



ESC Newsletter

Issue 6

January 2015

Coming up this month:

- **6 February: ESC Music Concert**
- **9-13 February: Languages Festival Week**
- **13 February: H2 Reports**
- **13 February: Chinese New Year Celebrations**

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And much more!

Welcome from the BSHS Head

Chrysta Garnett, Head of British Secondary and High School Section

A Happy New Year to all of our families across all sections at ESC. Last term already seems like a long time ago, but it ended in fantastic style with an almighty Christmas Carol 'Sing Off' House Competition in the Atrium on the final school day of last year. Our students threw themselves into this inaugural competition, as always and gave our small numbers of student and staff leavers a fantastic send off.

We started our new year with some excellent feedback from Professor Judy Silver at Exeter University, who praised the work we have done thus far on our journey to becoming an internationally-recognised 'Thinking School'. Our virtual accreditation visit is planned in April and we will be the first school in the world to pilot this approach to attaining the prestigious Thinking School

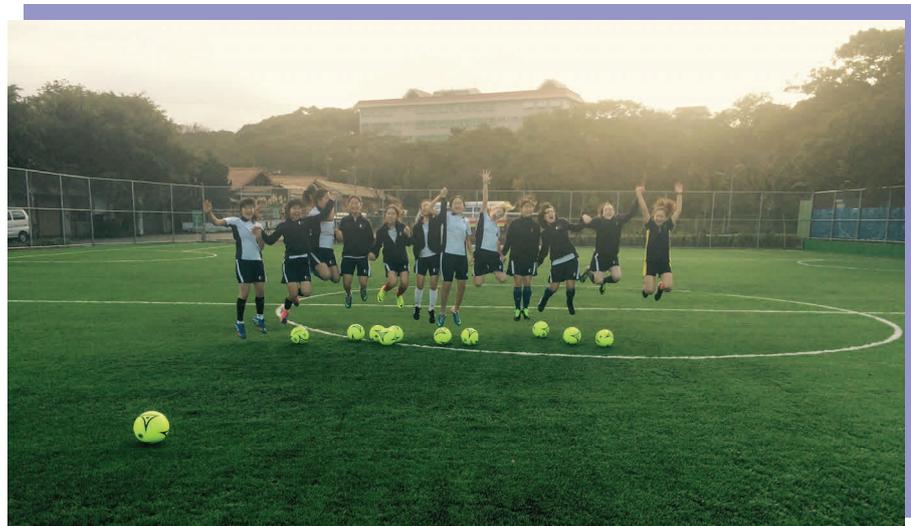
award. More news to follow in April.



Our H2 and H4 students have been more focused than ever these last few weeks during their mock examinations. H4 conducted themselves with their usual committed and studious approach to this critical phase of their IB final preparations and are now busy with their various university applications. Likewise our H2s have had their first experience of formal school exams and not

even an earthquake managed to deter their intense application to the task in hand! We are hopeful that these two very special cohorts will continue to fly the TES flag for academic excellence in the coming months.

Finally, our fabulous new Sports Facility has been christened this month by our ECA sports teams, who have enjoyed the brand new, world class Astroturf pitch and tennis courts. Attention will now shift to the renovations of the buildings, to include changing rooms, clubhouse and fitness suite. We are very excited about how our facilities are continuing to grow on Yangmingshan and our thanks to all members of the school community who are supporting our continual growth in this area.



Message from the Deputy Head

Sonya Papps, Deputy Head

Following the success of last year's inaugural Mother Tongue language celebrations, we have allocated Week 6 (9th -13th February) for our first TES Languages Festival. All sections of the school will come together to learn about, and celebrate, the languages represented within our community; especially focusing on those we speak at school. Plans for the week are well underway and a wide range of

activities and events will be on offer, including competitions, book readings, student films, quizzes, celebration assemblies and two very special author visits. We are very proud to announce that on Tuesday, 10th February, well-known children's author and illustrator Jon Agee will run a Word-play workshop with some of our High School students. On Thursday, 12th February, we will welcome the Pulitzer

Prize nominee Ha Jin, who will offer a talk and a workshop looking at creative writing. More information about these visits, and opportunities for ESC parents to join our Language Festival celebrations, will be sent home next week. Stay tuned for the next edition of the TES Newsletter for a full feature on our Language Festival!

Message from the Assistant Head

James Woodall, Assistant Head

There are two very important events coming up that I would like to bring to your attention so they are in your diaries well in advance.

In March, we will be hosting the U13 FOBISIA Sport Festival here in Taipei. Mr Chow and his team have been working extremely hard to put the plan together to host well over 200 students and staff from five visiting teams. The world-class facilities at Taipei Arena have been secured for the Swimming, Athletics, Football and

Basketball events. The festival will take place from Monday 9th to Friday 13th March. Spectators are obviously welcome to support our boys and girls teams.

Preparations are also underway for the school show, which will run in the final week of Term 2. The Wizard of Oz is going to be a fantastic show for audiences of all ages – full of music, laughter and lots of fun. The cast are working extremely hard to prepare for this. The dates are Wednesday

March 25th, Thursday March 26th and Friday March 27th.

