



Kang Chiao Musicians: A Big Family



By SAM HUANG Grade 11

It is a tradition that at every important assembly, gathering, or foreign visit Kang Chiao presents its dazzling orchestras as a gesture of welcome and hospitality.

Each year our talented members of the two orchestras and other music ensembles

Pan, Jessie Yuan, and Jett Lien, was also awarded “Grade A” for their performance. The Senior High Piano Trio, consisting of Harry Chang, Maureen Chuang, and William Chang, was awarded “Excellent,” and the Chorus received an “Excellent” grade too.

Troy Wu, Jade Lien, Jill Pan, and Sarah Chou really

to constantly practice your particular instrument in order to become better.

However, practice for your instrument is just a mere cog in the massive orchestra machine. Your time has to also be devoted to creating harmony between the other members, which requires a constant mental brace of the notes that other people play in order to master the piece as a whole and as an orchestra.

A member of the Chinese orchestra, Rebecca Huang from 10E, stated that she learned to set aside any differences and problems with lack of teamwork by setting a common goal: to practice hard and do the best they can.

Through constant practice, Rebecca stated, “We were able to become very [dedicated] and created music, if you can understand what I mean, and because of this, I feel truly blessed and happy on the inside.”



This exemplifies the idea that in order to be successful in an orchestra, you must think not as an individual, but as a

team. Other members who were interviewed all stated that the virtues of persistence, dedication, and cooperation were the most important for succeeding in the orchestra.

Several members were asked how the qualities learnt from being part of an orchestra or other music group translate to their day to day lives.

Phoebe Kuan, a clarinet player for orchestra A, said that being part of the orchestra teaches her time management,



as the orchestra practices until very late into the night at times, meaning that the members have to use their minds wisely.

Ping Chang from 11G stated that one learns the merit of cooperation.

“You learn that you can never be the best without constant practice and improvement,” he said.

This has become embedded in his mind as one of the valuable lessons gained from



being in the orchestra, which has made Ping a more diligent, cooperative, and overall better student.

As you can see, there are tons to learn and to gain from being part of the orchestra or the other music ensembles, like the String Band or the Chorus. And many of the members responded with enthusiasm that it made them feel like being part of a big family.



partake in the National Student Music Competition, always bringing back good scores and pride to Kang Chiao.

This year, our orchestra was once again awarded grade “Excellent A+,” which makes it a three-years-in-a-row win, and the Chinese orchestra was awarded “Excellent” for their hard work and dedication.

The Junior High School Piano Trio, consisting of Cher

shone in this year’s competition as members of the Senior High String Quartet. Many students also did very well on their solo performances.

But beneath the surface of the excellent scores and wonderful performances, have you ever wondered what values one can learn from being part of the Kang Chiao music family?

Being a member of one of the orchestras, you have



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SCHOOL TRENDS & EVENTS

Grade 9: Learning by Hiking

By PHOEBE KUAN Grade 11

At the beginning of the year, the ninth graders went on a five-day hiking trip.

The main purpose of the trip was for the students to understand the cultural characteristics and historical significance of the Taroko National Park. Many students learned to appreciate the beauty of the scenery. Students also learned about the importance of working as groups rather than as individuals.

The students explored different aspects of learning through educational lectures, trivia, and the process of hiking. All the students were expected

to do some background research. Some students were assigned to introduce the special features of the park to their peers while others researched the significance of the park's history.

When asked about the importance of the research, Ms. Liu from 9C said that it was essential for the students to have a better understanding of the natural world.

"It was really exciting seeing my students explore nature both in my classroom and outdoors. My students all achieved so much as individuals and I was so proud to see all of them grow."

Sharon Chu, from 9F, said

that she had a blast during the hiking trip because she finally understood the importance behind appreciating nature.

"I really enjoyed the scenery during the trip. It helped me to understand that since we are all part of nature, it is our responsibility to take care of nature and to really value all forms of lives on [our planet]."

Most importantly, students learned about the importance of teamwork. When Vivian Hsu was hurt during the trip, she received help from her classmates.

"I was so glad when some of the boys helped me to carry my bags. I was having a hard time finishing the trip because my feet were hurting, so as a



result, I started to cry. However, the team leaders came up to me and comforted me. They were all so nice and they told me to keep believing in myself."

