



Learning to Lead through Volunteering



By **LESLIE HUANG & TIFFANY CHENG** Grade 8

Over the summer of 2015, the 11th graders from both the OP and the SP departments went on volunteer trips to Hsinchu and Taitung respectively.

Although they traveled to different places, the students were all given the task of teaching students who live in rural areas and who might only have limited access to resources. The students from Kang Chiao didn't just pass on knowledge to the students; they also gained some knowledge themselves.



The Hsinchu Jianshi Volunteer Team

The 11th graders from the OP department had to prepare activities and classes for the children in Shihlei Elementary school. They needed to learn how to become an independent adult and a reliable leader. The whole volunteering job focus was on responsibility and cooperation. The students also had to cook for

a large amount of people.

After their trip, the students were required to write a reflection of what they learned and what troubles they faced.

One of the volunteers, Sharon Lin said, "It was not only about getting the food done or cleaning the kitchen; it was about teamwork, trust, and effective communication. I followed my own will when my student was hurt, did what I believed was right, and helped her as a reliable mature adult."

Another student, Maggie Lin wrote, "This trip not only gave me an opportunity to teach, but it also taught me an important lesson, which is [to give]. Every day, everyone makes decisions about whether to act like givers or like takers."

She further stated: "People who are selfish only know how to take things from others. I discovered that giving is an effective way of sharing happiness. And when we act like givers, we must contribute to others without seeking a return."



The 11th graders also learned how to be leaders.

Margaret Hsu said "I learned that a leader is not the one who demands his teammate do something; a leader is the one that can lead the discussion and complete tasks with discussion efficiently. A good leader is the one that does everything beforehand perfectly, but she should always be adaptable in every kind of condition."



The Taitung Wulu Volunteer Team

The 14 students from the Secondary Department were also excited about their experience. As they were preparing for the trip, they were hoping to learn how to be teachers, how to be independent, and how to share with others.

When asked about her thoughts, Anny Hsu from 1103 said, "We gained a lot of knowledge from this trip. We had to show off our culinary skills and we also had to do our own



laundry. It felt like some sort of summer camp."

Of course, the students knew that their responsibility would be greater than if they had

just been preparing for a summer camp. And even though they thought the volunteer trip was a success, there were still some difficulties they faced.

Mandy Wu from stated,



"Teaching the students was the hardest part... [They were] hard to control sometimes."

Despite the difficulties, both of them thought the ten days they spent helping others was worth it, and they would love to go on the volunteer trip again if they were offered the chance.

All the students also wished to thank the teachers and directors who gave them this opportunity. The teams from both the OP and SP departments had to receive training every Friday during club time to prepare them for this summer's activities.

This semester, students are already training for another volunteer trip during the winter vacation.

Kang Chiao will continue to encourage students to sign up for volunteer opportunities, and to offer them the chance to

do so. The goal of the school is to help our students to become thoughtful, responsible citizens, and leaders of our wonderful country and world.



SCHOOL TRENDS & EVENTS

Sun Moon Lake: A 3000-Meter Swim

By MABEL CHOU Grade 9 & SOPHIE WANG Grade 7

On the 18th of September, the entire ninth grade swam across the green waters of Sun Moon Lake, the second largest lake in Taiwan.

First, they arrived at the Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village, and took all sorts of rides—from water-splashing Caribbean boats to UFOs, from scream-jerking 360-degrees roller coasters to merry-go-rounds. But the real challenge was the next day.

A five o'clock morning call jerked the students awake from their slumber. After breakfast, they took a walk to the lake, already in their swimming gear, and arrived at the Sun Moon shores at roughly 7:30. There was a nervous jostle towards the lake



in which each team had to try not to get separated. After a shower of cold droplets they were off!

It wasn't very sunny that day. There were nineteen teams, and each team went according to how well they did in the swimming endurance test. On either side of the lake were hazy mountains, with little white bobbing dots of people stretching across the lake.

