



Message from our Principal



On behalf of the DIS Administrators, I am excited to extend a warm welcome back to all our returning faculty, staff and students, and a warm welcome to our new teachers and students.

We have an exciting year planned at DIS as well as the long awaited visit of WASC Accreditors this school year, therefore, we are all very pleased that you will be with us and we feel privileged to be your companion on this journey...

Parents, we look forward to a very positive and productive year together. We extend a special, year-long invitation to our families to join us at school activities and events whenever possible. We want, we need and we value your involvement, be a part of the VIP (Volunteer Involve Parents) Association and support your child's education. Your active participation is key to the success of your child during his/her school years.

Thank you for being a part of the Dominican, D' TORCH Family where success is not an option...but an expectation. We are truly on the path to greatness and aiming high to live and practice our:

Vision as internationally competitive school that offers a holistic learning environment for multi cultural and multi lingual learners.

Mission that exists to provide a God centered education. Challenging individual to be their very best.

Goals where teachers set achievable expectations to enable students to pursue their dreams.

In all aspects of human development, our school philosophy aims at the formation of all students to do their best to be living witnesses to Jesus Christ's teachings. We also recognize and accept that you as parents are the primary educators of your children, therefore, we continuously value your help and cooperation.

Again, we welcome you to the D' Torch Family and to our wonderful learning community... a place to live with much faith... love... care...enthusiasm...

Inspire Excellence and Embrace Opportunities.

Thanks again for being here and God Bless!

-Sr Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P.

The 48th Annual East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS) Leadership Conference 2016

Dr. Mercia de Souza will be doing a presentation on 27 October at the EARCOS Leadership Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her workshop will focus on the DIS GIN (Global Issues Network) activities, in particular the very successful GIN-SKY project for which the committee under her leadership raised money and sponsorships to bring twenty Africans from the Soweto Kliptown Youth in Johannesburg to Taiwan last year for cultural exchange for ten days. She will also talk about the significance of the Peace Pole that was replanted by GIN, the school's annual Hunger Banquet, that creates awareness about starvation worldwide, and Junior GIN which is a first in the world.

Sr. Socorro Teofilo, O.P., Sr. Rosa Dahbi, Ms Coney Catalan and Ms Janice Doyle will attend the conference as well. Apart from the regular conference workshops, they will also attend WASC workshops to update their accreditation knowledge. Sr. Socorro, Ms Coney and Sr. Rosa will go to the whole day pre-conference workshop for school administration members. Dr. Mercia and Ms Janice will attend the post-conference workshop for WASC Visiting Committee Members. Dr. Mercia has been on a school visit abroad as a Visiting Committee Member before, and Ms Janice hopes that she will have an opportunity in the near future to visit another school on behalf of the accreditation body. Ms Janice will attend workshops pertaining to alumni associations in schools, as she will be working closely with Sr. Zenaida to organize events involving the school's alumni during the 2017/18 Jubilee Year when DIS will celebrate the school's 60th anniversary.

Dr. Mercia (Chairperson of the school's Accreditation Steering Committee) will meet with Ms Barbara Parker, the school's WASC mentor to discuss the accreditation process.

Teacher Awards: Teachers Day 2016



Our Global Visitors



The Missionaries of Saint Dominic had occasion to meet in Taiwan at Beatitude Mountain in Kaohsiung.

The meeting was the Encounter of the General Curia, provincial Governments, Delegates and Economies of Provinces and Delegations. The Sisters came from Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Italy and Spain. Sr. Ma. Asuncion Gonzalez, O.P. the General Prioress of the Missionaries of St. Dominic, who is the leader of the Dominican Sisters worldwide, called the meeting in Taiwan, which she also attended.

