



## 2019 Valedictorian: Ginny Hwang

**This year's Valedictorian is Ginny Hwang.** Ginny is not only the top graduate academically, but was the President of the Student Council as well. She was the uncontested candidate when she was elected, it was so obvious that nobody could do the job like she could. She proved her leadership and academic skills throughout the year, but her achievements in Grade 12 were just the culmination of her tremendous contribution to the school. She also initiated "Escape" the school's art magazine that is student generated and contains student art and poetry, with Ginny as the Editor-in-Chief. She even sponsored the first edition's printing of "Escape" from her own money. It has been a showcase of the young artists' work ever since and gave them an opportunity to shine. During the 2017/18 school year she started the very successful fundraising for She's the First, an organization committed to helping girls' education in countries where girls are not educated properly, because of their gender. We wish her well at Yale, Singapore campus .

## 2019 EARCOS Global Citizenship Award



Ian Ko with Sr Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P., Principal of DIS, and Ms Agosh Librea



Ginny Hwang, the Class of 2019 Valedictorian with  
Sr. Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P., Principal of DIS

**We are very proud to announce that Ian Ko 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." Congratulations, Ian, we are very proud of you!

# Grade 12 Graduation 2019



Mr David Lee, a DIS Alumnus, was the guest speaker at the Graduation of the Class of 2019. He is the founder and CEO of Leeding Media, a production, finance and distribution company that bridges US and Chinese entertainment industries.



Eric Lee and Natalia Garcia received the D'TORCH Award from Sr Zenaida and Sr Socorro. They are the graduating students who exhibited ALL the qualities of the D' TORCH .

*Free at last!*

*The Class of 2019*



## Grade 8 Graduation 2019

**The Address given by  
Sr. Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P.,  
DIS Directress/ Principal  
at the Grade 8 Graduation**



“Good Morning. Welcome to our Commencement Exercises of our Middle School, Batch 2019.

To our guest speaker this morning, Mr. Joseph Leung, is our very own alumnus, Class of 2002. Thank you for accepting our invitation.

To the homeroom teachers and all teachers who worked tirelessly to provide a productive and positive learning climate where opportunities for quality instruction, creative and academic achievement for each student was accomplished, I thank you.

My gratitude to all DIS personnel and support staff who consistently demonstrate the highest degree of dedication and performance. I am indeed fortunate to have so many wonderful, warm and caring people to work with me and bring out the best in our student with courage, humility and simplicity of heart.

To our supporting Parents/ the VIP, my appreciation for all your trust, caring and dedication for making your school

such a special place for your children. You can never outdone with your generosity, to be involved, and be a part of our DIS Family.

I am also grateful to my co-Dominican Sisters who serve as my mentors and inspirations in all my undertakings. Your presence and dedication serve as living witness to our mission and commitment to the future generation to come. To our graduates, welcome back to the new school year 2019-2020. See you around. I encourage you to continue to be loyal to your school and to be ready for the challenge of the next chapter of your life. Being the younger batch, prove that you can soar high and make a difference. Experience new situations and learn to handle more responsibilities. For those who will leave/transfer, I am wishing you good luck and pray that higher opportunities may come your way. I am sure that you will keep your Dominican Identity shine, whatever may be, whenever and wherever you go. Congratulations and God Bless.” - Sr Zenaida