In order to make the show more accessible to primary students and families, we will have a Matinee show on the Wednesday, at 5:30 pm. We hope that primary families will take the opportunity to come and watch the show at this earlier time and that the show will be a sell-out. More information regarding ticketing will follow in the coming weeks.



Focus on Progress

Daisy Rana, Assistant Head

Our H1 and H3 students have now received their full academic reports. We were very pleased with their fantastic achievements and the progress they have made since their previous reports in October. These reports not only show their current grades, but also target specific areas for development and provide the resources and strategies to allow this to happen. Following on from these reports, we will be holding sessions on target set-

ting, in which we will help students to produce an action plan that will enable them to achieve their targets in the long term.

In the next few weeks, the H2 and H4 students will also be receiving their reports, which will focus on the outcomes of their mock examinations. In order to produce these reports and provide effective feedback to students, the teachers, Heads of Year and the leadership teams will have analysed

the results of the mock exams in detail. These will determine the focus and direction of the teaching and learning leading up to the actual examinations. We wish all of our students in H2 and H4 good luck as they enter this very busy revision period.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any additional information on the progress of your child and how to support them.

ESCPA Corner

Jaime Chang, ESCPA

Happy New Year 2015 to our whole TES community! We hope the New Year brings you much Happiness and Success!

As the New Year begins, the ESCPA committee is working with the Student Council and the school to forecast some potential projects that can be undertaken with the funds that we have raised throughout the year.

We are looking for projects that can benefit all the students and also improve the school as a whole. Some of the equipment we purchased last year includes: a Go-Pro camera, film making software and furniture for the study areas. In addition, some new picnic tables were built by a few parent volunteers. Most of all, I think the students were very pleased with the refurbishment of the study areas on the 3rd and 4th floor

of the Phase II building.

We have a lot of events coming up (see call-outs) and we would like to thank all the parents who have signed up to help at these events.

We look forward to reporting to you in more detail on this soon!

**Next monthly meeting:
Friday
13th February
9:00 am – 11:00 am
Phase II Conference Room**

Carnival Day

**Tuesday
10th February
9:30 am - 9:50 am
Phase II Atrium**
Crepes will be offered to all students, teachers and staff



Annual Music Concert

**Friday 6th February
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Phase II Atrium**
ESCPA will be selling pizza, hotdogs, nacho chips and drinks



Welcome Coffee Morning

**Wednesday
4th February
9:00 am - 10:30 am
Phase II Canteen**
Refreshments will be served





At Home Abroad

Text: Lukas Föhr Translation: Helen Gamble ©Lukas Föhr

Biographies

Henrik Engel was born to German parents in Bagdad in 1964 and grew up in the Middle East. Following his studies, he worked in England and Germany. In 2004, he started working at the *St. Michael Gymnasium* in *Schwäbisch Hall*.

Christine Engel comes from *Münsterland* originally. Following her studies, she worked in schools in, amongst other places, *Westfalen*, where she met her husband. In 2008, she followed him to *Hall*, where she worked at the *Schenkensee Realschule*.

To stay and teach in one place their whole lives was never an option for the teaching couple Henrik and Christine Engel. So they packed their bags and left Germany for the Asian metropolis of Taipei.

“Eins, zwei, drei...,” Henrik Engel begins. The children on the coach take their cue and begin to sing “*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht*.” [Silent Night] As the line “*Alles schläft, einsam wacht*,” [All is calm, all is bright] resonates through the coach, the scene flashing by outside the window is of palm trees and the waves of the Pacific Ocean lapping the shoreline.

Henrik Engel is a teacher. Not in Germany, but in distant Taipei. Today he is taking his 5th and 6th grade students on a trip to the *Ju Ming Art Museum*. The trip provides an opportunity to practice their singing skills on the one-hour bus journey to the museum – the school’s Christmas celebration is to take place in only a few days’ time.

Christine and her husband have been living in Taipei, the capital of the island state of Taiwan, between the Pacific and the Southern Ocean, for one and a half years now. Along with their son, Justus, and daughter, Eva-Marie, the couple have travelled 10,000 kilometres east, from Germany’s *Schwäbisch Hall*, to teach the German curriculum to expats and local children at the European school.

The couple previously taught for nearly ten years in the town known as ‘Hall’ in Germany. He taught at the *St Michael Gymnasium* [the German word ‘Gymnasium’ means high school and shouldn’t be confused with the English word *gymnasium*], while she worked at the *Schenkensee Realschule* as a German secondary school teacher. However, the Engels wanted to escape the everyday monotony

us.” Son Justus was at the verge of starting school and daughter Eva-Marie was about to start Kindergarten. Time then, for something new.

August 5th, 2013, 6:15 am: China Airlines Flight Cl62 has just landed after thirteen hours flying time. The Engels arrive in Taipei exhausted. The only thing they know about the city is what they have read in travel

books. The car journey to their new home takes them past endless grey apartment blocks on the outskirts of the city, illuminated by large flash-



ing neon signs. “Oh my God, where have I ended up,” Henrik remembers thinking, as he recalls his first impressions. “The first six months were difficult,” he admits. Even the smallest things can cause problems in a country where the family cannot speak the language and where the culture is alien to them. “Back then I didn’t even know where to do my shopping,” Christine remembers. That’s why the arrival of the shipping container with the family’s possessions was so important: “With the arrival of the shipment, a little piece of home was brought to this faraway place,” says Henrik Engel.

