



AN INTERVIEW WITH CANDIDATE SHAWN

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE MACC MINIBRAIN?

I feel very honored and thrilled to be a candidate in the MACC Mini-brain. Since everyone in the class is a candidate, it is very competitive to be voted for the position. It's a very challenging position which must be led by a responsible person. This is the first time that we've had a campaign-like project and it is fun seeing how everyone is busily trying to gain each other's votes with different strategies. It will be an exciting and meaningful experience to be able to help the teacher and the class and I believe I have the skills and abilities to become a competent MACC Mini-Brain!



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK?

One of my favorite books is *The Roar* by Emma Clayton; I love the action and the suspense that the author brings to the book. I also enjoy reading books from authors such as Kevin Sands and Jerry Spinelli. I read to my little brother at home before bed. One of the ones I'm reading to him currently is *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman, which I've read before and has been nominated for the Young Reader's Choice award last year.

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND?

My best friend at school is Peiyan because he's the person who makes me feel comfortable and would like to be around with. He has some of the great qualities that a friend has: kind, a sense of humor, generous, willing to compromise among many others. (Not being offensive to all the other friends I have). Besides, my parents and brother are also my best friend. We laugh, share and have fun together. I am very grateful to have them as part of my life.



DO YOU GET NERVOUS IN FRONT OF CROWDS?

Yes, I do get nervous and I think it is never easy to do it. One thing that helps me with the anxiety is practicing what I'm going to say repeatedly before doing it in front of crowds. I would like to make sure I am well prepared and be familiar with the topic which I am going to present. This will help to build up my confidence level to stand and talk in front of people. In addition, MACC program has provided me a lot of opportunities for practicing my public speaking skills, and I now feel more comfortable to talk in front of crowds.

DO YOU HAVE DAYS OFF?

No, I do not have days off for now; as I think about the campaign project every single day and the strategy on how to gain people's vote (optimistically from you reader). I find that if I use this method, I seem to get better ideas out from my head. Hopefully, I will get some time off to relax after this campaign is over.

WHO ARE YOUR HEROES?

The people who come to mind the first are my parents. They've been very supportive in almost every aspect of what I am doing. Although there have been some conflicts in some of our decisions, it always gets resolved one way or another. They have provided me some guidance and suggestion whenever a big decision arises. They also have given me more opportunities to help build my leadership inside and outside of the school. Apart from that, I also admire Beethoven and his music. I am fascinated by the fact that he could still write great music while he was going deaf for most of his life.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SUBJECT?

Without a second thought, math is what I like the most. During math, we have the chance to attend in enrichment activities if we aren't working with Mr. Gaitens. This gives us some time to discover different aspects of math at our own pace, which is one of the advantages I can benefit from MACC program. I am a very logical person and the characteristic of math fits well with my personality. Another reason why I like math is because it's amazing to see how math plays an important role in helping discover and resolve things that we still don't know after many years.



MACC MINI-BRAIN



WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DO YOU ATTEND?

Besides school, I love music and I have been learning piano for about 5 years. I also go to Chinese school. Even though this is not my favorite subject, but learning an additional language has been confirmed to have benefits such as creativity and critical thinking skills. As for sports, I take martial arts (Kung Fu) lesson. I have been learning this for about 3 years ago. I am considered a senior now and sometimes help my coach teach some of the younger students. This has helped build up my leadership and coaching skills. I want to become well rounded in all aspects and that's why I'm so determined to become successful in these activities.

WHAT CAN CLASSMATES HELP MAKE THE MACC COMMUNITY BETTER?

I greatly believe that there are many ways we can do to help make MACC a better community. A few of them are to have the will to compromise more, to incorporate teamwork to achieve common goals. We have to find ways to promote each other without tearing down each other's ideas. Besides, a happy community is a better community. If we become better, we can extend to become supportive of the school, become the role model class for the school community. This helps build up significant confidence for the MACC community. I know we can accomplish great things if we have a good mind towards achieving the goal. School is where to learn, make friends and have fun and it plays an important part in our life.