Every few meters there was a floating emergency stand where people would give out bits of chocolate or pour water into the swimmers' mouths. The students could choose to hang on to each team's floating board if tired, but hardly anyone did.

Some students found it

really interesting to be eating in the water, as they had never experienced that before.

"The thing is swimming 3300m isn't that tiring. The tiring thing was the waves. They kept rocking us about, and we had to try not to get swept away. Swimming in a lake is so different because your feet can't touch the ground. My legs were unsteady when I mounted the shore, but it was such an amazing feeling to have accomplished something that seemed impossible at first," said Kelly Hsu, from 902.

"At first I thought it was scary because I couldn't touch the ground. I couldn't see what was going on inside the water. I

was worried that the water would be dirty. When I got there, I was surprised. The water was clean and cold; it was not that bad," said JJ Lin, from 9G.

Ms. Hung, one of the swimming coaches, remarked, "The students this year swam really well. Normally, there'd be one or two students clinging to the float boards to get across, but this year there were none. The students all enjoyed themselves in the water a lot. Also, this year's students had a good sense of timing and had all completed the swim in roughly two-and-a-half hours, arriving in Taipei before 4 p.m., a good record for junior high students."

The whole ninth grade group completed the 3300 meters swim within two and a half hours. By eleven o'clock, everyone was upon the shore, tired, slightly unsteady on their feet, but all filled with a sense of accomplishment.



VOLUNTEER

KCIS Scouts Volunteer

By JOEY WU Grade 9

The sun had just risen, giving some light to the cloudy sky. Police and soldiers were everywhere. Hands were holding wooden sticks to stop people.

It was not something dangerous. It was the morning of the Double Ten Day Celebrations in front of the Presidential Palace in Taipei. The hands holding the wooden sticks belonged to the Scouts who volunteered to help with the Double Ten Day security.

Scouting is a popular activity around the world. Scouts from different schools gathered that morning at Dongmen Elementary School, and eight Scouts from Kang Chiao were among them. The Scouts stood from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, holding their wooden sticks to form a barrier and give protection

to the performers and soldiers who marched down the main road. Not even reporters were allowed to cross the road and interrupt the ceremony.



There were cameras and reporters everywhere around the plaza. They wanted to take the best photos of the ceremony.

Slowly, the VIP stage filled up with ambassadors, other important foreign guests, and Taiwan's important politicians. Everyone was waiting for the ceremony to start.

Before the events of the day started, the Scouts also had to help set up by placing thousands of flags on the chairs where the audience would sit.

The ceremony started at 9:00 a.m. The first performance was

the soldiers marching. The soldiers could be seen marching in step, and came marching down the main road. Their boots make a loud sound as they marched in unison. After a few performances, the president made a long speech. It seemed like many of the Scouts thought it was tiring. Their bodies started swaying back and forth, and they had a tired, sleepy look. The temperature became hot, and the Scouts knew they would be even hotter if it rained and they needed to put on their raincoats.

After many long performances, the ceremony was over. The Scouts took some pictures in front of the Presidential Office. Everyone looked very happy that the ceremony was over. It was very tiring standing for 6 hours without any rest.

Although tired, many Scouts said that they were glad to have taken part in and helped out at the Double Ten Day Ceremony as it was a very special experience.

TEACHER REPORT



Eye on Our Teachers

By JOANA LEE Grade 7

Mr. Coetzee teaches social studies at Kang Chiao. He is from South Africa and has been living in Taiwan for six years.

What is your favorite kind of food and drink?

I love all food, but salmon sashimi and chocolate milk are my favorite.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Socializing with friends, going to dinners, going to musical performances, going on scooters trips, and seeing nature (springs, mountains, and rivers).

If you had to represent yourself with an animal, what would it be?

A lion, because everyone says I look like one.

List five adjectives to describe

yourself. Why did you choose them?

Positive, because I always try to see the best. Kind, because I seldom say no and will try to help others. A little crazy and adventurous—I like to have fun and do insane things. Expressive, because I'm not afraid to show my personality. Approachable, since I smile a lot, which makes people more comfortable.

