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Dear Parents and Families,

It's a great honor for me to speak words of greeting and break the news of San Ramon Hansamo(SRH) to all of you. Since its establishment in Sep. 2011, SRH has broadened the range of its activities. SRH has provided opportunities to promote friendships and educational information sharing among Korean Families and has extended its efforts to improve relations between Koreans and other ethnic groups through Multicultural Festival and K-Pop contest ...etc. Also, SRH has exerted effort to support and maintain the Korean class in Dougherty Valley High School(DVHS) since its opening in 2011 by financial and physical support through fundraising activities such as Annual Golf Tournament and Korean Heritage Night... etc. SRH will strive to open more Korean classes in the local middle schools in order to provide many students who has interests to learn Korean language and traditional customs with the opportunity to learn them from their middle school. And SRH will expand its role as mediator in supporting the local and Korean community by contributing in many ways and especially upbuild entente cordiale with other Korean organizations to create a synergy effect. I really appreciate your continuous concerns and supports to SRH and look forward to your help and advice. Sincerely,



Shim, Hyung Koo  
President of San Ramon Hansamo

## Sewol

By: Na Young Heo

On April 16, 2014, a dark and ominous cloud fell upon the people of South Korea as a ferry named Sewol capsized on the way to Jeju Island. The vessel had 476 people on board, with the majority of them being high school students. Officials have attributed the sinking to a overly sharp 45 degree turn, which caused the ferry to list to the side. The fact that the Sewol ferry had been renovated to fit extra cabins, and therefore extra cargo, contributed to the overall unbalanced ship. It is officially announced that 292 passengers had died, while 12 have yet to be found. The first to show up at the scene to save the passengers were fishing boats and other commercial vessels. It was 30 minutes later when the South Korean coast guard and ROK Navy ships officially began recovery efforts. Despite all of this, there was one outstanding fact that shocked me, along with the entire nation, the most. It was the fact that the ship's captain, Lee Joon Seok, was among the first to be rescued. The passengers inside were told to stay put while other crew members and captain abandoned the ship and escaped. "The captain goes down with his ship" is considered a law of the sea, however, Lee did exactly the opposite of that as he put his life ahead of the rest of the passengers'. The captain rightfully got charged with murder and his crew was arrested when they set foot on land.



There has been a myriad of controversies and criticism related to the rescue efforts and the possibility that this accident could have been prevented. Angry parents and relatives of the victims, as well as many Korean civilians, were outraged by the poor handling of the situation by the crew members and the Korean government. Thousands are asking for broad reform of Korea's safety regulations. A video of the students inside the ship during the accident added oil to the fire and further enraged the country. In the beginning, the video shows most of them joking around but as time went on, the students became more afraid and suspicious. Some of them asked if they should try getting off the ship, but decided to stay due to the announcements. All the facts that made this accident a preventable one makes this even more saddening. This terrible accident deeply affected the entire nation, which began countless numbers of fundraising for the devastated families and awareness movements.



It was not only Danwon High School of Ansan that mourned for this loss but many other high schools around the country as well. Students all over the nation held candlelight vigils that would "light the missing students back to safety." Celebrities had also joined the movement, with figure skater Kim Yu-na donating 100 million won to Unicef Korea on Monday and actress Ha Ji-won also giving 100 million won toward aiding those affected by the tragedy. Even British child singer Connie Talbot had the proceeds from her Korean concert tour go to the ferry disaster aid. As Hansamo, we have also taken action to aid the affected back in South Korea. We have received many donations during the Korean Heritage Night at the Oakland Coliseum (4/21/2014) as well as Culturefest at Dougherty Valley High School. (5/3/2014) At Culturefest, many students took initiative and helped donate to relieve the situation. It seemed as if we were all joining hands globally to help an important cause.

