



# BINJ NEWS

Your Voice, Our Mission: Capturing Moments, Sharing Stories, Empowering Students

MONDAY  
10 DECEMBER  
2024

Issue No. 1

## Sophia Lin

With the end of the 2024 U.S. election, we are taking a retrospective look back at their pre-election opinions.

COMMUNITY STORIES, PAGE 1

## Lola Shen

Have you wondered what it is like for our foreign teachers living in China? Explore the Foreign Survival Mode on

COMMUNITY STORY, PAGE 4

## Mr. De Ruiter on South African Barbecue

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## ABOUT US

### Introducing BINJ News: YOUR Voice in the Campus

Behold! The School Newspaper Club has arrived, sent forth on a sacred mission to inform, inspire, and connect our school community, under the divine guidance of Holy Potato!

We are a devoted team of passionate writers, photographers, and creative thinkers, committed to bring you stories that matter. In each issue, we venture far and wide across the school to deliver a diverse range of content — from club spotlights and teacher insights to student trends and game reviews. If it's part of our school

community, you'll find it here! Our mission is to produce genuine, heartfelt content that resonates with our readers, sparks interest, and builds connections.

Beyond reporting, we're here to give you a voice. This paper is your platform to speak out, share your opinions, and promote your events. We need your voice here to bring this vision to life! So... Join us as we embark on this noble mission to capture the spirit of our school and share it with all!

### FUN FACT

You might have spotted our anime-styled mascot, Nyuus Chan (ニュースチャン). Get it? "Nyuus" sounds like "Nyaa" — a cute twist on "news"! For this year, a brand new mascot is in the works... Who will it be? Stay tuned to meet the next face of our School Newspaper Club!

## FAQ

**Q: Where can I get a copy of the newspaper?**

A: If you're reading this, that means you probably already acquired a copy. We currently distribute our newspapers through baskets located around the school, as well as through club members who spread the copies. In the future, we're planning to launch an online site for easier access.

**Q: How can I contact BINJ News to get involved?**

A: We're here to be a platform for your voice, so we are welcome to your inputs in any form — whether it's submissions, suggestions, student adverts, or a ridiculous topic idea you would like see. You can email us at [news.binj@outlook.com](mailto:news.binj@outlook.com), message Chris.Wang15459 on Teams, or reach out to any of our club members.

**Q: How often will BINJ News publish?**

A: Our goal is to publish monthly. That said, we're up against the usual obstacles of procrastination, heavy school workloads, and, yes, a few sleepy club members. We're working hard to keep a regular schedule, so stay tuned for each new issue!

**Q: What on earth is the Holy Potato mentioned in the introduction?**

A: Uhhmm... It's complicated. You could check out the bulletin board in Mr.Heckerl's classroom, where the Holy Text of Potatoism resides in all its sacred glory!





# COMMUNITY VOICES ON THE VOTE

## A Fun outlook into School Community's Opinions on a Certain Election

By Sophia Lin

*"Look what happened? Is this crazy?" – Donald Trump, giving his victory speech in West Palm Beach, Florida, on November 6, 2024*

With the 2024 U.S. Election coming to an end in November 5, Donald Trump has been elected to a second term as president, defeating a resurgent Democratic nominee and vice president Kamala Harris. Before the election, we gathered diverse views on the U.S. Election from students to teachers across the school to hear their thoughts, hopes, and values. Now, we are taking a retrospective look back at their pre-election opinions and how they stack up against the final outcome.

### Opinions on Trump

**Fellow English teacher:** "If Trump is voted, democracy as a whole may take a step back. I'm surprised he's still a candidate despite his crimes. I understand that his points may resonate with a specific portion of people but he has harmful and potentially dangerous ideas."

**Fellow History teacher:** "He's clearly an outsider, no doubt about that, and by an outsider I mean not a career politician, unlike most people in Washington D.C. Donald Trump was in business, so of course there are advantages and disadvantages. But I'm not a fan of his redirect. Once again, we are in a tense and antagonistic moment in America politics. On his allegations, they are awful and I am appalled, but it feels they're all apart of his political game of sorts."

**Fellow History teacher:** "My opinion on him is pretty low, as low as you can get. If you could have someone were the same pair of socks daily for a month without washing them. I would vote for those socks before Trump."

