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THE TALON

an Immanuel Schools student publication

A Tale as Old As Time...

By Regan Ott

Photos contributed by Kirk Kawagoe



Since 1991, these words have been known around the world. Beauty and the Beast is the choice of the spring semester musical. Released in 1994 and based off of the Disney film of the same name, Beauty and the Beast tells the story of a young lady named Belle, who lives in a rural village in France with her father Maurice. Being romantically pursued by the conceited Gaston, she learns her father is being held captive by a hideous beast in a cursed castle, filled with magical objects who are alive. Full of romance, action, and humor, this show is definitely a must see.

The show was last performed on the Chapel stage in 2014, so its return has been much anticipated. This year, the main roles of Belle, Beast, and Gaston will be performed by Noelle Robbins, '19, John Walstrom Jr., '20, and Parker Philpott, '19, respectively.

Robbins has had much experience in lead roles. She has played Tiger Lily in Peter Pan, Miss Adelaide in Guys and Dolls, Miss Marian in The Music Man, and Cinderella in Into The Woods. “My favorite role has been Mary Lennox in the Secret Garden my freshman year. That was the first show I did when I was in high school. She is probably the closest to who I am and I have always loved that show.” Yet, being Belle has posed its challenges. “Belle is a very soft singer and she always sings in her head voice and it’s been very difficult switching to the ‘pretty’ signing versus belting everything out like I am used to.”

For Walstrom Jr., having a lead role is new ground, especially after returning to Immanuel after being homeschooled last semester and starting here a week into the new year. “I’m still working on making up the assignments I have missed, but the teachers have really been helpful in letting me be able to come in and ask questions and to make up the work. As for my biggest challenge, it was trying to figure out how to do a Beast voice. I have to have my voice very low and naturally, it’s not like that.”

Philpott has played many villainous and antagonistic roles in the past, both in musicals and plays. “[Playing Gaston] compares about the same to the other roles. It’s gotten pretty easy to slip into that kind of character.” The physical aspect, however, was not so easy. “Gaston has ‘biceps to spare’. As for me, I don’t.”

Other roles in the cast included Jacob Hofer as Lumiere, Nathaniel Ayers as Cogsworth, Alex Dayka as Mrs. Potts, Tiffany Bamford as Babette, Isaac Owen as Maurice, and Trevin Paulson as Lefou. The characters were enjoyable and hilarious, the music memorable, and we can’t forget about the dancing napkins and cutlery! Hopefully, you were able to take a trip to the theater...before the last petal fell.



From Thailand to Reedley

By Taylor Simonian



When Isaac Owen walked onto the Immanuel Campus for the first time, he started a new chapter of his life that was completely foreign. His entire life, Isaac had lived in Thailand with his family on a long term mission. In late summer of 2018, Isaac's family packed up and left Thailand to take a year-long sabbatical. He had never lived in America, but he had lots of family and an ecstatic church to greet him when he got here.



Life in Thailand for Isaac was unlike life in California in many ways. Living in Chiang Mai, Thailand was very urban, with lots of sporadically placed houses, stores, and malls, but it was also surrounded by a dense rainforest. Within the jungle, there were many small villages that still struggled to receive the luxuries of city life, such as electricity, despite it being so readily available for bigger areas like Chiang Mai and Bangkok. His home in Chiang Mai is being watched by a family friend while they are in the United States. Isaac and his family left their Pomeranian, Max, behind, but continue to receive status updates about him via pictures.

Surprisingly, Immanuel is not distinctly different from his education in Thailand. He attended Grace International School, which was an English-speaking private Christian school, so it was extremely similar to Immanuel. "It was unique because it had students from all over the globe (Korea, Norway, Brazil, England, USA, and lots more). Most of the students were missionary kids," says Isaac about his former school.

Although Isaac's biggest surprise was how similar his schools were, his initial shock was just as interesting, and much more humorous. "What ironically surprised me first is how common beef is in America, and how good it is!" In Thai culture, chicken and seafood is much more common than beef, and good tasting beef is hard to come by.

Living there his entire life, Isaac says that most Thai people were very accepting and quick to include him. He recounts that many still stereotyped him as a foreigner before they heard him speaking Thai, which he grew up speaking just like the other Thai kids his age. Because of that, he never saw himself as an outsider because he only knew his home as Thailand.

