



By ALEXIA KENG & YUMI HOSHI

The Triumphant Return! Winners at the 2014 National Music Competition

On March 8, the Kang Chiao Orchestra competed in the National Music Competition and ranked in the first place with an impressive score of 90.3. They were able to perform well even under the most difficult circumstances.

Witty Lin, the head administrator from the music department, described the situation on the day of the competition.

“The weather that day was really disturbing. It was not only cold but also raining, so the students took a considerably long time to warm up their hands and instruments and the teachers also rushed to the convenience stores to get all the students hand-warmers.”

The teachers and the orchestra students had been putting a lot of effort into getting ready for this competition because they believed they had the potential to win back the first place.

Witty Lin said, “In previous years, the winter-intensive practice was only held for three days. This year, the practice was held four days consecutively. Not only that, the



Our Proud First Place Winners at the 2014 National Music Competition

Dylan Tang from 10D has been playing the trombone for about three years and this is her third year in the KCIS orchestra.

About this year’s competition, Dylan exclaimed, “I’m really proud of my team! I wouldn’t say this year’s competition was easier, but we clearly put more effort into practicing.”

won significant awards, including the first place Governmental Music Competition in tenth grade.

This year, Sarah, along with 10A Jeff Kuo and 9E Yoyo Wang, also won the first place in the National Music Competition for piano trio.

“Playing the violin allows me to show my feelings through the music and express myself. I love music a lot and I wish that one day I can make others happy with my music.”

As a leader, she has to make sure that everyone is keeping up with the pace of the orchestra.

“This year, many more newbies attended the competition, and many of them did not know how important it was for us to take the first place, but after many lectures, they finally had the heart put into them!”

Sarah Phan ended her statement by reminding us: “Attitude is everything, and with good attitude, nothing is

impossible.”

Tom Chang, another hard-working senior leader, started playing the violin in kindergarten and also won his first award in grade two.

“My goal is to make people feel happy, play anything I want to express myself.”

He enjoyed the competition this year.

He said, “It was great! Everyone was calm. Those teammates who just joined can still get on track and catch up with others immediately, which made me feel great and amazed. The orchestra team has coherence and it’s just like a big family. Everyone



is close to each other.”

He added that there are some performance arts classes that are more attractive to him, but that he wants to stay in the orchestra team and stay with his teammates. Kang Chiao’s creativity and boldness to try various kinds of repertoires is what make them unique and different from other schools’ orchestra.

The friendly relationship of the students also contributes to its successes. To most of the orchestra team students, orchestra is not just a school club but also a second family at school. The strong connection in the orchestra made it able to overcome any difficulties. Although, the Kang Chiao Orchestra only got the second place at the same competition last year and everyone felt sad and depressed, no one gave up. The students learned from the experience and improved themselves.

This year, they won the first place. To celebrate this remarkable victory, the Kang Chiao Orchestra held a concert on May 12 to share their happiness with everyone else.



students continued to practice in every possible time they have after the school opened.”

She added that individual students had further practice in the music rooms after lunch instead of taking a rest in the homerooms. After school, the students received music lessons from professional instructors. On weekends, the students came up the mountain to practice with the whole orchestra. It is clear that the orchestra really put in a lot of effort to display their best-quality performance on stage this year.

She has won first place in the National Student Music Competition from her very first competition that she attended.

“I hope to be as great as my conductors are, and impress them someday. I will pass on their beliefs and spirit to my future students, and hopefully one day, I can hear them say they’re proud to have had me as their student.”

Sarah Phan from 1002, the leader of the orchestra, started playing the violin when she was four and has been in the KCIS orchestra since third grade. She has



Our Very Own KCMUN 2



A Splashing Good Competition 4



Learning by Doing 5



Head Over Heels for Sculpting 8

SCHOOL TRENDS AND EVENTS

KCMUN 2014: Our Inspiration



By JOHN HUANG

On Wednesday, January 22, KCMUN 2014, joined by students from Taiwan and Hong Kong, started its sessions for the three-day conference in Kang Chiao International School.

There were three committees discussing issues relating to economy, human rights, and security, with every student's possible resolutions developed in each debate sessions. Students debated and negotiated from their allocated countries' perspectives, trying to solve the crises that influence our society today.