**Fellow student:** "He didn't do great things, and I don't agree with him. I don't mean to judge people, but he can be a douche sometimes to war veterans, political opponents, and even members of his own party. But still, I need more info. His allegations definitely don't help my opinion on him."

### Opinions on Harris



**Fellow History teacher:** "I don't know if she's much of a political creature? But she's somewhat of a walking contradiction. One hand was a district attorney a tough prosecutor, but on the other hand she's a candidate of joy and is more favourable of immigrants. I don't know if it's good or bad thing. We know Trump quite well and he's like a celebrity in American culture, but Kamala is more of a mystery. We only know Kamala the politician not as Kamala the person. We don't know what she's like what she thinks. She's been in positions of power that don't allow you to get you to know someone like that. She's harder to figure out."

**Fellow English teacher:** "She is less harmful, and a better candidate than Trump, and I'd take that risk any day. But, if the other candidate wasn't

Trump, I'd be more afraid to vote for her. I'm afraid she might act as a Trojan horse to promote harmful laws and policies as she is a woman and a woman of color."

**Fellow history teacher:** "I like her. I would like someone more liberal, but she's pretty center. But better than Trump."

### Opinions on Democracy as a Whole

**Fellow history teacher:** "Democracy is a very old concept. Most of the countries that are trying to use it are still working on the model from 1700. Democracy is good but needs to be updated to a modern context. For other countries trying to imitate it they did it whenever their monarchy fell. For America, it's especially not working, and voting is the reason it's not working. The founders never really envisioned a future where everyone was voting. Back then, only a few people



would vote. Mostly rich people and white men. The ways elections are calculated and voting districts are created is based on ideas that don't work anymore."

**Fellow history teacher:** "I grew up in democracy, so I value it more. I'm not under the impression that it's perfect there's a lot of flaws. I like the self-corrective measures in it like checks and balances. But democracy is not failing, it's just political tension and lack of class (bad manners in politics), but that doesn't mean there's a weakening of the democratic process. Nasty doesn't mean it's not functioning well. If we have to change anything it's American culture that needs to change. It's sick."

**Fellow economics teacher:** "Voting is a 'yes' and is a good idea. But I don't like how it's limited to two parties, so it becomes more like a sports competition. It's like 'you vs. me' and it becomes really personal. It's about sides and the objective is no longer for the country. Like a popularity contest. So, by-partisan and political systems are... not good."

**Fellow student:** "Is it truly a democracy? The power goes to the rich mostly, and the people think they have a democracy."

## YOUR OPINION ON HERE

BINJ News needs your unique opinions on world news, societal issues, and community affairs at

[Binj.News@outlook.com](mailto:Binj.News@outlook.com)







## FOOD

### Feast! A Taste of South Africa Brought to Our Boarding Community

By Chris Wang

After the evening studies had ended, a long grill was kindled beneath the twinkling night sky, its coals illuminating in a warm, steady red. Around it, low and comfortable chairs were set in a cozy circle. Between hearty draughts from deep glasses, the students feasted upon plump sausages, toasted sandwiches, and generous cuts of sirloin with juices glistening in the warm firelight. The rhythmic hum of hip-hop music drifted through the air, mingling with easy laughs and the savory aroma that filled the night ...

On October 10th, the Upper School boarding students are treated to an incredible barbeque hosted by Mr. De Ruiter, who introduced everyone to the South African style of barbeque Braai, a household tradition that's deeply woven into the culture of his homeland. Students not only enjoyed savory meat, but also got hands-on grilling experience under Mr. De Ruiter's guidance.

The event was so memorable that we decided to dive deeper by interviewing Mr. De Ruiter on the cultural significance of braai, as well as some cooking tips for it. Mr. De Ruiter



"Sirloin Steak and Sausages being cooked on the grill which are generously purchased by Mr. De Ruiter."

shared that braai isn't just a meal, but also a common social ritual shared by the 11 different official cultural groups in South Africa. While the term "braai" is commonly used by the Afrikaans and English speakers, "Shishanyama" is the collective name used for a braai by Africans, with each group introducing their own slight twist to their technique of cooking the meat. Despite the differences, Mr. De Ruiter assured us that "ALL of them are really tasty", with braaivleis being his favorite.