This year Isaac has not only made many friends in each class, but he excels in his school work and has been on the tennis team and participated in the arts, specifically the concert and chamber choirs. He has made the most of his short time at Immanuel and will carry these experiences with him when he returns to his Thai home this summer.



Max the Pomeranian at home in Thailand

River Table Creator Grew From Immanuel Roots

By Erin Orosco

Choosing a path for your life can be a challenge, but Greg Klassen has seen his life flourish and his dreams met. The Immanuel grad from the class of '99 could not have predicted the direction his life would take when he left the Dinuba peach farm where he was raised to do something that might have seemed risky to many who didn't share his vision. Every so often, success will strike out of seemingly nowhere, and you'll read a story about someone from humble beginnings who has achieved more than they ever dreamed for themselves. This is one of those stories.

Growing up, Greg loved to create. His initial passion for artistry and experimentation is what would establish the groundwork for his future success. As an Immanuel high schooler, this creativity manifested itself in making fresh salsa after school, drawing, and struggling through wood shop. He played baseball for the Eagles, and remembers getting extra school help from the patient Mr. Bucher and talking with Mr. Knaak in his office.

Post graduation is when Klassen really began to live the life of an artist, and a starving one at that. He began his own business as a furniture maker/artist in 2008, and for the first six years was tempted to give up amongst struggling to make a living while also growing his family. Determined to keep going, Klassen experimented with new designs, eventually creating his first River Table. Recognizing that he had landed on something special, he devised an entire collection around the concept. Looking back, this was the point where everything changed for Klassen, the first step in a long journey of success. Klassen notes, "Then, to my surprise, this new work still wasn't selling. I continued to struggle with it for a year until some creative marketing efforts led to my work being widely featured online and going viral. My work suddenly had

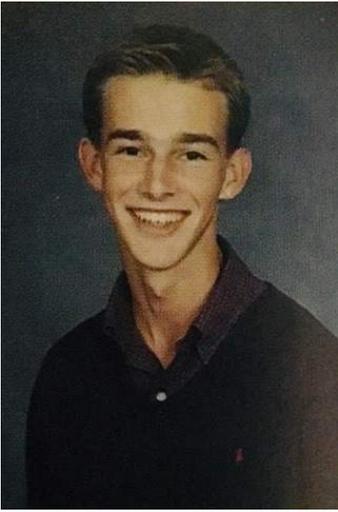


Photos from Instagram - @gregklassenfurniture

thousands of fans and the work I had worked so tirelessly to create over the past 6 years was starting to sell. That was in 2014 and I've been riding a wave of momentum ever since. Today I have a long list of orders and sell and ship my work all around the world." What seemed to have previously been a pipe dream was met with the reality of profit, and the boy from the valley with the dream of being a fine furniture maker received his first taste of success .



Archipelago Series Table



Greg Klassen
1999 Senior Picture



Archipelago Series Wall Hanging

Since then, life for Klassen has consisted of many new and exciting experiences. These include having to make his own tools to achieve the inventive designs of some of his pieces, as well as interacting with interesting clients. In one particularly notable case, Klassen was given the opportunity to create a fifteen piece wall mural using his River design for a client who wished to remain anonymous. When it came time to ship the artwork, the client's name and shipping address were revealed, and Klassen discovered that his artwork was for none other than a royal prince from Saudi Arabia.

As for the everyday aspect of his business, Klassen plays the role of boss and employee, running his shop as a one-man operation. In reply to the question of how his pieces are inspired, Klassen stated, "I'm inspired by the beautiful place we live, 2 hours north of Seattle in the Pacific Northwest. We are surrounded by rivers, mountains, forests, and islands. The setting provides endless inspiration."



Greg Klassen, front right, with the 1999 Immanuel baseball team

When he's not designing or crafting furniture, Klassen enjoys spending time with his family, appreciating nature, and baking or making things with his kids, who he would love to be involved in his business one day. As for the future, Klassen said, "I love what I do and hope to do it for as long as I can. My kids spend a lot of time with me in the shop. These days, while they're young, it's mostly just to lend a hand when I'm making a bookshelf for their room or a fixing a toy that's broken. In the future, I'd love to teach them woodworking so that when they want to create something that they've dreamed up, they'll have the skills to do it." Klassen has managed to hold on to his small town roots and his love of family, and that continues to shape his business and his reputation.



