



ACS WASC Blended Visit



The DIS Family with Mr Christian Choquette next to Sr Zenaida on the right. Mr Choquette represented WASC

After much uncertainty, DIS eventually had the WASC Mid-Cycle Visit in the week of 19-23 October. WASC visit their accredited schools every three years and DIS expected a visit in March 2020. The school knew in December 2019 already that Mr Bill Christelman (from California) would be the Chairperson for the Visiting Committee (VC). Everyone was delighted with this news, because Mr Christelman was also the Chairperson for the previous visit. He expected to be accompanied by a VC member coming from China. Everything was ready for the visit when the pandemic struck. Even though we hoped to see Mr Christelman in March, the visit had to be postponed, and WASC found a local VC member. Then the long wait started to see when Mr Christelman would be able to visit the school. Eventually we set the date for October. In the interim, WASC changed to virtual visits. Sr Zenaida, Dr Mercia and Mr Ian attended a Zoom meeting with Dr Marilyn George, Executive Vice President of WASC and several other people from international schools in Asia who were in the same predicament. Dr George explained the policy for virtual visits.

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Message from the Editor

After a semester of COVID-19 silence, we are back in business.

From February to May 2020 we had no events and students went home straight after school. We felt sorry for the graduating students, especially the Grade 12 graduates, but there was not much we could do. At least the Grade 12 students and their teachers had a prayer service where Grade 12 students could wear their gowns and say good-bye. The others made videos.

This year we are much better prepared for social distancing. Mr Ian and his team worked throughout the summer vacation to get us set up for live-streaming, Google Meet and Zoom meetings. Because of the MIT Team's hard work, we will be able to have a Young Shakespeare Playwriting Competition live-streamed into the classrooms. We also had a live-streamed opening Mass, as well as two services where the Middle and High School attended Mass first, socially distanced in the gym, followed by the Lower School.

We are very happy that we were able to have events such as Masquerade Night and the Library Fair.

Most of all, we are grateful that we are in Taiwan where we can educate our students, play sports and have special events even if we have a new normal of doing things differently.

- Mercia de Souza, Editor-in-Chief

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From left to right: Mr Mervin Villaroya, Ms Rebecca Wu, and Mr Christian Choquette, WASC representative, in the cafeteria

WASC Blended Visit

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DIS was happy to have a blended visit, as Mr Christian Choquette, the other VC member, was in Taiwan. The original Mid-cycle Progress Report had to be updated to reflect what happened at the school from January to October 2020.

Mr Christelman was here when the school was still under construction, so he had to be taken on a "tour" of the new facilities. Mr Ian and the MIT team worked extremely hard to video everything that Mr Christelman had to see. They also recorded two hours and forty minutes of video footage of various teachers teaching. WASC wanted a cross-section of the subjects and the levels. Examples of videos are Pr-K Religious Studies, Middle School Religious Studies, Math at various levels, English Language Arts, at various levels, EAL, Middle and High School Social Studies, and AP classes.

The MIT Team created a dashboard for the Visiting Committee members and they were able to click on the videos and other evidence of the continuous improvement at the school.

Mr Christian Choquette visited DIS on 20 October and was very impressed with our facilities. He had time to interview some students and parents. He also spent time with school administrators and teachers.

This was the short visit, in the forthcoming semester everyone will be briefed on the school's self-study that has to involve all the stakeholders. The next visit will be in March 2023, and hopefully the visitors will be able to physically visit the school in a post-COVID-19 world.



The Sisters greet Mr Christian Choquette as he arrives for a blended WASC visit

Faculty and Staff Awards

D'TORCH Award



Mr John Erick Moje received the D'TORCH Award

Teacher of the Year



Ms Mafalda Wu was awarded the 2019/20 Teacher of the Year Award

Star Service Award



The Star Service Award went to Ms Mercy Lin

Congratulations to the recipients of the annual special awards that the Sisters give to deserving faculty and staff members for exceptional service and dedication to the school.

