



From Enemies to Friends: Cycling Around Taiwan



By STEFFI HSU & ANITA LAI
Grade 8

Each year, the tenth graders of Kang Chiao are presented with the privilege of being able to cycle around the beautiful island of Taiwan.

From grades 7—9, students take part in many activities, from conquering Snow Mountain and swimming across Sun Moon Lake to a central cross-island highway hiking trip. Finally, the last phase of completing this huge dream of exploring is cycling around Taiwan.



The objective of this 12-day journey is making the students more independent and mature. Also, to let the students discover the beauty of Taiwan and appreciate it.

From preparing to the actual trip, it takes months to train the students for the event.

From April 18 to April 29, all the 10th graders and some faculty members got on their bicycles every day. The 12-day journey followed a route that started from Xiugang Campus and went south before ending at Qingshan Campus.



Kang Chiao family and friends cheer for their loved ones.

During the trip, all the students encountered challenges. Especially the fifth day, climbing the 14km slope of Shou Ka, is very hard.

Lancelot Hsieh from 10D said that Shou Ka was the hardest challenge he faced.

“At the beginning of the hill, I thought it would be easy for all of my classmates, but some of them fell behind. Halfway up the hill, some people looked exhausted. But luckily, everyone made it till the end.”

Riding under the hot sun on the steep hill was painful and tiring. After all the hard work, it finally came to an end.

Darren Chaung from 10D also stated, “Climbing a 14km

mountain was a tough time for all of us.”

Luckily, the classmates supported each other. Some students were even surprised by the help they received.

“When we went to Shou Ka, some boys helped me up the hills. I found it very touching,” said Kelly Hsiao from 10E.

The reason she found it so touching is that she always seemed to be fighting with these boys at school! It seems that facing challenges together has the ability to turn bitter enemies into friends. Despite the hardships, the students all experienced unforgettable moments and gained memories throughout the journey. They thought the trip brought them closer to each other, and they became more united.

They experienced the beauty of the Eastern shoreline with their dearest friends, which was a very significant moment.



Of course, many students also appreciated not having to go to school for a while and thought that many funny things happened on the trip.

“One morning my friends and I overslept, and we missed a whole hour. That was very funny. We also thought 12 days without school was a lot of fun,” said Adrian Huang from 10 E.

The trip made many of the students from Taiwan even closer



to their homeland, seeing the beauty of their home country.

Many students will be studying abroad, and this is a memory that will last forever. Although the trip was exhausting, it is surely a precious experience for all the 10th grade students.

It is not about how good your skills are, but about classmates bonding, working as a team, and not giving up.

The students have become more mature through their cycling experience and the lessons they learned will continue to help them in the future.



Career Day Gives Students Direction



By BECKY HSU & MARGARET HSU Grade 11

“If you want to be successful, it’s just this simple. Know what you are doing, love what you are doing, and believe in what you are doing.”

Career choice is relevant to all of us. Many of us are still not certain about our career direction in the future, or many of us have our career dreams but are hesitant about pursuing them.

Therefore, Kang Chiao conducted an extraordinary career day for students on April 15, 2016.



Students from grades seven to twelve selected four different classes. All classes were given by experts, especially students’ parents who work in various fields, who introduced their occupations.

For example, there were doctors, business managers, professors, and directors who came to Kang Chiao to give students lectures about their career experiences and suggestions.

Director Feng’s class was one of the most popular ones. During his lecture, Director Feng

shared a lot of interesting and meaningful advice to students who want to join the media and movie industry in the future.

He used a humorous way to encourage students to pursue their dreams and to do their best to accomplish every task in their lives. He also answered students’ questions patiently and answered



them candidly. Therefore, many students found benefits and inspiration from his lectures and provided positive feedback.

Tiffany Tang (Grade 11) said, “I really enjoyed the lecture of Director Feng. The comments and suggestions that he made were very helpful to my future career. I really love to watch movies, and this lecture gave me a more thorough understanding

about the movie industry.”

