



Congratulations DIS!



The DIS Accreditation Steering Committee

On May 24, 2017, Dr. Mercia announced to the school that Sr. Zenaida has received official confirmation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) that DIS has been given full accreditation for the next six years!

Dr. Mercia, the Chairperson of DIS's Accreditation Steering Committee, stated that accreditation ensures that the school is a trustworthy place for student learning, and validates the school's subject credits and transcripts that is critical for college and university acceptance, as well as for students when transferring to other English-speaking schools.

The WASC Visiting Committee came to visit the school from March 27 to 30, 2017 and had reported that, "The school is highly committed to providing the highest caliber of education possible to every student at Dominican International School."

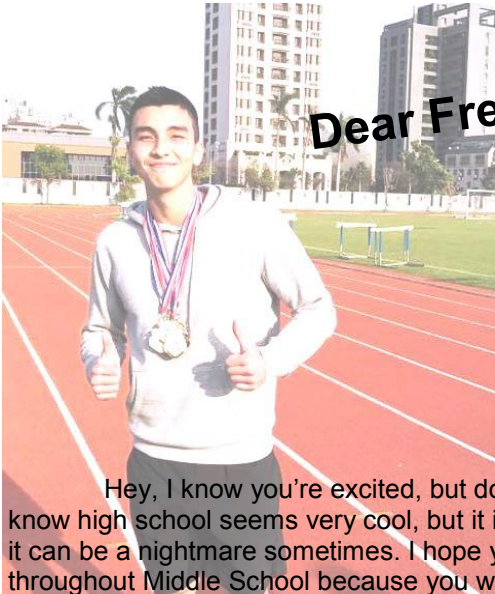


The WASC Visiting Committee (Left to Right): Mr. Bill Christelman (WASC Visiting Committee Chairperson), Ms. Lourdes St. Nicolas, Dr. Kelly Ridings, Mr. Dan Waterman came to visit DIS March 27-30.



The D'TORCH Orchestra entertained the visitors, students, parents, faculty and staff at the farewell party for the Visiting Committee.

Dear Freshmen of the Next School Year....



Hey, I know you're excited, but don't get too excited. I know high school seems very cool, but it isn't that cool. In fact, it can be a nightmare sometimes. I hope you have rested well throughout Middle School because you will miss it a lot. Also, if you are already a procrastinator at such a young age, you better change that now. The best advices I can give you are to: manage your time, not procrastinate, make friends, and last but definitely not the least, go out and have fun.

Time management is still a skill that many people have not acquired and that some will never be able to acquire. Time management is hard, considering all the sources of distraction we have nowadays. However, despite it being hard, you should strive to acquire it. Managing your time in high school is a key to finishing it well.

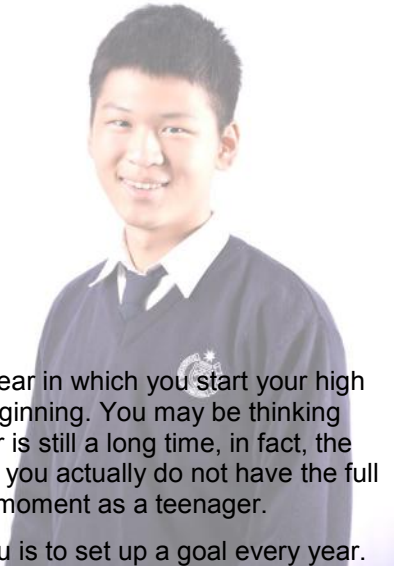
Not procrastinating goes hand in hand with the first advice. Resist the urge to do your work at the last moment. The sooner is always the better in this case. Once you start your work, you usually feel like continuing and finishing it. So the technique is to force your mind to start and your body will follow.

Life can be miserable in high school and your friends are usually the ones that give you a better morale. They are the ones that keep you awake in classes and also make you laugh. Laughing not only improves your longevity, but it is also a great way to deal with stress and depression which you can experience in high school.

Go out and have fun! You need to live as well. Studying countless of hours is not living, therefore, you need to go out and have fun. Hang out with your friends, go on dates, go to parties, meet new people outside school and have a great time.

All in all, high school is a miserable place, but you can make it the best place you've ever been to by following my advices. These advices will also apply when you'll be in university, so good luck with everything and make sure you make the best out of your high school life.

J.P. Cuinet, DIS Senior Class of 2017



Hello there! It is the year in which you start your high school life! This is just the beginning. You may be thinking that graduation in Senior Year is still a long time, in fact, the four years may fly so fast that you actually do not have the full chance to enjoy every single moment as a teenager.

My only advice for you is to set up a goal every year. Without goals, every hard work will be misguided and certainly unnecessary. Even though your goals or even dreams may alter as you grow and experience more, it is essential that you know yourself. Knowing yourself enables you to understand not only your strengths and weaknesses, but also your own personality as well as ways of thinking. For instance, I have spent many years in the past searching for my true identity. I always wanted to imitate other people and learn the actions and movements that others performed; however, after several years, I began to understand that it is important to be a person whom you really are, instead of following other people's footsteps. Indeed, you are special, and you must be confident to be yourself and be courageous enough to admit anything that you have to improve and progress in the future. That is the only way to keep you going and continue on your life journey.

Also, do not pay too much attention to how other people think about you. Yet, you need to gain some information from them sometimes. In fact, every decision you have made is part of your exploration: There is no specifically correct answer to how to implement it.

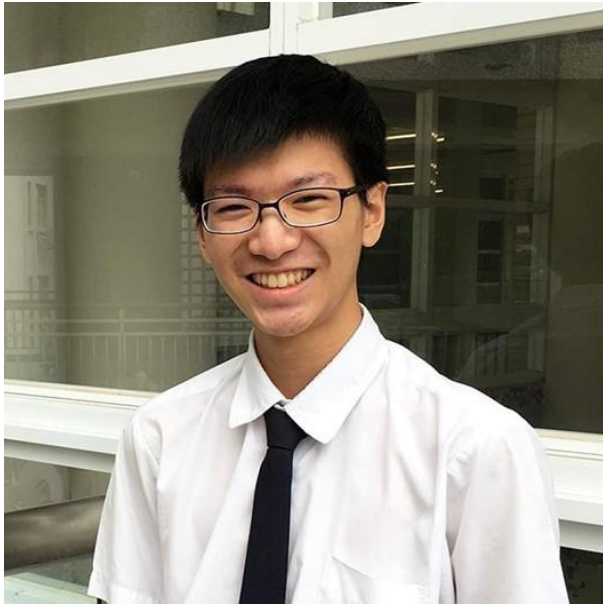
In conclusion, cherish your high school life! There will certainly be ups and downs, happiness and depression, and more mistakes and challenges that you have to learn to solve. But as long as you are able to be true to yourself, and at the same time not underestimate the importance of exercising and spending time with your family and loved ones, there is nothing that will prevent you from your future success in any areas.

Wishing you all the very best luck!

Justin Hoong, DIS Senior Class of 2017

Alumni Interview with Ernie Hsieh

By Ginny Hwang, Gr. 10 St. Albert the Great



Please give us a brief introduction of yourself, the school you currently go to, and your major (area of study) in college.

“ I’m Ernie Hsieh[,] and you might recognize me from... when I was in DIS. I am currently attending UC San Diego (\\| \\|/ home of the Tritons! \\| \\|/) as an undeclared major.”

How does college life compare with your initial expectations of it?

“Pretty much every single bit of my college life so far [has met] my initial expectations of it. I’m already blown away by... stuff that’s happening on campus!”



What is the best part/worst part of college life?

“The best part about college life is that you finally get to be the master of your own living. ... You get to decide when you want to eat (skip meals or eat as late as 1AM, but don’t do this ..., it’s super unhealthy in my opinion) when you want to sleep, and what to do on the weekends, etc. However, this also means you are responsible for yourself in a lot of ways. When you’re living on your own, it’s super important to maintain healthy mental AND physical lifestyles, because academics will be... demanding...”