Confucius Day of Appreciation

Plaque of Appreciation



The Plaque of Appreciation was presented to the following VIP in recognition and sincere appreciation of their outstanding contribution to Dominican International School. The recipients were - Ms Sydney Tsou who served as Treasurer during 2018/19 and Assistant Treasurer during 2019-2020; Ms Carry Hua who was the Secretary for two consecutive years from 2018/19; Mr Dennis Nieh who was Vice-Chairperson for two consecutive years from 2018/19 and Ms. Ellen Chu who was the Vice-Chairperson for two consecutive years from 2016/17. She also served as Chairperson for two consecutive years from 2018-2019.



Sr Zenaida presents the Stakeholders' Award to Fr Tomasz who received it on behalf of the entire DIS Family

DIS Stakeholders' Award

On 28 September, Sr Zenaida presented the school with the DIS Stakeholders' Award to recognize every member of the school community and the valuable contribution they make to the school. Here is the speech Dr Mercia made before the award was presented:

"Another milestone in our school's success story was when the July edition of The Knowledge Review had our school on its cover page as one of the ten best schools in Taiwan, as well as an article about our 21st Century Project Based Learning. They usually do not feature two articles about the same school, but they did for DIS, because we are at the forefront of educating generation Z at our school.

Our story is a long one starting on a day in 1957 when the Dominican Sisters planted a seed that would become a strong and evergreen success story. Growth doesn't happen by chance. Growth needs careful nurturing. There have been many educators before us who watered and nurtured the small sapling until it grew into this beautiful tree of success. Even after so many years we are still nurturing our school and helping it to blossom and that is why we are among the ten best schools in Taiwan.

I want to share something with you. A diplomat once told me that the best international schools in Asia were in Taiwan, this was general knowledge in diplomatic circles – and we are one of them.

In our school every stakeholder counts and contributes to our success. The school cannot be a success story without the contribution of every one of us. Today Sr Zenaida would like to honour all of us, who are an integral part of the nurturing and growth process of our school.

I would like to call Sr Zenaida to present us with the Stakeholders' Award. It is the symbol of every stakeholder's contribution to the school's success story, from the first Sisters who started the school, to everyone who came before us and to all of us here today. This award will be displayed with the collection of evidence in the museum's exhibition room."



Teachers' Conference

Dominican International School Kaohsiung joined DIS for the annual Teachers' Conference on 24 September. This year the keynote speaker was Dr Lee Ann Jung, CEO of Lead Inclusion, Clinical Professor at San Diego State University, and a consultant to schools worldwide. She is a former full professor and director of International Partnerships in the University of Kentucky's College of Education. Lee Ann leads the International Inclusive Leadership Program, a professional learning and graduate program for educators in international schools in partnership with San Diego State University. She did a two hour virtual workshop in the form of a Zoom meeting.

The second speaker was Fr Tomasz who spoke about conflict resolution. Conflict resolution skills are very important for teachers who sometimes have to deal with conflict between students, and also with student conflict aimed at a teacher. The workshop was very successful and stimulated meaningful discussion.

Lastly, Dr Mercia who hosted the Professional Development day for the teachers, did a quick overview of how to do a successful SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the school. Teachers broke away in 13 groups and wrote their ideas on large posters that were displayed for everyone to see. This information will be used as the beginning of the WASC self-study that is the next step in the accreditation process. The school's next visit will be in March 2023 and the self-study must be done by December 2022. It takes at least two years to do a self-study.



The Zoom meeting with Dr Lee Ann Jung



Fr Tomasz explaining the steps in conflict resolution before he let the teachers break away into small groups for a very meaningful discussion.



Ms Jenny Pan and Ms Lize van Dyk participating in a discussion session during Fr Thomasz's workshop

Welcome Fr. Tomasz

DIS was very fortunate to welcome our full-time School Chaplain, Fr Tomasz Zalewski. He will also take care of the Middle and High School boys' counseling.

Fr. Tomasz is from Poland. He holds a Master's degree in Theology, as well as a Chinese as a Foreign Language Proficiency Certificate obtained in Taiwan.

