

# 65 Years of Excellence in Education

**On December 8th, the school celebrated its 65th anniversary.**

What a tremendous surprise it was when Taoyuan Leopards basketball player Dwight Howard, idol of many students and teachers, made his appearance on the birthday he shares with DIS!

The VIP secretly planned the guest appearance and asked him to also make an inspirational speech. Students and teachers couldn't believe their eyes when the tall man arrived on stage in person.

After making a truly inspiring speech, he delighted the audience even further when he invited students, teachers and the Sisters to shoot hoops with him.

It was definitely an unforgettable day for the students to have a sportsman of Dwight Howard's stature at school to celebrate a shared birthday. For the full report on the 65th Anniversary celebrations, please turn to page 3.



Sr. Zenaida with Dwight Howard, who shares his birthday with the school!



The DIS extended family, including the Sisters, teachers and staff from DIS Kaohsiung, joined DIS Taipei for Teacher Appreciation on September 30th. Every year, the school hosts a three-day Professional Development Conference for the teachers and staff from both schools. Please see page 9 for more information about the conference.

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

For three years, we have had to cope with a pandemic that has either prevented us from having our usual school activities, or required us to scale them down, livestream them, or not have them at all.

We became very excited that for the last few months of 2022, we could have assemblies in the gym, eat in the cafeteria, have special events for the whole school, and participate in competitive sports activities. It became a rollercoaster ride of school events for everyone. On top of that, the East Asia Regional Council of Schools had their Leadership conference for the first time since October 2019, and the school was able to send delegates to share post-pandemic education trends with other professionals from all corners of the world.

Social-emotional learning and diversity in education are on the foreground as we go into the second semester of this post-pandemic school year.

The highlight of the students' year was the appearance of basketball player Dwight Howard at the school's birthday celebration on December 8th and to learn that he shared his birthday with our school!

We hope that you will enjoy this bumper edition of our newsletter and experience the roller-coaster ride of events with us.

*Mercia de Souza*

## EARCOS Leadership Conference

**Sr Rosa Dabhi, Ms Anne Portillo and Dr Mercia de Souza represented DIS at the East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS) 52nd annual Leadership Conference in Bangkok from October 27-29, 2022.**

Three DIS Kaohsiung delegates, Sr Jean Bergado, Ms Angela Tsou and Mr Michael Rossiter, joined the Taipei representatives.

It was the first time in three years that the conference could take place again, after many postponements because of COVID-19. The theme of the conference was "Together Again", and delegates were thrilled to meet up with old friends and acquaintances, and to share their experiences coping with a worldwide pandemic while trying to educate students.

Keynote speakers were big names in international education. They spoke about new concerns in the post-pandemic world and about recurring themes in education.

The conference ended on a very sad note, with EARCOS honoring the late Dr Richard T. Krajczar, who was the EARCOS Executive Director for 23 years. The Richard T. Krajczar Humanitarian Award was presented for the first time. Everyone sorely missed the presence of the much-loved "Dr K".



Dr Michael Thompson's keynote address on day 1 of the conference

Sr Rosa Dabhi (right), one of the DIS representatives





**This year, DIS celebrates its 65th anniversary.** DIS's birthday is December 8th. For this special occasion, the school lined up a week-long celebration to bring the Dominicans together and feel the excitement. For our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the D'TORCH Orchestra, led by Mr. Ronaldo, and the Orchestra Class, led by Ms. Zoe, worked on several pieces to be recorded professionally and saved as a commemorative music USB. The Parents' VIP committee arranged for the students to be recorded in one of the best recording studios in Taiwan, where most platinum records are produced. The Nine Tai Studio is owned by our DIS parents. The owner invited the best recording engineer in the industry, who has worked with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra. It was an amazing experience for the students, and the final product was perfect.

Foundation Week was designed to have different activities daily, from a karaoke competition in several languages and poetry readings to science presentations and more. Foundation Day itself opened with a beautiful mass and blessing from the Reverend Monsignor Stefano Mazzotti.