Although it was the first time that Kang Chiao held this type of career day, the outcome was stellar. Most of the students found the career day helpful and valuable.

Nichole Wong (Grade



7) stated, “I think Career Day is good for us because we can know what we want to do in the future, and we can get the direction for our future. I learned a lot of lessons that teachers cannot always teach in school.”

The Career Day not only provided students with lessons that they cannot learn in class, but also aimed to direct students who are lost in choosing their profession.

Christine (Grade 11)



commented, “I think Career Day really taught me a lot. My dream career is about advertising communication, but I don’t really have opportunities to understand the special focus of this career. The school has provided me the opportunity to know how this industry operates and how to reach customers’ demand.”

Cher (Grade 9) thinks that Career Day let her discover her interest in math. She said, “The parents who came to share their experiences are all very successful. They taught us how to face problems in our lives. One



of the most impressive classes to me was a class about math. I don’t like math, but the teacher used his experience to tell us that math is fun, and we should have confidence in ourselves.”

Moreover, Sherry (Grade 8) mentioned, “Career Day provided a clear direction for my future, and the advice that the teachers provided made me understand more to choose a suitable career.”

Many students felt that they benefited greatly from the



experience. They now have more knowledge about their future career.

Because the students could choose classes that they were more interested in, they got to experience and learn from specific careers, which will help them to make their decisions about their future.

Cycling Around Taiwan: There and Back Again

By MR. CONSTANTINEAU

It was a rainy morning on April 18th. The students were lined up outside, waiting to bike through the starting gate that marked the beginning of their 12-day adventure. Everyone could see the excitement on the faces of the students. We had been training for this trip for months and the anticipation was finally over. The first few days of the trip were tiring; however, the training had prepared the students for what they were to encounter. The days that followed were the true test. It was in these difficult moments that you could start to see a change in some of them.

Prior to the bike trip, this challenge appeared to be only physical. Most assumed that if you prepared yourself physically, the rest would fall into place. This could not be further from the

truth. This adventure proved to be as mentally difficult as it was physically. We all had our days—good and bad. Some days we were more tired than others, and this became more and more evident as the trip went on. This is what made the team aspect of the bike trip so vital. It was this struggle that made the experience more enriching in the end.

As a homeroom, we made our way from checkpoint to checkpoint. Words of encouragement could be heard over the commotion of the bikers. For the first few days, some of the students had the mindset of being in a race. This was quickly replaced by a sense of camaraderie and a willingness to slow down and help those who needed the extra motivation. These moments showed that the students were starting to see the bigger picture.

Cycling around an entire country is a feat in itself. There were some bumps and bruises, but the physical struggle is not what defined the trip – it is the lasting memories for me that come from the friendships that were developed and the pride that I saw in students as they completed every stage of the ride. This is what motivated me. There were times when I wanted to quit, but their perseverance inspired me.

As I sit here and reflect on my experience, I realize that words cannot describe this incredible trip. To witness hundreds of students accomplish such a long journey is truly a gift. I would like to congratulate all of you on your accomplishment and also thank you for the lessons you taught me along the way. This school's incredible administration who participated in the bike trip also



deserves a wholehearted thank you, as this is not an easy event to plan. I would like to thank everyone who made this trip possible. The incredible work and dedication that goes into planning and accomplishing this activity is absolutely worth it, and is what makes an education at Kang Chiao a unique and valuable experience.

By JIMMY LU Grade 11

We heard you're good at many instruments, such as ukulele, harmonica, and guitar! Where did you learn how to play these instruments?

Well, I play the ukulele and the harmonica. I don't play the guitar unfortunately, but what's nice about the ukulele is that you can play a little bit of guitar once you learn how to play the ukulele. I started to play the ukulele and the harmonica when I was in college, and I learned from Youtube actually. What I like the most is that they're not big instruments, so you can carry them almost everywhere! I also like to play my harmonica and ukulele when I'm at the beach.

Isn't it hot?

Well, it is, but I like the heat..if you can't tell I'm sunburned right now.