Fr. Tomasz was the school chaplain of St. Dominic High School, Kaohsiung City for five years. For the past two years, he has been studying towards a Master's degree in Psychology at Fu Jen Catholic University.



After School Catechism Program

By John Erick Moje

This year's Catechism Program formally commenced on September 15, 2020 with the initiative of Sr. Rosa Dabhi, CCV. Handling the program for so many years, Sr. Rosa was jubilant that, despite the pandemic, more parents were interested in sending their children to the religious formation program in preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. Ms. Artola takes care the formation program of the lower grade students who have received the Sacraments of initiation already. Mr. Anhvu Nguyen looks after the Middle and High School Catholic Students.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, since, in many countries, the population of Catholic schools is characterized by a multiplicity of cultures and beliefs, religious formation in schools must be based on the awareness of existing pluralism and constantly remain meaningful in contemporary society.

Mother Mary's Birthday and the Blessing of the New Playground

By John Erick Moje

The entire Dominican community joyfully celebrated the annual nativity program to honor Mother Mary on September 7th. This was live-streamed from the school's auditorium during the regular Monday assembly .

With the initiative of the Religious Studies Department, Selected students from the Lower school were trained by Ms. Artola, Religious Studies 1 and 2 teacher, to sing and dance during the program. The performers offered their talents gracefully to honor Mother Mary on this day. With an array of colorful costumes, the performers sang beautifully.

Hosted by the DYM student leaders, Charm Felipe, John Michael Ramos, and Andrew Chen, the program started with an opening prayer. It was followed by a series of Marian songs the lower grade students performed. Ms. Mafalda Wu and her daughter Katherine introduced the new titles of Mother Mary given by Pope Francis this year to acknowledge how Mother Mary gives hope during this time of the Pandemic. Fr. Tomasz Zalewski, O.P., the School Chaplain, led the Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The program was formally closed with a Marian action song where everyone was thrilled to participate.



On September 8th, Mother Mary's actual birthday, Fr. Tomasz blessed the new K1 and K2 playground. As part of a regular morning prayer, all the Sisters in the community, available administrators and teachers, and K1 and K2 students witnessed the blessing.

Welcome, New Teachers



Ms Robin Brantley is from Birmingham, Alabama. She received Master's degrees in Elementary Education and Secondary Education, and is certified from K-12 in primary education and in Social Studies. Robin has worked in public schools in the United States as well as private international schools in China and Taiwan for over 7 years. Her passion is History and Literature and she strives to help students enjoy it also, and do their best.



Mr James "Seb" Langley holds a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics and Post- Graduate Certificate in Secondary Education, including Qualified Teacher Status. Furthermore, he holds a B.A. Honours degree in Art and History. He has ten years' teaching experience. He received the Duke of Edinburgh Award in March 2017.



Mr Jacob (Jake) Springer currently teaches fourth grade EAL. He holds a masters' degree in Teaching and Learning (Distinguished Scholar), Professional Teacher's License, and TEFL certification. In addition to these qualifications, he is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Jacob has eight years' experience teaching students from kindergarten to sixth grade.



Welcome Back , Teachers



Mr Graciano (Jun) Castillo holds a Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree, and a Bachelor's degree majoring in Economics and Political Science. Mr Castillo is not new to the school, he taught here for ten years in late the 1990's to early 2000's. His wife also taught at DIS and his daughter is a DIS graduate, now a senior investment analyst at JP Morgan. We are welcoming back a long-standing DIS family member

Everyone was very sad when **Ms Zoe Lin**, aka Ms DIS Orchestra, left the school , because of serious health reasons. Teachers and students were really happy to welcome Ms Zoe back after an absence of two years. She is fit and healthy and her old energetic self again. It is our pleasure to have her back in the Music department.



