



# Celebrating 60 Years of Excellence in Education



**From 4 to 8 December 2017, the school celebrated a great milestone - 60 years of excellence in education.**

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the school, the week of celebrations included academic and sporting events. It also coincided with the blessing of the new chapel and the inauguration the new gym and cafeteria. The culmination of the week's celebrations, was the inaugural concert in the new gym. The highlight was definitely the performance by Inggó 1587, a band that consists of Dominican fathers who really know how to rock the house! Fathers Auckhs, Guiseppe, Dennis, Jeffrey, Napoleon and Joemar were the stars of the show and when Fr. Napoleon started singing "To Love Somebody" everyone in the audience took up his invitation to sing along. He managed to do something that the DIS teachers can only hope for, that is to get every student in the gym to sing along loudly and joyfully.

Other artists who gave outstanding performances were our own skating champion students, Joanna, Jessica and Janice Chan. The Hong de Lion Dance Theatre had the whole audience in awe of the lit up dragon soaring through the hall during the traditional dragon dance, and the Taiwan Ballet Company showed off the elegance of their art form with grace. Giovanni Cueto soothed the audience with his beautiful voice and reached right into the hearts of any romantics in the audience. Rash Juzen definitely provided the female side of the audience with eye candy while entertaining his audience with flair in an exceptional voice. The concert could not end without our own DIS Orchestra showing their mettle as artists. All those rehearsals and Ms Zoe's endless patience paid off with their rousing grand finale. Our student MCs Michelle Hsu and Jonathan Chen did a great job of keeping the items flowing seamlessly throughout the evening.



# Concert Highlights

Rash Juzen



The Chan sisters



Taipei Ballet Co.



Giovanni Cueto

Fr. Napoleon



The Dragon



# Blessing of the New Chapel

by John Erick Moje

**The blessing of the new chapel coincided with the Jubilee Mass on the occasion of the school's 60th founding anniversary and the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary, both on 8 December 2017.**

*"Come to the feast of heaven and earth! Come to the table of plenty! God will provide for all that we need, here at the table of plenty..."* This opening hymn completely describes the festive celebration of the entire DIS family on the celebration of its 60 years of providing not only quality but also Christ-centered education. Most Reverend Msgr. John Hung, Archbishop of Taipei, presided over the Rite of Dedication of the Church and the Altar along with the Dominican fathers as con-celebrants and Dominican sisters.

Dedicating a new altar is a special event in the life of the Church. Rich in beauty and symbolism, the ritual reminds the faithful of the sacredness of Communion, the holiness of God, and their unity in the Catholic faith.

The altar is anointed with Chrism Oil. This fragrant oil containing balsam and olive oil is also used in Baptisms, Confirmations and Ordinations. It marks something as sacred or

sets something apart for service to God. It is akin to anointing the altar to be a witness to the sacrifice that Christ made for us that we might follow the saints who are fed at the altar of God. The beautiful ritual concludes with the burning of incense and lighting of the altar candles. Scripture references the prayers of the Saints rising to God as incense. The candles are symbolic of Christ, the Light of the World.

While the entire Chapel was filled with songs, the hearts of the faithful were also filled with joy and gratitude. In the homily of Archbishop John Hung, he shared the role of Mother Mary in the salvation history. He further explained the significance of her "yes", her "fiat" to the fruition of God's Kingdom in the person of Jesus Christ. The Dominican education is deeply characterized by the Marian Spirit. On this occasion of Mother Mary's Immaculate Conception, the faithfulness of her parents, Anne and Joachim is worth emulating. Over the past 60 years, DIS remains steadfast and faithful to the very call of God in the spirit of prayer, study, community, and service.

Long Live DIS for the glory of God through St. Dominic de Guzman!



## English Department SCRABBLE Tournament by Bill Wolfe

**How much is a “d-i-a-m-o-n-d” really worth? What can you get for a “d-o-l-l-a-r”? Is a “c-o-w” more valuable than a “p-i-g” or a “p-e-a-n-u-t”?**

To find out, DIS Middle and High School students had to put their English vocabulary skills to the test on December 4, as grades 6 to 10 competed in the Jubilee Week SCRABBLE Tournament sponsored by the English Department.

