



By NICHOLE TSAI

US Secretaries of State Visit KCIS

On April 22nd, some secretaries of state from the United States visited KCIS. Some of the states that were represented were Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Iowa.

The event was organized by Ms. Kay Lin, the Deputy Counselor of North American Affairs in Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the visitors were accompanied by Mr. Lester Yang, the Secretary of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the United States.

The vice-president of our student council, Gillian Cheng, said, "I think a visit like this is important for the school because it shows the school to other

in the visit as they represent the students of Kang Chiao.

Because they wanted to make sure to create a good impression, she and Joseph rehearsed what they were going to say very carefully.

Ms. Ramalho also stated that a lot of effort went into preparing for the visit. She said that the administration prepared quite a lot for the visit. They prepared videos and a PowerPoint presentation to introduce our school and program.

"The visit was short and I felt a lot of pressure to let them see as much as possible what is happening in our classrooms and



Our vice-principal, Ms. Ramalho, with the secretaries of state from North Carolina and Iowa.



After our honorable guests from the National Association of Secretaries of State were welcomed, they were invited to enjoy a tour of our school.

countries' people. We can also learn about their opinions."

She also stressed that a visit from representatives from the US is very important for our students particularly because many KCIS students aim to study in the US in the future. She said it was imperative for her and Joseph Yang, the student council president, to be involved

to see the quality of students in Taiwan."

The purpose of the visit was for the secretaries of state to come on a fact-finding mission about Taiwan. They wanted to learn more about Taiwan's education system, and they wanted to see how they can better support Taiwanese students going over to study in the US.

According to Ms. Ramalho, they visited other schools but they told Kang Chiao's representatives that our school has the most beautiful campus they have seen. They also said that they were very impressed with how well our students were interacting with



each other in the classrooms.

Ms. Ramalho said that Kang Chiao's representatives had the opportunity to speak individually with the secretaries of state.

"I particularly enjoyed chatting with one of the secretaries of state whose daughter is going to be studying in my home city. I could communicate with her and

arrange for her daughter to stay with my family."

11C Joana Liu, who is also a member of the student council, said, "I thought Kang Chiao was not that known to other people. Having important guests from other countries visit is incredible. I feel proud to be part of a school that has relations with important people in the government."

Ziv Wang, from 10B, said that she thought it was vital for Kang Chiao students to be part of a school that is interested in making international contacts.

"It will definitely help our students if we can move from a national to an international view," she commented.

Kang Chiao will always welcome the opportunity to represent Taiwan to visitors from other countries. Like Gillian Cheng said, we can all benefit, and learn from each other.



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SCHOOL TRENDS & EVENTS

Grade 10 Cycling around Taiwan: The News

By CELINA CHIU & JONATHAN TING

Can you imagine cycling 920 kilometers in 12 days? That is what the students of Grade 10 did, starting from April 13.

After eight training sessions, they departed from Kang Chiao and started their “Cycle Around Taiwan” trip. They met many challenges and hardships as they went through their journey.

The 10th graders first cycled down the eastern coast of Taiwan, then towards the southern tip of the island. Then they cycled back, but this time going up the western side.

On the first day, many parents came to support the 10th

Our “AWESOME” parents are always there to support us.



“The amazing view, local culture, and even the unique smell during the trip became a life-time memory after we finished this remarkable challenge.”—Mr. Bruce Chiang.

graders as they set off on their trip.

The climate and geography of Taiwan made cycling challenging. Cycling on the mountains and going against the wind was laborious.

On April 19, which was the 7th day of their trip, the 10th graders went through a coming-of-age ceremony in Tainan’s Confucian Temple. The parents also came to the Confucian Temple to attend the ceremony.

In the next five days, they rode back to Kang Chiao’s elementary school, arriving on the 24th of April.

“The cycling trip is important. There are many different things to experience,” said Eileen Yu of 10B.

Another student, Kevin Chen from 10B, said, “It is a very unforgettable memory. The places in Taiwan are pretty.”

Mrs. Dollenberg, an



English teacher who went with the 10th graders, said, “I learned to keep going, and not to give up.”

