



The Hanal Hammer & Fire



March 2018 Edition



Interview of Mr. Montero

By: Camella Li

This month's profile is of our chemistry teacher, Mr. Angelo. Montero. Although I'm taking his chemistry class I did not know much about him, and that's why I'm glad that we chose to interview him this month. Mr. Montero took biology as his main major in college and before coming to Hanal, he worked as a lab researcher. Eventually, Mr. Montero decided he wanted to become a

teacher. His preference was to teach science and Spanish. (Why Spanish? Because he was born in Chile, South America and Spanish is his first language.) We are so lucky that Hanal needed someone who could do just that! After teaching here for almost one year, he thinks this school is great because of its small classes.

Mr. Montero's favorite animal is the white tiger and his favorite sports are badminton and basketball. When he has the free time, he likes to read

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books and listen to music. His favorite musicians are Beethoven, Mozart, Donizetti and Wagner. Not only does he like listening to music, Mr. Montero plays the piano and violin in his free time. Mr. Montero said the best time of his life is attending the opera. Christmas Day is Mr. Montero's favorite holiday for three special reasons, the beautiful decorations, he is surrounded by his family and, of course, because it is the day Jesus was born.

He also thinks about international topics. For example, he thinks the Chinese people should use more electric cars in their daily life to relieve the air pollution in their country. He also believes that North Korea should not have the nuclear bomb.

When it comes to traveling, he wants to visit China, Korea, and Japan to learn more about their respective cultures. Mr. Montero has taken a trip to Italy before. I'm guessing that's because Italian food is his favorite food and that his favorite fashion style is formal 19th century Italian (He does have really classy clothing!!)

Mr. Montero is a great teacher and I'm glad I could share the information I learned about him.

**Jungi Noh**

By: Cecilia Fang

We had a great chance to get to know one of the students from our school, Jungi Noh. Jungi is a senior now in Hanal School. He was born on March 1st, 1998 in Korea. He has two sisters and one brother and he is the youngest one in his family. He is lucky that one of his sisters lives in Ridgefield and he gets to live with her.

Jungi came to America 10 years ago to study English and we are lucky that his mom sent him to the Hanal School for his senior year. He is a great classmate, especially during P.E class because he is always active. In fact, that's the thing I admire the most

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Jungi Noh (continued)

about him, that he always tries his best. Jungi's dream is to become a firefighter in the future because he wants to save people's lives. I think that is pretty cool and it tells you what a great guy he is. Right now, his goal is get into college to chase his dream. He plans to stay in America after he graduates from college. He wants to stay in America because he thinks it is a great country, with sensible rules and laws,

We also asked him some personal questions that he happily answered. Jungi told us that he likes to travel. The top 3 destinations he wants to visit are Canada, Hiroshima in Japan, and Germany. (Germany is on the list because he will have a place to stay, his mom's friends live there.) Jungi likes to eat bulgogi, a Korean food made of pork and rice, and his favorite America food is BBQ chicken. He is also a fan of Yim Jaebeom, a famous Korean rapper, as well as the female star, AOA. His favorite holiday is Christmas because during Christmas there isn't any school and he gets to travel. Last year, he went to the Luray Caverns in Virginia.

**Solitude**

By; Jun Lee

The definition of solitude is "being alone." I am sure that many people have experienced tough times in their lives. When you are having a bad day, feeling down or insecure, or having dark and gloomy thoughts, being alone can be harmful. People seem to be unaware of how dangerous it is to be in solitude.

I personally believe that too much solitude can cause depression, which is a mental problem. In this society, more and more people are becoming independent. The society is becoming individualistic. 1 out of 10 people feel solitude or loneliness, but no one cares about the dangers of it.

For example, a scientist from the University of North Carolina published a report on January 4, 2016, entitled "Solitude." In the paper, the scientist said that 1 out of 10 people have problems with solitude, and this

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Solitude (continued)

can cause stress and depression. . It can also cause a fatal disease such as heart disease, stroke, or cancer. In addition, if someone suffers from severe and extreme levels of depression from spending too much time alone, the person can commit suicide.