Discussion topics were: strengthening the missionary dimension; strengthening the contemplative dimension; strengthening the fraternal dimension, and strengthening the prophetic dimension. The Dominican Sisters made a re-commitment to their calling and the renewal of their mission. They confirmed that they would strengthen their sense of belonging and strengthen their leadership. Furthermore, they would have leadership devoted to the care of the person, which builds the community and makes it grow, and strengthens the sense of community belonging. The Sisters committed themselves to have the courage to break barriers in favour of renewal and flexible schedules, provide what is necessary and important, and fair treatment of every member of their community. Promotion of lively and creative liturgy in communities is also one of the objectives. Updating the topics of permanent formation is another commitment the Sisters made, as well as welcoming and integrating the laity in their spirituality and in the management of their work.

After the conference at Beatitude Mountain, the Sisters came to Taipei where they visited DIS and spent a day with the Dis Family. This led to an early start to the St. Dominic's Day celebrations when the entire DIS faculty and staff joined the Dominican Sisters at the Grand Hotel to have lunch in the beautiful, traditional surroundings of the hotel. The DIS orchestra entertained the Sisters and the DIS community while they were having lunch and some of the sisters who have taught at DIS before could catch up with teachers they befriended during their time there. On Monday, 8 August, the DIS faculty and staff celebrated Mass, which concluded St. Dominic's Day.

Many teachers were delighted that Sr Margaret was well enough to join them for lunch. They were really grateful that all the prayers for her recovery were answered.



The World Scholar's Cup®

By Cindy Su

In 2016, the World Scholar's Cup opened another remarkable global round in Bangkok, Thailand. This year, we're proud to announce that three of the DIS scholars, Timmy Chang, Alec Chen and Cindy Su, qualified to attend the Tournament of Champions to be held at Yale University in November.

At the World Scholar's Cup, thousands of scholars gather together to celebrate the cuteness of the alpaca. "PWAA" is the sound a happy alpaca makes, while an angry alpaca spits. Alpacas are adorable, fluffy, four-legged creatures that should not be confused with llamas. However, that is only a tiny portion of the big, amazing, and magical experience. Daniel Berdichevsky, founder and Alpaca-in-Chief, believes that the World Scholar's Cup is not a competition, but instead, a "celebration of learning", a gathering of nations, and a festival of scholars. Scholars from over 40 countries came together to debate, write essays, make friends, and share cultures.



A group of talented, courageous scholars from DIS attended this fascinating global round in Bangkok.

The World Scholar's Cup provided us the most spectacular and exotic experiences. We witnessed the world's first tuk-tuk entry opening ceremony. We stormed through one of Bangkok's biggest malls just to complete tasks in the scavenger hunt. We even partied until 1 in the morning at the Scholar's Ball. People from all over the world came together at the Scholar's Fair to share their cultures. Yet, in between all this, there were several rigorous academic challenges. We faced several strong debaters from around the world and got to learn from their perspectives. By debating on current issues, we began to understand the world better. The Scholar's bowl challenged our team's cooperation and knowledge.

The Scholar's Challenge tested us across six subject areas, from crime and justice to the history of cheating to disease and public health. Team Writing gave us an opportunity to debate and persuade through the art of language. The World Scholar's Cup connects not only world issues, but also scholars from different countries. During the scholar's bowl, we received our very own fluffy alpacas. With those fluffy alpacas on our heads, we pledged the "hippopwaatic oath". In order to become the parents of those alpacas, we had to promise to "always feed our alpaca, dress our alpaca, and to never, ever, EAT our alpaca!" The alpacas are one of the most irreplaceable companions of our scholar's cup journey. On the last day, the awards ceremony began with the flag march, honoring every country that's part of this community. We all had mixed feelings of nervousness (waiting for results), sadness (last day spent with the Scholar's Cup community), and happiness (indescribably incredible WSC experience). Three of the DIS scholars, Timmy Chang, Alec Chen and Cindy Su, will be going to the next round at Yale University in November.

The World Scholar's Cup is truly one of the most significant experiences one could have. However, we wouldn't have been able to be part of this experience without our director, Ms. Janice, who introduced us to the best cupcakes in Bangkok, listened to our complaints, and judged numerous debates. We thank you for all the hard work you did for us. Hopefully, more DIS scholars will become members of this global community that will only get bigger, better and more magical.