"I never thought that I would be able to finish the hiking trip," said Vivian Chu from 9F. "After hearing all the encouragements from my fellow classmates, it gave me the power and courage to keep walking. I learned that anything is possible."

Maryanne Liu from 9D agreed, "I experienced the warmth [of] friendship that is impeccable. From eating lunch in the tunnels for the first time in my life to laughing at silly jokes that were made during the trip, I shared an unbreakable bond with my friends that is something I will cherish for the rest of my life."

It is clear that the ninth grade students all gained new knowledge from the trip.



Knowledge of the World's History – The IHBB Competition



By TIFFANY CHENG Grade 8

After months of grueling training led by Ms. Frankie Tsui, a total of 8 teams, including 26 juniors and 22 seniors were able to attend the IHBB (International History Bee & Bowl) competition on March 19th.

The IHBB competition is two history contests that help students to learn more about the world's history. Both the teachers and the students in Kang Chiao had been really busy preparing for the competition since the start of this school year.

The IHBB competition is a buzzer-based history competition for teams from different schools. The questions are based on the history of arts, science, religion, language, geography, and even the history of sports.

It's the second year for Kang Chiao to attend this competition, but the breakthrough is that last year, Kang Chiao only had two groups—G10 and G11—in the contest. However, this year, any student from G7 to G12 that was interested and who was seen as qualified by Ms. Frankie had the opportunity to join.

Janna Lee from 7A said, "I think the IHBB is a great way for students to get involved in academic competitions. You study the important stuff and put it together with what you learned from class."

When asked about the training process, Sam Luo from

others did better than I did, but the inferiority motivated me to catch up with them. The competition helped me gain confidence and I got to take a look at what people of other schools are like."

Four of the teams won History Bowl Awards, and three of the students who attended won BEE individual medals.

Despite all of the difficulties, every one of them enjoyed the competition and thought that they would like to attend the IHBB competition again.

The students who won will have the opportunity to join the Asian Division Tournament in Phuket, Thailand, from June 10th to 12th.



8B said, "We had to search on the internet for the information. We also had to review the history textbooks for school. Last but not least, we had to practice the competition and do some simulations."

After the actual competition, one of the students who attended, Jennifer Tsai from 8B said, "I often felt inferior when



TEACHER REPORT

By MAGGIE LAI Grade 11

Ms. Harriet Chien is the head of the DAA (Department of Academic Affairs), and she also teaches IB Economics.

I know that you are not only an IB teacher, but also the head of the DAA, so your life must be really busy. What do you do in your free time to relieve your stress?

This is my problem. So when I go home, I just relax on the sofa and watch TV, walk my dog, and cook. I'm finding love in cooking right now. I am making my own yogurt Caesar salad dressing at this moment. So this is what I do in my free time.

So you have a dog. What breed is it? How long have you had it for?

It's a Pekingese and I have had it for six years. I used to have one in Australia, and he is now 16 years

Eye on Our Teachers

old, and he's still alive. When I came back to Taiwan, I wanted to have a dog, definitely the same breed, because the Pekingese is a very smart dog, and you can see it in a lot of TV dramas as well.

So you used to live in Australia. Why did you move to Taiwan?

It is a long story. When I lived in Australia, I taught in one of the sister schools of Kang Chiao. It's called West Moreton Anglican College. In the first year of the sistership, a group of teachers and students visited our school. One day, a teacher passed by and asked, "Do you speak Chinese?" and I said yes because I was the Chinese teacher in the school. At the time, it was the second year in Kang Chiao, and they really needed someone who was bilingual in Chinese and English. So they asked me and the principal of my



school if I could take a year leave without pay. They wanted me to establish a bridge between the English and Chinese programs. So I agreed and planned to go back after one year, but I stayed, and it is now my 9th year.

What do you miss the most about Australia?

I miss the style of living. It's very

relaxed, the air is very clean, there are always places to drive, and people really enjoy the weekend. So we didn't have busy shopping mall openings because everyone needed to have their family life.

Your family is still back in Australia. Do you miss them a lot?

My mom is traveling between Australia and Taiwan, and my brother comes back sometimes, so I just miss my dog.

What dramas do you enjoy watching now and what had you watched before?

At this moment, the most famous one is the Korean drama Descendants of the Sun (太陽的後裔). Before I liked the Chinese one where I found the Pekingese, Scarlet Heart(步步驚心), with Nicky Wu (吳奇隆) and Cecilia Liu (劉詩詩). They just got married. So I watch Taiwanese, Japanese, and Korean dramas.