How has your high school education affected your life in college?

“Personally, I think high school has been a training ground of persistence and self-motivation for me.

These are super important things in college because the workload you face will test you to your limits every day. You may have the flexibility to design your own schedule and classes that you want to take, but it is ultimately your responsibility to keep track of whether or not you are graduating on time and satisfying the university requirements. All of this takes a lot of self-motivation and persistence.”

What advice or word of encouragement would you like to give our current Dominican students regarding their preparation for college?

“Live every second you get in DIS and hang in there! Stop worrying about whether or not you’ll get 4.0s and a perfect SAT (or ACT) score to get admitted into prestigious universities, because wherever you go, you’ll ...have a great time meeting new people and exploring the new environment.”

What’s a random fact about your school (eg. the best restaurants, school activity, myth, etc)?

“Fun fact #1 At the center of UCSD sits the Geisel Library, which is named after Doctor Seuss. The higher the floor you climb, the quieter it gets. (It is said that you can hear the particles in the air current flowing in between your ears on the top floor.)

Fun fact #2 Although we are often nicknamed UC Socially Dead, ...we are actually not as bad as you might think. We just don’t have a lot of ... parties.

Fun fact #3 We rule the UC system okay?... I mean our school mascot is a ... deity. (Ruler of the sea, son of Poseidon, and Ariel’s dad of course ;))”



The Truth Behind the Fins

By Evan Chang, Gr. 8 St. Catherin of Sienna

I live in Taiwan, one of the countries that used to have the highest demand for shark fin. Even though Taiwan banned shark fins back in 2011, I still see fancy, traditional restaurants on the streets selling such delicacies, among other expensive dishes sold there. I have personally never tried shark fin soup myself, but the more I explored this topic, the more I realized that it is a much greater problem than I have ever imagined. The origin of shark fin soup dates back all the way to China's Ming Dynasty, yet people nowadays still uphold this tradition, thus threatening several shark species. This is why we need to stop consuming shark fin soup, so the shark population won't continue to decline.

Firstly, and most obviously, sharks will eventually become critically endangered if we don't take action about this problem. There are already many species of sharks that are listed as vulnerable, and a few species listed as endangered, like the Great Hammerhead, Sandbar, and Tiger sharks. These sharks are pelagic sharks, meaning that they are free swimming, making them easy targets for fishermen. What makes this even worse is that the sharks caught for their fins have a very long maturing rate, don't reproduce often, and when they do, only give birth to a small number of pups. This results in prolonged recovery from overfishing.

Secondly, consuming shark meat isn't only bad to their population, it also causes problems in our body. According to the Food Safety News, sharks contain high levels of methylmercury and arsenic within their meat, which in turn, damages the human nervous system, especially pregnant women or young children. These chemicals end up in the shark's meat because of the exposure of pollution in the ocean. It all starts from chemicals from mines or coal plants that drain into the ocean, which gets ingested by krill or plankton. Starting from these organisms, the chemicals get passed down in the food chain, ending up in the bodies of top predators, in this case, sharks. Another contributing factor of the amount of chemicals within a shark is also its lifespan, meaning that the longer the shark lives, the more exposure it has to harmful chemicals.

Lastly, and most importantly, without the presence of sharks, the marine ecosystem and food chain will be disrupted. The food chain is what balances the population of each and every animal. Once something goes missing, the entire food chain will collapse. Sharks usually eat weaker fish from a group, or prey on dead carcasses on the seafloor. They are like the "garbage trucks" under the sea, helping to keep fish populations in healthy shape. If there is a lack of sharks in an area, it's prey will be likely to overrun and possibly completely wipe out its own food source.

Some people's response to the ban of shark finning is almost always stating that we shouldn't interfere with the Chinese culture, and that it is disrespectful to not follow such traditions. But even though shark fin soup is banned, there are always alternatives, like imitation shark fin. However, since shark fin has virtually no taste, proven to have no health benefits and is overpriced, shark fin soup is really not worth buying, no matter if it's imitated or not.

Surprisingly, about 100 million sharks are killed each year, and 76 million of those deaths are because of shark finning. A way to prevent this is evident: stop eating shark fin soup. Sharks have been on Earth so much longer than us, and their lives deserve to be saved, not made into bowls of soup.

References:

Schneider, Andrew. "Shark Fin Soup: War of Culture, Politics, Business." *Food Safety News*. June 13, 2011. Web. January 25, 2017. <<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/06/shark-fin-soup-a-cultural-war-environmental-nightmare-and-multi-million-dollar-business/#.WKRXvDt95PY>>

Rogers, Michael. "Shark Meat: Delicacy Or Dangerous?" *SharkSider*. July 13, 2016. Web. January 25, 2017. <<http://www.sharksider.com/shark-meat-delicacy-dangerous/>>

Hannam, Peter. "Eating too much shark meat can damage your health." *The Sydney Morning Herald*. February 03, 2015. Web. January 25, 2017. <<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/eating-too-much-shark-meat-can-damage-your-health-20150203-1351ex.html>>

"Toxic Sharks." *Shark Research Institute*. December 05, 2013. N.p. Web. January 25, 2017. <<http://www.sharks.org/blogs/science-blog/toxic-sharks>>

"Shark Savers :: Sharks' Role In The Ocean." *Sharksavers.org*. N.p. Web. January 25, 2017. <<http://www.sharksavers.org/en/education/the-value-of-sharks/sharks-role-in-the-ocean/>>

A Little Something About Their High School Lives—Mr. John Dixon

By Andre Hirakawa, Gr. 11 St. Anthony of Florence and
Avi Sharma, Gr. 11 St. Louis Bertrand



Elementary School Photo

Andre: Mr. John, so, tell us about your hometown.

Mr. John: My hometown is a place called St. Helens, which is in the north of England. It's about halfway between Liverpool and Manchester. Have you heard of those places?

Andre: Yes.

Mr. John: Those are the two big cities.

Andre: Is it a small town?

Mr. John: It's quite a large town, but it's not a city, St. Helens is famous for 2 things. It's famous for glass, there used to be lots of glass factories, at one point every car pretty much in the world had windows that are made in St. Helens. Most of the factories are closed now. The other thing it is famous for is rugby.

Andre: Rugby? [1]

Mr. John: They have a very strong rugby team. So everybody in St Helens like watching rugby. I used to watch rugby, but I used to play soccer. To play rugby you had to be very strong, and I was always skinny. I was better at soccer. So, because St. Helens is halfway between Liverpool and Manchester, they had big soccer teams so, everyone either loved Liverpool or Manchester, so there was a lot of rivalry there.

Andre: So there wasn't a team for St. Helens?

Mr. John: Not a very good one. It was more rugby.

Andre: What was the worst thing you did in school?

Mr. John: Well I wasn't always nice to my teachers. Used to lock the doors of the classroom so they couldn't get inside. Just basically make his life a misery. I quite feel guilty about that.

Andre: Don't they have keys too?

Mr. John: Yeah. They had to go back to the office every time. So we thought that was pretty funny. The whole class used to fall off their chairs at the same time. It's all very silly. I was kind of like a... not very good student, quite naughty I suppose. But I never did anything really bad.

Andre: Did you ever get in trouble at school?

Mr. John: Yeah, I got in trouble a lot of times. Not for anything very serious. I had the school record for the most after school detentions.

Andre: Really?

Mr. John: It's funny when I go back to my old school and see my old teachers and I tell them that I am a teacher now.

Andre: Have you been back?

Mr. John: Not for a very long time. I did a couple of times.



[1] Rugby—one of the many types of football played in England and other countries. America has its own version of this game, American Football.

Andre: How would you characterize yourself as a student?
Good or naughty or quiet?

Mr. John: Do you mean when I was at school?

Andre: Yes.

Mr. John: When I was at school, I was not a very good student. I wasn't very dedicated. Once I got to university, I became more studious. But during high school, not really.