To think that it could have been me or my friends on that ship is incredibly saddening. These students from Danwon High School were on an exciting end-of-the-year field trip, having been accepted to colleges already. Their bright, promising futures were extinguished with this single accident. The families of the victims are wishing for every aspect of the situation to be clarified; for a clear reason of the accident, the exact problems with the emergency handling procedure, and a hope that there will be some sort of plan made so that this sort of disaster won't happen again. I hope that their wishes will be fulfilled. Many, many factors were wrong regarding this accident and I believe we as South Korea must make further efforts to prevent future tragedies such as this. My heart goes out towards all of the affected family members, and to the victims of the Sewol ferry disaster, may you rest in peace.

## **Reporters Wanted!**

Hansamo Press Team is recruiting passionate and talented reporters who want to spread Korean culture and Hansamo events.  
Contact: Michelle Kang (mkang97@gmail.com) or Justin Wong (jjwong97@gmail.com)



The current press team members: (Left to right) Na Young Heo, Caleb Choi, Justin Wong, Michelle Kang, Amy Jung, and Daniel Lee

## **Preparation Class for Skipping Korean Levels**

By: Brian Kang (Rising freshman at DVHS)

The Korean language class had around 10 students who were eager to learn and improve their Korean language skills in order to advance into higher levels of Korean at Dougherty Valley High School for the Korean classes in their freshmen years. The class started in early January and ended in late February for 8 weeks. All of the students in the class had a different understanding of the language so the teacher took consideration of their current knowledge of Korean when teaching. This allowed the beginner students to start from the beginning and the advanced students to improve from the level they were at. The class was about two hours of learning how to read, write, and speak in Korean.

The class was an enjoyable experience, learning the language in the atmosphere that the other students and the teacher created. The students were able to pick up the language very quick with the pace and the way the language was taught. In a fun and creative way, students learned the language at ease with a doable amount of homework a week, which prepared students well for the placement test in March and helped them to advance to Korean II and III.

## Arirang K-Pop Contest 2014

By: Michelle Kang

Differently from the Arirang K-Pop Contest 2013 last year, the K-Pop contest, hosted by the DVHS Korean Club, was held as a segment of the second CultureFest at Dougherty Valley High School from 1 pm to 2 pm. Once again sponsored by Hansamo, the second annual contest was held on Saturday, May 3.

The judge panel for the Arirang K-Pop Contest 2014 was made up of students of diverse ethnic backgrounds to bring in new perspectives and prevent bias. The panel included Dougherty Valley High School students Rachel Kim, a Korean student, Jason Choi, first place winner of the contest last year, Mustafa Fattah, and Boohyun Lee, the Korean language teacher at DVHS. The three winners out of a total of eight groups were determined through the combined scores of the judges' scores and the audience votes, by which the audience was able to vote for their favorite performance by putting a sticker under the group of preference on a board.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner was Somin Lee, who performed the exciting "Rum Pum Pum Pum" by f(x), winning a \$50 Amazon Gift Card. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize, a \$100 Amazon Gift Card, was awarded to the duo, Erin Kim and Jane Jeong, who performed their acoustic version of "That XX" by G-Dragon. With the loudest and biggest cheer from the audience, the group "Dobelen", made up of Doris Liou, Seoyeon Sobe Sim, and Helen Lee, took home the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize, the \$200 Amazon Gift Card, after putting on an amazing cover of "The Leaders" by G-Dragon ft. CL and Teddy. The other five contestant groups were still rewarded with Jamba Juice Gift Cards for their performances.

By collaborating with the CultureFest Committee, Korean Club was able to garner a significant crowd of people looking forward to see the lively and exciting performances put on by students from grades 9 to 12. With the outdoors setting, the "concert" feel was heightened, emphasizing the festive atmosphere of the entire CultureFest. As the DVHS Korean Club president, I felt that including the K-Pop Contest as a part of CultureFest was a great way to build up interest for the annual K-Pop contest and to contribute to the whole "cultural diversity" of the cultural festival as a representative of Korea. The K-Pop contest portion of the festival proved the undying popularity of K-Pop and *Hallyu*. The Korean Club continues to work towards raising awareness of Korean culture and hopes to grow with every step they take. Please continue to support the DVHS Korean Club!