Ms Zoe and her best friend



Mr Charles Marks spent a year in the USA, because of family commitments, but he is back with us in his usual position of Grade 2 Homeroom Teacher. We were relieved that he could join us at the beginning of the school year in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic raging in the US. Mr Charles and his family made it back in time to come out of quarantine just before the start of the 2020/21 school year.



Student art work from Ms Adrians's class

Welcome, New Teacher

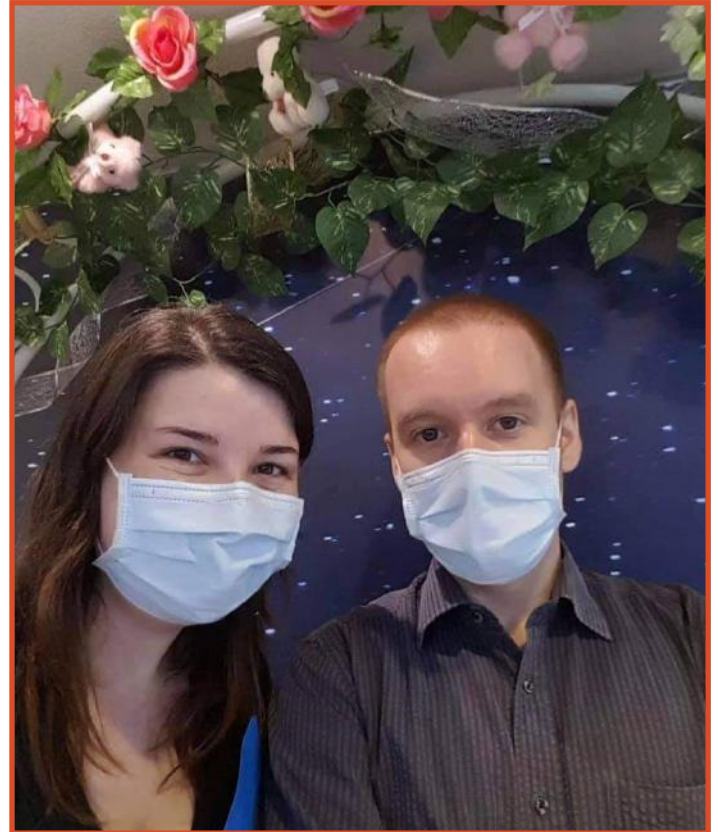


Mr Brian Simon teaches Grade 2 EAL. He comes from Florida in the USA and has a Bachelor's degree with a major in Linguistics. He also holds a Master's degree in Chinese Linguistics. He has been studying Chinese for the past 25 years. Mr Simon has eight years' experience teaching English in K-12 schools in Korea.

Thank you, Ms Lalaine

Ms Lalaine Lim holds a degree in Graphic Design with an English sub-major. She was the substitute teacher for Grade 2 EAL while the school waited for Mr Simon's government paperwork to be processed. We thank her for her love and care of our young students and for giving her precious time to the school away from her business.

Wedding Bells



On October 31, Mr Andrew Hogenson and his fiancée, Ms Irene Van 't Zand tied the knot.

Warm congratulations! May you always find in each other the love, laughter and happiness that only partners in life share.



Establishment of Dominican Laity, St. Martin de Porres Chapter at DIS

By John Erick Moje

The Feast Day of St. Martin de Porres successfully heralded the establishment of St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity at DIS

Mr. John Erick Moje, Dominican Laity Vice-President, formally started the paraliturgy with a prelude. His message highlighted the Spirituality and fidelity of St. Martin de Porres to God. He said, “St. Martin’s words urge all of us to follow Christ with full heart and mind, without forgetting our significant neighbors. Like St. Martin, we should always consider others as more holy and more worthy than us, at the same time strive to be as holy as we can be. It also comes to mind how we can be inspired by his fidelity to God and humility, to accept the Mission God has entrusted to us. Indeed, it is in the presence of the community that God speaks volumes of His wisdom and inspiration through our faithful and loving ways as Martin exemplified.”