By ALEX LO Grade 11

Ms. Vicky Hsueh is the director of the Kang Chiao library. She has loved reading since she was a child and hopes to encourage students to read for fun too.

Could you share with us some of your working experiences as a librarian?

I have a double major in Library Information & Management and Business Management. I worked as a librarian in one of the private colleges in Taiwan, as a director of the admission office of a cram school, and as a website marketing assistant in a public OTC company before I finally came to Kang Chiao. I have been here for 8 years, since 2008.

Could you tell us something about your personal habits?

There used to be a lot of books in my house when I was small, so I have loved reading since I was very young. I have a passion for outdoor activities as well, such as camping, hiking, and mountain

climbing, which I now enjoy with my child. Furthermore, I like to listen to some music to relax during my leisure time.

What genre of books do you like to read?

When I was a student, I liked to read romance novels and detective fiction. Now, as a library director, I prefer inspirational prose and some non-fiction genres with types of book ranging from career development to business management. However, apart from the above, I do spend time on trending books among the student circle, and other best-selling books.

So what exactly are the librarians doing?

The job of a librarian is not as easy as most people think: sitting there and scanning the barcodes the whole day. It involves some intricate processes of book selection and categorization; plenty of work is required before we let in the new arrivals, especially for this library as it has a bilingual collection of both Chinese and

English books and is open for both junior and senior students of the school.

Furthermore, we are also responsible for the website and database development that facilitates the process of finding our collections to meet students' needs. At the same time, we encourage the teachers of our school to recommend some books that can help their teaching process and aid with the learning of the students.

What are things that you find to be interesting or worth mentioning in this library?

When I first came, there was almost nothing here, but today we have more than 45,000 collections composed of both English and Chinese books. In addition, as the quantity and quality of the books being demanded increase, our English-Chinese collection ratio has become balanced from the original 1:3 to the ideal 1:1 for a bilingual school.

So what are some of your future expectations for the Kang Chiao



library, as a library director?

I hope that there can be more people participating in some of our activities held such as i_Read and some other book fares held by the publishers. Furthermore, I am expecting that the students of our school can actually enjoy the presence of this library, not just as a place of academic research, but as a place of relaxation and knowledge acquisition. Lastly, I strongly encourage the students of the school to spend their leisure time at the library for stress relief by reading some of our interesting collections rather than only academic-related texts.

STUDENT CULTURE

Swimmers are Winners



By **ASHLEY CHANG & JANNA LEE** Grade 10

Many schools have their main sports event where the classes compete against each other on land, but here at Kang Chiao we do it in water. Every year the elementary and high schools host swimming competitions that students are always eager to sign up for. This year, the competition took place from March 21st to March 25th.

"It is a Kang Chiao tradition," the head of the swimming teachers said. "It helps the kids evaluate how well they do on swimming and gives

them a chance to work together as a class in the relay races and compete together."

There are various sections that students can sign up for, including individual contests for freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, and butterfly that range from 25 to 100 meters. They can also choose to compete together with their fellow classmates in the relay race.

"I think the KC swimming competition is great!" Babe Chai from 701 exclaimed. "I'm kind of scared about going against the other classes, but I also really want to win!"

Most students probably

feel the same way as Babe, and are nervous about having to compete with other students, but they also feel excited to have an opportunity like this to compete. However, not all the students feel as confident as Babe.

"I don't really like swimming and I'm afraid that I won't be able to help my class," Harry Wang from 7B confessed. Not to worry, Harry, because in Kang Chiao, winning or losing isn't as important as just trying your best. As long as you have fun, you're a winner. But actually winning is pretty good, too. So work hard and help your class be number 1!

Other students, like Kate Chow from 11D, think that there's still room for improvement for this year's swimming competition.

"I feel that most contestants do not take the swimming competition very seriously, and this affects not only

their own results, but also other contestants' confidence," she said.

Also, the swimming competition isn't just about the actual competition. It can also help students improve their swimming techniques.

"I learned how professional swimming contests work, whether it's the number of contestants or the standard procedures," Kate stated. "I also learned how to save time when I need to turn around for long-distance competitions."