Overall, after a long, exhausting trip around the island, the 10th graders made many significant and momentous memories. These memories could be useful in the future. They learned many life skills, such as never giving up. The 10th graders will treasure their memories the rest of their lives.

See p. 3 for Mrs. Dollenberg’s article and more responses from our brave 10th graders.



Canoe Polo Team to Compete in Germany



By JENNA CHIANG & JOYCE YEH

Kang Chiao’s canoe polo team is getting ready to participate in the International German Cup Competition, for the second year in a row, from May 5th to June 3rd in Essen, Germany.

It is a really high-

level competition that many professional teams from all over the world participate in. A total of 32 students from Kang Chiao will participate in the competition.

For this competition, Kang Chiao’s teams have made a lot of preparation, such as morning training from 6:00 to

8:00 a.m., night training at the Taipei Training Station, and training on holidays, which takes place in the Breeze Canal of the Bitan River.

One of the students, Albert Lin, said, “I feel confident about the competition that we are going to compete in because

we did a lot of preparation, so I really look forward to the competition.”

One of the team’s coaches, A Fei, said, “The purpose of participating in the competition isn’t about winning—it’s about learning experiences and teamwork. Students will also learn about German culture through this trip. We also hope we can participate in more international competitions in the future.”

Kang Chiao’s canoe polo team was started seven years ago. It was first formed for the purpose of letting students know that they cannot always be in the center in a team—they have to consider others’ feelings, and learn about teamwork.

The canoe polo team took first place in the Taiwan’s Canoe Polo Competition this year and last year.

TEACHER REPORT

Life Is a Journey—Enjoy the Ride!

By MRS. DOLLENBERG.

When the grade 10 students embarked on their incredible journey around Taiwan from 13-24 April, they probably never realized how close they would get to experiencing the above-mentioned quotation! And what a journey it was!

We saw some beautiful parts of Taiwan from the seats of our bikes. To be able to view these exquisite scenes from up close made this journey worth every kilometer that we cycled. I hope the students have learned from this cycling trip and that when life is tough, they will remember how they persevered during this trip.

Along the way, I knew I was never alone when I was going through a difficult part:



Sean Chen (10B): “During this cycling trip, I learned more about Taiwan. I learned how to perform perfect team work, but mostly, I learned much more about myself. I learned how to confront difficult situations, and earned more self-confidence after this trip.”

remarkable trip to be ruined by this challenge. So, I kept going and eventually reached the top!”

Billy Chiang (10F): “For me it was the headwind. In the north-western parts of Taiwan, there are always strong headwinds blowing during April to May.



the students were there, in front of me, and behind me, going through exactly the same feelings and emotions I was: they motivated me to keep going!

What did you learn from this trip?

Amy Ho (10A): “I learned to be strong and not to give up so easily... I learned that I have to be responsible for all of my actions; either to continue this bike trip or to give up because I don't have faith in myself.”

Ms. Sandra Chen (Homeroom Teacher for 10F): “What I will remember of this trip, is the challenge! I had to keep telling myself to keep going, and to not give up!”

Sarah Shih (10F): “I learned that if we believe in ourselves and never give up, there is nothing we can't do.”

What was the most challenging part of the trip?

Jerry Lin (10C): “The route to Shouka was 12km... I did not give up because I didn't want my



The headwind was challenging for me because when I tried to cycle forward, the wind pushed me back. I had to use more power to try and keep cycling forward. This made me feel unhappy and exhausted!”

Christine Lin (10E): “I think the most challenging part of this trip would be cycling up Shouka Mountain... The twists and turns were very steep, and it was very hard for me to keep going while my body was burning inside out!”

What suitable quote would you

choose for this cycling trip?

Angela Chong (10F): “Don't limit your challenges. Challenge your limits”.

Jason Wu (10C): Confucius said: “It does not matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop”.

Howard Liao (10D): “Don't stop when you are tired. Stop when you are done.”

Hannah Chang (10A): “The harder the struggle, the more glorious the triumph.”

Carol Lee (1001): Success is perseverance.”

For most of the students, there were two highlights: the first was when they had conquered the



grueling Shouka Mountain on the fifth day. That evening they all received letters from their parents to congratulate them on their achievement. It was very touching to see so many tears!

