

Find out all about the work behind She's the First Art Fair with Sana!

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Nandita speaks to G8 graduates about moving on to High School.

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DIS held its very first Middle School Science Fair!

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THE DOMINICAN TORCH

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

"vincit omnia veritas"
—
Truth conquers all.



Issue No. 2 2018-19

Words of Advice from Ginny Hwang

By Sana Endo, Gr. 11 St. Anthony of Florence
Photos: Christina Chuang, Gr. 10 St. Peter of Verona (MIT)

Sana spoke with '19 senior graduate Ginny Hwang before her graduation.

Hello everyone! I'm Ginny Hwang, and I have been a student at DIS for **12 years** now. I have involved myself in various activities on the school campus such as in **Student Council**, **D'TORCH Orchestra**, **She's the First**, **D'TORCH Newsletter**, **Escape Magazine**, and more! I will be leaving for Singapore at the end of July to start my college life as a freshman in Yale-NUS college!

You are officially only two weeks away from graduation! How do you feel right now?

I'm really excited to leave high school and start my college life where I can try out more new things! Maybe like partying?? ;)

What is your best memory or experience from DIS that you would remember still in the future?

All of my best memories are mostly from things I got to experience with my friends here. For this year, the most memorable event was the senior haunted house. It took so much time and work for us to complete. but it was really worth it. Also, going to Kaohsiung with my orchestra members was amazing as well. For my whole years in DIS, I really enjoyed overnight MUN conferences as well as debate tournaments. During these events, I was able to make more friends and experience with the people I love.



Page 3 Read more of Ginny's answers!

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Pages 10-13, 20-21 Middle School Chinese Compositions

A rainy DIS 2019 Spring Fair

By Judy Ki, Gr. 8 St. St. Agnes of Montepulciano
 Photos: Anna Hsu, Gr. 6 St. Hyacinth; Jason Shih, Gr. 8 St. Catherine of Siena

The annual DIS Spring Fair was held this year on March 23rd. There were booths, a talent show, raffle draw, basketball games, and many more fun activities that everyone enjoyed. Students from middle and high school sold various foods and drinks.



According to one student from grade 8, she says it was a very unique experience preparing and selling different things to people. There was also a talent show which lifted the atmosphere even more. Students performed with enthusiasm and showed their talents very well. The VIP contributed too by preparing a raffle draw.



There were special prizes like a two day, one night stay in a hotel you are taken to in a Rolls-Royce car, and an iPhone X. Students from other schools also came for sports games, where everyone enjoyed and learned to play as teams. Those who were not a part of the games still had fun as they cheered their friends on. I could definitely conclude that this year's Spring Fair was a very successful one!

Congratulations to all winners of the Vocab Jam!

By Elton Shih, Gr. 11 St. Anthony of Florence
 Photos: Christina Chuang (MIT), Gr. 10 St. Peter of Verona

April 11st was the day for the remarkable spelling competition, Vocab Jam, among the Middle and High School students. Participants had to cram thirty-five lessons of vocabulary (for Middle School) and SAT vocabulary (for High School) for the event. The look on the participants' faces were either nerves or stupefied, because of the upcoming event and the unexpected outcome. The first round of the Vocab Jam was both harsh and moderate all at once. The participants who were not familiar with the vocabulary were eliminated instantly, while those who managed to answer all the words correctly proceeded to the



Sudden Death round. During the second round, most participants were wiped out one by one like the mass

extinction of dinosaurs. However, emerging unaffected by the massacre-like impact were three people. Those participants were assigned respectively into three places. In Middle School, first place went to Reina Miwa Chen, from Gr. 7 Bl. Jordan. Second place was Reena Isabella Soriano from Gr. 8 St. Agnes. With Lori Tai of Gr. 6 St. Hyacinth in third place. In High School, first place went to Elton Shih, from Gr 11 St. Anthony. The

second place was Joshua Ramos, from Grade 11 St. Louis. The third place Laasya Potharaju, from Grade 9 St. Rose. What a exhilarating day!!!

Words of Advice from Ginny Hwang

By Sana Endo, Gr. 11 St. Anthony of Florence

Photos: Christina Chuang, Gr. 10 St. Peter of Verona (MIT)

(continued from Page 1)

Is there anything you want to say to students approaching senior year?

Hm, there are a lot. Make the most out of your year. Work hard but not too hard. Make sure you don't leave with any regrets. Spend as much time as you can with your friends, family and teachers because you might not get to see them (as much in the future). Involve yourself in activities that you actually care about. Use your time wisely. (ESPECIALLY PLAN OUT YOUR UNIVERSITY APPLICATION WELL!)

As you are graduating, what has DIS been to you?

DIS has been where I met a lot of the most important people in my life. The friendships I have formed in this school have shaped me to be the person that I am today, and I cannot imagine what life would be without these beautiful people.

What are you most excited about university?

G: The freedom! Though I will definitely miss my family. I am really excited to live in the dorm without having anyone telling me what I should do and what I should not. I am also really excited to be able to take the courses I want and explore my passion.

What will you miss the most from Taiwan?

My friends and family.

What is one last thing you would say to your fellow seniors graduating?

Thank you for everything that you've been to me and I hope that we can stay in touch in the future. I know that all of you will go on to do amazing things in the future!

What is one last thing you would say to the teachers, or one teacher in DIS?

Thank you to teachers who taught me that learning can be fun, independent, and fulfilling!!

One last thing you would want to say to DIS.

Bye-bye! You've been great!



Behind the She's the First (STF) Art Fair

By Sana Endo, Gr. 11 St. Anthony of Florence

Photographer: Sana Endo, Gr. 11 Anthony of Florence

Sana had a chat with '19 seniors Teresa Lin and Anita Chien on all their work behind the success of She's the First Art Fair.

Please tell us your background with art.

Teresa: I dedicate my life to art. It has always been a part of my life and I love making art. I am also a self taught artist and I've been creating art since I can remember.

Anita: For as long as I can remember, I was an artistic child taught by my parents to think and do everything in an innovative way. Growing up, I loved visiting art exhibitions, galleries, and museums. What I love so deeply about art is that there is no right or wrong in making art. I did art from a small age, but I started to take drawing lessons at 10th grade.

Next, please tell us your background with She's the First (STF) organization.

Teresa: The **DIS She's The First Campus department** is the **first STF team in Taiwan** and the **second in Asia**. I have been in the STF team since Ginny, our leader, brought STF to our school. As the leader for the art and design team, I am in charge of everything that is related to design, for example poster designs or venue designs.

Anita: At the end of Grade Ten, Ginny Hwang invited me to be the vice president of She's the First. I said yes because I really cared about gender equality. Together with the STF members, we created different activities that advocated our message, which was to fight for women's rights.