Most students liked the swimming contest and those who won were ecstatic about their outstanding performance. The importance, however, isn't winning. The focus of this event is to let the students compete for their classes and to feel the importance of teamwork and working hard in swimming class. Everyone had a great time and are looking forward to next year's competition.



SCHOOL CLUBS

Students' and Teachers' Basketball Games

By **IRIS CHU** Grade 9

On March 2nd, the Students' and Teachers Basketball Games began. Every Thursday the students of the basketball team participate in these games during lunchtime.

The purpose of these games is to improve the cooperation and the connection between students and teachers.

Before the games, everybody will stretch to prepare. During the games, everybody gives their greatest effort to cheer for their teammates. Teachers communicate and chat with students, which is very friendly and shows a good relationship between teachers and students.

Cooperation and teamwork are the most important things during the games as



teammate have to work together to score and to win.

The participants say that these games help them to get more acquainted with the real situation in competitions, and also make up for a lack of training.

Timmy from 9B said that the participants must pay great attention to the game, and have

100% concentration, even if they are not in the game.

Wei Wei, also from 9B, talked about the attitude that the participants should have. He said that the participants should put an effort into learning.

Students can learn new moves and learn how to be a judge, and can also learn how to work with teammates.

Timmy added that he

has learned a lot of basketball skills and tips, but the most important lesson is to play every basketball game seriously, no matter how big the game is.

The effort, concentration, and teamwork shown during the games are impressive. Everybody is highly regulated as a team, and show amazing basketball skills. Kang Chiao should continue to support these types of competitions as the hard work and the communication between students and teachers are clear to see.

Learning how to communicate and work along with others is crucial to an individual's future career and can change one's life significantly. This sport activity is really awesome and will surely lead to the improvement of all the participants.

STUDENT CULTURE

Welcome to Kang Chiao! Welcome to Taiwan!

On March 21, students from Catlin Gabel Middle School visited Kang Chiao, attending classes and participating in a fun basketball game. Each student also spent some time with their Kang Chiao school buddy's family and had the opportunity to experience what life is like in Taiwan.

Here is some feedback from a few of our students:

DANIEL LIN 8B

The students from Catlin Gabel are very clever. My friend Ibrahim was very mature and calm. He followed all of our schedules and assimilated well. I learned a lot of things from the students. They introduced their homeland to me and what are some differences between Taiwan and Portland. It was very interesting and it was a lot of fun. I improved my English a lot, because we chatted very often and we were trying to find out what he likes and what he wanted to know about Taiwan. If I have a chance next time, I would like to try it again.



JENNIFER TSAI 8B

I found it very intriguing getting to know students from other nations and forming a bond. This was actually my first time being a hosting family, which meant I didn't have a lot of experience beforehand, so I was a bit nervous. But after seeing how carefree and outgoing my partner was I grew more relaxed, and we were conversing in no time. I feel like this was a good chance to learn about people from other cultures and I realized how different yet similar at the same time we are. What I mean by that is that even though we are all 8th graders,

they are more easy-going than us, which is one of the traits I admire about them.

IRENE CHEN 8C

After I met Madeleine, we went to places around the Hero hotel. First of all was the Shi-ban temple, and I told her some ancient stories. Then, we saw a board about the president hall so we decided to go take a look. When we went there, we were scolded by the soldiers because we stood too long in front of the hall! After that, we went the Lin family garden. It was huge, although there was only one out of the three open. We got lost in the garden eventually...Next, we went



to the Taipei Zoo since Madeleine and I both love animals. We saw birds with the best hair ever! The activity next was I let Madeleine write calligraphy, and she was really good at it. When we were both tired, we enjoyed the dinner my mom cooked and that's what we were doing all day!



Kang Chiao invited many schools to visit our campus this year, and all the students thought it was an excellent opportunity to get to know about other cultures, to introduce Taiwan to their school buddies, and to practice their English speaking skills.

SCHOOL CLUBS

Celebrities of Kang Chiao

By YINGLI LU & MAUREEN CHUANG Grade 7

Every year in March there is a competition held for canoe polo, which is called the Nationwide Middle School Canoe Polo Championship.

To prepare for this year's competition, held from March 18th to March 21st, every one of our canoe polo team members tried their best in their daily practice to make sure their techniques were good enough.

Most of the students practice for around a semester to a year before they are in any competitions.