The second highlight was the “Coming-of-Age” ceremony. Parents, family members and relatives came to enjoy this special occasion with their child.

Now, the students have realized that everyone had to put in some effort to accomplish this challenge, and this has made them feel so proud of themselves.

I hope the grade 10 students continue to keep moving forward as they pursue their incredible journey of life!



STUDENT CULTURE

The Romance of the Three Kingdoms: Grade 8 Camping Trip

By MENG WU & MELODY CHIU

On May 7, the 8th graders went camping for two days. They were divided into three groups: Cao Wei, Shu Han, and Eastern Wu. Their trip was based on *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.

On the first day, after traveling on the school bus for an hour and a half, the students attended the opening ceremony and learned how to assemble their tents.

(The location of this year's camping trip was the Shangri-La Paradise amusement park in Miaoli County.)



For the rest of the afternoon, each homeroom competed against each other in small group activities requiring teamwork to win points for their Kingdom.

Then, they cooked their own dinner. After lighting a campfire, they participated in a dancing competition, where each homeroom showed off all their hard work and weeks of practice. On the second day, the students woke up at 6:30 a.m. and were

given half an hour to pack up their tents and luggage.

After having breakfast, they immediately continued



their group activities from the day before. After they cooked their own food on a barbecue for lunch, they started to use their points to attack and defend their kingdoms. Each homeroom had its own city to defend. There were tears of joy, shouts of anger,



and sweat drops of hard work!

At the end of two tiresome days, the students developed a strong sense of responsibility through teamwork. Each student tried their hardest to achieve their goal and help their kingdom—the same way they would work their hardest in class to achieve their goal.



FIELD TRIP



Learning how to use GPS correctly is part of the grade 7 curriculum. Here Mr. Yu-lin Jian is explaining the task to the students.

By JONATHAN TING & CELINA CHIU

On April 10th, the 7th grade OP and SP students attended an outing to the Taipei Zoo.

When they arrived at the zoo, the students were expected to accomplish 42 missions the teachers had created for them. The 42 missions asked students to find out about details of the zoo and the identity of animals. Students scored points by finishing missions (using maps, Facebook, and GPS). The winning team was the 7E class.

Even though it was raining, the students ran to all parts of the zoo with raincoats and umbrellas and worked hard to score points even though it was cold.

Han Yang from Team 21 said, "Although I was the GPS person in our team, I did not use the

7th Grade Field Trip: Students Work Hard to Accomplish Missions

GPS much to help in our missions. We figured out the way by ourselves and successfully finished the mission."

Nita Wu from 7C was the leader of group 11.

"Using the GPS is really useful, but you need to look at the map first. Our group got lost a couple of times, but we worked with the other groups to complete the missions."

Jason Liu, also from Team 21, commented that patience and teamwork were a big part of the missions.

After the trip, the students held a meeting at the international meeting room to discuss the issues raised by the event. Most agreed that the key to winning was not just trying hard but about the group working together.



Students practiced finding locations using GPS before going on the trip.



They had to find questions and locations on Facebook and post their answers on Facebook.



Students had many different missions to complete. For this mission, they had to take a photo at the water pumps and post it on Facebook.



They used maps to help them, and were required to stay in constant communication with each other.



The students were graded based on their speed and accuracy. The students said that the groups that were able to work together well were the most successful.

STUDENT CULTURE

By AMY LU & AMBER LIN

The 2015 Kang Chiao Book Drive

As Malala Yousafzai once said, “One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.”

Books, be it short stories or novels, comics or classics, humor or horror, can impact our lives in many significant ways. As students at Kang Chiao, we often find ourselves taking the abundance of books available to us for granted, associating many of them with negative connotations and perceiving them with apathy.

Rather than thinking in this manner, students should acknowledge that reading, analyzing, and comprehending books at a young age not only



Kang Chiao’s students donated books to the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families, Xindian Branch.

donor, the importance of reading, or just included simple words of encouragement.

in that it created an opportunity for our students and the children to communicate and exchange

thought that donating them would be the most sensible solution.

