



CLASS OF 2021



Message to the Class of 2021 **from Sr Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P., DIS Principal**



Dominican International School has been a second home to you, my dear students, a home where you enjoyed learning, and meeting friends and teachers who helped you in your growing process. That is why the school gave you only the best, most competent teachers and much updated facilities, so that you could develop your talents and discover your other gifts. This is the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic and we wish and pray for everyone's safety. In spite of the situation, we are still more fortunate than ever, therefore we need to keep our spirits positive and high. As Dominicans we are bound to stand courageous and will remain stronger together. We take pride in and uphold these principles in our educational leadership.

Another important aspect of our school that we can be proud of, is its long years of existence, besting other schools in service of education. The WASC Accrediting Commission for schools, during a mid-cycle visit, reaffirmed Dominican International School's accreditation through the end of the current accreditation cycle ending on June 30, 2023. This means that you too are a part of the honor of a great school, which has weathered all challenges and reaped the fruit in order to help students such as you on this part of the globe.

We are so proud of you. I am sure you have embraced our School-wide Learning Outcomes, which are the virtues and values of our school: Truthful, Organized, Reflective, Courageous, Helpful, also grateful and many others. You can add more interpretations to the TORCH acronym, because you learned and experienced so much. That is also a reason why you can be declared graduates of this prestigious school. Continue to be good persons. Always have a zest for life and the enthusiasm to learn new things in the everyday wonders around you. Most of all, always be respectful and grateful, as these qualities lead you to a better life. Here's a quote from the philosopher Seneca, "It takes the whole of life to learn how to live..."

As you leave your Alma Mater, proclaim not only in Taipei, but wherever you go that Dominican International School taught you to be upright citizens of God's Kingdom and your country. Do come back to your Alma Mater, your second home, and we will always welcome you with open arms. Congratulations, Class of 2021!

Celebration of the Dominican Laity Novice Investiture

by John Erick Moje



The Dominican Laity Novices of St. Martin de Porres with Sr. Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P.

On March 19, 2021, on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, active members of the Dominican Laity of St. Martin de Porres at Dominican International school, Taipei, responded to the call of God to seek a richer and deeper spiritual life. They were successfully elevated to novices during the recently concluded Dominican Laity Novice Investiture held at the DIS chapel. This momentous event was presided over by Rev. Fr. Tomasz Zalewski, O.P., the spiritual Companion of the group and graced by the Dominican Sisters of Dominican International School Taipei, Blessed Imelda and Dominican International School, Kaohsiung.

Solemnized by Rev. Fr. Tomasz, the candidates for Novitiate were challenged to dedicate themselves to a life of prayer that is founded on the living Word of God, and to preach the Truth of Christ from graces received in interior silence, fervent prayer, and assiduous study. They are “distinguished both by their own spirituality and by their service to God and neighbor in the Church. As members of the Order, they are expected to participate in its apostolic mission through prayer, study and preaching according to the state proper to the laity” (The Fundamental

Constitution of the Lay Dominicans 4).

The holy celebration formally commenced with the procession of the Dominican Laity and the presider. Guided by the light of St. Joseph’s candle, they serenaded the Patron with the beautiful Hymn, “Holy Patron Saluting”, and recited the Consecration to St. Joseph.

The intertwined significant events during the Eucharistic celebration gave honor to St. Joseph. Essentially, this celebration formally welcomed the novices to the Dominican Family.

Sr. Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P., the Religious Assistant of the group, recommended and confirmed the candidates for novitiate. She also assisted the presider with the distribution of the Scapular to remind all the novices about the importance of the group’s Marian character. Wearing scapulars is a reminder to the novices of their Marian devotion---to imitate the praying Virgin who kept the word of God in her heart setting aside some time to meet God in prayer, meditating on the mysteries of salvation.

Reader's Theater 2021

For the past two years, Reader's Theater has been part of the Grade 1-5 curriculum. It is the Lower School's Reading, Practice, Performance, and Literacy Competition. It is also the Lower School students' preparation for the Young Shakespeare Playwriting Competition when they do not interpret the plays, but write them.

The students did a great job with their performances and showed their creativity through props, inflection of voice, and acting. However, the reading was the main attraction of this competition in which all students read with passion, comedic affect, and a general sense of confidence in reading short plays beyond their grade level and for some their English level.