After the mass, the VIP Committee came up to the stage to announce a mystery guest's arrival. The guest who appeared on the stage was Dwight Howard, former Lakers Point Guard, who now plays for the Taoyuan Leopards. His arrival in Taiwan caused a big commotion - news about him appeared daily. The VIPs secretly planned this guest appearance and asked him to make an inspirational speech to the students. The intention behind this invitation was simply to make the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary an unforgettable one. Most importantly, he could show the students the positive mentality and wisdom that a NBA player needs to be successful.

Dwight amazed everyone with a simple speech tying together the mustard seed, which he saw when eating a snack that the VIPs had prepared, with the parable of the mustard seed in the Bible. He linked the D'TORCH

## By Ellen Chu, VIP President

values with the seed, which represents growing faith. That was impressive! He really put his heart and wisdom into that inspirational message. He is also a Christian, who follows the Lord's guidance.

The other surprise was that Dwight shares his birthday, December 8th, with DIS. After the speech, he played basketball with teachers and kids. The crowd was so happy, a few little boys even cried. They couldn't believe that a super idol like him would appear at their school.

The VIP Committee approached Dwight over one month prior to the day. The VIP, who represent all the parents, wanted to send the message that anything is possible, and success is always there for those who have passion for life and what they do. Dwight Howard managed to make time to inspire the DIS students, and the VIP Committee are convinced that he made a difference in the students' lives. We hope in the future, when they become successful, they will take the time out to make a difference in other people's lives.



Dwight Howard with Ms Ellen Chiu, VIP President

*By Br Patrick Bugarin,  
OP*

## Pastoral Visit of the Mother General Sr Ma. Asuncion Gonzalez and Sr Mary Jeanet Pintacasi on October 17, 2022

Sr Ma. Asuncion Gonzalez, OP, General Prioress of the Misioneras de Santo Domingo and Sr Mary Jeanet Pintacasi, General Secretary visited the Dominican International School as part of their pastoral visit in Asia. The Mothers General are based in Rome, location of the Curia Generalicia, from which the whole congregation is governed. Srs Ma. Asuncio and Mary Jeanet oversee seven provinces or mission territories, including those in Taiwan. It has been five years since their last visit, and it brought us great joy to see them before the upcoming Synod on Synodality. The Mothers General wish everyone well and for all of us to continue to instruct the youth, as Jesus did.



*By Br. Patrick  
Bugarin, OP*

## Temporary Profession: St. Martin de Porres Lay Dominican Chapter November 5, 2022

**Fifteen aspirants of the St. Martin de Porres Lay Dominican Chapter in Taiwan had their Temporary Profession to the Order of Preachers (Dominican Order) on November 5, 2022**, including: *Bro. Arcel Joseph Amoguis, OP; Sis. Xochilt Scarlet Artola-Moje, OP; Bro. Graciano Castillo, Jr., OP; Sis. Coney Marie Catalan-Pido, OP; Bro. Jofil Collado, OP; Bro. Adrian Crisostomo, Jr., OP; Bro. Noel Francisco, OP; Sis. Ma. Robeth Gareza-Collado, OP; Bro. Erick Glenndon Gonzales, OP; Sis. Mary Grace Crisostomo, OP; Bro. John Erick Moje, OP; Bro. Gustl Pido, OP; Bro. Ronaldo Francisco, OP; Bro. Edward Solis, OP; and Bro. Mervin Villaroya, OP.* They promised to live according to the Rule of the Lay Fraternities of Saint Dominic for three years with annual renewal until they become fully integrated into the Order.

Profession and admission rites were held during the celebration of the feast day of St. Martin de Porres, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Angelik Kitsula, OP, Prior Vice-Provincial of the Vice Province of the Queen of China, in place of the Master of the Order; Rev. Fr. Tomasz Zalewski, OP, Spiritual Companion; Sor Ma. Zenaida T. Ancheta, OP, Religious Assistant; and Bro. Patrick Dave Q. Bugarin, OP, Coordinator. Other members of the Dominican Family were also present: the Friars, and Sr Teresita Su, Prioress Provincial of the Province of St. Vincent, as well as other Sisters from different convents and Lay Dominicans based in Taiwan.