River Art Mural

Greg Klassen's work can be found on Instagram at [@gregklassenfurniture](https://www.instagram.com/gregklassenfurniture), on Facebook at Greg Klassen Furniture Maker, or on his website, www.gregklassen.com.

Upcoming Missions Trips

By Chloe Flaming

Spring and summer are approaching and there are a few upcoming missions trips taking place. Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church will be taking a team to Los Angeles for an Urban Plunge Missions trip on April 12th-18th. This trip will consist of serving in soup kitchens, cleaning up various parts of Los Angeles, and serving the homeless and those in need of the love of Jesus.

Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church is also taking a team to Thailand this summer. Partnering alongside Andy and Carmen Owen, longtime missionaries to Thailand, a full team will be embarking on a new journey. From June 17th-July 3rd, the team will be serving in a women's prison sharing testimonies throughout parts of Thailand, and witnessing the people who are so alive with the Spirit, as well as those who desperately seek and need Jesus.

Another mission trip that is taking place this summer is a trip through Students International to Guatemala from June 29th-July 7th. Immanuel Bible teacher Mr. Thomas is taking about a dozen students to Guatemala this summer where they get the opportunity to serve at different places such as Social Work Ministries, Special Education Ministries, Sports Ministries, and many more.

If you'd like more information about any of these opportunities contact RMBC youth pastor Joel Kersey at joel@reedleymbc.org or Immanuel Bible teacher Luke Thomas at lthomas@immanuelschools.com.

Campus Day 2019

By Camilo Maldonado

Campus Day, held on February 7, 2019 this year, is a chance for parents and students to come see and experience Immanuel. The first Campus Day was held in 2013, but before that it was called Visitation Day, which started in 2003. On average, the elementary has about 30 guests and the junior high and high school Campus Day hosts about 35 guests. In the history of Campus Day, an astounding 100% of those students that come to Campus Day transfer to Immanuel. The families are introduced to different programs offered, including academics, sports, sports med, FFA, and performing arts. The visitors also attend a chapel service, with speaker Angulus Wilson, to give visitors a chance to see students in the fun and worshipful atmosphere. If you have any friends or know someone interested in attending Immanuel, have them contact Mrs. Hall at 638-2529.



College Profiles

By Haley Piek

PUBLIC:

**California State University,
Sacramento**

Location: Sacramento

Mascot: Hornet

Number of Students: 27,323

Located in the capital of California, this university offers many different studies. Marine Biology your thing? This school may be for you as they have a partnership with Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.



**SACRAMENTO
STATE**



**BIOLA
UNIVERSITY**

PRIVATE:

Biola University

Location: La Mirada, California

Mascot: Eagle

Number of students: 4,219

Originally founded as the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Biola University is a private Christian university in Southern California, sixteen miles from downtown LA. This university offers more than 150 educational programs from accounting to Biblical studies.

National FFA Week

By Haley Piek



Every year countless Future Farmers of America chapters nationwide celebrate national FFA week. The reason for celebration is to not only honor the accomplishments of FFA but also to celebrate what FFA means to students.

From Feb. 19-22, Immanuel had fun dress-up days and activities during lunch. Here's a brief rundown of the week:

Tuesday: Patriotic/'Merica Day

Wednesday: Camo/Hunting Day

Thursday: Farm Animal Day

Friday: Extreme Blue and Gold Day

February in History

By Nathanael Atmajian

February 1, 1790: The United States Supreme Court convened for the first time, but in New York.

February 4, 1789: George Washington was chosen unanimously by electors as America's first president.



February 6, 1932: Dog sled racing was first held as an Olympic sport.

February 9: National Pizza Day

February 12, 1809: Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States, was born in Kentucky.

February 15, 1903: The first teddy bear was put on sale in America by Russian immigrants.

February 19, 1945: US Marines landed on the island of Iwo Jima to fight Japanese forces while in a disadvantaged position.

February 22, 1732: President George Washington was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

February 26, 1932: Folk country legend Johnny Cash was born in Kingsland, Arkansas.

February 28, 1935: The synthetic material nylon was invented at the DuPont Experimental Station in Wilmington, Delaware.

