



# ESC Newsletter

Issue 15

January 2016

## Coming up this month:

- 1-5 February: Languages Festival Week
- 8-12 February: CNY Holiday
- 19 February: H2 Reports
- 22 February: Music Performance Evening
- 26 February: Music Concert
- 29 February: Public Holiday

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And much more!	

## Welcome from the BSHS Head

Chrysta Garnett, Head of British Secondary and High School Section

Dear Parents

Belated good wishes for the start of the new calendar year to our ESC community. In this edition of the ESC Newsletter you will find a roundup of all of our pre-Christmas festivities at the Secondary Campus, as well as lots of exciting updates on events and projects that have already got underway in Term 2 of 2016.

Our thanks and congratulations first of all to our H2 and H4 students who have endured several weeks of revision and mock examinations as they enter the final furlong of their IGCSE and IB studies. The exams went without a hitch, which was a credit not only to our new Operations/Examinations Officer Ms Harris, but also to the H2 and H4 students who conducted themselves so studiously during the process.

Although it already feels like a long time ago, it would be remiss of me not to extend my heartfelt thanks to the TES

Orchestra, the TES Choirs the various drama and musical acts that provided such a festive finale to our Christmas week celebrations. The dramatic power cut that interrupted an already magical performance of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas', with the orchestra playing on by flashlight, only added to the atmosphere! Over one hundred students from the ESC participated in the event, resulting in the entire Atrium stage being crowded by Orchestra and Choir members, leaving very little room for the record audience turn out. Thank you also to the Music Department and the ESCPA for organising the event and providing refreshments.

In this month's Newsletter you will find a great selection of reports across the BSHS that gives a wonderful taster of the range of interesting achievements of our students and learning opportunities on offer at our school. Join us in celebrating our gold medal winning Year 9 national ice skating

champion Sidney Liu; enjoy reading the impassioned letters to the Taiwanese president from our young Geographers on the subject of shark finning; learn how our High School MUN delegates fared in the face of tough competition at their respective conferences; and catch up with some TES alumni courtesy of our UCC Department. Last but not least, the ESC campus enjoyed the spectacle of the recreation of Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker's epic light sabre battle to celebrate not only the release of the much anticipated Star Wars film, but also the Science Department's 'Star Wars' themed Science projects that ran in the penultimate week of term.

The start of February sees the launch of our annual Languages Festival Week celebrations, which will culminate in our traditional Chinese New Year celebrations. As we welcome the Year of the Monkey, I wish everyone in our community Xīn Nián Kuài Lè!



## Message from the Deputy Head

Sonya Papps, Deputy Head

This year we will celebrate our second annual TES Languages Festival. Once again all sections of the school will come together to learn about and celebrate the languages represented within our community and beyond. Our theme for the week is Storytelling and for many weeks teachers across our languages departments have been busy planning a wide range of activities and events that explore the connection between language and storytelling, as well as the special role that stories play in helping cultures and communities create a shared sense of identity. The week's festivities will conclude with our Chinese

New Year celebrations led by the Chinese Language and Culture Department and it promises to be a fun and exciting welcome to the Year of the Monkey! Stay tuned for our feature Languages Week Newsletter, which will once again be produced by our H3 English B students.

Behind the scenes work continues towards our vision for languages provision as outlined in Strategy 2018 – *To be a Centre of Linguistic Excellence*. The cross-section Languages Steering Committee is close to finalising a languages policy that will help guide language options, curricu-

lum design, pedagogical practice and extra-curricular offerings at both campuses. We will continue to keep the parent community informed on the committee's work throughout the year. As was discussed in the Chinese Language Curriculum Information Evening in September, later this term we will publish more information and supporting documents for our new CLC EPC-ESC curriculum.

I wish you a happy and restful New Year Break when it comes next week. All the best for the Year of the Monkey. Xin Nian Kuai Le!

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## Focus on Progress

Daisy Rana, Assistant Head

Following the successful completion of H4 Mock examinations, H2 students have now stepped into the spotlight to complete their IGCSE Mock examination period.

The mock exams aim to provide students with a realistic experience of the examination preparation needed to be successful in the final IGCSE examinations. As the process is designed to mirror the final IGCSE arrangements wherever possible, teachers have been meeting with students to model the productive use of preparation time, as well as

building a realistic revision schedule and managing emotions when under pressure.

H2 Mock examinations finished at lunchtime, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January. With their IGCSE success fresh in their minds, all students will then attend a series of informative discussions and workshops, "Destination IB", which will lead students to consider their long term aspirations, along with subject specialist IB guidance on pathways to help achieve their ambitions.

Once teachers have marked and analysed student results,

students will receive a full Academic Report in Term 2 that will indicate their mock exam result, along with an overall grade, and will provide an accurate, holistic overview of attainment.

We firmly believe in the potential of all our H2 students and have been encouraged by the dedicated approach that students have taken in preparing for these examinations. As always, we are available to guide our students and support them in any way necessary in the coming weeks.

Well done H4 and H2!

## News from the ESCPA

Anna Durmus, ESCPA

Dear ESC community,

Happy New Year to all of you! We truly hope that 2016 will bring all TES families success, health, and all the good luck our kids need for the upcoming exams and college applications!

We in the ESCPA are back with renewed energy and dynamism, new ideas and proposals. We feel that spring is in the air and it gives us hope that the new year will be even better, more productive and enjoyable than the last one.

We had quite a number of events in December and are picking up from where we left off for the holidays. The highlights of the last month of 2015 were undoubtedly the Christmas Bazaar and ESC Christmas Concert, that drew huge numbers of people and helped us to raise money for TES students' projects, as well as charities.

Almost all ESCPA parents were involved in the Christmas Bazaar preparations. Some of our moms were super speedy multitaskers, wrapping Raffle prizes in the morning, baking cakes and cookies at noon and making Advent wreaths after lunch – truly amazing! The period leading up to the Bazaar was long, time-consuming and intense, but it resulted in a wonderful event and gave us all such a rewarding experience! A huge **Thank You** goes to **Iphi**

**Spreter**, PSC Chair and mastermind of the Bazaar, for her strong leadership, uncompromising adherence to quality and endless support and encouragement to her team, to **ESC parents** for finding time to volunteer before, during and after the Bazaar, and, finally, to **ESC students** for being the backbone of this school – this all could not have been done without you and we are proud of you all! We hope everybody had fun at the Bazaar and more people will join our team the next year to make the Christmas Bazaar 2016 an even more remarkable event!

In December we hosted our last vegetarian lunch of the year, featuring roasted root vegetables Moroccan style and Spinach-Pomegranate salad. We have noticed that more and more kids are showing their eagerness to taste the food and compliment our chefs, aka moms! We are happy that volunteers have already lined up to host the new season of Vegetarian Lunches in 2016!

Right before the holidays, the ESC hosted a beautiful and truly Christmassy event – a Christmas Concert. The atmosphere was very festive, with European food, delicious cakes, and mulled wine. The quality of music played by our students and the performances they put on for us were com-

parable to professional performers! Christmas spirit was definitely in the air!

The culmination of 2015 at ESC was the Christmas caroling and Tree Lighting Ceremony, attended by Santa himself! The President of the Student Council, Berkay Onaz, and the President of the ESCPA, Marine Lagarde, lit the tree, wished the students all the best for the upcoming year and gave out candy canes to the students.