Mr. De Ruiter explained that the technique of preparing meat is passed along from parent to children at an early age in South African households, with he himself starting at 9 years old. In most South African households, the wife would prepare the food in the weekdays, while husbands would mostly be responsible for the food over the weekend, letting the ladies of the house rest. "Part of the boarding program at Basis Nanjing is to also try and incorporate some life skills in our offering, and since I know braai well, I thought that it might be helpful to students as well one day," he expressed.

The night's menu featured juicy sirloin steaks, savory sausages, and braaibroodjies—a South African grilled sandwich that quickly became my personal favorite. Naturally, I couldn't resist asking Mr. De Ruiter for the secrets behind making it:

#### Mr. De Ruiter's Cooking Tips

*"Braaibroodjies is very easy to make and only require a few ingredients. You start off by buttering your two slices of bread. Next come finely sliced onion rings on the one slice of bread, then finely sliced tomatoes. There after you add a generous amount of coarsely grinded black pepper and salt. Lastly you cover the tomatoes with a generous amount of graded cheese. Don't be skimping with the cheese as this is the thing that adds tons of flavor. Lastly just cover your sandwich with the other slice of bread and viola, you have made yourself your first braaibroodjie. The trick to cooking it is to grill it on a medium to low heat fire flipping it regularly until the cheese has melted, that's when you know it is done right. If you grill it on a fire that is too hot, you will burn the bread on the outside and the cheese will not have time to melt."*

When asked about his future plans, he revealed that he would host at least two more braais before the end of school year. Fellow boarding students can look forward to a Homemade Mozambique Peri Peri Chicken, which is very popular in both Mozambique and South Africa. He also plans to teach students on how to prepare pork chops, which he says can be tricky to cook just right.



South African Braaibroodjies Sandwiches

### BASIS International School Nanjing Fifth International Music Festival.

By Chris Wang

With vibrant performances and workshops, The International Music festival, a cherished tradition in our school, once again concluded with a resounding success, thanks to the participation of students, parents, and faculties, especially Miss. Milanova. The event offered students a unique opportunity to connect with music and cultures across the world. As

Milanova noted, "Through music and activities like this, students can learn so much about the world and its beauty, by being exposed to different cultures, people, rhythms, and music from all over the globe."

A highlight this year was a special performance by African drummers from Hong Kong. Miss Milanova shared, "This year, we had a very special feature we haven't had before. We had guests from Hong Kong, the African drummers, who introduced us to West African culture." As the videographer at the scene, the thunderous sound of the drums and the excitement it generated were especially memorable and impactful. In addition to performing, the drummers

led workshops, teaching students the rhythms of the djembe drum and traditional African dance. "It was a real pleasure to see them perform on stage for both students and parents alike."

The festival came with its usual challenges. "One challenge is the large number of students involved. We're talking about the whole high school, and sometimes our auditorium just isn't big enough to accommodate all the guests we want to invite," Nevertheless, the staff's dedicated efforts ensured its smooth execution.



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## SCHOOL NEWS

### Movie Night and Student Council Behind the Scenes *By Owen Gao*

On Friday, October the 18th, BINJ hosted a movie night and invited all students and teachers interested to join. Over 30 students participated and shared free snacks while enjoying the students-selected film "The Blind Side", an inspiring movie based on the true story of Michael Oher, who underwent a metamorphosis from a homeless highschooler to a well-known football payer.

The student volunteers helped to build up a comfortable environment with bean bags and **FREE snacks**. Everyone was thrilled and enjoyed a wonderful two-hours movie time.

We invited the student council president David Wang to reveal more details behind the scene of the activity. "The student council had brainstorm sessions at the start of the year," says David. "Originally it was going to be on the field, but it was rainy on that day." Despite the weather changes and other challenges, the student council worked hard to make sure this event was successful.

All participants gave positive feedback to our interviewers. "It was good to have such an opportunity to share this kind of experience with friends and classmates," says a student, "I also like that they used curtains to block out the light."



*Movie Night. Shot on Nikon by Owen Gao.*

With this successful movie night, the BINJ student council looks forward to more upcoming on campus activities in the future.