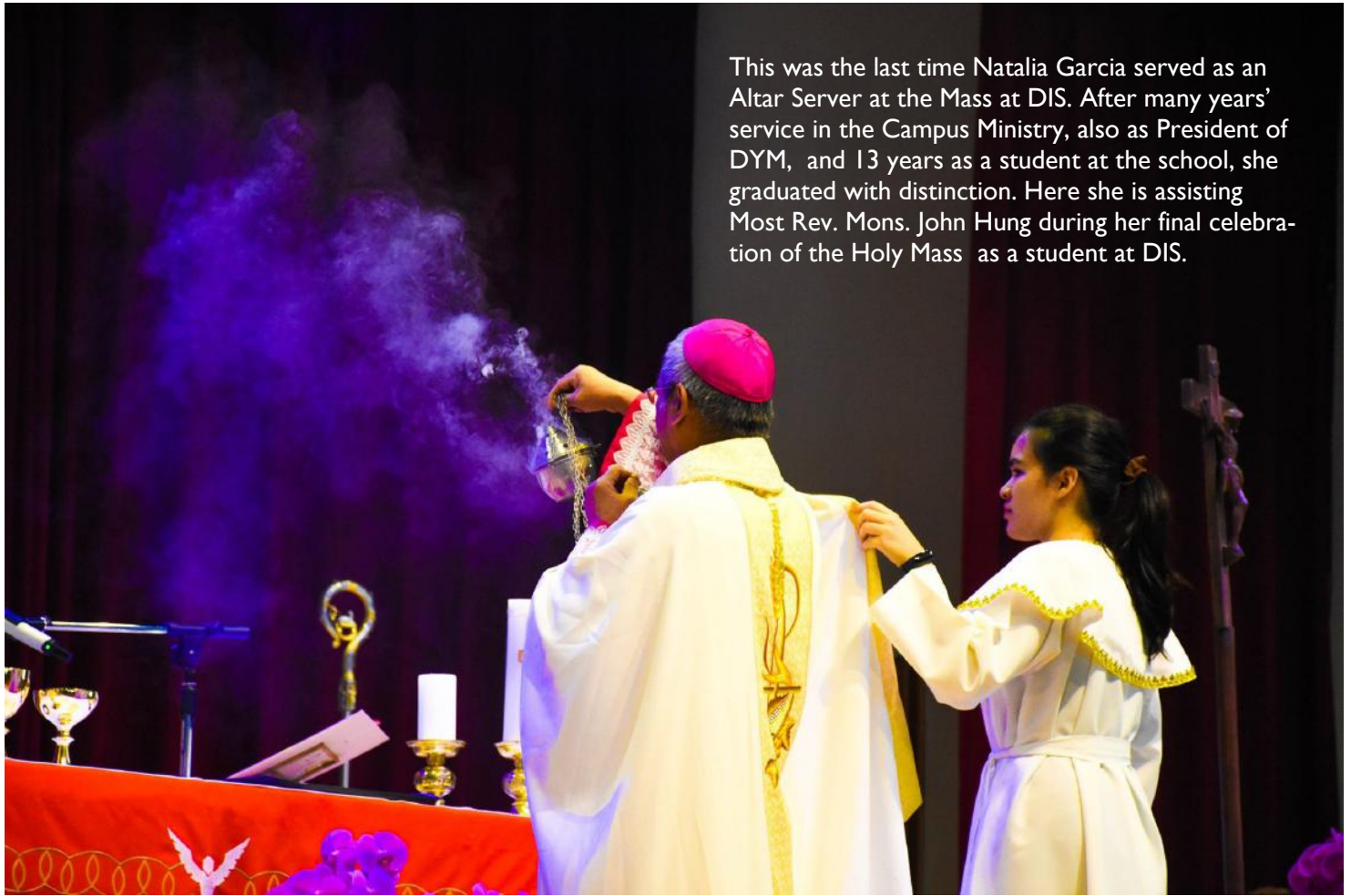
## Baccalaureate Mass 2019



**The Grade 8 and 12 students attended their last Mass as DIS students on May 20th.** Monsignor Sladan Cosic presided at the Mass. It was a true privilege to have the Head of Mission of the Apostolic Nunciature visiting our school for this very special occasion. For those not familiar with the terminology, one could say that Monsignor Sladan Cosic is the Ambassador of the Vatican in Taiwan. He gave an inspiring homily. Graduating students participated in the readings and the prayers.

Christin Chang, receiving Holy Communion for the last time as a DIS student.

## CLOSING MASS



This was the last time Natalia Garcia served as an Altar Server at the Mass at DIS. After many years' service in the Campus Ministry, also as President of DYM, and 13 years as a student at the school, she graduated with distinction. Here she is assisting Most Rev. Mons. John Hung during her final celebration of the Holy Mass as a student at DIS.