Eventually they started to seriously pursue the dream of moving abroad and sent their application letters to the *Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen* (central administration for education abroad), who are responsible for posting teachers at schools outside of Germany. Shortly thereafter, an offer followed from Taipei European School and the Engels decided to accept. “You are very brave to be taking such a big step as a family with children,” one of Christine’s colleagues remarked. But looking back, Christine reflects “It was actually perfect timing for

By now, the Engels have started to feel at home in Taipei.

(continued next page)

At Home Abroad (continued)

The family enjoy the tasty food, as well as the friendliness of the Taiwanese. “They are much more child-friendly here than back home,” enthuses mum Christine. Their teaching contracts at the Taipei European School will last at least three years. However, they don’t want to stay forever. “We have family and friends back home in *Schwäbisch Hall* that we don’t want to give up,” says Henrik. To keep up the contact with home, the family’s news is reg-

ularly relayed back to Germany via video chat and email. Some teacher friends from the *Hall* have even visited them in Taipei.

The Engels also stayed in their adopted home at Christmas time. “Time wise, it’s not worth it for us to fly back to Germany,” explains Henrik. They celebrated Christmas Eve in traditional fashion at their home in the Shilin district, although they were not able to

track down a real Christmas tree. “We looked everywhere,” says Christine, “but they simply don’t exist here.” Instead they had to make do with an artificial version. For son Justus, however, there was one very important aspect of the Christmas atmosphere that was missing in his tropical Taiwanese home — the thing he loved most about Christmas back home in *Schwäbisch Hall* – snow!



Message from the Student Council President

Steven Liu

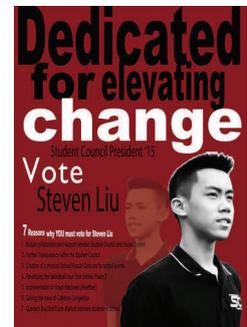
Being elected as the Student Council President is merely the start of an upcoming arduous year. However, the election process beforehand with all the other candidates was commendable and unforgettable.

The process started when the first and only group meeting of candidates and Mr Cornes was held, in which he briefed us on the regulations and boundaries we were required to follow for the election. I knew the election would be a tough one when I witnessed all the other candidates already drawing up ideas for their campaigns.

For my campaign, I had decided that gaining awareness would be crucial. Therefore, I made plentiful posters and flyers to be placed around the school. For my video, I made the extra effort to make sure I explained myself and my motives clearly, while staying on topic. Although every candidate was campaigning like one man (woman) for himself/herself, we all maintained good relations with one another and often shared ideas and suggestions. Throughout the campaign, I learned that appealing to the general public and understand-

ing every aspect of the student body is vital. Being a leader requires more than just public speaking skills and promotional skills. Coming up with eye catching ideas and practical solutions are also very important.

For this year I have many changes and improvements planned around the school that will be implemented in succession of one another and hopefully I can lead the student council team to its most prosperous year ever!



University Counsellors Corner

Summer 2015

Jack Shull, University and Careers Counsellor

Summer for high school students should be a time to discover more about who they are. This may be accomplished by a summer job, doing an internship, attending a summer program on a university campus or visiting universities. For IB students starting their second year, it should be a time to work on their extended essay research project and write university personal statements. This time could also be used to reconnect with friends and spend time with the family; in other words, to relax and take a deep breath after a busy

school year and before the next one begins in August. Hopefully this will not be a summer spent taking weeks, or even months, of intensive 'test prep' classes for university admissions tests. Some test preparation and perhaps a short course would be good for some students.

Summer break may seem far off, but I do encourage students and families to plan early, as many summer programs and internships fill quickly. TES is fortunate to have representatives from summer programs starting to visit and speak to students.

We recently welcomed the Columbia Business Venture Summer Program, whose representatives explained their three-week Entrepreneur Program to the students. We also welcomed the University of California, Berkeley, who introduced their four-week Academic Talent Development Program (ATDP). All of these visits are announced in the Student Bulletin.

There are numerous programs with excellent websites to check out. Here are just a few:

Rustic Pathways

rusticpathways.com

They have service, adventure and education programs for students of all types. These programs are held in many locations throughout the world.

Summer Discovery

www.summerdiscovery.com

One of the World's most popular high school pre-college and study abroad programs.

Oxford Summer School 2015

www.sbcxford.co.uk/SummerSchool2015

Harvard Summer School

www.summer.harvard.edu/

Summer Program for High School Students, Columbia University

ce.columbia.edu/high-school

Cambridge Summer Program

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/

There are many, many more summer programs and I would be happy to assist in advising students and families which one would be a good match.

Students who would like to attend a university tour are encouraged to research one of the TS College Tours to the UK, US East Coast or US West Coast this coming summer. These eight-day/seven-night tours will introduce students to universities, where they will have the chance to experience first-hand what university life is all about, become actively involved in obtaining accurate and reliable information and

have an exciting and educational time with students from other international schools around the world.

