

Three teams competed in the thrilling annual chariot race for the chance to reign victorious.

The crack of thunder shook the whole school, lightning flashed in the sky, and rain pounded the earth as the chariot racers added some final touches to the chariots they worked so hard to make. The weather could have been enough to cancel the long-awaited race, but the contestants persevered and continued with the event. The crowd packed into the senior patio and a few onlookers sat in the rooms above, preparing the water balloons that would soon be launched at the already drenched racers. The three teams got together and devised last minute plans as to how they could win the annual chariot race.

The teams took a few practice rounds to get acclimated to the new location of the chariot race: the senior patio. The owners of the three chariots took their marks and arranged themselves in the most efficient way possible. With the Asian Culture Club and the Junior Classical League club both competing, anything could happen. The race was about to begin and the announcer started the countdown. "Three." The contestants pulled the chariots picked up the handles of their handmade chariots. "Two." The brave volunteers who were riding the chariots strapped themselves in. "One." The crowd waited anxiously and ate the complimentary cupcakes as the race was about to start. "GO!" The chariots took off with the speed of a thousand horses, or in this case, a couple of high schoolers. Wiping rain and sweat from their brows, the chariots made their way around the first turn. After making their way around the last turn of the loop, the Asian Culture Club chariot, pulled by Thomas

Mozingo (12) and Sean Sawaya (12) with Claire Smith (11) as their rider, was in the lead. Pulling up the rear, the second JCL chariot was making a comeback after they recovered from a near-detrimental fall. Along with trying to maneuver the new location of the chariot race, the racers had to dodge the steady stream of water balloons being launched at them from the classroom above.

The end of the race was nearing and Asian Culture club was still in the lead. Slipping and sliding, all teams were nearing the last of seven laps. Turning the curve, Mozingo and Sawaya pushed themselves to the limit as they shot forward to confirm their spot as the number one chariot.

After the race was over and the Asian Culture Club participants dismounted their chariots, the crowd rushed from their seats and showered the winning team with hugs and congratulations.

"It was worth the rain. I had never been before, before but riding in the race and winning it made me want to do it again," Claire Smith (11) said.

The last two teams, finishing close behind, pulled up and joined the celebration. With the rain over, the teams decided to take members of the crowd around the track for fun. The excitement began to die down and people began to leave the patio to go home. After cleaning up the chariots and leftover water balloons, this years chariot race went down in history. Joey Ford (12) stated about the race, "nothing could describe this amazing experience."