



## 2018 Valedictorian Andre Hirakawa



### **Congratulations to Andre Hirakawa, the Valedictorian of the Class of 2018.**

"It is so awesome to be the first class to graduate in our beautiful new gym!" were the first words of our 2018 Valedictorian. It was indeed an occasion to graduate in the new gym, something that students and teachers were looking forward to during the construction years.

At the end of his speech he had the following message for his fellow graduates, "Our experiences do not end here. My dear classmates, please continue to share your joy and youth with others, as you have with me. Our world is in need of people like you, who will dream and love in spite of the realities of adulthood. The world needs people young at heart. The world needs you."

Andre was a Middle School student when I first met him when he interviewed me for the student newsletter. Now I am saying good-bye to our Valedictorian.

—Mercia de Souza

## 2018 EARCOS Global Citizenship Award Ginny Hwang



**We are very proud to announce that Ginny Hwang, DIS Student Council President for 2018/19, is a recipient of the EARCOS (East Asia Regional Council of Schools) Global Citizenship award.** According to the EARCOS website "this award is presented to a student who embraces the qualities of a global citizen. This student is a proud representative of his/her nation while respectful of the diversity of other nations, has an open mind, is well informed, aware and empathetic, concerned and caring for others encouraging a sense of community and strongly committed to engagement and action to make the world a better place. Finally, this student is able to interact and communicate effectively with people from all walks of life while having a sense of collective responsibility for all who inhabit the globe." Ginny has already shown her mettle with the She's First Benefit Concert and the outstanding literary and art magazine "Escape" that was her brainchild and that has seen three exquisite editions already.

— Mercia de Souza

# The Class of 2018



## Top Universities Accepted DIS Students

### **ABU DHABI**

New York University

### **AUSTRALIA**

Griffith University  
 Monash University  
 University of New South Wales  
 Swinburne University of Technology  
 University of South Australia  
 University of Southern Queensland

### **CANADA**

Carleton University  
 McMaster University  
 Queen's University  
 Simon Fraser University  
 University of British Columbia  
 University of Ottawa  
 University of Toronto  
 University of Victoria  
 University of Waterloo  
 University of Western Ontario  
 York University

### **EUROPE**

Erasmus University, Netherlands  
 Glion Institute of Higher Education, Switzerland  
 Goldsmiths College, University of London  
 London Metropolitan University  
 Medical University of Lublin, Poland  
 University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

### **HONGKONG**

City University of Hong Kong  
 Hong Kong Baptist University

Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
 Open University of Hong Kong

### **JAPAN**

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University  
 Temple University Japan  
 Tokyo University  
 Waseda University

### **SINGAPORE**

Yale-NUS

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Academy of Art College  
 Barnard College - Columbia University  
 Boston College  
 Colorado state university  
 Cornell University  
 DePauw University  
 Earlham College  
 Emerson College  
 Fashion Institute of Technology  
 Georgia Institute of Technology  
 Gustavus Adolphus College  
 Hawaii Pacific University  
 Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis  
 Irvine Valley College  
 Ithaca College  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Loyola Marymount University  
 Maryland Institute College of Art  
 Minerva School at KGI  
 New York University  
 Northeastern University  
 Occidental College

Pennsylvania State University - Altoona  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Pennsylvania State University - University Park  
 Rice University (Waitlisted)  
 Santa Clara University  
 San Francisco State University  
 San Jose State University  
 Scripps College  
 Seton Hall University  
 Simmons College  
 Syracuse University  
 The College of Wooster  
 The New School  
 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
 University of Arizona  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 University of California, Davis  
 University of California, Irvine  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 University of California, Riverside  
 University of California, Santa Barbara  
 University of California, Santa Cruz  
 University of California, San Diego  
 University of Hawaii - Manoa  
 University of Illinois at Chicago  
 University of Iowa  
 University of Massachusetts at Amherst  
 University of Miami  
 University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Campus  
 University of Pennsylvania (Waitlisted)  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of San Francisco  
 University of Southern California  
 University of Washington  
 University of Washington, Tacoma  
 University of Wisconsin - Madison  
 Virginia Military Institute

## Good-bye to Teachers

**Every year it is with sadness that we say good-bye to our colleagues who decide to go home or to take up positions elsewhere.**

That is unfortunately the life of an expatriate teacher. One gets to know colleagues who make an impact on one's life and eventually they go home, or move on to the next international destination. This year was no different and we had to say adieu to ...