Is it true that you do stand-up comedy?

Yeah, I started doing stand-up comedy here in Taiwan.

Interview with Mr. Jacob Meza

What inspires you?

Well, first of all I like to make people laugh. That's always been one of favorite things to do, and I always like to write as well...I love being on stage, and with stand-up comedy it's fun to express yourself through jokes. Next year, I might go to Shanghai for a stand-up comedy competition.

You also play Gaelic football?

Gaelic football is something that Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Suker introduced to me actually. It's Irish football and it's pretty fun. I have been to Malaysia, Thailand, and Shanghai for competitions, and we might go back to Shanghai this year for another one.

We would like to know the story behind your football scholarship.

I played American football in high school, and I was looking at Georgetown. We were talking about the scholarship opportunity, but then I tore my knee completely, so I lost it. Then I went to junior college and I played football there, and then from there I got a

scholarship to go to a liberal arts college in Oregon which is really nice.

Is it true that you are writing novels and poetry?

I always love writing, and I like to write about fantasy stuff, like *Lord of The Rings*. I've been doing that since I was a little kid, so I've always just had a really big imagination and I've always loved Legend of Zelda, Final Fantasy games, that kind of stuff. It's always been something natural to me.



Will you ever publish your novel?

Well, I have to finish it first!

So, are you also interested in comics?

Oh yeah, I have so many ideas. That's actually one of my dreams...I can create a graphic novel or something.

So Team Iron Man, or Team Captain America?

Team Captain America.

According to one of our teachers, you have a very interesting heritage?

I do. My mom's family is from Iceland, and my dad's family is from Mexico, and I have really weird ancestors. Apparently my great-great-grandmother was a witch in Mexico, and she used to do spells and stuff like that, at least that's what my grandma told me.

Did she get burned?

No! Thank God, it wasn't in Salem. That would be bad. I also had a cousin from Iceland who was a giant. He was 8 foot 8, which is taller than Yao Ming, and he was in the circus for a long time. So I'm half witch and half giant, and a terrible novelist.

STUDENT CULTURE

Can You Survive the Alpacalypse?

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

Have you ever heard of an academic competition that involves two grown men on stage throwing stuffed animals at you? Well, as surprising as it may seem, such a thing does exist, and it is called the World Scholar's Cup. This year, the Taiwan round was hosted by I-Shou International School in Kaohsiung, on April 8th and 9th. There are four areas that students compete in: Team Debate, Collaborative Writing, the Scholar's Bowl, and the Scholar's Challenge. After each competition, participants can "adopt an alpaca" and win trophies and medals.

Many teachers believe the competition not only helps students learn in a fun way, but that it can also help them show their competitive side.

"First, it gives them an opportunity to compete with some of the greatest young scholars in the world. Secondly, it provides an incredible challenge and a safe space to fail, learn and

grow as academics in various capacities: critical thinking, debate, public speaking, writing and test taking. Thirdly, it's an exciting and fun opportunity to meet students from all over the world, network, and join in a celebration of academia," Mr. Bragg explained.

Also, many students found it quite interesting.

Tiffany Tang from 11E said, "It's interesting in general because it's my first time joining and I got to participate in multiple activities with my friends. WSC also provided me a

good opportunity to practice my writing and speaking skills."

The WSC isn't only about academics. The competition is definitely not a dull occasion. There's even a talent show where students can sign up and show off their amazing skills! This year we saw participants perform amazing break dancing, listened to them sing their hearts out onstage, and laughed until our sides hurt at the hilarious stand-up comedy routine.

Terry Shu from 9D stated, "I thought it was a very educational experience. It helped



me improve a lot on my reading, writing and, most importantly, speaking skills. If I had the choice, I'd definitely go back again next year!"

Even though WSC is already very popular, it still has room for improvement.

Judy Wu from 9D mentioned that she wished that the judges gave them feedback after each round of debates so that they could know why they lost and fix their mistakes.