Father Thomaz Zalewski opened the Elementary School's Reader's Theater with prayer to bless the hard work of the students. Opening remarks from Sister Zenaida Ancheta, O.P. and Dr. Mercia de Souza encouraged excellence and thanks for preparation of future leaders. Dr. Mercia stated that this was the first time that Reader's Theater had been live-streamed from the auditorium because of the COVID-19 virus and that she was excited to introduce this prestigious event to the rest of the school. Because of COVID-19 the 2019/20 competition had to take place in every grade's homeroom with the judges moving from class to class. This time, the students could be on stage. The competition was hosted by MCs from Lower School Campus Radio.

This year's winners :

Lower School Junior Competition

Grade 3 Blessed Imelda EAL Class—" The Chocolate Touch"

Winners in the Grades:

Grade 3 Bl. Imelda

Grade 2 Bl. Cecilia

Grade 1 Bl. Mannes de Guzman

Lower School Senior Competition

Grade 4 Bl. John of Vercelli - "Tattle Tongue"

Winners in Grades:

Grade 4 Bl. John of Vercelli

Grade 5 St. Martin de Porres

Congratulations to the teachers, Ms Mafalda Wu - Junior competition and Ms Lize van Dyk - Senior Competition.

Praise Peter from Grade 4 Bl John Vercelli has been in the winning team two years in a row. Last year she was in the Junior Competition winning team, and this year in the Senior Competition winning team.

A special thanks to Sister Zenaida Ancheta and Dr. Mercia de Souza for making the Reader's Theater possible in the face of COVID-19. Thanks is also given to judges, Mr. Ian and his team for the Live Streaming, and Lower School teachers for the guidance, encouragement and hard work for preparing the students for the competition.



Young Shakespeare Competition 2021

By William Wolfe

The play's the thing, so says Hamlet. But what if the pandemic is the thing? Then what happens to the play?

In Shakespeare's day, the playhouses often found themselves shuttered due to outbreaks of the plague. Homeless actors headed for the safety of the wide-open countryside and small villages where the works of Marlowe and Shakespeare and Ben Jonson drew small crowds, but crowds with coins in their pockets nonetheless. Protection from the plague might not have been guaranteed, but even in a pandemic, actors got to eat. You did what you had to do. The shows had to go on.

Young Shakespeare 2020 presented DIS students with challenges similar to those faced by actors on the Elizabethan stages. Where do you go, and how do you present your art, when the playhouses are gone, when there's no crowd, no laughter, no applause? The stages of DIS did not exactly disappear, but with audience restrictions and pandemic concerns, the teachers and students of DIS had to adapt, and adapt they did. The shows went on.

DIS actors and directors traded the Globe-sized gymnasium stage for the cramped confines of the auditorium boards, and within that limited space the DIS students found the creative inspiration that made YSC 2020 a memorable success. They took that smaller arena, and the limitations that came with it, and delivered performances that were as big as ever. Best Actress Minkie Mabasa (*The Blank Charter*, Grade 10 St. Albert), and Best Actors Brandon Huang and Morris Yu (*The*

Virus, Part II, Grade 11 St. Anthony), took home top acting awards in the High School division, while Best Actress Catherine Wu (*GONE Viral*, Grade 8 St. Agnes) and Best Actor Aiden Nieh (*Lost & Found*, Grade 8 St. Catherine) won top performing honors in the Middle School ranks.

Grade 8 St. Catherine's Ocean Tang won Best Director (Middle School) for *Lost & Found*, the same play that collected Best Script and Best Play honors. Grade 11 St. Anthony's play, *The Virus, Part II*, completed the same sweep in the High School division, winning Best Script and Best Play, with Best Director honors going to James Kao.

Supporting Actress awards went to Melanie Leningan in *GONE Viral* (Grade 8 St. Agnes) and Irene Hsu in *The Virus, Part II* (Grade 11 St. Anthony). Awards for Best Supporting Actor were given to Jimmy Tsao in *Lost & Found* (Grade 8 St. Catherine) and Eric Chang and Josh Lee for their roles in *The Virus, Part II* (Grade 11 St. Anthony).

While the big winners were *Lost & Found* and *The Virus: Part II*--collecting 12 of the year's 24 awards--other shows also grabbed some hardware.

In the Middle School division, Best Technical Effects went to Grade 7 St. Thomas for their play, *Blank Slate*. Grade 7 Blessed Jordan took the prize for Best Musical Performance, with their song-and-dance routine in *The Royal Hostage*.

Two High School awards went to Grade 10 St. Peter. Their play, *Fool's Gold*, won Best Props and Best Musical Performance.



