



Hear all about Cindy's year at UC Berkeley with Ginny Hwang.

Page 6



Cafeteria is now open! Read what students had to say!

Page 7



A chat with Mr. Pido from Andre Hirakawa.

Page 11

THE DOMINICAN TORCH

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

"vincit omnia veritas"

—
Truth conquers all.



Issue No. 2 2017-18

The Curtain Closes on the 60th Year...

By Ms. Chanting Lee

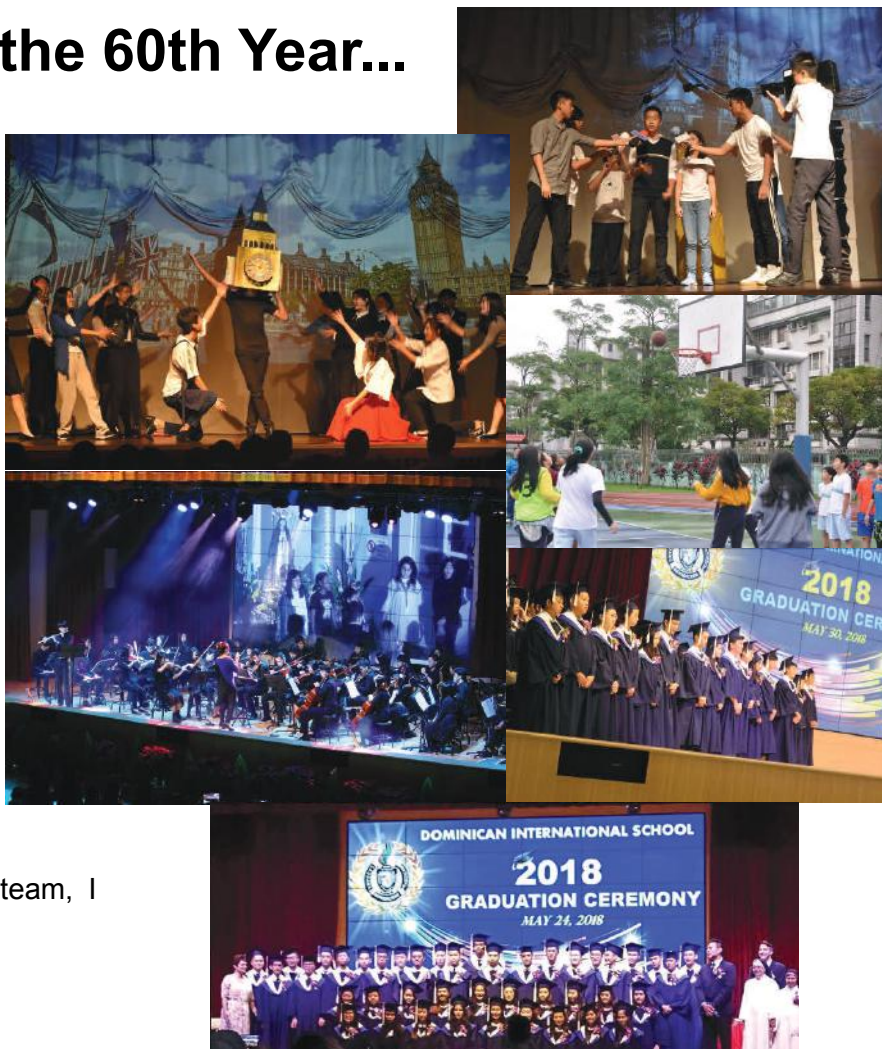
As the graduating classes of 2018 threw their graduation caps up in the air, DIS closes an eventful year for its 60th.

The first half of the 2017 to 2018 school year marked not only the school's 60th anniversary, but also the 10th year of the English Department's annual playwriting and acting competition—Young Shakespeare in November.

Come December, 2017 came a week full of academic and sport activities for the students to compete in their Houses, as well as a class.

If the previous issue reflected the academic achievements and efforts of our students in the first half of the school year, then in this issue we focus on the sports. It first highlights and performance of our students in sports and tournaments that occurred in the latter half of the 2017-2018 school year, closing with an insight into the teacher behind the school's athletics department—Mr. Pido.

On behalf of the DIS Student Newsletter team, I wish all of you a safe and happy summer!



