

## Annual Sea of Pink event hopes to eliminate bullying

BY CAROLYN SHAO  
STAFF REPORTER

The Gay-Straight Alliance is keeping up their tradition of hosting an annual "Sea of Pink" event in order to raise awareness of bullying. This year, it is being held today, September 25.

In 2007, "Sea of Pink began in Canada when a grade 9 boy wore a pink polo shirt on his first day of school. Bullies harassed the boy and called him a homosexual for wearing pink," explained senior Albertine Lee, vice president of GSA. Two seniors at the boy's school found out, and they decided to take ac-

tion. They bought fifty pink shirts and informed the students of Central Kings Rural High School that the next day they would be giving out the shirts to help with their "anti-bullying cause that they dubbed as Sea of Pink," said Lee. The next day of school resulted in not just a few dozen kids in pink, but hundreds of students all decked out in their own pink clothes.

Each year Sea of Pink has successfully brought dozens of students into the event. It has become well known because it is a fun and easy way to show support. On a day where the high school can come together, senior Veronica Yam, president

of GSA, says that "the entire high school participates to foster a sense of community."

This event also "creates a safe environment where everybody feels comfortable to be himself/herself," added Lee.

Sea of Pink symbolizes the "community and unity among high school students," according to Lee. She emphasized the importance of the event to SAS, saying that it "promotes tolerance and acceptance, raises awareness for anti-bullying, and gives support to those who need it." As the school becomes more open-minded, students are more willing to accept others and express themselves.

## Habitat for Humanity teams go on annual Jacaranda trip

BY STEVEN LEE  
STAFF REPORTER

This past June four Habitat for Humanity teams went on what is now an annual trip to Jacaranda in Malawi.

The Jacaranda school was founded by Maria Da Silva, who noticed that children in her hometown Che Mboma did not have access to quality education. The school quickly transformed into a major education institution providing free primary, secondary, and tertiary education to orphans who are affected by AIDS. SAS has been helping to support the Jacaranda school since 2009, and today the two schools share intimate connections.

This trip was Puxi Habitat's seventh trip to Malawi. During the two weeks, SAS students established personal relationships with the students of the Jacaranda school. By interacting with Jacaranda

students both inside and outside the classrooms through various activities, SAS students came to better understand and embrace the culture and people as part of tightly knit Jacaranda family. High school teacher and Habitat director Mr. Robert Burke noted that "singing, dancing, and laughter were a part of every day at Jacaranda."

Senior Luke Kao, who went on the trip, said this year's visit was special because every student on the trip got the opportunity to listen to every Jacaranda student. "We were there when Jacaranda students sat around a campfire and told personal stories about their lives," he said. "We were there to send away the Jacaranda school's own Class of 2014."

Other members recounted their spending time with Jacaranda students as one of the happiest moments of the trip. Senior Xenia Fong said, "What I expe-

rienced surpassed my expectations by miles. These students have so much passion, hope, optimism, and love to share!"

Senior Julia Liang said that she was amazed by the positive and welcoming Jacaranda students. "They are not selfish and never hesitate to share what they have, whether it'd be a spoon or a piece of paper."

In addition to Mr. Burke, other chaperones on the trip included elementary school teachers Ms. Gabby Burke and Mr. Nathan Heck and high school math teacher Mr. Robert Matsuscheck.

Besides Jacaranda, the Habitat for Humanity club is also promoting its annual Playing for Change concert, an event organized to help the Playing for Change Foundation, whose purpose is to create music schools around the world. Habitat for Humanity holds a Playing for Change event every late September.



Left, Jacaranda students wearing SAS T-shirts welcome the Habitat team during a welcoming ceremony. Right, high school teacher Mr. Matsuscheck entertains Jacaranda students.