If you could visit one place on Earth, all expenses paid, where would it be, and why?

Machu Picchu, because I love ancient civilizations, different cultures, and nature.

Where did you grow up, and

what was it like?

I lived in Cape Town, South Africa, for nine years. It was very beautiful and has lots of natural spots, like Rio de Janeiro. Then, when I was a teenager, I lived in Port Elizabeth. Even though it was smaller and less flashy, it was more local and everyone knew who you were which makes it feel very safe.

If you had a million dollars, what would you do with it?

I would make sure everyone in my family had enough, take them all on a vacation, then save the rest.

When you were little, what was your dream?

To become an architect, a backpacker, a chef, a rock star, travel the world, or start a school in poorer countries.

Who do you think has made the most difference in our world?

Mandela, Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King...People that fight for peace and equality.

What university did you attend, and what courses did you take?

I attended Rhodes University, and majored in history and anthropology.

Why did you become a teacher?

It used to be so I could pay off student loans and travel the world, but now it's because I can teach but also be creative and see the spark in children's eyes.

By YINGLI LU Grade 7

Ms. Kekelis has been teaching English at Kang Chiao for three years. She enjoys travelling, sports, food, and art, and supports the Cleveland Browns.

What do you love most about teaching at Kang Chiao?

I love the students at Kang Chiao, especially the silly jokes and big smiles...I have a tiny Thor head on my desk that one of my students gave me and all sorts of drawings and notes surrounding my desk. Even though some of the notes are really odd or strange, those types of things make me laugh! Since this is my third year at Kang Chiao, I have been able to see my students grow and am so proud of the people they are becoming. The students are definitely the best part of KCIS.

What is your favorite sport?

Sports have been a huge part of my life since I was a little girl, growing up in a house of boys, and with my dad as my coach for many different activities. I have played soccer my entire life, all the way through university, so soccer is my favorite. In Taipei, I played on the Taiwan Celts Gaelic team, the international team for Taipei, and we received 2nd place last year at

the Kuala Lumpur Asian Games in Malaysia.

Unfortunately, I have some knee injuries so I did not play this year, so I turned to fitness and trying TRX. If you have ever seen the hanging ropes in the fitness center, this is what I am talking about. I am also in a fantasy football league, which I am guessing from pure luck, is in the top three. I watch NFL football every Monday night with some of your fellow teachers. My favorite team is the Cleveland Browns! Definitely a better team than the Bears.

Do you have any interests that you would like to share?

One of my interests is art. I took ceramics classes for a long time and a few Art History classes at Ohio University. I love watercolors and creating paintings for my friends; turning white paper into something that's beautiful and sharing it has a lot of personal value.

What do you do to create a positive environment in your class?

Smiling is a very important thing during the lesson. Sometimes if it's not going exactly as planned, I'll find a new way to adapt, so there's no frustration in the class.



What do you love most about Taipei or Taiwan? Where do you think is the best place to go during the weekend or on vacation?

I love the beaches and mountains in Taiwan, with Waiao and Wulai as my top two places! I mostly go there during weekends to play volleyball or be a super lazy beach bum. I want to live an easy life outside of work, and Taiwan definitely allows for that, especially with a scooter. I am also a foodie, and try a new restaurant at least once a week. Some of the teachers and I also have a dinner club where we take turns choosing a new place to go to and try new food; my new favorite is Mia

Cucina! Mr. Joubert is the ultimate food critic!

What are the other countries you would like to travel to?

This past summer, I traveled to Spain and Portugal. I had never been to that part of the world before, and I really felt like Barcelona and some of the other Spanish cities were calling my name. The art and culture, and the wheels upon wheels of cheese are heaven. I am going to Japan in December, which after living in Asia for so long, I can't believe it took me this long to get to. Although I have a huge list of places to go, my ultimate dream would be to go to Italy, learn the language, and open up a little DIY studio with all of the people I love most.

