



Teachers' Spiritual Retreat and Conference 2019

The two day Teachers' Appreciation Conference on 26 and 27 September gave teachers much food for thought. It was also an opportunity for the faculty and members of the administration of Dominican International School Kaohsiung to join the DIS, Taipei family for spiritual development.

Delegates were privileged to have Rev. Fr. Manuel T. Gelido, Ph.D. (pictured in front on the left) as the speaker. Fr Manuel captivated his audience with his profound wisdom and his extensive knowledge of Philosophy and Theology. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburg (USA) specializing in Formative Spirituality among his many degrees and qualifications. He was ordained to the priesthood in December 1979, and has had a distinguished career. Fr Manuel had ministerial assignments in the Philippines and the USA where he fulfilled many different missions. They include Coordinator of Ongoing Formation of Clergy and Lay Leaders, Principal of a High School; Director of two schools in West Virginia, USA; Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator; Parish Administrator; to mention just a fraction of the achievements on his extensive list.

It was an honor to have him at DIS, not only because of his deep knowledge and understanding of spirituality, but Fr Manuel also has a special connection with the school. He is the cousin of Sr. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P., our current Principal, and also the nephew of Sister Nieves Tenderro, O.P., the first Principal of the school when it was started in 1957.



Confucius Day of Appreciation

Teacher of the Year Award
Ms Yvonne Lee



Every year on Confucius Day, the VIP show their appreciation for the teachers' commitment when they present them with gifts. This year the gifts were environmentally friendly and designed to encourage teachers to reject disposable plastic cutlery and straws. Many teachers remarked how useful the gifts were.

There were also gifts from the school, to show appreciation to all the teachers. They were items that can help teachers in the classroom and when they are doing their class preparation. DIS teachers work hard and it is with thankful hearts that they accept these gifts of recognition for the many unseen hours they work to improve the school and the learning that takes place.

Faculty and Staff Awards

Every year, on Confucius Day, the school honours the teachers and staff who make a difference through their dedication, hard work, and exceptional service to the school. Congratulations to the 2019 recipients of the school's special awards that recognize the outstanding contribution of teachers and staff. Ms Yvonne Lee was awarded Teacher of the Year, Mr Ian Crisostomo got the D'TORCH Award, and Ms Anne Portillo, Mr Thomas Tu were awarded the Star Service Award.

Star Service Award
Mr Thomas Tu and Ms Anne Portillo



D'TORCH Award
Mr Ian Crisostomo



Teachers' Spiritual Retreat

by Sr. Socorro Teofilo, O.P.

We were so blessed this year to have our Spiritual Retreat in our school with a spiritual speaker from West Virginia, USA, Rev. Fr. Manuel (Manny) Tenderro Gelido. He was invited by our Principal, his first cousin Sr. Zenaida Ancheta O.P. Teachers and staff from our sister school in Kaohsiung joined the retreat. It started with the Eucharistic Celebration on September 26th, followed by Fr. Manny's talks in the first session entitled "A Sense of the Mystery." His talks explored the following concepts: The Human search for Meaning; Discovering the Human Spirit, and Joy of the Mystery in a Complex World. In the second session entitled "The Human Journey-from Death to Life", he unlocked the following concepts for the attendants: Phases of Spiritual Awakening and Conversion; The Demands of Following Life's Goal; and The Power of Transcendence. On the second day of the retreat, the topic was: "Vocation – Finding the Work of Love" This time, he explained the following: Encountering the Other, Belonging and Living in Communion, Finding the Treasure Buried in the Field, Love as Total Self-Giving. Fr. Manny encouraged everyone to ask questions regarding his talks and about any doubts that we have. There was even a question box where the shy teachers could drop their questions. Fr Manny was very eager to enlighten us and to find in God what our hearts and souls really need in order to be happy children of our Heavenly Father. Thank you so much, Fr. Manny for helping us find ourselves in the love of God and to respond to that love.



Fr. Manuel receives an appreciation plaque from his cousin, Sr Zenaida



Teachers from DIST and DISK listening with great attention



Our Dominican Sisters with Fr. Manual



Our Newlyweds

One of the best-kept secrets in the school, was the romance of Ms Coney Catalan, the school's Registrar and our Athletic Director, Dr. Gustl Pido who were married on June 28th in Cebu Archdiocesan Shrine of Saint Pedro Calungsod.