**Mr John Dixon** after eight years at DIS. He was the Head of Allied Sciences, a Master Teacher and a member of the DIS Steering Committee, the Recruitment Committee and the Academic Research and Development Team. His students loved him, because he was an excellent teacher, and his colleagues will miss him, because he is a dedicated educator and on top of it a really nice guy. He will be relocating to Italy with his wife and son. We wish them well.

**Mr Tom Mauborgne** was an ELL teacher at DIS for seven years, and will be remembered for designing the school's reward system that has encouraged many students to try their best. He was also a member of the DIS Steering Committee and a Master Teacher. Mr Mauborgne is remaining in Taiwan, but will be teaching French (which is his native language) in the future. Au revoir, Monsieur Mauborgne

**Mr Sean Frost** was a High School History and AP US History teacher. He spent many hours on the sports field as a coach and was awarded Coach of the Year twice. He also started the very successful MUN Club at the school. He spent six years at DIS, but now he is going home to the USA with his family. As they say in Kansas, "There's no place like home."

**Mr Philipp Beck** was with DIS for five years, teaching Spanish and Religious studies. Many of the teachers still remember Mr Philipp's wedding four years ago as one of the best weddings we have ever attended. He is returning home to the Canary Islands, where he will be working in the family business. We wish him and his wife many blessings and who knows, we may just visit that idyllic spot.

**Dr Rakesh Ramanujam** also joined the DIS faculty five years ago. He taught different subjects in the Science Department including AP Biology, AP Chemistry and AP Physics. Dr Rakesh is not just leaving for a prestigious position in China, he is taking **Ms Cindy Chang**, the KI assistant teacher with him. They were married on June 8 in India.

**Ms Carla Cook** was with us for two years as an ELL teacher. She will be relocating to the USA. We wish her and her son all the best of luck.

**Ms Natasha Gatensby** was at DIS for only one year, but we were sorry to see her go back to her native Canada, because of her friendly smile, energy, and great sense of humour.

We wish our departing DIS family members many blessings as they leave us.

## Moments to Remember



John Dixon



Tom Mauborgne

# Congratulations!

## Twins for Ms KC



**Meet the addition to the family of Ms Katherine Cheng and Mr Zong Jie Lee. On the left is Elison and on the right Elisha.**

On June 5, Ms KC as we all know her, gave birth to healthy twins, a boy and a girl. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ms KC and her husband. We know that they will give you great joy, because we know how you have been looking forward to their arrival.

**The Secret is out! After a very discreet romance, Dr Rakesh Ramanujum and Ms Cindy Chang surprised us all.** They had been dating and were engaged to be married last December, without telling anyone. We wondered why Dr. Rakesh couldn't stop smiling all the way through the fourth quarter, but he said nothing. Their wedding took place in India on June 8. They are relocating to China. From all of us at DIS, we wish you all of the very best for a wonderful life together .



## Dr Rakesh and Ms Cindy's Wedding



Our gorgeous bride. Ms Cindy on her wedding day in India



## Grade 12 Class of 2018 Celebrates their Baccalaureate Mass

By John Erick Moje

**“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.”** This passage from the Gospel of John 15:5 unveils a very challenging invitation for all the graduates of grades 8 and 12 for 2018 to reflect on the greatest contribution of Dominican education in their lives. This is the very heart of the Baccalaureate Mass that was celebrated on May 22, 2018, at the school’s new auditorium.

Rev. Fr. Paulus Factora, O.P. with his concelebrant Rev. Fr. Arvin Anthony Madla presided over the celebration. The celebration was formally commenced with a symbolic offering of the Class of 2018 symbol. Allison Huang, Class of 2018 representative expounds the very meaning of the symbol.

She said, “Like tiny sand particles, we come from all across the world. We’ve encountered different experiences that have shaped us into characters of unique shape. Yet, all the same, we are gathered here as one. Through the years we’ve spent together in DIS, we have been bonded tightly together under pressure and tempering, pressing us into one— the sandstone. Even when times get tough, we remain as one, unbendable, unbreakable. With our school’s education, we’ve been polished and refined into a brick of sandstone. As Jesus once said, “upon this rock I will build my church.” Upon this block, we will build our legacy, steps that will lead us to a brighter future.”