What inspired you to start this event?

Teresa: Other than trying to pass senior project, I really wanted to create a platform where the artists in DIS can showcase their art and be recognized for their talents. I think that there definitely should be more events in school where the students can participate in because they don't have enough exposure for their talents.

Anita: As a feminist, I saw the event as an opportunity to spread awareness of the current gender inequality women are suffering from. The art fair may also prove how art is more than just paintings, instead, something that inspires people, and furthermore, benefits the society and contributes to the world. By holding a charitable art fair, I combined what I am most passionate about, art and the advocacy of social issues, to produce a platform of opportunities offered to artists to express themselves through art and to everyone else to finance girls in need of education across the world.

What did you want to achieve from this event?

Teresa: Like I mentioned before, the goal of this event is to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in education while providing a friendly environment for students to gain experience from exchanging ideas, selling their crafts, and receiving feedback on the artwork.

Anita: I wanted everyone to gain something from the experience.



Behind the She's the First (STF) Art Fair

By Sana Endo, Gr. 11 St. Anthony of Florence
 Photographer: Sana Endo, Gr. 11 Anthony of Florence

What is the most memorable thing that happened during the project?

Teresa: Everyone seems like they were enjoying their time there, which is very important to me.

Anita: Teresa and I were extremely busy preparing the art fair, so I was touched when team members stayed up late to help with our project.

Can you take us through the process of creating this project?

Teresa: We started by sending a survey asking for participants and later on contacted the company who was renting temporary exhibition walls. I checked all of the artwork, crafts, and poems from the artists to make sure that they are appropriate and related to the theme, plus, made sure that the artists providing art works for the art exhibition gave their pieces with information on time. Printing the posters, stickers, pamphlets, and other informational papers was also one of the duties I did. I also made several digital designs for advertisements or informations about the art fair. The artwork, photos, and poems will be collected and showcased at the art, literature, and photography exhibition. I also made the art installations for the individual space created for Ginny's poetry reading. Then, just put everything together and wa la.

Anita: I can't. There are too many tasks. But basically, the planning comes first. Other things you'll have to worry about carrying out are conducting a survey, drafting a proposal, having team meetings for discussions, etc. Then comes the production. Our team this time divided the jobs into three major parts: contacting (art booths), showcasing (art galleries), and advertising. Speaking of advertisements, the next thing you'll have to worry about are the layout and design for them. Lastly, preparation and presentation of the event come.

What was the hardest thing about this project?

Teresa: Although the event was a overall success, considering the positive feedbacks and the total amount that was donated, there were a few problems that could be improved. For example, the promotion could have started earlier to attain the better results and the lack of time for preparation setting up the event caused a chaos when the art fair had just begun.

Anita: Probably dealing with people who did not work hard enough. Thinking of what to do with the event also made us anxious.

Lastly, do you have any message or advice for students who want to create a similar project as yours?

Teresa: Time management is key. You can hold any event with the right plans and the right team mates. I think that we should definitely have more student-based events because you can not only gain experience from holding your own event but the event itself also acts as a platform for a variety of opportunities for students in DIS to show their interest in specific topics or to be inspired by what other students are doing. I believe that everyone is capable of being a leader and to make DIS a more fulfilling environment.

Anita: Don't procrastinate. Make sure your team members put in similar amount of efforts as you. Plan ahead and in detail. Strengthen your communication skills!



Innovation and Inquiry at the Middle School Science Fair

By Jason Shih, Gr. 8 St. Catherine of Sienna
 Photos: Mr. Edwin Portillo, MIT Department

Over forty exhibitions about different topics were showcased by Middle School students in the gym on January 29, 2019. There were experiments about Earth’s movement, elephant toothpaste, vermiculture and, other interesting scientific topics. All of the students spent a lot of time researching their ideas since the beginning of the school year. They did trials again and again until the results were satisfactory. Each group was graded by teachers and High School students. The science fair was unique this year compared to previous events in that according to Ms. Bing, one of the Middle School Science teachers, the fair should have more emphasis on being a presentation and summary of students’ research and experimentation, data analysis, and report writing, rather than a mere “Show and Tell” extravaganza. Most of the students felt that the event was a successful one and hope it would continue on for years to come. All of the teachers and students learned a lot of new knowledge and interesting facts. Most importantly, we all had fun!!!

Jason also made a video for the Middle School Science Fair. Thank you for your efforts, Jason. Check out Jason’s video in the following link!!! [Dominican International School Taipei Science Fair](#)



Appreciating diversity during Cultural Awareness Week

By Joshua Ramos, Gr. 11 St. Louis Bertrand
 Photos: Mr. Edwin Portillo, MIT Department

A burst of splendid colors and cultures was present on the DIS campus on the week of April 22 to 26. With Lower, Middle and High school students dressing up in traditional clothes of the culture they wish to represent. Our DIS campus had a week planned out with fun and interactive activities. On April 22, we started the week with rehearsals of our House Cheer! People were excited for the games waiting for them at the end of the week, as well as the amazing Dance Evolution the students and teachers prepared. On April 24, each class wore colors that represented the flag of the country they were assigned to! Talk about multicultural! And on Thursday April 25, the classes had to dress up in clothing that represented the symbols of their assigned countries. We got to see the traditional clothing of many countries. It was a wonderful sight and experience. Finally, the awaited day finally came. On Friday April 26, we all wore our House color t-shirts. Alacrity for the games and dances were evidently visible. We worked hard to earn points, and it all ended well with the amazing dances the houses performed!



Thoughts on Starting High School

By Nandita Chennakrishnan and Tonia Pao, Gr. 8 St. Agnes of Montepulciano
Photos: Jason Shih, Gr. 8 St. Catherine of Sienna

The 8th graders of Dominican International School are graduating! We arranged an interview with our graduates and here are what they think of graduating and the bright paths ahead of them!

Interviewer: So, what do you think of graduating?

G8 Student: Well, it is both happy and sad. Happy because we are graduating and that school is over. But sad at the same time because Middle School is over for us, the memories that we made makes me feel happy when I think about it, but sad that it's over. We've been through a lot together, the highs and lows of our life. I think that DIS has given us another family with our classmates.

Interviewer: Are you scared about entering High School?

G8 Student: Umm, I guess so? It's a whole new environment and there are a lot that I don't know. The different range of classes, and it just all seems so difficult. We also have APs and I guess the work will be harder. I will also need to start thinking about college and it seems overwhelming almost. High School just seems so far away from me but, in reality it's just a few months away.

Interviewer: Do you think you will miss anything in Middle School?

