



In Loving Memory of Esther Suen

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News Editor

On March 22, Mark Keppel High School (MKHS) senior Esther Suen died after a hiking accident at Eaton Canyon. One of her friends, MKHS senior Taisei Sasaki, was injured with a fractured arm and leg and a dislocated shoulder. The unexpected tragedy created a nearly instantaneous wave of action across both social media and real life.

A Facebook page, titled "R.I.P. Esther Suen," was created with the purpose of honoring Suen and "bring[ing] our community together as one during this difficult time," according to the page description. People, even those who did not personally know her, were

able to express their grief and share their feelings toward Suen on this public forum.

"I feel [...] regretful to be given six classes in three years with her and still [not] bond with her. Esther, however, never hesitated to wave hello with a bright smile to me in the hallways," MKHS senior Minnie Yu said. "How heartbroken everyone is reflects what an amazing person [she was]."

A memorial was held in honor of Suen on March 30 at Emmaus Lutheran Church and School, where Suen attended elementary and middle school. During the event, her loved ones spoke about their memories of her, including her love of food, her cheerfulness and her zest for life.

"Go!" Reverend Yvonne Boyd said at the memorial. "In the spirit of Esther, have your own adventure!"

Boyd, the presiding pastor, shared an anecdote about a sleepover Suen and her friends once had. During the sleepover, the girls watched Pixar's movie "UP." Boyd compared Suen's passing to a line from the movie,

"How heartbroken everyone is reflects what an amazing person [Esther was]."

in which a character writes, "Thanks for the adventure - now go have a new one!" Boyd emphasized the importance of moving on past the tragedy and celebrat-

ing Suen's life.

"I [...] wish more people had gotten the opportunity to have met Esther or known her better," a Facebook post written by Suen's close friends Lia Lee, Mallory Chen and Lisa Li said. "Esther [...] had the ability to touch and reach out to so many people."

Suen also demonstrated excellence in both academics and extracurriculars; she had been accepted to and planned to attend Cornell University. In addition, she was a long-standing member of MKHS' diving team, having led the team to several CIF championships. Her achievements are numerous, but what people remember her by is her character.

"To me, [Esther] was always the kind of person who would always smile through everything," Lee said. "No matter when times were tough, she always had that signature sunshine smile on her face, and that's what people really recognized her for."

As the community gathers to mourn the loss of a notable individual, Suen will always be remembered by everyone who ever knew her.

"Esther is interwoven through all of our lives, regardless of whether you were a close friend of hers or simply passed by her in the hallways," Lee, Chen and Li said. "She will always be with us."

PHOTOS courtesy of R.I.P. ESTHER SUEN FACEBOOK PAGE

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"Go! In the spirit of Esther, have your own adventure!"

NEWS BRIEF

ASB Invites AHS Students to Participate in Campus-wide Service

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Staff Writer

At AHS, students have numerous opportunities to become involved with community service through student-run clubs and organizations. In an effort to further spur the spirit of community service at AHS, a campus-wide service is being organized by the Associated Student Body (ASB) and AHS' various service clubs.

Leading the effort to coordinate the first AHS campus-

wide service is the ASB Director of Clubs, Jimmy Lin. The conception of the campus-wide service originates from ASB's effort to set long-term goals for the school year and see these goals through realization. Lin hopes for the campus-wide service to be the first of a long-standing tradition here at AHS.

"Alhambra High has one of the strongest service traditions out of the high schools in [the San Gabriel Valley] area. I feel like students aren't aware

of that and should learn about what these clubs do," Lin said.

All AHS students are invited to participate as volunteers at the campus-wide service even if they are not currently associated with a service club.

"Participating gives back to the school and rewards the efforts of hardworking students and teachers who give up time to be advisors," Lin said.

The primary beneficiary of the campus-wide service will be AHS itself. ASB is currently coordinating with teachers

and faculty to identify a list of key tasks and responsibilities that may be handled by the service. Student volunteers will be divided into teams that will each be assigned to different tasks identified by ASB.

"Although I'm not currently in a service club, I'm interested in participating in an event that would let us students do community service and give back," freshman Isaac Ramirez said. "I believe that the event will be successful if they present and promote it well enough.

That being said, I hope that it does succeed and I'm excited to see it become a tradition [at] AHS."

The campus-wide service is set to occur on Thursday, April 18, from after school until the end of Open House. The service is occurring simultaneously with Open House because teacher supervision is required for the service to take place. Students who want to get involved can look to fliers and bulletin announcements for more information.

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