Johnny specifically noted that, “At the end of the day, seeing the faces of excitement and appreciation from these young kids made the whole donation even more meaningful than I ever imagined.”

He also shared his opinion of how reading books from a young age is important.

“The books that made me really into reading is the Harry Potter series. Although these novels may sound immature or childish, they actually helped me



create good reading habits since I was a little kid.”

The 2015 Book Drive aimed to not only help these children form good reading habits from a young age, but also to allow new bonds to form between the Kang Chiao students and the young children who visited our school.

allow us to acquire knowledge but also to develop creativity, curiosity, and wonder.

The 2015 Book Drive in Kang Chiao International School captured this idea wholeheartedly and transformed it into an inspiring experience for many students.



This year’s book donation was special in that each of the hundreds of donated books was complemented by personalized letters and notes by the donor. Many of these letters explained how the book had impacted the

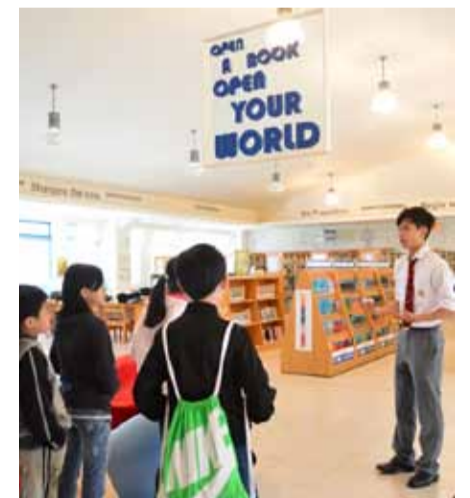
Not only were individualized notes given to the receivers of the books, these children were also invited on a fun field trip to our campus!

As the head of the library at KCIS, Mrs. Vicky Hsueh said, “The donation alone was able to demonstrate the importance of good reading habits and abilities to students but the field trip was what made this donation special

their ideas.”

She further stated, “By allowing each donor to personally meet and hand these books to each of the children, it made the children feel more intimate with our students.”

Johnny Chen, a participant in this donation drive, stated that he had gotten involved simply because he had extra books around the house and



It was an outstanding experience that included the formation of friendships. Both the students that were involved in this donation and Mrs. Hsueh look forward to having another wonderful book drive as soon as possible!

Speaking Mandarin in English Classes

Teachers and Students

By MELODY CHIU Grade 8

Understanding a lesson or a class is easier when it's explained in your first language. Is this a good enough reason for students to be allowed to speak Mandarin in classes that are taught in English?

Mr. Knight (Math) -- "If you don't know a word, what do you do? You ask somebody what it means, you Google it, you look in the dictionary to understand it. Well, I think when you're talking about using Chinese within an English class, you look at that as being a resource to understand what it is you're doing which is very similar to going to a dictionary or going to Google and looking up a word. So I think it's just a resource. I think if you look at it from that perspective, it should be okay."

Angela Wu (8th Grade) -- "I think if we speak Chinese nowadays,

it would be easier for us to communicate, but in KCIS, we are international, so we need to speak English much more and better to make it easier to go to international universities."

Grace Yu (8th Grade) -- "I think we can speak Chinese when we are talking together because we didn't learn some of the words and because our first language is Chinese so I think it's okay to speak it, but when you are talking in a big group then you have to speak English. But some words you can say Chinese like if you don't know how to say. I think it's okay but not always."

All agree that although we need to learn how to communicate in English to help us in the future, a little bit of Mandarin is okay if used in the right situation and in the right amount. But when is it considered too much?

Ms. Chu (English) -- "That is very difficult to answer. It's case by case. If the students can use

English to carry out the activity or to learn a new concept, then they should. Too much Chinese is when you grow lazy. When you know you can communicate in English but maybe slower and maybe it takes longer, you switch to Chinese. That's what I would consider as too much. There's not really a certain amount that I can give you because it would depend on the task that students are doing."

Grace Yu (8th Grade) - It's too much when the teacher gets angry at you.

What about the students who have trouble communicating in English? What should they do if they don't understand the lesson? How can they participate in class?

Mr. Ackers (Social Studies)- For those students—they're not going to get better by continuing to speak Chinese. They need to get better by involving themselves in the language in whatever way they can and challenging themselves.