Fr. Aristarco S. Escobal, O. Carm and Rev. Fr. Jeff Aytona, O.P presided at the wedding.

The wedding reception took place at Casino Espanol de Cebu. The happy couple looked more like a Hollywood pair than members of our DIS family. When we congratulated them on the first day of the new school year, many teachers were surprised to hear the news, because this couple was discreet. Congratulations! The DIS family wish Dr Pido and Ms Coney a lifetime of love and happiness.



From left to right: Rev. Fr. Aristarco S. Escobal, O. Carm,
Ms Coney Catalan, Dr Gustl Pido, and
Rev. Fr. Jeff Aytona, O.P.



September Student Training

D' TORCH Campus Radio Workshop

by Agosh Librea

*“Hi, this is Elsa! And you’re listening to D’ TORCH Campus Radio, the best campus radio in town!”
Soon to be on air!*

Mr. Philippe Hernandez, the Assistant Director of the online services of the Communications Bureau of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines facilitated the first workshop for aspiring Campus Radio announcers. There were 18 student participants who were fully involved in the whole day’s intensive workshop. They learned the basics of campus radio, being a radio announcer and the planning for the program and segments. The participants enjoyed activities such as grouping themselves according to their favorite movie characters and interests. They were able to get to know each other and learned about their similarities and differences. Even though it was a short period of time, the participants were very open to share and enthusiastic to contribute during the workshop. One of the exciting parts of the workshop was introducing the participants to the radio station. They learned about the audio console or the radio panel, and were able to hear their voices over the microphone and delivered their 30 second segments with talking about their interests. Everyone had a great time and there were great laughs too, truly an enjoyable workshop!

So, wait for these talented DIS announcers, you’ll be amazed what D’TOCH Campus Radio is going to offer in the coming days! You’ll be hearing them soon!



Student Leader Training by Agosh Librea

The DIS student leaders - Student Council, DYM and the Class officers - participated in a leadership workshop. Mr. Phillippe Hernandez provided them the fundamentals of being a leader with a distinct Dominican character. He emphasized the Four Dominican Pillars, which are community, service, study, and prayer, needed in their role as a Dominican Leaders.

The student leaders were able to interact with one another despite the constraint of time. Mr. Phillippe reminded them of the importance of time management, good values, and good communication skills. He said that “a good leader listens more than talks. A good leader is marked by charisma, and one common trait of charismatic people is that they listen to you.”

Above all, being a Dominican Student Leader, he or she is called for service and is always ready to inspire others.



September Parent Talk

Responsible Social Media Use for Parents

Mr Phillippe Hernandez, the guest speaker who trained the Campus Radio students and addressed the student leaders, also addressed the DIS parents. His talk was entitled “Responsible Social Media Use for Parents”

He spoke about the way that electronic media invade parents’ relationships with their children. He pointed out the dangers of isolating oneself and one’s children by preferring electronic devices and electronic communication to face-to-face talks and family time. He also warned how the electronic invasion of family time could have a negative influence on children’s social and academic development. He gave the parents who were listening with great interest, much food for thought.

Teachers who listened to him agreed fully and afterwards praised the ban on electronic devices on the DIS campus for purposes other than searching for relevant academic information. — **Mercia de Souza**



The Speaker

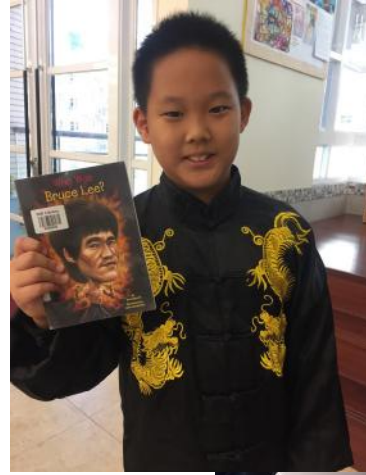
Mr. Philippe Hernandez holds a Bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education and a Master’s degree in English from the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines. He also refined his knowledge doing online certificate courses on Learning Assessments with UNESCO, and English for Journalism with the State Department, and the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

Mr. Hernandez has extensive teaching experience at all levels of education, from elementary school to university level. He currently teaches English; Media and Information Literacy; and Research for the Humanities and Social Sciences in the University of Santo Tomas - Senior High School. Furthermore, he is the Assistant Director of the online services of their Communications Bureau. As a result of Mr. Hernandez’s involvement, the University of Santo Tomas received international awards twice for best international website page. He is a regular presenter at international conferences, and the author of several English text books for schools.

