the Polynesians and the Vikings were very adventurous explorers and I would have liked to live in that time.

# Lord Of The Flies

## Book Review

**Tracey Evans**

William Golding's novel Lord of the Flies takes us on the journey a group of young boys, who have been stranded on a deserted island, must travel. He highlights the fact that even children can be devilish and consumed with the need and thought of having power, which brings out their inner beast. Ralph has been chosen to lead, but Jack refuse to follow the rules and causes division in the group because he feels he should have been the one chosen.

The age of the boys is not given, but clearly Ralph is more mature than Jack. Ralph seems to be concerned about the welfare of everyone. He is trying to create a civilization that the boys are familiar with. He has established rules and made building a shelter his first priority. Jack on the other hand seems only to be interested in having power and showing off his ungifted ability to hunt. He doesn't seem to understand the importance of having order. Their arguments got in the way of the safety of the group.

The bad things seem to always happen to the good. The author could have shown more mercy on the characters who were nice. The characters that were mean and thought themselves better than others should not have been spared. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who desires to understand what happens when two very different personalities fight for power is the rating I will give the novel.



The year was 1970. The flowers were blooming and the lakes were getting hot. The birds were chirping and the sun was coming up. It was going to be a hot day. Kids were walking to school with their backpack on their shoulders, wearing jackets, boots, and yawning like a bear coming out of hibernation.

One of the girls named Elly had long blonde hair and turned 14 two weeks ago. She was walking with a boy named Luke; he was 15 years old. On their way, they saw a fox with blue eyes. Elly and Luke walked over to the fox. At first they overlooked the bag in his claws as he ran towards them. They collided into each other and the bag exploded, pink and blue candy was everywhere.

"Eat that candy, eat that candy, but you will get sick five days from now, for five days if you do," the fox said nervously. The fox was magical and nice; he had a kind heart.

Elly and Luke said, "you are lying." Then they ate all the candy. They did not listen to the fox nor leave any for him to eat. The fox got sad and cried because he knew the kids would get sick and they did not think of him. The kids ran off to school. When they knocked on the classroom door, their teachers shouted, "YOU ARE LATE!" They didn't care what the teacher said because they got to eat all the candy.

Five days later, both Elly and Luke were throwing up all over the place and couldn't go back to school for 5 days. The kitchen walls, their bedrooms, and their bathrooms, as well as their showers turned a new paint color of pink and blue. When they were better, they went back to school and ran into the fox. They said "sorry" to the fox. They learned that they should share and not be greedy by eating too much candy. To show kindness and politeness, they handed the fox a dead chicken to eat. The moral of this story is to always share, be kind, and healthier foods.

**IT'S PINK AND BLUE FOR YOU**

By The 7 Year Old Class

# Art

Something of the ordinary  
Something quite extraordinary  
What our world creates  
On no specific date

You can do it anywhere  
By the tree  
Or on the chair  
Something that is quite fair

Art is found anywhere we look  
Even in a book  
Or on your dining table,  
And in a colorful label

Art is made of many things  
On a pattern of a birds wing  
Mother Nature is Art  
Art can even be a dart

*By Aysel Hamlin*

# *Fairytale Canyon*

Rocks rumbling  
Huge dry plants everywhere  
The coarse smell of dust  
And parallel to us  
Enormous mountains shaped like faces  
Rugged rocks scraping my skin  
Then we turn back  
One by one  
Sliding down the steep,  
Sandy mountain  
Faces disappearing

*By Filippo-Valerio Sarandrea*



# MUN in ASTANA

By Hyerin Yoo

Most of the students who joined the school MUN activity participated in the small conference that took place in Astana. This is an interview with two students, who were at the conference: Anna Matheron and Salima Isakhunova.

They had different debate topics and different experiences.

**HY:** Was this your first MUN experience?

**SI:** No, it's my second MUN trip.

**AM:** No, it was my second since I went to the Astana conference last year.

**HY:** What did you think about the conference?

**SI:** The conference was very informative, fun, and engaging. Everything was running smoothly and we got some interesting and unexpected results.

**AM:** This conference was much better, at least for me, personally I was very sick last year and did not speak a word, but this

year I represented Russia in the debate for space colonization which automatically made me a big part of the debate. I can't explain how proud I am of myself because of the part that I took, I spoke clearly, with clear arguments and that was a whole new thing for me. Last year, also I only signed a resolution paper, this year I wrote one with the help of multiple other delegates that became great friends. And now, my greatest pride is to see that "best young delegate" award on my shelf. So I can easily say that this conference was much better than the past other one.