Andre: Was it like a naughty period?

Mr. John: Yes. I think so. It is for a lot of people, isn't it?

Andre: Were you popular in high school?

Mr. John: What do you mean, like did I have lots of friends? I suppose... I think I was one of those people that kind of cared about what other people thought about me. So I tried to be more popular. It was probably one of the reasons why I was quite naughty...

Andre: Did you get good grades in school, especially for biology?

Mr. John: Yeah, I got good grades in school. I think at the time in England, because it was like a public school, every school teaches the same thing, had the same curriculum. The expectations were quite easy, it's wasn't very difficult. It wasn't very challenging.

Andre: So how was the public school system like in England?

Mr. John: How was it like? We have five years of high school... So after five years, everybody does an exam. If you pass those exams, you get a certificate called GCSEs. So you get a GCSE for every subject that you passed.

Andre: Oh, so it's individual? Not as a whole grade?

Mr. John: No. You have to do a GCSE for every subject. If you do well in your GCSEs, you can take A-Levels. So you take A-Levels when you are 16. So I think that's like the equivalence of senior high school, but not everybody does that...

Andre: So it's like APs?

Mr. John: Yeah, it's a lot like AP classes... You know how you do AP classes and regular classes at the same time? When you finish high school, you just do the A-Levels. So I did math, science, physics.

Andre: Just science in general? It wasn't divided into biology, physics...

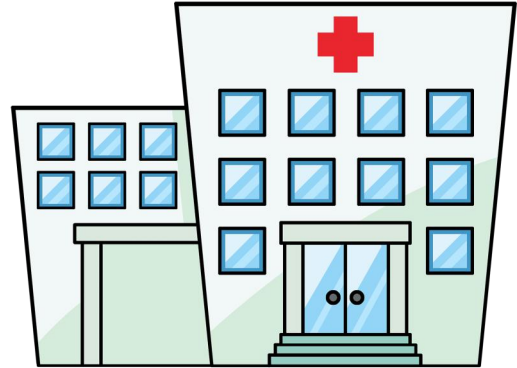
Mr. John: I took physics and biology. I did two math A-Levels. I think one was calculus, statistics, biology, physics, and... Most people took four A-Levels, but I took five.

Andre: What was your favorite out of the five?

Mr. John: I'm not sure. Even then I wasn't very motivated. I didn't really like school that much... I think physics, cause I did like physics. When I went to university, I specialized in engineering. So I could use physics and math.

Andre: What were your interests as a child? Was sports one of them? Do you consider yourself athletic as a teen?

Mr. John: Yeah, definitely sports! ... Soccer was all I did in my spare time, so that was definitely one of my interests. I also liked rugby as well, and other sports. I was quite athletic. I think.



Andre: Did you play in the school sports team?

Mr. John: Yeah, for soccer and athletics. Also played some cricket... I wasn't the best athlete in the school, but I did love to play sports.

Andre: Tell us about something embarrassing you did in high school.

Mr. John: In high school? High school was a long time ago! I used to take the school bus. In the morning, I was sitting on the school bus, and the bus driver wasn't ready to leave yet, so I decided to get off the bus and run to the local shop to get some candy and come back. I ran across the street and got hit by a car... Everybody in the bus was watching me. I was ok, I didn't break any bones or anything. I had to go to the hospital to get checked.

Andre: Did you have a concussion?

Mr. John: No, I just had some bruises. I was very lucky... I came out of the hospital, and on the same day...

Andre: You got hit by another car?

Mr. John: No, almost like that! I was stung by a wasp. I had an allergic reaction to the sting, that I had to go back to the hospital twice for the same day for two different things. That was quite embarrassing...

Andre: Did you always think that you were going to be a teacher?

Mr. John: No, I think when I was in university, I did some teaching. It was... what do you call it... I think because the government was trying to get more people to teach, so they offered students a chance to go to schools for about a week, just to see if they like it. So I did.

Andre: So was it like a special program, just for university students?

Mr. John: I think I went to a high school and taught design for a couple of weeks. I really enjoyed it and I thought that it was a possible career.

Andre: So originally you were set to be a...

Mr. John: I was doing engineering at the time, so I was probably going to become a mechanical engineer or something.

Andre: What is the one area of biology that you just absolutely love?

Mr. John: Just science in general is really fascinating. Just the way, you know, things are being discovered all the time. The fact that knowledge just grows and grows and grows. And amazing discoveries are being made... What we know now is not going to be what we know next year... I like that it is not fixed.

The Adventures of Paris

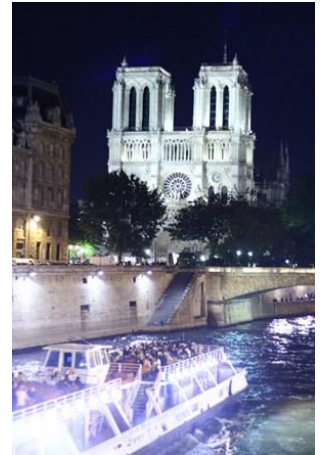
By Elsa Cheung Gr. 7 St. Thomas of Aquinas

*The past of the spring has lead me to Paris,
Walking through a vivid taste of joy and surprise.
Astounding visions of displays stand out,
Pictures, sculptures, and structures show a journey.*

*Carts, horses, and tea cups spin in an array of fantasy,
Given the chance of an adventure in a story.*

*Lights flash just like embers of fire,
Finding mystical unseen sights of a city to share.*

*Parting is a heart-warming end to fun,
While flying in the sky away from a foreign unfinished tale.*



More Field Trips

Dear Editor,

I think we should have more field trips, because field trips are very good. They can build up friendship, and field trips can also take all the stress out of your body. Not only can students have fun, teachers can too. I wish we had more field trips.

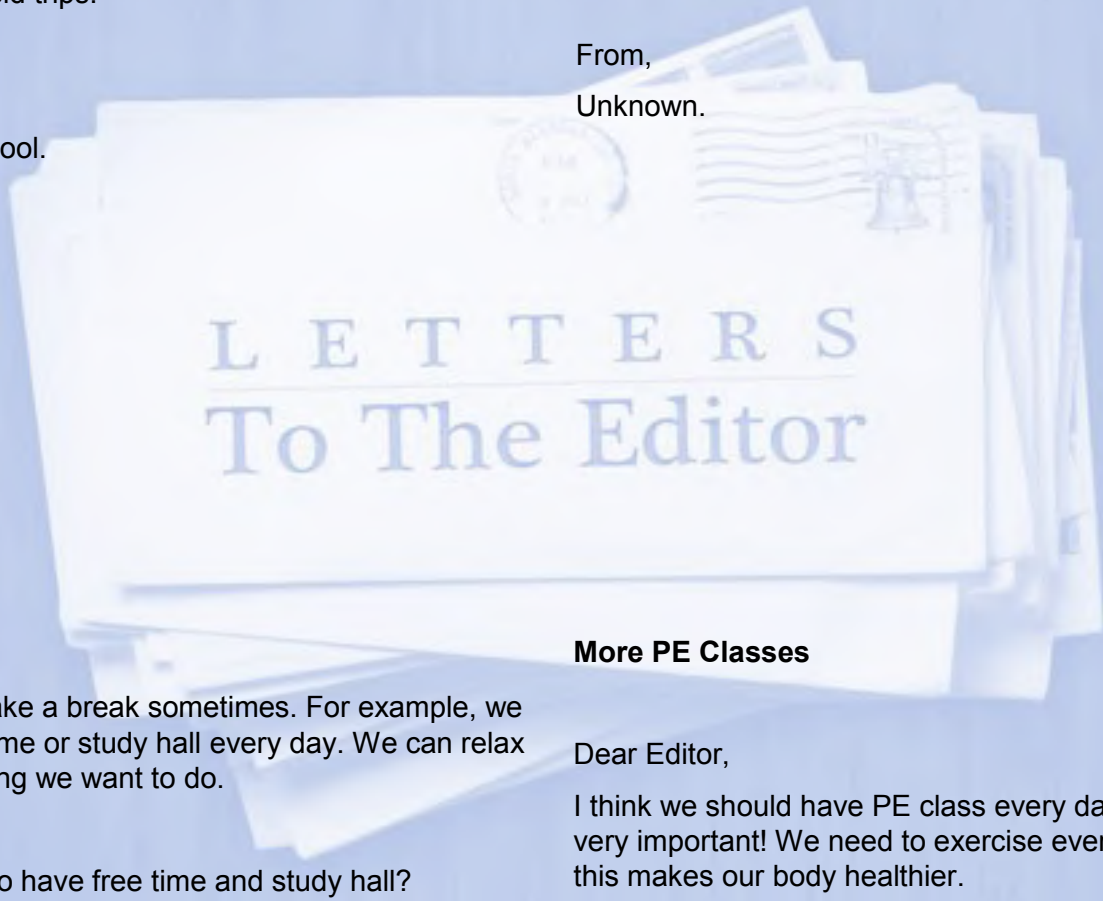
From,
A Person in school.