What would you really like to share about Ohio? Do you ever miss your family in the States?

I miss Ohio every day...Whenever I meet someone from Ohio, I freak out because it is an instant connection, especially with being so far from home...I talk with my family every single day, even if it's just a text message. Whenever I go to a beach, I draw a little outline of Ohio and snap a photo for my family. No matter where I am in the world, there is really nothing like home.

STUDENT CULTURE

Level Up!

By JENA LEE & YINGLI LU Grade 7

The transition from elementary to middle school is hard, and many students have problems adjusting.

Things have changed, the amount of homework received increases, the work is getting harder, plus the teachers have different teaching styles. On the other hand, there are also many benefits. There are lots of choices for lunch, you can choose if you want to go to an international or local middle school; in other

The new grade 7 students attend a summer camp each year.



words, you have more freedom. By interviewing seventh graders, we have gathered some information about their opinion on this topic.

Ryan Liu who is from 7B and graduated from Kang Chiao Elementary School said, "The best thing about middle school is the school convenience store, because in elementary you couldn't get the awesome fries, hamburgers, and drinks".

The downside is that he doesn't really feel comfortable with the new teaching methods, how teachers nag at him, or the way they always have to correct him.

Katelyn Lee who is from 7E and transferred from another school said, "I've never been to a school that teaches almost every subject in English before. It's quite different from my old school, but even though it might not be what I'm used to, it's still great to experience new things."

Justin Ma from 705 said, "It's pretty much the same as



elementary—the only difference is the teachers are harder on us, and they demand more about our future, but it's always good for us to learn more."

Many students agree that teachers support you, and want you to have a better life, and that is why they want students to try to work harder.

Teresa Hu from 702 said, "I think the English is more advanced than other schools, but the other subjects are not that difficult. These lessons are all for us to acquire more knowledge, and prepare us for what lies ahead.

Any student can have a bright future—they just have to have a positive attitude when learning. These are all the experiences we must have."

In conclusion, middle school and elementary are very different: the work is more challenging, and teachers ask for more precise work, but students still enjoy life as a middle school student, working together, sharing ideas, and eating the awesome hamburgers.

Even though there will be a lot of tough times, your classmates will be there to support you for the next six years.

MUN

By AMY HO & ALEX KAO Grade 11

From October 6 to 11, Kang Chiao returned to India to participate in Vidya Niketan School's annual conference for the third time.

The students brought eagerness, excitement, fear, and determination. All seven students of Kang Chiao were the delegation of Japan, with each student representing different councils.

BMUN presented itself as a totally different experience compared to other international conferences.

The MUN charter for this year, unlike previous years, was altered to minimize individual targeting in order to focus more on the content of the debate. The procedure for Points of Order was changed so that objections were only allowed through note passing. Points of Information were reduced significantly to be only entertained at the chair's discretion, but that did not stop delegates from shouting across rooms and accusing one another during the informal sessions.

Intense debates continued on from the first day until the resolutions were discussed and passed.

BMUN: An Exercise in Intensity

One of the things the students found surprising was the tension of the delegates from the different schools in India, which did not even come close to anything seen in any other conferences that Kang Chiao participants had been to.

Robert Wang from 11A shared, "I feel that we are not as competitive as the Indian delegates because they really showed their



ambition to win the awards."

Ashley Kao from 11A expressed a similar feeling: "I feel that the Indian delegates are competitive among themselves; however, during the conferences in Taiwan, the delegates do not compete at the same pace."

Some of our students found it frustrating that the Rules of Procedure were not always followed.

However, 11A Hannah

Chang said that she thought it was a good experience and that she hoped Kang Chiao's delegates could get to that level one day.

"It was the most intense conference I had ever attended. Everyone was really proactive and eager to talk... Even during break, people were still talking about the resolutions," she said.

Even though the debates were very intense during the conference, when the council ended, the delegates were very nice and easy-going.