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Helen Lee, Doris Liou, and Seoyeon Sobe Sim



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Erin Kim and Jane Jeong



3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Somin Lee

## Choo Choo Choo!

By: Caleb Choi



Choo Shin-soo, a batter and left outfielder for the Texas Rangers baseball team had a series game against the Oakland Athletic's on 21 April, 2014. He started the game with a home run, prompting the Korean fanbase to roar in excitement. During the 8th inning, he suffered an injury from a controversial yet unrivaled slide to first base and was dismissed for the rest of the series. Before the game, a private Korean heritage party was held by the Hansamo organization. There was free food such as pancakes, ramen, and more, free concessions such as shopping bags, and a donation booth for the victims of the Sewol ferry incident. A large impact of the Korean community was the usage of the yellow ribbons. The yellow ribbon is traditionally used to honor the return of soldiers from combat. Families with returning personale would tie yellow ribbons to symbolize the respect and gratitude for our troops. The Koreans took a

different approach and used the yellow ribbon to represent the return of the people directly affected by the Sewol ferry sinking. Individuals inside the o.co Coliseum wore the yellow pins to bring the issue to attention in a large public atmosphere in America. This event was also the first in the bay area where a congregation of more than 500 Koreans were sponsored by large corporations such as Wang and Asiana Airlines to root for a single baseball player. Before this event, most Koreans went to see Choo Shin-Soo games as individual fans. This opportunity allowed all the Korean fans to come together and root for their favorite player. Overall, the Korean community worked hard to display a strong force of unity and patriotism by utilizing the presence of Choo Shin-soo in the bay area. Despite the absence of Choo in the later two games, the Rangers won the series undefeated. Go Texas!

Mrs. Lee, President of KPA: "I was impressed that Hansamo held such a large event for the Korean community. I got hope that the Korean Community could be unified so quickly with one small event".

Q: Do you know the meaning of the ribbon you are wearing?

A: "It is to honor the korean ferry incident" -Jeff, a local Bay Area teenager

Q: Why is it important for Korean Americans to run fundraisers like this?

A: "To support those in Korea and show that even though we are in different places we can still share a bond" -Duane, a local Bay Area Resident

Q: What are your feelings for the Korean Ferry Incident?

A: I feel so sad because they were high school students and could have had bright futures" -Solah, a college student

Q: What do you learn from volunteering?

A: "Service. It is important because giving back to the community is necessary to keep things running. It's important to help those in need" -David Park, volunteer from Dougherty Valley High School



Interview by Justin Wong

## Religions During Pre-Modern Korea

By: Michelle Kang

As for the historical lesson for this newsletter, I will be giving some insight and a mini-lesson on the three biggest religions that were practiced during the historical times of Korea. Not only as a Korean, but also as anyone interested in the Korean culture, I think it is important to know this aspect of Korea.

The big three religions, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Shamanism, are the most significant and influential religions of pre-modern Korea because their practices and beliefs still pervade the lives of Koreans today. These religions have a rich history as integral aspects of society and are still practiced today by many Koreans.

Buddhism is important because it is a religion that was adopted as a state religion many times throughout historic times. Two out of the three kingdoms adopted it as a state religion when it was brought into Korea in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Buddhism was greatly influential on art and architecture in Korea. The religion first originated in India and it soon disseminated throughout Asia, reaching Korea. Buddhism is also one of the top most practiced religions today in South Korea, along with Christianity.



When the Joseon dynasty was established by elites and began expanding, the elites adopted Confucianism as the religion because they viewed greater value in political thought of China. Confucianism emphasizes loyalty, filial piety, and chastity. Today, Confucianism is believed to be a code of ethics and values of society rather than a religion. Koreans prioritize respect for elders and other Confucian principles as ethics to live by, which I have noticed even in Korean-Americans.