There will be student-led campus tours, question and answer sessions with admission officers, meals, activities, and plenty of sightseeing. Lodging will be arranged in hotels located near the schools and in residence halls on campus. Activities on previous tours have included

exploring the areas surrounding the schools, attending athletic and cultural events and shopping in malls and markets. Throughout the trip, participants receive helpful information, counselling sessions, materials and tips on how to make the most of the campus visits. I will be leading the US West Coast tour and more information can be found at www.tscollegetours.com.

Year 7 PSHCE and Service Project

Raymond Imbleau, Head of Year 7

During PSHCE last week, the Year 7s had an opportunity to reflect on how well they did both academically and pastorally in Term 1. Many remarked on how well they analysed Math problems or characters and themes in their English novels. Pastorally, many Year 7s joined ECAs, attended the TES Halloween school dance, volunteered in the Year 7 garden and really got involved raising money for cancer research in Taiwan.

Students were then asked to give themselves new academic and pastoral targets for Term 2. Some Year 7s commented that they want to make sure that they write in more detail when filling in their homework diary, while others made reso-

lutions to pack their school bags at night so that they are organised every morning before school and have the correct books in their bags. Many Year 7s wrote in their PSHCE books that they wanted to stop playing video games at night and start reading more novels. OK, maybe they didn't write that, but there is nothing wrong with wishful thinking, is there?

The Year 7s will now start focusing on 'bullying' and 'internet safety' in PSHCE. We will discuss and work on proven strategies that will help students effectively deal with bullying, as well why classmates should be treated with respect. 'Respect' is one of the Secondary Values at TES and we want

students to be able to demonstrate respect throughout their lives at school and beyond.

Finally, we started our second planting season for our Year 7 Raised-Garden Beds Service Project on January 15th. We planted rosemary, chilli, mustard leaf, spring onions, egg-plant and pumpkin seeds in our garden beds. I hope many parents of Year 7 students have taken advantage of the fresh produce that our gardens have yielded so far; the mint, cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage have turned out really well this year. I made some spaghetti bolognaise last week that turned out pretty well, but would have been much better with a sprig of fresh rosemary in the sauce!



“Achievable goals: the first step to self improvement”

**J.K. Rowling,
Harvard
Commencement
Speech 2008**



News from the English Department

Gavin Matthews, English Teacher

'Google' has become one of those irritating words that has metamorphosed from proper noun to verb, and now Google Docs are on their way to becoming ubiquitous within the school, so we have yet another use of the term to play with. (How should we write of them? Should it be *Google Docs*, *google docs*, *Google docs*?)

Like most people, many teachers veer across the spectrum between Luddite and technophile in their attitudes to all things technological. There is sometimes a suspicion that using new technologies can replace, rather than augment, key elements of education. Within the English Department, however, we have found that using Google Docs has the potential to significantly improve our ability to feed back on work and to encourage our

students to feed back on each other's work.

Students may not always enjoy writing (if the rolling of the eyes when written work is set is anything to go by), but it is essential that they do it and that they understand how and why they are making mistakes. The two great advantages of using Google Docs over exercise books, is that feedback can be a lot quicker and that it can now involve more of a 'conversation' between student and teacher. It has moved some of the significant feedback out of the classroom and thus it means that we are not so constrained by the walls of the classroom.

Within one English class recently, students were set a book to read over the school holidays and asked to write a

reaction to the book. So far, so standard. However, they were then put into pairs and asked to comment on each other's reaction pieces. Each student shared their Google Doc with their pair and the teacher. Next to each document, there soon sprouted conversations through the comment threads about how these pieces could be changed or what made them work. This can be powerful learning.

Students will still need to continue writing with pens and they will still be getting oral feedback (without a doubt the most powerful form of feedback available to the teacher); Google Docs should never replace these activities. What this new technology can do is supplement these old technologies, giving us another tool at our disposal.

Science News

Nicholas Hardy, Head of Science



Collaborative Research in H3

H3 pupils have been conducting ten hours of research towards their Group 4 Project. This is a mandatory part of the IB Diploma course, where all pupils have to conduct ten hours of scientific collaborative research and finally present it on Friday, 16th January. This year's focus area was any aspect of 'Flight'.



3D Cell Models



Some H3 Biology students have been busy making some lovely 3D cell models for Mr Hardy to show their understanding of the structure.

Polarimeter



Mr Weng's H4 Chemistry students have been making a polarimeter to determine different types of amino acids.



Dry Ice

In preparation for Christmas, the Year 7 students experimented with dry ice, which tied-in with their unit on Solids, Liquids and Gases. Students made carbon dioxide bubbles so that Santa could have a relaxing bath after a hard day at the office; they made heavy balloons so Santa could attach them to presents to drop from his flying sleigh; they made fire extinguishers to put out those chimney fires; and they made coloured solutions to colour the snow and show Santa where to go!



News from the Mathematics Department

Milton Lin Achieves Top Score in Maths Olympiad

Helen Gamble, Editor

The International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) is the most prestigious and challenging mathematical competition for high school students. It is an annual event that is held in different countries around the world. It comprises six questions, each worth seven points. The philosophy behind the Maths Olympiad is that anyone with a basic understanding of high school mathematics should

understand the problems and the solutions. Ultimately, it is purely a mathematical challenge of creativity and ingenuity.