Thank you, Ms Janis

The DIS Administration wants to thank Ms Janice for giving up her vacation time every summer to accompany our students to the International round of the World Scholar's Cup. Without her guidance, dedication and inspiration, the students will not have this great annual opportunity.



Welcome New Teachers!

Mr Mick

Chang is originally from the United States having lived and worked in Alabama, California, Georgia, Oregon, Texas, and other places. He earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.



Before becoming an educator, he worked at NASA and Compaq, as well as tech startup ventures. As an educator, he has taught Math and Computer Science at the high school level and worked as a Math curriculum specialist before coming to Taiwan.

“My teaching passion is to engage students with the problem solving, analysis, and research skills necessary for future innovation, and to help Taiwan rival Silicon Valley”, says Mr Mick.

Mr. Toby Holland is the new Grade 5 St. Dominic Ibanez teacher. He comes from Toronto, Canada, has lived in Taiwan for over 4 years, and has also taught various ages in Kuwait and in Canada. Mr. Toby is a passionate fan of martial arts and has competed in combat sports for over 7 years. He will also be an assistant coach to the DIS senior Cross-country running team. He is excited to be a new member of the DIS family!



Mr Eric Williams

Our new Grade 3 Homeroom Teacher has been working in Taiwan for 18 years and has been a homeroom teacher for 1st to 6th graders in Elementary schools in Taipei. “Teaching is his passion, and that’s why he enjoys Taiwan as “the environment enables me inspire and help students learn in the classroom. I’m originally from the U.S.A. I grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and enjoy being outdoors as much as I can. In my free time I enjoy making short videos, creating with



Lego and making Lego animation movies. I have a family with three children that make living in Taiwan more exciting. Each day I aim to make my day the best day ever,” says Mr Eric.

Ms Vivian Lee



“Hi, I’m Vivian and I’m from Canada. I’m the homeroom of G3 Bl. Columba of Riete. My hobby is baking. I’m looking forward to working with all of you! “ - Ms Vivian Lee

Welcome New Teachers!

Dr. Sophia Lin

“I am Taiwanese but have lived in the UK for about 15 years. I came back to Taiwan with my family 4 years ago. I then decided to re-train myself as a teacher after working as a post-doctoral research scientist in Oxford University, Dundee University, and Imperial College London for over 10 years. I am a proud mother of two, who are 8 and 5 years old, respectively. I enjoy spending time with my children. I also love travelling, music, and sport. I am very happy to be able to join DIS. “ - Dr Sophia Lin. Dr Lin teaches Middle School Science



Mr Patrick Johnson



“I am from Laramie, Wyoming in the United States. I received a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the University of Wyoming. I am now pursuing my Masters in Education through The College of New Jersey. I have lived in Taiwan for 4 years and began my teaching career here. I love teaching and I am happy to be a new a member of Dominican International School. “ - Mr Patrick Johnson. Mr Patrick teaches Grade 8 ELL and Grade 7 Language Arts



Mr Steven Bidy

Mr Steven Bidy is the Grade 11 and Grade 9 Language Arts teacher. He says, “I studied English Literature at The University of North Carolina. I am very passionate about food, both the culture surrounding cooking and the ethics regarding farming and equal access. Being new to Taiwan I am hoping to find more community centered events revolving around food rights.”

NEWSFLASH!

Ms Tanya, who taught at DIS for four years, gave birth to a bouncing baby boy in Manila on October 2. Baby and mother are doing well.

Welcome New Teachers!