More than 220 students battled for over six hours in the preliminary and championship medal rounds. The ten preliminary rounds narrowed the field to ten championship contenders, one from each homeroom. Those ten players then competed in the medal round. When the last letter was placed, and the final scores tallied, eight winners claimed the nine top prizes.

Emily Su of Grade 9 St. Rose was the tournament’s big winner. She grabbed the top prize, Overall Tournament Champion, with a medal round score of 188 points, only one point better than silver medalist Tonia Pao’s 187. Su was also the Grade 9 overall champion, edging Jasper Chang of St. Raymond. Pao earlier claimed her classroom title as the top point-getter in the Grade 7 St. Thomas homeroom. Cael Ng of Grade 7 Blessed Jordan claimed the overall bronze medal with 183 points in the championship round. Ng also grabbed top Grade 7 honors, with Pao in second place.

A special award was given for the longest word of the tournament. That prize went to Jasper Chang. The St. Raymond 9th-grader used “floatation” to help him survive his preliminary round.

All award winners are listed here: Emily Su (St. Rose), Overall Tournament Champion and Grade 9 champion; Tonia Pao (St. Thomas), Overall Silver Medalist; Cael Ng (Bl. Jordan), Overall Bronze Medalist and Grade 7 champion; Kimi Chen (St. Hyacinth), Grade 6 champion; Robert Chuang (St. Catherine), Grade 8 champion; Sidney Liu (St. Peter), Grade 10 champion; Jasper Chang (St. Raymond), Longest Word Award.

Other medal round contenders who won their homeroom preliminary tournament but did not earn a medal: Fiona Hsu (Bl. Ceslao), Grade 6 runner-up; Ivan Hsieh (St. Agnes), Grade 8 runner-up; Jasper Chang (St. Raymond), Grade 9 runner-up; (tie) Emily Hsu and Ian Ko (St. Albert), Grade 10 runners-up.

The DIS administrative staff and students thank Dr. Mercia de Souza, Mr. Patrick Johnson, Ms. Jenny Pan, and Mr. Bill Wolfe for their work organizing, staffing, and managing the SCRABBLE tournament.



**THE DOMINICAN TORCH**  
Editorial Team

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

**Photographers:**  
Mr. Ed Solis  
Kate Min

**Editorial Committee:**  
Sr. Socorro Teofilo O.P., Mr. John Erick Moje, Ms Janice Doyle

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



## Activities

For the jubilee week, the Middle and High School students participated in a Math challenge, where they competed against each other using the 'exploding dots' method to solve Math problems. They also participated in a STEM challenge where they designed and made objects to solve problems set by their teachers.

- Grade 6's made balloon racers
  - Grade 7's made bridges to support weights
  - Grade 8's made electric cars
  - Grade 9's did Spectroscopy using CD's
  - Grade 10's made Jitterbug robots
- John Dixon



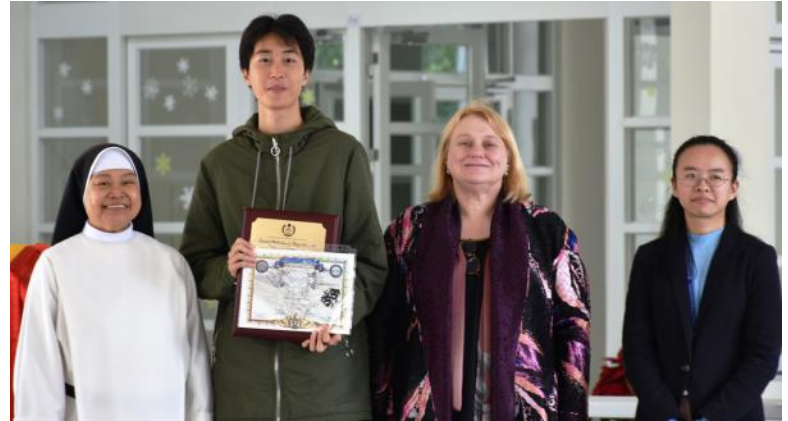


## Young Shakespeare Playwriting Competition Awards Ceremony

Eric Lee, Best Actor in the High School with Sr. Zenaida, Dr. Mercia and Ms Chanting

This year, a very special awards ceremony took place during the jubilee week, because it was also an exceptional year for this event: the 10 year anniversary of the Young Shakespeare Playwriting Competition.