With some improvements and the help of its growing popularity, it is surely going to continue to be a great help to scholars who want to learn in a fun way. The competition is an amazing once-in-a-lifetime experience where students can express their creativity, show their smarts, and make great friends.



MUN

Kang Chiao Hosts MUN Conference



By **MAUREEN CHUANG & YINGLI LU** Grade 7

There is a Model United Nations conference held in the middle of each semester. The conferences used to be held at Kang Chiao. However, this semester the KCMUN was conducted on April 2nd and 3rd in a hotel called Howard Plaza. Before the conference, the chairs and the teachers went through lots of meetings in order to come up with ideas for each council. During the conference, each delegate had one minute to speak about the stance of his or her

country. They tried to find the best solution they can for their problem.

Since every delegate has different opinions and thoughts, they will usually start debating about ways to solve the problem. After each conference, there are awards for the best and outstanding delegates. Although not everyone may receive an award, the amazing experience you have from these conferences will be unforgettable. You can get a certificate by participating in the conferences.

Nicole Lai from 7B said, "MUN makes me more confident speaking in front of everyone. It also lets me know how we should dress up in more formal places, and the manners. I made more friends during the conference, so I will come back again."

Another delegate also expressed similar thoughts. Katelyn

Lee from 7E stated, "I learned to cooperate with everyone in the conference. We would be able to convince the other side with more persuasive ideas by teamwork and discussion. MUN is a great chance to train our speaking skills, and not be frightened when standing on stage."

She also said, "One of the best parts is that we could improve on how we use English as a communicating way, so I would like to apply again."

The conference was very successful. The first-timers enjoyed it a lot, and they learned many things as they took this chance. The chairs are the ones who give delegates support and help. Their job is different from that of the delegates.

One of the chairs, Maggie Lai from 11F, said, "I was very impressed by the delegates since a

lot of them were first-timers and really afraid of speaking, but they still did. Many of them improved throughout the conference, and it was something that I was really happy about."

She thought that it was a great conference and hoped that students can still participate in future conferences.

The improvement of each delegate is one of the most important goals for the chairs. MUN is a great practice for your thinking and speaking skills. Those who are shy to speak will learn to talk confidently by joining a conference.



STUDENT CULTURE



By APOLLO LIU & JUSTIN WU
Grade 11

For the first time, the house council candidates made their own websites! The websites have gone viral on facebook and Instagram! The three groups had their policies on the websites and had some words for the Kang Chiao students.

“Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, we make it happen.”—Ziv Wang

Group one was ready for the fight! The fight to make Kang Chiao a better place!

Ziv believed the most convenient policy of all was to upgrade the hardware in the printing office. She said that students were often late for classes because they had been lining up the whole break for the printer.

The 2016 House Council Elections

Ziv then said, “Ask not what Kang Chiao can do for you, ask what we can do for Kang Chiao.”

They definitely had the solution for all the problems. According to Ziv the most important element that made her team “the team” was the invisible mind connection among teammates.

“As a team, we worked together, fought together, and negotiated with one another.”

She certainly understands what it takes to become a leader!

“Bringing change based on what YOU want is our concern first and foremost.”—Alex Gao

You want changes to be made in the school? Well, candidates in group two had something to say! Group two,



which was lead by their president Alex Gao and vice president Hannah Chang, promoted the idea of “Change just got a whole lot easier.”

According to their website, this group focused on students’ concerns and was willing to speak up for them!

They also believed that “Kang Chiao should be and will be not just a school that has lost touch with the hundreds of students, but rather a daily part of our lives we are proud to have.”

“Who wants to wear the crown bear the crown.”—Eileen Yo

Group number three, with Eileen Yo as president and Bryan Lee as vice president, came up with some enlightened ideas.

“Coming up with an idea is not hard, but coming up with a

good idea is important. Coming up with a good idea is not difficult, but making it into a good plan is essential.”

Eileen certainly knew how to persuade people with her strong arguments. In return she hoped for the best results!

“Making a detailed plan is not impossible, but persuading the school with strong arguments is the most important step of them all.”