Also inside this issue of TORCH:

Page 2 DIS Sports S.Y. 2017-2018: Trophies and Medals

Page 4-5 G6 Football and G8 Basketball Reports

Page 9-10 G8 Girls Basketball and JV Boys Volleyball Reports

A Fruitful Year in Sports

A great job to all our DIS sports team players for bringing home medals and trophies!

By Mr. Pido and Ms. Chanting Lee

The 2017-2018 school year marked some great achievements and rising star players in DIS. Mr. Pido, our school's Athletics Director, commended this year with a rise in student participation in sports team, games, and tournaments compared to previous years. Mr. Pido also hopes this spike in students participating in sports continues in the school years to come.

Congratulations to all students who have worked hard throughout the year, showed great teamwork in their games, and represented the school and DIS spirit well in the tournaments!

DIS Sports Team Medals and Trophies, 2017-18



Active Learning: The Human Body

Dr. Sophia Lin gave the entire G7 class the task of creating a model of the human body.

*By G7 Bl. Jordan and St. Thomas students in Science with Dr. Sophia Lin.
(Pictured: G7 Bl. Jordan students)*

In Science class, the G7s were given a huge project – to create a model of the human body. Along with their model they were also asked to include a video presentation of their work.



G6 Boys Football Team Shows Promise

Mr. Mauborgne remarks on the splendid job of the G6 football players.

By Mr. Tom Mauborgne (G6 Football Coach)



*Left to right: Timothy Lin, Ray Liu, Vincent Wang, Dennis Chen, Roy Hsieh, Eric Choi, Morgan Lo, Mr. Erwin Discaya (manager), Hien Trinh, Paul Yang, Mr. Edwin (photographer)
Bent down: Kevin Doan*

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 were the regulars. Eric was impressive in the friendly versus TES, and I heard he was a force to be reckoned with in the tournament. Special mentions also to Kevin who played goalkeeper, Ray who came in late but played well, and Roy playing down from G7. Hopefully Roy can captain a G8 team next year! Thanks to all for the great memories!

Closing off a Great Season: G8 Boys Basketball

Mr. Tim relays the outstanding performance on the court by the G8 Boys Basketball players.

By Mr. Tim Sampson (G8 Boys Basketball Coach)



*Back row, left to right: Josh Lee, Harold Lin, Ray Wang
Front row, left to right: Mr. Gustl Pido (Athletics Director), Ping-Jo Chen, Ian Lu, Andre Lee, Eric Chang,
Matt Chang, Ethan Weng, Nathan Chen, Morris Yen, Dr. Sophia Lin (Manager)*

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.

Your College Life is Yours: Cindy Su (2017 Alumunus)

By Ginny Hwang, Gr. 11 St. Louis

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

"I'm Cindy Su, and I was a DIS student for almost 9 years. I've always been keen to try new things and therefore, have a very wide range of interests. I'm a first-year College of Chemistry student at UC Berkeley, and I'm looking forward to do chemical research or related fields with a biology emphasis."

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

"College life is very different in every way possible. I did have expectations when it comes to big classes and being an adult. But I found that there is actually a lot more than just what is on the surface. Three finals within 24-hours, housing crises, fighting through protests to get to class (it's a Berkeley thing) and surviving off caffeine are things that I never thought I would face. At the same time, college life forces you to balance your life and gives you (although it sounds cliché) a time to learn more about yourself."

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

"I think that the fact that you are depending on yourself is both the best and the worst part of college life. You have the freedom to do, literally, anything you want. At college, your parents are not around and your professors won't even know you unless you make an effort. You are really the only one in charge of what kind of college life you want."

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

"Honestly, I felt that I've been really accomplished in high school. However, all that was nothing when I got into college. It was hard to keep up, as everyone was very competitive. (One sad meme we passed around our friend groups was that "I never studied so hard for such a low GPA.") Everyone is, if not more, equally talented and ambitious. However, these are the circumstances that really spark emotional and mental growth."



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

"Try to find out what you really want to do. Take AP courses and college preps. Learn how to be in charge of your own life."



Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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

"UC Berkeley has a lot of traditions regarding GPA. One of which is the 4.0 hill, which will give you a 4.0 GPA for the semester if you roll down it"

Letters to the Editor



To DIS,

Hi! I want to talk about the cafeteria. The Kindergarten to G6 students are eating lunch much earlier than G7 to G12 students. The cafeteria should be bigger to fit all the students in there. We can eat together!