The establishment of our chapter is an unfolding of God’s mercy and compassion to us as we commit to embrace the examples of St. Martin de Porres. In the letter dated October 15, 2020, our chapter was formally recognized through the kind prayers and assistance of Fr. Angelik Kitsula, O.P., the Prior Vice-Provincial of Queen of China. Sr. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P. was entrusted to provide the chapter with initial formation, leading the core members to become professed members of Dominican Laity. Fr. Thomas Zalewski, O.P. was appointed to be the Chapter’s spiritual companion, with the task of overseeing the initial stage of the formation and implementation of the regulations of the Rule of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic, General Declarations and Local Directory.

Sr. Zenaida’s welcome remarks set the positive mood for the occasion. She emphasized what made St. Martin worth emulating in terms of his spirituality and character. St. Martin de Porres is a Dominican Lay Missionary whose life was deeply characterized by his unwavering fidelity to God and humility to accept the mission that was entrusted to him. Like him, the members of the Dominican laity should envision to seek to be in an environment where they “breathe” the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures, in the teaching of the Church, in personal and liturgical prayer, in study, and in everyday life experiences.

Proper introduction of the active and aspiring members came

afterwards. Currently, the active members are:

Dr. Edward C. Solis (President), Mr. John Erick S. Moje (Vice-President), Ms. Coney Marie Catalan-Pido (Secretary), Ms. Mary Grace Crisostomo (Treasurer), Mr. Adrian B. Crisostomo Jr., Mr. Jofil E. Collado, Dr. Gustl B. Pido, Ms. Xochilt Scarlet C. Artola-Moje, Mr. Erick Glenndon A. Gonzales, Mr. Mervin D. Villaroya, Ms. Ma. Robeth R. Gareza-Collado, and Mr. Arcel Joseph Amoguis. The Aspirants are: Mr. Anhvu Nguyen, Mr. Noel E. Francisco, Mr. Ronaldo Q. Francisco, and Mr. Graciano Castillo.

The Paraliturgy was done meaningfully afterwards. Dr. Ed and Mr. Amoguis led the group to reflect on the life of St. Martin de Porres. The entire community sang the 800 years’ Anniversary Theme Song of the Dominican Order of Preachers, “Laudare...Benedicere...Praedicare!” as Mr. Nguyen played on the keyboard. After the readings and prayers of the faithful, Father Tomasz blessed the statue of St. Martin, the souvenirs, the Dominican laity members and the Lay Dominican Meeting Room. St. Martin de Porres, Pray for us.



Message from Mr Dennis Nieh, VIP President

With the blink of an eye, we are finally approaching the holiday seasons of the school year. I would like to express great appreciation to all the students, staff and parents whom have participated to secure a safe learning environment during this harsh period of the pandemic. We are truly blessed to be in a place like Taiwan, where efforts from all areas of society came together to make our environment safe so that we are able to enjoy a relatively normal lifestyle compared to many other parts of the world. We recently held our 2020 VIP Parents Gala Dinner and had a record breaking attendance rate this year. Many existing parents and a great number of new parents came to join that evening's festivities. It was indeed a solid sign of the kind of dedication and the positive synergy that the DIS parents displayed. The cooperation of our school and family are absolutely vital for a complete and healthy education. Our Masquerade Night was also a huge success with outpouring sponsors, vendors, our wonderful event task team, Student Council, teachers, staff, students and VIP parent volunteers. We'd like to especially thank Sr. Zenaida whom approved and prayed for the safety of this event and also made a wise decision to hold the event on our amazing field. The event came together seamlessly with talented student performances, awesome raffle prizes and the dedicated involvement from everyone. I want to take this opportunity to once again, thank all of the parents who helped organize and execute the successful DIS Parents Gala Dinner and Masquerade Night, the teachers, staff, the student council's help during the event. As the Chairman of the VIP, I look forward to a more vibrant community, open communication, and cooperation between students, teachers and parents in the future. I am truly honored and proud to be a part of the DIS family community.