The students from Kang Chiao have developed a whole new perspective, and learned about



devotion toward Model United Nations, and about the things they like, from the Indian delegates.

Tiffany Tang from 11E commented, "This trip is generally



a landmark for me because I went to a place I had never been to, and I experienced something rather unique. By participating in the International Press Corps, I learned about a special branch of MUN. The whole India trip broadened my view about this world and for sure is an inspiration to push me to continue MUN."

As for the cultural experience, most of the seven students loved it. The food was extremely flavorful and fulfilling, and one plate would follow another plate of delicious delicacies. The students were also inspired by the architecture and the road trips. They learned about the history of India by visiting the Mysore Palace.

It was a great opportunity for the students who went to India to experience something totally new.

A Summer of Science: LIYSF and CERN

By JENNIFER LIU Grade 11

In the summer of 2015, the KCIS Honors Chemistry class spent a total of 3 weeks in Europe, from July 22 to August 12, traveling and learning about science, as well as about life abroad.

One highlight of the trip was when they attended the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF). Accompanied by Dr. Dino of our Science Department, these students were the first from Kang Chiao to participate in such an exciting event.

LIYSF, founded in 1959, annually gathers passionate young scientists and students from around the world to collaborate on and engage in different scientific activities. This program aims to give its participants a deeper insight into science and its applications for the benefit of all humankind.

This science forum is not just held for the purpose of extending one's knowledge in



Amy Ho from 11A commented, "My favorite was a lecture that talked about the usage of bubbles to construct the shortest route between destinations. Dr. Cyril Isenberg was very humorous and funny; the experiment was very cool as well."

"Dr. Simon Kyle talked about how sleep impacts our human body. He emphasized that not getting enough sleep will cause negative emotions,

ethnicities and gained a deeper understanding of other cultures.

As 11E's Tiffany Tang mentioned, "Personally, I felt that the most important purpose of this whole trip and event is to



make connections with people from different parts of the world, to not just bond, but to actually exchange ideas and form possible cooperation in the future."



In the comfortable summer weather, the students also explored different parts of London, which is believed to be one of the most beautiful and exciting cities in the world.

They had the opportunity

to explore Cambridge University and Oxford University, and they also ventured into neighboring countries, like France and Switzerland to visit CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research.

"We visited CERN, and it was quite overwhelming—all the research going on and the size of the projects were shocking," said Maggie Lai from 11F.



Tiffany Yen of 12C stated, "One of the most memorable things we did was when we went to the Louvre Museum, Notre-Dame, and the Arc de Triomphe...I also learned how to talk to others and find a consensus and exchange experiences."

Our students also had small adventures, like experiencing the subway system of Paris.

It was a trip of intellectual and cultural discovery. The three-week



science exploration event was a life-changing experience, which has broadened the minds and visions of the KCIS students who participated.

The students ended the trip with their luggage full of scientific knowledge, new friendships, and exciting experiences. Hopefully, future generations of KCIS students will get to experience this wonderful trip as the Honors Chemistry class of 2016 and 2017 did.



specific fields of science. The LIYSF teaches its members how to adapt different fields of science into other careers, such as doing scientific research to prevent an economic crisis.

The KCIS students examined various projects and attended many lectures. To name a few: robots controlled by brainwaves, an algorithm for security systems, and the scientific process in art.

negative thoughts, and negative behaviors. His speech allowed us to reconsider the meaning of sleeping and how it affects people and the society as a whole," said Bryan Lee of 11F.

Learning about science was not the only focus of this trip to Europe. Through engaging in various activities hosted by LIYSF, our Kang Chiao students formed close relationships with young scientists of different

My Summer at Phillips Andover High School



By JESSICA CHEN Grade 10

Phillips Andover is one of the top high schools in the United States. In fact, it was ranked first last year.

In order to attend its summer school, students had to send their applications before late March. Along with filling in the application, one must write a personal essay about oneself, answer a few questions, and send the school a standard report card.

Next, the most exciting thing is to receive mail from the school to be informed that you're accepted!