Although it has a long history of being persecuted by many people, Shamanism still is one of the most influential religions of Korea. Shamanism is probably one of the longest standing religions of Korea since it is believed by historians that in prehistoric times, the first Korean political system was a theocracy ruled by shaman-kings. Although many people criticized and persecuted Shamanism over and over, it never neared extinction, showing that despite the negative societal responses, Koreans still seek comfort in shamans' divination rites. This religion still exists and is called "musok" or "mugyo". People can see shamanism as a large role in Korean culture today as well; people often seek shamans' consultations in order to ask about their fortunes and even baby name suggestions for their best lucks!



## **Korea's Rise in the International Community**

By: Caleb Choi

We study the affairs and politics surrounding the relationships between the pieces that make up the international community to make better foreign policy choices, understand the governmental institutions and state roles that play into our everyday life, and further our knowledge of the world and other cultures to become more aware, understanding, and open people. Throughout the past 5 millennia of Korean history, Korea has remained a so called 'hermit kingdom or society'. This was especially true for the past Joseon dynasty. Based on conservative values of Chu-Tzu's neo-Confucianism, Korea, with the rest of east Asia during the time, ceased to develop its agricultural, technological, philosophical, political, or economic fields. Rather, Confucian thought promoted the continuation of a divided society (between peasants and yang bans, or nobles) that attempted to stay grounded in traditional beliefs.

However, with the inevitable growth and development of the rest of the world (including Japan in the 19th century), the demise of the Joseon, or Lee/Yi dynasty, was foreseeable. Japan annexed Korea and later on invaded Manchuria and mainland China, breaking and undermining the legitimacy of numerous agreements and treaties of peace. Under occupation, prominent individuals such as Kim Gu and Ahn Chang Soo inadvertently aided in the process of international acknowledgement of Korea. Through diplomacy and military prowess during the years leading up to and during World War II, Korea became known as a nation. Official recognition from strong powers such as the Chinese Nationalist Party led by Chiang Kai-Shek and the United States of America was done by working bilaterally with other Allied powers to counter Japanese aggression.

After independence, Korea was divided in two and felt the impact of the rivalry between Maoist thought and American freedom, liberty, and democracy. Since the Morgan Freeman ceasefire of the Korean War, Korea has undergone massive change. The Republic of Korea, known as South Korea, developed on an unprecedented scale with western influence playing a vital role.

Over the past decades, Korea's voice has become more powerful in the global community. The Democratic People's Republic (North Korea) became known as the enemy of the west and the legacy of doomed communism by dictatorship of the Kim's and comrades. The Republic of Korea became a state that upholds the values of democracy and a free-market economy. In doing so, South Korea has forged important cooperative relationships to foster the betterment of the country. In 1991, both Koreas simultaneously joined the United Nations, a multi governmental organization dedicated to preserving peace and stability in the world. South Korea reached out to developing and developed countries alike in efforts to compliment the economy. By promoting free trade beyond its borders, Korea has made crucial connections and partnerships with other states. Korea has also participated in UN peacekeeping operations - a sign of not only a state's willingness to help other but also an indicator that a state has the ability to support others in need. Korea is also part of the UN Human Rights Council and is fully committed to the efforts of the UN to protect human rights. In spite of its northern counterpart, Korea has also been active in the non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons. Collectively, these advances and diplomatic efforts have shaped the Korean peninsula into a global force that wields considerable economic and political power.



# Business: Naver Corporation

By: Justin Wong



# NAVER

Naver Corporation, an Internet service content operator, was established in the year 1999. The headquarters is currently located in Seongnam, South Korea. People today use Naver for Internet searching on the website Naver.com, and also used for gaming. Basically, Naver is the equivalent to Yahoo.com or even Google.com in some aspects. Naver itself was intended to mean Navigate, and the suffix -er, meaning it is the navigator, or surfer of the web. Sanghun Kim is the current CEO of Naver.