To begin 2016 on an inspiring note, we have just had the first Coffee Morning at ESC, which was very well attended. The new ESC parents appreciated meeting key ESC teaching and administrative staff members from the British, French and German sections and being given a tour around the campus by the Y7 students.

On behalf of all the ESCPA parents, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the ESC community a Happy and Successful New Year of the Monkey. Have delicious and relaxing holidays, wherever you celebrate. May there be love and peace in your hearts, your families and all around you!

Until we meet you all again in February 2016,

Sincerely Yours,

ESCPA





## Drama News

Rowena Bracken, Head of Drama

### HI Step into the Limelight

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November, the HI Drama class staged three short performances, giving them their first opportunity to perform in public.

The IGCSE devising unit encourages students to look at a stimulus and create a performance in response to it. This class chose to explore a real life story about a young girl who encouraged her boyfriend to take his life via text messages.



Each group looked at the stimulus from a different perspective, using a range of theatrical devices to bring their narrative to life.

This process is an excellent example of how collaboration and creativity play a valuable role in students learning. The level of commitment and ownership of each piece was excellent and each member of the class stepped outside their comfort-zones to perform really engaging pieces. The class set a really high standard of what is yet to come on the course.



### Year 8 Explore Cirque Du Soleil's Theatrical Techniques

Each class has looked at clowning skills, choreographing dance sequences, makeup design and using colourful and symbolic costumes. Some of the classes have developed this work into

a whole class performance piece that will be performed at the Christmas Music Concert on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. The students have been really enthusiastic about their work and

have shown exceptional creativity and collaboration.



### HI Panto for Primary

During the last week of term, HI students performed the pantomime *Cinderella* for students at the Primary School. They looked fabulous in their colourful pantomime costumes and it's been a wonderful way for them to share their talent and enthusiasm for performing with younger members of our school community.

## English News - Studying *The Simpsons*

Helen Bacon, English Teacher

In English, Mr Bracken and Miss Bacon have taken on a non-fiction writing unit for the Year 8s using *The Simpsons* as an exciting and entertaining stimulus. The students have met the challenge of writing a range of texts that use satire, subversion, argument and pattern reforming. We have been spoilt with humorous speeches and newspaper letters on vegetarianism, satirical role-plays on

the prospect of extending the school day and transcripts on gender stereotyping.

*The Simpsons* has proven to be a fantastic stimulus, offering opportunities to explore topics that are controversial and open to debate, as well as being a fun and accessible route into discussing important social issues.

In the final weeks of term, we combined both classes, giving

the students the opportunity to work with others outside their English group on a *Simpsons* Christmas project (The Christmas Film Festival) that enhanced their understanding of the concepts they had been learning, and allowed them to embrace an independent learning working environment.



## Change for Change

Julie Dale, TABITHA Team

Do you have spare change lying around that you don't know what to do with? Well now is your chance to empty your pockets of all those copper coins and donate them to a good cause! The Tabitha team is collecting your change to make a big change for Cambodian families who need help. Every tutor group has a change pot and, when full, each pot will hold at least



NT\$1000. If every tutor group fills one pot, we will raise enough money to buy one family a new home. So dig deep and donate your loose change today! There are also collection points in the school offices – look for the clay houses made by our TABITHA team.

All funds raised go directly to the people in need so, do a

good deed and please give generously!





# Christmas Bazaar



# Christmas Bazaar

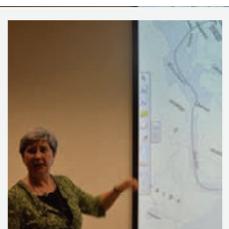




**Dr Gabriele Dorfstecher**



**Susanne Hornfeck**



## German Authors visit the Secondary Campus

Theresa Stölzel, Henrik Engel (German Section) and Helen Gamble

As Theresa Stölzel, an H4 student, expressed it perfectly: “*War experiences can harm people, especially young children, or traumatise them forever. Many of them then try to record those events and experiences in later years, if not as an autobiography, then as a novel. There are plenty of books about the Third Reich and the Second World War, which serve as a catharsis. In this respect, Goethe’s words from Maxims and Reflections of 1821 – that ‘story writing is a way to get the past off one’s back’ – still applies to this day.*”

Addressing this issue, the German Editor, Dr Gabriele Dorfstecher, visited the ESC on November 12<sup>th</sup> and spoke to our students. She read an excerpt from an autobiography and discussed with students from all sections the current right-wing populism in Germany. Only a week later, on November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Author, Translator, and Editor, Susanne Hornfeck, visited our school to introduce our students to her young adult fiction *Cakes with Chopsticks* (published by Hanser / dtv., Munich 2012). Both visitors gave their young listeners a vivid insight into working as a Translator, Editor, and Writer and therefore into the creative process, from writing manuscripts to liaising with the editors of the publishing house.

Ms Hornfeck’s lecture began with a slide show of Shanghai in the 1930s, which she compared to images of the same scenes as they are today. Her historical

research forms the basic structure for her second novel *Cakes with Chopsticks*, in which she embedded only a few fictional elements. The experiences of the protagonist, Inge, as she escapes from Germany to Shanghai after the *Kristallnacht* in 1938 and the persecution of the Jews, as well as her parents’ onward journey of to post-war Sydney, are linked with the historical events in the lives of a Jewish family in the Chinese metropolis Shanghai. The author previously used this mixture of fact and fiction in her first novel, *Ina from China* (published by Hanser / dtv., Munich, 2007), which was based on the biography of Chinese-Taiwanese Aline Siao Ma, who was born in Shanghai, escaped from the Japanese invasion to Germany, grew up near Berlin, and fled the terror of Bomber Harris to Switzerland and later to Taiwan. Ms Siao is still living and working in Taipei as a Translator, Editor and former Professor of German Language and Literature. Ms Hornfeck was able to enrich her fiction with facts, not only by reading many diaries of the some 18,000 German-Jewish immigrants to Shanghai, but also by talking to some of the few survivors of this emigration who are still living in Los Angeles today.

Our students read some passages from the novel, which they presented and discussed in class and later compared these to their own writing about their impressions of Taiwan

and Germany. The keen interest in Susanne Hornfeck’s lectures was evidenced by the active participation of our students and the depth and variety of their questions, only some of which were answered due to a lack of time. But such is the daily life of students and writers: one is always rushing to their next lesson, the latter to their next speaking engagement. Nonetheless, it was an enriching experience for both sides, one which provided a welcome break from our fast-paced teaching.

Dorothea Dorfstecher’s early years were also influenced by the aftermath of the 3rd Reich and the 2nd World War. Dorothea was evacuated from Berlin, along with hundreds of other children, because the allied airstrikes were reaching the German capital more frequently. Although the ten-year-old girl suffered extreme homesickness due to the evacuation, she learned to overcome this and to take care, not only of herself, but also of other girls her age. Back in Berlin towards end of the 3rd Reich, she became aware of how far the war had advanced, as hardly a night went by when the sirens didn’t wake her up and force her to spend the remaining hours in a bomb shelter. All this and more can be read in her book *Ich geh runter trieseln! Kindheitserinnerungen von Dorothea Dorfstecher*, (Berlin 2010), which will, thanks to the efforts of our librarian Elizabeth Chen, soon be available in our library.