In the British Mathematical Olympiad held in December, Milton Lin (H4) scored 100%. When asked what it takes to score top marks in an IMO event, Milton said it was a matter of stamina and mental toughness. He explained: "You have to solve hard problems in

your own way, not by referring to existing theorems. I only practiced for one week, but during the event you have to be able to keep going for several hours."

As for his plans for the future, Milton plans to take part in the Asia Pacific Mathematical Olympiad in March before going on to study Mathematics at university. We wish him every success in both endeavours!



Deeper Learning between Mathematics and Geography

Richard Greaves, Head of Geography

Towards the end of Term 1, Year 9 students were learning a unit on length, area and volume in Mathematics. To contextualise their understanding of the topic and bring it to life more, they chose to take on a mapping project, where they would use various global indicators on a world map, showing the data as proportional shapes between continents. At the end of this project, the students had produced some very nice 2D (and 3D) maps, showing the values for the different data collected. Some examples of these are shown here.

As it stood, this would have been a nice project to help the young mathematicians understand a particular aspect of the subject. However, the project didn't stop there. In Term 2, the focus switches to Geography. Now that they

have produced these wonderful pieces, they are starting to study what these are actually telling them about the world that they live in. The students have now been tasked with analysing these maps and deciding if any two pieces of data could fit together to tell them (and us) a story about relationships that exist in the world.

In Geography, the students are now investigating the relationship between two indicators, by setting a hypothesis, collecting and then analysing data to investigate it. Predictive statements have been produced, such as 'As the GDP per capita of a country increases, CO² emissions will increase' or the very interesting 'Obesity will increase as Internet users increase'. Students will initially investigate these graphically, before un-

dertaking further analysis to fully investigate the relationship. The students will be using the Spearman's Rank Test (something normally reserved for IB level study), a statistical test that allows Geography to repay the favour and direct the study back to its mathematical origins.

The end product should result in students who are knowledgeable about the relationships that exist in the world and how countries develop, who understand space and dimensions a lot better and who have experience in higher level statistical analysis skills that will benefit them in their study at higher levels.





Art News

Sam Hebden, Head of Art & Amanda Marcon, Art Teacher

Shannon Chen wins bronze in Taipei City Art Competition

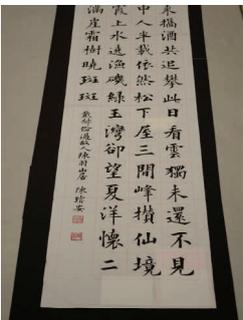


Taipei European School Year 8 student, Shannon Chen, competed in the 2014 Taipei City Art Competition (Calligraphy Category) and achieved a bronze prize for her efforts and exceptional skills in calligraphy. Shannon explained that her inspiration was an ancient Chinese poem in which the author

wrote a remembrance paragraph on his meaningful friendship with U Shan Chen – they shared special memories and good times together.

Shannon first entered this city-wide competition in 2013 and decided she wanted to improve her skills for the 2014 competi-

tion. Shannon has demonstrated through her achievement the attribute of persistence through the reflection of past performance. Congratulations to Shannon on the creation of such a beautiful and delicate artwork.



Hieronymus Bosch

HI students have completed a painting task inspired by Hieronymus Bosch and the 'Garden of Earthly Delights'. The original work, a triptych, inspired students to reflect on their own ideas in response to Bosch's image and generate their own artwork.



Art News



The Values Day RESPECT Piano

Values Day was a great success across the whole school, but it was the Art Department who were responsible for helping to add some colour and music to proceedings by customising the piano found by Ms Dale, Head of Mathematics. Ms Dale was the driving force behind the project and the Art Department were only too happy to get involved!

We assembled a crack team of art experts from each year group and together the students decided on the best way to represent the value of re-

spect by painting and modifying the piano. Inspired by the song 'Respect' by Aretha Franklin, the ideas started to focus on civil rights and how music was a great way for human beings from different races and cultures to celebrate and understand each other's differences. This idea snowballed and is the reason why the piano features Dr Martin Luther King on the mic, as well as a floating Gandhi and a giant roaring lion!

Creating the piano was a true team effort and so the Art Department would like to take

this opportunity to thank everyone involved in its creation:

- From Year 7: Ines Rodriguez and Francesco De Gan
- From Year 9: Khayti Zaveri
- From H2: Allie Hsia, Mini Chen, Elaine Kuo, Ivory Lee, Albert Gesk and Sylvia Tuomaranta
- From H3: Theresa Stoelzel, Christine Hsu, Angela Chen, Yu-Lin Huang and Eros Lin

And a special mention should go to our Head Teacher, Ms Garnett, who stopped by to contribute!

Thanks guys!





Model United Nations

Fabrice Laureti, High School MUN Coordinator

Term 1 was busy for High School students in the MUN club. Twenty-two H2 students prepared for the South Taiwan MUN conference in Kaohsiung. The conference was hosted by the I-Shou international school (義大國際高級中學), an IB school located in the Yi-Da world complex. Experienced and beginner MUN delegates all enjoyed this intermediate-level conference, which attracted schools from as far as Saudi Arabia and the USA.

