

*San Ramon*



# Hansamo

2012-2013 Winter Newsletter

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# Timeline of San Ramon Hansamo Events

This is a timeline on all of the hardwork and achievements of San Ramon Hansamo in the last 6 months.



Hansamo Parents Seminar-September 28, 2012 at the DVHS Career Center. The seminar gave parents an introduction about the high school career and preparation for college for students. Guest speakers included DVHS principal, Jason Reimann and Education Director of SF Korean Consul, JooShik Shin.



Hansamo Fundraising Golf Tournament-October 20, 2012 at Castlewood Hills Golf Course. A golf tournament to help fundraise and support the Korean classes at DVHS. VIPs such as the Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen, San Ramon Mayor Bill Clarkson, Korean General Consulate of SF Lee Jungkwan, and many more attended.



Award Ceremony-December 19, 2012 at the Bridges Club House. A collaboration event with the Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen and SR Hansamo. Scholarships and volunteering awards were handed out.



First Hansamo Newsletter released. Starting members of Hansamo Press team pictured.

## “열 번 찍어 안 넘어가는 나무 없다.”

English Romanized: (Yul Bun JjeekuhAhnNumuhgahneunNamuUbt Dah)

The literal meaning of this saying is, “There is no tree that can withstand 10 strikes.” Figuratively, this means that any goal is attainable no matter how hard or unreachable it may seem. This adage motivates people that are doubtful of what they can achieve. For example, Edison said after he failed 700 times before building a successful light bulb, “I have not failed 700 times. I have not failed once. I have succeeded in proving that those 700 ways will not work. When I have eliminated the ways that will not work, I will find the way that will work.” He didn’t stop when he failed multiple times. Instead, he kept trying until he finally reached his goal.

- Andrew Shin



# Spreading Korean Culture

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**In March of 2011, Hansamo started as a small group of Korean parents** who wanted to spread Korean culture in the San Ramon area. In just two years, it has grown into a well-known nonprofit organization. Not only has the Hansamo grown but so has the Korean culture within San Ramon. As of now, Dougherty Valley High School

provides a Korean class as a world language for the students to learn and the Hansamo has received lots of support from local Korean businesses. The progress of Hansamo and the Korean class could not have made it this far without a beginning. It all started with a parent meeting to discuss the creation of a Korean class at Dougherty Valley. This meeting was conducted in March 2011. Korean parents gathered together and discussed the benefits of having a Korean class in the community. Along with the parents were students who discussed the creation of a Korean club at school to spread the culture. The parents and students had agreed on the idea of having a Korean class at school would be a



beneficial and thus was the creation of Hansamo.

To have a class created however, there needed to be money to fund for the expenses. With that goal in mind, Hansamo thought of holding a fundraising golf tournament. This tournament was held at the Blackhawk Golf Course on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The tournament was sponsored by local businesses with Hyundai Motors as their main sponsor that supported the Hansamo and the creation of the Korean class. The staff consisted of parent and student volunteers. Over a hundred people participated in the tournament and helped raise money for the Korean class. The golf tournament was a success and helped create the Korean class at Dougherty Valley.

Korean culture was slowly but surely spreading. To further spread Korean Culture, the parents of Hansamo planned for months to host a Korean culture night. As time went by, the culture night which was supposed to be held January 2012, was moved to May and was renamed a culture festival. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Korean Culture Festival was held at Dougherty Valley High School. Many parents and students volunteered that day. With food stands along with traditional Korean games, many families came to the festival and indulged themselves in the culture. As the day progressed, there was a K-pop contest that many students participated in and it was definitely a highlight of that day. Later that evening, there were performances by traditional instrumental players and Urisawe. The event was

overwhelmingly successful. Even the Mayor of San Ramon Bill Clarkson, Vice Mayor David Hudson, the General Consul Jung Kwan Lee came to visit the festival. Through this event, money was raised to support the Korean class as it continued to spread its culture.