## The Class of 2018 Celebrates their Spiritual Encounter

By John Erick Moje

The final school days of Grade 12 St. Pius and St. Vincent students were characterized with mixed emotions as they prepared for their Graduation Day, the day to reap the fruit of their long years of study, prayer, community involvement, and service as expressions of their Dominican identity.

Their minds and hearts overflowed with unforgettable memories- a race against deadlines, a countdown to beat, a competition with time, midnight cramming, morning coffee, classroom nodding, Senior Project, Community Service involvement, AP exams and countless more! To be spiritually prepared for their graduation, the DIS Campus Ministry Department gave them a chance to reminisce and share memories in the spirit of gratitude, joy, and confidence. This year's Spiritual Class Encounter was held on May 14 in the school's new auditorium.

"Looking back with gratitude, living the present with joy, and looking forward with confidence" was this year's theme of the Grade 12 Class Encounter, resonating the same inspiration from the Psalms 9:1 that says, "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." It was in the same spirit that Rev. Fr. Timothy de Belen, this year's facilitator/speaker, inspired all the grade 12 students to value gratitude, joy, and confidence. These three significant points illuminated the conference. In between songs and workshops, the seniors couldn't deny how limited time was. One of them even exclaimed, "If we could only stop time!" In the end, only memories linger wherever they go. Taking with them are the many individual messages from their teachers to enlighten their way in the pursuit of their dreams and deepest desires of their hearts.

Graduating class of 2018, you will be missed! Let the D'TORCH shine forth on your way in the spirit of St. Dominic de Guzman.



## Thanksgiving Piano Recital

**On 22 May, Anthony Wu, our award-winning Grade 12 pianist gave a piano recital in the gym.** It was a true pleasure to watch such an accomplished pianist perform. Anthony is the winner of many national and international competitions. Amongst others, he won First Prize in the 2016 Japan Hamamatsu International Piano Competition, First Prize in the 2016 National Taiwan Piano Competition, 2nd Prize in 2014 Japan International Classical Music Competition, and he was a Finalist in the 2016 Steinway and Son International Piano Competition, to mention just a few.

He started the recital with J. S. Bach's Italian Concerto in F major BWV 971t. Mvt. I. This was followed with the well-known sounds of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. After the soulful Beethoven performance, he showed his superior technique with Chopin's Andante Spianato Et Grande Polonaise Brillante Op. 22.

Bach enthusiasts had a special surprise when Anthony's class mate, Hiro Fu gave him a short break from the piano when he performed Cello Suite No.1 v Menuet. Then Anthony was back at the grand piano, showing the audience how to play Chopin's Nocturne in D flat major Op.27 No.2. The grand finale was Franz Liszt's "Taramtella" from Venezia e Napoli. Anthony thanked the school for his years at DIS, but we thanked him for a piano recital of international standard in our own gym.

## DIS Celebrates the Closing Mass

### Celebrations of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist

By John Erick Moje



#### FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

E. EVANGELINE (SINTHIYA)  
R. PATRICK (PRAVEEN)

#### FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

JOHN MICHAEL RAMOS  
REENA ISABELLE SORIANO  
REUBEN VIRGIL SORIANO  
CHARMAGNE DARLYN LEE  
HO BAI YU MARIA (ROSEMARY)

#### FOR THE SACRAMENT OF The EUCHARIST

HAILEY ALEXIS CLODFELTER  
E. EVANGELINE  
R. PATRICK

**The annual celebration of DIS Closing Mass and the Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation marked a very special day because eight Dominican students received the Sacraments of Initiation on the occasion of the Feast Day of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

Like Mother Mary, their “YES” to God made it possible for them to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in following Jesus Christ in a deeper way. The candidates were carefully prepared by Sr. Rosa Dabhi through a series of spiritual inputs and formation.

The holy celebration formally commenced with the meaningful Coronation and Serenade to Mother Mary. Benjamin Maston, DYM Student Leader, together with his mother, Mrs. Kelly Maston were honored to do the coronation.

While Mother Mary was crowned, the whole DIS family reflected upon this beautiful prayer:

“Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, that we Your faithful people, who rejoice in the name and protection of the most holy Virgin Mary, may by her loving intercession be delivered from all evils here on earth, and be made worthy to reach eternal glory in the life to come.”

May the Dominicans who received the Sacraments of Initiation be true witnesses of Christ’s faith, hope, and love through the intercession of Mother Mary.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen them with the gifts of grace, to love and serve as disciples of Christ. Grant that they may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Fill them with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness.

