

# HANSAMO NEWSLETTER

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Table of Contents

Dougherty Valley High School Korean Class Field Trip-----	2
Korean II Preparation Class For Incoming 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders-----	3
Korean Parents Meeting-----	4
Samulnori Performs at KHN-----	5
MERS Outbreak-----	6
Korean Heritage Night-----	7
Oakland Athletics Plan to Host Korean Heritage Night-----	8
Culture Festival-----	9
Shin Saimdang-----	10
Lunar New Year Lunch Party-----	11
The Food Corner-----	12
Children's Day-----	13

Edited By: Daniel Lee, Amy Jung, Caleb Choi

## Dougherty Valley High School Korean Class Field Trip

by Alina Shim

On April 24, 2015, the Dougherty Valley high school Korean classes took a field trip to Santa Clara, California. The classes first visited HanKook Supermarket, where the students had missions to find different kinds of food, clothing items, and household items with their prices. They learned to expand their knowledge of Korean culture by comparing the differences between the Korean market and regular



American grocery stores.

After completing the

missions, the groups headed different ways. Many of the groups headed to Lawrence Plaza, where Paris Baguette, The Face Shop,

Morning Glory, a food court, and many more interesting

stores are located. As students received approximately three

hours by themselves for free time, they explored the area

learning about different aspects

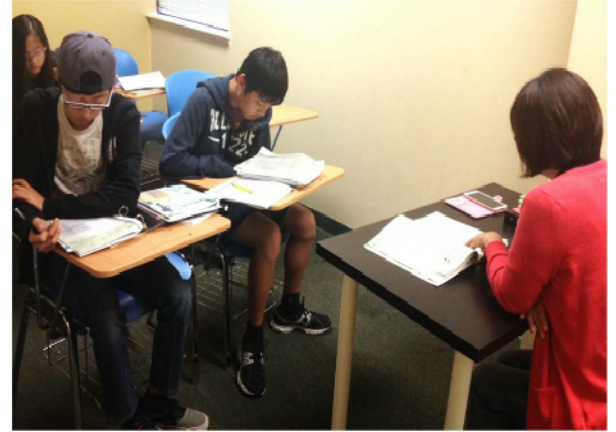
of the culture. A Korean I student named Kylee Kim stated, “I really enjoyed the field trip we took for Korean. It was not only fun, but enabled me to test my Korean skills (vocabulary and manners) in a variety of ways. It was nice to be with friends in a different environment and learn what it is like to be surrounded by Korean culture.” After exploring Koreatown in Santa Clara, the classes headed back to DVHS.



## Korean II Preparation Class For Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders

By: Yunchai Sung

On the morning of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Korean II prep class held its last lesson in Masters Educational Academy before the Korean placement test. The main purpose of the class was to train the incoming 9th graders to qualify taking Korean II in their freshmen year. The students were taught how to read and write Korean vocabularies using Sogang 1 textbooks. The class was filled with the sound of students reading and writing Korean sentences after their teacher. This class could exist with the support of Hansamo, which encouraged students to tryout for the placement test. Mrs.Lee (이윤정 선생님), the current teacher of the prep class said, “I think it is wonderful how Hansamo showed so much support



for creating Korean classes in DVHS, and taking even more steps to help students to take those classes with less pressure.” Even though the course had only four weeks to get down all the standards of Korean I, students feel more knowledgeable about Korean and its culture which they probably didn’t know before. Bryan Kim, one of the Korean prep student commented, “I would recommend this class to anyone who wants to take Korean in high school because it is a good way to start Korean and prepare for the exam”.

The class ended with encouragements from Mrs.Lee. She assigned her last homework as to review over concepts and vocabularies they have learned. By having opportunities to get close with Korean language, I sincerely hope more Korean-Americans would have a chance to look back on their identity and have pride over being Korean and having our culture.

## **Korean Parents Talk**

By Caleb Choi

On 14 April, 2015, Korean Parents convened at the Dougherty Valley High School College and Career Center. The President of Hansamo, Mr. Shim, talked about the history and activity of Hansamo. Mr. Kang, an advisor, talked about the upcoming Korean Heritage Night at the Oakland Athletics.

Park Meekyung spoke about high school math and science programs, including pathways and tips. Park listed COSMOS, RSI, and SUMAC as math camps and Math Count, AMC, AMIE, and USAMO as math competitions. Park listed Intel, Seimens, Science fair, and research as science competition. Park advised parents to work in depth in a particular subject and search for a suitable college.