New Learning Opportunities Amidst the New Normal

By John Erick Moje

Grade 12 students during the synchronous webinar in the Religious Studies Class.



Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director, elucidated that “The number of children who are hungry, isolated, abused, anxious, living in poverty and forced into marriage has increased. At the same time, their access to education, socialization and essential services including health, nutrition and protection has decreased. The signs that children will bear the scars of the pandemic for years to come are unmistakable.”

The impact of COVID-19 is widely felt not only in the health sectors but also in the academe. The transition period from the traditional face-to-face teaching modality became a challenge to all schools around the globe. Dominican International School is proud of its initiatives to embrace this new learning opportunity in the spirit of hope and resilience. Google Meet became a popular platform to discover and hone digital skills not only among students but also among teachers.

Grade 12 students, during their Religious Studies Classes, conducted screencast conferences and a Google Meet Webinar to further utilize technology in facilitating quality, innovative, relevant, and transformative instruction.

Some grade 12 feedback, using the new teaching modality in Religious Studies Class were as follows:

- “The online webinars left a deep impression.”
- “In religious studies classes, he tried to incorporate other topics with his class, he tried to make his classes more interesting. The webinar activity made the classes more interesting than ever.”
- “I think the Google Meet teaching left me a strong memory. Especially in this time of pandemic, I think it was a creative way to do teaching during class.”
- “I feel that I am more well-rounded. It is an effective method, which allows me to complete a substantial amount of work.”
- “Most of the project based learning was really meaningful. I personally liked the 7 catholic social teachings one as it covered a lot of important topics.”

- “I think the activity of spreading the message of anti-bullying through webinars is the most memorable for me because it is a meaningful thing to do.”
- “Being able to employ different learning skills into one same learning task allowed me to develop my communication skills. Webinars and face-to-face communication shortened our distance from one another, thus becoming memorable and meaningful activities.”
- “The blended learning techniques enabled us to learn various techniques one at a time. This was a precious chance for us to explore more and also to learn more. The most memorable and meaningful learning activities for me was the online presentation. Although all students were face to face while having the online presentations, we were able to reflect on ourselves and learn from others immediately.”
- “In terms of the difference in the effect of teaching through a webinar or within the traditional classroom setting, I think we learned a lot and enjoyed our time when we were giving our own presentations or when we were listening to Mr. John's lessons. It was fun seeing people's faces on the screen and all of us responding on the chat box.”
- “I think the most memorable and meaningful activities are when we look at the people in need and the pandemic situation. We learn how to protect each other and help each other. We learn them through researching and working with our teammates which really gives us a deeper memory.”

Ceydric Gustl C. Pido



Congratulations Dr Gustl B. Pido and Ms Coney Marie Catalan Pido on the birth their sweet baby boy, Ceydric Gustl C. Pido.

He was born on February 19th, 2021 and baptized in the school chapel on April 17th, 2021. The Dominican Sisters came from far and wide to attend this very special occasion, and this privileged young Catholic had no fewer than three priests in attendance! They were Rev. Fr. Narcissus Estrella Jr., OP , a dear friend of the DIS family, Rev. Fr. Tomasz Zalewski, OP , the School Chaplain, and Rev. Fr. Felix Au visiting from the diocese of Guxing in Malaysia.

Members of the school administration and other friends of the Pido family filled the chapel to capacity. Ceydric joins the other “DIS grandchildren”. They are the children of our teachers and staff who were born while one or both parents were employed at DIS.



The DIS Commitment to the Education of New Teachers

This school year, we welcomed **Edric Lin, Alston Chang, Cheyne Turck, and Elise Larmuseau, our student teachers for Spring 2021**. DIS is one of the few schools in Taiwan that accepts student teachers and allows these teachers to successfully complete their practicum in education. At this time of Covid-19 teachers-in-training from Europe, the US and Canada requested our help. DIS has a reputation for offering excellent mentorship to aspiring teachers, and during every new school year the school gets requests from universities worldwide to offer this service to student teachers. The school even had a group of students coming from Hong Kong for teaching practice pre-Covid-19. People who are studying to become qualified educators cannot graduate with a teaching qualification if they have not done the required teaching practicum.

Elise Larmuseau taught Math in the STEM department, Alston Chang taught in the Social Studies department, Cheyne Turck in the lower school, and Edric Lin taught Biology in the STEM department. Alston Chang was a former student of DIS and it was a wonderful treat to have him back with us as he continued to pursue his education. We look forward to hear about their future success in education.