However, sometimes being alone is important, because it gives people time to think about themselves and be more mature. But, too much solitude can make someone feel lonely and unwanted.

For example, when I was in middle school, one of my classmates was bullied. He was always alone and was always severely biting his nails until they were bleeding. This was a symptom of depression. Finally, he tried to commit suicide, but his parents found him. He went to the mental hospital to treat his depression.

People should realize that solitude can be a big problem if it exists for a long time. People should try to solve this problem.

**I Dream of Thailand**

By: Shuyan Jin (Callie)

I think everyone has a country in their mind that they want to visit. I have one too, my dream is to visit Thailand, and in particular, Phuket Island. Phuket Island is the famous island that people travel for vacation. It is the largest island in Thailand and is located in the Andaman Sea in southwestern Thailand. Its area is 576 square kilometers and it has a tropical and maritime climate, By that I mean it is hot and rainy. The island's environment is pure, its seawater is clean and there are a lot of seafood and fruits to eat. It has a total population of 386,600 people.

I think I will travel to Phuket Island this summer. I love their clean and blue water and their fruit is very fresh. If you go to Thailand, you must try their fruit! When I was in Texas, there was a Thai food restaurant and I went

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I Dream of Thailand (continued)

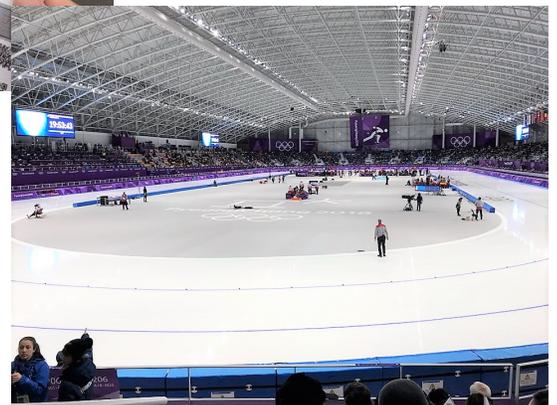
there every week. I like Pad Thai. Pad Thai is fried noodles with some meat and bean sprouts and this is the food that I ordered every time. I want to try Tom Yum Goong soup when I'm in Thailand because I never tried that before. Thailand's seafood is famous too. Because they are an island the seafood is very abundant. I once saw a shrimp that as big as the palm of the hand and I really wanted to try it. Also Thailand's luxury goods are cheaper than those in China and America I think. If a lipstick is \$36.00 in America, in Thailand it will be \$30.00. This makes it a good country for shopping. Thailand has great scenery and views so no matter how bad your photography skill level is, your pictures always look great. I can't wait to visit there.

My Experience at the Winter Olympics

By: Woogyeon Sim

When I heard that Korea would host the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, I definitely wanted to be in the biggest sports event in the world because it was hosted in my mother country. However, I failed to buy a ticket for the opening event so I was like, "Okay, just forget it." Coincidentally, I returned to Korea on

February 10 and stayed there for 2 weeks. As I heard a lot of news about the Olympics, I got interested in it so I researched for available tickets and found that there are still some. I asked my friend about going together, he agreed, and we quickly bought 2 tickets for skating events and also for the train to Gangneung, the site of the skating stadium). It took us 4 hours to get there from my hometown by subway and train. The event was at 8 o'clock, and we got to the Olympic Park, where the stadiums are located, 2 hours earlier and looked around the park. (continued after pictures)



There were big companies promoting themselves and a big store selling the Olympics goods. When I entered the stadium, I couldn't help but be extremely excited (continued next page)

Winter Olympics (continued)

because of the crowd shouting and the huge shining ice rink. While I was watching the event for 2 hours, I couldn't take my eyes off of the ice rink. Although a Norwegian skater (and unfortunately not a Korean) won the gold medal, I can't forget the dozens of people who got off their seats and shouted when a Korean player came in first place during one of the heats. The PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games were the first big sports event in my life and it quickly became an unforgettable memory. If you get to have a chance to go to an Olympics, don't ever miss your lucky chance.