Fourteen new aspirants were also formally admitted, in a ceremony that formalizes their observer status in the chapter: Mr. Kassian Amesho, Ms. Nelly Brown, Ms. Jessy Cardenas, Ms. Rubie Carnice, Ms. Jane Francisco, Mr. Jan Hidalgo, Mr. Xavier Alphonse Inbaraj, Ms. Jeana Liu, Mr. Melquiades Luna, Mr. Julio Macrohon, Ms. Julieta Oliver, Mr. Michael Rossiter, Mr. Winnifredo Tarang, and Ms. Zenia Zsanyl Velasco. We pray that they may persevere in their chosen vocation.



*By Br. Patrick  
Bugarin, OP*

## Foundation Day Mass: Mons. Stefano Mazzotti December 8, 2022

The DIS Family was honored to welcome Mons. Stefano Mazzotti, chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Apostolic Nunciature to China, as the main celebrant for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Foundation Day Mass. Concelebrants included Rev. Fr. Ruben Martinez, OP, Prior Provincial of the Holy Rosary Province, Rev Fr. Matthew Shing Man Tun, OP, Secretary of the Holy Rosary Province, and Rev. Fr. Tomasz Zalewski, our School Chaplain.

Mons. Mazzotti preached on the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and emphasized the privilege of a Catholic institution to mold individuals who are knowledgeable about the rituals and traditions of the Church, as well as to foster their spiritual development. He expressed his gratitude to be with us on this occasion.

The congregation was very lively, thanks to the D'TORCH orchestra and choir, under the leadership of Mr Ronaldo Francisco. Sr Teresita Su, OP, Prioress Provincial of the Province of St. Vincent Ferrer, the other nuns, and supportive VIP representatives were also in attendance. We thank God for the past 65 years, and we commend Him for many more years to come. As always, we are ready.

## Happy 65th Birthday DIS!



## WEDDING BELLS



**Mr James “Seb” Langley**, our Grade 5 EAL teacher, married Ms Libby Ho in Taipei on September 23rd, 2022. We wish them a lifetime of happiness and prosperity.



**Ms Regina Alevaro** returned to Nicaragua, her home country, to marry Mr Emilio Ortega. We wish her and her husband much happiness and hope that she will remember her years at DIS in Taiwan with fondness.



## Another DIS Grandchild!

**Ms Sophie Tsou** gave birth to a healthy baby boy on July 1st, 2022. Now Nicolas has a little brother who will soon be able to run around and play with him. Congratulations to Ms Sophie and Mr Nathan!

### THE DOMINICAN TORCH Editorial Team

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Dr Mercia de Souza

**Editorial Committee:**  
Dr Patrick Bugarin  
Dr Tanya Visceglia

**Photography:**  
Mr Edwin Portillo

**Technical and Computer Support:**  
Mr Ian Crisostomo

# VIP Parents' Dinner 2022

**By Ellen Chu, VIP President**

Parents' Dinner has always been one of the most important events organized by the VIP Committee. Since the August election, the 2022-23 committee has been busy planning one event after another. Previously, due to COVID-19 restrictions, no events were open to anyone other than students and staff. So when the government lifted restrictions for schools, DIS moved swiftly into planning mode. The first big event was Masquerade Night, for which the committee went all out to put together a spectacular night for the kids. Even though the weather wasn't in our favor, it didn't rain hard enough for us to cancel the whole event. After Masquerade Night, the VIPs immediately started organizing the Parents' Dinner. While the venue of ACC remains the same, we strive to make every year a little different from the last. We arranged cocktails to be served and sponsored by a rum and gin vendor. The vendor not only sponsored the creative and beautifully-made drinks but also brought over a champion mixologist to make them in person. The beautiful drinks, made with award-winning Two Moon gin and Flor de Cana rum, along with the welcome champagne, helped to loosen the atmosphere. A simple and elegant backdrop was also provided for parents to take photos to record the beautiful night.

The second highlight of the evening was a masterful magician, who was wonderful with tableside magic. He began with some simple on-stage tricks to draw the audience's attention, then went to every table to bring the magic up-close. After his performance, it was karaoke time. Our celebrity dad, Chief Chao, sang the opening, and the magic mood turned into a musical moment. As always, our parents demonstrated their vocal talents throughout the night.