William, a 10th grader who has participated in five MUN conferences, including the practice ones, mentioned, "During my research for the conference, I would learn ideas and knowledge that I never knew before. Also, during the interactions with other delegates who did research on their country that they would represent during the conference, more information would be discussed and passed along between the delegates."

Model United Nations simulate the meetings and conferences in the United Nations, which means students can



represent a country and debate for the country. Students develop their awareness of global affairs and train their negotiating and public speaking skills.

Gary Chen from the 10th grade, an experienced delegate that has also participated in five MUN conferences, added, "It did improve my public speaking skills because I became not that nervous and stressed afterwards when I'm making a speech in public."

Students become more confident in themselves after each MUN they attend.

Even planning the conference provided a learning opportunity for students.

"We had trouble announcing the annual conference MUN event to people because there were miscommunications and the numbers we needed to confirm the amount of people going was very unstable," said one of the Secretary Generals, Jenny Chen from 11th Grade.

There were four Hong Kong students from Po Leung Kuk NganPo Ling College participating in the KCMUN 2014. They were all first-time MUNers.

"I found this conference a learning experience and believe

that day by day I improved my English speaking skills," said Nikil Senthil Kumar, a thirteen-year-old boy with great public speaking and writing skills.

The students from Hong Kong met up with different friends and people in Taiwan. It is also one of the enchantments of MUN. Students can make friends with people from different regions that will let them know more about different cultures and languages.

"Our students were extremely honored to join

KCMUN2014. It increased our critical thinking and knowledge about global matters," said Johan Sraboni Bhuiyan.

Personal improvement is the most valuable treasure everyone can take away from the different MUN conferences.

KCMUN 2014, an international conference that broadens every single participant's horizon with professional discussions on different topics, is our inspiration, and it might be yours, too.



Korean Students Visit Kang Chiao

By MONICA HUANG

At the start of the semester, two students from Cheong Shim International Academy visited our school. They are Grace An and Cherry Lee.

They studied in 8E and were helped by their two school buddies, Jocelin Jeng and Rebecca Huang.

Cherry said, "We came to Taiwan to learn Chinese and we want to thank our classmates for their help. We are kind of used to Chinese now."

She also said that she learned about Taiwan's culture and that she thought Taiwanese people were very kind and funny.

"My classmates always can make me laugh," she explained.

During their stay, they visited three host families. They spent one week living with each family. They stayed with the families of 8E Jocelin Jeng, 9B Pandora Wu, and 9E Tiffany Tang.

The host families took the students sightseeing.

When asked if they discovered some new things in Taiwan, Grace said, "Yeah, like the night markets! We ate a lot actually! It was really delicious!"

Cherry added, "We have been to Taipei 101, but it was pity we didn't get to the top of 101."

Grace said that what was special about Taipei was the weather. She said it was pretty comfortable and warm.

The students also commented on our school.

Grace said, "I think it's big and beautiful, because your school is at the top of the mountain. And the scenery is really wonderful!"

Cherry felt the library is well-designed and well-organized. She was very surprised by the school building since it looks like a castle. She commented on the fact that there is an escalator, a swimming pool, lots of basketball goal posts, and on the quality of

the technology used.

Of course, Cherry and Grace also wondered what our students knew about Korea. They asked whether we knew who Lee Min-ho was because they think he is very handsome.

One of the host students, Pandora, has also decided that she wants to apply to be an exchange student at the Korean school during summer.

Exchange programs like this one is very beneficial because students can learn from the enriching life experience of visiting another school and country.



TEACHER INTERVIEW

Why did you choose to teach in Kang Chiao?

I was looking for a school with a good system and good quality students, and I found Kang Chiao to be what I was looking for.

What do you think of Kang Chiao students?

Most of them are nice. Occasionally, you know, I have a problem with one or two students, but most of the time I'm quite happy with them.

What do you like about Physics and why did you want to become a teacher?

I like Physics. Well, I have been interested in Physics for a long time, at least ten years. I think I was born interested in something

Eye on Our Teachers

By LEANN LIU

Mr. Lee is a teacher currently teaching Physics in the school. He has been teaching in Kang Chiao for a semester, so it is time for us to get to know more about him and his thoughts about life in our school.

like relativity and quantum mechanics, so actually that's what I'm interested in, not just the regular Physics I teach in class, or you know, what we had for high school. But still, they are highly connected, so, I like the job, teaching Physics."