Thank you to the teachers who were prepared to be the mentors for these student teachers—Dr Sophia Lin, Mr Samir Eddio, and Mr Isaac Matere in the Middle and High School. The Kindergarten teachers, the Grade 1 Homeroom Teachers, Mr Eric Williams in Grade 2, and the Grade 3 Homeroom Teachers welcomed Cheyne Turck to their classes.



Edric Lin, Alston Chang, and Cheyne



Elise Larmuseau

The Year of the Ox

This year, DIS had a Chinese New Year Celebration that was in honor of the new hope for students, the faculty and their families during the time of the pandemic.

During the celebration, students performed stories through dance, martial arts, and music. Susan Wu, the Chinese Department Leader explained the Year of the Ox, “People born in the Year of the Ox are hard workers, reliable, strong, fair, and inspire confidence in others. They are also patient, calm, methodical, and can be trusted. Although they say little they can be very opinionated.”

Thank you to all the teachers in the Chinese Department who worked extremely hard to train their students to help usher DIS into the new year. It was a very joyful celebration.



Our DIS Published Author

Congratulations to Ms Susan Wu on her published book, “Travel 7 Continents Around the World”.

All of her proceeds have gone to help Warm Life Charity and have opened doors for her to inspire and teach others in Taiwan. “My book is about how an ordinary person uses different ways to travel seven continents around the world and make their dreams come true. It is a true story that is very inspiring and encouraging. I am very happy that I can share my traveling experiences and also help charity at the same time.”

Ms Susan also holds a record for a decade of straight 5 scores for all her AP Chinese students.



AP Chinese Tea Project

On April 7, 2021, The AP Chinese class conducted a project-based assignment of the background of tea. Students chose different countries and represented their tea and the process of cultivating the tea leaves. Ms Susan expressed thanks to all teachers who supported the students. She stated that the AP Chinese class had a "TEA project" every year. Students not only learn tea knowledge from first hand experience and from textbooks, but they also have a chance to experience a taste of the culture from which they have chosen.

Tea culture refers to how tea is prepared as well as the occasions. Tea is still consumed regularly, both on casual and formal occasions, and an important aspect of Chinese culture.



AP Chinese students at their Tea Project

Good-bye to Teachers



Ms Ismari Kruger

Message from Ms Ismari:

“I trust that all of you are safe and I pray that God will continue to protect us all against COVID-19.

As most of you know, I will return to South Africa at the end of the summer. As our year came to a very abrupt end, I could unfortunately not properly say goodbye to many of you. Therefore, I would like to take a minute to thank each and every one of you who has journeyed with me over the last 5 years. I would keep you for hours if I had to list every person who impacted and changed my life for the better.

It is with great sadness that I leave DIS this week and still feel very unreal to me. It has been an absolute honor to work alongside all of you. I take home with me a DIS suitcase filled with love and memories and absolutely unforgettable times.

Thank you to each of you for being part of my home away from home for the last five years.

A part of my heart will always be at DIS.

May God bless and keep each of you, shine His countenance upon you and give you peace.”



Ms Robin Brantley

Ms Robin Brantley joined us at the beginning of the current school year, but after much soul searching, she decided to return to the United States, amidst great concern about her family during this time of the pandemic. Because of the travel restrictions, she has not seen them for more than two years, and her mother is not getting younger.

The Dominican TORCH will miss her contribution as the Assistant Editor of this publication. In the short time she has been with DIS, she made a substantial contribution to the newsletter and she also created the new website for the Lower School news. The Junior TORCH will be in operation in the new school year.



Mr Anvhu Nguyen

When Mr Anvhu came to DIS, it was to take time away from the seminary where he was in training to become a Catholic priest. Entering the priesthood is a very serious life-long commitment and at the time Mr Anvhu felt that he was not ready yet. He came to Taiwan to spend two years working in a Catholic school in Asia, the continent of his ancestry, to contemplate his lifelong vocation. Now he is ready to enter the priesthood and he is returning to the USA to make the final commitment. We will miss his joyful presence. Our prayers are with him.

COVID AWARENESS Live-streaming school events

By Robin Brantley

During this time of uncertainty and turmoil of COVID ravishing the earth, we have been blessed in Taiwan. Dominican International has been one of the lights in the trouble we face with the virus. In order to combat and prevent the spread of COVID in the school and in families, school events and masses have been live-streamed as students remain in their classrooms. These live streams have also been available for parents to watch online from their devices.