## German Section learn about *Sinterklaas*

Henrik Engel, German Section Teacher

The main focus of our German Section Christmas party on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December was to introduce and inform our parents, students and even teachers about Christmas customs in other European and non-European countries.

Students specifically chose those countries in which Christmas is celebrated differently from the traditional German Christmas. For example, you wouldn't believe how differently the Christmas season is celebrated in the Netherlands, which is, after all, one of Germany's closest neighbours.

Our students worked very hard to pronounce difficult Dutch words and sounds correctly in order to present Dutch customs and traditions at their Christmas party. Luckily, Helen Gamble from the British Section, who grew up in the Netherlands, was on hand to help the students out with the history of the Dutch *Sinterklaas* (St Nicholas) tradition, as well as with the Dutch pronunciation. This proved to be a great opportunity for some cross-section collaboration at the ESC.

During the course of their research, students discovered that the British imported the Christmas tree idea from Germany during the reign of Queen Victoria (her husband, Albert, was a member of the German Saxon-Coburg family); the Americans copied lots of German Christmas customs (and brought them to Taiwan); and that the name *Santa Claus* was taken from the Dutch word *Sinterklaas*.



**“Sinterklaas”  
St Nicholas**



**“Zwarte Piet”  
Black Pete**



**“Schimmelpaard”  
Dappled Horse**



**“Zak van Sinterklaas”  
Sinterklaas' sack**



**“Schoen zetten”  
Putting out your shoes**



**“Suikergoed”  
Sweet treats**



**“Stoomboot”  
Steam Boat**



## Science News

### The Science of Star Wars

Andrew Hill, Head of Science

See a special presentation of this introduction [online](#).



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BE WITH YOU!



It was the last week of Term 1 and *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* was being released in cinemas. Lessons were transformed into opportunities to examine the occurrence of energy, power, light and force in *Star Wars*.

On Thursday, Science teachers managed to acquire *Star*

*Wars* costumes and impersonate their favourite characters in the name of popular science fiction.

The highlight was an epic recreation of the light sabre duel between Darth Vader (Mr Rob Neroutsos) and Luke Skywalker (Mr Paul Wright) in the Phase 2 Atrium during Thursday first break.

The story of *Star Wars* draws on the scientific knowledge of its audience and their willingness to suspend disbelief, give non-science the benefit of the doubt and accept that some things might be validated by science in the future. Students and staff enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate this at TES.



### Creating 'In Digestion'

Rob Neroutsos, Science Teacher



Year 8 Science students have recently completed their study of Nutrition and Digestion. Having learned about important nutrients, digestive system organs and processes, they were given the task of designing a board game that other students could play. Over a number of lessons, the class came up with their own rules, question and answer cards, as well as the game board design. The results were truly impres-

sive, as they were fully 'absorbed' in the work and



produced some outstanding games. Themes were based on Snakes and Ladders (where

food went down and acid reflux came up), Monopoly (where gamers had to earn money to buy organs), as well as some completely original ideas and entertaining questions. As part of their revision, students played each other's games and even lent them to another class to ingest! Overall, a very satisfying diet of fun was enjoyed by all!

## Enhancing Learning Through ECAs

Grace Kennedy & Paul Kennedy

This year has seen the launch a new Extracurricular Activity: The Study Skills ECA, organised and delivered by Mr Kennedy from the ASPIRE department. This ten-week course was delivered in the first term of the 2015-2016 academic year and was attended by several of our KS3 students. The course is designed to help students enhance their learning by acquiring crucial study skills and effective study habits, such as note taking and essay planning.

The course began with students exploring their own individual learning styles and strategies to help maximise how they learn. Later we re-

searched and discussed some ways to help organise their time better, using the school diaries to help map out their weekly schedules. We then moved on to other key skills, such as note taking and scanning and summarising text. The latter part of the course focused on planning and preparing for essay writing.

The feedback from the students has been extremely positive; they all believe that they have gained a great deal from the course and feel that these skills will be beneficial in their everyday academic lives. They are aware that having such skills are paramount to success as they move through

This is the third year of our KS3 Homework Club and, whilst numbers have been a little low, the quality of work completed by students and the support offered by staff has remained as high as ever.

This ECA allows students to be in a quiet and supportive environment where they can receive support whenever necessary. For students transferring from either our EPC or another school entirely, this club is a great way to acquire positive habits around the completion of homework. It is also an opportunity to ask

questions that allows them to understand what doing homework entails. For example, many students felt rather overwhelmed by some initial tasks and required guidance on areas such as how to organise their task, how long to spend on it and the quality required. From time to time we had various staff members drop in to offer support in their area of expertise, something I hope to be able to continue next session.

This term, all of the students attending the ECA were from Year 7 and were afforded not

This term Mrs Kennedy will be offering a new ECA alongside her Homework Club. This new activity will be learning to touch type. The ability to be able to touch type will be invaluable, not just in school but in later years, whether it be at university, college or in the workplace. Ms Garnett

summed up the advantages of being able to touch type very well: *"Learning to touch type was honestly one of the most valuable skills that I learned at school. Not least because I can show off my ability to type a letter blindfolded (with only a few errors!), but mostly because of the invaluable amount of time it has saved me*

school to IGCSE and IB examinations.

As a result, the course will again run in Term 2 and will once more be open to all KS3 students, who will be able to sign up after the Christmas break. If you are interested in this ECA, please see the video below from one of our Year 7 students, Nithila Ravindran, who offers a quick overview of the course.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2ySMOyjN4mxYIQ4RDM3Z01Vbmc/view?usp=sharing>

only group support, but have also had some 1:1 time with me when time allowed. All of the students who attended have asked to sign up again next term. This is a wonderful endorsement and I hope other students will understand the benefit of joining such an essential ECA and come and join us. Here's what one of the students had to say about Homework Club.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7K1YAB6C7IDMzVRTG1KZUE4LTA/view?usp=sharing>

*over the years; writing essays, letters, applications, reports, emails, etc. It's like riding a bike...once you have learned, you never forget!*

So don't be left out, join us on Tuesdays 3:15- 4:15 in Room 1402!



### Study Skills



### Homework Club



### Touch Typing



## Representing TES and Meeting Alumni

Jack Shull and Eric Swan, University and Careers Counsellors



**On the Panel at  
CIS University  
Forum**



**Visiting Alumni at  
St Andrews**



**St Andrews**

Having the opportunity to network with other international school counsellors and with university admissions officers is an important aspect of our job as university counsellors at Taipei European School. The relationship between TES and universities worldwide is vital, as they are eager to learn about TES and the wonderful students who attend the school. To accomplish this networking goal, TES hosts university representatives and we also visit universities. In addition, we attend and present at international conferences to promote TES.

Last summer we attended the Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC) conference, which attracts around 700 participants. Mr Shull chaired a panel presentation with two other international counsellors and university representatives from Vanderbilt and the University of Miami. Mr Swan also presented at OACAC conference and was on a panel with counsellors from India and Singapore and a Duke University admissions officer. In August, Mr Shull attended the first regional OACAC conference in Shanghai and was a presenter. The National Association of College Admissions Counsellors (NACAC) conference was held in San Diego,

California in early October, with over 7,000 participants attending. Mr Shull was on a panel titled *IB Recognition and University Acceptances*. In October, Mr Swan joined 300 counsellors and university representatives in Bangkok for the first NESA/CIS University Forum and in November Mr Shull attended the CIS University Forum in Edinburgh, Scotland with over 700 international university counsellors and university representatives from around the world. He was on a panel to discuss the university interview process with representatives from King's College London and the University of Tokyo.