To be able to spread the Korean culture even more and support the Korean language classes, Hansamo planned another golf tournament to continue funding the Korean class. Five months after the culture festival, the fundraising golf tournament was held at Castlewood Golf Course on October 20, 2012. Just as the golf tournament held in the previous year, the parents and students volunteered. About one hundred participants participated this tournament. Once again, local businesses and Hyundai Motors as their main sponsor for the second year sponsored the event. The tournament ended successfully with more than \$20 thousand from fundraising. A

dinner reception was given for the participants and there were prizes awarded to the winners. The event ultimately raised money to aid the Korean class and for future Hansamo events in spreading Korean cultures.

With the support of Hansamo and the parents and students wanting to spread Korean culture, the Korean class was formed and the students, both Korean and non-Korean, have been able to experience Korean culture. Thus, they have expanded their knowledge of Korea and the dynamic culture in it. As the culture spreads, more events that will continue to spread the legacy that Hansamo has already created, have high anticipations. - **Jenny Lee**

# Dokdo's Value

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As many people already know, there is an old ongoing dispute between Korea and Japan over the Dokdo Islets (독도), also called Takeshima in Japan and the Liancourt Rocks by the western world. Dokdo is administered by Korea, but is claimed by both Korea and Japan.

The dispute has reached a new peak last fall, when South Korea's President, Lee Myung-Bak, visited the islands. Japan reacted furiously, even recalling their ambassador in Seoul in protest.

It is obvious that Dokdo is Korean land, but why is Japan so obsessed with a tiny island in the middle of nowhere? One reason that makes Dokdo so valuable is the abundance of natural resources and assets near it.

Residents living in Ulleung Island, a medium-sized Korean island near Dokdo, practically live off Dokdo's resources. About 60 percent of their fish and other marine products come from waters around Dokdo. 2900 tons (metric) out of a total of 4903 fish were caught around Dokdo.

Dokdo and neighboring areas are abundant with plankton and fish including cod and flatfish. This is largely due to the North Korean Cold Current meeting with the Tsushima Warm Current. Researchers also say that there are diverse ecosystems ranging from seaweed to shrimps to shells.

Another major natural resource is gas hydrate. It is believed that some 600 million tons of gas hydrate are deposited along the seabed extending from Dokdo to Guryongpo, a city along the Eastern coast of Korea. Gas hydrate is a solid state of natural gas, mainly consisting of methane. It might be possible to convert it into liquid natural gas if the technology becomes available. Converted into money, they would worth around 150 billion dollars. Dokdo and its surrounding water are also very valuable in scientific terms because it is home to many different organisms.

- Andrew Shin



# Mysteries of Gyeongbok Gung

1867, Joseon was under the rule of King Daewongun. The derelict grounds that had been deserted for 273 years were finally restored. Construction of rebuilding the magnificent palace began. 330 grand buildings were standing. Offices and living quarters for the King and government officials were assigned. Gyeongbokgung was, once again, the central palace of Joseon.

## Modern Gyeongbok Palace

Today, Gyeongbokgung is a popular destination located in Seoul. Its magnificent buildings and dynamic environment draw hundreds of tourists every day. To see such traditional culture in the midst of one of the busiest cities in the world make this a memorable visit for many people. However, the palace is not just several buildings and walls. There are fascinating discoveries that can be witnessed once inside the gates of Gyeongbokgung.

## Exploring the Palace

The main attractions inside Gyeongbokgung are the main gate (gwanhwamun), King's quarter(gangyeongjun), throne hall (geunjeongjeon), royal banquet hall (gyeonghoeru), Queen's quarter's (gyotaejeon), Hyangwonjeong Pavilion, and the royal library (jibokjae). The King's quarters, Gangnyeongjeon hall, was the King's bedchamber since the reign of King Taejo, the founder of Joseon, who first built the palace in 1395 AD. The interesting thing about this building is the absence of the top white roof ridge, called the yongmaru. This ridge symbolizes the dragon, "yong" (or *yong* (龍).) This ridge was not built on the King's bedroom because of the myth/theory that the dragon can not be above the King when he sleeps. This building has another feature that most tourists do not catch. Under the stone pillars supporting the building, there are small openings that lead up to the interior of the building. These passageways were emergency exits for the King if an enemy force had intruded the palace.