What are your hobbies?

Music. I have lots of interests, but most of them are just reading books.

What college did you go to, and**what were your ways to release stress?**

Well, I graduated from National Taiwan University and then I went to Penn State. To release stress, I had lots of extracurricular activities; I had lots of friends. I joined some clubs; we had lots of activities.

What are your future goals?

Still teaching. I don't have any other things in mind.

Lastly, what do you want to tell**your students?**

Plan ahead. Don't just think about the moment; think about the future. Whatever you are doing, think about the consequence and how it will affect your future.



Mr. Lee at the National Center for Traditional Arts in Ilan

To Be A Writer

By MR. KELLY



The process of writing is difficult, and it often seems impossible to begin writing when a blank page looms ahead. With that said, the reward you receive when you finish a piece of writing is indescribable, a feeling bettered only by seeing your work published for all to see.

Just like every other skill on Earth, getting good at writing takes practice – and knowledge. There are various styles of writing, from poems to newspaper articles to movie reviews. To understand the style, the audience, and literary devices is to be prepared to write any piece worth reading. The one ingredient to this recipe that many people lack is passion. To give your soul to a piece of writing is

ultimate success. Every author should give a piece of themselves in their writings.

Once you know how to write, then it becomes fun. A writer can test himself/herself by trying out different genres to find their own writing style and which genre best suits them.

Here are some excerpts from things I have written. I hope they can inspire someone to write passionately!

from "Iago, Iago," a poem - an original extension of Shakespeare's Othello:

Mogald is this captain called,
Who defends his realm with
coward.
In paltry glee to bed he falled,
For drink this night was dowered.

'Twas not by chance the wine had
called,
There at his table brought.
A gift, and into his hand it falled,
There to wield havoc wrought.

O captain mine, rest eyes of thine,
And beseech the sands of sleep.
My friend and I have fared that
fine,
'Tis this secret shalt thou keep.

By eyes of thine the sun has set,

Ne'er again to rise.
Thy tongue didst voice a whisper
met,
A thanks to end thy lies.

from Golland, a short novel:

Barko noticed a car that turned off the road several yards ahead and was heading his way. It was a black Presidio, a car that Barko had seen before and one which belonged to Detective Pallin Dubane. In truth, Barko was surprised to see the man approaching, having parked the car and walking toward him even as Barko nervously nudged and tended his coffee in an attempt to convince the detective he had not seen the approach. He hoped Dubane would simply go away and leave him to his prize. He liked Dubane less than the murderer he ratted out.

"I need something," said Dubane quietly as he walked right up to the bum.

Barko groaned, turned to glare at the detective, and returned to watching the kettle.

"We all need something," he remarked.

from The Boy and His Firefly, a short novel:

"What? Who is it that calls

me?" A light brighter than 100 fireflies beamed into the boy's eyes which burned in pain. "Come here, boy, that I may look into your eyes and place a judgment upon you." Anxious to be in the light, the boy came forward. The blindness in his eyes fell away, and before him stood an old lumberjack whose face wore years heavily and whose beard had been grayed by time. The boy passed his own judgment, though he never realized it had happened. The man appeared angry to the boy. The tree to which the lumberjack spoke appeared to be a little annoyed as well, for it had the trace features of a disgruntled face woven into its trunk.

from Untitled, a novel:

Hooves plow through the top layer of snow, plunging into the pillow-soft precipitation only to slowly rise and repeat. Men cough through congested lungs, and they pull their coats tighter against their armored bodies. Horses clod through alabaster fields at a nearly torturously slow pace. Winter sets into the bones of men sent to protect one individual, though his march leads them all mercilessly through the wilderness, bedecked though it is in the trappings of a frozen and brittle landscape.

STUDENT CULTURE

Splishy Splashy

By GINA YI & WILLIAM HUANG

From March 31st to April 3rd, Kang Chiao International School hosted its annual swimming competition in the school's state-of-the-art swimming pool. The competition is weighted as one of the important activities of the year.

Students usually gather and cheer for each other during their swimming classes. The goal of the competition is not only to give students feedback about how well they have improved over the year, but also to give the students the opportunity to have fun and enjoy sports activities.