Also, lunch time feels too short. We can only eat lunch and not rest. I bet we can fix this problem!

Thank you!

From,
A DIS student.

Dear DIS,

I wish we can have aunties for cooking so we don't have to order lunch from outside, because the lunch outside is not that good.

From,
A student at DIS.

To DIS,

The cafeteria is done but I hope there are delicious meals next year, such as spaghetti. Also, I hope when the gym is done, there will be table tennis and badminton.

From,
Jason.

To DIS,

I hope DIS can buy magnets for the classrooms, and I hope some teachers can listen to my opinion about something.

From,
A student.

Have your say!



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 community. 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 a pseudonym as the sender.

Winning in Sportsmanship: G8 Girls Basketball

Although the bronze medal was out of our grasp, we did return with a Sportsmanship trophy and memories made, Elsa Cheung reports.

By Elsa Cheung, Gr. 8 St. Catherine



*Third row, left to right: Irene Hsu, Elsa Cheung, Iris Chen, Jessica Lin
Second row, left to right: Jane Huang, Fiona Lien, Laasya Potharaju, Emily Chang, Melissa Liu
First row, left to right: Athena Chuang, Elaine Fang, Melanie Liu, Elexa Yeh, Mariana Funes Perez*

The Grade 8 Girls Basketball Team is made up of 14 dedicated and energetic girls, and our coach Mr. Frost. We learned a lot, worked hard, and had some good successes. At the tournament we played well and had the most sportsmanship of any team at the tournament. We played for the Bronze medal but ended up with the Sportsmanship trophy. We will always have each other and that's the most important thing. 1...2....3..., Wolves!

A Trophy to Bid a Coach Farewell: JV Boys Volleyball

A season that held a lot of meaning for the JV Boys Volleyball Team, Steven Chung reports.

By Steven Chung, Gr. 11 St. Louis



*Back row, left to right: Daisy Fung (Student Coach), Ryan Lin, Aaron Ho, Joseph Lin, Mr. Sean Frost (Coach), Kevin Yeh, Steven Chung
Front row, left to right: Derek Tang (Student Manager), Joseph Lai, Jerryson Lee, Shuji Arimura*

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

From an athlete to a teacher: Mr. Pido

Andre had a chat with our Athletics Director and PE teacher, Mr. Pido, about his dreams and aspirations as a student before coming to Taiwan and DIS.

By Andre Hirakawa, Gr. 12 St. Vincent

Andre: Mr. Pido, please describe your hometown for us.

Mr. Pido: My hometown is a few kilometers away from the beach...

Andre: Was it like in an urban area? Or was it more rural?

Mr. Pido: It's rural, near the countryside.

Andre: Did you live on the main island of the Philippines? Or was it more the smaller islands?

Mr. Pido: If you see a map of the Philippines, it's like three big islands. I was on the middle one, the central of the Philippines...near Boracay Island, the famous beach in the Philippines.

Andre: What were your dreams? What did you dream of becoming as a kid?

“When I was in elementary school, I was competing already in local and national competitions.”

Mr. Pido: Actually, when I was a kid, first I wanted to become a seaman, but when I was in middle school and high school, I decided to become a teacher. If you see my family, my mother was a teacher, and my father was a teacher too. He's also the public school principal. My uncle is also a teacher.

Andre: So you came from a family of teachers?

Mr. Pido: Yeah. My aunt is a teacher as well. I decided to teach, especially sports. When I was in elementary school, I was competing already in local and national competitions.

Andre: What category, or what sports did you compete in? Basketball?

Mr. Pido: Track and field. But when I was in high school, I also became a varsity basketball player.

Andre: Basketball is a big sport in the Philippines, right?

Mr. Pido: Yeah, it's a big sport in the Philippines. During my elementary, high school and college years I was a track and field athlete. Actually, I got my scholarships from track and field in high school and also in college. I love sports.

Andre: Was sports always an essential part of your childhood?

Mr. Pido: Yes, of course. During my elementary years, my father was also my coach, a softball and track and field coach. When I was a 2nd grader, I always saw my father teaching softball and track and field and thought, "What are they playing?" And I was also curious to play. When I was in grade 5 I started sports, especially track and field.



Andre: What was your high school like?

Mr. Pido: I was in private high school named Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, with two classes per grade level; accommodating 40 students in a class. During those days I merely study, play sports and help household chores.