**HY:** Which trip did you like more (personally and instructively)?

**SI:** I like the second one more, because I actually knew what was going on during the conference so I was a big part of the debate, and I had a lot more fun with friends!

**AM:** Personally, I liked last year's trip better, the fact that there were less people made it easier for us to get closer. But again instructively this year made me learn so much it is my favorite by far.

**HY:** Is it true that this was actually a secret agents' meeting, pretending like MUN on the outside?

**SI:** This is confidential information ;))) we were actually planning world domination.

**AM:** I did see some shady people that

were weirdly quiet during the conference so I believe so.

**HY:** Did you actually go to deal with mafia?

**SI:** They were disguised as delegation of Japan. That is all.

**AM:** Do you mean the shady man that was handing Ms. Correa the briefcase with the money? I do not know anything about that.

**HY:** What was the most shocking (surprising) thing you learned in this trip?

**SI:** That North Korea actually had pretty valid reasons for being the way it is right now.

**AM:** The fact that I, too can have a voice in this world.

# Week With

**Q. What was the funniest thing during the WWW ?**

Trampoline Park, because throwing Ms. Alicia and Evelyn in the foam pit was hilarious. We were jumping around, but when people started throwing people in the foam pit, world war 3 had busted out. One after another, everyone started pushing each other in the foam pit. Me and Abdul threw Ms. Alicia in the pit like fifty times, she even lost her keys there. By the way, throwing people in the foam pit was funny, but not as funny seeing Roman falling off the zip line during the ropes course. ( Alan )

**Q. How do you think about communny service during WWW ?**

This time we went to local nursery house near school and planted apple trees for people there. It was meaningfull and worthwhile. Moreover, it was the activity that stands out as community service, it was a good way that we could help people who need to be helped. I think we should keep these kinds of programs related to local society ( Roman )

It is a good idea to help with community service, some people did it for the first time, it is a great way to show people how to give back to nature and to their community. Also, spending more time with people there next time would be great ( Alan )

**Q. What was the best moment from each of day activiities and trip**

The best part of WWW this year was Thai food! We went to the Thai restaurant which I didn' t even know before. It was interesting to learning about ingredients which is necessary for making Thai food and watching our food getting cooked! The food was very nice ...I ate two plates! During trip to Ashu, I think Kok boru was one of the scenes. During the game, there fought two players because one player whipped the other' s horse. It just happened in the blink. They started punching each other hence they got excluded from match as penalty. It was not that pleasant moment but very impressive. ( Tanya )

**Q. What was memorable thing in Ashu ?**

The people who live in the village, they were polite and friendly, especially

# out Walls

kids. Because when I went with miss Correa to look for a store, I asked a local lady and she was really happy to help us, showing us where to go even with lovely smile. Outside of guest house, I saw one girl who wave us while smiling. It was random but nice. People's smile even make me smile too. (Noora)

Q. What do you think about going outside of Bishkek?

I think it will be interesting to do this for a change. Something that's outside of Bishkek's WALLS. I recommend to go to Issykul for next WWW trip, because it's beautiful there and we still have a lot of people who haven't been to Issykul yet even though it is one of the tourist's attraction of Kyrgyzstan (Noora)

Q. How do you think about teachers who arranged www?

I really appreciate to teachers and staff for all of activities. It was great that our school organized the program as an international school. We get to learn about a culture of host country we live in. I think we should more incorporate more cultural excavation next year. (Tanya)

Thanks to the teachers for planning the great week. It was something exciting that out of ordinary what we do every week, something other than working inside looking at textbooks, trapped in the classroom. Doing a week outside in nature, cooperate with local people carried good influence for students. (Noora)



# MUN in Copenhagen Denmark



*Some of the students participating in the Model United Nations Club were given the ability to go to Copenhagen to attend conferences. I interviewed two students: Evelyn Kim and Hyejin Yoo about their thoughts and experiences on the trip.*

AK : Was this your first out of school trip?

EK: This is my second trip from QSI Bishkek, and my first MUN trip.

HY: Among this school year, no, not my first school trip, but my first MUN trip.

AK: Was this your first MUN experience?

Both: yes

HY: Actually, this is my third time doing the club, but I never went to the conference because the timing wasn't right every time.

AK: was this time different?

HY: what do you mean?

AK: I mean the organization overall, the experience?

HY: I mean it all depends on the director and I think Ms. Correa did a really good job.