If they read it in English, and then speak Chinese, they're going to focus on Chinese, when they should be focusing on English.

Ms. Chu (English)- "I would say they have to push themselves to speak more and it's difficult, I understand, but the less you practice, the slower you're going to improve. So to just not be afraid of making mistakes, even if you think your sentences are 'broken' or not very complete. It's okay if you are communicating using just individual words. You need to start somewhere."

Judy Wang (7th Grade) -- "I think they can speak more English in class and teachers can ask them more questions."

Phoebe Hsu (9th Grade) -- "I think the school should create an ESL program so that people who aren't good at English can be in the same class and learn easier materials. Even though we are international students, we aren't all fluent in English and I think we should all be able to learn the language at our own pace through an ESL program."

Drought in Taiwan

By MENG YU WU Grade 8

Everyone knows that only 3% of earth's water is fresh water, and that 1% of the water is what we normally use. It may seem impossible, but did you know that Taiwan is ranked 18th for water-scarcity in this world?

Every year, the total rainfall of Taiwan is around 2,000 millimeters, but most of the rainwater is washed into the sea. Only one seventh of rain water is stored in reservoirs. The reason why most of the water is washed into the sea is because Taiwan is densely populated, and there are lots of steep slopes and rivers. It rains a lot in the city, but it is

brief, and it doesn't rain near the reservoirs.

We are currently experiencing a drought in Taiwan. It may seem unusual, but the temperature of the Pacific and cold, dry air caused this to happen. The drought is a result of the lowest rainfall last autumn and winter since 1947 in Taiwan, which is a new record.

For example, Shihmen Reservoir, which supplies water to both Taoyuan and New Taipei City, has only 26% of water left. Shihmen Reservoir also had its lowest record of 22% in this drought since it was opened in 1964. Many farms in Taiwan also don't have enough water to plant

crops, which may slowly lead to food shortage.

Here are a few steps to reduce the usage of water:

1. Use a shower instead of a bath; it could reduce not only the amount of water used, it could also save time.
2. Use the dishwasher and clothes washer only when used at maximum amount.
3. Don't drink bottled water. Bottled water wastes both water and money.
4. While brushing your teeth, turn off the tap to save water.
5. Check for leaks in pipes. A small leak could lose around 3,670 liters in a day.

The drought has already

caused many problems in Taiwan. As the water supply decreases every day, we should take action and save water. This way we can be responsible citizens.



Charcoal work depicting drought produced by Grade 12 student Cash Huang

STUDENT CULTURE

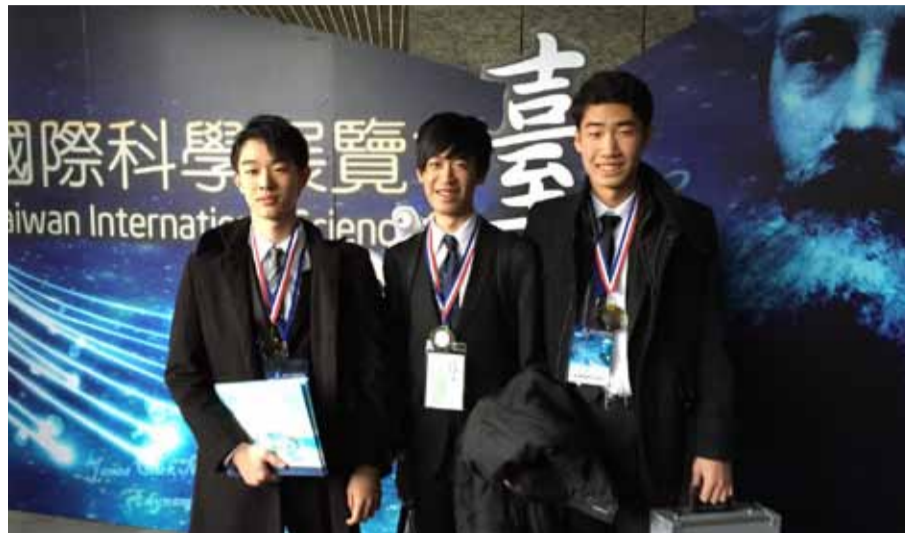
Computer Science: Inventors with Big Ideas

By OPHELIA TSAI

At the 2015 Taiwan International Science Fair, three of our Kang Chiao students Jeff Kuo, Jeff Liao, and Eric Su won the championship in the category of computer science with their invention of a blue light filter. They also won the Intel Computer Science Award with the support of the Intel Corporation who is willing to collaborate with the three of them for further improvement.