They practice in afterschool clubs, in camps, and on weekends. They normally do warm-up laps around the pool for at least ten minutes before they start to practice. The practice is mostly about improving their speed and about making the passing and shooting more powerful and

accurate.

The students have at least one training session every week that makes sure their muscles are in shape and can cope with the difficult training.

The basic requirements for joining the canoe polo team are to have an average grade of eighty and not having any warning letters. They also have to run 3000 meters within twelve minutes.



Teamwork is very important too.

"I joined the club, because it is a fun sport and we can learn to work as a team," said 9C Meng-Yu Wu.

"View practices as competitions; view competitions as practices." This is a significant idea. The feeling of winning and learning something is the part that most competitors enjoy the most.

This year, the boys' Middle School canoe polo team won all of the competitions. The girls did well, too.

Jenny from 9E said,

"I treated this competition as a practice, and it was a great experience. I learned much about teamwork. No matter what, we all should cooperate with each other during the competition and even in the daily practices. I hope that I can keep working on my ability and strength, so I can do better and better on each challenge that I am going to face, and also give every other school a great impression of Kang Chiao."

Both the High School and Middle School took part in another competition on April 11 and 12.

"I was very excited, but very nervous, because we just got split into two separate teams for this competition. We were also competing with adults this time," said Eva Liao, also from 9C.

Every subject or sport needs hard work. Even if you lose or fail, at least you tried. You'll learn something from every single experience and you can even create some great and remarkable memories with the people you meet in the process.

By STEFFI HSU, ANITA LAI
& EDWARD LIN Grade 8

Thoughts on Studying Abroad

Studying abroad is becoming more and more popular among Asian students. Going abroad provides not only a better education but also more opportunities.

When students know the fact that they are going to leave the environment they are very comfortable with, questions of all kinds will appear. To answer these questions, we created a little guide for students who are going overseas to get a different education.

Taiwanese students studying abroad can learn from different kinds of academic sources, and experience brand new learning methods. Also, students can understand the culture and history of other countries, and even be assimilated into the country's population. In fact, according to The New York Times, students who have previously studied abroad have greater opportunities to succeed in their careers.



Of course, nothing is perfect. You are going to encounter lots of difficulties, including being homesick, the language problem, and also the big issue of the world, racism.

Maybe you would want to step back because of these problems. But based on Ms.Appolina's personal experience, she said, "Racial

and subjects, but also about how you communicate with a different ethnic group and people who also have different thoughts," said Phiby Wu from 9B.

Not everybody had a positive view of studying overseas: "It is not necessary to study abroad. You might get a better education by learning in your own country," said Lareina Chen from 7A.

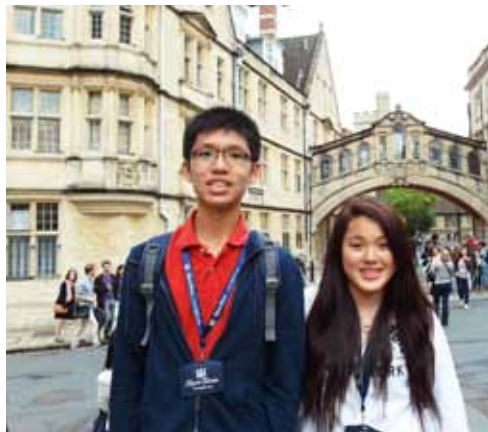
for this challenge, why not give yourself the chance to try it? You will never know about the outside world unless you give it a try.

"In different cultures, you have to use different angles to look at things. When everything is different you have to prepare yourself for this long journey," added Phiby Wu.

Sometimes people just have to look at things in a different way, and they will receive a bunch of precious rewards.

Although studying abroad may let you learn about cultural difference and the history of a country, leaving friends and family is one big problem people have to face. Leaving friends you have known since childhood and going to a place you barely know takes courage.

Studying abroad may also be enjoyable and can probably provide the most memorable moments in your life. It might not be suitable for everyone; it depends on the individual. You may encounter difficulties: it may be about friendships, the culture shock, or even problems with



From a survey of teachers, most of the teachers (90%) support and have positive comments about students studying abroad.

"It is worth it for any student to study abroad because it gives them more international perspectives on issues," said Mr. Bates. He said that studying abroad will be a good experience for students.