The theme of this year's plays was "Celebrate" and there were many well-written and interesting plays showing more than one meaning for the word. Unfortunately the plays had to be performed at the auditorium on our neighbour's campus, but the winners got the opportunity to perform their plays on the new stage shortly after the Christmas break. They were first place in the Middle School, "The Return of Nian", Grade 8 St. Agnes; and first place in the High School, "Dance Under Big Ben", Grade 11 St. Louis.



Here is the list of winners in the 2017/18 Young Shakespeare Playwriting Competition:

### Middle School

**Best Costumes**

*The Innocent Revenge, Grade 8 St. Catherine*

**Best Props**

*The Return of Nian, Grade 8 St. Agnes*

**Best Sound Effects**

*Musical Quinceanera, Grade 7 Bl. Jordan*

**Best Musical Performance**

*Musical Quinceanera, Grade 7 Bl. Jordan*

**Best Script**

*The Return of Nian, Grade 8 St. Agnes*

**Best Supporting Actor**

Joseph Tso, *Musical Quinceanera, Grade 7 Bl. Jordan*

**Best Supporting Actress**

Mariana Funes, *The Innocent Revenge, Grade 8 St. Catherine*

**Best Actor**

Morris Yen, *The Return of Nian, Grade 8 St. Agnes*

**Best Actress**

Minkie Mabasa, *Musical Quinceanera, Grade 7 Bl. Jordan*

**Best Middle School Play**

*The Return of Nian, Grade 8 St. Agnes*



**Best Musical Performance**

*Because of Us, Grade 9 St. Raymond*

**Best Script**

*Dance Under Big Ben, Grade 11 St. Louis*

**Best Supporting Actor**

William Hung, *Dance Under Big Ben, Grade 11 St. Louis*

**Best Supporting Actress**

Ivana Robby, *Love is a Freeway, Grade 10 St. Albert*  
*Acting Achievement (Main Actor)*

**Best Actor**

Eric Lee, *Dance Under Big Ben, Grade 11 St. Louis*

**Best Actress**

Charlize Chen, *Because of Us, Grade 9 St. Raymond*

**Best High School Play**

*Dance Under Big Ben, Grade 11 St. Louis*

Minkie Mabasa, receiving her award for best Actress in the Middle School

### High School

**Best Costumes**

*Because of Us, Grade 9 St. Raymond*

**Best Props and Staging**

*Because of Us, Grade 9 St. Raymond*

**Best Sound Effects**

*Detached, Grade 10 St. Peter*

Congratulations to all the winners and to Ms Chanting Lee, the organizer in charge of the event.

# Anecdotes

In every school there are some funny stories and some interesting happenings. We asked teachers to recall some of their funniest or most interesting or inspiring moments Here are some anecdotes from teachers that will hopefully make you smile —Editor

## Mistaken Identity

**Philipp Beck writes,** “ During a parents’ meeting, Ethan’s parents came to see me, and I thought it was Ethan one of my Lower School students. After discussing (for several minutes) Ethan’s performance in my Religious Studies classes, using children’s rubrics and discussing children’s issues, I found out that the parents belonged to a High School student in my Spanish class also named Ethan.”

## Pronunciation Woes

Our students sometimes struggle with the pronunciation of words when they have to read prayers and the Loyal Pledge in the mornings. One morning Mr. Ian and Dr. Mercia were having a meeting when the prayers came on. The prayers went well, but the student who read the Loyal Pledge said, “we will upload its Christian values” instead of “uphold”. Mr. Ian and Dr. Mercia both laughed loudly at the mistake. Sometimes we hear, “I sommely and sincerely pledge”. It seems like “solemnly “ is not easy to pronounce. The Lord’s Prayer also has its many mispronunciations from “hello” be thy name to “hollow” be thy name. Once on a very cold day, a Grade 1 student who read the Hail Mary, said, “and blessed is the fruit of thy warm Jesus,” instead of “blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.” - Editor



## VALUE-ABLE FUN!

**Sr. Rosa Dabhi, CCV writes**

“As a teacher of Religion, teaching my students good values is not only part of my job but also my vocation. I have always wanted to feel the satisfaction of witnessing the practice of my teaching in the behaviour of the students. It is truly a proud moment when one observes students learning to be responsible for their own behavior.