The throne hall, Geunjeongjeon, was the King's main ruling hall. This colorful and massive building is probably the most visited part of the palace. Here, the King greeted foreign envoys, made declarations, and discussed various topics with his officials. In front of the building is the large quad made of rectangular stone tiles. The purpose of these tiles were to organize rainfall on the ground so it would flow out of the palace to prevent flooding. If you visit the palace during a rainy day, you get to experience the effects these tiles make on the rain. There are also less tourists when it rains and you can stay dry under the rooftop extensions.

Throughout the palace, there are stone sculptures of zodiac animals. Most are dragons or tigers, but there are a variety of each of the twelve animals. Some are sculpted at random places, making them look natural. Another small wonder are the chimneys. There are fireplaces built in certain rooms for warmth, cooking, or religious purposes. The smoke from these fires are not taken out via the roof (like our modern homes do), but transferred through underground chimneys that deposit the smoke behind the buildings. The smoke comes out through beautifully designed chimneys that resemble miniature pagodas. In the winter, these chimneys add to the magnificent snow that blends in with the buildings.



- Caleb Choi





## Interview

# Sang Chul Kang

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Hansamo President

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### **What caused you to become interested in making a Korean class?**

Last year, in order to make Korean classes available to Dougherty Valley High School, the education board recommended that we should make a community organization including parents and students. Something like the PTA. That's how Hansamo was formed, and we believed that it would be beneficial for our next generation to have a chance to learn their native language in public high schools.

### **What was the reason of making this Hansamo group in San Ramon?**

After making Korean classes available in Dougherty Valley High School, we needed something to spread the language and further advance the classes. The Korean language is a major part of Korea's culture, so I found it important to have it offered in other high schools as well. Furthermore, since we are living in an American society as Korean Americans, it is also essential

that we introduce our culture to the one we are in. To achieve these goals, the Hansamo organization was made.

### **What are Hansamo's plans for the next semester?**

Although there are Korean classes in Dougherty Valley High School currently, it is important that the Korean language is offered not only in the high school level, but in middle schools as well. This is because it is fairly difficult for students to change the language they chose in middle school to a new one in high school. I believe offering classes in Gale Ranch and Windemere Ranch Middle School will help even further develop the current Korean classes in the higher level. That is our biggest goal this year.

### **What are the long term goals?**

Currently in the United States, there are 72 schools that has the Korean language class. However, there are no classes the AP level, which is a disadvantage to those who wish to study the Korean language even further. In order to make the AP Korean classes possible, there needs to be a total of 150-200 schools offering the language.

Starting off with expanding classes in the San Ramon school district, Hansamo wishes to grow to be a role model for other districts to make Korean classes.

### **Do you have a message you wish to convey to Korean high school students?**

There are many Korean students studying in this district, and because they are living in an American society, they have little chances of learning about their own Korean culture. I hope the Korean classes will help more students learn their language and also their culture. Last year December, we invited the Korean traditional instrumental group, Go Sung Oh GwangDae, to perform at Dougherty Valley High School and have Korean students experience the tradition for themselves. I hope cultural events such as this help students find somewhat of their Korean identity.

- Interview by NayoungHeo

## Interview

### John Lee

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Occupation: CRAY Inc. Vice President of Product Development

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#### **When did you move from Korea?**

1979, When I was 9

#### **What disadvantages or advantages did you face when you moved to America?**

Only disadvantages. Language and socio-economic problems.

#### **What helped you overcome these disadvantages?**

Really, the only social support for Korean immigrants was the church.