Rev. Mons. John Hung, SVD (Archbishop of Taipei, Taiwan, presided over this very significant celebration as the main celebrant) and Rev. Fr. Franco Lacanaria, CS (Parish priest of St. Christopher’s Church in Taipei ) was the co-celebrant.

## DIS Speakers at International Forums

### NIFISA Seminar in Japan

By Gustl Pido

**Mr Gustl Pido, DIS Athletic Director, did a presentation at the NIFS Conference in Japan**

The 7th NIFISA (NIFS International Sports Academy) was held successfully from 28th, February to 9th of March 2018 at NIFS (National Institute of Fitness and Sports) in Kanoya, Japan. For the ten-day seminar, NIFISA selected eleven participants out of seventy candidates from different countries, composed of researchers, Ph.D and masters students, athletes, teachers and athletic directors. There were seven lecturers who were invited from four countries. They were from Japan, Taiwan, The Netherlands and Germany. Fifteen professors of NIFS conducted the lectures, where courses provided a curriculum on Olympic Education, Sports Performance, Sports Science, Sports Nutrition, Sport Coaching, Sports Physiology, Japanese Martial Arts, Language and Homestay program and much more. Moreover, the participants were able to present and share their creative and innovative ideas on Sports Research. It was a wonderful opportunity for NIFISA participants, NIFS students and professors to exchange state-of-the-art information and facts with each other.



**Dr Mercia de Souza (second from the right) photographed with the other speakers at the Asia-Pacific International Schools Conference.** Dr. Mercia facilitated a workshop at the conference in Hong Kong in December 2017. She presented the successful model for job-embedded professional development that she developed for DIS. This model has been in place for the past five years, and was commended by the accreditation Visiting Committee in their report. Other international schools will also be implementing this model in the near future.





# JV Boys Volleyball

Steven Chung reports

The 2017 to 2018 season was extra sentimental for us due the fact that this season was the last season our beloved coach Mister Frost will be at DIS. Acknowledging this fact, we tried even harder throughout the season, trying our best to not disappoint ourselves and everyone else. Throughout the tournament even though we had our fair share of losses we dominated, ending with only two lost, one of them being the championship game. Even though we lost during the championship game, it was an intense match and we lost fair and square but every single member on the team felt as if we should have won the game. However, we still did fairly well throughout the tournament and won second place. In conclusion this season was both sentimental and encouraging for us, we learned a valuable lesson which propelled us to try harder next year.

**Mr Frost and the JV Boys Volleyball Team.** Mr Frost spent many hours on the sports fields, coaching teams for the past six years and he will be missed. We wish him and his family many blessings in the USA. They are returning home after many years in Taiwan.



The after game photo of our Varsity Girls game vs TPCA

# Our Teams are the Best

## Grade 6 Football

Thomas Mauborgne reports

**The Grade 6 football team showed great promise from the beginning.**

With talented players and a passion for the game, they played hard and deserved at least a bronze medal in the tournament. They won two games and drew one but the way the groups were set up this meant they lost out on the chance to compete in the semi-finals. It was a joy to practice each week with the boys, I need to name names! In no particular order; Vincent, Timothy, Morgan, Dennis, Ting-Li, Hien and Paul Yang were the regulars. Eric Choi was impressive in the friendly vs TES, and I heard he was a force in the tournament. I couldn't make the day due to family and study commitments. Special mentions also to Kevin who played goalkeeper, Ray who came in late, and Roy playing down from G7. Hopefully Roy can captain a G8 team next year! Thanks too all for the great

## Grade 8 Basketball

Tim Sampson reports

**The G8 boys basketball team had a phenomenal season, one game away from perfection.**

During the season they played outstanding team basketball and represented the D'TORCH both on and off the courts. Middle school basketball teams were very fortunate to be able to play home games in the gym and anyone who watched would tell you that they played exciting up tempo basketball. During the tournament they battled their way past four opponents during the tournament in Kaohsiung but lost their last game of the season in the tournament finals versus KSS. A tough loss at the end of the season, but we can all be proud of them and their efforts this year.



Our DIS G8 boys basketball team played their final friendly game of the year in the gym on May 8th. Thanks to those who came out to support the team. They played fantastic basketball and represented our D'TORCH values well. Thanks to Apollo Wang for the pictures.  
—Tim Sampson