When we attend international conferences to represent TES, there is usually an opportunity to visit local universities and, at times, visit former TES students. Before the start of the NACAC conference, Mr Shull visited the University of California, San Diego and the University of San Diego and was given a tour by former TES students at UCSD. Prior to the CIS conference in Edinburgh, Mr Shull did a tour of five Scottish universities and visited a former TES student at St. Andrews University. In early December, Mr Swan was in England visiting universities in Nottingham, London, Oxford and Cambridge and met

former TES students along the way. Coming up after the Christmas break, Mr Shull has been invited to attend a university counsellor's program at New York University, Abu Dhabi and will have the opportunity to visit a TES 2015 graduate. Visiting universities and former TES students is an opportunity to learn first-hand about the universities TES students apply to and attend.

One of the features of the conferences we attend is our participation in the high school fair and the university fair to represent TES. The high school fair is when we are behind the table and the university representatives come to us to learn about TES. Then the university fair is our opportunity to visit university representatives who are behind the table. This is one event that we enjoy the most, as it gives us the chance to promote TES and the wonderful students we have at our school. As university counsellors it is vital that we keep up to date with the many issues and changes in the university admissions process and attending conferences and meeting university admissions officers helps us to a better job in working with TES students and their families.



**Networking at OACAC**



**Visiting Alumni at UC San Diego**

## Dr George Leslie Mackay Presentation by Mrs SuYun Geithner

Raymond Imbleau, History Teacher

The Year 8 History students were very fortunate on December 11<sup>th</sup> to have SuYun Geithner, the Director of General Relations for the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, give a presentation on a well-known Canadian in Taiwan who lived here (Danshui) in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and had a huge impact on the development of Taiwan as a modern society.



Mrs Geithner's History presentation on the Presbyterian Minister, Dr George Leslie Mackay was both educational and amazing, as so many of us, including myself, did not know that Dr Mackay established the first girl's school in Taiwan, as well as Oxford College. His famous motto of "it's better to burn

out than rust out" was truly the way he lived his life in Taiwan. He also introduced north-

ern Taiwan to western medicine and dentistry and, during his more than 30 years in Taiwan until his death in 1901, he pulled out more than 21,000 teeth in the Danshui area! He is also credited with bringing tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, beets and carrots from Canada

and introducing these vegetables to the Taiwanese farmers and diet.

Our students are currently growing many of these vegetables in our very own raised garden beds behind the Phase 1 cafeteria. After the Dr Mackay presentation was over, SuYun Geithner handed out hundreds of Frisbees, Nerf balls and chopsticks – all with the Canadian logo on them. Some of

the Year 8s also won a prize for asking or answering questions based on the presentation. Thank you and merci SuYun Geithner for coming back to our school for the second time and sharing with all of us your knowledge and expertise on Dr Mackay.

## Sidney Liu Goes for Gold

Helen Gamble, Editor

In December, Year 9 student Sidney Liu brought home not one, but two gold medals in ice skating. Competing in two disciplines – figure skating and speed skating – at the Taiwan National Ice Skating Competition at Taipei Arena, Sidney was able to beat the competition to win the gold medal in each. With the dedicated help



of his coach, Mr Chen, and with many hours of training under his belt, Sidney was able to out-skate some much older competitors. Sidney is very modest about his double-gold victory, but he should be extremely proud of this accomplishment, as we are. Congratulations Sidney!

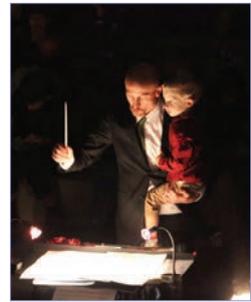




# Christmas Concert



# Christmas Concert





## News from the Music Department

Chris Papps, Head of Music

It has been a busy time in the Music Department over the last couple of months, with a number of concerts, master classes and an overseas trips taking place. Most recently, the

Annual ESC Christmas Concert was a great success, with over 100 students performed Christmas music (see photos on previous page). If you missed that performance, the

next major Music Department Concert will take place on February the 26<sup>th</sup>, so make sure you mark it in your diary!



### Music FOBISIA, Phuket

From the 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> of November, ten Y7-H1 students flew to Phuket for the first ever orchestral festival. Guest conductor Anthony Mann was flown in from Bangkok to work with an orchestra of around 100 students. Our students joined others from all around Asia, performing the first movement of Mozart's *Symphony No. 40* and Bizet's *L'arlesienne Suite No. 1*. All involved got a true experience of what

it would be like to be a professional musician, spending many hours rehearsing everyday to perfect the repertoire, culminating in a Gala Concert on the last night of the trip. In addition to all of the hard work, students got to enjoy an amazing Thai dance show, incorporating traditional stories and amazing special effects. All students arrived

home late on Monday night, tired, but with a great sense of accomplishment after performing very well and producing some great music.



### Paul Phoenix Visit

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the TES ESC was very fortunate to be able to host outstanding vocalist Paul Phoenix. Mr Phoenix was previously a member of the King's Singers, having been a part of the group for over fifteen years. IGCSE Music Students were treated to two periods of expert instruction, with vocal students getting individual master sessions. It was then the choirs' turn, with

members of the Yangminshan Chorus, the Formosa Voices and the Chamber Choir all receiving some inspirational instruction on developing their ensemble singing. It was remarkable to see the change Mr Phoenix was able to elicit from the students and ensembles by the end of the day. A big thank you to Mr Bous-

field and Mrs Harris for their work with the choirs in preparing for this event.



### Radio ICRT Visit

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, the four members of the Chamber Choir and Mrs Harris travelled down town to the Radio ICRT studios for their annual performance to pro-

mote the Christmas Bazaar. The students got to sing live in the studio, appearing on one of the morning shows, getting the full experience of how a radio station operates. A big con-

gratulations to Theresa Stoezel, Michaela Lintott, Anne Chang, Ashley Yeow and Mrs Harris for a festive, and very professional performance!



## News from the Music Department

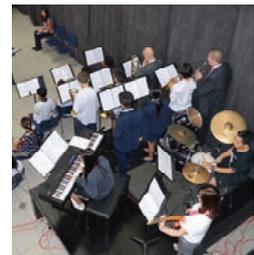


### Paris Memorial Concert

After the tragic events in Paris last month, the Music Department was very keen to show their solidarity with all of our French colleagues, students and parents. So when asked whether we would be able to put on

a small performance in remembrance, the response was very quick 'yes'. Students from the choirs, orchestra, big band and HI Music class all came together in an extremely short space of time to perform a series of

reflective music. The event culminated with the singing of the hymn *Abide with Me*, with soloist Michan Lai, all choirs, audience and the orchestra performing together.



### Christmas Bazaar

The ESC Music Department was again in full force at the Christmas Bazaar, with performances from the Flute Ensemble,

Big Band, Chamber Choir, Formosa Voices, and Yangmingshan Chorus, as well as a number of soloists and small

groups. A big thank you to Ms Kao from EPC Music Department for all of her support with this event.



### Christmas Concert

On the second to last day of Term I, the Music Department hosted the third annual Christmas Concert. Ever increasing in size, this year boasted the biggest audience yet, as well as the largest number of students on stage.