The truth is the closest I could recall to being independent was going on a summer camp

at Yangmingshan with my brother. Thus, studying at Phillips Andover for five weeks was a rare opportunity for me to train myself to become a mature and independent individual.

I already know that science is going to be my main focus in the future. Thus, I took AP Biology when I went to Phillips Andover. In this course, students are required to know the basics of biology and write a formal lab report every week in groups of two. The purpose of writing lab reports is to raise students' ability to write and take knowledge from the book and actually apply this knowledge in life. Since every school teaches different material,

one will definitely come across new information in the field of biology.

Being hardworking seems to have become a habit of mine. So sometimes, forgetting how to enjoy life becomes a problem. At Phillips Andover, however, every student is so confident that they do not seem to waste any extra time reviewing the contents they already went over. In the interest of adopting American kids' study methods, I became more confident in my studies. I feel that now, once I trust myself that I'm prepared for a test, I will

allow myself to relax and have fun. During the test, all I have to do is to try my best and trust my answers.

By attending different camps, I have also discovered that students in Asia are more afraid of expressing themselves through sports or drama. For me, though, sport is my life. I exercise regularly because it's a habit. Then, of course, I've made friends through competitions.

On this trip, I discovered that most Andover kids are sporty. At Kang Chiao, I don't often see the girls on the basketball courts or doing exercise during breaks. However, at Andover the girls did not sit aside during afternoon activities. Exercising regularly is necessary and is the key to a healthy, positive life.

I hope this review of my summer experience will be able to inform Kang Chiao students about Phillips Andover, because it's a great school with nice teachers, a huge campus, and advanced facilities. Furthermore, I wish everyone who tries to become mature and independent can be inspired to take a chance, join a camp, or allow themselves to develop their own friend groups and life style.



MATH ESSAY

The Ultimate Horizon Formula

By CALLUM KENNEDY Grade 8

People have always wondered how far it is to the horizon. Some ancient civilizations thought the earth was flat and that the horizon was the end of the world, and that if people went there, they would fall off the Earth, while others believed that there would be a mountain at the end that supported heaven. Some even thought that the sun god would drive a golden chariot from the horizon.

In the modern world, people have found out how exactly we calculate the distance to the horizon. I will give a real-life example.

The bank's vault opens as a thief goes in and takes 100,000 dollars worth of gold. Fortunately, just as he gets out, the security alarm goes off. He hops into his super-sonic car and drives off. Once the guards and police officers scramble into their car that travels 80 km per hour (assuming that they do not need any time for acceleration), they can just barely make out the thief on the horizon. Suddenly, the thief has a tire blowout. Even with skills like the thief's, he still needs five minutes to pump up the tires and escape.

Will the thief get away with it, or will it be the police officers' lucky day?

First, let us review the facts. Assuming the planet is absolutely spherical, the horizon formula is $d = \sqrt{h^2 + 2rh}$, where h is the height of the observer's eyes above the surface of the planet, d is the distance from the observer's eyes to the horizon, and r is the radius of the planet. So, people can also work out horizon distances on the moon or any other spherical planet. Given that the policemen in the car are exactly 2 meters from the ground, the equation becomes $d = \sqrt{2^2 + 2 \cdot 2 \cdot r}$. The radius of the earth is roughly 6,371,000m, so it comes to $d = \sqrt{2^2 + 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 6371000}$, therefore d is approximately 5km, which means that it is