Also, Mr.Lin told us, "Studying abroad for teenagers can be an arduous challenge: facing racism, becoming accustomed to the environment, and not being with your parents or guardians, relatives, siblings, and friends. But the advantages for students are uncountable."

discrimination is inevitable. For me, I have worked in a lot of countries. I feel like sometimes you really would be treated differently."

However, students should not be discouraged.

Mr.Bates added, "I don't think it is prevalent. I don't think everyone is a racist. I think having good close friends help with those problems would be useful."

There will always be someone who stands beside you and helps you out.

Most students also have a positive attitude and like the studying abroad programs. "When you are studying abroad, you are not just learning about languages

Besides, when to go abroad is a huge question for students and teachers.

"I think the timing for studying abroad is whenever you feel you are ready and know what you want to do," said Ms.Kekelis.

And Phiby Wu said, "The best timing for studying abroad should be senior high to college. You have to learn the language and have proper thoughts of that place."

From our interviews, it is clear that a large amount of people support the idea of giving it a try when you are ready.

Overseas studying programs may not be suitable for everyone, but if you have prepared

racism. But sometimes you just have to step out and give it a try.

People will not learn before they have tried and fallen.

Giving it a try will always make you learn something helpful for your life.



STUDENT CULTURE

Flipped Classroom: A New Learning Method



By ERIC LU Grade 8

Have you ever heard of the flipped classroom? If not, you may wonder how you can actually flip the classroom.

The flipped classroom is a whole new learning method whereby students will learn at home, and then bring their questions to class.

Flipped classroom, also known as flipped learning, requires students to preview a lesson at home through a video. Then the students can show their understanding through practice



that matches the homework video during the next class. Instead of lecturing in class, lessons are done at home and practice is done in class.

Ms. Chen explained flipped classroom as “a classroom that is turned upside down.”

As lessons are transformed to videos and online activities, students no longer have to stress about learning. Students who understand quicker can skip through the video so it doesn’t waste time. Slower learners can repeat the lectures again and again until they understand.

Another great advantage is that flipped learning requires students to think and create, which develops students’ potential. Doing class activities teaches students to think, to collaborate, and to apply their knowledge.

Two of the major disadvantages of the flipped classrooms are lack of access to

resources and students who don’t do the assigned work.

As Mr. Bates mentioned, “In order for a flipped classroom to be effective, teachers need their students to have access to the internet and to an internet-enabled device.”

Students who don’t have these resources at home may have several issues. A flipped classroom will also be problematic if students come to class without preparing or previewing at home. These students may be behind their classmates, and therefore will not learn as much as others.

“In my class, I’ve seen increased participation from students who may not talk all the time, but flourish when they get to create or have more time to think of questions to ask or to respond to questions,” said Ms. Kekelis.

What teachers hope to achieve by flipping the classroom

is to allow students to think beyond the problems, and to appear as creators, not machines. By doing projects, students learn by heart, have fun while learning, and remember what they learn forever.

In general, flipped classroom is a brand new learning innovation that requires students to take responsibility for themselves. With lecturing no longer in class,



students learn how to learn by themselves and apply the skills learned throughout their lives.

On April 15th and 16th, Kang Chiao hosted the 2016 International FlipCon Conference, with Jon Bergmann, seen as one of the pioneers of the method, as one of the guest speakers.



ART APPRECIATION

The Value of Music: Why I Play

By PHOEBE KUAN Grade 11

“What do you want to do when you grow up?”

“I don’t know.”

“Why do you play the clarinet? How’s music going to help you in the future?”

“I don’t know.”

“Do you know anything? Why are you wasting so much time?”

“I don’t know!”

I play music because I enjoy music. I never wanted to compete. Scores and numbers and placing meant nothing to me. I just wanted to play for fun. As senior year ghastly approached, I still didn’t know what I wanted to do. I just wanted to be happy and free.

What’s wrong with that? The spotlight glared into my eye. I could not see anything. Where

am I? Why am I here? I picked up my my clarinet, and gave the accompanist a “go-ahead” nod. Ah! How beautiful the piano sounded! I took a deep breath as I carefully played the first note. I saw each judge nodding back at me, pleasantly. Even the old, grumpy lady loosened up the tightly folded skins on her forehead and smiled. That’s why I play. I want to make other people happy.

“What do you want to do when you grow up?”

“Why do you play? How’s music going to help you in the future?”

“Why are you wasting so much time?”