Photo: Ian Crisostomo

### By John Erick Moje

**On May 27, the school celebrated the Closing Mass, May Crowning, the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, and the Eucharist all in one.** Most Rev. Mons. John Hung, Svd., presided over this triple celebration with the concelebrating priest, Rev. Fr. Arturo Morales, Cmf.

The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Mariana (DYM member) and Luca Funes (Altar Server), together with Mrs. Alejandra Funes Perez, their mother, crowned Mother Mary as the commencement of the Closing Mass.

This year's recipients of the sacraments of initiation were:

For the Sacrament of Baptism

- ◆ Hao, Ryan Peter
- ◆ Hao, Rianna Elizabeth
- ◆ Wang, Grace Rose

For The Sacrament of Confirmation

- ◆ Wang, Grace Rose
- ◆ Pido, Gustl

For The Sacrament of The Eucharist

- ◆ Hsu, Anna
- ◆ Hsu, Leo
- ◆ Lima, Amaral Ricardo
- ◆ Oling, Breanne Duncan
- ◆ Ramos, Ella Joy Manuel
- ◆ Hao, Ryan Peter
- ◆ Perez ,Aversa Tais
- ◆ Quiros,Cu Bero, Tomas Andre
- ◆ Crisostomo, Gian Adrian
- ◆ Duked, Janapatla Carl
- ◆ De Melo, Adur Isabela
- ◆ Hao ,Rianna Elizabeth
- ◆ Cases, Valenzuela Montserrat
- ◆ Wang, Grace Rose

May they 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.

## Our New DIS Babies

We are delighted to announce that two very small people have joined the DIS Family. Ms Artola and Mr John Erick became the proud parents of a daughter on 12 March and Ms Robeth and Mr Jofil had a son on 20 March. Congratulations!

Photos: The Proud Dads Club



Fiat Mari Moje



Renaissance Collado



**THE DOMINICAN TORCH**

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief :

Dr. Mercia de Souza

The MIT Team (Photography)

Editorial Committee:

Ms Janice Doyle, Sr. Socorro Teofilo O.P., Mr John Erick Moje

## Robotics at DIS

by Ed Solis

**During the past school year, a Robotics course was introduced to the Grade 7 students during their ICT classes.** Incorporating a robotics course in ICT classes is an innovation.

This advancement in the field of ICT is supported by the Dominican Sisters led by the Directress/Principal, Sr. Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P. This will help students create new ideas. Studying robotics is simpler to understand and a more tangible introduction to programming. When students program physical electronic connections, it is easier for them to see what goes wrong as they learn what it can and cannot do. They learn the skills needed to create precise and accurate instructions and have fun while learning valuable lessons.

Learning robotics gives students the opportunity to address the growing demand for learning STEM subjects and how these subjects work and interact together. Robotics is a production-based learning module. Students have the opportunity to create something tangible and make it perform the actions that they program it to do. It combines creativity with engineering and technology. Grade seven students think it is cool, their engagement levels increase and they retain more information. If given the right information and tools these students can create a lot.

Learning robotics with Arduino will give the students the basics that they can use later to build larger robotics projects. The programming language used for Arduino is a language called C. This program teaches students to understand the basics of the C language. The word “Arduino” could mean three things: a physical piece of hardware, a programming environment, or a community and philosophy.

**As hardware** Arduino is a microcontroller platform that has captured the imagination of electronics enthusiasts. It allows every user to connect electronics through its pins so that it can control things. Examples of which are, turn lights/motors on and off or sense things such as light and temperature.