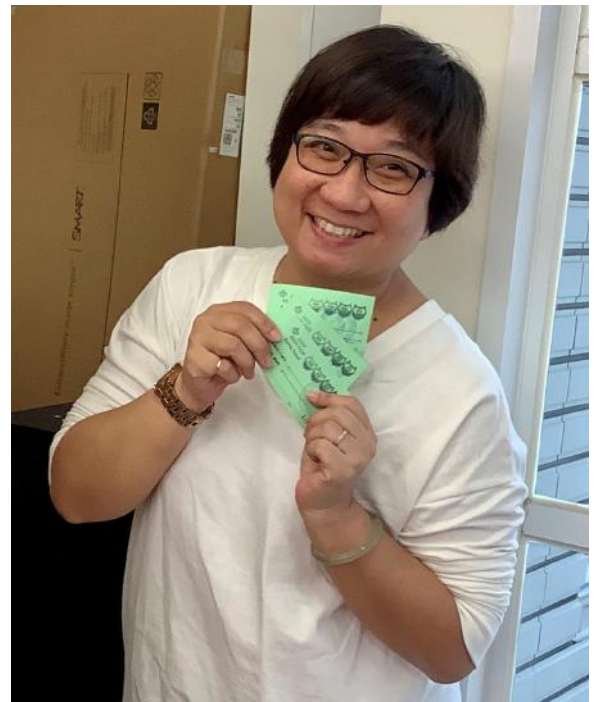


Sr Zenaida handing Mr Hernandez a certificate of appreciation

Book Fair 2019



Once again the Librarians put on a spectacular **Book Fair**. Ms Iris, Ms Doris and Ms Rebecca made sure that there was something for everyone. It is always a pleasure to visit the Book Fair and to spend far too much money on the wonderful books and gifts that are available. Ms Rebecca was standing ready to give out raffle tickets—one ticket for every NT\$300 that students and teachers spent.



Mother Mary's Birthday



Every year on 8 September, the school celebrates the birthday of Mother Mary with a program under the guidance of the Campus Ministry.

The DIS Choir, under the direction of the Choir Master, Mr Leon Henrico, and with the help of Mr Christiaan Basson and Mr Samir Eddio, sang superbly.

The 2019 program was very successful and enjoyable.

DIS was filled with Marian music and dances when Mary was venerated during her birthday on September 8th.

Hosted by the DYM leaders, Joshua Ramos and Charm Felipe, the entire program was facilitated smoothly. Selected teachers offered prayers asking for Mother Mary's intercession. Selected religious sisters consecrated Mother Mary on this momentous occasion. The DIS Choir, serenaded Mother Mary, along with other teachers.

Mother Mary, Protectress of all Dominicans, pray for us! - **John Erick Moje**





All set for Robotics

by Ed Solis

The school created a new laboratory for the purpose of learning robotics. This room is situated on the ground floor beside the Audio-Visual Room. It was the former G2 St. John Macias' Room. This room is ideal as it is adjacent to the activity area. The open area serves as an extension of the laboratory for robot testing and experimentation.

The laboratory is equipped with 21 units of Dell OptiPlex 7450 All-In-One computer. It also has Intel Core i5-7500 (Quad Core/6MB/4T/3.4GHz/65W); supports Windows 10/Linux, 8GB DDR4 at 2400MHz memory, 256GB Solid State Drive, and 23.8" UHD 4K resolution WLED display. Aside from computers, DIS is providing STEAM education robots that make teaching and learning robot programming simple and fun.

The Dominican Sisters led by Sr. Ma Zenaida T. Ancheta, OP directress/principal has approved this undertaking to meet the current trends of STEAM education.

With this innovation in DIS, teachers and students are encouraged to explore robotics and use all the tools to uncover something about it. Also, it involves a different way of looking at problems and solving them. The thinking process that goes into it will help students develop their critical thinking, creativity and their problem-solving skills.