On-site "babysitters" were a new addition to this year's Parents' Dinner. Every year, parents ask us if they can bring kids. However, we want parents to mingle and engage with admin, teachers and other parents without distractions. This year, we solved the problem by inviting the Student Council and DYM,



Our celebrity dad, Chief Chao

who took turns watching the kids at the event. The parents who brought kids paid a fee, which will be distributed between the Student Council and DYM, so it's a win-win situation.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the attendance of DIS guests of honor, including Dr Mercia, Ms Agosh, and Ms Arsenia. With their support, the VIP Committee will move forward with a new vision and new ideas.



## 2022 Teachers' Appreciation Conference

### Child Protection Workshop



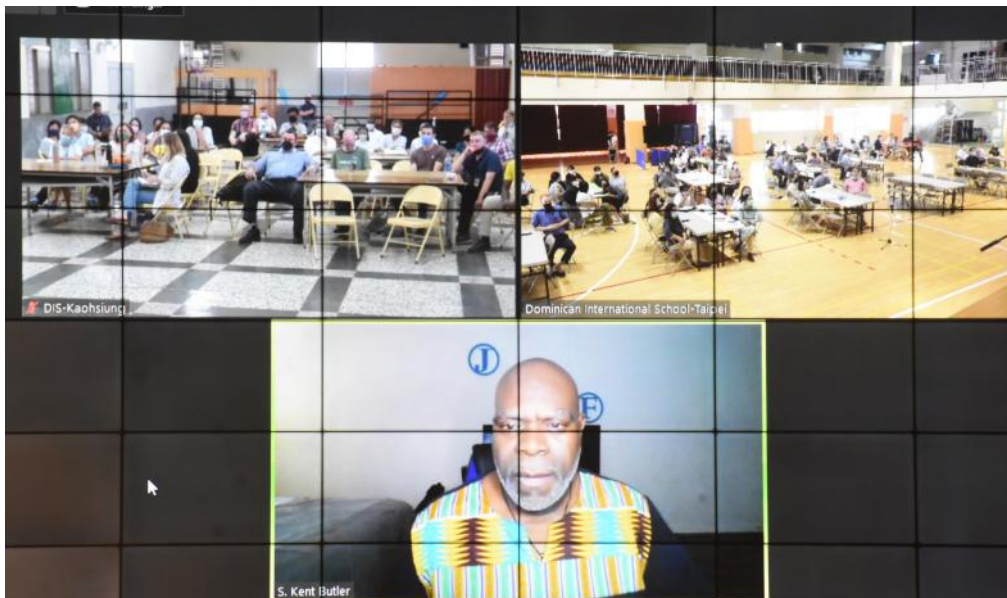
All teachers/staff receive training on child protection procedures, and receive updates and refreshers every year. The latest Safeguarding & Child Protection Workshop took place at the annual Teachers' Appreciation Conference on September 29, 2022. Christopher Gould of I12 SAFEGUARDING led a half-day workshop, which included case-study analyses in groups. The school invited Mr Gould to conduct the workshop after glowing report-back from three DIS Steering Committee members, who had attended a series of three webinars held by I12 SAFEGUARDING.



### Google Demo Slam 2022

Mr James "Seb" Langley and Mr Tim Sampson Led a workshop showing teachers how to make use of all the Google apps that are available on their computers for educational purposes. The teachers learned a lot while having great fun with their new knowledge.

## Difficult Dialogues with Students



Dr Kent S. Butler, Past President and Fellow, American Counseling Association Fellow, National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education; Professor, Counselor Education; Former Chief Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Officer University of Central Florida addressed DIS, Taipei and DIS Kaohsiung from Florida, USA. His talk about Social Emotional Learning and diversity, entitled *Difficult Dialogues with Students: Real Talk Real Issues!* gave many teachers food for thought.

# Sports News

By Gustl Pido, Athletic Director



## Equestrian

Our Grade 11 student athlete Camelia Huang participated in the National Dressage Equestrian Competition, ranking 5th out of 20 participants. Congratulations, Camelia!