The evening consisted of two main parts, with festivities beginning in the MPR at 6:00 pm

with displays, music and dramatic performances, before formal Christmas celebrations got underway at 7:30 pm, with carol singing and a combined orchestra and choir of over 110 students. Delicious festive food was again provided by the ESCPA, with the smell of mulled wine permeating the Phase II building,

A big thank you to all students and teachers who performed, prepared displays and helped out in any way. A special mention must go to the Music Leaders, Henry Chuang, Andrea Grigsby, Ray Chen and Angelina Chen. These students were vital in the organising and running of the event and did a fantastic job, both on and off stage!





## Model United Nations

### THIMUN Singapore

Fabrice Laureti, MUN Coordinator and Andrea Grigsby, Delegate of San Marino, THIMUN 2015



In November, 19 H3 students, accompanied by Dr Matthews and myself, went to Singapore to attend the annual THIMUN conference. It is the largest conference in the region and the last one that our students usually attend. The conference was a huge success for our students who performed re-

markably, contributing many speeches and questions, while representing their countries (Canada, San Marino and Trinidad & Tobago) with dignity and poise.

Every year, we ask a student to give an account of his or her experience and this year An-

drea Grigsby decided to write her perspective using the format of a Model United Nations resolution, which you can read opposite. A very big thank you to Andrea, who was able to keep her sense of humour despite an exhausting week that had required months of intense preparation.

### STMUN Conference in Kaohsiung

Antonia Nuttall, H2



From December 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, myself and around twenty other H2 students went to the Seventh STMUN Conference in Kaohsiung, hosted by KAS. After months of vigorous preparation, including great amounts of research and practice debates, it was finally time for the conference. All of us were very excited about being able to spend two nights away from home with friends but, as a first-time delegate, I was also extremely nervous. The journey to Kaohsiung was filled with talk of resolutions and opening speeches, which increased the enthusiasm of all the delegates. We arrived late and immediately checked in, eager to get some sleep before the start of the strenuous debates the next day.

There was a buzz throughout the group the next morning during breakfast as we began to see the other students that would be participating. Everyone was dressed in formal attire, very different to the casual environment we are used to at school, and there was a more serious atmosphere surrounding all the delegates. After arriving at the host

school, everyone filed into the newly built auditorium and waited for the opening ceremony to begin. The ceremony was over quickly and it was time for all the committees to come together.

We spent seven hours each day in our committees. We finalised our resolutions on the first day, then commenced debating. The sessions were filled with fruitful debate, interesting points and stimulating conversations. One student, Maya Golan, had a lot to say about the conference, "I was honoured to be part of such intriguing debate, as well as being delighted by the discovery of my twin! I am looking forward to the further development of the STMUN Conference."

The first night ended in fun games of dodgeball between committees, in which GA3 won the overall game. After the committee dodgeball session ended, it was time for TES to show their power at dodgeball. It was a vigorous game, but unfortunately we didn't win, although Dr Matthews was the last one standing on the court. The rest of the night was then

left free for all the participants to do what they wanted.

The train ride back from Kaohsiung was a lot quieter than on the way there, as everyone was exhausted from the trip. Overall, it was a great experience, providing not only a great learning opportunity, but also an enjoyable two days for the participating students. I would definitely recommend joining MUN, as it thoroughly enhances your confidence and also makes you more aware of issues around the world. I think Xuanlin Tham, another fellow H2 student, summed up the conference very well: "I would like to thank everyone who participated in STMUN this year and commend all our delegates for their efforts to strive for world peace through healthy, constructive debate about some of the pressing issues facing our world today. We not only proved ourselves as strong delegates in the conference room, but also as a force to be reckoned with on the dodgeball court – a great achievement for just one weekend."



## Model United Nations



**FORUM:** TES Monthly Newsletter  
**QUESTION OF:** The THIMUN 2015 Trip  
**MAIN SUBMITTER:** San Marino -- Andrea Grigsby  
**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Canada, Trinidad and Tobago

*THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,*

*Recalling* the great trip H3s took to The Hague International Model United Nations (hereby referred to as THIMUN) in Singapore,

*Deeply missing* the 4 days of exciting debates,

*Aware* that all the delegates had a great time debating, sending notes and speaking,

*Humoured* by the notes some delegates received,

*Noting* with great sadness that this was the last MUN trip for the H3 as delegates,

*Acknowledging and thanking* the most esteemed Mr Laureti and Dr Matthews for the work and time they put into preparing the delegates, chaperoning and dealing with the delegates' silliness,

Recalls the scale and the grandeur of the debate halls, in addition to the variety of people all the delegates of Canada, San Marino and Trinidad and Tobago met and lobbied with;

Remembers the topics the delegates debated and the resolutions submitted as if it were yesterday due to several reasons, such as but not limited to:

- really detailed and well-crafted support speeches
- challenging points of information and trying to answer every single one to the best of the delegate's ability
- annoying delegates who kept arguing against the resolutions for no apparent reason,
- the esteemed chairs who had to keep the house in order through means such as:
- constantly reminding the house that laughing was not in order, despite laughing themselves
- having to entertain points of personal privilege constantly dealing with "out of the box" amendments;

Further remembers the fun times that everyone had such as but not limited to:

- getting the "fast pass" at universal studios for most of the rides, the transformer ride being everyone's number one favourite
- telling endless jokes and puns to Dr Matthews and Mr Laureti, driving them mad
- having to make a decision between "Western" and "Chinese" lunch based on the admins' recommendation (it was usually whichever one they weren't advertising)
- the dinner and dance on the third night due to reasons such as but not limited to:
- the amazing rainbow water drummers
- the great buffet, not to mention the desserts
- the awesome music;

Recommends the future delegates to bring a blazer into the auditoriums as the temperature is usually very low due to reasons such as but not limited to:

- the air conditioner being centralized, thus giving the admins no way to change the temperature
- the temperature outside being in its 30s;

Encourages the future delegates going to THIMUN to thoroughly enjoy themselves every day, as the 4 days of conference goes by in a flash.



## Geography News - *Sharkwater*

Hannah Brooks, Head of Geography

Following on from investigating global ecosystems, Year 8 have been researching the impact that shark fin soup has on the oceans of the world. This gave them an insight into the scale of the trade in shark fin and the

devastating impact it has on shark populations and marine environments. They used this to write a letter to the President of Taiwan to highlight the issue and raise awareness of Taiwan's role in the industry.

The students were encouraged to use supporting evidence and also to suggest possible solutions to the problem. Here is an example of one of the letters a student in Year 8 wrote.