Dr. Brian Harmon

"I trained in Anthropology at Columbia University, did dissertation fieldwork in Sichuan, China (on ritual feasting among men), taught undergraduates in Connecticut, US, for 3 years, and 4 more years at Shandong University in China before coming to DIS. My wife Sara is from Taiwan, and we have 2 sons, Pax (2) and Toby (6). "- Brian Harmon

Ms Ismari Kruger

" I am from Cape Town, South Africa. I studied at the University of Stellenbosch and obtained my degree in Financial Planning, Estate Management and Taxation. I obtained my teaching qualification shortly thereafter and made a very wise career change. I'm a qualified field hockey, cricket, athletics and baseball coach. I love sports, music and the outdoors. My heart beats for the youth and developing their potential. I've been in Taiwan for nearly two years and it's an honor to now be part of the DIS family! - Ismari Kruger



Mr Mark Gajardo

My name is Mark Francisco Gajardo. I was born in Oakland, California. I am a graduate of UCLA. I hold John Wooden in my highest esteem. Teaching is my Life. Teaching is my passion. It is the end result of countless hours studying the works of William Shakespeare, Homer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Thoreau. I believe that our students have the capability to change the world. "No Dominican soars too high, if the wonderful Dominican soars with his or her own wings !"
- Mark Gajardo



Welcome New Teachers!

Mr Gustl Pido

“Hi! I am Mr. Gustl Pido, graduated in Mapua Institute of Technology with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. I successfully completed my Master of Education major in Sports and Coaching Science in Chinese Culture University, Taiwan and at the same University; I’m working on finishing my Doctoral Degree of Education major in Exercise and Sports Psychology.

I’m a sport minded person, self-motivated, determined and dedicated towards my work. As the newly hired P.E Teacher and Athletic Director, I feel that my athletic experience and work ethic will make me valuable contributor at DIS.”



Ms Rachael Fu

Ms Rachael Fu is a Grade 3 Homeroom Tacher. She says, “ I am from the United States. I have taught at New York City public schools. I have also taught at Japanese public schools at the invitation of the Japanese government. “



“I am a South African teacher who has worked with multiple age groups. I also worked with students with little or no functional speech, multiple disabilities as well as students that do not speak English as a home language. I strongly believe that all children are capable of learning, if they have the proper motivation and direction from their teachers, and that is exactly what I intend to do. One of my hopes as an educator at DIS is to instil a love of learning in my students, as I share my own passion for learning with them.” - Carli Viljoen

NEWSFLASH

Thank you Ms Yvonne and all the VIP representatives for the wonderful Teachers’ Day gifts. We felt very appreciated!

Ms Carli Viljoen

Grade 2 Homeroom Teacher



Welcome New Teachers!

Sr Leticia Delfin, O.P.

Welcome to Sr. Leticia Delfin, O.P. our new Prefect of Discipline for the girls. She came from Guam, where she taught for seven years. Sr. Leticia also teaches Religious Studies to Grade 4 and



Our Teacher Intern

Mr. Charl Goussard did an internship with DIS for a month. He was an attorney by profession who also has an MBA, but decided that teaching was his calling. Charl is currently completing his teaching qualification and has to do an internship to become a registered, qualified teacher. Dr. Mercia is happy to have an assistant teaching the AP Macroeconomics students all about Demand and Supply. "He is a very competent teacher and I will give him an A", she said.

Our Assistant Teachers



Sr Stephanie



Ms Cindy Chang

K1 Assistant Teacher



Ms Xochilt Moje
K2 Assistant Teacher



Ms Merlyn Te
Grade 1 Assistant Teacher



Sr Stephanie joined DIS just for a short while until she will be able to transfer to our sister school in Guam. She will assist the Dominican Sisters with various tasks around the school while she is here.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr John Erick and Ms Xochilt were married during the summer in Nacaragua, Central America.

Here is his story:

“My dear wife Xochilt Scarleth Artola Cerna and I, have finally tied the knot as we exchanged “I Do!” on the 13th of July this year.