- Dennis Nieh

A Commendation from the October 2020 ACS WASC Report

WASC commends

“The school and the **Voluntary Involved Parent organization** for their strong partnership and their development and facilitation of their morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up safety monitoring initiative.”

2020 VIP Parents Gala Dinner



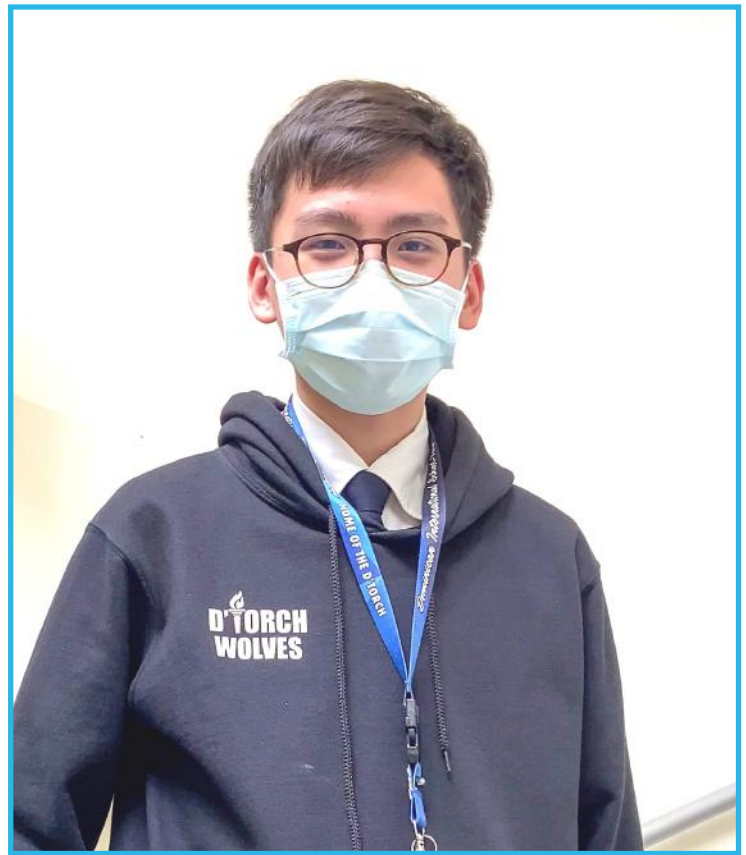
From left to right: Ms. Sunny Lin Ms. Lily Chen, Ms. Ellen Chu, Ms. Lynn Fu, Ms. Elin Hung, and Ms. Sandy Lee



Mr Dennis Nieh thanking Ms Ellen Chu for the tremendous contribution she made to the school while she was the President of the VIP. He took over from her this school year.

EARCOS Global Citizenship Award

We are very proud to announce that **Jasper Chang** 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, Jasper, we are very proud of you!



AP Chinese Class Kite Activity



Student Artwork: Ms Adriana's class



Ms Susan Wu's AP Chinese class having fun after school with cultural activities.



DRAGONS' CHAMBER 台灣



- High-end sneakers in secondary market
- Long business establishment and reputation
- Our packaging and social abilities

Anthony Hsu presenting their Entrepreneurial business that has already generated NT\$2.5 million profit so far this year.

For the second year in a row, the organizers of The Dragon's Chamber gave DIS's student entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch their businesses during the main event. The Dragon's Chamber is an annual event in which finalists pitch their businesses to long-term, established expatriate entrepreneurs in Taipei. Student participation is to showcase the Dragon's Chamber organizers' commitment to the training of young entrepreneurs and they have been doing so for the past four years. The young entrepreneurs are our Grade 12 students who are running real start-up businesses as a school subject. This year one of the teams is driven by Anthony Hsu, a young entrepreneur who started to make money on the stock exchange at the age of 13 and is running a business that has had over NT\$7 million in revenue so far this year. He has the spirit of the true entrepreneur and is an inspiration to the other young entrepreneurs. Who knows, we may have another Richard Branson in our school.