The contestants this year, as usual, were the students from Kang Chiao International School—over seven hundred people. This includes students from seventh grade to twelfth grade.

The competition categories range from single races to four people mixed relay races.

This year, many students



proudly earned great scores and even broke the school's records.

In the 50 meter backstroke, Chen from class 903 broke the record with the outstanding time of 33.42 seconds.

Next, in the 20 meter



freestyle relay race, four teams of four people, from classes 1101, 1102, 10A, and 10C all broke previous records. The best time out of these four new records was 2 minutes and 7.55 seconds, performed by class 1101.

Another remarkable swim was in the 25 meter butterfly stroke. Liu from class 1101 finished with a new record of 13.51 seconds. But, Wei from class 1102 and Kao from 11D also broke the record with 13.96 seconds and 13.81 seconds respectively.

In the 200 meter mixed relay race, class 10B broke the

record with a fantastic 2 minutes and 38.20 seconds.

Last but not least, in the 50 meter breaststroke, a girl from 8C, Cheng achieved a new time with 47.18 seconds, and a boy from 10B, Koo accomplished a new record with 33.53 seconds.

The focus, however, is not only on the students who won the competitions or who broke records. Really it is about all the students being able to experience the excitement of taking part in a competition, and to serve as a goal for students to try to improve their swimming skills.



SCHOOL CLUBS

By JON TSAO

On most Friday afternoons, students gather in room 1314 to participate in an activity they are passionate about—photography.

“Photography club is a place where I can explore my passion and receive critique for photos that I have taken” said Dylan Wan, an 11th grader.

The photography club is exactly that. Students explore the school campus and take photos of people, places, and things.

Often, these pictures are of the beautiful landscapes surrounding our picturesque campus. From mountains topped with pondering clouds to the engineering wonder of the Xiugang Bridge, there are many subjects for photos in the area

Shutter Click Focus on the Photography Club

around Kang Chiao. Other times, the pictures are of students in their natural habitat: the classroom.

Another club member Alex Su said, “I want to capture the essence of energetic students at work as well as play”.

Many of these students have aspirations to submit their photos in photography competitions similar to the one they competed in last semester—the Melbourne University photography competition. These students are armed with high-tech equipment such as the Nikon D3200 camera.

Ray Sun, a club member as well as the owner of a Nikon D3200 chose this camera to “take the most

high quality photos affordably.”

Jordan Tang was in the photography club for two years.

“I like to save what I see so that is why I take pictures,” he said.

He added that their teacher, Mr. Shiao, shares many professional photography skills with the class.

“He will take us outside, and he has been teaching us how to use a light box to capture small things.”

The photography club is a very popular club. It is a place where students can explore and develop their passion for photography.



This photo is trying to show the significance of time—how it should be treated as the “one and only” important factor in one's life.

- By ARIAL HSIA



This photo shows seven Nespresso Capsule Cafés. The use of the dark background is to emphasize the bright colors of the wrapping of the capsules. The photo is about the idea of joy and the luxury of joy.

- By JORDAN TANG

STUDENT CULTURE

By JOYCE SOONG

Loving our Homeland

Learning about Soil and Climate Conservation in AP Environmental Science

Weather and soil conservation has become an important issue, especially for people in Taiwan. After cloudbursts, landslides very often happen in areas around the mountains.

To provide students with the correct information about soil and weather conservation, Kang Chiao invited Dr. Alan Yang to give the AP Environmental Science students a speech on February 26.

Dr. Alan Yang first introduced the location of our country, which is on the junction of two plates. Earthquakes happen very often due to this fact. Since Taiwan is an island, the annual rainfall is more than that of a lot of other countries. When a cloudburst occurs after an earthquake, landslides are likely to happen.

Students felt surprised as they had not been aware of just how often landslides occur in Taiwan.

Dr. Yang then gave several examples, like the Shiao Lin village in Kaohsiung, which was covered in soil after one serious landslide. All the students



Dr. Alan Yang and the students exchange gifts at the end of the presentation.

were shocked when pictures of the disaster site were presented to them. The presentation gave students a clearer understanding of Mother Nature's power.

Then, Dr. Yang mentioned other extreme weather problems. Students looked at the data, which showed the increasing gap between hot summer and cold winter weather, and they began to discuss this issue. Some of the students were

worried about the consequences of extreme weather, and others were concerned with the causes of this phenomenon. Dr. Yang then answered each student's questions in details.