AK: Evelyn, what was your thoughts on the club and how it worked before going to the actual conference?

EK: Actually this is the first real international school for me, before that I joined a lot of clubs that didn't actually go outside of school. It was so nice to actually organize something from school and then go there, and we joined with the other people from different countries and stuff...

AK: What was your thoughts on the trip itself?

HY: It was new and I think its worth going rather than not going. I do not regret going to the MUN trip and I got a friend and knew how to deal with politics. I gained a lot from this trip.

AK: So this was a new experience that you really liked?

HY: Of course, yeah, this was my first time going to Denmark.

AK: What about you Evelyn?

EK: It was worth it. This is a good opportunity to me to speak in front of people, even in English. I have





never been in this big conference in the other country.

This was a good experience.

AK: What did you think of the conference itself and how it was organized?

HY: Since this is my first conference I cannot really compare to other ones. I think, considering them as a student of my age, they did a really great job when organizing the systems and I didn't know how other Chairs did, but I really liked my [chairperson], how he did the chairing, how he directed the flow of the conference itself.

AK: What about you Evelyn?

EK: I think they did a really good job, they were really independent and the conference was so well organized because its like 400 people out of Denmark and they're coming from other countries so 400 is 4 times my school, but only 9 people, they get to manage everything, they organize everything from the conference to the accommodation and like tour and everything, it was so impressive.

AK: Did it fit your expectations, were your expecta-

tions higher or lower.

HY: They were much higher than my expectations, well I did expect a high level of conference and discussions, but yeah, it was more than I expected.

AK: What was your thoughts on the trip itself?

HY: Overall the trip was great, I made good memories with friends and I liked Denmark and I just feel bad that I didn't really have time to go over the whole Denmark. I just wish it wasn't the MUN trip. I really wanna visit the place with the same members and go through the same places and make new memories there. I think that would be a good idea.

AK: Evelyn, your thoughts?

EK: It was cold. ...

AK: Seriously, that's it? The only thing?

EK: Its like, it was a good place, but it was kind of a shame that we didn't have enough time to look around everywhere, but since it wasn't just a school trip, but an MUN trip, I think, in terms of MUN, we did a lot of stuff.

AK: Thank you guys.

# WEEK WITHOUT TRUTH?

## A Satirical Leopard Print Investigative Article



*Was this photo edited professionally to make it look like these students were at this Greek amphitheatre when they actually were not? Experts disagree. Perhaps we'll never know.*

Much has already been written in other school publications about this year's Week Without Walls international trip to Greece. Students have repeatedly said how much they enjoyed the trip and the time spent together; highlights have included their countryside accommodations, visiting historic sites, and getting to know other students they didn't know as well. While this may sound like a quality educational trip that encourages both academic and social growth, *could the truth be more sinister?*

We at the Leopard Print, in our ongoing effort to root out a scoop, decided to pursue the story further to see if the trip was truly as beneficial as everyone seemed to indicate. Using time-honored journalistic skills such as leading questions, fake evidence, psychological manipulation, baseless accusations, and biased editing of interview responses, we hope to reveal some of the dark side of what really occurred on the Week Without Walls international trip of 2018.

Several members of the trip agreed to sit down and talk to us about their experiences of the trip. Interviews responses have been combined and edited to meet the bias of this article. In order to ~~save text space~~ protect identities, names have been shortened to the initials of the interviewees.

***Is it safe for you to speak right now? If not and we're being listened to, blink at some point in the next 60 seconds.***

(It should be noted that all interviewees did blink at some point within that 60 second window.)

***At what point did you realize the trip had gone horribly, horribly wrong?***

A&H: I don't think there was a moment like that. We had fun the whole time.

MB: It didn't go horribly, horribly wrong.

K: I think it was when Daniel stepped on the seashell. I was wearing crocs but everybody else had no shoes.

***If I'm hearing you correctly, you were the only one wearing protective footwear on a beach covered in life-threatening shells. Is this a coincidence? For the record, are you willing to say that you did not try to bump off Daniel? Was there anything Daniel might have done to make you angry?***

K: No it, was an accident.



*Genuine picture or genuine fake? Experts only became suspicious of this photo once they noticed shadows pointing in slightly different angles.*

***During which part of the trip were you most afraid for your life?***

MB: I was never afraid for my life. I always felt safe. I must say, I'm sort of blindsided by your questions.

K: I never was afraid.

***You weren't worried at all that the Butlers might put a pillow over your head while you slept in order to collect insurance money?***

K: (thoughtful pause) Possibly.