**Spring In China**

By: Selina Xue

My favorite season is spring. There are a few reasons why spring is my favorite season instead of fall, summer, or winter. However, I also like fall as well. Fall is very similar to

spring in many ways. Both seasons have similar temperatures and weather. Both offer a great time for vacationing. The big difference is that there are cherry blossoms in the spring. Winter isn't my favorite because I really hate cold weather and summer can't be my favorite either because I hate hot and humid weather. Spring is like the weekend to me. It is a very short and happy time just like the weekend after a school week. I like to go on picnics with my friends during the spring season. There are many beautiful picnic places in China.

Spring is also my favorite season because we have many holidays and spring break. I really love spring break because I get to sleep until 10:00 in the morning and I don't have any quizzes or tests to study for. I also don't have tons of homework to do. Personally, I love flowers and all the beauty nature provides us. I enjoy just looking at flowers grow after a long winter. During spring, I think the air is fresher and cleaner.

I also like to go to zoo and waterpark during the spring. Spring is the time when animals are most active and healthy, so I like to visit the zoo and look at the cute animals. I like to go to the waterpark and swim with my family.

Overall, Spring is my favorite season because of the weather, temperature, and nature. But maybe the best thing about spring is that it is really close to summer vacation. I can't wait for the spring break. I have so many things to do during spring break. I am really excited to go to China and see my family.



My Vacation in China

By: Alex Tan

I recently went to China for my vacation. I visited there because it was Chinese New Year. Chinese New Year is the most important and biggest holiday in China. That is why I had to miss school. I did a lot of things during my vacation, so I'll limit myself to telling you about three major ones.

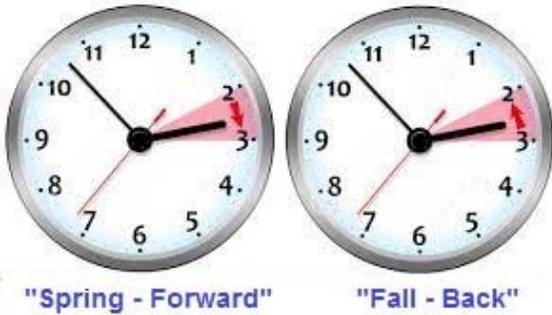
It goes without saying that I went to a New Year celebration. There are people out on the street doing amazing performances and all the people in that area come out and join the celebration. The dragon is China's symbol and there are many, many dragon dolls and models in the ceremony.

Secondly, it is a tradition that all family member stay together to eat during Chinese New Year. In that way, it is very similar to the United States' Thanksgiving. There is a lot of

good food and many of them are delicious. I love this holiday because I get to eat so many different foods at once. Food in my hometown is much more delicious than the Chinese food in America. This is why I am eager to go to China at least twice a year.

Lastly, and this is my favorite part of Chinese New Year is the tradition that adults give money to young children. I love this tradition because I get a lot of money just in one day. All I have to do is just go to adult family member and greet them and they hand me money! I did especially well this year because the age right before you become an adult is the best time because you get the most money. Sadly, this is my last year as a child, so starting next year I won't get money anymore. Overall, my China trip was amazing and I already miss it. I miss the food, people, and places there. I especially miss my family the most. However, it was great time in China. Hopefully, I will go back to China soon.





Daylight Savings Time

By: Kaida Flowers

Daylight Savings Time was first used in 1908 in Thunder Bay, Canada. Daylight Savings Time is a seasonal time change measure where clocks are set ahead of standard time during part of the year, usually by 1 hour. When it starts, the Sun rises and sets later on the clock than the day before. Today, about 40% of countries use it to conserve energy and make better use of daylight.

Germany and Austria were the first countries to use Daylight Savings Time in 1916, but a lot of Canadians beat the German Empire by 8 years. On July 1, 1908, people of Port Arthur, Ontario (today known as Thunder Bay), turned their clocks forward by 1 hour to start the world's first Daylight Savings Time period. On April 23, 1914, Regina in Saskatchewan carried out Daylight Savings Time. The cities of Winnipeg and Brandon in Manitoba did so on April 24, 1916. According to the April 3, 1916 edition

of the Manitoba Free Press, Daylight Savings Time in Regina “proved so popular that by law now brings it into effect automatically”.