Ivy Han spoke about volunteer work and summer camp. She advised parents to enter writing competition challenges and encourage good work. She listed scholarship.com, volunteermatch.com, fastweb.com, globaledunews.org, and dosomething.com as websites. She also recommended researching the college websites. Ivy Han recommended Barnes and Noble for college books and told parents to contribute to the school in about 2 ways. She also recommended using a calendar diary to take notes and memos. She stated that 0.1 GPA was equal to 60 SAT points. She told parents to prepare for summer camps and get good relationships with their teachers. Ivy Han concluded by mentioning the scholastic contest and foreign languages.

The next speaker was Jo Jin from Dublin High School, who sent her daughter to UPenn. Jo Jin talked about multi-language skills. She suggested starting an activity and doing it throughout high school. She talked about library homework volunteer and school volunteer. She also said afterschool teacher visits were good. Jo Jin recommended solving one ACT packet per week and preparing for essays one year before, choosing the theme and thinking.

## **Samulnori Performs Routine**

By Michelle Kang

The very own Hansamo Samulnori Team took part in the Korean Heritage Night on Tuesday, June 9 at the O.co Coliseum. The event was hosted by San Ramon Hansamo and took place during the Oakland A's and Texas Rangers baseball game. The Samulnori Team put on two eye-appealing performances that day after two months of hard work every week.

The first performance was before the game and the team snaked around the lines of people entering the Korean Heritage Night and the stadium. They walked around in a line while playing their drums, catching the interests of people in line and passerbyers.

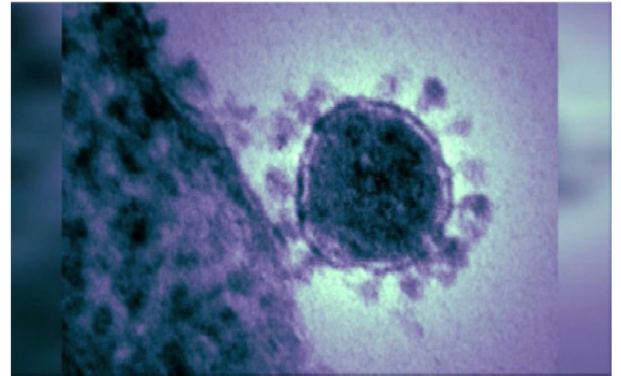
Their second performance was on directly on the baseball field as an opening performance. The Samulnori Team collaborated with the Samgomo team, led by the teacher, Go Mi Sook. Their sound of their drumming filled and resonated throughout the stadium.

The Hansamo Samulnori Team successfully captured the attentions of everyone in the stadium, despite the hot, sunny weather. Their performances left a lasting impression on the audience and fans because of the colorful attire, synchronized movements, and impressive drumming. The team was a meaningful part of the Korean Heritage Night experience as it showed the sides of Korean culture that are rarely seen by non-Koreans.

## MERS Outbreak

By Donggyu Han

South Korea has fallen into the abyss of fear and chaos. The citizens of Korea are living with a virus that holds the potential to kill its hosts. The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, a coronavirus, affects and impairs the respiratory system. Some people say the virus came from bats, while the others state that camels initially brought this disease. The first case of MERS was reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012, panicking the Middle Eastern area. The virus has excruciating symptoms of severe coughing, fever, and difficulties when breathing. MERS can spread through direct, close contact with affected individuals. It can also propagate itself when infected patients are taken care of or are living



with another individual. Because of this, hospitals are the most vulnerable place to be in. Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent the virus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, frequently washing one's hands, avoiding personal contacts, and cleaning are preventive actions.

South Korea has been struck by MERS due to a transmission of the virus through a Korean businessman coming back from a trip. The man coughed and sneezed throughout all the visits to the four hospitals he went, leaving a trail of the virulent virus. There is a chance for the businessman to be a "superspreader." The Washington Post stated that the reproduction number of MERS is below 2 when compared to a 5 for smallpox and a 10 to 20 for measles. In this case, the businessman theoretically carried an immense amount of the virus in his lungs, leading to a faster infection. If this incident is not a "superspreader occasion," things would develop into an epidemic due to the probability of the presence of mutations of the virus to become more prevalent than before. This would lead to a deleterious result for the people of South Korea, but with the knowledge of professionals, it is safe to say that MERS will not become an epidemic. In addition the South Koreans are outraged by their government's response at the outbreak of MERS, as the government did not inform its citizens of the infected hospitals soon enough, resulting in more cases of MERS.

## Korean Heritage Night

By Andrew Kim

On June 9th, 2015, the Oakland Athletics hosted the inaugural Korean Heritage Night while facing the visiting Texas Rangers at the O.co Coliseum. Around 1000 fans attended the event and celebrated Korean culture. The Hansamo Samulnori performed their routine in the Eastside Club and on the field. For the game, the Korean Heritage Night participants were seated along the right side field level seats. The audience supported both teams with green inflatable bats and enthusiasm, but were especially ecstatic for Texas Rangers right fielder Choo Shin-Soo. In response, Choo greeted the fans before taking his position. The game ended in a 2-1 victory for Texas.