***If you had to do the trip again, why wouldn't you go?***

A&H: Some of the water was yellow.

***Do you think it was really water?***

A&H: (pause followed by a nervous tone) What do you mean, do I think it was really water?

***What do you think was the real purpose of the trip?***

A&H: Maybe a conspiracy. The villa was far away for everything except this one house who played karaoke music really loudly.

***I see. What do you think might have actually been going on at the house?***

A&H: (thinking) A cult?

MB: The real purpose was to experience a new culture, to show them that education can happen truly without walls-

***Why is it you people always want to put walls around children?***

***Moving on. Are you aware that the words "Athens, Greece" is really an anagram for "He Crates Gene." Who is Gene?***

A&H: Probably the leader of the cult from the house next to us.

***Did you meet Gene?***

A&H: We saw him. He was doing barbecue.

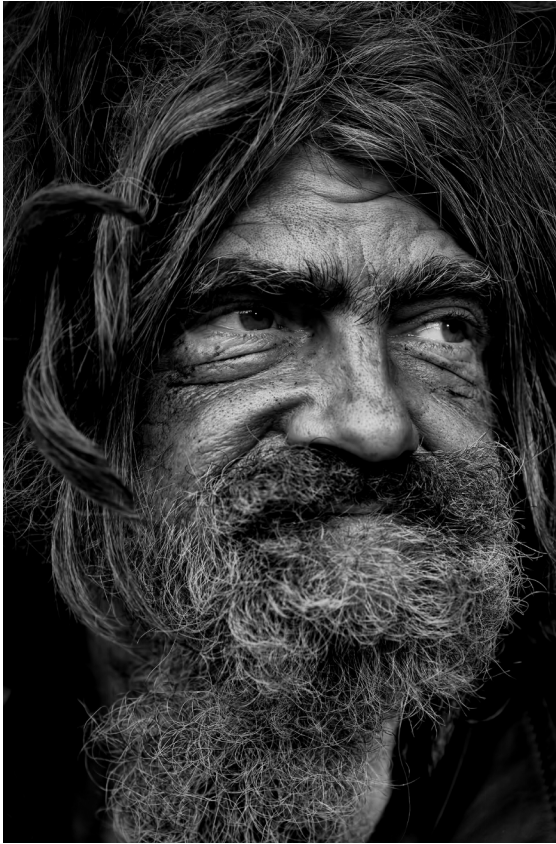
***This trip was marketed as an educational trip. However, why would it be more accurate to claim it was a retreat of a new religious cult? For example, I can't help but notice that all of our interview respondents have been wearing some sort of black as part of their outfit today. Coincidence? I'm not saying you're a cult-***

M: That's what you're implying.

***Oh, totally.***



*A suspicious drawing by an elementary student taken on the trip, drawn during art class a week after the trip.*



*“Yes, I saw the group from QSI,” claims local fisherman Alexis Paupapolis. He continued, “I saw them walking down the street from - THE VOICES, OH THE VOICES!”*

M: I think everyone being in Greece together and then wearing the same clothes a week later is a very weak connection.

***I think it’s a very strong connection – probably even admissible in court.***

K: It was more of a vacation than a cult. But there was this toy dog we found in one of the rooms that we started passing from one person to another.

***Sort of like a religious symbol?***

K: Yeah.

***So maybe the stepping on a shell could have been like a sacrifice to the dog? A religious ritual?***

K: Probably.

A&H refused to comment on the question about this

being a trip about a cult and instead showed what could best be characterized as a, “He knows!” expression on their faces.

***You claim to have travelled to Greece during Week Without Walls. However, some have examined the video and photographic evidence and find some disturbing discrepancies. Is it not true that the entire trip was simply recreated on a Hollywood sound stage as a propaganda tactic and in fact you never went to Greece in the first place?***

MB: I don’t know where those claims have come from, but if that is true, it was very, very well done. It was an actual trip. We had a lovely time. Although [based on this interview] I am beginning to doubt the [reality of] the trip and feel like I’ve stepped into some alternate reality. I think I may need to look at your questions before agreeing to any interview in the future.

K: There were people we met, tickets that were issued, photographs...

***So there’s no way you could have paid off some people to say they met you or printed off some tickets on a printer, or photoshopped some photos...***

K: (laughs, and starts edging toward the door)  
***What I’m hearing is that there’s no concrete evidence you were ever in Greece.***

K: Yeah.