#### **Currently, do you feel that being a Korean American gives you differences in society?**

Yea, there are quite a few advantages. The fact that I am exposed to multiple cultures helps me to see from a very different perspective.

Another thing is that Asia is the new cool thing now. Back when I came to America, Asia wasn't cool. Asia was frowned upon. But now, Asia is kinda like a new popular generation. I have friends now who listen to kpop and they don't even speak Korean. I mean, they're advantages because people kinda look at me and associate coolness.

#### **Does being a Korean American Change your actions?**

I think I am more sensitive to Asian culture. When I walk into a room full of caucasian people, I feel awkward.

#### **How does Korean language and culture reflect on your life?**

It reflects quite a bit. It's very important to my Korean heritage. It is who I am. In the beginning I used to be a little ashamed of my Korean heritage and I was trying to be more Americanized. But I think as I grew older, I realized what an incredible gift it is and I started to embrace it. And I'm very proud of it. One of the ways I reflect it is my kids. I try to embed in them how proud they should be of their Korean heritage.

#### **Do you think you have been successful as a Korean American?**

Well I mean, we do well. I can't complain, we are very fortunate. Financially, we're fine. But I mean, I define success more by not material things but by whether I'm happy and content. And in that sense, I'm very happy with what we have. Obviously, there are many richer people than us but there are much worse off than we are so I think we're happy with what we have.

#### **Do you have any advice for the students currently enrolled in a Korean class?**

My biggest recommendation is that whatever you do, you have to speak Korean. and you only get better if you are forced to use it.

Not only language, but knowing history is very important. Korea has an incredibly rich history. The fabric of Korean history, I would highly recommend it.

#### **Do you have a special message for Korean students in San Ramon?**

Find something that you're passionate about. Once you find the passion and you really enjoy what you are doing, you'll find that everything else will work out. So don't go after the money; I know a lot of Korean parents are like, 'you have to be a doctor' and that's fine if you enjoy that but do what you're passionate about. If you enjoy something you'll get good at it. You have to because nobody has to force you to do it, nobody has to force you to practice piano 3 hours a day. If you truly enjoy something even if your parents don't want you to do it, do it because you become really good at it and you'll find a way to make it work for you.

- Interview by **Caleb Choi**

## Keeping up with Kpop

Hey Hansamo newsletter readers! This year's Kpop has been hotter than ever with fresh new groups and special comebacks from our favorites. There were many hit songs such as "I will show you" by Ailee, "Gangnam Style" by PSY, "I got a boy" by Girl's Generation and "Tried to Walk" by B1A4 to name a few. It seems as if Kpop is becoming even more globally recognized as time goes by!

Let's start off with the December 2012 Kpop chart:

1. **Caffeine**- Yang Yoseob (Beast) ft. yongjunhyung
2. **Return**- Lee Seungki
3. **Talk that**- Secret
4. **Bad person**- Juniel
5. **I Will show you**- Ailee

You should give these songs a go! They're the top in the Kpop stratosphere for a reason.

Just in time for the new year, the Girl's Generation that we love have made a comeback after being off the stage for over a year. "I Got a Boy" is somewhat of a culture shock for SNSD fans- it's a complete different approach that the girl group never tried out before. This comeback music is an electronic dance song with a hint of urban, retro pop. From their colorful and fun outfits that make a fashion statement to the addicting beat in the song, "I Got a Boy" is sure to be a hit with the Kpop fans out there.



The music video that has over a startling 1 billion views. The dance that has captured the attention of millions all around the globe. What am I talking about? Gangnam Style!

PSY's comedic music video, signature dance move, and catchy beat of Gangnam Style are what most people know this viral song as, but there is an underlying meaning to his lyrics. Gangnam is one of Korea's rich neighborhoods where young people go to party. PSY describes the kind of guy he is and the type of girl he wants. You could think of him as an overly classy guy who thinks he's got the Gangnam style when he actually doesn't.