“I don’t know!” I roared as I abruptly stopped playing. I heard mumbles from the crowd. I stood there while the spotlight continued to blind my eyes.

I ran off the stage. I didn’t



know what I wanted. Why do grown-ups always act like they know everything about me? What do they know? They know nothing! Why can’t they just let me be myself?

A few days passed and no sound of music came out of my house.

One day, as I was taking out the trash, I saw my next door neighbor, Fred.

“Hey there, buddy! How have you been?” Fred said with a cheerful voice.

I wanted to throw the trash bags in my hands into his face.

Why are you so cheerful all the time? Don’t you have your own problems to worry about?

“Okay,” I said blandly. “Just the usual, school and stuff, you know.”

“Haven’t heard you play the clarinet for a while, honey. Been busy?”

“I don’t know.”

“Well, you better get back into practicing. We really miss it. We appreciate all of your music in our yard. So pretty!” Fred said with another smile and walked back into the house.

That’s why I play! I play to make both myself and other people happy. I want to bring joy into other people’s lives with my music. I started to remember all those days when I was little and how I would climb onto the piano bench and play songs for adults who were upset. I started to remember how pleasant it was to make other people smile with my music.

This is why I play. I play for happiness.

ARTS & CULTURE



By NICHOLE TSAI Grade 11

By HSUAN CHEN & JENNIFER LIU Grade 11

“Sometimes human places, create inhuman monsters.” -- Stephen King, *The Shining*.

Ms. Lisa Chen, the visual arts teacher, decided to make this quote a reality for the students. While the rest of us are attending other exciting clubs, the portfolio art students have been working on some fantastic sculptures.

Six months ago, Ms. Lisa’s portfolio art students were given a fascinating project about building realistic monsters. She aimed to teach them about creating three-dimensional sculptures using creativity and imagination.

Creativity and imagination are the keys. Ms. Lisa wanted these students to make amazing monsters by exploring a new type of material while using various techniques to include the monsters’ facial expressions and physical features.

Students encountered many challenging obstacles regarding the use of Sculpey, the creation of realistic characteristics, and their determination to complete their monsters.

Grade 12 Judy Hsieh using modeling and carving techniques to create her monster’s expression.



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Monsters Live Inside Us



By JASMINE HSU Grade 11

Imagination leads us to all sorts of places, to the unexplored places of our minds.

The portfolio art students crafted a variety of monsters, all with unique individual features. Cultivating imagination was not the only focus of this project.



Portfolio art students forming, shaping and manipulating the Sculpey.

The students put to work their carving and molding skills to bring these three-dimensional creatures into existence.

The creation of the sculptures taught the students patience and perseverance. Carving each little detail and shaping the body parts of the creatures take time.

Merriam-Webster defines “monster” as “a strange or horrible imaginary creature.” The students’ sculptures proved this definition wrong.

Jasmine Hsu of 11E stated, “I wanted to create a monster that was strange but also cute. So I decided to give my monster only one horn with the other broken off. Although the monster’s physical appearance is cute, he is cunning, sly, and



By MARTIN TSAI Grade 11

deceitful.”

Not only did the students’ sculptures include unique physical details, they also showed different emotions.

This journey was not a smooth one.

Nicole Tsai of 11B

mentioned her difficulty with shaping the subtle expressions her monster has. To overcome this problem she used various reference pictures, combined with her own ideas.

Martin Tsai of 11G, on the



By HOWARD CHEN Grade 11



By JESSIE LIU Grade 11

other hand, created a monster with features from two different cultures. He made a monster with both Japanese and Chinese qualities, adding a handmade phoenix and several Chinese characters to make it more real.

“I spent the most time on the details. The feathers and the intricate patterns on its body took up the most time. I often had to redo it as I was not satisfied with the first few tries,” Martin explains.

Martin said the process of carving every feather and wing of a phoenix was extremely frustrating yet he also felt very proud of himself in the end.

One of the monsters look a lot like a doll with horns and an injured eye, another monster looks completely terrifying with physical features like scars, intestines spilling out, and a fractured rib cage. The definition of “horrible” varies from person to person. Ms. Lisa aimed to teach the students to use their sculpting techniques to show their own interpretation of “horrible” through their monsters.

Grade 11 Jessie Liu and Grade 10 Ruby Lee adding extra details to their monsters.



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