What makes Naver so special is that it is not only a search engine, but also a social media tool as well. Naver can be used to message friends or family members with the messenger known as LINE. People can also upload their own comics, games, and even blogs to the site in which other people can enjoy. Another example is Junior Naver, which helps entertain its younger audience with games and comics and animations. In addition, in 2005, Naver began Happy-bean which was actually the world's first online donation portal. It has helped over 20,000 service organizations.

Naver's current revenue is increasing at 2,147 billion Korean Won. It has an increasing operating income of 620 billion won, and a Net Income of 452 billion won. As you can see, Naver has grown to be very successful since the year it started, and will continue to grow on the online universe, and as a successful business.

Statistics show that over 25 million Koreans have saved Naver as its homepage. It is the 5<sup>th</sup> most used search engine in the world, the top four being: Google, Yahoo, Baidu, and Bing. In 2013, after the release of LINE, chairman Lee Hae-jin saw his stake value hover around 1 trillion won! With success from a company that's only been out for less than 20 years, who knows what else Naver will be able to accomplish!



## Bone Strong

By: Amy Jung

Seolleongtang (설렁탕), or alternatively known as Korean Beef Bone Soup, is cost-effective, highly nourishing, and time-saving. Legend has it that this soup was created because King Seonjong of the Joseon Dynasty wanted to feed a large number of people after an ancestral ritual involving a sacrificial cow. And the King had the right idea! This soup could feed your whole family and still have leftovers to freeze for later use.

Dr. Amy Myers, the renowned MD in Functional Medicine, has researched and concluded several healthy facts about bone soup. The gelatin in the soup protects and heals the mucosal lining of the digestive tract and helps aid in the digestion of nutrients. It also increases the number of white blood cells, which fight off viruses that cause flu and cold symptoms. Glucosamine in the bone soup can actually stimulate the growth of new collagen, repair damaged joints, and reduce pain as well as inflammation. Your hair growth and nail strength are supported by the collagen and gelatin in the soup. On top of all of this, the amino acid glycine found in the bone soup can have a very calming effect. From the inside out, seolleongtang has a wholesome and beneficial effect to the body as well as the mind.

What is the secret to making this magically healthy and nutritious soup? There is no secret! It's as simple as the name itself. There are no hard and fast rules about how much bones or water you need to use or how long you should boil. A few pounds of bones go a long way, and you can use as much water as your pot can hold. So let's get started!

Ingredients:

- 3 – 4 pounds of beef leg (marrow and knuckle) bones, cut up
- 1 – 2 pounds of meat (beef brisket or shank)

For serving:

- cooked rice
- cooked *somyeon* (or glass) noodles
- thinly sliced meat (boiled in the broth)
- lots of chopped scallions
- salt and pepper

Preparation:

1. Soak the bones in cold water to draw out as much blood as possible, about 2 hours (or longer if you have time). Rinse well and drain.
2. Soak the meat in another bowl to draw out as much blood as possible, about 2 hours. Drain. Keep it in the fridge until ready to use.

Parboiling:

3. Add the bones to a large stockpot (preferably 8 quarts or larger) with enough cold water to cover. Bring it to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to medium, and boil for 5 minutes.
4. Drain. Rinse the bones, and clean out the pot to remove any brown bits. Return the bones to the pot.

Boiling:

5. Fill up the pot with cold water, leaving a little room for boiling. Bring it to a boil over high heat, and reduce the heat to medium.
6. Cover, and boil until the broth becomes rich and milky, about 3 – 4 hours (or longer if you have time). Adjust the heat a little, if necessary, to maintain a moderate boil.
7. Add the soaked meat (and more water if needed to submerge the meat). Boil until the meat is tender, for 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Remove the meat. Once cooled, thinly slice the meat to add to the soup when serving. Pour the broth through a colander into another pot or a large bowl to cool.

Optional Step (highly recommended):

8. Fill up the pot with fresh water again. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to medium. Cover, and boil until the broth becomes rich and milky, 3 – 5 hours. Reduce the heat a little, as necessary, to maintain a moderate boil. Add more water if the liquid reduces too quickly while boiling. Pour the milky broth through a colander into the pot or large bowl that contains the first batch. You can repeat this one more time, if desired. Just mix them all at the end to even it out.