Later on, students began to ask all kinds of questions related to weather and soil conservation.

"Is the truss-bridge on the way to Kang Chiao safe?" asked Yafan Chang.

Dr. Yang then explained to the class that the bridge is an expensive and a totally safe project that uses newly developed technology. All of the students laughed when they heard this.

Alex Wu also asked about factories that polluted the rivers. The students in the AP Environmental Science class truly learned a lot from this presentation.

"I have never learned the reason for these natural disasters," said Ryan Huang. "These lectures gave me the right ideas about weather and soil conservation."

"This was really a great lesson to help us understand the problems happening on the country we live in," said Danny Lin.

He added that he wasn't that familiar with Taiwan's environmental problems before, but after the class, he knows that he needs to pay more attention to what happens in our beautiful homeland.

Dr. Yang's visit has been a step towards inspiring students to do more research and dig more deeply into this topic.

SCHOOL CLUBS

Practical Cheese!

Experiential Learning in our Classrooms

By YUMI HOSHI

It very stressful when we only read and memorize information in class. Most of the time, students sitting in this kind of class will feel bored to the extent that they will just pretend to be taking notes when they are actually doodling in their notebooks.

Now, teachers are more often replanning their lesson plans to replace lecture classes with more hands-on activities so we can

be active throughout the class and absorb information at the same time.

In biology class, we get to observe the heart by dissecting real pig hearts. In physics class, all of us get a box full of lab materials to work on in accordance to the lecture.

These kinds of classes actually teach us better than using only the book itself because rather than seeing illustrations, we get to observe the real objects by ourselves. We are able to use our five senses.

Language is something that is especially hard to only memorize, because we have to learn about the countries' cultures without actually stepping on the native land.

Fortunately, our language classes get to experience the culture of other countries.

An example is French class, instructed by Mr. John Wright. Students got to taste



different kinds of real French cheese. Mr. Wright tried really hard to find French cheese in Taiwan because he wanted to make sure that his students get to taste cheese only from France, rather than from other European countries.

During the tasting class, Mr. Wright also gave students worksheets to write their opinion about the different kinds of French cheese they tasted.

Claire Chang from 11F said, "The taste of the goat cheese was very unique and special. However, I don't like the smell of the cheese and it made me ill. I prefer to eat bread with butter instead of bread with French cheese."

Rex Lee from 11C said, "I

liked only one or two types of the cheeses. Nevertheless, I think it is a good chance for us to connect to French stuff. Other than that, we also got the chance to taste some dessert."

French class also does projects, for example, about French celebrities and countries where people speak French.

We pretty much do projects in all our classes now.

These kinds of lessons such as projects, labs, and cheese tasting classes really help us understand more about our lecture topics and increase every student's enthusiasm to attend in class.

I hope "learning by doing" classes will continue because practical work will not only increase our knowledge but also prepare us for the challenging years in college and beyond.



ARTS & CULTURE

Grade 8 Poetry: Poems Hide

Mrs. Dollenberg's grade 8 classes were asked to write poems in response to Naomi Shibab Nye's "Valentine for Ernest Mann."

By **PETER CHEN**

Poems hide under my pillow
Where I dream about them.
However, I can never remember them.
I try to grab the poem back to reality; however, I can never reach it.
Poems are everywhere in my dream,
And I wake up to face reality.

By **ALAN CHANG**

Where in the world would poems hide?
Under big trees or in the tides?
Honestly, I don't really care,
For I don't get who would think them fair.
They are really hard to understand,
So repetitive, almost none can withstand.
Maybe deep in my dislike for poems,
That's where they hide in their homes.

By **JOANNE CHEN**

Poems hide in the world,
In our life,
In our mind.
When we think,
When we find, when we feel,
They come, they go,
And leave footprints on their way home.

Unattached

By **MONICA LIN Grade 12**

You and I
Jammed into a bottle of memory, where
The lies, the abandonment, and the hatred mixed in, and
The water drops from the faucet that washes away
Your name forever disappears in our life.

I bear the harm you brought and my pride I swallowed.
Crying, Crushing, Claspings,
The desire and the grief stop walking round the clock
TICK-TOCK, TICK-TOCK, TICK-
Your name forever vanishes from my life.