*Honourable President,*

*My name is Assaf Yarden and I am 12 years old and a student at Year 8 (Grade 7) at the Taipei European School.*

*I would like to raise an issue I consider highly important - intentional killing of sharks, mostly fishing sharks.*

*Shark fin soup is a popular dish in mainly East Asia, including Taiwan. Shark fin soup is considered a 'gourmet' food, which also has a long time tradition. We know that certain practices which were in place for many years were later rejected, after mankind realized their negative implications. One example is the slave trade and another is not allowing women to vote. In the past, humans had to eat anything that could keep them alive, including fish. Today, there are many substitutes for shark meat. Is there a real reason to fish shark today?*

*Killing sharks is not only unnecessary, but also cruel. In many cases the hunted sharks are thrown back to the sea water after their fin has been cut off and they bleed, suffering, until they die.*

*While fishing shark, the planet in general and humans in particular, are losing a great deal. Sharks are important for us and to the Earth in many ways. For example, they keep oceans clean and healthy by eating animals such as turtles, which eat plants. In this example, the sharks, turtles and plants are all part of an ecosystem. This ecosystem keeps the food chain in the sea balanced and the sharks are at the top of this food chain.*

*Stopping fishing sharks will be good for Taiwan and the Taiwanese government for these reasons: Taiwan will have better relations with other countries which do not approve of shark fishing; the government can still get money from other things which Taiwan excels in, like high-tech and electronics; the oceans near Taiwan will stay clean and healthy for swimming and the people will be healthier because of not eating shark products, which may cause degenerative brain disease or methyl mercury poisoning.*

*The disadvantages of stopping fishing sharks are that the Taiwanese government can lose money because Taiwan sells the fins. The people who work in this industry can get hurt economically. There are some animals that got used to the existing condition and, if there will be more sharks, the food chain will get unbalanced.*

*The government should take immediate action to stop shark fishing and eating shark fin soup and at the same time educate the people about the reasoning behind this decision.*

*Respectfully yours,  
Assaf Yarden*

# H1 Study Taiwan's History

Gavin Matthews, Head of H1 and H2

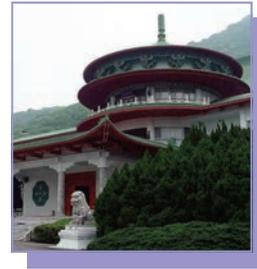
To tie in with the recent presidential elections in Taiwan, our H1s have spent a few weeks of PSHCE time examining the political development of Taiwan during the twentieth century. The project started with a guided tour of Chungshan Hall in Yangmingshan, which is the building on the back of the 100 NT note. Apart from being notable for being built on a sulphuric hot spring, it was here that Chiang Kai-Shek would meet world leaders when the Republic of China was a member of the UN Security Council.

For the next PSHCE lesson, the four H1 form groups were each given one of four periods of Taiwan's twentieth century history to research:

- Japanese rule until 1945
- KMT rule from China in the immediate post-War years
- The years of martial law and economic development
- The move towards full democratisation from 1986 onwards

Each form class was then split into four, with four new classes created, each of which would contain one group that was expert in each of these periods. Having spent a week preparing the necessary material, they then spent a lesson learning from and teaching each other about Taiwan's political development. During the lesson, each class produced a timeline of events to help focus their learning.

Aside from being instructed to avoid current political controversies, students had to think carefully about the type of teaching that they wanted to do, which gave them a good insight into what makes learning interesting. Some of the successful methods included creating a video with puppets, writing imaginary letters from the past, creating a time capsule, and even performing a rap. The process also led to some effective reflection in small groups about the nature of leadership. The lesson saw some excellent work, with almost everyone learning something new about this island's turbulent twentieth century.





## Christmas Concert in Spanish

Holly Samaniego, Year 7

Ms Saez Ramos' and Ms Frost's class joined together on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December to have a Christmas concert in Spanish for the Primary students. In the morning we took the bus to go to the primary campus and did a few practices before the

show. Our first run of the show was okay, but every time we did it we did better and better. Having the Christmas concert was very fun. Some of us were using instruments and everyone did the dance moves to *Feliz Navidad!* The great part

was when some of the Primary students joined in. They were dancing and singing with us so I'm very sure they had fun as well. After the concert we had to say goodbye to our last batch of students and went back to school.

*Concierto de Navidad en español*  
El día 14 de diciembre, se unieron las clases de la señora Sáez Ramos y de la señora Frost para ofrecer un concierto navideño en español a los alumnos de primaria. Por la mañana cogimos el autobus para ir al

*edificio de primaria y practicar un poco antes del concierto. La primera vez que cantamos estuvo bien, pero fuimos mejorando a lo largo de la mañana. Algunos de nosotros utilizamos instrumentos, y todo el mundo se unió a la coreografía de ¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!*

*Lo mejor fue cuando varios alumnos de primaria se levantaron para cantar y bailar con nosotros. Estoy segura de que lo pasaron muy bien también. Después del concierto nos despedimos del último grupo de alumnos y regresamos al colegio.*



## EAL Book Talk Presentations

Raymond Imbleau, EAL Teacher

The Year 7 and 8 EAL students joined classes in early December for some very memorable and engaging book talks. Speaking in front of your peers can be intimidating at times, especially speaking in your second language, but the EAL students spoke about their favourite English novels with such clarity and confidence that it seemed like it was second nature to them.

Before they presented their book on the day, both classes studied relevant vocabulary for book presentations and consid-

ered how to make their book talks more appealing by adding details about the plot and rising action. After analysing prior book talk models, organising their ideas with graphic organisers and revisiting the grammar and useful vocabulary studied in class, the students began creating their own five minute Prezi or Google Slide presentations on a book of their choice.

Each student practiced presenting their book talk in front of their own class first. The old adage "practice makes perfect" is so true for EAL students, as

practicing their presentation will definitely build their confidence and help them present their book even better on the big day. In the end, with two EAL classes combined, their book talks were delivered with great poise.

Public speaking is an invaluable skill that that will benefit all students and from what we witnessed in their book talks, these EAL students are well on their way to becoming effective and engaging public speakers.



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# Languages Festival Week

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C'era una  
volta...

**Monday, 1 February  
to  
Friday, 5th February**

*"The universe is made  
of atoms and stories"*

**Storytelling 2016**



## A Word from the Head of Sport

Kwok Chow, Head of Sport

It's been an exceptional year for Sport at TES; the participation levels have been the highest ever and it's great to see students of all abilities representing the Titans. Last week we just finished the KS3 softball season and the High School JV & JVB just finished their tournaments last week. The sports leaders have been busy, please click on the two links to see a summary of Season 1 [Movie Link](#) & [Slideshow link](#) & [U15 FOBISIA Games](#) . Lastly I would like to thank all the coaches for an amazing job this season.

## Athletes of the Month

Douglas Lee & Hannah Kwuo for displaying great leadership this season!



## Y7 Softball TISSA Tournament

Report by Mr Harris, Coached by Mr Harris & Ms Brooks

In December we had the opportunity to take 26 Year 7 boys and girls down to the TISSA Softball Tournament, held at Morrison Academy, Taichung. We had three teams competing on the day (1 boys team and 2 mixed teams), with all pupils in our ECA having the opportunity

to take part. Our students showed great teamwork and tenacity throughout the day and in spells played some excellent softball; despite all teams having a man disadvantage. They demonstrated our core values of inclusion and offering competitive sport to all and acquitted

themselves well in the face of stiff competition. Even though we did not progress through the group stages, the teams played valiantly in what was a glorious day of sunshine in Taichung. Well done to everyone who took part.



## Y9 Girls Softball TISSA Tournament

Report by India Lilithenal, Coached by Ms Simmons

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, the girl's softball team arrived at Taipei Main Station at 6:00 am all very excited and full of anticipation for the big day ahead. After everyone had arrived at Taipei Main Station, we boarded the high speed rail in order to get to Kaohsiung. Once in Kaohsiung we caught a bus to Shou International School (IIS), their school was quite spectacular, having a big, alluring tree which the whole team couldn't get enough photos of.