Daylight Savings Time did not catch on globally until Germany introduced it in 1916. Clocks in the German Empire and Austria were turned ahead by 1 hour on April 30, 1916, 2 years into World War I. They did this to minimize the use of artificial lighting to save fuel for the war effort. A few weeks later, the idea was followed by the United Kingdom, France, and many other countries. Most of them reverted to standard time after World War I, and it wasn't until the next World War that Daylight Savings Time made its return in most of Europe.

If you think Daylight Saving Time is a good idea, thank New Zealand scientist George Vernon Hudson and British builder William Willett. In 1895, Hudson gave a paper to the Wellington Philosophical Society asking for a 2-hour shift forward in October and a 2 hour shift back in March. There was interest in the idea, but it was never followed through. In 1905, British builder William Willett suggested setting the clocks ahead 20 minutes on each of the 4 Sundays in April, and switching them back by the same amount on each of the 4 Sundays in September. Willett's Daylight Saving plan caught the attention of the British Member of Parliament, Robert Pearce, who

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Daylight Savings Time (continued)

introduced a bill to the House of Commons in February of 1908. The first Daylight Savings Bill was written in 1909, presented to Parliament several times, and examined by a select committee. Many people didn't like his idea, especially farmers, so the bill was never made into a law. Willett died in 1915, the year before the United Kingdom started using Daylight Savings Time in May of 1916. It is not known if he knew that his idea had become a reality 7 years before to his death in a town in Ontario, Canada.

Even though modern Daylight Savings Time has only been used for about 100 years now, ancient places are known to have done very similar practices thousands of years ago. Now, Daylight Savings Time is used in over 70 countries and affects over 1 billion people every year. The beginning and end dates are different in every country.

**S.Korean Women's Curling Team**

By: Seung Jae Oh

At the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, Team Korea won an unexpected silver medal in an event that is unknown by most Koreans, and that event was curling. The success of the South Korea Women's Curling Team reflects a shifting balance of power away from Canada which is the traditional power. The Korea's five-women team's origin goes back to 1980s physical education teacher, Kim Kyung Doo who first watched curling while traveling abroad for competitions. At that time, South Korea barely had a curling federation. There was no practice rink, and no one was interested in curling. In 1999, Kim audited an advanced coaching course for curling in British Columbia. After coming back to Korea, he taught himself curling by studying video footage and reading curling books he had brought back from Canada. Soon, he became the curling coach in a small

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South Korean Curling (continued)

town in Korea, and it included his daughter Min-Jung who is now the national women's team's coach. He later built a curling center in the town. He even nurtured the members of national curling team. Kim Eun-jung and Kim Young-mi, the team's skip and lead, started curling as an after school activity about two or three times a week in high school in 2006. Kim Young-mi's younger sister Kim kyung-ae later joined the team, and she later brought a friend kim Sun-Young. In 2015, they added a last member Kim Cho-hi. The five women began to practice for long hours of training five days a week. Their hard work and dedication became obvious when they won their silver medal at the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics.

What Spring Means To Me

By: Aston Wu

There are four seasons, spring, summer, fall, and winter. Out of these four seasons, my favorite is spring because of many different reasons. During spring the temperature is perfect, which all by itself makes spring a beautiful season. Spring also means a period of new life.. Even though it's only three months, a lot of my best memories are related to spring. First,

spring means the perfect temperature to me. Personally, I don't like when it's too hot or too cold, so spring is the perfect temperature for me because I like it when it's about 20 Celsius (about 70 Fahrenheit). Spring is the perfect time to go to camping or any other outdoor activity. I love basketball, so spring is the best season for me to play basketball. I also like to go to the amusement park during the spring because it's not cold, not hot and not humid. (I feel really bad when it's humid and my skin feels so sticky).