G8 Student: Definitely. From what I hear, I think that High School will be much harder and that you won't have as much time to do what you like, such as hanging out with friends. I'll miss the freedom we have currently in Middle School. I'll probably also miss the fact that the work we do in middle school is much easier than the work we will be doing in high school!

Interviewer: If you could, can you describe Middle School in 3 words or less?

G8 Student: I would say "**wow.**" Middle school was very different from what I thought it would be like, and I learned so many things that I thought I never could. I made a lot of memories here, ones that I will never forget. I think that middle school ran by so fast; one day I was entering my G6 homeroom and the next day its graduation. I would say "**wow**" **describes Middle School best** because so many things have happened in such a short period of time, and when I reflect back on it, the only thing that comes to my mind is "**Wow, we did all of that in 3 years?**"

The Grade Eight's had a great time in middle school, and all agree on the fact that they have learned so many things thanks to the support of their friends and teachers. They would sincerely like to thank everyone who has helped them along the past few years and hope for the best in High School.



AP Physics Compositions: A Falling Leaf

By William Hung, Gr. 12 St. Vincent Ferrer
 AP Physics, Ms. Victoria Santiago

The warmth slowly climbed onto my body. The electrons in my chlorophyll are excited by the energetic light. I can feel the energy bouncing through the electron transport chain. Sugars started to be synthesized through the Calvin cycle. I opened my stoma and took in a big breath of CO_2 while breathing out water vapor. Water from the xylem flowed into my body. I started to photosynthesize and say hello to the bright new day.

Without warning, a wild gust of wind torn through the branches. Three of my fellow leaf brethren underwent **free fall** to the ground. Wait! It is not freefall. **Gravity** is not the only force acting upon them. There was also **air resistance** that slowed down their descent and put them gently onto the ground. They laughed in relief, not knowing the gravity of the situation.

I shook my head to their ignorance. Their **terminal velocity** might not be great enough to crush their body but the decaying still will. I'd seen it too many times. Too many brothers had fallen and survived just to suffer a slow and excruciatingly painful descent into non-existence. I looked up at my own connection to the branch. How long has it been? Three years? Five years? The connection sure was much weaker than when I was first born. I looked at all the new faces around me. It suddenly struck me that the leaves of my same age are all gone. I look at the ground where Old Timmy landed. I remember what Old Timmy always told me "We will all fall, eventually." I wonder if it is finally my turn.

Suddenly, a bleeding bull stuck the mother tree and all its kinetic energy transferred to though mother shaking every branches, leaves and cells intensely. I could have held on. I could have. Faces flashed through my mind. Jimmy, the kindest of my batch, fell when a human cut his branch. Harry, my closest friend, just disappeared. No one knows where or when he went. Larry, the healthiest of us all, died to some bugs on the first day. I let go.

The **gravity** of the Earth strongly pulled me toward the ground yet the air formed a soft bed as the air molecules resisted when my body pushed them aside. I have plenty of time to think about my demise as I dropped toward the ground. I hope the **terminal velocity** is fast enough to give me clean death, but I know it is not. I landed on the ground, still alive.

Water molecules came out of every hole of my body. Bacteria released chemicals breaking my cells one by one. I panicked. I wanted to scream but was too dry to do so. I rolled left and right trying to escape the acids burning through my skin. I touched something, the dry corpses of the three leaves fallen. My heart raced. I breathe hard though I feel no air is coming in. I puked whatever little water I have out of me. I smelled the metallic blood. Then there were peace. Everything stopped. I looked toward the sky and thought, "I am joining you soon, soon."



AP Physics Compositions: A Falling Leaf

By Jonathan Chen, Gr. 11 St. Anthony of Florence
 AP Physics, Ms. Victoria Santiago



This is a story about a falling leaf. Once there was a leaf, a very lonely leaf. His name was leaf. He was brown and crooked and he had no friends. One day, a very beautiful leaf was next to him, the moment he saw her, his heart was filled with various feelings “What a beautiful woman!” he exclaimed. The leaf was named maple and she was a leaf full of passion and color. The leaf saw her beautiful appearance and he looked at himself “She is full of color, passion and young, unlike me... Old, crooked, and dull” While he was still complaining about his appearance, Maple started talking to him.

“Hi! My name is Maple, what’s your name?” She asked. Leaf got excited and nervous at the same time. “Hello~ I am leaf, where did you come from?” “Oh can you see that

tree? The most beautiful maple tree?” that is where I came from. I left my home tree long time ago.” The response from Maple made Leaf curious. “You traveled from that tree to here? “How? “He asked. “It is easy! I traveled just like how all birds travel, I flew! First, I jumped off the tree and started falling due to **gravity**, a gravitational force that always acts to the center of the earth, so no matter how light you are, the **gravity** can always pulls you down. And do not worry, I promise it is very safe!” She explained. “Are you sure? How do you know?” “Because, after you jump, the **air resistance** will take over and prevent you from hurting yourself! The larger you are the more **air resistance** you gain and your speed will be slowed down.” She said. After having more conversations, they realized that they have a lot in common and they decided to go on an adventure together.

While they were discussing about the trip, Leaf got an idea. “Can we try **free fall**? It sounds fun!” said the Leaf. “No! It is not possible for us to try **free fall**, because we are on the Earth, there is the presence of **air resistance**.” Maple replied. After planning for few days, they decided to jump off their tree on a windy day. “3, 2, 1, let’s go!” they shouted together. As soon as they jump off, they realized that they did something wrong, they forgot to consider their **terminal velocity**. The **terminal velocity** of Maple is larger than Leaf’s because she is younger and has very small surface area compared to Leaf. So she was going down way faster than Leaf did, and due to the wind, they were separated apart. “No!!!!” Leaf was using all of his energy to shout and after he landed, he passed out.

Leaf opened his eyes, and he couldn’t believe what he was seeing. Hundreds of leaves, those were colorful and beautiful. He looked up in the sky, and he realized that he was right under the tree where Maple came from, all the leaves he is seeing right now are Maple’s family. He will never feel lonely again.

Connecting the Classic Poems to Daily Life

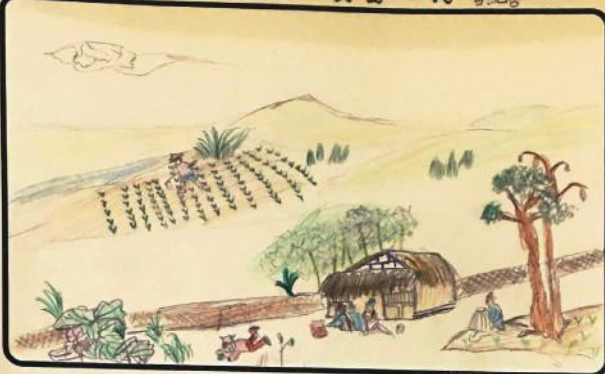
By Grade 6 and Grade 7 students
Grade 6 and Grade 7 Chinese

Grade 6

2. The reflection of *Rural Life* (清平樂·村居) by Xīn Qì-jí (辛棄疾)

This poem talks about life in the countryside. Each family member had a job to do. What job would you like to do if you were a character in this poem? Which do you prefer rural life or urban life? Grade 6 students offered their opinions through pictures and words.