Eager for our first game, we practised until it was time for our first game. Our first game was against IIS, which started strong and ended strong with a marvellous win of 18-3, this was because we had excellent fielding, working together as a team, the team was supporting each other and of course our incredible coach Miss Simmons cheering us all the time.

Our second game was against Morrison Academy Christian School (MAC). Although this game wasn't a win, the team still played very well with terrific leadership from Jemmi and lots of positivity from the out-

side fielders (Sarahi, Ana, Allie and Krishi), who were trying their best to retrieve as many balls from batters who hit big.

After the second game we had a double break, so the team were able to have some lunch and take a rest. Once we got back and had done lots of practicing, the break was over and we had to begin the next match against Morrison Academy Kaohsiung (MAK). It was such a close game at 4-6 and unfortunately we didn't win, however there was amazing batting from the whole team, especially Renee and Jemmi who batted massive hits that helped the team a lot and also Chloe and Jessy caught some really good catches.

For our final game we played Kuei Shan School (KSS), which was probably the most intense game of all. The whole team was trying so incredible hard, considering it was our last game ever and we had Miss Simmons supporting us so much. Although we lost, I think we learned how determined and strong our team can be when working together. I was

so impressed by how hard we were trying and we proved to be an incredible team.

I should mention Shannon with really good backstopping who got lots of great catches, Jessy and Chloe who also got many good catches getting lots of batters out instant, they tried really hard and played really well, always supporting and bringing positivity, Ana, Sarahi, Allie and Krishi who did lots of running and chasing after the ball that went very far and they improved their relay skills (getting the ball back to the diamond), Jemmi and Renee who were always played really well, bring lots of positivity, showing lots of leadership by always helping the team improving and always having them by your side cheering you and guiding you.

Of course not forgetting Miss Simmons because without her we would never had been able to play so well and constantly encouraging us and enabling us to be in Kaohsiung on that day. So a massive thank you to Miss Simmons.



## Year 9 Boys Softball Tournament

Report by Mr Bracken, Coached by Mr Bracken

After many gruelling weeks of training, the TES Year 9 Boys Softball Team arrived at Taipei Main Station bleary eyed at 6:00 am for the journey to Kaohsiung. The boys were prepared and excited at the prospect of testing their skills against other teams from around Taiwan.

In the previous weeks, they boys had focused on batting, fielding of fly balls and base running during their training sessions. Several practice matches had shown a tendency to make rushed decisions when put under pressure. The boys

wondered if they would hold their nerve come tournament day.

The initial pool matches resulted in convincing victories over Morrison Academy Taichung (13-4) and Kaohsiung American School (17-3). Tension was high as TES entered into the final pool match against Morrison Academy Taipei. With both teams undefeated, this was essentially a play-off for the final.

Some great defence from both teams saw a low-scoring affair that ended in TES's favour 6-3. The boys had qualified for the

final after their intense undefeated run. The final was set for 4:00 pm in the setting sun of a Kaohsiung afternoon.

Despite competing and pulling off some amazing plays, the team's focus waned during the final. The boys did themselves proud and valiantly fought throughout all of the innings. The final score of 11-4 did not reflect the commitment, effort and skill on display. At the end of the match, even though bodies and minds were tired, the boys basked in the satisfaction of a great day of competing and shared memories.



## Year 8 Boys Softball

Report by Mr Imbleau, Coached Mr Imbleau and Mr Neroutsos

It was a great day for softball down in southern Taiwan at Morrison Academy Kaohsiung. With the smell of BBQ'd cheeseburgers in the air and enthusiastic fans cheering for their teams, the stage was set for what promised to be an exhilarating day.

In the first game, TES 1 lost a nail-biter to Kuei Shan School. With the bases loaded in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning and Austin Tsai at the plate, the game was on the line. Austin crushed a long hard drive to centre field but it was caught

by the fielder to end the game, 9-7.

After a two hour rest, with time to reflect on game one and fill our bellies with burgers and bubble milk tea, we were ready to prove ourselves and do TES pride. After a monster homerun by Shubh Lashkery and a few line drive doubles by Jhon Michael Yamaguchi and Justin Chen, TES 1 beat KAS by the score of 9-4.

The bronze medal match at 4:00pm was between ISS and TES 1. ISS come out swinging

and took the early lead in the top of the first with 4 runs scored. Being down by 4 runs didn't faze the resilient TES 1 team and they mounted a comeback and took victory with the final score of 14-4.

Yogi Bera, the famous New York Yankee once said: *"Baseball is ninety percent mental and the other half is physical!"* He was spot on and next year we will bring our A game to the softball tournament and be well prepared, both mentally and physically.



## Y8 Girls TISSA Softball Tournament

Report by Amber Herwegh Vonk, Coached by Mr Stewart

In the morning of the softball tournament, the two girls' team met up and started to travel very early, when the air was still cold but filled with excitement and enthusiasm of playing with other schools - from all over Taiwan. Although we arrived a bit late, we had a good start, warming up and starting to know the competition better. As TES 1 played, TES 2 cheered them on and gave good advice to the players, before playing the other team ourselves. After a competitive game where unfortunately we lost, both the teams had a break; the break itself was full of tension as the two teams anticipated their next game.

When the break passes, both teams headed onto the pitch, ready to start. TES 1 had a perfect beginning, several home runs, good fielding, and more. Unluckily, TES 2 didn't have such a superb start and lost several runs, but TES 1, being a team with great sportsmanship, cheered us on. Finally, the game was over and TES 1 won, and TES 2 went on to play MAK – the team that would eventually be the top team.

Whilst TES 2 played MAK, TES 1 watched and cheered the team on, also helping us fetch water and watching our belongings. Ultimately, TES 2 won! Then TES 1 also battled MAK, but sadly lost.

At the end of the day, when all

came to an end and when medals were given out, everyone was tired and every team was, at last, able to rest. When watching other year group's awards being given out, both of our teams feared the worst and hoped for the best... Then, the referees announced that TES 2 came 3rd! Our own team, everyone was so proud! No one could've hoped for better – after competing against so many other teams, one of our teams actually won 3rd.

This was such a great day and opportunity, we played really well and probably couldn't have done better! Although we had a few bumps along the way, both teams did great and had so much fun.



## Varsity Boys Basketball vs TAS

Report by Varsity Basketball Captain, Ryan Patterson, Coached by David Lin

The game started with everyone feeling mentally prepared for the game after the devastating loss last year. The first quarter started off with TAS immediately taking the lead by 6 points, the deficit remained constant throughout the first quarter as every player on the court were eagerly fighting for every loose ball, and hustling between transitions of defence and offense. The quarter ended with a defensive stop from TES, which lead to a fast break and an easy bucket by Jacob Wu cutting the deficit down to four points. The second quarter started with everyone on the

TES squad fired up, the cheering from the fans motivated us to play our hearts out. Throughout the second quarter, Abdoul displayed his skill as a defensive anchor, securing all the rebounds and hassling the opponent, preventing them from scoring easy buckets. With the extra momentum and the relentlessness, the score was tied by halftime.

In the third quarter, Howard Hsu and Jacob Wu quickly caught fire, scoring 12 of TES's total points in the quarter as well as rattling the TAS team's defence. TES finally took the

lead towards the end of the third quarter, forcing the TAS team to return to the bench to discuss strategy. Finally, the final quarter kick-started. The roaring of the fans sounded throughout the gym. TAS gradually started to catch up after a series of turnovers by TES. However, Howard Hsu and Jim Lu each scored crucial three pointers which ultimately dismantled the TAS team's defence inevitably allowing us to win the game.