Special guests came from the Korean Consulate, Korean Education Department, Korean Cultural Center, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Sponsors included Umeken and Asiana Airlines. The Korean Consulate General and the Korean Cultural Center donated \$1,500 each to the event. Umeken donated bottles, candy, and emergency aid kits. Asiana Airlines contributed round trip tickets to Korea through raffles. The Oakland Athletics distributed A's baseball caps embedded with the Korean flag.



Mr. K, from San Jose, commented that his throat was sore from all the cheering, but it was a very enjoyable night. Mr. M, from Modesto, noted that it had been a while since he had joined such a large Korean crowd. He also said that watching baseball and Choo was fun, but he felt like he was in a Korean baseball stadium, and it was very fun. Mrs. C, from San Ramon, said that the best event was the Samulnori performance as it allowed her children to get exposure to Korean culture.

## Oakland Athletics Plan to Host Korean Heritage Night

By Caleb Choi & Daniel Lee

In 2014, over 600 Korean American fans informally gathered at the O.co Coliseum through Hansamo to cheer on Texas Rangers outfielder Choo Shin-soo as his team took on the Oakland Athletics. This year the Oakland Athletics organization has suggested an official Korean Heritage Night at 7:00 p.m. PST on Tuesday, June 9. If tickets are bought through Hansamo, the price will be \$35 (including the bibimbap dinner and promotional A's hat). Hansamo will prepare Korean traditional performances and there will be an abundance of raffle prizes, including Asiana Airlines tickets and Umeken products. Since Choo Shin-soo is presumed to play in right field, tickets bought through Hansamo will be in seats that hold great views of him.

On April 7, the Hansamo press team went to the Coliseum to interview Choo before the game began. The following is the question and answer.



Question: What does Choo expect this year?

Answer: To not get hurt and stay healthy throughout the season. His position changed from left field to right field and he is now the number 5 batter, rather than the first batter.

Question: Last year, did you know that there were Korean people cheering for you? How did you feel?

Answer: Since many people came, he knew they were there and was surprised at their energy. Rather than numbers, even having one fan is important for me.

Question: Do you have anything you want to say to Korean-Americans who wish to become baseball players?

Answer: In your given time, try your best. To hit a ball from home plate is my job, but the flight of a ball is not my job. It's important to focus on what I can do.

Question: Do you have anything you want to say to Korean-American fans?

Answer: I lived in a foreign country when I was young, so I know the struggles faced by immigrants. Through me, I want immigrants to get strength.



## Culture Festival

By: Justin Wong



On April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015, Dougherty Valley High School held their annual Culture Festival. Dougherty's Culture Festival is quite self-explanatory. It is a festival in which the ethnicities of Dougherty Valley High School come together and share foods, songs, dances, and other aspects of their cultures with one another. The Korean booth served both traditional Korean foods and common market found snacks. Popular dishes were Kim Bap (rice, eggs, fish cakes, and assorted vegetables wrapped in seaweed) and Ddok Boky (spicy stir fried rice cakes). Several students also could not stop coming back for Melona Ice Cream bars and Pocky

sticks. Next to the Korean booth was the Filam Club, which was the Filipino equivalent to the Korean Club. They served delicious Lumpia (Filipino style egg-rolls) as well as limejuice. Another popular booth was Chaat Bhavan which served traditional Indian beverages and dishes. I'll admit, the Mango Lassi (yogurt based drink) had me craving for more after my first cup. Overall, this year's Culture Festival was more than



successful. While there are so many unique and diverse groups in Dougherty Valley High School, it's beautiful how we can all come together as one community.

## Shin Saimdang 신사임당

By Yunchai Sung



Just like United States, paper money in Korea has famous historical figures who people admire and respect. For example, the founder of Korean alphabet characters, Sejong the Great is in the ten-thousand won bill. The ten-thousand won bill had the greatest value of all Korean money until the 50,000 won bill appeared in 2009. The bill was designed with Shin Saimdang, one of the most appreciated woman in Korean history. She was born in Gangneung on October 29<sup>th</sup>,

1504 and grew up in a wealthy family. Shin Saimdang was a versatile artist who mastered in poetry, calligraphy and painting. She is also known by her nick name, ‘wise mother.’ Her nickname came from her independent life as an utter artist *and* a mother of a child in such a conservative society.