清平樂村居-讀書心得 Morrison 66C
曾紀哲



讀書心得報告：清平樂村居
作者：辛棄疾


我覺得這篇文章寫得很好，因為他使用少數的文字，給讀者們看江南農村村落的特色，以及一家五口的生活並且描述得活靈活現，非常的厲害。

在這首詞中，我最喜歡描寫小兒子因為大兒子要在太陽底下拿著超重的鋤頭做苦工，二兒子得編織雞籠，總管著弟弟手會很酸，而且眼睛也會過度使用，很辛苦，小兒子最輕鬆，只需要耍劍一劍遊遊，天氣太熱也可以玩水。

如果我是這首詞裡的老翁，我會破例讓大兒子和二兒子去割雞籠，因為他們平常很辛苦，然後我會叫小兒子去編雞籠和鋤田，因為他平常太累了，需要給他個懲罰到讓他好好工作。

G6C Morrison wants to be the youngest son in the family. However, if he could rearrange the jobs, he would balance out the workload more evenly amongst the siblings.

清平樂村居-讀書心得



溪上青青草。茅簷低小。醉裡吳音相媚好，白髮誰家翁媪？

大兒鋤豆溪東，日暮喜小兒撥水，溪頭臥剝蓮蓬。

中兒正織雞籠。

如果一定要我選一個人物，那我一定不會選小兒子，因為他可以最輕鬆的工作，而且課文說小兒子最討人喜歡，這樣家人總會給他比較多的福利。但如果我可以選其他東西，那我會選小溪，因為這篇課文提到「溪邊」，溪東、溪西，顯不出這條溪如何讓這家人的生活更熱鬧。如果我是本文中的小溪，那我可以伴隨詞中人物一起玩，一起工作，和我一起生活。比如說，大兒子可以用我清涼的河水來澆潤大地；二兒子可以用我清涼的水；小兒子可以開心的戲水。我覺得白髮翁媪老夫妻不應該一整天都沒事做，所以他們應該要出門慢跑，或待在家裡做家事。

如有亭文

G6H Sylvia wants to be the stream which runs through the countryside so she could be with, and watch over, each of the family members.

Connecting the Classic Poems to Daily Life


By Grade 6 and Grade 7 students
Grade 6 and Grade 7 Chinese

Grade 6

2. The reflection of *Rural Life* (清平樂·村居) by Xīn Qì-jí (辛棄疾)

This poem talks about life in the countryside. Each family member had a job to do. What job would you like to do if you were a character in this poem? Which do you prefer rural life or urban life? Grade 6 students offered their opinions through pictures and words.


清平樂村居-讀書心得 何宇正 Jim



如果要在鄉村生活和城市生活中選中一個，我會選城市生活，因為你想在城市找個工作或買生活必需品，都比較方便、簡單和快捷。我覺得如果你喜歡休閒和清靜，生活在鄉村會是不錯的選擇。由於鄉村需要做多點勞動工作，所以你和隔壁鄰居的關係會比城市好很多。而城市的生活，我認為優點缺點多，城市最大的缺點就是噪音和空氣污染。在城中，你很難看到天空中的月亮和星星。相在城市找些人想生活在鄉村只是因為他們不知道城市生活有多好，在一些鄉村你更自己在井打水，自己生火，還好現在大多鄉村都有電，依照這個趨勢，鄉村可能變成和城市一樣的「迷你城市」一樣有噪音和空氣污染。

G6C Jim thinks that urban life is more convenient than life in the country. However, people who enjoy peace and quiet, choose to live in the country.

清平樂村居-讀書心得



清平樂村居的大意描寫出鄉村的悠閒生活，以普通，沒有刻意雕琢的字眼，勾勒出悠閒、樸素的生活。

鄉村生活比城市好多了。在鄉村，大家都認識對方，就想到對方，像一個大家族似的。鄉村生活也比城市悠閒許多，因為不但不會人擠人，還有足夠的空間可以跑跳。雖然城市生活比較方便，但自給自足應該會有一種成就感吧！

最後，我覺得鄉村生活真的比較好。如果你可以選的話，你會選哪個？

Arthur 陳柏翔

G6H Arthur wishes to live in the countryside because he loves open spaces, fresh air and especially, the thought of growing his own vegetables.

Arthur's entry was chosen for publication in a Chinese literary magazine for children. Congratulations, Arthur!

D'TORCH Athletics News Flash: DIS in Sports

By Dr. Gustl Pido, Athletics Director

Varsity Girls Basketball qualified for the TISSA Tournament Round (Dec. 15, 2018)



The DIS Varsity Team with their coach Ms. Debby Shih and the Athletics Director Dr. Gustl Pido

Track and Field Success for D'TORCH Wolves!

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

Athlete Highlight: Brandon Huang



Brandon Huang of Grade 9 (middle) is our Golden Boy of the year. He also broke the Javelin Record during the game.



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

D'TORCH Athletics News Flash: DIS in Sports

By Dr. Gustl Pido, Athletics Director

Gold and Silver at Cross Country Meet



Anna Hsu of Grade 6 won a gold medal and Timothy Lin of Grade 7, won silver medals during at the Cross Country Meet in American School Taichung (AST) against eight participating international schools and over hundreds of runners. Congratulations!

Athlete Highlight: Girls Relay Team



Girls Relay Team (4x100m): Melanie Liu, Elizabeth Liu, Yamasaki Kotonu, Michelle Hsu

Javelin Throw Team Showing Potential



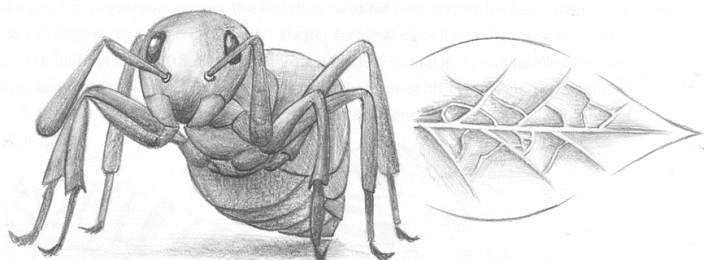
D'TORCH Wolves' newly formed javelin team showed promise at the **International Schools Track and Field Championship (ACSC-TISSA)** held and organized a Track and Field Meet at Morrison Academy Taichung (MAT). DIS competed against participating teams from many international schools in Taiwan and abroad; such as Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan, and the Philippines.