Removing Fat:

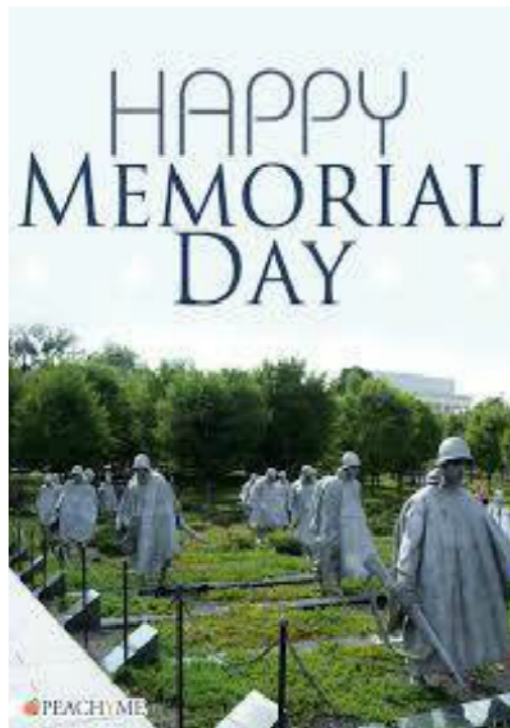
9. You can use a fat separator to remove the fat, or keep it in the fridge (or out on the deck or balcony in the winter) until the fat solidifies to spoon off the fat.



## Memorial Day

By: Daniel Lee

A few weeks ago, one of the biggest Korean National Holidays arrived, 현충일 (Hyeonchung-il); the Korean Memorial Day. Memorial day is held on June 6th and is celebrated by millions of Koreans throughout the nation. Veterans, Citizens, currently active militants, and politicians gather for this famous holiday all throughout Korea. On this national holiday, there are multiple activities that are done in order to commemorate those who have died in their service to their country. One of the first events that usually occur on this day is the Many people go to a memorial ceremony is held in the National Cemetery in Seoul, dating back from 1956. People who go to the memorial ceremony include citizens, soldiers, and particularly politicians and the president. They go to the ceremony and conduct a moment of silence for the fallen troops. In addition to a memorial ceremony, another widely popular event that takes place to celebrate Memorial day are marches that are prepared and performed throughout many cities and towns. These marches are often prepared by locals as well as military organizations. An additional activity on the Korean Memorial day are many parades as well, in addition to the marches. These parades are a lot of fun for the children and their parents as well. The purchasing and waving of Korean flags on this day also is widely popular on Memorial Day. This holiday is one of the most significant holidays in Korea and dates back many decades ago. Next time, when you celebrate the Memorial day in the states, don't forget to recognize the Korean soldiers who have died not only for your country, but also for the US as well.



## **Letter from Editor-in-Chief and Captain**

My name is Justin Joonha Wong, and I am the current Editor-In-Chief for the Hansamo Newsletter. Thank you so much for reading our 2014 Summer edition. What I've been meaning to say is that none of this would have been possible without the community. The Arirang KPOP Contest and the Korean Heritage Night fundraiser at the Oakland Coliseum for the Sewol Tragedy were successful because of the unified Korean American community. If you have any suggestions or comments on the current newsletter, or perhaps would like a spot to write for us, contact us at [hansamonewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hansamonewsletter@gmail.com)



Hello, my name is Michelle Kang and I am currently the Captain of the Hansamo Newsletter and press team. I would like to express my appreciation for reading our latest summer edition of the Hansamo Newsletter. It is filled with dedication and hard work from the press team, covering events from Hansamo and Korean Club. As a Korean American myself, I am thankful for such a strong and passionate Korean community. I hope you enjoyed the newsletter and hope you look forward to the next edition. Thank you!