Waking up from a dream, a dream that you cut
me into pieces like a mad man slaughtering enemies
I begged and kneeled, "Please, just suffocate me" then realize
It is only a dream: no more loss and tears.
Your name forever is gone in my life.

I ran away from your torture
I grew from your everlasting mocking laugh
I sought for a light that resurrects me
I forgive all, all of the mark that mars the memory
So, your name will forever be banished from my life.

Home

By **MONICA LIN Grade 12**

Sprinkling and tempting,
New York is an endless night, like colorful
Jewels in my mother's case.

Streetlights are gold reflecting on the roads,
Buildings are sapphires glittering in darkness,
People are plentiful slivers scattered in corners.

But Nothing, Nothing!
Can ever compare to home,
Like air in daily life,
Necessary, plain yet worthy.
Without home, people would be suffocating nomads,
Unattached to love and life.

The most valuable gem is no place,
But always home,
Family bond together, and secure their homeland.

Night

By **AL LU Grade 12**

How bright the city light shines on the street.
The energy seems not to cease, I see
Cars honking, stores calling shape the beat.

Commuters acknowledge intense heat
Coming from the stands and neon lights with glee
How bright the city light shines on the street.

Restlessly providing several treats
Stores vie for more customers, oh gee
Cars honking, stores calling shape the beat.

Sadly, none stopped to enjoy the view of night,
As travelers rush not noticing,
How bright the city light shines on the street.

Workers, just as others, failed to gain sight
Allure of clear sky and street's lullaby
Cars honking, stores calling shape the beat.

The ignored stars, overlooked clouds face blight
Busyness possess the focus of he
How bright the city light shines on the street.
Cars honking, stores calling shape the beat.

ARTS & CULTURE

Die deutsche Sprache – Why should we learn German?

By CORNELL CHENG

In Kang Chiao, there are three foreign languages available for students to learn; there are French, Spanish, and Japanese classes. However, in my opinion, it seems that there's a major European language which is left out ... Die deutsche Sprache.

Die deutsche Sprache literally means "The German language" in German. Such a popular and useful European language such as German should not be left out of Kang Chiao's selection of foreign languages.

There are several reasons that would emphasize the crucial significance of adding German classes here at Kang Chiao.

First of all, as most people know, Germany now has

the largest economy in Europe and is the economic powerhouse of the European Union. Despite the financial woes that most European nations have been going through during the past few years, Germany's economy has remained the strongest. German businesses earn 1 in 3 euros through export, and 1 in 4 jobs depends on exports. The competitiveness and desirability of German products on the European market are indicated by the country's substantial trade surplus.

Secondly, German is one of the most widely spoken languages in Europe. German is spoken by not only people in Germany, but also by people in Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, eastern Belgium,

eastern France, parts of Poland, the Czech Republic, Russia, Denmark, Luxembourg, Romania and other parts of Europe as well. Some of the European nations listed above have also made German their official language!

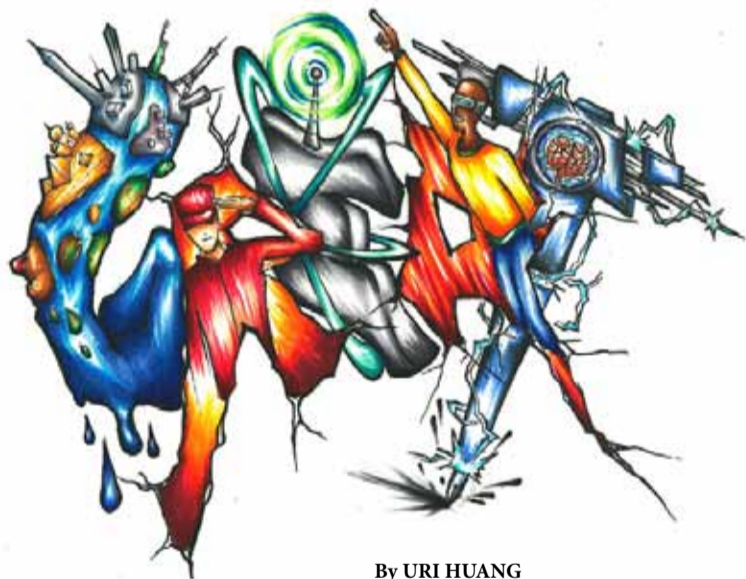
Thirdly, being able to speak German creates business opportunities, especially if you plan to be in the auto industry. BMW, Audi, Mercedes Benz, Porsche, Volkswagen and other major international automobile manufacturers originated in Germany.