## COMMUNITY STORIES



### Foreign Survival Mode: How Our Teachers Survive in China *By Lola Shen*

Have you ever played Minecraft? Senior MC player mast know, survival mode, which very challenging and playful, is the best mode forever. Through an interview with Miss. Sarah, I am going to take you on a journey to explore what life is like for teachers living in China – a Foreign Survival Mode.

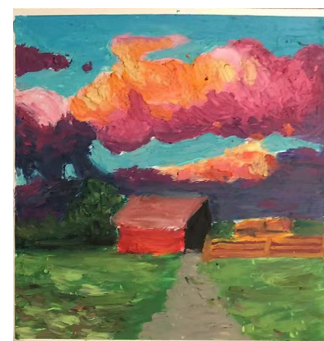
Ms. Sarah's first impression of China dates back to 2010 when she participated in a student exchange program. She recalls her time in the bustling cities of Shanghai and Beijing with great enthusiasm. "I remember thinking that China was a vibrant and cool country," she says, highlighting her special fondness to the lively cityscape of Shanghai, which she found "colorful and loud, with a lot going on, especially for young people."

Ms. Sarah's Chinese learning journey start in 2016 when she was forming an internship. She did some one-on-one trainings with the teacher study from tones to complex sentences. She emphasizes the importance of professional tutor and suggest the person who is learning Chinese never shamed to ask "中文怎么说 (how to speak it in Chinese?)". "I think that cultural happiness about teaching foreigners the language really helped me to learn Chinese," she says.

Besides, culture shock is an inevitable challenge. For Ms. Sarah, the Slurping of food will still bother her sometimes. Her way to adapt is to respect, "I found a better way to deal with it now and I know that it is a respectful thing in China to show that you are finding your food delicious and that you are enjoying it."

Anyway, whatever in the game or the true life, well-adaption does not always mean that you must forget who you are and completely become a new person. The best way I think is always understanding and respecting.

## ART



“ Art isn't just hobby it's a way to express yourself. Names such as Picasso, Leonardo Da Vinci, or Vincent Van Gogh pop into your mind when you think of art. Personally, I like to doodle, because it's not supposed to look like a certain way, which gives me a lot of freedom to draw whatever I want to. Also, when I use a pencil or pen it's much easier to control compared to oil pastels, watercolor and paint. Painting drawing, doodling, etc. might by the key to release stress for some people. Making art also improves a person's creativity and imagination. For paint and watercolor, it also tests ones patience and willingness to accept imperfect artworks.”

Ruby Wang







## SAM'S UNIVERSITY COLUMN

### Overview of University of California, Berkeley

By Sam Ni



This article is aimed to give you an idea of what a school is like in general and decide if you like this school. Hopefully, this would also help you generally to plan your application and which category you would like to focus on if you are to focus on if you are to apply to this school.

Located in Berkeley, California, United States, UC Berkeley offers a variety of subjects, with the most well-known once being Computer Science, Quantitative Economics, and Cellular and molecular Biology, so it would be worth applying to the university if you are interested in these categories, especially if you are doing computer science.

Applying to this college is very hard due to it being extremely selective but focusing on specific categories can help. The school deems course rigour, GPA, and standard test of AP exam and TOEFL as very important while not considering the SAT exam. Volunteer work, work experience, extracurriculars, and personal quality are deemed important as well. Applying to this college can be challenging, so it is important to work on academics as well as things outside of school, and it is also very important to communicate with your college counsellor to find the best way to apply.

With the interview with Mr. Williams, we had known some additional information: UC Berkeley is one of the hardest public universities to apply in the UC system, SAT can still be submitted, and still might be important despite them saying they don't consider it. However, some consolars suggest that SAT would not be looked at all. This university also has many government opportunities and a lot of government funding and resources, which is a resource unique to a top public school. UC Berkeley was very progressive during the civil rights movement, meaning they might have ideas to challenge your ideals. UC Berkeley wants to see intellectual capability, passion beyond specific major, persistence, flexibility, diversity, leadership skill in their application. UC Berkeley's tuition fee is relatively cheap in the United States due to it being a public school, with around \$45000 for tuition itself and \$30000 for other living necessity for dorms, books, and meals. Notably, UC Berkeley has a few famous graduates, Carol Greider, Hamilton O. Smith, Robert Laughlin, Thomas Schelling, who are all Nobel Prize winners.

## ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

### Phigros

School Wide  
**RHYTHM GAME  
COMPETITION  
PROSAL**

SOPHIA WU

Hi fellow Basis students, as a person that has played rhythm games for 5 years, I have always enjoyed playing rhythm games together with a bunch of people that love it as much as me. We would cheer for the person playing, and find it exciting comparing our results with one another. Since I came to Basis, the thought of holding a rhythm game competition has been in my mind for a long time. So today I want to share some of my plans of this competition, even though it is hard to realize it in school (maybe I will have it outside of school).

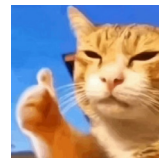
-What games? Needs to be mobile terminal. And it depends on the number of people playing the game, popular games will be considered first. (First game in my mind is phigros)

-Competition rules? Songs will be chosen due to difficulty, in every round, the people with least accuracy will be eliminated, the difficulty of the song will increase after every round.

-Which songs will be chosen? I would choose songs that test the most diverse skills, however if there are songs people really like, welcome to have a vote and add rounds for it!

-Prizes? Cash or game-related products? Sorry that I'm not rich enough.

## STUDENT WISDOM



### YOU NEED TO WORK HARD

By small little steps

Here are some methods!

You need to work hard. In order to achieve your dreams and goals, effort is essential

#### Methods:

- Make a study plan. Do tasks for each subject.
- Ask if you don't know. Don't skip hard stuff.
- Join study groups for weak subjects.

#### Reasons:

- Helps with time. Makes you study better.
- Clears up confusion. Helps you think more.
- Gives you more help. Good for learning.

#### Methods:

- Have good habits. Keep a schedule. Eat good food.
- Set money goals. Manage your cash.

#### Do volunteer work.

#### Reasons:

- Keeps you healthy. Makes life better.
- Teaches you to spend right.
- Helps you understand others. Builds skills.

#### Methods:

- Keep doing hobbies. Put time in. Join clubs.

#### Enter contests. Show and learn.

- Share your hobbies. Use stuff to share.

#### Reasons:

- Makes life fun. Helps you relax. Makes you creative.
- Shows how good you are. Makes you better.
- Meets new people. Makes you feel good.

#### In School

##### Somebody's reflection by using good stuff that I list

"Hi guys, I feel so much better when I use these methods! My brain gets fresh! My parents get happy because I change from a loser in school to a winner!"

#### In Life

##### Somebody's reflection by using good stuff that I list

"I've learned that having good habits like keeping a schedule and eating healthy food is really important! Setting money goals and managing money well helps a lot. Doing volunteer work gives a great sense of purpose. Using these methods makes life more successful! This is no way for me at the beginning, but I changed my self to a real man, a real winner person! Yes!"

#### In Hobbies

##### Somebody's reflection by using good stuff that I list

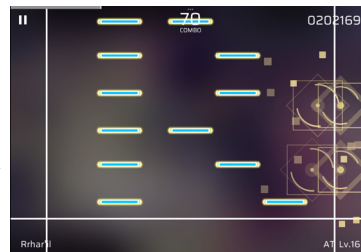
"Hey! Keeping up with hobbies is a real hoot. Put time into them and join clubs for an interest party. Contests? Awesome! Enter them to show off and learn."

### LIFE IS FOR YOU TO ENJOY

Embrace all its wonders and let it be your guide



- If you are interested in this idea? Pleeeeeease contact me on teams, I'm Sophia Wu from 10Na, contacting my email by sophia.wu500676-binj@basischina.com is also ok. Please do not be afraid, if you like this idea and have a will to attend it or hold it with me, don't hesitate to contact me, with your help, the organizing of this competition will be more successful!!!