Gaming Club

Dear Editor,

I wish our school could have a gaming club, because gaming is more like a sport now. There are competitions everywhere. Even games in a phone have competitions. Therefore, if we want to join these competitions we can practice in a gaming club.

From,
Unknown.



More breaks

Dear Editor,

I wish we can take a break sometimes. For example, we can have free time or study hall every day. We can relax and do something we want to do.

Why do I want to have free time and study hall?
Because letting your brain calm down is a very important thing. Perhaps for those who don't want to take a break every day, we use a few minutes to take a break. For example, we can have 10 minutes to take our break and go to our classroom. I wish we can have free time, because students need to study and also be happy in school.

From,
Unknown.

More PE Classes

Dear Editor,

I think we should have PE class every day. PE class is very important! We need to exercise every day, because this makes our body healthier.

From,
A Person in school.



Letters for the next issue/school year!

If you have comments or thoughts about any aspect of DIS or school life, feel free to send them in!

Any issues big or small are acceptable, as long as it fosters discussion and conversation in the DIS family. Do try and keep your language courteous and respectful.

If there is a letter you think you could reply to, that is also welcome. Make sure you indicate with a header that you are responding to a letter previously published.

Email your letters to: studenttorchnewsletter@dishs.tp.edu.tw

Please indicate in your email whether you would like to remain anonymous or just have your name listed as the sender.

A Peaceful World Without Guns

By Charm Felipe, Gr. 8 St. Catherine of Sienna



The New York Times on June 13, 2016 reported that the death rate from gun homicides in the United States is about 31 per million people, which is the equivalent of 27 people shot dead every day. Another figure from the Gun Violence Archive (GVA) showed there were 58,126 incidents of gun-related crime in the US that took place during the previous year. These figures indicate that the ownership of guns has caused safety and security problems in the United States. In order to prevent such violence and accidents, gun ownership should be abolished for the safety of all citizens.

Firstly, safety and security can be achieved without the use of guns. Citizens can be taught self-control and self-defense using non-violent means. For instance, some states in the US offer free self-defense programs that begin with awareness, prevention and risk avoidance strategies. Albany County in New York offers such free program which fights or resists human's natural desire to attack violently after a forceful incident. Similarly, self-control and anger management may help discipline people and control their anger and irritability.

Second, some gun owners intentionally use firearms to commit crime. Data from Catch News shows that 1042 mass shootings have already occurred in the US since the Sandy Hook massacre in 2012. In addition, CNN News reported that the US has nearly four times more gun violence than any other developed country in the world. Most often than not, these crimes were committed by gun owners. According to The Washington Post, the United States has the highest gun ownership rate in the world with 88.8 guns for every 100 residents. In addition, the US has the highest per capita rate of firearm-related murders of all developed countries. Thus, the government has taken necessary actions to control violence. For instance, after the Sandy Hook massacre, that killed 26 young students, the United States proposed a universal background-check system, and new federal and state legislation banning the sale and manufacture of certain types of semi-automatic firearms.

Third and most importantly, guns are powerful weapons that can cause harm if not used properly or if used for unintended purposes. Children playing with guns may lead to accidental shooting incidents. A recent news report tells of a 2-year-old girl in Kansas City who shot herself using her dad's 9-milimeter handgun which he keeps under his pillow. Moreover, people who have easy access to firearms and are emotionally or mentally unstable may use guns to commit suicide. A report from the Boston Globe says that states with high levels of gun ownership have a suicide rate almost twice as high as those with low ownership levels. The report suggests that to reduce gun deaths, the number of people who have access to guns must also be minimized.

Although guns are often connected with crimes and violence, it serves an important purpose for one's safety and self-defense. People may think owning guns makes them feel safe. They keep guns to protect their families and secure their homes. However, children at home may have find the guns and play with them, resulting to deadly accidents. Guns are also used primarily for self-defense. But not all gun owners are mentally and emotionally stable enough to justify the need to use guns appropriately.

On June 21, 2013 ABC News published a report on the world's most peaceful countries released by the Institute for Economic and Peace (IEP), a New York based research organization. The report indicates that the US is one of the least peaceful countries because of its lax gun laws, tragic shootings and export of violent weapons. IEP however, named Canada as one of the 10 most peaceful countries. Canada was cited because of its strict gun control and a homicide rate just 1/3 of the United States. Given this example, there are countries that can maintain a relatively peaceful environment by banning gun ownership. In the future, a safe and peaceful society without gun violence will be our gift to the next generation.

References:

Christensen, Jen. *Why the US has the most mass shootings*. CNN, 28 Nov. 2016, <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/27/health/u-s-most-mass-shootings/>. Accessed 21 January 2017.

"Gun homicides and gun ownership by country." *The Washington Post*, 17 Dec. 2012, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/nation/gun-homicides-ownership/table/>. Accessed 11 February 2017.

"Gun Violence Archive 2016." *Gun Violence Archive*, <http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>. Accessed 21 January 2017.

Healy, Jack., et al. *One Week in April, Four Toddlers Shot and Killed Themselves*. The New York Times, 5 May 2016, https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/06/us/guns-children-deaths.html?_r=0. Accessed 21 January 2017.

Matharu, Aleesha. *Obama takes gun control into his own hands. Will it change anything? Not likely*. Catch News, 7 Jan. 2016, <http://archive.catchnews.com/international-news/obama-takes-gun-control-into-his-own-hands-will-it-change-anything-not-likely-1452166380.html>. Accessed 21 January 2017.

Neyfakh, Leon. *The gun toll we're ignoring: suicide*. Boston Globe, 20 Jan. 2013, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/ideas/2013/01/20/the-gun-toll-ignoring-suicide/xWBHDHEvvgfRUI3CfZJ/story.html>. Accessed 11 February 2017.

Quealy, Kevin and Sanger-Katz, Margot. *Compare These Gun Death Rates: The U.S. Is in a Different World*. The New York Times, 13 Jun. 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/14/upshot/compare-these-gun-death-rates-the-us-is-in-a-different-world.html>. Accessed 21 January 2017.

"R.A.D. Self Defense Program." *Albany County*.

<http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/CountySheriff/rad-selfdefense.aspx>. Accessed 21 January 2017.

Rueda, Manuel. *What does it take to be among the world's most peaceful countries?* ABC News, 21 Jun. 2013, http://abcnews.go.com/ABC_Univision/News/10-peaceful-countries-world-us/story?id=19456148. Accessed 11 February 2017.

"Sandy Hook shooting: What happened?" *CNN*. <http://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2012/12/us/sandy-hook-timeline/>. Accessed 21 January 2017.