Learning robotics through its step by step instructions and a study schedule, children can build a robot from scratch and experience the joys of hands-on creation. As they go, they will learn about a variety of robotic machinery and electronic parts, get to grips with the fundamentals of block-based programming, and develop their logical thinking and design skills. Furthermore, it gets children to engage both their hands and their brain, encouraging them to exercise their interdisciplinary abilities while allowing them to experience the endless fun of creation at the same time.

The DIS Robotics curriculum is offered from Grade Four to Grade Eight. The approach of learning robotics is on a 1:2 (one robot/computer is for two students) basis. This arrangement enhances cooperative learning and will help

students build their positive interdependence, individual accountability, face-to-face interaction, and social skills development.

The Robotics teachers are Mr. Ian Crisostomo for G6C, Dr. Edward Solis for G7 & G8, and Mr. Mervin Villaroya for G4, G5 & G6H. They attended a workshop during the summer. They had in-depth training and they have hands-on experience in interactive applications of robotics.

"Robots are interesting because they exist as a real technology that you can really study – you can get a degree in robotics – they also have all this pop-culture real estate that they take up in people's minds." – *Daniel H. Wilson*



G7 Students assembling the robots



The Robotics Laboratory

Hong Kong Visitors

by Vivaldi Chung, Chinese University of Hong Kong,
reflecting on their DIS experience

On 24th August, a group of 12 final year ELED students set off for an outbound teaching practice at Taipei. Their destination: Dominican International School, a Catholic, private, international school located in the outskirts of the city. The group was assigned to teach English Language, including English for Academic Purposes, English Language Learning, as well as Language Arts. Student levels range from primary one to secondary four.

“There is no formula in teaching”

During the stay, we noted the starkly different teaching and learning styles amongst teachers and learners. Serving the same lesson objectives, some of them liked to pleasantly occupy their learners with various activities; some of them preferred to incorporate more critical, evaluative discussion sessions into their lessons; while some of them would adopt a discovery approach and let students learn through projects. At first, we were concerned that the diverse teaching styles may affect students’ knowledge acquisition, but we soon realised that teachers with different personal qualities, cultural backgrounds and learning experiences will undoubtedly shape the way they teach. The key is, therefore, not to imitate what other educators do, but to envision our own teaching styles and shape our learners in concordance to our own personalities and beliefs.



The Teachers-in-training observed Ms Teresa Lin in the Grade 2 ELL class.

“Be flexible! Don't be too hard on yourself.”
As student teachers, we not only developed professional competency on how to tackle various challenges and teach a curriculum that is not at all familiar to us, but also to adapt and synthesize our past teaching experiences together with the theoretical knowledge acquired through lectures and tutorials. In particular, a great amount of flexibility must be adopted within each class and lesson as it was very difficult to gauge the level of students. While some lessons were more successful than others, the professional dialogue and reflection after each teaching day provided us with the necessary input and encouragement to improve. Through the mutual support of classmates, collective brainstorming and analysis of lesson plans and actual teaching, we could transform our experience into concrete suggestions for future teaching and professional development.

“Be flexible! Be proactive! Be a competent teacher!”



Mr Elliott Wakeling welcomed the student teachers and gave them a quick debriefing before taking them to the school’s Conference Room where they settled in for the week’s hard work and learning experience.

This outbound teaching practice was an invaluable internship experience for us prospective teachers in developing a more international outlook towards the profession. In such a globalised and multicultural city like Hong Kong, a city heavily influenced by both western philosophies and Confucius Heritage Culture, it was refreshing to experience the innovative practices of an integrated, infused and intermixed culture within a school.

New Teachers



Dustin Lewis

Mr Dustin Lewis is the Grade 4 ELL teacher who originally came from the USA, but he has extensive international experience.

He holds a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics with a TESOL concentration, a Bachelor's in Linguistics with a minor in German Language and Literature. He also spent a year at the University of Heidelberg, Germany where he studied German Language and Literature.

Mr Dustin's teaching experience is very international. He taught in Istanbul, Turkey; Heidelberg, Germany, and in his home country in New York. Furthermore, he spent a year in Jerusalem. Before coming to Taiwan His spouse is Taiwanese spouse and they have a seven-year-old son.