After the presentation, one of the organizers remarked that the DIS team could have been winners of the competition had they been a competitor and not showcasing our school's 21st Century Project Based Learning. The organizers do not allow our students to participate, because most of them leave Taiwan to go to university, which would put investors in a tight spot.



All the teams that presented in this Year's Dragon's Chamber at Meet Taipei, one of the biggest entrepreneurship exhibits in the world. Our students are on the right. From right to left: Anthony Hsu, Gabriel Servellon, Henry Su, and all the other presenters.

Book Fair 2020

Every year teachers and students look forward to the annual Book Fair.

As usual it was a roaring success and there were many wonderful English books to purchase, all in one place, which is always a treat for readers of English books. There was also no shortage of Christmas presents in the form of calendars, games, greeting cards and other trinkets such as keyrings, fancy pencils, pens, and stationery bags.

The wide variety of books catered to everyone's reading taste and one mother walked out with four bags of books and a very wide smile.

Even with the supply chain disruptions because of COVID-19, Ms Iris and the Librarians managed to source a Book Fair supply that kept many teachers and students going back to buy more.



Photos: Jason Shih





Anna Hsu became the Champion in the U14 National Tennis Tournament in Hualien 2020



DIS JV Girls Volleyball Team went to the TISSA Finals

Coach: Mr. Anvhu Nuyen
Assistant Coach: Dr. Sophia Lin



JV Team Basketball Team beat GCA with a score of 36-20.
Coach: Mr. Tim
Assistant Coach: Mr. Peter
Team Manager: Mr. Kevin

DIS Varsity Soccer by Ismari Kruger

The Varsity Boys were truly unlucky not to qualify for the TISSA tournament this year. They have shown enormous growth since last year and hope to continue building on the momentum that they gained this year.

Burpees. Lunges. Sit-ups. Pushups. Running. Sprinting. These are no unfamiliar concepts to the DIS Varsity Soccer boys. Training three times a week, the boys entered the season with only one goal in sight. Not a soccer goal, but the TISSA trophy. The team kick started the season with their first match against Morrison Academy Taipei and did the school and themselves proud. They carried the DIS TORCH high against a very strong MAT side. Led by their captain, Junsung Yoon, the team was fired up and very focused in their preparations for their match against Taipei European School the next week. Each of the players identified one aspect of their game they would like to work and improve on, and it sure paid off well. In a nail biting battle with TES, DIS was unlucky to suffer four major injuries a few minutes apart. Continuing the game with one player less than TES, DIS fought until the very end and were unfortunate to lose by one goal. The boys did extremely well and showcased the true spirit of the TORCH wonderfully.

The following players deserve special mention:

Most Valuable Player: Junsung Yoon

Forward of the year: Ian Lu

Defender of the year: Sean Lai



Congratulations to our U11 Football team with Coach Kordula and Assistant Coach Mr. Luna for winning the game Vs. MAT with a score of 6-0.



Sports News by Gustl Pido



Congratulations to our JV Girls Basketball Team with Coach Sanders for winning the game Vs. GCA with a score of 14-11.



Ultimate Frisbee Team went to the TISSA Finals
Coaches: Mr. Joe and Mr. Anvhu
Team Manager: Mr. Gonzales



Congratulations to Bryan Huang (right) for bringing home the bronze medal in his first Javelin throw competition at the Taipei City Junior High school Zhongcheng Track and Field Cup. His Brother, Bradon Huang (left) got 4th place in the Taipei City Senior High School Zhongcheng Track and Field Cup that was held at the Taipei Arena Track and Field Oval. Their coach is Dr Gustl Pido.



Congratulations to Anna Hsu of Grade 8 St. Catherine for bringing home the bronze medal in the varsity category at the Cross Country Invitational Meet at ICA Taichung. They were competing against other international schools. Sylvia Hoffmann got 12th place while Timothy Lin Got 13th place in his category. Congratulations to all. You make our school proud. The Cross County Team was accompanied by Coach Pido, Assistant Coach Erwin and Team Manager Mr. Noel .