First TASMUN Conference

By Evan Chang, Gr. 8 St. Catherine of Sienna



I still remember the day when our homeroom teacher, Mr. Wakeling, asked me if I wanted to join MUN. I had known about MUN before, and I knew that it involves hard work and lots of research. I was hesitant about going at first, as I thought I wasn't ready to take on such strenuous tasks. But despite all doubts, I still joined. I was ready for a new experience in a new club. As soon as we had our first club meeting, I could tell that everyone who joined was determined to do their best. Over the weeks of reading, researching, and writing, we slowly gained more knowledge about global issues. Finally, after finalizing our opening speeches and resolutions, it was the day for the official TASMUN conference. I was quite nervous when I got there, because it felt like everyone else was so experienced, and I was that "new person". But I knew that I needed to try my best, no matter how stressful it was. The conference itself went pretty well, even though I only asked three POI's. It may seem really less for a delegate, but for me, it was a small step of confidence. After the event, I realized that if I hadn't joined MUN, I never would've acknowledged the problems different nations are facing. Even though reading many samples and information about countries may have been tiresome, the hard work has truly paid off.



Gr. 8 Language Arts, Bio Simile Poem

Toshi

Creative like an artist, active like a sportsman, more positive than a plus, and respectful like a soldier.

Relative of a bad brother, and a wise dad.

Resident of Asia, Japan, Yokohama

Who reads *Percy Jackson, Going Solo, Angels and Demons, and Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry.*

Who likes ice Pepsi Cola, Grilled chicken, and Mash potato

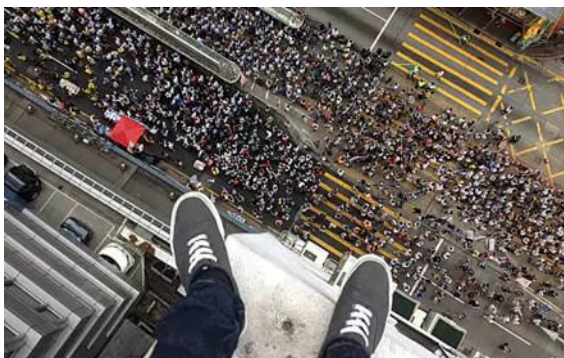
Who loves singing like a singer, surfing as fast as a surfer, and sitting on edges of high buildings like a daredevil.

Who wishes to be an actor, a director, or the richest and most humblest person in the world.

Who admires a bad but cool brother, wise and hardworking dad, and Steven Spielberg an awesome director.

Who needs a cool skateboard, a nicer brother, and somebody to love.

Who aspires to be the world's best actor or director



Shinohara



A Little Something About Their High School Lives — Mr. Mick Chang

By Andre Hirakawa, Gr. 11 St. Anthony of Florence and
Pawan Sharma, Gr. 11 St. Louis Bertrand



Andre: Mr. Mick, please tell us about your student career. Where did you go to school?

Mr. Mick: I grew up in the U.S. and I was in schools in the South, mostly like Houston, Atlanta, Georgia.

Andre: So you moved around a lot?

Mr. Mick: Yeah, I moved around a lot. My dad was a professor, so we were mostly in college towns. And that was my childhood.

Andre: As a child what was the craziest thing you ever did as a student?

Mr. Mick: Craziest thing I ever did as a student?

Andre: Your students are pretty interested in that!

Mr. Mick: Craziest thing I ever did as a student? I'll have to think about that.

Andre: Did you always like math when you were a student?

Mr. Mick: At first, I didn't really know what to like at first, but as I started learning it, I realized, "Hey, I kind of like this. I'm good at it". So yes, it was something I didn't really think about. I also liked to draw at the time. I liked a lot of things, but math is something pretty safe. I liked to play sports, and my mom was worried about me getting hurt, but I ended up playing football, and ran tracks in high school. When I was growing up, there weren't many Asian role models in sports. One of them was a Taiwanese Olympic athlete, called C.K. Yang. (Look him up!) He was in the 1964 Olympics I believe. He came in second in the decathlon. So, at the time, there weren't many role models, and the closest to a role model was my dad. He was a professor, so I was more inclined to math and things like that. But, nowadays, kids are growing up with Jeremy Lin, Yao Ming, and so now it's more acceptable for Asians to have more sports activity. But when I was growing up, I didn't really have that many. And so that was probably the reason why I enjoyed math. Which was something safe.

Andre: Was there any other subjects that you were interested in?

Mr. Mick: I enjoyed history, pretty much the whole curriculum. I wasn't a particularly good writer, but, I could get by. The thing is that for me, it's about learning enough to be able to try something new, and nowadays, looking back, I wish I had spent more time on English. Those are little things that I wish I did more of, and I would be better prepared today. You know, little things like that. I was better in certain areas than I was in others, like liberal arts and things like that, but I was more inclined to math, science; the engineering area.

Andre: Do you consider yourself a good student?

Mr. Mick: When I was growing up, yes. We didn't have many Asian students to compete against.

Andre: Because it was in the South?

Mr. Mick: Yeah, it was in the South. I was a good student compared to the rest of the student body. But nowadays, since there are more Asians in the US, it's no longer just comparing yourself to the rest of the student body, it's comparing Asians to Asians, and that can get very competitive. So, that's the only difference I would say between when I was in school. I was a good student, because there weren't that many Asians then, but now when you have more Asians in the student body, it's harder to stand out. And unfortunately, that's what colleges look at. They're not looking for how you stand out with the population, but how you stand out amongst your certain race, or certain group.

Andre: Do you think it should be like that?

Mr. Mick: I don't think it should be, but that's just the way they look at it, and part of the reason is that they want diversity in the student body. So they just want the top students in the Asians, in the whites, blacks, and so on. I don't know a better system, but at the same time, we all have to recognize diversity. It is important. And as an Asian student, I really don't know what to suggest for those that are trying to stand out amongst other Asians. All I can say is that find an interest that you have and do the best that you can with it. A lot of times, growing up, it's hard to...

Andre: Know what you want to do?

Mr. Mick: Exactly, find what your interests are. Find what you are motivated by. Once you get that, then it's easier to follow the path that you enjoy.

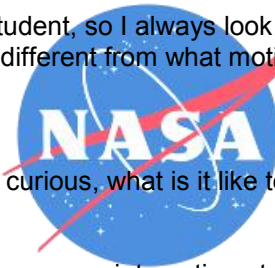
Andre: Have you ever cheated in a test, or do anything dishonest?

Mr. Mick: No, I have not. But have I ever done anything dishonest? Maybe...

Andre: Did you always wanted to be a teacher? Or have you ever dreamed about doing something else in the future?

Mr. Mick: Teaching is actually something I've been doing in the past twelve, thirteen years. I started off with a degree in aerospace engineering, and then I worked at NASA for a while. And then I worked in software, and got into startups. And then it wasn't till later on that I decided to get into teaching. It's really a fairly recent thing for me, but I enjoy it. I find it very motivating to teach students. I'm always trying to find ways to motivate students.

I myself was a student, so I always look back at me, what motivated me is different from what motivates students nowadays...



Andre: I'm really curious, what is it like to work for NASA?

Mr. Mick: NASA was very interesting at the time. I was young, and I was in mission control. If you look up online for mission control, you'll see the people flight controllers and looking at the monitor. When the flight is going, they're getting data, figuring out if there's anything wrong. I had fun doing it, but at the same time, when I was doing that, that was twenty, thirty years ago... even at the time, you could see that space shuttle programs were waning down. And at that time, I made a career decision to get more into software, and do programming because I realized I had to make a career transition at some point. NASA's not going to fly shuttles forever! Right now, had I known the new opportunities out there, like SpaceX, Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic, those are all private space programs. NASA itself has scaled back a lot. So when I was there, there were a lot more people working there, now, there're a lot less. They have these new companies now that do commercial space programs, like Virgin Galactic is trying to send people out of space for a vacation, that kind of stuff. SpaceX is doing private launches for satellites for companies that want to do telecommunication... So NASA is no longer the game in town, and that was the reason why I had to make a career transition... Going back to... what was the first question?