However, the major event last term took place in Singapore, where nineteen H3 students attended the world-class conference known as THIMUN Singapore. This conference, which requires a solid experience and exceptional skills, is completely student-run. The most renowned schools of Asia are represented in this yearly event. This event also attracts schools from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Australia and the USA. It is an unforgettable experience for students, who develop professional skills and become aware of contemporary issues of global importance. This year, the quality of debate was particularly high. I am pleased to report that our students performed extremely well. Several of our students were main submitters of reso-

lutions. During the lobbying process, they emerged as leaders and they drove initiatives to have a resolution debated in their forum. All students were involved in debates that required high levels of thinking skills and a sharp technical expertise related to social, economical and political questions affecting the world today.

To conclude the term, the school was honoured to welcome Mr David Williams, a renowned MUN pioneer, whose experience spans four decades as an MUN advisor and founding member of the THIMUN Foundation. Mr Williams conducted two workshops with our students, aimed at polishing their skills before their next conference.

What's next?

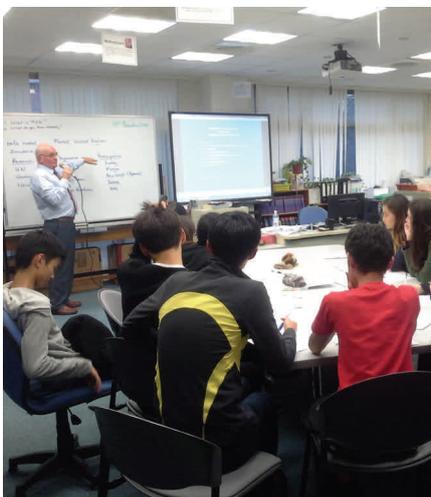
H1 and a few H3 students began preparing for the upcoming Taiwan Model United Nations conference which will take place at the American School in Taichung in April. H1 students will represent China, Congo and Saudi Arabia. Jonathan Tseng (H3), a MUN veteran, will chair the Sustainable Development committee. For the first time, two TES students will participate in a simulation of the International Court of Justice, which is based in The

Hague, Netherlands and which settles legal disputes between countries using international laws. Jenny Li (H3) will be part of the panel of judges who will preside over court proceedings, in a case that involves a dispute between the UK and the Marshall Islands over nuclear tests. Jade Tsui (H3) will be an advocate for the Marshall Islands. In the next few months, Jenny and Jade will have to become familiar not only with the case itself, but also with international laws and court proceedings.

Very soon, a team of brilliant KS3 students will travel to Beijing with Mr Stewart to attend the fifth DIMUN conference at the Dulwich College, another great event in the MUN calendar. Fifteen delegates will be representing Burkina Faso, the USA and South Sudan. It promises to be a great experience for the leaders of tomorrow.

To conclude the MUN year, a few H3 students will attend the YALE MUN conference, which will take place in Taipei in late May. YALE MUN is the last conference our students can attend.

We wish all our delegates every success in their forthcoming conferences.



ASPIRE News

Grace Kennedy, Head of ASPIRE & Helen Gamble



Effective Note Taking

Over the next few issues of the Newsletter, the ASPIRE department will be focussing on essential study skills. Hopefully you will find these helpful as we enter the exam season. This month, we would like to focus on note taking, a crucial skill for all secondary school pupils. Being able to write effective notes will help you to gather and remember important information on a topic. This will help you enormously when it comes to revising for a test or exam.

Benefits of Note Taking

- Stops the mind from wandering and focuses attention.
- Forces the reader/listener to make sense of the text or what is being said.
- Encourages the reader/listener to reflect upon the ideas being discussed.
- Extends memory.
- Acts as a reminder later on.

There are two occasions on which you might need to take notes. The first is taking notes from text and the second is taking notes from what is being said in class (or demonstrated if there is a practical element).

Taking Notes from Text

- Think of what some of the important words might be.
- Scan the text for these words and highlight or underline them.
- Read the parts of the text that contains these key words.
- Skim read each sentence, taking in important facts.
- Decide what is most important and write it down – you don't need to use full sentences.
- You can use abbreviations and symbols – as long as you can understand them later.
- If you organise your notes clearly, they can help you plan a piece of writing.

Taking Notes from Listening

- Write a date and heading at the top of your notes.
- Use the following clues to help you know what to make a note of:
 - Notes written on the board
 - If the speaker repeats a point
 - If the speaker emphasises a point
 - Words like *first*, *secondly*, *in conclusion*, etc.
 - Speaker summarises what (s)he has said
- Keep your notes brief. Use a word or phrase instead of a sentence.
- You can use abbreviations and symbols – as long as you can understand them later.
- Use your own words.
- You can number the main points and use bullet points or indents for minor points.
- If you miss something, leave a space and come back to it later.
- As soon as you have time, go over your notes and, if necessary, add extra points or clarify things.
- Review your notes regularly.

Learning how to take effective notes will help you to improve your study skills. Often students think that because they *understand* something, they will therefore *remember* it. This is not the case. Write it down! Studies have shown that note taking is the most effective study skills strategy and those students who keep notes and review them within 24 hours perform better than those who do not.