We both believe that our love story was authored by God for He is the ultimate reason why we have crossed paths and finally decided to respond to His noble call for both of us. The Church became our dating place since we both love to serve especially every Sunday. I served with her in the Hispanic community in the morning and she went with me in the Filipino community in the afternoon to practice singing for the Evening English Mass. For so long, I have been praying to God to send me someone whom I can walk with in faith, hope, and love. Later that I realized that she was praying the same way too. When we found each other, we were sure that we are each other’s answered prayer! Our favorite song puts it well, “when God made you He must have been thinking about me.” We both placed our lives in the hands of our Creator who loved us first long before we found love between each other. My wife hails from Central America while my Asian origin tells everything about my personality. Despite our differences in culture and language, our strong faith found its way to fathom God’s message for both of us---“ I first loved you, so love one another as I did!” Clinging to these powerful words, we pray each day for God’s grace to sustain our journey together. At the end, our words will be, “Lord, Your will be done!”

Xochilt, I am very happy now because finally our simple dream was realized---to say our “YES” to each other is a sign of our promise the next step was the Church wedding, our covenant to God and to the Church.

Xochilt estoy realmente feliz porque ahora finalmente nuestros deseos se hacen realidad--- el decir nuestro “SI” uno al otro es el signo de nuestra promesa para la siguiente parte que es la boda por la iglesia, nuestro pacto con Dios y la Iglesia.”



Collage by Mr John Erick Moje

Mr Tom Mauborgne was married in Hong Kong in August.

“Yin and I met in Taipei, though we could have met in the UK, where we lived 60km apart when growing up. We also studied the same novels at school as we were in the same year; and I ended up in her hometown for University, and she ended up in mine.

We exchanged vows and rings in August, in Hong Kong, and are thrilled to be expecting a little boy in December, “ he told The Dominican Torch



Newsbits from the Campus Ministry Department

By John Erick Moje

Dominican Leadership: The Path towards Jubilation and Mercy

Sharing the fruits of one's contemplation is a famous Dominican way of extending the mission of Jesus particularly among the youth of today. On September 29, 2016, DIS was blessed to have Rev. Fr. Jeffrey Aytona, O.P. as facilitator for the Students and Parents Conference. The theme was inspired by the 800 year Jubilee celebration of the Order of Preachers and this year's Church universal call for Mercy.

Drawing from the words of Pope Francis during this year's World Youth Day, Dominicans were also reminded of these words, "All together, then, we ask the Lord: "Launch us on the adventure of mercy! Launch us on the adventure of building bridges and tearing down walls, barriers and barbed wire. Launch us on the adventure of helping the poor, those who feel lonely and abandoned, or no longer find meaning in their lives."

"The Lord does not keep his distance, but is near and real. He is in our midst and he takes care of us." During the conference, Fr. Jeff urged the STUCO (Student Council leaders), DYM (Dominican Youth Ministry Leaders), and DOMNET (Dominican Network) to be disciples of Jesus. With the series of reflective questions, Student leaders were able to draw inspiration from the assurance that as they travel as pilgrims, Jesus is their faithful companion. Fr. Jeff shed light also about the very importance of the Holy Mass as a summit of the Catholic way of thanking and worshipping the Lord.

The following day, a talk by Fr. Jeff, initiated by the VIP's (Volunteer Involved Parents), did some reflective sharing with the parents about their very significant roles in developing their children holistically.

The VIP's offered tokens of appreciation to Fr. Jeff and all the members of DIS Faculty and Staff.

Rev. Fr. Jeffrey Aytona, O.P. the facilitator of the Students and Parents Conference, talking to the student leaders.

New Students Orientation

The Campus Ministry Department with the help of dynamic D'TORCH Youth Leaders and Mr. John Erick Moje as their moderator, initiated orientation for new students at DIS. This is to explain the significance of the Dominican Pillars and Core Values. Thus, leading their way to develop the love of prayer, study, community, and service. All these are concrete actions to follow in the footsteps of St. Dominic de Guzman. The orientation also shed light upon the Vision-Mission of the school, the D'TORCH, and the many Religious practices the school provides for all the DIS Family



The DIS Appreciation Collage



The DIS Appreciation Collage was designed by Sr Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P., Principal of the school, and Ms Archie Racadio. It is on display outside the Principal's office. Please walk by on the second floor and have a look. With this collage, our artistic colleagues thank everyone in the DIS Family for their contribution to the school.

THE DOMINICAN TORCH
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