Secondly, spring is very beautiful because all of nature comes out from the winter and begins to get active again. Animals come out from their winter sleep, plants start to grow, and the white and grey of winter change to the green of spring. I love watching those changes and feeling it.

Lastly, spring is a period of new life. Like I said before animals and plants start to move and come out. For winter, many animals take their long winter sleep and
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What Spring Means To Me (continued)

plants and flowers are buried by snow. However, when spring arrives, animals awaken from their long sleep and start to move around to find food to stop the hunger they have after their long sleep. Plants and flowers shake off the snow that is on top of them. Then the new leaves and flowers start to grow.

All of this means a lot to me. I think that spring is the beginning of everything in our world. Spring means something beautiful and new to me.

**April Fool's Day's Origin**

By: Kay Yoon

April Fool's Day is an annual celebration in some European and Western countries commemorated on April 1 by playing practical jokes and spreading hoaxes. The jokes and their victims are called April fools, There are many different kinds of commentary about the origins but the most common is the

claim that the French began it in the 16th century. Before the year 1582, the French celebrated the Christmas season from March 25 to April 1 and the final day of the festival was to exchange gifts and celebrate the New Year. In 1582, Charles IX, the king of France, ordered the change from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendars. This changed three things, it dropped the days that year between March 25 and April 1, it moved Christmas to December 25 and New Year's to January 1. However, those who were not exposed to this news still exchanged gifts on April 1 and greeted the new year. Those people who celebrated New Year's on the wrong day (April 1) were called April Fools. Today we have made the day a fun day of pulling pranks and jokes on our friends and relatives.

**Easter**

By: Jackie Zhang

At Easter-time, I think all the students think the same thing: we have a break from school! .But, I .
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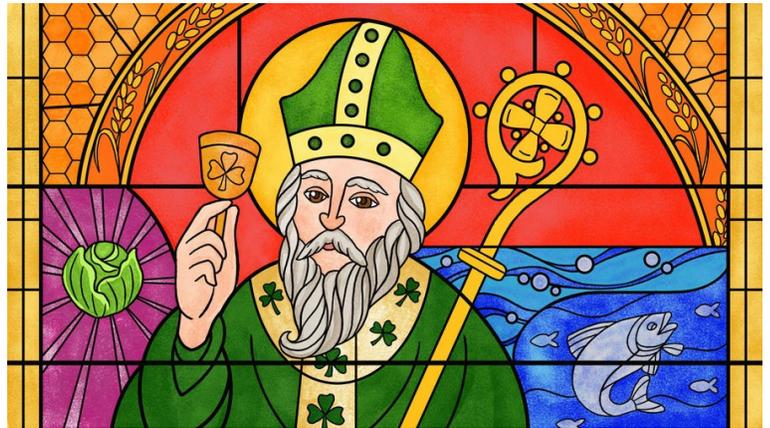
Easter (continued)

think we need to remember this day for its religious reasons. People celebrate Easter according to their beliefs and their religious denominations. Christians commemorate Good Friday as the day that Jesus Christ died and Easter Sunday as the day that He was resurrected. Protestant settlers brought the custom of a sunrise service, a religious gathering at dawn, to the United States.

The meaning of many of the different customs observed on Easter Sunday have been buried with time. Their origins lie in pre-Christian religions and Christianity. All, in some way or another, are a “salute to spring”, that is the marking of re-birth. For example, eggs and the Easter Bunny. The white Easter lily has come to capture the glory of the holiday. The word “Easter” is named after Easter, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. A festival was held in her honor every year at the vernal equinox.

Today, on Easter Sunday, children wake up to find that the Easter Bunny has left them baskets of candy. He has also hidden the

eggs that they decorated earlier that week. Children hunt for the eggs all around the house. Neighborhoods and organizations hold Easter egg hunts, and the child who finds the most eggs wins a prize.

**St Patrick**

By: Jun Gi Noh

Saint Patrick's Day this year was on March 17.