The Effects of Digital Advertisements on Young People

By Nathanael Atmajian

Digital advertisements are everywhere. You see them on YouTube, when you're watching TV, when people you follow on social media make paid endorsements for products, and when you're on a website and an ad pops up, urging you to buy something you've viewed on Ebay or Amazon. You see ads for Fortnite, food, clothes, Bud Light, cars, and electronic gadgets. Many of these advertisements are now targeted toward younger people, but can this be harmful? The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs sampled over 1000 youth, 13 to 20 years old, who said they had consumed alcohol within the last month. The underage drinkers who watched an average amount of alcohol ads had more than twice as many drinks as those who did not see any. Underage drinkers heavily exposed to alcohol advertisements drank over 14 times as much as the drinkers exposed to an average amount of alcohol advertisements.



This study clearly shows the negative effects of digital advertising and how young people responded to them.

Other studies, compiled by the Journal of Mass Communication and Journalism, say that youth are overexposed to advertising and commercialism. Extremely young children can watch so many ads at ages three and four that they can't actually tell the difference between the ad and the programming they're watching. While you may think those kids are stupid, the way ads are made can confuse younger viewers. Seemingly unethical, older youth can be unwittingly used by social media advertisements to spread word about a product. Other sources speak of poor diets or impulsive spending of teens resulting from an exposure to advertisements as well as more negative effects such as cigarette or vape use. It's important for high school students to understand the motives of digital advertising and the importance of mentally filtering out the ads that can be harmful to them.



Our Opinions:

The Super Bowl and Why It's Not That Super

By Ruby Rankin

The Super Bowl happened again, for those of you who live under a rock. The most anticipated event was not worth the wait or the money you spent on snacks. In fact, it wasn't even a good game. The Puppy Bowl had better plays than the biggest football game of the year. With Super Bowl LIII being the lowest scoring Super Bowl in history and the commercials equally awful, there really was nothing about this game that was entertaining except changing the channel or turning the television all the way off and actually going outside to evaluate all the choices you've made in life that led up to you turning on the channel and actually expecting a good football game. The Super Bowl is one of the most expensive events of the year, and this year, we can all say that was money well wasted.

World Ag Expo

By Sebastian Zamudio & Christian Gomez

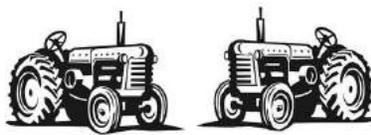
The World Ag Expo is the largest annual outdoor agriculture exposition, and includes over 1,450 exhibits and over 100,00 attendees per year. It is held in Tulare each year, starting on the second Tuesday of February. The history of Immanuel's presence at the Farm Festival is a brief one. Originally the Immanuel booth was used as a food fundraiser for the school and was run by the school board. After this, the board made the decision to rent out the booth to Dinuba Junior

vs.

The Super Bowl For Those Who Thought It Was Super

By Camilo Maldonado

Although some people might say that it was boring, it was a really good defensive game. Both teams played an amazing season. Players have dreamed of playing in the Super Bowl, especially winning the Super Bowl. Even though everyone hates Tom Brady it's crazy that he's won 6 Super Bowls more than any other player. Now the Patriots tie with the Steelers for most Super Bowl wins.



Academy so they could use it as a fundraiser for their school. Starting in 2014 Immanuel took control once again of the booth as a fundraiser for the school while simultaneously using it to promote their new FFA program. The booth does quite well, usually selling about 700 sandwiches per day, and some days reaching over 1,000 sandwiches. The booth is a great chance for Immanuel to get the word out about the school to visitors as well as it being a great fundraiser.

How I Singlehandedly Survived Valentine's Day

By Taylor Simonian



If you're reading this, I have successfully survived Valentine's Day as a single lady.

If you know me, you would know that I love all things gross and cliché. This obviously includes the pink and red fiasco that is Valentine's Day. Between the chocolate and random acts of kindness, the holiday is so lovely. Sadly, it oftentimes gets rejected due to its centrality around relationships. What if you could change that?

I have recently been wondering if there is something more to Valentine's Day that I haven't yet grasped. This year, instead of eating discount chocolate all alone, we get up! We go out and share kindness with the world. We can all take Valentine's Day as the perfect opportunity to tell someone you love them, even if it isn't your little crush. Tell your parents you appreciate them, thank your teachers, and spend time with the people you cherish most.