Andre: So did they have a division in which a few classes are dedicated to sports while others were to academics?

Mr. Pido: No, actually, it's a normal school like D.I.S. So after school we would practice. I was practicing only during the afternoon or dismissal time and I needed to go to the sports complex to train for two hours a day. After that, I went home and helped my mother to do household chores.

Andre: Most of our students are curious about your athletics career. When would you say was the beginning of your athletics career?

Mr. Pido: Good question. It all started when I was in Grade 6. Since my father was my coach, I had the desire to be in the field of sports. Mrs. Raymundo saw in me the potential in track and field during my P.E. class in the category of throwing events, so she trained me well and supported me. I then first competed in an inter-school competition and won.....and after that I competed in... a Taipei [regional] competition.

Andre: Like a county wide competition?

Mr. Pido; Yeah. After that, I had to compete with the other provinces... then I needed to compete with the whole of the Philippines. It's like a national competition for the elementary level. After that, in high school, I also competed in local and national competition. That's why I got my athletics scholarships...

Andre: ...What was the very first national game experience like?

Mr. Pido: First, of course, you feel nervous because it's the first time you compete. The best athletes are all there... but at the time I was just focused on the competition I represented. I represented Region 6. The Philippines is divided into 12 regions and thousands of athletes joined.... And thousands are also from Region 6. I was the lucky one to compete and to represent my province in Ilo-ilo City.

Andre: What motivated you to become an athlete?

Mr. Pido: First, it was my passion and my own interest. I was thinking about being a national athlete since I was in elementary school, and I achieved it after I graduated from university. I became a national athlete and member of the national team in the Philippines. I was competed international competition in Hong Kong and Thailand.

“I was the lucky one to compete and to represent my province in Ilo-ilo City.”



Mr. Pido on the newspaper! Can you find him?

Andre: Why did you transfer from being an athlete to a teacher?

Mr. Pido: Actually, it's really related [to my athletics career]. I'm teaching sports now, right, so it's really just a transition of career. First, I was an athlete, then I became a teacher teaching sports and athletes. It's really good because I am not just teaching out of my interest but I have also experienced what I taught. When I am giving exercises to my students, I really felt what they feel... When I am giving exercises, I know how hard the exercises are because I experienced those before. That's why after college, I studied and earned a degree in my Master's in Sports Education and Sports Coaching Science.

Andre: What would you say was the greatest obstacle as an athlete and as a student?

Mr. Pido: That is a good question. During my elementary, high school and even my college time, I needed to balance my studies and my career as an athlete, it was rigid and tough. We are called "student athletes." We needed to perform well in sports and academics. During my college period, I needed to study also because if I failed in a subject, I cannot play. That's really hard, because I had to wake up at 5 o'clock every morning to start training from 5:30 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. and finish at 8:00 am. After that, I had to go to school. Sometimes, when I was in class, I felt really sleepy. That's why in university, I always tried to pinch myself to stay awake, to motivate myself to stay awake...

Andre: Why did you decide to become a teacher and why in Taiwan?

Mr. Pido: During that time, I was a national athlete, and there was a national competition in the Philippines. An American coach from the Chinese Culture University in Taiwan was recruiting athletes. The coach asked me if I wanted to study a Master's degree in Taiwan. And I was like oh, I am interested in that! And then he gave me the requirements to prepare for the diploma and documents and the like. Then I applied to Chinese Culture University and they accepted me.

Andre: Was there any doubt if you would fit into Taiwanese culture or any concerns of that sort?

Mr. Pido: No, because at that time I was motivated to get my Master's degree so I can teach at a university. In the Philippines, you cannot teach in a university if you do not have a Master's degree, so I need to first get a Master's degree to be an instructor in the future.

“I needed to balance my studies and my career as an athlete, it was rigid and tough.”

Andre: So your ultimate goal in life was to always become a teacher and not exactly to become an athlete? You always wanted to be a teacher at the end of the day?

Mr. Pido: Yes, because athletes have limitations, right? Maybe at the age of 35 to 40 they must retire. When athletes get too old, they cannot perform well. I was always thinking about transferring to another area as an athlete, to become a teacher or a coach.

Andre: That's all for my questions, thank you!

Mr. Pido: Thank you so much, Andre for taking time to interview me and for your hard work as well.

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