Many people, both Irish and non-Irish celebrate the day with beer, meals of corned beef & cabbage, parades and the “wearin’ ‘o the green”, as all of these things are associated with Ireland. But why do we celebrate the day?

Who was Saint Patrick?

Saint Patrick is known as the patron saint of Ireland but he wasn't born in Ireland! We do know he was born in the late 4th century but there are differing views about the exact year and place of his birth. Some think he was born 390 A.D. but others say it was in 373 AD. And historians aren't sure if he was born in Scotland or England. They do agree though, that his birth name was

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St. Patrick continued)

Maewyn Succat and it is believed he died on March 17, 461 AD.

At the age of sixteen, Maewyn was taken prisoner by Irish raiders after they attacked his family. They took him to Ireland, where he spent six years as a slave. During his slavery, Maewyn worked as a shepherd, and was alone most of the time. He grew lonely and afraid, so he turned to Christianity for comfort. It was at this point in his life that he took the name Patrick. He tried escaping Ireland many times and was caught every time, until at last he was successful.

After returning to England, he studied Christianity. Eventually, Patrick claimed he had a vision that told him to bring Christianity to the Irish people, who were predominantly pagan (idol and nature worshippers), so he made his way back to Ireland. He began preaching and eventually converted most of the island's people to Christianity.

Legend has it that he “drove the snakes from Ireland”, but that can't be true because there never were snakes in Ireland. So in this saying, the word “snakes” is a metaphor for “pagans”.



International Women's Day

By : Phina Xue

The seed of International Women's Day was planted in 1908. In that year, about 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding the right to vote, higher pay, and shorter working hours. A year later, the Socialist Party declared the first National Women's Day. In 1910, at The International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen, Clara Zetkin suggested the idea of internationalizing the women's day. The proposal was agreed to unanimously. In 1911, International Women's Day was first celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland, and the day was made official in 1975 when the United Nations started celebrating the day.

Today, International Women's Day has become a date to celebrate how far women have come in economics, in politics, and in society. As a national holiday in many countries, the sales of flowers usually doubles during the week around March 8th. This year's International

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International Women's Day (continued)

Women's Day campaign theme was #PressForProgress. Tens of thousands of people took to the street in cities across America to demonstrate against the current presidency, as well as to encourage more women to sign up to vote. International Women's Day has always been seen as a strong weapon of feminists.

The politicalization of International Women's Day has defeated the original idea. People see feminists as a group of people who want women's rights beyond men's. This is simply wrong. The importance of women's role in today's world is to encompass equal chances and power for women to contribute to our survival of humanity. To put it simply. We need to ensure equal rights between women and men.

Spirited Away

By: Heting Gong

Everyone has free time and in many cases they spend that time on a movie. I often do this too. My favorite movie is *Spirited Away*, a movie by Japanese director Miyazaki.

The movie is about a little girl called Chihiro. Because of her father's new job, Chihiro's parents had to move to another town. On the way to their new home, they took a shortcut over a mountain. While traveling over the mountain, they saw a cave. Because it was almost nighttime, they decided to go into the cave. When they entered, they saw a lot of food. Because of the long walk, they were all hungry. Chihiro's parents began to eat the food, but Chihiro thought they should find out whose food it was and get permission first. It turns out, Chihiro was right, because soon after her parents began eating, they turned into pigs!

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Spirited Away (continued)

Chihiro was afraid about what happened to her parents and wanted to find somebody help her. A friendly god was watching what was happening and saw Chihiro, and especially her parents, were in trouble. He came to the cave and told her that if she wants to save her parents, she must do a good deed to prove she was worthy of the god's help. However, before she began her work, she must first lose her name so that the god would know she would complete the job. But the god warned

her that she couldn't forget her true name. Because if she forgot it, she would have to work for the god for the rest of her life. But because she was friendly and kind, the god helped her to finish her work. When she finished her tasks, the god gave her back her name and changed her parents back into humans

In this movie, I learned that you should always be friendly and kind to everyone, because if you are, they can help you too. This is why *Spirited Away* is my favorite movie. I hope more people can watch this movie because maybe you guys will love it too !