In this song, "OppaGangnam Style" is repeated many times. In this case, Oppa is not the literal meaning of an older brother, but is an affectionate way a girl uses to address an older guy friend or boyfriend. The signature "horse-riding" dance is probably what defines this song. "It is a horse-riding dance," PSY explained to an anchor. "So there is an invisible horse, and you're on it."

The Kpop industry definitely was able to expand even further around the globe due to this sensational hit single.

#### **My Playlist:** (Song Recommendations)

- 1 **Dripping Tears**(눈물이주르륵)-Son Dam Bi *If you're looking for a sad number with a piano line*
- 2 **1,2,3,4** -Lee Ha Yi *a fun, upbeat song that's sure to lift your mood!*
- 3 **Tried to walk** (걸어본다)- B1A4 *an emotional pop dance number that has great acoustics*
- 4 **Have Don't Have** (있기없기)-Dal Shabet *a girly, flirty song that's sure to please*
- 5 **Please Don't...**-K.Will *a pop ballad with emotional vocals*

Last but not least...**I Will Show You** by Ailee

Be sure to check this one out! The link to the music video is below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCEcWclww5k>

Stay Safe

Until the next volume of Keeping up with Kpop...Goodbye!

~Na Young Heo

## That Korean Drama Life

2012 was definitely filled with many amazing dramas! From melodramas to comedies, there is such a wide range of genres. Korean dramas are a huge part of Korean culture and even by simply watching a series, you are able to learn so much about the Korean culture. But mainly focusing on the second half of 2012, I listed the top 5 MUST-SEE Korean dramas you have to watch if you love to watch dramas or even if you're simply just interested in the Korean culture! These dramas are great to watch with your family or even by yourself.

### Top 5 Must-See Dramas of Recent

**“보고싶다” (“I Miss You”)** - A sad melodrama about two teens that fall in love but get separated because of a twist of events. They are then reunited as adults. This drama will make you cry so much with its talented actors, Yeo Jin Goo, Kim So Hyun, JYJ's Park Yoochun, Yoon EunHye, and YooSeung Ho, so get your tissues ready!



**“세상 어디에도 없는 착한남자” (“Nice Guy”)** - A drama that shows betrayal, revenge, and love. It is about a man, played by the handsome Song JoongKi, that is betrayed by the woman (Park Si Yeon) he loves so he gets revenge on her by using her step-daughter (Moon Chae Won). But he ends up falling in love with the step-daughter. You're probably thinking, "...What??" Don't worry though, this drama has an interesting plot that will definitely keep you wanting more!



**“응답하라 1997” (“Reply 1997”)**- A comedic, cute story of 6 former high school friends who meet in 2012 and

reminisce about 1997. It definitely is a popular drama among adults because it reminds them of their childhood and among teens because of the cute main characters SeoInGuk, A Pink's EunJi, Shin So Yool, Infinite's Hoya, EunJi Won, and Lee Shi Un. It even has a very adorable love story between SeoInGuk's character and EunJi's character!



**“신의” (“Faith”)-** A unique drama that has the theme of time travel! A modern-day surgeon is the main character and she dreams of opening up her own practice one day. One day she is kidnapped by a warrior from the mid 1300s because her medical skills are needed and so she time travels all the way back to the Goryeo Dynasty. A very exciting drama that shows a love line between the two main characters, the handsome Lee Min Ho and Kim Hee Sun.

\*My personal favorite is “I Miss You” because it is so amazing and it really makes me cry every episode! It is definitely one of my all time favorite dramas!

If these 5 dramas are STILL not enough for you, these are some more great dramas for you:

- **“아랑사또” (“Arang and the Magistrate”)** - A drama set in historical times that has to do with supernatural themes! Not scary though!
- **“아름다운그대에게” (“To the Beautiful You”)** - A cute drama with many idols and handsome actors.

In the next episode of “That Korean Drama Life”, there will be many more amazing and awesome Korean Dramas for all of you guys to watch and enjoy so you can definitely look forward to it!

**-Michelle Kang**