Most of the students in our school come from very affluent families with an upper-class background. So, small jobs like sweeping, mopping dusting, and keeping the environment clean is often considered the work of cleaners or helpers. It was a challenge for me to ask the students clean their own classrooms as part of their holistic training. Students who were born with a silver spoon would never agree to picking up garbage themselves!

However, once I had an interesting experience. Three years ago, on an ordinary day, I was in my homeroom with some students who were sitting and doing their work. At this time, one of the helpers who cleans our classroom came in to clear the trash. A girl student was watching her. As soon as the helper left the classroom, she came to me and said she wanted to talk to me. As usual I made her sit by my side and asked her what the matter was. She asked me, “Sister Rosa, why do the helper-aunties do the cleaning of our classroom? They are not the ones using the classroom to study. It is WE who should clean our own classroom because we are the ones using the place.” My heart leaped with joy when I heard these words. I was amazed to see how a little girl from Grade 7 could put into practice the values I had tried to instil in the students. I could feel the wonder and greatness of theoretical lessons being manifest in real life. I talked about this with the rest of the class and asked them what they thought. The entire class of students agreed with this girl. The girl had made her point and the other students found sense in it.

So, I asked the officers of the class to get together and write a letter to the Principal for permission to clean the classroom every day. (I needed this permission because I was not sure if the parents would like this idea.) Once the permission was granted, the students went home and talked with their parents about this proposal. All the parents agreed with the idea that the young ones ought to learn self-reliance and cleanliness. Soon, the work of cleaning the classroom began. Till today my homeroom is cleaned by my students. This project makes them responsible, reflecting, helpful, and organized students.

I look at this as one of my achievements as a teacher of Religion. Teaching students about a God who became poor for the sake of the poor is not only challenging but also contrary to the values of this materialistic world. But teaching them the ideals of this God – the ideals of kindness, self-help, outreach and love - through such projects are easier and more fun. “

# Anecdotes

## The Passing of Time

**Chanting Lee** writes, “A G11 student ran up to me one day showing me his Religious Studies textbook. He grinned very cheekily, as if he knew something I didn’t and said, “Ms. Chanting, does this look familiar?” The textbook is familiar, it’s the same Religious Studies textbook I had. I replied uncertainly with a “yes”, hoping he could elaborate. The student didn’t say anything, but showed me the name logs on the inside cover of the book. It had all the students that have used this Religious Studies textbook, at the top of the list, was “Chanting Lee, SY. 07-08”. It’s been 10 years, time has really passed by way too fast!”

## Students Meet Jackie Chan

**Mercia de Souza** writes, “As the DIS students returned from the 2013 Global Issues Network Conference in Singapore and we were on our way downstairs to claim our baggage, a very familiar-looking man came down the stairs. It was only when I saw him from behind, walking away from us that I realized I had seen that walk in many movies. “Jackie Chan!”, I called out and he immediately turned around to face us. The students were delighted and asked him if they could take pictures with him. He was very gracious, but went behind a pillar for the photos, because he was totally by himself and was obviously hoping not to be recognized by anyone. When the students told him why they were at the airport in the middle of the day, he was very interested in the Global Issues Network, he asked them questions about it and praised them for their commitment to save the planet. He said good-bye after patiently allowing them to take several photos with him.”



Image from “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle (1969)

## The Missing Caterpillar

**Elliot Wakeling** writes, “Taiwan is full of fascinating insects, and when you have a classroom on the 1st floor, you can get some unwelcome visitors. The sneaky spider as big as my hand terrified everyone, but an adventurous caterpillar caused the most laughs. During one of my lessons, I happened to notice a furry caterpillar crawling across a student’s jacket. The 7th grade student was called Jabey, and like most middle school students he had a healthy fear of creepy crawlies. I planned to remove our furry friend with a piece of paper, but when I calmly told Jabey about the caterpillar, he freaked out. Jabey grabbed the hairy caterpillar (not recommended by experts) and threw it right at my head. I had no time to move, so I just closed my eyes and waited for the impact, which never came. When I opened my eyes again, I could see a lot of shocked 7th grade students and a very apologetic Jabey. I immediately said, “Of all the directions you could have thrown the caterpillar, why did you throw it at my head.” Jabey said he wasn’t thinking and continued to apologise. I quickly checked my clothes, but our little friend was not attached to me. We all searched high and low for the caterpillar, but it was nowhere to be found. I can only assume Jabey threw it into another dimension. For the rest of the year, we laughed about the missing caterpillar, and I always joked it was an assassination attempt. Jabey graduated in 2016, and we have kept in touch. Below is his version of events.”