As with all skills, effective note taking takes practice. You can practice at home when you are reading or watching something. Why not have a go with your family or friends to see if you use similar strategies and have similar results.

Keep working on your note taking skills and try to think of ways you could improve your notes!

Mexican Cuisine at its Finest

Wanda Snowfrost, Spanish Teacher

In December, the Year 8 and Year 9 students from Mr Peswani and Ms Frost's Spanish classes went on a restaurant outing to Eddy's Cantina in Tienmu. Students prepared for the outing by learning Spanish vocabulary and phrases to order food in a restaurant. Some classes performed dialogues in preparation for the event. The owner, Eddy, who was born in Guadalajara, México, spoke to the students in Spanish asking them for their orders. Enchila-

das, burritos, tacos and nachos were some of the "platos deli-



ciosos" (delicious dishes) ordered and of course to end with there was pos-

tre" (dessert), which was "helado mexicano" (Mexican ice cream). After the meal, Eddy went around to each table and gave out sweets to students who could ask him questions in Spanish. Needless to say, a lot of students were anxious to perform and show what they knew, so there was a lot of candy given out! Overall it was "una tarde fenomenal" – a phenomenal afternoon – for the Spanish students. ¡Buen provecho!

Becoming a Chinese Chef at TES

Flora Sung, Head of Chinese Language and Culture



Can you believe that the delicious dishes shown on these pictures were actually made by our students? You would be even more surprised to find how tasty they were, if you had the opportunity to try them in person!

Ms Melody Lin has creatively

organised a Chinese Cooking ECA this year, which turned out to be one of the most popular activities at school. When it comes around to Friday afternoon, you will often hear people asking about the tempting smells floating in the air. You might also find Ms Lin

surrounded by students eagerly asking questions about the food and recipes they would like to learn how to cook.

Please come and have a try if you are interested in Chinese food. You might become a Chinese chef someday!



TES ESC

15th Annual

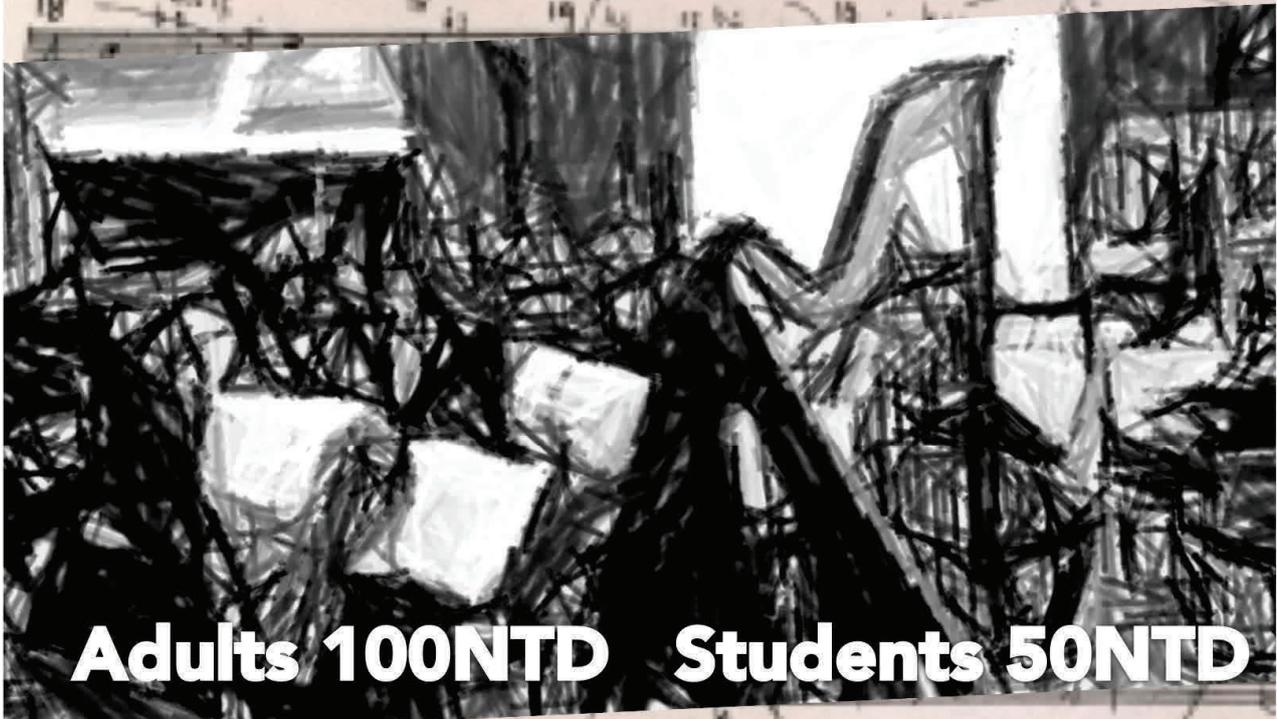


Music Concert

Friday 6th February 7pm

TES ESC Phase II Atrium

31 Jian Ye Road, Yangminshan, Shihlin District



Adults 100NTD Students 50NTD

Tickets available from the Phase I Office

Phone 02 8145 9007 ext 2613 for more information



A Word from the Head of Sport

Kwok Chow, Head of Sport

The end of Season 2 for High School Basketball ended last weekend with our teams performing tremendously well. The highlights were the JVB Girls Basketball team (coached by Francesca Simmons) and JV Boys Basketball team (coached by Ming Chien Li) both bringing home the Champions Trophy from the end of season TISSA tournaments. We were also able to use the new pitch for the first time, the students were so excited!