A&H: (In response to the allegation about the trip not actually happening.) That’s a rumor. Don’t believe it.

***Do you have proof?***

A&H: My mother has a Greek necklace she bought.

***Similar to, say, Greek necklaces available for purchase on ebay? What I’m hearing is, it’s probably accurate that you never actually went to Greece?***

A&H: (pause, thinking)

***I’ll take that silence as a yes.***

# INTERVIEW WITH A RUNNER

By: Anna Matheron

*During the month of October, 12 students went to Almaty to compete in the 3K and 5K races. I interviewed their coach, Martin Butler to see what he thought of the trip.*

AM: Have you ever taken children to a cross country races before? How different was it this time?

MB: Yes, last year. It was really similar this time, though it was much better since we didn't have to deal with the weather and it made it easier for everybody to run.

AM: How did you feel at the beginning of the race?

MB: I was jealous I was thinking "Dang I'd like to be in their place, wait no y'all go guys run!". I was excited though it was so amazing to see you all at the starting line

AM: How did you feel at the end?

MB: Proud. No matter the place you were all so happy with yourselves I was really proud of you guys.

AM: Did you feel like the other contestants were threatening to us?

MB: It didn't really matter to me I was mainly focused on you guys. Honestly what place you came in didn't matter to me, I did it mostly for experience.

AM: What can you say about the trip overall?

MB: It was really fun I am remembering the meal, and it was nice to have everybody in the beginning of the year.

AM: Would you do it again?

MB: Yes, just not this year, next year.





# QSIB Insider

Daryn Usupova

Basketball Edition



**Daniel put the team together, he made sure we connected...**



**Sasha-WELL someone can't jump, with the height of 183 cm. (looks at Alisa)**



**Daniel-I paid Kairat to come to the games. I'm bribing kids at this point.**

**Alex-Daniel gets very emotional after the games.**

**Alan-Who's Daniel? Oh yaaa that guy, I use his water bottle every time. He's alright.**





**Alan-Well I am already dead inside,  
you can't kill me  
twice.**



**Daniel-There's no hope.**

# Worst



# Miss

It was a windy November morning in Almaty at Haileybury International School. My teammates and I were warming up on the moist grass. We stretched and ran laps then coach gathered us for the usual team meeting. I was feeling very confident we were finally going to play girls our age. Finally a fair game I thought then I realized that coach was still talking and I zoned back in. He said "We can win this if you focus and play hard". Then we put our hands together "Snow Leopards on three. ONE TWO THREE SNOW LEOPARDS" rang through the air. I grabbed my gloves off the floor and ran to shake the rival team's hands.

Quickly I ran back to the familiar space of the goalie box. The game started out in our favour we scored quickly and I saved most of the shots. Close to the end of half-time we were winning by one point my heart was racing I was so happy that I got distracted and unfocused. That's when the ball flew over the field. The defence had gone up and was struggling to run down the field. I knew that it was up to me now. I watched the small girl as she was sprinting towards me. I focused on the quickly approaching ball. My muscles tensed in preparation for the lunge, I was about to take. Then the moment came... the girl shot with immense strength and precision. But I was able to deflect the ball at this point the defence was back in place nevertheless the girl still got another shot this time when I tried to block it bounced off my leg and went into the goal. Then time froze rage filled me and for some time I just laid there unable to believe the idiocy of my actions.

After the goal the half-time whistle was blown. I gathered myself and went to get

water. After around 3 minutes we were called back to the field. I still hadn't shaken of the feeling of failure but tried to move forward. I pulled my gloves on and strapped them in tightly. I promised myself I wasn't going to be humiliated again; and for some time I kept my promise but then the ball came rushing at me and so did 3 other girls. I threw myself at the ball but I couldn't get a grip on it so it rolled off. Then a girl crashed into me and knocked my glasses off. I quickly scampered toward them and picked them up. I checked if they were broken completely forgetting about my responsibilities as goalie. Haileybury took advantage of this and took a close distance shot. It wasn't very powerful so I got the chance to see how the ball roll in again. This time it wasn't rage that filled me but instead a deep shame. I hated the fact that I let my team, and coach down. I put my glasses on and walked with my head held low back to my position.

The rest of the game passed like a sped up video. I missed a couple more goals but it didn't matter to me anymore I couldn't possibly feel any worse than I did already. But I was wrong when the game ended and we shook hands with the rival team I remembered all the idiotic things I had done this game and I felt even more incompetent than before.

By Alex Boeva