## JV Boys Basketball TISSA Tournament

Report by Mason Lee Coached by Mr Li

After weeks and months of training, the JV basketball team set out to Kaohsiung to compete in the annual TISSA tournament, consisting of 12 international teams from all over Taiwan. 6:00 am and everyone was on the train down south.

Just by observing, it became apparent most of the teams at the tournament weren't child's play, with some teams having physically more built players and with an average older team. The Titans basketball didn't seem to have any obvious advantages. On the day, our team were expected to play five games and if we were the top two in our group, it would total up to six games. It wasn't going to be easy.

Titans battled through the first four games, picking up four straight victories. Special mention to Howard Lin for his amazing ability to control the game, Curtis and Sam for their contributions to the wide margin in scores and Perry for his outstanding skill level while being one of the youngest players in the whole tournament. Although our JV team picked up four straight victories, it

came at a cost; every single player was fatigued. The upcoming fifth team was MAC from Taichung, and they were not an easy team to win an edge over.

With heavy legs and blurred concentrations, the Titans team continued to embody the school values and persevered onwards to push their limits to qualify for the finals. A victory against MAC would mean a matchup against DIS, the match every player from TES had come for. Despite the amazing performances by Brian and Ethan in the closing minutes, the effort wasn't enough to defeat MAC. With a final score of 10 to 7, the heart-breaking loss brought members of the team to tears. The final score was not even close to defining the outstanding performances Titans had achieved that day and the meaningful improvements every player has made on the day.

Although the loss against MAC meant not qualifying for the finals, there was still a chance to redeem ourselves in the third place playoff. The match happened soon after the recent

loss and it started with a horrific scene. KAS 10, TES 0 was the score just before halftime and all hopes were lost.

*"I try my best, you have to listen,"* these strong words said with meaning and at the right times could make the biggest impact for a team and that is exactly what happened when coach AJ had his talk with the team during halftime. After the break, the players on the court were brought back alive by the spirit of the whole team and dreams were brought together again when TES consecutively scored 16 points without conceding a single one from the opposing team. The score ended 16 to 10, securing third place in this year's annual TISSA tournament.

Without the support and help of Mr Li, the hours everyone has put into basketball training, the medal around our necks wouldn't have been there on that day. As the captain of this year's JV basketball team, I couldn't have asked for a better squad and I will always be proud to play.



## JV Girls Basketball TISSA Tournament

Report by Irene Kuo, Coached by Mr Duxfield



The day started off with back-to-back games, one against KSS at 8:30 followed by another against MAK. We started our KSS game strong, leading by quite a few points then gradually increasing the point difference till the game ended with 18-9. Shortly after, our second game started and we were tired! Though it was an unfair advantage for MAK, we did not give up. Our defence was exceptional, especially Kim, with countless steals that allowed our team to have many fast breaks. Effortlessly, we won the game 18-11.

After a 45-minute break, our third game began. It was the last pool game. If we won this, we would go to the semi-finals. Since we wanted to save our energy for the afternoon, we started the game with 1-3-1 zone defence. It did not start

well. We were trailing, 6-0. Immediately, we switched to man-to-man and I intercepted two passes and scored both on fast breaks. That boosted the team spirit and we lead by 10 points soon after. 25-14! That's how you win a game as a team!

Easily, we were in the semi-finals. We had a 90 minute break for us to grab lunch as a team. We laughed and made small talk but we just couldn't hide our excitement that we were one step closer to the finals.

The semi-final was an intense game. We had a lot of trouble in our defence when we reached the limit of team fouls in both halves that resulted in AST shooting free throws and making them. They scored 10 free throws, which was more than half of the points they scored! Fortunately, due to our

teamwork, we won by 11 points and entered the finals.

We were invincible. Immediately, we took the lead and the scoreboard displayed 16-1. Ivory and I both scored 12 points each, which was achievable due to our flashy passes from the whole team that help us created space to shoot mid-range shots. By half time, we already knew we had won the championships.

33-13. A 20 point lead! None of us could hide our ridiculous smiles even till the night was over. I can speak on behalf of the team that this season was truly amazing. We were very fortunate to have Mr Duxfield as our coach who gave us a lot of freedom during training. I'm so glad, honoured, and incredibly proud to be part of this team.





### JVB Boys Basketball TISSA Tournament

Report by Kristopher Chou, Coached by Mr Bullard

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, the JVB boys headed down to Taichung to play in the basketball tournament. The first game was against KSS, which we had previously lost against twice in practice games. We had a rough start, but managed to come back at around half time. Due to calls we believed to be controversial, they had the lead. Before long, we already had players with five fouls so they couldn't continue playing. With players short and one quarter left, we were left in a tight spot. Unfortunately we lost in the end. With our self-esteem as low as it could be, we had to go on to the next

game. The next game was against ISS. We had a slow start, but eventually won. The last game of our pool was against KAS. We easily won that as well. Judging by our score, we had the opportunity to advance to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place game. It was against MAC. They had home court advantage. It was a close game, but we slowly pulled the lead. They started to catch up near the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and were continuing to do so in the 4<sup>th</sup>. In the end we tied, which took us to overtime. During overtime, we were exchanging points. Unfortunately they had a three point lead. With a mi-

nute left on the clock, we scored a three. This tied the game again. Once again, we were exchanging points. This took us to second overtime. During this time we attempted to steal the lead by getting the rebounds. We were pretty successful and this allowed us to lead by a couple of points. Fortunately they weren't able to catch up before the second overtime ended, thus giving us third place among the seven teams. Though we were sad we couldn't get first, we were happy we still managed to get a medal.



## JVB Girls Basketball TISSA Tournament

Report by Hannah Kwuo, Coached by Alice Juan

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, the JVB girls gathered at the Taipei Main Station early in the morning to head off to IIS in Kaoshiung. After a fun HSR ride, we arrived at the school for our first game against the hosting school, IIS. Winning this game was a great way to start the tournament, as we all felt ready to play. In this game, we created some good plays and displayed good teamwork.

The second game we played was against MAC, in which we also played very well as a strong team. With successful layups, shots, and defence, thanks to our strong attack and

defence we won the game.

Next, we played against MAK. They had some pretty good players who could shoot quite accurately, so we had to work harder. Due to the team chemistry we had, we still won the game even if at times it was very close! This meant we were headed to the finals!

Our last game (finals) was against MAK again. In the first seconds of the game, they had already scored two shots against us and the whole team became worried. However, everyone kept their heads up and we were determined to

win. After multiple shots we were in the lead again. During the game, we pulled away from their score, especially with Hani's several and 1s! We ended the game with a strong lead, which meant we were the champions.

After few practice sessions, we were fortunate to still claim first place in the tournament! Thank you to Ms Juan for coaching us and to the whole team for playing so well!





SWIRE EUROPEAN  
SECONDARY CAMPUS

31 JianYe Road, ShiLin  
District,  
Taipei 11193  
Phone: 555-555-5555  
Fax: 555-555-5555  
E-mail:

Editor  
Helen Gamble  
helen.gamble@tes.tp.edu.tw

Photography  
India Lilienthal,  
Students & Staff

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.