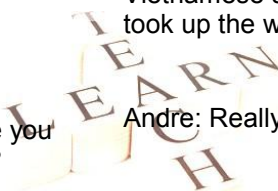
Andre: Oh, what was the craziest thing you ever did as a student?

Mr. Mick: As a student, well, I was in a movie called Sidekick. It was a Chuck Norris movie. I was dressed up as a Vietnamese soldier and everything. It was a small scene, and took up the whole day to shoot. I got to meet Chuck Norris.

Andre: Really?

Mr. Mick: It was a time when I was a student, and they were... doing casting calls. They wanted some Asian actors for the Vietnamese battle scene, and that's the only thing I can think of!

Andre: That's interesting! Thank you so much!



Gr. 7 Social Studies — Poem on Ancient Rome (Excerpts)

Social Studies Teacher: Mr. Brian Harmon

O our great Lord!
 Caesar stride proudly,
 conquer a thousand lands.
 May the world
 end in ruins,
 but your mark
 stands strong.

(By Daniel Liu, Gr. 7 St. Thomas)

Caesar great leader
 conquered many lands.
 Success had
 its consequences,
 senators got scared,
 and turned him
 into salad.

(By Collin Kuo, Gr. 7 Bl. Jordan)

I am war
 I like fights
 and killing
 I hate peace
 I like Rome
 fight the world
 win the war
 get more places
 Rome was small
 now it's big.

(By Wesley Wu, Gr. 7 Bl. Jordan)

The barbarian
 is harsh
 and strong,
 they will war
 with plan and
 elephant, but --
 Rome is
 smart, too!

(By Ping-Jo Chen, Gr. 7 St. Thomas)



I am Rome's soldier
 I join many wars.
 I have a metal shield
 and an iron spear
 and I'm proudest
 of my golden helmet.
 I have many friends,
 Josh, Jochen, Ping Jo,
 all good warriors.
 I saw many strong enemies
 like the man on
 the elephant.

(By Andre Lee, Gr. 7 Bl. Jordan)

A civilization constructed
 upon shards of
 knowledge from the
 paved brick roads
 to the tips
 of the temples
 prosperous, powerful, promises
 betrayed by a
 cruel king's force

 Remember the system
 which built up
 the future, a
 right of choice
 for each citizen.

(By Elsa Chung, Gr. 7 St. Thomas)

Gr. 7 Social Studies — Poems on Ancient Rome (Excerpts)

The war in Gaul,
 conquest of Carthage,
 expansion into Spain,
 invasion of Jerusalem,
 fight over Byzantium,
 hit into Britain,
 conflict with Persians,
 conquest of Egypt,
 and rule over
 Turks.

(By James Kao, Gr. 7 St. Thomas)

Julius Caesar,
 general of Rome,
 ruled a republic,
 murdered by senators.
 Octavian,
 Caesar's nephew,
 killed his

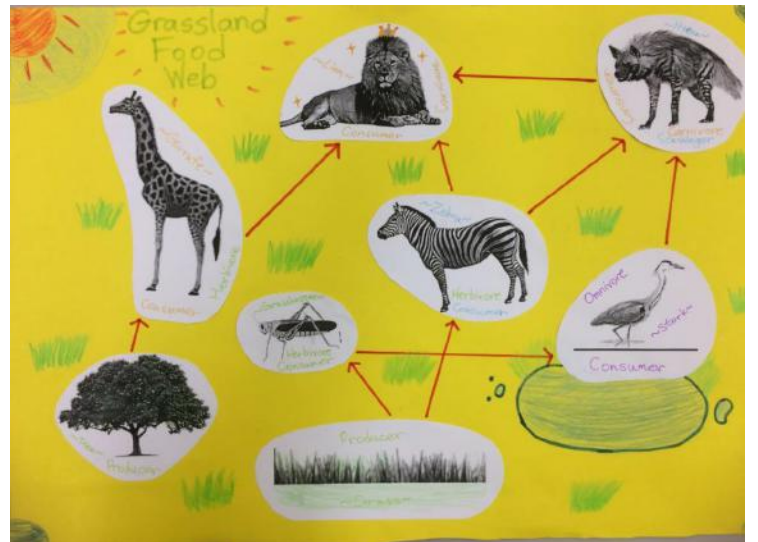
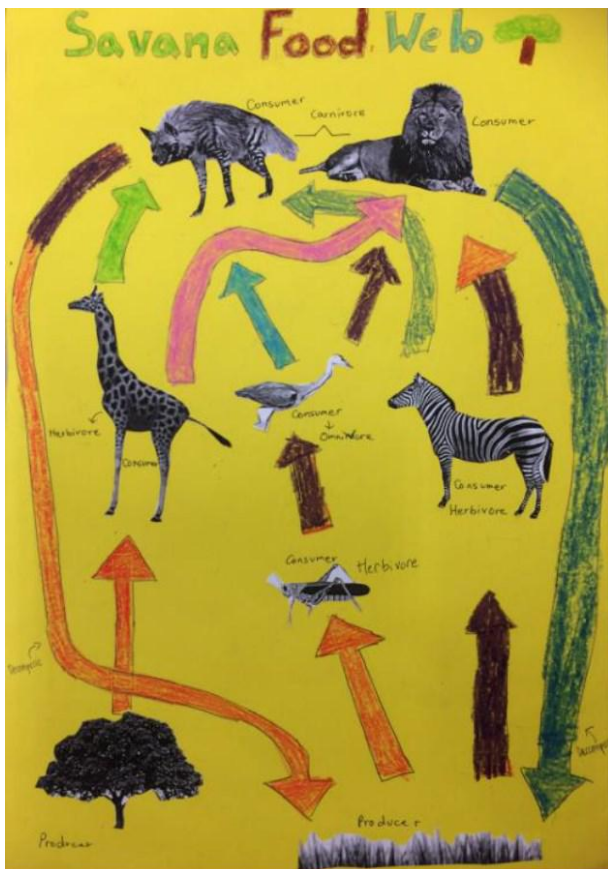
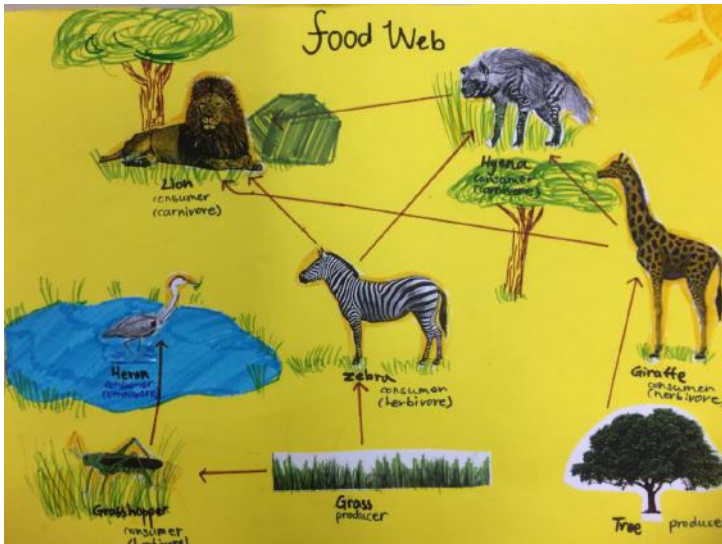
 uncle's murderer
 grew more powerful,
 alone ruled
 Rome entire
 as first emperor.