11E Jeff Liao said, "I found out that many of my classmates like to look at their phones for a long time, and the news said that our eyes can be damaged by the blue light emitted from the screen. So we wanted to design a filter that is both convenient and can keep the original color of the screen to protect everyone's eyes."

11B Eric Su also said, "Since 9th grade, three of us would do research together on the weekend. From the very beginning till the



very end, we worked together perfectly well, and I'm very glad that we made it!"

11A Jeff Kuo said, "After the competition, I realized that scientific research should link to our daily life and even with businesses to further combine our inventions with people's need so we can improve our quality of life."

The Taiwan International Science Fair took place in the National Taiwan Science

Education Center with over 252 contestants from 20 different countries.

From all the contestants, only 54 could earn awards, and out of the 54 people only 14 would be selected to compete in the International Science Fair abroad.

Three of our students won the championship and they will also represent Taiwan to compete in the International Science Fair in Brussels, Belgium, on July 19th.

Views on the Problem of Students Cheating

By ARDEN LEE & BRIAN SHENG Grade 7

The cases of students cheating have become increasingly abundant recently. Here are some students' and teachers' opinions on the topic.

Grade 8 student Thomas Wu, from 801, shared that, "Parents are a large factor in such acts. Self-confidence, recognition, and pride influence the students. They're more desperate to get an A than they are to learn. Parental stress and peer pressure are also part of the reason why students choose to cheat."

Aura Kung from 901 stated that tests are an evaluation of your own knowledge of academic subjects. If one takes tests just to please teachers and parents, the purpose of exams are gone. If a person has to cheat to get good grades it means that



the cheater has no ability to score legitimately on tests.

8B Kevin Chen commented, "Cheating is a really bad habit and can show the virtue of a person. A person cheats because they don't recognize that the act of cheating on tests is being unfair to other students."

Ryan Wang from 902 said "From an outsider's perspective, I don't think cheating is a big deal. It's happening in schools all around the world. It's their choice to cheat, not mine. And they are the ones getting into trouble if

they get caught. Most importantly is that the ones who cheat—his or her score can't ever be better than mine. I even feel a little sorry for those who need to cheat in order to get a better score."

Mr. Chin-Ying Chao, a counselor from the SP department, mentioned that students cheat because of their desire to get good grades. He said that there is not any point to cheat because of the fact that you are only lying to teachers, your parents and, most importantly, yourself. Students often get complacent after cheating too much because of the fact that they treat those grades as their own.

All in all, cheating is nothing more than being dishonest to oneself. Though it provides an easier method to good grades, in the long term, nothing good will come of it.

The Lost Cicada

By MABEL CHOU Grade 8

I called to the lost cicada,
whose song was an echo afar,
whose shadow was but a silhouette,
in the softly sighing forest.
And I fingered the dying grass,
who had blown the sun past.
lost in craving dreams,
on the wings of a lark.
And I kissed the broken rose,
lost in the sweet of woes.
Its season far too young,
Its petals far too lush.
So sweeping up my maple gown,
I brushed the trees,
withered crown.
And I bid the moon goodnight,
for all the stars,
had snuffed their light.

Grade 12 Literature: Allusion Activity

Reality: Nothing Really Exists

By LYLY WANG

Beware of Christmas,
everything is fair.
Standing in an oasis,
where everything is dead.
Listening to the roses,
love is in the air.
Watching the fire,
like it is deaf.
Beware of the second coming,
heaven will not be there.
Humble desert speaks to the oasis,
the lie of death.
Roses will die,
love is never here.
Fire burns to ashes,
Who dares to live and breathe.
Never believe the old lie;
Just let the silence lie.