Teresa Lin

Ms. Teresa is the Grade 2 ELL teacher. Her home country is the USA, but she is here to stay, as she is married to a Taiwanese citizen.

She holds a Bachelor's of Science degree from Berry College at Arizona State University, a TESOL certificate, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Early Education through The College of New Jersey. Following her TESOL certification in 2017, she has been working as an English tutor in both formal and informal settings. She is also a long-time student of Mandarin.

Eleftheria (Elina) Papadaki

Ms Elina is the Lower School Drama Teacher. She arrived in Taiwan from Greece in April and helped out as a Teaching Assistant in the Grade 5 class until the end of the school year.

Ms. Elina holds a Bachelor degree in Early Childhood Education from National and Kapodistrian University of Athens as well as a degree in Acting from the Drama School of Lasmos in Greece. She holds a teaching license and is currently teaching Drama. Her previous experiences include teaching drama, acting, Pre-K and Kindergarten education as well as working on education projects and conducting summer schools.



Welcome New Teachers



Karry Shih

Ms. Karry joined us as a substitute teacher at the end of the previous school year and proved herself in the short time to the extent that the school offered her a full-time position as a Lower and Middle School music teacher.

She holds a Bachelor of Music from Auckland University in New Zealand. Her previous experience includes teaching in a Taiwanese local primary school. She also has experience teaching piano one-on-one to young aspirant pianists.

Ronaldo Francisco

Mr. Ronaldo holds a Bachelor of Music majoring in Clarinet. His past experience includes being a former music teacher and band conductor of De La Salle Lipa, an instrument's tutor of Brent International School, a choir/band/orchestra conductor, and a speaker/workshop facilitator for band/orchestra ensembles and soloists. He was also enlisted as personnel of the Philippine Air Force and the Treasurer of PASAMBAP INC. He was a prize winner of NAMCYA (National Music Competition for Young Artist) in 2003 for Clarinet Category A.



Anvhu Nguyen

Our newest teacher is Mr Anvhu Nguyen. He teaches Middle School Religious Studies and Grade 6 Music and Band. He was born and bred in California, USA , but he has Vietnamese parents and that gives him the vital Asian connection. He holds a Master of Theology, a Master of Divinity, and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology with a minor in Sacred Music. Mr Anvhu first applied to become a Music teacher, but when the Campus Ministry saw his qualifications, they knew that they had found their teacher. He arrived from California in September and is really enjoying the Taiwanese food.

Teachers' CPR Training



The Red Cross came to DIS in August to train every teacher and staff member to do CPR.

All the teachers and staff are now certified to do CPR in case of an emergency.

Mr Andrew Hogenson and Mr William Wolfe are trying to save the “patient” while practicing for the final CPR exam before obtaining their certification.

THE DOMINICAN TORCH
Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief :
Dr. Mercia de Souza
The MIT Team (Photography)
Editorial Committee:
Ms Janice Doyle, Sr. Socorro Teofilo O.P.,
Mr John Erick Moje



Mr Wakeling and Mr Black pictured here in training. They are now certified and able to cope with an emergency .



Mr Konraad Kordula and Mr James Henselman are practicing to save their “patient”.

World Scholar's Cup

DIS Students Compete in the Hague

by Joshua Ramos, G12

Six high school students, Joshua Ramos, Aaron Chen, Davin Seo, Charm Felipe, Andrew Chen and Evan Chang, competed in the World Scholar's Cup Global Round held in the Hague this summer along with their coach, Ms. Janice. The World Scholar's Cup is a team academic competition, which consists of testing, debating, and writing events based on six subjects. Students explore topics revolving on the 2019 theme, "A World on the Margins". The subjects ranged from mysteries like Cicada 3301 to minority groups like the lumpenproletariat. Aaron Chen, one of our representatives, described the experience to be like "three goldfish entering an ocean". It was a week of rigorous competition, having to face top scholars from all around the world. Nonetheless, it was without a doubt an unforgettable experience that left all of us motivated and brimming with a spirit for learning. We collectively earned 33 medals, and both teams qualified for the final New York round, the Tournament of Champions.



The World Scholar's Cup team with Ms Janice in the Netherlands



World Scholar's Cup

Global Round in Manila by Sana Endo, G 12

On September 5, 2 Middle School and 18 High School students, accompanied by Ms Janice Doyle, Ms Agosh Libreia and Mr Erwin Descaya, flew to Manila for the World Scholar's Cup global round.