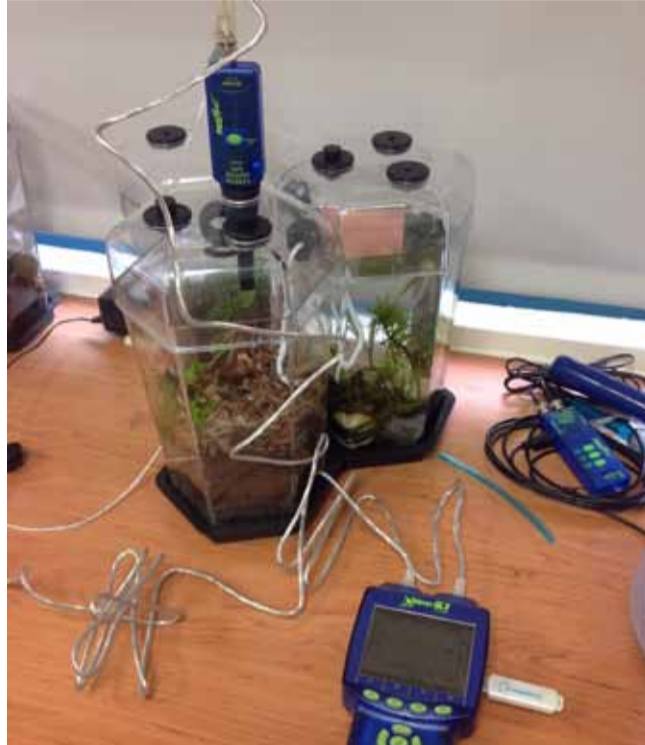
about 5km to the thief.

The second step is just to use the simple distance formula, which is $d = rt$, where d is the distance, r is the rate, and t is the time. If we let x be the time, after we plug in the variables, it should come to $5 = 80 \cdot x$. After we solve the equation, we get $x = 3.75$ mins.

The question is: Will the police make it? Well, the answer is yes. The police only needs 3.75 minutes to reach the thief, whereas the thief needs 5 minutes until he can zoom off.

There are many topics in real life that include math. For example, $1 + 1 = 2$ may look feeble and lame, but then how are you to calculate 1 cookie plus 1 cookie without it? Now, I hope, when anyone wonders how far the horizon is, at least they know how to solve it.

Environmental Systems and Societies: “There is no Planet B”



worldrevolution.org, an internet site created to raise awareness of the current state of the world, has reported the following:

“Half of the forests that originally covered 46% of the Earth’s land surface are gone. Only one fifth of the Earth’s original forests remain pristine and undisturbed.”

“60% of the world’s coral reefs, which contain up to one fourth of all marine species, could be lost in the next 20-40 years.”

“Desertification and land degradation threaten nearly one quarter of the land surface of the globe. Over 250 million people are directly affected by desertification, and one billion people are at risk.”

“An estimated 40-80 million people have been forcibly evicted and displaced

from their lands to make way for the construction of large dams, resulting in economic and social devastation for these people.”

Aren’t these reports alarming? Am I a part of the problem or a part of the solution?

To be responsible citizens, we need to be informed!

The Introspection:

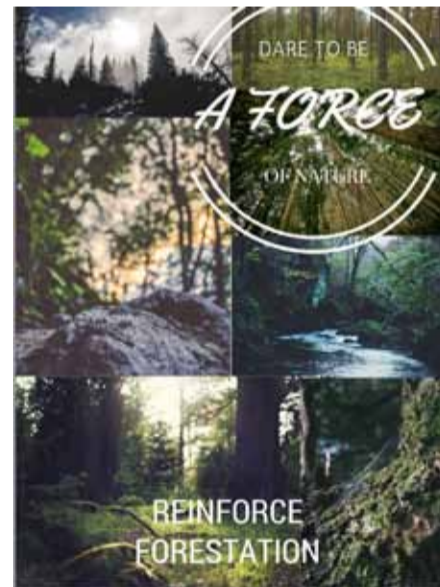
JANET CHEN

Taking Environmental Systems and Societies has made me more aware of the serious environmental problems which are happening around the world. The course has led me to a whole new perspective of the world. For example, I’ve learned that the Gangotri Glacier is losing six meters of ice per year, with a total of 1,326 meters from 1780 to 2001. That is a huge number... Should we keep ignoring these problems? Taking this course is leading me to taking these problems more seriously.