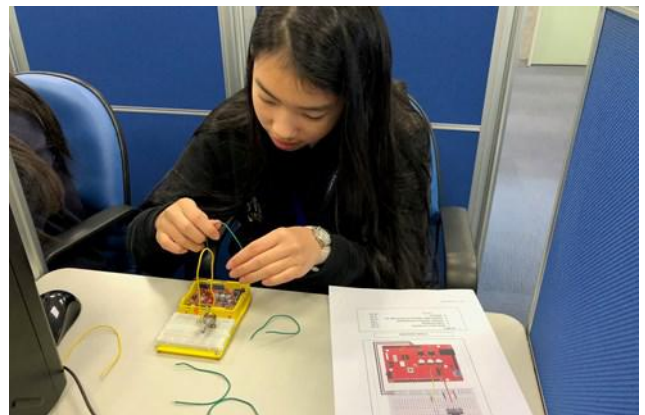
Arduino is sometimes called physical computing. A microcontroller is a little computer on a chip. It has everything and more than the first home computers had. It has a processor, a random access memory (RAM) for holding data, an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM) for holding data and it has input and output pins. These input/output pins link the microcontroller to the rest of the electronics. Inputs can read both digital and analog. This opens up the opportunity of connecting many different types of sensors for light, temperature, and sound. Arduino boards run on 5 Volts voltage. It can be powered by a DC power socket, battery, or through a USB port. The Arduino family consists of several Arduino boards that are all programmed using the same language and have the same connections to the outside world. To name a few – Arduino Uno and Arduino Leonardo.



Chelsea Yu, G7 Bl. Jordan

**As a programming environment** a sketch is a program written with the Arduino IDE. It is best to think of a program – or a sketch, as programs are called in Arduino – as a list of instructions to be carried out in the order that they are written down. After writing sketches, press the “compile” button to check for possible errors. Press the “Upload” button to program Arduino board with your sketch. The most commonly used is the “Blink” sketch. Sketches are stored on the development computer as text files with the extension name .ino.

**As a community and philosophy**, it is an open source nature that makes it a great choice for anyone wanting to build electronic projects. Open source community is diverse. Open-source software and other collective projects benefit through, and because of, community. Most of the technology world is familiar with open source software and it is more attractive than proprietary software. It can be examined for security flaws, altered to suit wishes, or used as the basis for a new product. Just like other open source software, people can and do make derivatives of Arduino boards or entirely new products powered by Arduino technology.

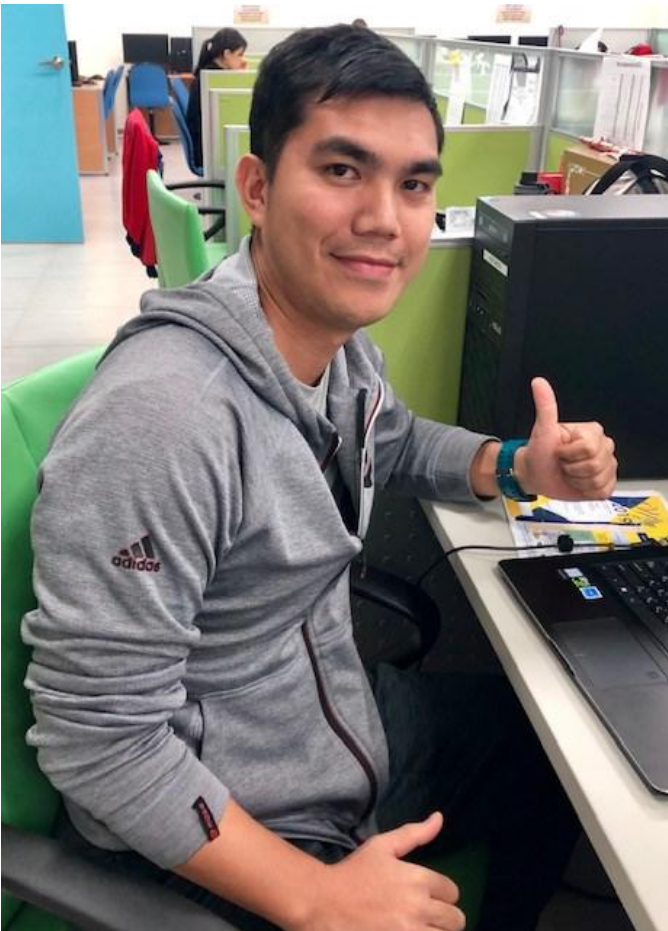


Mia Tsai, G7 Bl. Jordan

# Two New Doctors

The DIS Family is proud to announce that we have added two additional holders of the highest academic qualification possible to our teaching faculty.