## DIS Fencing Team



Boys' Foil Bronze Award- Ethan Chang (G6); Boys' Foil Bronze Award- Preston Lian (G6); Boys' Foil Bronze Award- Jeremy Ho (G3)



Girls' Foil Gold Award:  
Ingrid Lian (G3)  
Girls' Foil Silver Award: Chaumet Chang (G3)

# Sports News

By Gustl Pido, Athletic Director

**Middle and High School Swimming** results from the TISSA Swim Meet on September 23-24, 2022. Thanks to the coaches: Coach Sean, Coach Kufi, our Student Coach and Team Manager Ken Miao, and to all of the parents who supported our athletes. Congratulations to the following students:

**Lillian Z Y Liao**

800-meter Freestyle Relay- Gold  
200-meter Medley Relay- Bronze

**Chloe Fang**

800-meter Freestyle Relay- Gold  
200-meter Medley Relay- Bronze

**Kate Ho**

800-meter Freestyle Relay- Gold  
200-meter Medley Relay- Bronze

**Pin Hsien Kareena Ho**

800-meter Freestyle Relay- Gold  
200-meter Medley Relay- Bronze

**Brennan Yeh**

400-meter Medley Relay- Silver  
200-meter Medley Relay- Bronze

**Michael Junior Chen**

400-meter Medley Relay- Silver  
200-meter Medley Relay- Silver

**Chi-Che Morrison Tseng**

200-meter Breaststroke- Bronze  
200-meter Medley Relay- Silver

400-meter Medley Relay - Silver

**400-Meter Freestyle**

Bronze Medal- Chen, Conner  
4th place- Tsen, Josh

**Mixed 800-Meter Freestyle Relay Gold Medalists**

- 1) Tsen, Josh
- 2) Yu, Chung Chen (Marcus)
- 3) Yu, Myron Herbert
- 4) Chen, Conner

**Boys' Age 12-14 200-Meter Freestyle**

Bronze Medal- Chen, Conner

**Boys Age 12-14 50-Meter Butterfly**

Silver Medal- Tsen, Josh  
Bronze Medal- Chen, Michael Junior  
**Boys Age 12-14 200-Meter Freestyle Relay**

- 1) Yu, Chung Chen (Marcus)
- 2) Hao, Ryan
- 3) Tsen, Josh
- 4) Chen, Conner

**200-Meter Freestyle Relay 4th Place**

- 1) Kordula, Trystyn
- 2) Ong, Ryan
- 3) Kohout, Brandon
- 4) Yeh, Brennan

**Boys' Age 12-14 50-Meter Freestyle**

Silver Medal- Tsen, Josh  
4th Place- Chen, Conner

**Boys' 12-14 200-Meter Medley Relay Gold Medalist**

- 1) Tsen, Josh
- 2) Yu, Chung Chen (Marcus)
- 3) Chen, Conner
- 4) Yu, Myron Herbert

**Boys' Age 12-14 100 Meter Freestyle**

Bronze Medal- Tsen, Josh  
4th Place- Chen, Michael Junior

**Boys' Age 12-14 50-Meter Breaststroke**

Silver Medal- Chen, Conner

**Boys' Age 12-14 50-Meter Backstroke**

Gold Medal- Tsen, Josh

## Swimming



# Sports News

By Gustl Pido, Athletic Director

## Tennis

The DIS Tennis team, with Coach Charles and team manager Ms Christine, went to TES for a TISA competition on October 1, 2022. All the participating students played well and represented DIS admirably. Dan-zuo Huang and Haluka Motozawa tied for 4th place in the boys' and girls' divisions. It was a good experience, and the team is looking forward to the next competition.



## DIS JV Girls' Volleyball



The JV Volleyball Team, with Coach Sophia, won against MAT with a score of 2-0.

The JV Girls' Volleyball Team also won against TES with a score of 2-0. Their coach is Dr Sophia, and their assistant coach is Mr Joseph.

## DIS Varsity Football Team

Coach: Dr Nguyen  
Asst. Coach: Dr Pido  
Team Manager: Ms Janice