**Jabey Chiang** writes: “Once upon a time, or more precisely, 7 years ago, on a humid afternoon, while Mr. Wakeling was giving his lecture, little Jabey happened to discover a caterpillar crawling on his jacket. Horrified at his discovery, little Jabey hastily grabbed the caterpillar and tossed it away, while conveniently ignoring the fact that his poor teacher happened to be standing right in front of him. However, while Mr. Wakeling and the whole class were in shock that a 7th grader had just attempted to murder his Language Arts teacher a hairy insect! The evidence could not be found, no matter where they looked. The mind boggles. So where did the mysterious caterpillar go? Which trick did mischievous little Jabey pull to get away with the evidence for attempted murder?” Jabey is currently studying at the University of New York - Editor



## Family Fun Run by Joe Schoeman



Parents and teachers had great fun participating in the Fun Run

We were celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our school, participating in the fun run as the DIS Family. Sisters, students, teachers, parents, and friends put on their running shoes and had a lot of fun.

After weeks of anticipation, December 7 finally arrived. The Lower School had their chance first. Many parents joined their children in running two laps around the edge of the field to complete a 1.5km track. It started to rain during the second lap, but that didn't dampen the spirit of the runners. All participants completed the race with a smile. A few minutes later, it was time for the Middle and High school students and parents to test their endurance. They had a 3km track with two laps around the school and our neighbor, Shih Chien University. The Middle School students ran first followed by the High School. Sisters, parents, and teachers also participated in the two races. They gathered at the main gate and waited for the sound of the gun for the start of the race.



They tried their best and ran with passion. At the end of the day, winning didn't matter. The DIS Family had fun and we are proud to be part of the celebration of the school's anniversary. We thank the organizers of the Family Fun Run for the careful planning, we thank the teachers, staff, and parents who served at the stations along the way. We also thank the medical emergency personnel who were ready to help, and the Taipei City Police Department who made sure the roads were safe. Above all, we thank God for the privilege to participate as healthy individuals and to have had fun with our friends.



The Dominican Sisters who participated in the Fun Run

The Dominican Sisters who participated in the Fun Run



# Sports Day

by Gustl Pido

**The Sports Day that took place on 5 December during the Jubilee celebrations, was a great success and the students had heaps of fun.** The sports day started with a whole school parade in which students and teachers were wearing their house color t-shirts. After the parade, the Campus Ministry lead the prayers that were followed by a Pledge of Sportsmanship that one of our students, Brandon Wang, wrote. Sr. Zenaida, the principal, opened the event with a short speech and then the games began.



The morning schedule for Middle School and High School team sports comprised basketball, volleyball, and football. K1 to Grade 1 did a bike relay and it was tug-of-war for the Grade 2, 3, 4 and 5 classes. The teachers were the umpires, but they also assisted and cheered their students while they were playing. There was a lunch recess 11:40, but in the afternoon, the students returned for the individual event is track and field events, and softball throw.

All classes participated. The Middle and High School ran 100m, 200m and relays while the Lower School did the 60m sprint and softball throw. The Lower School teachers made a tremendous effort to make the games both fun and exciting.

Mr. Pido was in charge of the starting gun and Mr. Mick was the recorder, Mr. Erwin did the timing for the Lower and high School.

During the Lower school 60m Sprint Mr. Pido manned the starting line and Mr. Black and Mr. Mauborgne manned the finish line and recorded the house point winners.

Basketball Championships, scheduled for the afternoon of December 7, 2017 almost did not take place, because of the weather. Mr. Pido and Mr. Tank checked the basketball

court to see if it was possible to play or not, and made a decision to continue the game since it was not slippery. The students were really excited to play in the championship games. Fortunately the day ended without any injuries, but just as a precaution, Nurse Grace stood by until the end of the event.