AP Physics Compositions: A Falling Leaf

By Ethan Chen, Gr. 12 St. Vincent Ferrer
AP Physics, Ms. Victoria Santiago

A leaf falls. Under a night sky, the twinkling of stars, from the branch of its home, the **gravity** pulls the leaf relentlessly toward the ground. “How did I end up here?” the leaf questions the world. The leaf was a successful workman, it even had a name. “I was born. Then I worked hard my whole life. Why am I here? **Free falling** towards the abyss that no one dared to talk about on the tree.” The tree meant the whole world to the leaf, it sacrificed its entire life for it. Yet, the tree cut the connection between it and the leaf once it turns yellow. “I can see the end of this,” the leaf swoops down and hits the ground as if there is no **air resistance**. The leaf flattens and lays on the dirt. The leaf releases its muscle and looks up into the shadowy side of the tree. That is the place where the leaf once lived.



“Hey, young man, did you fall?” another leaf that is old and brown asked. “How do you feel?” The leaf does not answer. “Who are you?” the younger leaf asked. “My name is Horace; I once ---was a hard-working leaf like you. What is your name?” “I don’t remember,” the leaf replies. The leaf looks around the place. The ground is covered by grass, petals, and other leaves. Leaving a color of yellow, orange, and brown, the dead plant organs give a dry, sour scent. The leaf then sees an ant. The ant is moving toward the leaf. Horace speaks, “Kid, what do you think Heaven is like? Do you think this is Heaven? Or do you think this is hell? I have been here for two years. During this time, I have thought about many things. Such that all my friends and family are still up there. I have recalled all that time I could have spent with them if I had not spent so much time on work. Yet, now I am down here, enjoying the peace that I have not experienced on the tall tree, alone. When I was about to be cut off, my wife told me that I was going to Heaven. However, I have doubted many times that this is not Heaven. I am spending a peaceful time alone while regretting all of that I could have done while I was up there. I would like to call this Hell. Though, I can’t. I know that one day, my family and friends will also fall down. By then, I can spend eternal time with them.” The leaf looks at Horace and said, “Thank you for what you’ve just said. I am going back.” The leaf calls the ant and commands it to send him back up to the tree.

After 4 days, the leaf returns home. “Madelaine, I am back. Where are our children?” the leaf yelled at where he remembered his home to be at. However, the only response he gets is a long, dreadful silence. “Madelaine,” the leaf yelled again, hoping to hear a familiar voice. The leaf walks closer to his old home. He finds the place empty, no one was there to welcome him back. “What happened? Where have my wife and kids gone?” the leaf questions in his mind. Then, he hears something, it is the sound of other leaves shouting for help. He runs toward the sound. And, there, he sees a giant caterpillar, munching on leaf after leaf. After seeing this horrible sight, he immediately connects it to his family. “Is this why my wife and daughters are gone? All the joy we had at that place we called home, all the memories we made there are now gone forever?” The leaf sweats, feeling cold from the inside. He crouches in disgust, crawls to the edge of the branch, and says to himself, “I need to go, hell is everywhere.” The leaf then takes his leap, having his head down steadily to avoid more **air resistance** and gain greater **terminal velocity**. “I should have... I should have... I should not have...” thoughts run through the leaf’s mind in a rapid fashion. He closes his eyes and recalls every second of his life. Tears falling out of his eyes freely. He laments to himself. Then, he reaches the maximum **terminal velocity** and hits the ground, falling out of consciousness.



Uncertain about how much time it has passed, the leaf wakes up surrounded by a familiar voice. “Young man, young man,” Horace calls the leaf repeatedly. “Hey, why are you back so fast?” Horace asks. “My family was murdered.” “Then let me ask you again. Do you think this is Heaven or Hell?” “I...” “See, boy,” Horace points at a distant leaf. “That is my wife, Jan. She fell down a week ago, and I have tried to call her for days. Yet, she cannot hear me. She is apparently deafened because of age.” “I am sorry,” the leaf said. “You see, kid, life is harsh sometimes. You get punished for not working hard, and you get punished for not spending enough time with your loved ones. I can now officially call this place hell, because the saddest part is when your love is within your reach but you can never tell her that you love her, not to say ever getting an answer. In the end, both of us will decompose and become a part of the tree again. By then, please remember your lesson from this life. And maybe by then, you will remember your name.”

AP Physics Compositions: A Falling Leaf

By Nathan Wang, Gr. 12 St. Vincent Ferrer
AP Physics, Ms. Victoria Santiago

The corpses of my siblings lay beneath me. They were blown away by the wind, picked off by creatures, or detached by mother for the sake of her survival. There are countless reasons for their fall. The rest of us stay attached to mother. Even then, some are still less fortunate.

Falling is not the only way for us to perish. Vermin bite and chew the ones still attached, drilling holes into their bodies. Some of us die when flying beasts tear away mother's limbs, and some of my siblings with it. They even build nests with the limbs freshly torn. A great insult.

An insult it may seem, but we lack the ability to speak, the ability to tell the beasts to leave us be. We watch in silent horror as our brethren fall, as they are ripped apart.

I envy creatures, even those who harm. They speak, they move, but we can't. Some say we can't see, hear, or feel, but believe me, those are our most acute capabilities. Our lack of response does not indicate our lack of feeling.

How many lives could have been saved if we could respond?

Speech and motion, such fantasies. Every time light shines through the darkness, flying beasts sing.

Such beautiful tunes. Such vibrancy. How could I not be jealous? I watch them soar into the sky. I watch them fly from mother to her siblings.

Flight, elegant and carefree. I watch them a second more and remember what they have done to mother and my brethren. I remember the horror we witnessed. I remember the insult they made. Still, such animosity could not conquer my admiration and jealousy.

I hope I can fly. I hope I can leave mother...and this place.

Chatter and noise continued to spread, two-legged beasts running amok, furless and featherless, wrapped in garments. Beasts with many names. Beasts with many colors and shapes. All day they run about the ground, heaps of laughter and screams about. All they do is to disturb my peace, making me wish to leave. But I have no wings, no limbs, just one fragile body and a conduit connected to my mother.

I await the bell, the sign of silence. May it chase the beasts away and return me to my sleep.



I was entering my eternal state of nothingness when chatter and steps came about. The two-legged beasts have returned, but there were only a few and one led them all. One, I can only assume is the authority. He guided them all the way here. I was intrigued. None of the other members of such beings made us the focus. Most seemed to ignore us as if we're not here. But alas, here they come.