(By Irene Hsu, Gr. 7 Bl. Jordan)



G6 Science — Food Webs

Teacher: Dr. Sophia Lin

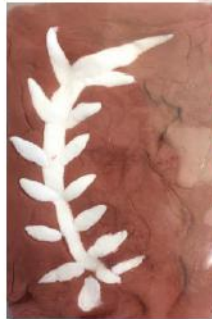


G8 Science — Fossils

Teacher: Dr. Sophia Lin

Types of Fossils

Carbon films



Casts



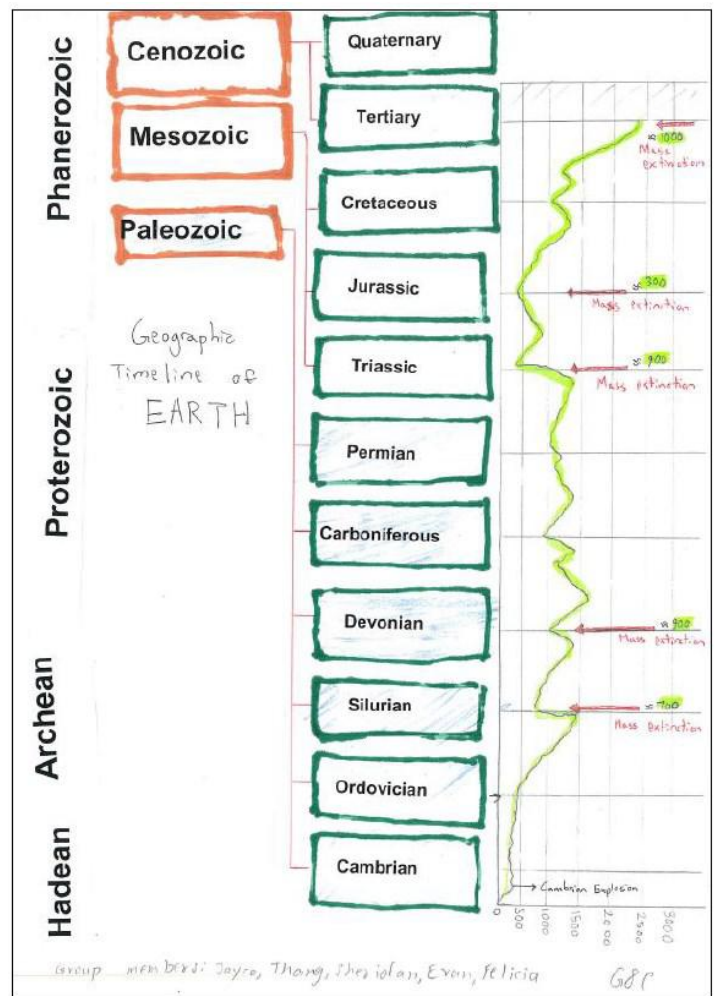
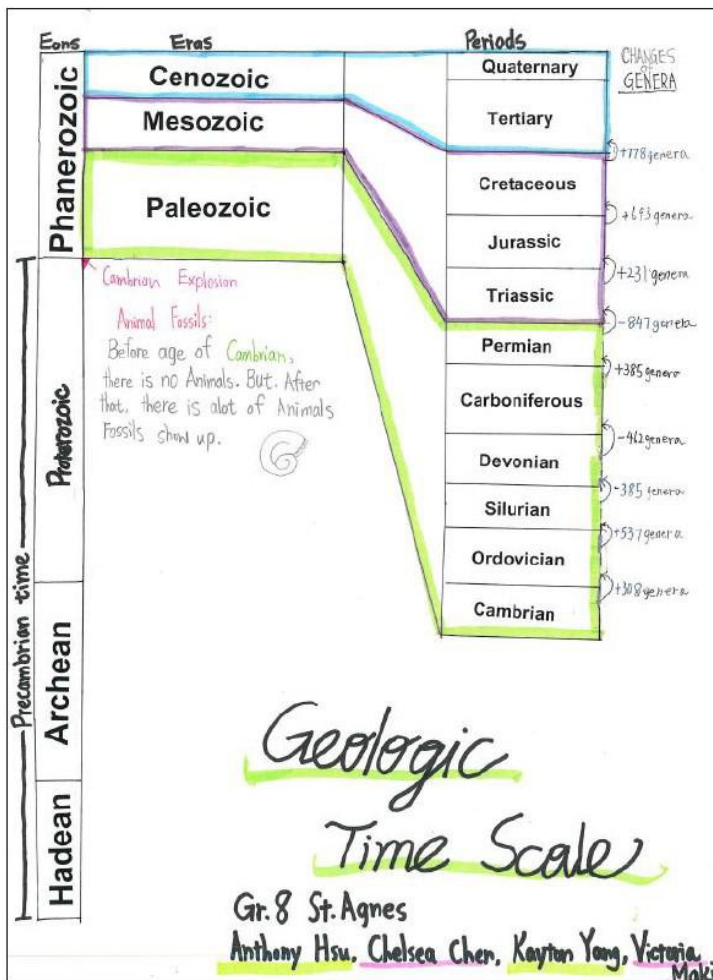
Molds

Reserved remains



G8 Science — Geologic Time Scale

Teacher: Dr. Sophia Lin



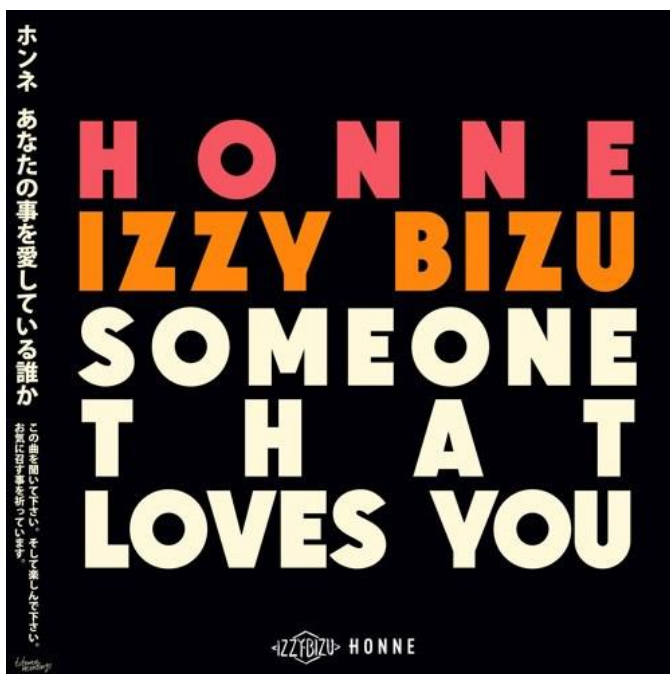
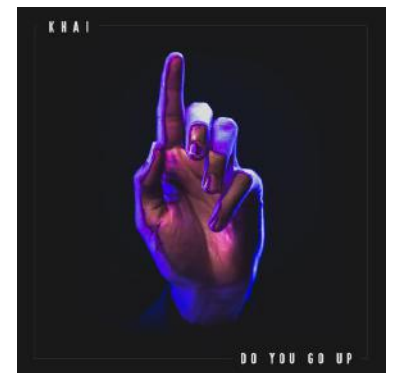


Music Playlist

Recommended by Ginny Hwang, Gr. 10 St. Albert the Great



1. Someone That Loves You, HONNE
2. Shape of You, Ed Sheeran
3. Loving Someone, The 1975
4. Do You Go Up, Khai
5. Without You, Oh Wonder



High School Sports Day

January 26, 2017



Volleyball



Track

Middle and High School Vocab Jam

April 6, 2017



MS Vocab Jam Winners

Left to Right: Elexa Yeh (G7 St. Thomas, 5th), Elsa Chung (G7 St. Thomas 4th), Andrew Chen (G8 St. Catherine, 3rd), Zoe Shong (G6 St. Hyacinth, 2nd), Melissa Zhao (G8 St. Agnes, 1st)



High School Vocab Jam Winners

Left to Right: Ginny Hwang (G10 St. Albert, 1st), Lauren Lamb (G10 St. Peter, 3rd), Anubhab Maikap (G9 St. Raymond, 2nd)

DIS Earth / Epic / Spring Week 2017

April 14—21, 2017



Lining up for booths...



Students lining up for G11's Pizza



G9 girls entertained the crowd with their dance



G9 St. Raymond Booth

JV Boys Basketball

By Mr. Tim Sampson

The JV boys played outstanding basketball in the Junior Varsity Basketball tournament in Kaohsiung on January 14, 2017. They played tremendous basketball and earned 4 wins in matches against I-Shou International School , Grace Christian Academy, Morrison Academy Kaohsiung , and American School Taichung.