Dr Gustl Pido recently qualified with a Ph.D in Physical Education, Health and Sport Science. He achieved his qualification summa cum laude. Dr Ed Solis achieved a Doctorate majoring in Information Systems. Congratulations to the two teachers who have now brought the number of DIS faculty members with Doctorates to seven.



Dr Gustl Pido



Dr Ed Solis

## The DIS Doctors

The DIS Doctors are (in alphabetical order)

- Dr Mercia de Souza
- Dr Ram Gopal
- Dr Brian Harmon
- Dr Karen Lai
- Dr Sophia Lin
- Dr Gustl Pido
- Dr Ed Solis

Dr Pido is the school's Athletic Director. All the other doctors are AP Instructors.

Dr Ed Solis is also one of the managers of the school's IT systems, and he has recently started a Robotics course in the school. Dr Mercia is in charge of the school's accreditation, professional development of teachers, recruitment of new faculty members, and the Communication Arts department. She also runs the Entrepreneurship course.

# Good-bye

In an international school, we sometimes have teachers who decide to go home, and this time **Dr Brian Harmon** and **Mr Charles Marks** are finally heading home after many years in Taiwan.

Dr Brian and Mr Charles both have been with us for three years. Both hail from the United States and will return there with their families. Dr Brian taught Social Studies in the High School, and AP Comparative Government. Mr Charles was a Grade 2 Homeroom Teacher and enthusiastic sports coach. He coached High School Football and Middle School Basketball.

We would like to wish them Godspeed and many blessings in their home country where they will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with their extended families again — those things that expatriates really miss when they live and work abroad.



Dr Brian Harmon



Mr Charles Marks with his Grade 2 class at their final farewell party.



## Sports News by Gustl Pido

### Swimming

The DIS Lower School Swimming Team together with Coach Joy, Ms. Sydney, Ms. Carryl and other VIP Parents went to Beijing for the **2019 Asian Invitational Swimming Meet** in February. We had 4 dedicated swimmers representing DIS.

**Ken** won a silver medal, also got fourth place and fifth place.

**Josh and Ray** performed well against the competitors.

**Lillian** showed strong sportsmanship and willingness to accept a challenge. Even though she didn't win a medal, her motivation and individual performance meant far more than bringing medals home.



### Cross Country

During the **Taiwan International School Sports Association (TISSA) Cross Country Invitational Meet** the DIS Cross Country runners competed at the American School Taichung. There were eight participating international schools in Taiwan that entered hundreds of runners. Anna Hsu of Grade 6 got a Gold Medal and Timothy Lin of Grade 7 won silver medals during this event. Congratulations!



Mr Erwin and the Cross Country team

### Track and Field Success

<b>Brandon Huan</b> Javelin Throw- Gold Medal Shot put- 9 <sup>th</sup> Placer	<b>Elizabeth Liu</b> 4x100m Girls Relay- Bronze Medal
<b>Michelle Hsu</b> 4x100m Girls Relay- Bronze Medal Javelin Throw- 5 <sup>th</sup> Placer Shot Put- 4 <sup>th</sup> Placer	<b>Kotono Yamasaki</b> 4x100m Girls Relay- Bronze Medal
<b>Melanie Liu</b> 4x100m Girls Relay- Bronze Medal	<b>Jonathan Chen</b> Javelin Throw- 6 <sup>th</sup> Placer
<b>Ian Ko</b> Shot Put- 5 <sup>th</sup> Place	
<b>James Kao</b> Javelin Throw- 8 <sup>th</sup> placer	



The DIS Track and Field Team accompanied by Dr. Pido and Mr. Erwin

# Teachers vs Students



**Teachers vs Students Basketball** a game that tested the mettle of all the players. Having the two tallest people in the school on the teachers' team may not have been extremely fair, but with youth on their side, the students were dangerous opponents. Perhaps the score doesn't matter very much...



**The Teachers vs Students Volleyball Game** was great fun and gave the teachers and students the opportunity to see if youth could beat experience. Winners? Perhaps we should keep that information to ourselves.