The leader turned around, signaling them to sit in an incomplete circle. Then it began to speak in words I somehow understood. "Okay, everyone, who knows what we are going to do here?"

"We are here to rake leaves!" Someone spoke. Someone else snickered.

"No, Betty. But you would probably do more work than you ever could," a third voice spoke. Laughter among his

friends came about, and the leader had to quiet them down. "Aw come on, Brad. You didn't have to remind me that," Betty spoke once more. "Well, he clearly needed to because you still didn't hand things in," their leader reported. The little ones responded with sounds of glee. A sign of respect, I suppose.

After they quieted down, it began to speak once more. "Alright, enough! We are going to talk about Physics."

"In the playground?" Someone asked.

"You'll see. Just keep quiet for now, okay? That goes for you too, Charlie. A pause, Anyways! He proceeded to pick up the corpse of one of my brethren and a piece of a rock. Humph, the decency.

"Alright, everybody, which do you think will touch the ground first?"

"The rock!" Brad uttered in excitement.

"Yes, but raise your hand first...and why does it touch the ground before the leaf?"

"Because it is heavier!"

"Not quite, but defend your answer using the concepts we learned."

"Uh... Because the Earth's **gravity** is more on the rock because it has greater mass than the leaf!"

"Good explanation! But what will happen if there is no air resistance?"

"The rock will still hit the ground first!" said Brad.

"Not the correct answer. You seemed to have forgotten about inertia, which resists acceleration."

AP Physics Compositions: A Falling Leaf

By Nathan Wang, Gr. 12 St. Vincent Ferrer
AP Physics, Ms. Victoria Santiago

(continued from previous page)

"Ha! Brad, do you pay attention in class?!" Betty exclaimed.

"Psssh! Do you?" Brad replied.

"Enough with you two!" He waited for them to settle, and then continued, "Since the rock has a greater mass as Brad said, it also has more inertia, which means it requires more force to accelerate at the same rate as the leaf. So if there is no air resistance, both objects will be in **freefall** and will reach the ground at the same time."

So...**air resistance** is the reason why the leaf falls slower than the rock?"

"Exactly! Because the leaf has a greater surface area, the air pushes against it more than it does to the rock, which slows it down more."

"Oh, I get it."

"And one more thing. As an object falls in the air, its velocity increases and the air resistance also increases with increase in velocity. The velocity of the object reaches a maximum value when the **air resistance** becomes as great as the gravitational pull. No net force acts on the object. Acceleration is zero, and the object continues to fall at a uniform velocity called **terminal velocity**".

"Is it safe to reach terminal velocity faster to land safely?" asked Betty.

"Exactly! When an object reaches its terminal velocity, there is no more acceleration. Objects with greater surface area reach its **terminal velocity** faster. That is why a parachutist is able to fall safely to the ground.

"Okay, everyone!. You can have your free time." Chaos ensued. Screams, laughter, and cheers went on for a while.

The bell rang and they remained. Another rang and they were gone.

Faces came but never stayed. Fourteen solar cycles later, not one was left. Without a notice, everyone disappeared. My brethren, my mother, her siblings, and creatures were the only ones left.

Everything seemed bland, grim, and bare. Gone were the laughter and cheer.

Then, I felt a breeze. I felt my mother's grip loosen. I felt air brushing against me. I detached. Gravity pulled me down, and air pushed me up, as what the beings foretold.

Then, I began to float.

I could see my mother clearly from this distance. All the details I failed to catch. Her wrinkles, her age, and her children, all in one wholesome image.

Goodbye, mother. Goodbye, brothers.

Reuniting with my fallen brethren, I hit the ground.

Fracking: Why must it be banned?

By Nandita Chennakrishnan, Gr. 8 St. Agnes of Montepulciano

With an ongoing debate in the United States, fracking has become a very controversial issue. Fracking has several benefits, but it also has disadvantages that unfortunately outweigh the good. This article will explain both sides of this issue, and why it is better for our world and our future if it is banned.

Hydraulic fracturing, more commonly known as fracking, is a highly effective way of extracting oil. It involves injecting high-pressure water, sand, and chemicals into rock to fracture it.

Firstly, fracking has been known to have an impact on seismic activity. It is a process that includes high-pressure water being pumped into Earth's crust. The pressure, however, cannot escape and gradually leads to cracks or fault lines. As we know, earthquakes commonly occur where fault lines are. An example of seismic activity caused by fracking can be seen in Oklahoma. According to a U.S Geological Survey (USGS), Oklahoma has had more earthquakes than California since 2014. Geologists find this situation strange. Oklahoma has no major fault lines, nor is it in a tectonic plate region. California on the other hand, is in a tectonic plate region and it also has large fault lines such as the San Andreas fault. So why is Oklahoma having more earthquakes? Oklahoma has several oil reserves which use fracking as their primary way of extracting oil. USGS geologists concluded that fracking plays a major role in this unusual seismic activity.

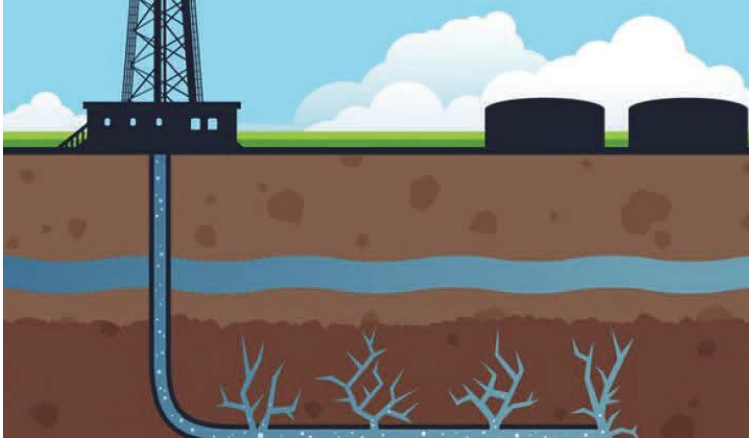
Secondly, fracking uses lots of hazardous chemicals such as biocide and acid. These chemicals not only affect the environment, but also the workers' health. They also contaminate the groundwater, which is 30.06% of the total freshwater available today. Massive amounts of greenhouse gases such as methane also escape into the atmosphere. Methane is extremely hazardous and it is second most prevalent greenhouse gas in the US (after carbon dioxide). Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) researcher flew planes above fracking sites in Pennsylvania. They detected about 2 to 14 grams of methane per second per square kilometer. These emission rates are 1,000 times higher than their original estimate.

Next
Page

Find out more about why
fracking should be banned

Fracking: Why must it be banned?