Programs that have been live-streamed included Young Shakespeare Playwriting Competition on November 27, 2020, an annual event in which middle and high school students act in the plays they write and produce themselves. This year's theme was "The New Normal". This year's program was led and organized by William Wolfe and Jenny Pan of the English department.

Other programs that have been live streamed include:

- House Day and Bullying Prevention Month Culminating Activity on Monday November 30, 2020 in which Sister Zenaida and the Campus Ministry organized a campaign to encourage love, unity, and respect among students and faculty to combat bullying;
- Pre-celebration of DIS 63rd Foundation Day entitled, "STRON63R Together" on December 7, 2020 in which celebrations and performances were shown to all students from their homeroom classes;
- Foundation Day Mass and cake ceremony on December 8, 2020, the day in which Dominican International's beginnings are celebrated;

- The Christmas Cantata on December 14, 2020 in which Advent candles were lit and the International Youth Fellowship performed Act 1: For Unto you is Born a Savior and Act 2: The Miracle of Christmas;
- Club Orientation for the Spring Quarter on January 8th in which students from each club described their club and activities;
- Career Awareness Week Opening Program (January, 18, 2021), Career Talk Show (January 20, 2021), College Talk and Career Awareness (January 21, 2021), and Lower School When I Grow Up fashion Show (January 22, 2021);
- Prayer and Young Shakespeare Awards Ceremony on January 25, 2021 in which middle and high schoolers were awarded for their plays and acting;
- Chinese New Year Celebration on February 8, 2021 organized by Susan Wu, the Chinese Department Coordinator; and
- Easter Mass and Initial Sacraments on April 8, 2021 in which Sacraments of Baptism, Sacraments of Confirmation, and Sacraments of the Eucharist were performed.

A special thank you to all who have participated, set up, provided technical support, and the Religious Studies team for leading us in prayer and in performing the Mass.

The school continues to also take other measures such as spraying disinfectant at the entrance of the school, the requirement of masks on campus, and minimal contact of large crowds of students. It is by God's grace that neither students nor teachers have contracted the virus and the school has remained open and thriving.

The WASC Visiting Committee report commended the school for taking these measures.



Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Amen

**Monday Morning Prayer (May 10, 2021):
A Tribute to all Mothers (Live streaming)**

Flow of the Ceremony:

1. Greetings: Campus Ministry
2. Introduction: DIST Selected teachers and staff
3. Poem Recitation: DYM Leaders
4. Prayer and General Intercession: DIST Selected teachers and staff
5. Blessing: Fr. Tomasz
6. National Anthem, Dominican and D'TORCH Hymns
7. Pledge of Loyalty: DYM leader



THE DOMINICAN TORCH

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief : Dr Mercia de Souza
Assistant Editor: Ms Robin Brantley
The MIT Team (Photography)

Editorial Committee: Ms Janice Doyle,
Mr John Erick Moje, Dr Mercia de Souza,
Ms Robin Brantley.

Girls JV Volleyball



Wolves JV Volleyball girls defeated KSS with the score 17-25, 25-17, 25-16. Great job to the JV Volleyball girls!

Coach:
Mr. Anvhu Nguyen
Assistant Coach:
Dr. Sophia Lin
Student Coach:
Morris Yen



On November 18, 2020, Wolves JV girls basketball team had a qualifying game against GCA. Wolves took the win with the score 14-11. Great job to the JV girls! They also went to the TISSA Finals beating TES for the first time.

Coach:
Mr. Gregg Sanders

We are the Champions

Taiwan International School Sports Association Track and Field Championship March 19-20, 2021 was held at Morrison Academy, Taichung. DIS brought home 2 Gold medals, 9 Silver medals and 1 Bronze medal.

Athletes: Brandon Bor-Sheng Huang, Bryan Bor-Wei Huang, Camelia Lei Huang, James Kao, Elizabeth Liu, Michelle Chang, Peggy Margaret Casey, Ella Sarmiento, and Harrison Heish

Coaches: Mr Erwin Discaya , Dr Gustl Pido and

Team Manager: Ms Janice Doyle



DIS brought home the Gold Medal in Javelin Girls Category at TIS-SA Track and Field Championship.
Gold medal:
Camelia Huang



Javelin Throwers won Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in Taiwan International School Sports Association Track and Field Championship.

Gold: Brandon Huang,
Silver: Bryan Huang
Bronze: James Ko