Of course, there are other industries worth noting. Scientists would find German to be exceedingly beneficial to their career; German is the second most commonly used scientific language. Germany is also

the third largest contributor to research and development. Plus, Germany awards scholarships and other support for students abroad to study in Germany; working holiday visas are available for young foreigners and special visas are offered to skilled workers and professionals.

In conclusion, it would be extremely useful for the students of Kang Chiao to learn German since they plan on competing in the global arena, and especially if they plan on doing so in Europe. Learning German would expand their opportunities in business, increase the possibility of acquiring an impressive scholarship and improve the quality of their personal life; therefore, I would recommend that the school add German classes to our selection of foreign languages.

ART APPRECIATION

Uri's Unique Design: The KCIS GREAT Design Competition

By URI HUANG

Uri explains his first place winning design:

The definition of "great" has different meanings for different people. In this piece, the definition for the word "great" is presented by the school's acronym for the word.

I illustrated each letter by adding features that can best represent the following meaning of the letters:

"G" stands for "Global Participants."

"R" stands for "Responsible citizens."

"E" stands for "Effective Communicators."

"A" stands for "Active Achievers."

"T" stands for "True Critical and Creative Thinkers."

When a person possesses these five positive characteristics, a person is considered to be "GREAT."

By AMY LU & JOANA LIU

ESLRs, which are the expected essential school-wide learning results, are emphasized and encouraged by many schools, including KCIS.

Ms. Romalho and the Art Department decided to encourage the goals for students to achieve by holding an art competition.

By participating in the competition, students could not only connect and interact with the ESLRs idea, but also express their talent through their artwork.

"Through the different designs of GREAT, students



Middle School first place winner, Hannah Cheng (left) and second place winner, Angela Wu (right).

are able to express the culture and idea behind the letters. The unique designs are able to catch people's eye and bring attention to



the ESLRs when they look at the slogan," said Ms. Romalho.

Uri Huang, the winner of the competition, was able

to include and emphasize the elements that make up the concept of GREAT while successfully expressing his own style of drawing in his artwork.

KCIS would like to thank all the students who participated in the competition.



High School second place, Annie Chen.

The Nest On My Head

An Expressive Portrait in Three-Dimensional Forms



By JASON LIU

When I heard that we were doing face sculpting this semester, I was so looking forward to it. I am interested in having a career in art and design in the future, and this is the reason why I joined portfolio art.

I have learned a lot of art skills, and I feel that art has changed my life and the



way I view things; I can finally concentrate on schoolwork. We focused more on drawing and painting in class last year, so I was extremely excited when I heard that we were working with clay this time.

Because it was my first time creating a sculpture, I felt a bit nervous and

was afraid that I might not do well. Fortunately, although some of us worried about the process, Ms. Lisa kept encouraging us. Her support gave me the confidence to do my best.



We faced many different problems. The clay sometimes dried up too quickly and cracked. Sometimes it was difficult for us to make the right shape to create features on the face. However, we asked Ms. Lisa for tips and ways to solve our problems, and we also got different ideas from other students in the class.

The project continued for almost one

concentrate more on the work I am doing, and to learn to do things patiently.

Thanks to Ms. Lisa, the AP art students, and my friends in the portfolio art class, I was encouraged to finish this fun and challenging project. This has really given me the confidence to continue with my art.



and a half months. The sculpture slowly transformed from the first day when it was just a block of clay to a head with eyes, a nose, a mouth, ears, and hair.

Some students added creative elements to their sculpture.

My sculpture was a self-portrait with a bird's nest placed on my head. I made my nest by gathering the branches, flowers, grass, and nuts from around the school.

The reason I put a nest on top of my head is that I think we're getting busier in grade 11. There is a lot of pressure, so the nest symbolizes the feeling of pressure in my head.

I found out that sculpting is not easy. It requires some practice as you learn to use additive and subtractive techniques.

This project really influenced me. I continued to improve my ability to

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