By Nandita Chennakrishnan, Gr. 8 St. Agnes of Montepulciano
Grade 8 Language Arts—Persuasive Essay



Finally, fracking leads to pollution and loss of water. According to recent studies from Duke University, the average water used for fracking ranged from 3 to 6 million gallons per well. This hinders agriculture and the living conditions of people especially in developing countries such as India and China. 90% of the water used in fracking does not come back to the surface. The 10% that does, contaminated with chemicals therefore making it unusable.

Several people may argue that fracking is very effective. Oil is also a very important resource in today's society and we are highly dependent on it. However, fracking, as mentioned before, damages the environment. Oil isn't good for the environment either. Over the past seven years, the US has doubled the amount of oil produced and it gives the government has less of an incentive to look for alternative fuel resources. We mustn't forget that oil and gas are non-renewable resources and that it will eventually run out. By banning fracking, it will reduce the amount of oil produced, therefore making oil and gas rates higher. This would slowly lead to people turning towards more renewable energy sources.

Influential peace activist, Yoko Ono, once said, "Fracking kills, and it just doesn't kill us. It kills the land, nature and, eventually, the whole world." To help our only home, Earth, and its inhabitants, we must "Stop Fracking Our Future".

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Connecting the Classic Poems to Daily Life

By Grade 6 and Grade 7 students, with introduction by Ms. Carolyn Hsu
Grade 6 & Grade 7 Chinese

It's not often that we spare a moment to read something and think about how it relates to our lives. Well, that is exactly what Grade 6 and Grade 7 regular Chinese classes have done! The learners were guided in an adventure of discovery in poetry. Not only did they enjoy the artistry of each poem, they analyzed it and reflected on the message in, and between, the lines. Written reflections show how they applied the meaning of these poems to their futures and the choices they will make one day. The poems explored include Grade 6, Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken* (未走之路) and classic Chinese poem *Rural Life* (清平樂·村居) by Xīn Qì-jí (辛棄疾); Grade 7, *Visiting a Friend's Farmhouse* (過故人莊) by Mèng Hào-rán (孟浩然).

Grade 7

Visiting a Friend's Farmhouse (過故人莊) by Mèng Hào-rán (孟浩然) This poem describes what people in the Tang Dynasty did when they visited their friends on farms. The 7th graders compared lifestyles and expressed their opinion about friendships.

Kate

律詩選-讀書心得

過故人莊
孟浩然
故人具雞黍
邀我至田家
綠樹村邊合
青山郭外斜
開筵面場圃
把酒話桑麻
待到重陽日
還來就菊花

我比較喜歡以前的鄉村生活，我比較喜歡悠閒的鄉村生活。如果我住在鄉下，可能會在做完事情之後和作者一樣去朋友的家裡吃飯聊天等等。相反，如果住在城市裡的話，城市裡的生話步調比較快，所以就沒有很多的時間做自己喜欢做的事情。

另外，我覺得鄉下的空氣品質也比較好，雖然以前的空氣污染沒有像現在這樣嚴重，但是城市會有比較多的車子或交通工具，所以空氣品質較差的。我也比較喜歡鄉下的景色，如果你住在城市或都市，每天都看到高樓林立的景象，但是如果你住在鄉村比較會看到大自然的景象。

何品儀

G7J Kate prefers rural life to city life and she believes that the pace of the city is too fast.

律詩選-讀書心得

過故人莊
孟浩然
故人具雞黍
邀我至田家
綠樹村邊合
青山郭外斜
開筵面場圃
把酒話桑麻
待到重陽日
還來就菊花

過故人莊心得
謝孟呈
我比較喜歡以前的鄉村生活，雖然沒有像現代的城市來得方便，但卻可以自由自在的過每一天。在城市，大家都像顆陀螺一樣的轉個不停，和朋友見面都是難能可貴的大事，但在鄉村大家的生活步調都很慢，也沒那麼忙，所以想和朋友見面就不是什麼難事了。不過話說回來，在以前的鄉村空氣品質優於城市，農地多於工廠；鄉間小路多於車水馬龍的城市街道；我比較喜歡兩種生活各有好壞，但是我比較喜歡自由自在的鄉村生活。

Agreeing with Kate, G7J Ethan also prefers farm life because of the open space and simple life.

The Power of Cooking

By Joseph Tung Tso, Gr. 8 St. Catherine of Sienna
Grade 8 Language Arts—Persuasive Essay



Cooking is a powerful and useful skill. It is an ability that's rare in this day and age because most young people nowadays eat out. Also, some students think cooking is only for adults and a chore. The gain in popularity of take-out led to the decline of cooking. There are plenty of benefits to preparing food at home, and I believe everyone should learn how to befriend their kitchen.

According to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), between 1977-78 and 2005-08, food away from home increased people's share of calories.[1] This can cause negative effects on the body such as obesity. "When people cook most of their meals at home, they consume fewer carbohydrates, less sugar and less fat than those who cook less or not at all - even if they are not trying to lose weight," says Julia A. Wolfson, the author of a study from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. The food outside of your home contains more processed food and is sometimes extremely unhealthy. For example, fried food and banquet food in Taiwan has increased the chance of heart diseases of the people consuming it. [2] If these reasons are not a good enough incentive for you to learn how to cook, then consider that cooking can extend your lifespan.

Another reason for you to cook at home is the money it saves. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, a family of four spends between \$568USD to \$1,293USD a month on food. Changing your eating habits can save a great deal of money. Generation Y and Millennials are more likely to eat out and spend more compared to the previous generation, the Baby Boomers. The Nation's Restaurant News reported that prices of groceries had gone down by 0.5% and the price of eating out has gone up by 2.7%. Added up, eating homemade food three meals a day, seven days a week can save an average American \$2,000USD in a year. [3] Even if you can't cook that much, making yourself one meal a day can cut the cost of food by a lot.

Our families are exceedingly important, and a way to improve your relationship with them is by preparing a meal for them. Ever since my dad started to cook for our family, I have felt a closer connection and bond with him. During the winter break, my parents began to teach me the process of some simple dishes. I learned how to make spaghetti, steak, fruit salads and fried rice. In doing so, I got to chat with my mom and dad more. A survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that teens that eat with their families more often had a lower chance to use alcohol, drugs and cigarettes. The kids also tend to get better grades and become happier in general. [4]

Some people have the excuse of not having enough time to cook. Making eggs or sandwiches is quick and easy. It only takes about 10-15 minutes. If you don't have 10-15 minutes, you can always prepare food beforehand. During the weekends, you can make big batches of food that can last you a whole week. I think learning to cook these easy meals or making food ahead of time can help a lot if you're busy during the week.