Season 2 High School Basketball Results

JVB Girls Basketball, coached by Francesca Simmons, TISSA Champions

JVB Boys Basketball, coached by Dylan Bullard, TISSA 4th place

JV Girls Basketball, coached by Chinlin Huang, TISSA 4th place

JV Boys Basketball, coached by Ming Chien Li, TISSA Champions

Varsity Girls Basketball, coached by Chinlin Huang, Invitational Champions

Varsity Boys Basketball, coached by David Lin, Invitational Champions, TISSA 2nd Place



Athlete of the Month

Abdoul Sankara

For his outstanding performances at this years' TISSA basketball tournament.



Invitational TITANS Varsity Boys & Girls Basketball



An excellent day of sport was had today. TES hosted two tournaments for Varsity/Junior Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball. It involved only local University teams and was a great way to reach out and meet students from the local community in Taipei. We also won both tournaments, which was a bonus. A big thank you to AJ, Chin Lin and David for organising and hosting the events.





JV Boys TISSA Basketball Tournament

Report by Jay Lee

On the 17th of January, the JV Boys Basketball team participated in the annual JV Basketball Tournament held by TISSA in Taichung (MCA). The team met up at the EPC on Wen Lin Road at 6:30 am, as we decided to go early to spy on the other teams! Officially, the tournament started at 9:00 am but, as we got there early, we could observe other teams play and come up with counter strategies.

Our first game didn't start until about 11:00 am. It was a match against ISIS. The match was close – at one point we trailed by over 10, but with the entire team's effort, we managed to beat them by around 11. The team highly underestimated ISIS and was taken by surprise.

After a short break, we then took on ICA. ICA was not much competition for us. We beat them by 29, with everyone's contribution.

Our third game was against MAK. MAK were slow to start, but soon caught up with us to even the score. In the end, we prevailed however, winning the game by double digits (12 points).

We were all surprised to be playing DIS in the finals, as we have clashed with them previously at school. Their strategies were easily countered and everyone played well. Their best player, Edward Ho, injured his ankle and their second best player fouled out. The game was extremely close through the first quarter, but we iced the game with free throws in the second quarter, comfortably winning the game by double digits.



JVB Girls TISSA Basketball Tournament

Report by Hannah Kwuo

Waking up in the early morning, the JVB Girls headed to Kaohsiung on the HSR, full of spirit! We got to ISIS at 8:40 am and we warmed up, psyched for our first game against MAK. The MAK team were tough, but the girls managed to win, with a score of 23-12 to us! We knew it was the start of a good day. The second game against ISIS was a game of incredible teamwork and fast breaks by the whole team, which led us to the victory which we worked for, with a score of 32-10! This led us to the semi-finals. In the semi-final match, we played against DIS. We had a lot of fun in this game and still managed to win 20-12, with some amazing shots and steals. For the final game, everyone was extremely nervous, as we were playing MAC, the toughest team in the competition. The game started off well and we scored six points right away. However, the Mustangs recovered quickly with some three-point shots. After Ms Simmons' encouraging words, the TES team started to score some more! The score was 15-15 until the last 5 minutes, when we started scoring layups and shots and the opposing team were not able to score any after that. We ended the game with a score of 22-15 – we were the champions!

Thank you to Ms Simmons for coaching us well during the entire season and thank you to ISIS for hosting the competition! We cannot wait for next season!



JVB Boys Basketball Report

Report by Mason Lee

On January 17th, it was the 2015 JVB Basketball tournament. Eight teams went to compete in the intense matchup to claim the championship at Kaoshiung.

It was a one and a half hour long trip to Kaoshiung from Taipei Main Station to the arena. Once we arrived, we went straight into our first game with KAS. Our first game was very successful, taking a 23-16 victory. All members had a taste of what it means to compete at a high level and this gave everyone a memorable experience.

Our second game was when the real competition came: playing ISIS, the host of the tournament. Unfortunately we couldn't perform at our best, costing us a vital win to qualify. ISIS had outstanding players and there was no way we could stop their onslaught.

We then had another game, in which the JVB team performed really well and won with pride. However, due to the unfortunate loss in our second game, TES did not qualify for the second round.

This experience has taught us to play to our full potential, even when we are ahead, as each point counts and each victory means something. Better luck next year!





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SECONDARY CAMPUS

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Our school has attracted regional and worldwide attention with its unique model for integrating German, British, French, and High School sections in terms of their curricula, administration, finance, buildings and facilities.

The Taipei British School (TBS), Ecole Francaise de Taipei (EFT); and Deutsche Schule Taipei (DST) began around 1990 in response to the needs of expatriate families with young children, living in Taipei. The schools soon realised that there was much to be gained by joining forces to establish a combined European campus. This would allow the schools to share some facilities and resources yet teach their own respective national curricula.