This is the way the world ends.
This is the way the world ends.
This is the way the world ends.
Not with a bang but a whimper.

Art Is for All: The 2015 “Create Your Creative Block” Project



Faculty members' work ready to be mounted on a large piece of board!



From the left: HS Coordinator Harriet Chien, science teacher Theo Dollenberg, and MS Coordinator Yahsin Chang creating!



Vice-principal Allan Li dripping paint onto his creative block.



Principal James Wu with his Kang Chiao-color Tai Chi symbol which represents balance, and the school's main focus - GREAT.

By JOANA LIU

Last year, the *Metamorphosis* exhibition presented the incredible works done by the students in both AP Art and Portfolio Art class along with 10 teachers' works. The students showed creativity and imagination with just the strokes of their brushes. This year, however, the new exhibition, called *Evanescence*, will not only exhibit students' works, but also 48 of our staff and teachers' works.

In this exhibition, there will be a special project called “Create Your Creative Block” which will include the artworks done by our teachers. Each teacher was given a block of canvas to draw on. This project allowed the staff members and teachers to explore their own imagination and express their deep thoughts through art.

When asked how she came up with the idea for her work, Ms. Harriet Chien replied: “It just came to me. The colors, the butterflies, and the flowers.”

Everyone has their own little world in their minds. Our teachers, such as Mr. Wu, Ms. Frankie, Mr. and Mrs. Dollenberg, and many others, were able to present their world on their own small block of canvas.

The teachers and staff members in our school created their astonishing works by relating them to their expectations, culture, or simply to their imagination.

“I always liked dot painting,” said Mr. Bates. “It's just a lot harder than I thought it was!”

Our principal, Mr. Wu, also showed his artistic side by drawing a Tai Chi-type logo around our school's ESLRs: GREAT.

“Kang Chiao has a curriculum,” he said, “and its aim is to educate children. The Tai Chi sign represents balance, and the main focus is GREAT.”

The *Evanescence* exhibition will take place from June 7th to June 23rd.

The 48 works done by the staff and teachers will be arranged onto a large wall in the exhibition where we will be able to see the other side of who our teachers are. With the works of the students and teachers combined, I would say that the *Evanescence* exhibition this year is an event to be excited about.



Vice-principal Anne Ramalho, exploring paint with her creative block.



Social studies department head, Niall Birtwell, depicting Vancouver.



PE teacher Mr. Casper Keller creating his block with a brayer.



Grade 12 student, Annie Chen, working with the Creative Arts Department director, Witty Lin.



Director John Liao examining his work with art teacher, Ms. Lisa Chen.

KANG CHIAO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

秀岡校區 | 23153 新北市新店區華城路800號
(高中/國中) 電話：(02)2216-6000

青山校區 | 23153 新北市新店區頂城五街80號
(小學/幼兒園) 電話：(02)8211-2000

康軒校區 | 23146 新北市新店區中興路二段218巷11號3樓
(幼兒園) 電話：(02)8665-1866

大直校區 | 11446 臺北市內湖區內湖路一段49號
(幼兒園) 電話：(02)2799-0099

華東校區 | 江蘇省昆山市花橋經濟開發區西環路500號
(K~12) 電話：+86512-8269-9000

www.kcbs.ntpc.edu.tw

Publisher Kang Chiao International School

CEO Mike Lee

Publishing Director James Wu

Editorial Board James Wu, Meking Shu, Anne Ramalho, Chingyau Li, Sy Chang, Shannon Chou, Lily Hsu, Aries Lee, John Liao, Decca Chow, Michelle Lai, Harry Wu, Jimmy Ho, Michelle Hsu, Maggie Chen

Publishing Staff:

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Editor Amy Lu

Writers Jenna Chiang, Celina Chiu, Melody Chiu, Mabel Chou, Mrs. Dollenberg, Arden Lee, Amber Lin, Joana Liu, Amy Lu, Brian Sheng, Jonathan Ting, Nichole Tsai, Ophelia Tsai, Joyce Yeh, Meng Yu Wu

Photography IT Department, Blaire Chang, KK Lee, Sandra Chen, Vicky Hsueh, Millie Lee, Mia Li, Lisa Chen