ALEX LO

Environmental Systems and Societies helped me understand how the world and environment around us function and makes me really consider the consequences of my actions. It has actually changed my perspective. I will take an even closer look at the

world... I can now identify my value system, which is leaning towards ecocentrism, as my hometown is located deep in the mountain where interaction with nature is not only often but necessary. My environmental philosophy might not change over time, since I strongly believe that nature is part of our life.



AMY HO

Environmental Systems and Societies helps us develop into a better person. I’ve learned about the fundamentals of the environment. Being aware of the importance of maintaining a sustainable environment is taught so that we can become responsible citizens. ESS has made me pay more attention toward the problems or the issues about the environment through the news. I have even discussed

some of the problems that are related to the environment with my parents. I will even evaluate some of my actions that might relate to maintaining the environment...

MORRIS CHANG

Learning about the environment will help us develop a better environmental value system, which means a better view of the environment. Even though Environmental Systems and Societies is an IB course, it is an opportunity for everyone to have a chance, to participate and understand, and maybe to do something to make a change... the knowledge I have gained is absolutely way more than what I expected. One of the sad things I have learned more about is the numerous disasters that have happened in the world, which were caused by human beings. We, humans, could be seen as the ones who are destroying the world slowly... At the same time, even we as individuals can make significant changes... we should always try to solve the environmental issues through newly developed technology, so that we can enjoy our life and save the environment.

The IB ESS class goal for this year:

We will make you more aware.



ARTS & CULTURE

Art from a Different Angle: Studying Art History



By SAM HUANG Grade 11

At the beginning of a new school year there are new faces, new teachers, and new faculty members, but it wouldn't be a new and fresh school year without the introduction of a new class as well!

Social studies teacher Ms. Frankie Tsui has created a new art history class for the senior year of our high school department. Designed as an elective for social studies, the focus is on learning about the history and culture of art.

According to Ms. Tsui, the class is aimed at "[exposing students] to art and the history of art [as well as] the elements of art from different time periods. It also makes cross-cultural comparisons of art."

The new class broadens the already diverse spectrum of classes to pick from during senior year, and Ms. Frankie hopes students will get a taste of the different majors offered in college, and perhaps pursue some new and interesting options later on.

She also hopes that through this class students will learn to appreciate their lives more.

Oftentimes, students are clouded with "the cool stuff, the last [trends] on YouTube. They forget that there is art almost everywhere, and it is not as mundane as Hollywood and not as superficial as someone's outfit, so I want them to appreciate it."

Also, this class is geared towards enhancing the way students see things: "A lot of [what] students

they saw on their phones. Some results yielded strikingly similar images to the original, some not. Ms. Tsui hopes to develop students' ability to describe and communicate what they observe.

This class seems much livelier than the average social studies class as the textbooks are riddled with images, with minimal text. Art history takes a different approach and proves that history can also be learnt without much usage of the textbooks.

Judy Hsieh from 12A declared the class to be "very



see...they don't know how to describe what they see so that other people can understand it."

In order to develop and foster such talents, there are many in-class activities. For example, she recently had an exercise in which students paired up and drew pictures based on their partners' description of something

interesting" for it explores the subject of art from a different angle and perspective.

Learning how to describe forms of art and manifesting your thoughts into words is a crucial element in this class, and is an essential talent necessary for a career in art as well. Because of this, Judy is taking this class to further nurture this ability.



Other than that, art history at Kang Chiao is unique as, in Judy's words, "[it is because of] the way Ms. Frankie teaches; she's very energetic and [brings in] a lot of activities. We did sculptures with clay!"



Also emphasizing the uniqueness of the class, Caleb Jiang from 11C said that the course takes the subject of history into a different direction. Wanting to learn more about the relationship between art and history, Caleb stated that he is enjoying the class very much and would highly recommend taking this course.

Lastly, as a word of advice, Caleb said, "Just try your best and enjoy yourself. It will be a lot of fun."

So, if anyone is interested in learning about art and its complex history, be sure to consider picking the art history elective during your senior year!

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