They lost in matches against Kuei-Shan School and Kaohsiung American School, but in both matches our DIS players played well, but had trouble when the other teams managed to find a way to take their defensive intensity up to a higher level.

Hopefully we will have more regular season games next year so that our teams will get the experience they need to play at their best next year. Our JV team ended the tournament in a very respectable fourth place and should be very proud of their efforts and they way the represented the school.



Top Row from left to right : Henry Lee (Manager), Mr Gustl Pido (Athletic Director), Jerryson Lee, John Wang, Jerry Hung, Theodore Chen, Victor Yu, Ryan Lin, Thomas Chung, and Mr Tim Sampson (Coach)

Bottom Row from left to right: Timothy Yu, Jonathan Chen, Brian Lin, Joseph Lai and Alex Chang.

Varsity Boys Basketball

By Mr. Tim Sampson

The DIS Varsity boys participated in a basketball tournament hosted by Morrison Academy Taichung, Taiwan January 14, 2017. Although the boys had previously won golds and silvers in tournaments, they came away empty handed this year. This is no reflection on their courage or ability, but more likely due to their hard work in the classroom that led to less practice time on the court. To the Grade 12's I'd like to say thanks for leading the basketball program to new heights, and to the Grade 11's I would like to challenge you to bring home the gold next year. Also a special thanks to our Coach Phil Huang for taking the team to their third tournament in a row, our boys have seen much success with Phil's tournament guidance and we will gratefully welcome Phil back next year if he is willing to coach again.



Players and coaches are pictured above from left to right.

Back Row: Henry Phun, Johnathan Chen, Isan Cho, Alex Lo, Albert Chang, Anfer Tong.

Front Row: Omar Dit, Harrison Chen, Alec Chen, Brandon Huang, Jay Chou, Charles Kim.

Not pictured: Dean Yu (Student Manager)

Not pictured: Tim Sampson (Coach)

Not pictured: Phil Huang (Coach)

Middle School Football Tournament at Morrison Academy Kaohsiung (MAK)

March 4, 2017 | By Mr. Tom Mauborgne



Players and coaches are pictured above from left to right.

Top Row: Ms. Chanting (Manager), Masato Takeuchi, Matt Chang, Ethan Yang, Jeffrey Wang, Jonathan Chiu, Mr. Tom Mauborgne (Coach)

Bottom Row: Ray Wang, Jochen Liu, Samuel Min (Captain), Ian Lu, Ethan Weng, Michael Lee

After having practiced all year and showing some improvement in ball handling skills and positional play we felt ready to compete and possibly bring back some medals. Though we still had to improve on fitness and strength, and it was generally due to this deficit that we didn't do as well as we expected.

We'd had fun playing after school all year, and had just enough players to field two separate 9-a-side teams. Though both tournaments ended up being 7-a-side, and many new players didn't get around to practicing enough to be more confident on the pitch.



DIS vs. MAK

Samuel Min captained the G7 team and scored 3 goals. Ethan Wang scored 3 as well, scoring expertly with his head. Jonathan scored 1, and Ian scored 1; a long shot from the half-way line into the top corner!

Special mentions to Michael who was strong in the first game, helping us win the first game and being our most active player. Masato who kept fighting for the ball throughout all four games. Ethan Yang for being skilful in midfield and also quickly adapting in goals. Jochen for thinking quick to make interceptions, neat dribbling and precise passes. And thanks to Matt and Ray who came down to make up numbers and who played with passion.

We'll take away a wonderful experience full of friendship and some important life lessons about finding depth in character when playing with a big losing scoreline. We have a lot to improve on!

Middle School Boys Basketball

By Mr. Tim Sampson

The Grade 7 boys played highly entertaining basketball at Taipei European School (TES) for the 2016-17 Grade Seven Boys Basketball tournament. They only lost one game to the eventual tournament champions Taipei American School (TAS), and unfortunately due to the way the tournament bracket was set up, this knocked us out of contention for a medal. This didn't dampen the team's spirit and they went on to win all their remaining games and become fan favorites at the tournament. Even with 3 of the 8 players getting knocked down and injured, there was no way that the other teams could dampen our enthusiasm or keep us from raining jumpers and slashing through the key for quick layups. Our team was recognized for being cheerful, competitive and respectful and ended up with the best sportsmanship trophy. We represented the T.O.R.C.H. wonderfully. An amazingly talented and kind bunch of Dominican players they turned out to be and I look forward to see them representing DIS next year in grade 8 and later still in high school.



From left to right: Mr Tim Sampson (Coach), Ping-Jo Chen, Morris Yen, Ethan Weng, Brian Lin (Student Coach), Ethan Yang, Matt Chang (Captain), Ray Wang, Josh Cheng, Jeffry Yeh, and Eric Chang

G8 Boys Basketball

By Mr. Tim Sampson

The DIS Grade 8 Boys participated in a basketball tournament hosted by I-Shou International School on May 13th, 2017. Grade 8 is usually a difficult year for our basketball players as their academic life takes priority over their ability to come to practice and prepare for the tournament. Although our boys team did not win any of their games at the tournament, they can be proud of their effort and the way they represented the school this year. They are a talented team and I expect that success on the court will follow as they find time to balance academics with post curricular activities.



Players and coaches are pictured above from left to right.

Back Row: Kayton Yang, Anfer Tong (Student Coach) Albert Chang (Student Coach)

Middle Row: Benjamin Chu, Ethan Huang, Charles Chiang, Lawrence Lu, Charlie Tsai, Sheridan Lin, Oscar Ko.

Front Row: Derek Fung, Justin Chen, Anthony Hsu, Davis Yu, Sheridan Lin, Frank Chen (Student Manager) Mark Gajardo (Teacher Manager)

Not pictured: Tim Sampson (Coach)

JV Boys Volleyball at American School Taichung (AST)

April 29, 2017



DIS vs. GCA



DIS vs. HAS



DIS vs. MAT



Practice

Middle School Girls Basketball

April — May, 2017



Jessica lay up...



Angela aiming for the hoop...



DIS!



Will DIS score...?

Players and coaches are pictured from left to right.

Top Row: Fiona Lien, Ms. Cindy Chang (Coach), Elexa Yeh, Mr. Sean Fost (Head Coach), Laasya Potharaju, Sally Nguyen, Angela Dao, Elsa Cheung

Middle Row: Jane Huang, Regina Wang (Student Coach), Irene Hsu, Athena Chuang, Minkie Mabasa, Tiffany Lin (Student Coach)

Front: Jessica Lin (with Sportsmanship Trophy)

Not pictured: Ms. Ismari Kruger (Coach)

Head of Communication

Dr. Mercia de Souza

Editor-in-Chief

Ms. Chanting Lee, Mr. Steven Bidy

Regular Student Writers and Editors

Andre Hirakawa (Gr. 11 St. Anthony)

Ginny Hwang (Gr. 10 St. Albert)

Student Writers

Anubhab Maikap (Gr. 9 St. Raymond)

Nandita Chennakrishnan (Gr. 6 St. Hyacinth)

Angela Dao (Gr. 6 St. Hyacinth)

Amber Huang (Gr. 6 St. Hyacinth)

Vera Pao (Gr. 6 St. Hyacinth)

Zoe Shong (Gr. 6 St. Hyacinth)

Layout and Design

Alec Chen (Gr. 11 St. Anthony)

Joshua Ramos (Gr. 9 St. Rose)

Teachers (for sport reports and student work)

Mr. Brian

Mr. Mauborgne

Dr. Sophia

Mr. Tim

Mr. Wakeling

Photos

Mr. Bidy (for the previous issue)

Mr. Tank (for the previous issue)

Mr. John Dixon

Mr. Ian

Mr. Pido

Mr. Tim

Publication and Printing

Mr. Ian