초충도8곡병: 가지와 방아게비  
Size: 34x28.3cm

As an artist, she published abundant amounts of artwork which achieved its recognition approval. Such establishments were possible



because during her time period, the early days of the Joseon dynasty (A.D. 1392-1506) had a less male-oriented society. Her beautiful masterpieces are still recognized and well preserved today. She enjoyed drawing flowering plants and insects in the yards. According to historians, her drawings were so realistic that birds attempted to eat insects in her drawing, leaving holes on the paper. One of her most famous paintings is called, “Grass and Insects” (초충도). Unlike pieces drawn by male artists, her brush touches were delicate and soft, depicting a feminine elegance.

As a mother, Shin Saimdang raised her son, Yulgok Yi I (율곡 이이), into one of the greatest confucian scholar in Korea. Yi I was known for an outstanding intelligence in governing which led him to have close relationship with the king. He often wrote critical poetries that aimed for incompetent politicians. His cleverness was mostly influenced from his mother and is well respected.

Shin Saimdang died in Pyongan on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1551. She left various accomplishments which are still remembered today. Shin Saimdang has become a role model of how women should live as a wife, a mother, and an independent adult.

## Lunar New Year Lunch Party

By Amy Jung

The sweet and spicy aroma of traditional Korean food wafted down the Administration building on February 19<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, while the second annual Lunar New Year Lunch Party was held for the Dougherty Valley High School faculty. To celebrate the Lunar New Year, twelve Hansamo parents made and brought Korean food for the staff members. As the main dish, brown and white rice with the 반찬 (Korean side dish) of 전 (Korean pancake), 잡채 (japchae), 불고기 (bulgogi), 닭고기 (chicken), and 두부 (tofu) were served. Salad was also available and fruit cups were laid out at the end of the table for dessert.



Many teachers exclaimed that the food smelled wonderful as they walked into the staff lounge. Some teachers even personally asked parents how to make specific side dishes and quickly jolt down the recipe while everyone said thank you multiple times as they received the food. A plate was also packed and saved for the librarian who was busy at work helping students during lunch. An estimate of 90 faculty members came, ate, and celebrated the Lunar New Year. And at the end of the lunch period, everyone gave a round of applause to the Hansamo parents for their hard work cooking and organizing the event. From all the positive and grateful remarks from the staff members, it can be concluded that this annual lunch party will continue on.

## The Food Corner

By Amy Jung

With the summer heat of 95° blasting through the windows, everyone is desperate to cool off. So why not cool off with some Korean shaved ice? 팥빙수(patbingsu), literally translated into Korean as red beans with ice, is a Korean shaved ice dessert. This snack originally began as ice shavings with red bean paste and was traded among government officials during the hot summer seasons.

This shaved ice dessert is usually topped with sweet toppings such as chopped fruit, condensed milk, fruit syrup, tteok (rice cakes), and red bean paste. There are thousands of variations with different types and flavors. In more modern forms, it could be topped with ice cream as well as the traditional red bean paste and tteok. Quick and easy to make, it is a favorite among many Koreans.



## Children's Day (어린이날)

By Daniel Lee

On May 5th, Children's Day was celebrated as a commendation and recognition toward the children of Korea. It was a day of festivities to recognize and love the children and future leaders of Korea. Children's Day was first created during the March 1st movements all across Korea during the



era of Japanese colonialism within Korea. In 1923, a group of students studying in Tokyo, Japan came a general consensus that Children's Day was to be on May 1st. However, because Children's Day was on the same day as Laborer's Day, the date was moved to May 5th. The underlying motive for the formation of Children's Day during this revolution was for the support of the revolution against the Japanese. The father of this memorable event was Bang Jeong Hwa, who was a major children's right activist, famously stating that, "Children are the future of

our nation. Let's show respect for children. Children who grow up with ridicule and contempt from others will become people who disrespect others, while children who grow up with respect from others will become people who respect others in turn." This statement embodies the principle under which Children's Day was created. It was emphasized that children were the future of Korea and that they needed to be cared for in order for the future of Korea to thrive.

On Korean Children's Day, there are multiple activities that are available and commonly enjoyed. Often, parents will take their children to the zoo or to fun museums and enjoy themselves. Other times, other forms of entertainment such as movie theaters, amusement parks, or parades will suffice as a way to celebrate Children's Day. In addition to attractions and popular locations, on Children's Day, parents commonly give their children presents or money. Other ways for a family to spend time with each other on such an occasion would be to visit large attractions and tourist sites, to tour the downtown area of the city that they live in, or to go to a mall. No matter which way one spends Children's Day, however, it is an occasion that brings joy and celebration to the hearts of many Koreans.



## **Hansamo Press Team Staff**

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This coming fall, we will be recruiting new reporters/writers for our team. Please contact [soyeonhansamo@gmail.com](mailto:soyeonhansamo@gmail.com) or any one of the editors if you are interested. Be sure to write a few sentences about you and why you want to join.