We brought back 2 trophies and around 90 medals, and all our teams qualified for the final round, the Tournament of Champions that will be held at Yale University. Some of us were in the top 100 teams and the top 100 scholars.

We dedicated all the free time we could find to study for the event. From the ride on the bus to Taoyuan International Airport, to waiting for our luggage at Manila International Airport, our heads were buried in our study notes. A lot of us did not listen to Ms. Janice when she repeatedly told us to "Sleep early!" which resulted in somebody being late every single morning.

After the closing ceremony, which included a lot of shouting, tears (mostly of joy, and a few of regret) and hugs, we saw that everyone's hard work had paid off. A few of us not only excelled at the WSC competition, but also in escaping from the mystery room, a game called The Escape Room, in a mall. Although we were all tired by the last day, all of us had thoroughly enjoyed the Manila trip.



Masquerade Night 2019



Sara Verplanken
(Grade 4) as Frida
Khalo, the revered
Mexican artist.



The Grade 10 boys
from the Jurassic
period.



Minki Mabasa with her mom
Ms Sibongile Mabaso talking to
Confucius (who looks a lot like
Ms Carolyn)

Grade 4 BI John of Vercelli



Sports News by Gustl Pido

Many Medals for Swimming

Our DIS Middle and High School Swimming Team came back with bags of medals from an international swimming event. Coach Joy and their Parents went with them to MAC-Taichung for the 2019 TISSA and Asian International School Swimming on September 20 and 21. Here are the results:

Grade 9 Ken Miao: total of 7 gold medals

- Gold medal 200 Medley Relay
- Gold medal 200 freestyle Relay
- Gold medal 400 Medley Relay
- Gold medal 100 Freestyle
- Gold medal 200 Freestyle
- Gold medal 400 Freestyle
- Gold medal 50 backstroke

Grade 8 Ray Liao: total of 3 gold medals

- Gold medal 200 Medley Relay
- Gold medal 200 freestyle Relay
- Gold medal 400 Medley Relay

Grade 7 Morrison Tseng: total 3gold medals+2 silver medals

- Gold medal 200 Medley Relay
- Gold medal 200 freestyle Relay
- Gold medal 400 Medley Relay
- Silver medal 50 Breaststroke
- Silver medal 200 Breaststroke

The swimmers' parents are very supportive.

The Javelin Throwers Jonathan and Brandon with Coach Pido participated in the Taipei National Athletics Meet on September 22. This is the first time that Dominican International School, Taipei joined the national game and according to the participants, this meet is really tough. There were 51 athletes from different schools in Taiwan who participated.



Varsity Football Boys Team participated in the TISSA Qualifying round in Taichung on September 21. They were accompanied by their coach, James, and the Team Manager, Ms Janice.



The DIS Swimming Team



DIS Tennis Stars

by Emily Lacangan

On October 5th, the DIS Tennis Team went to Taipei European School to attend their first TISSA Tennis Tournament.

The four tennis players who represented DIS exhibited great vigor and wit in the event. The games started at ten o'clock in the morning and was a whole day event that ended at five o'clock .

The DIS spirit that was present throughout the game allowed them to achieve the top goal. Anna Hsu from Grade 7 became the Champion in the Girls Tennis Singles Category. She had a winning streak of 6 straight wins against her competitors from Taipei European School and American School of Taichung. Hsu's undeniable skills were showcased during this glorious moment.

Meanwhile, Leo Hsu got 7 straight wins with 1 loss against Taipei European School with a 2-point difference. Leo Hsu of grade 6 became the 1st runner up of the Boys Tennis-Singles Category.

The optimistic spirit and effort of Roy Hsieh and Jonathan Chen during the event was incomparable. According to them, they learned a lot and enjoyed the game tremendously.

They even had the opportunity to meet and greet Taiwan's top tennis player - Hsieh Su-wei. All of the players present felt more inspired to become exceptionally good in tennis.



Anna Hsu, champion in the Girls Tennis Singles Category.



Leo Hsu became the 1st runner up of the Boys Tennis-Singles Category.



The DIS Tennis Team with Ms Emily and Ms Jocelyn