Cooking is a skill that can benefit your life in many ways, and everyone should learn how to do it. By learning how to cook, you can improve your health and extend your lifespan. It may also save you money and improve your family relationships. If you don't already know how to prepare food for yourself, learn some simple dishes and start cooking. It can change your life!

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Let's Go Swimming!

By Chloe Fang, Gr. 7 St. Thomas of Aquinas
Grade 7 Language Arts—Persuasive Essay

Do you like swimming? Swimming is good for you! Relaxing in the water is the best way to cool down on a hot summer day. Maybe learning to swim can save your life someday! Swimming makes you grow taller and have more confidence in your self. A shop called Speedo once said, "You are only one swim away from good mood". Swimming makes everyone happy. That's why I strongly think our school should arrange swimming lessons for students.

First, we only have two PE classes a week, which is 90 minutes. We also need to subtract time for changing clothes, 10 minutes per class. That adds up to only 80 minutes of exercise a week. That's not obviously enough for growing middle school students! We should add two more lessons of swimming class each week, so that's four exercising classes per week! That's enough. Our health teacher, Ms. Bing says that we need about one to one and a half hour of exercise per day. If we do not exercise enough, it will be hard to concentrate on school work.

Here's another reason why swimming is good. It improves teamwork. Teachers are always emphasizing that teamwork is important. Water sports, like water polo, requires teamwork. Every member in the game is important. Every member has value. All the members need to work together to get the ball, pass it to teammates and shoot. They also need to work together to block balls from the other team. Swimming relay also improves teamwork. Four members in the team needs to find out what method can lead them to the first place.

Now, the last reason. Swimming improves not only your physical strength, but also your inner body organs. It enhances the respiratory function in your body. A website, Marium Blue Wave, says that the chest is under the pressure of 12-15 kg of water. It increases the difficulty of inhalation in a pool. The respiratory muscles must learn to overcome this pressure. So it increases the contractile of the respiratory muscles, while enhancing the function of the respiratory system and increasing lung capacity. That makes you tone muscles and build strength.



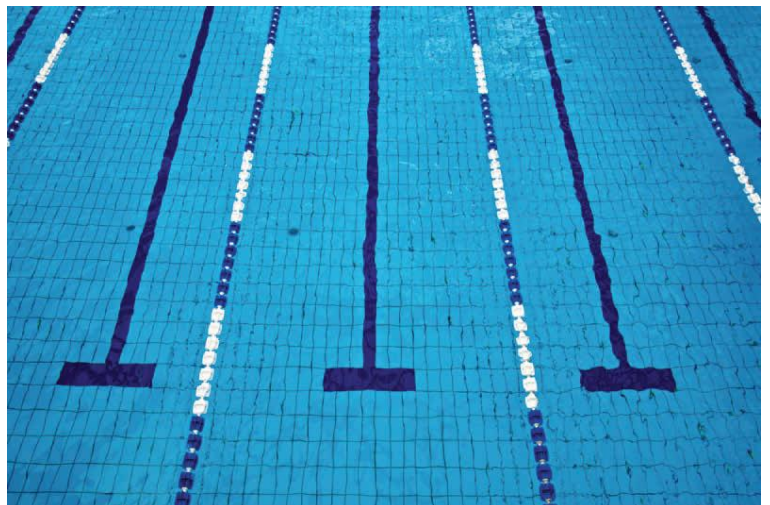
Some people might say, DIS is a religious school, we shouldn't wear tight swimming suits. To solve this problem, we can wear loose swimming suits.

Swimming improves not only your physical strength, but also your inner body organs. It helps maintain a healthy weight, tones muscles and builds strength. It is a healthy activity that you can continue for a lifetime. Getting started in swimming is easy. It's a sport for all age groups, skill and fitness levels. That's why I think our school should arrange swimming lessons for students.

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Author not provided. Speedo Collection by YourSwimBook. Motivational Swimming.



D'TORCH Athletics News Flash: DIS in Sports

By Dr. Gustl Pido, Athletics Director

Swimming and Representing DIS



Our DIS Lower School Swimming Team together with Coach Joy, Ms. Sydney, Ms. Carryl and other VIP Parents went to Beijing, China for the **2019 Asian Invitational Swimming Meet** February 22 to 24 with other School Participants. We have 4 dedicated swimmers that represented DIS:

Ken Miao, won a silver medal, and placed in fourth and fifth place.

Josh Tsen and Ray Liao showed their performance well to the competitors.

Finally, Lillian Liao showed strong sportsmanship and willingness to take challenges at the moment of competition, even though she didn't win a medal or leads in the group, her motivation and individual performance have meant far more beyond the medals.

Team Highlight: Under 9 Basketball Team



Our Under9-year-old basketball team under Coach Pido brought home the gold medal and champion trophy! This is the first time we joined the TISSA 3x3 basketball and came out on top. Hoping to defend our tittle this coming school year!

Under 11 Basketball Team Wins a Bronze



Our Under 11-year-old basketball team under Coach Mervin won a bronze and trophy medal during the U11 3x3 basketball tournament.



U9 3x3 Basketball Team with the supportive parents

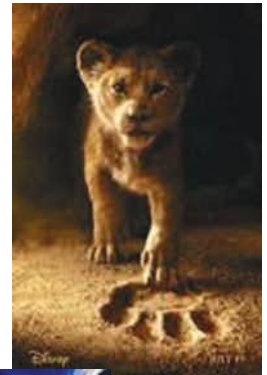
U9 and U11 3x3 Basketball Team



Top 10 Movies of 2019

Compiled by Judy Ki, Gr. 8 St. Agnes of Montepulciano from IMDb

- 1) *Avengers: Endgame*
- 2) *Captain Marvel*
- 3) *Dark Phoenix*
- 4) *Toy Story 4*
- 5) *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*
- 6) *The Lion King*
- 7) *Dumbo*
- 8) *How to Train Your Dragon 3: The Hidden World*
- 9) *Wonder Park*
- 10) *The Kid Who Would Be King*



Top 10 Books of 2019 For Teenagers

Compiled by Judy Ki, Gr. 8 St. Agnes of Montepulciano from Bookbub

- 1) *We Set the Dark on Fire* by Tehlor Kay Mejia
- 2) *Wicked Saints: A Novel* by Emily A. Duncan
- 3) *Descendant of the Crane* by Joan He
- 4) *Sky Without Stars* by Jessica Brody and Joanne Rendell
- 5) *Let's Go Swimming on Doomsday* by Natalie C. Anderson
- 6) *The Last Voyage of Poe Blythe* by Ally Condie
- 7) *The Music of What Happens* by Bill Bonigsberg
- 8) *The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA* by Brenda Woods
- 9) *The Happy Book* by Andy Rash
- 10) *The Sad Little Fact* by Jonah Winter



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