-What is the charm of rhythm games? I first got into rhythm games 5 years ago, the primary fun comes simply from moving your fingers on the screen by following the music, exploring different fingering techniques to pass high level songs. However, you really start to fall into it when you get perfect results after trying many times just to pass one song. The best part of the 3 years of playing Phigros is that it started to link with my social life. I had a group of people playing with me, I could complain about the continuing failure of one single song or technique. We would share results and compliment others when they improved their skills. When we played together it was cool to exaggerate emotions with people around you, no matter what result you got. I still remember when my rks exceeded 15.5, many friends posted on the public wall of our school to celebrate that I was the 15th person that achieved that in our grade, and I saw other players congratulating me under the posts. That is the happiness I felt most when playing rhythm games, and I wish you could experience it too!



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## STUDENT ADVERT



### We Want You: Join the Football Team!

With the U15 season announced, students should look to participate in our roster.

By Teffy Wang, Eric Cui

It represents the emblem of spirits for multiple countries, paving the way for others to explore their talents and enhance their physical abilities. Fortunately, our school has just that: with the recent announcement of the U15 season, our school soccer team has begun!

The reasons to join our rosters, along with your classmates, are simple:

For those looking to strengthen up their CVs, joining a sports team is one of the best extracurricular activities. By demonstrating that you, the applicant, aren't simply grade-based, your ability to diversify your personality is enhanced. More-

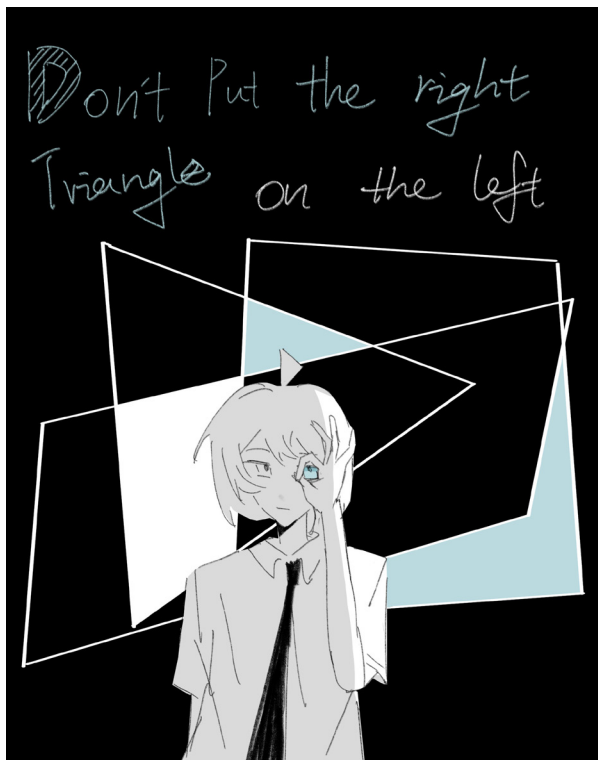
over, for those who are looking for time to relieve their stress, playing sports specifically Football is beneficial. Experts from the National Institute of Health argue that "Overall, soccer youth programs greatly reduce stress benefits and improve one's health."

Mr. Heckerl, the football team's coach, gives his opinion: Health, fitness, confidence, stress relief, overcoming obstacles, teamwork, communication, and the ability to accept defeat and improve from it are what YOU should join."

Trips to other cities or countries are another reason to strive for the Football club. For U15 and U19 soccer teams, 7-8 competitions will occur. In many cases, opportunities to move and meet new people. With high hopes and passion, the football team can achieve spectacular results:

Mr. Heckerl: "I hope for greater participation, higher levels of performance, less selfishness, gradual better performances at competitions, and a stronger genuine interest to improve myself through hard work"

## COMICS AND MEMES



By Anonymous Student

### 新連載マンガ

## Don't Put the Right Triangle On the Left



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## 主角君

看上去很酷的平平无奇女中学生，前世似乎是因为积分排名过低而被遗忘导致社会性死亡。因此与系统结成契约复活，代价是要在余下的校园生活里得到一次积分榜第一。

特长：？

爱好：历史，阅读，音乐剧（也许？），摸鱼  
不擅长社交，在很多人面前会阴暗地爬行

积分榜设定：每个quarter会重置，积分榜的第一名似乎有很大的奖励，而最后几名会被“退学”

系统设定：一个中间商平台，大概可以让你把积分拿来买东西或者投资，还可以做任务赚取更多积分  
世界观设定：？