They were fighting their way up a mountain of geniuses. “I might not be the smartest of them all, but I do have the heart to change our school with things like uniform issues,” she said.

Congratulations to Group 1 for winning this year’s House Council President Elections.

The Bonfire between the Three Kingdoms

By TIFFANY CHANG Grade 8

Every year in May, the 8th graders attend an overnight camping trip to show their self-reliance, leadership, and the capability to work as a team.



The students break away from their textbooks, classrooms, and even the school. They have to cook by themselves, put up the tent together, and operate as a team. As usual, the 11 classes were divided into three large groups: Cao Wei, Shu Han and Eastern Wu.

The camping trip was held at Shangrila Paradise, Miaoli County.

Each kingdom had at

least 3 classes of people working together. They had to run to different stages and answer every given question about different subjects.

As one of the military advisors, Giovanni Hsu from 802 Shu Han said, “We classified the cities into two types—easy to attack but hard to defend, and hard to attack but easy to defend. So we planned to use less military strength in the cities that were easy to attack and hard to defend so that we wouldn’t lose too much”

Each class also had to



prepare for the dance contest before the actual event. They had to create their own dance moves and cut their own music.

This year, 8D won the first place, 8B won the second place, and 802 won the third place.

One of the winners from Eastern Wu, 8B Tori Chen said, “We worked really hard before the contest and everyone tried their best. No one yelled out their tiredness and everyone helped each other. Based on the rapport among our class, we got the second place. Even though we did not get the first place, in our hearts, 8B is the best!”

Through the training, every student gained lots of experience and learned the importance of assisting others and cooperating as a team.

8F Marrian Cheng of Cao Wei, which won the Spirit Award, said, “Although our class had some difficulties during the training, we sorted out the problems and began



to trust each other deeply. This camping trip really made our class come more together.”

The regimental commander, Mr. Kent Lu, said, “The Overnight Camping is one of the original courses of Kang Chiao. This event received the International Certification Teaching Innovation Award in 2013.”

Cao Wei won the best award by having the most military strength.

Every 8th grader thought that it was worth it because they gained knowledge about scouting, etiquette, and leadership. Also, everyone finally realized that, “A person can walk really fast by himself or herself, but a team can walk really far together.”

An Unforgettable Afternoon

By SHIN JIE TAN Grade 10

American author Maya Angelou once said, “I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people.”

Angelou showed that anyone could be a hero if they are truly passionate and caring about the world around them. When I was a kid, I experienced the bravest moment of my life. After that event, I realized that anyone could be a hero if they cared enough about the things around them.

When I was about 10 years old, my childhood friends and their family from China visited me and my family in Malaysia. It was a bright, sunny day with blue skies, so we

decided to take an afternoon swim together. Hailey, the youngest of them all, had to wear floaties around her arms as she couldn’t swim. We had a lot of fun racing, playing Marco Polo, and so on and so forth.

However, as I was about to swim to the other end of the pool, I heard water splashing brutally and the sound of someone choking behind me. I instantly turned around and saw Hailey drowning. I freestyle sprinted to her location and tried to pull her out of water. However, she panicked and forcibly tried to climb on top of me, leaving me underwater. In the next second, I heard all of our parents screaming and my dad jumped into the water immediately. He managed to grab me and Hailey

and carried us onto the pool deck. Hailey coughed up water and went ahead to rest whilst I felt afraid and saw white streaks of light in my vision.

When I was resting, I realised that I had risked my life to save someone else’s. At first, I felt a pang of regret; Hailey did not thank me for trying to save her, so I questioned the reason behind the instantaneous instinct that I felt at that moment. But in spite of the unpleasant memories, I soon inferred that I had acted for a reason. I did not act because of praise, an award, or recognition. I acted because I wanted to. Deep in my heart, I felt like a hero; I knew that I wanted to inspire others to spread positivity to their surroundings.

I think that the other people who tried to help Hailey are heroes as well. The particular emotions that they felt could

have turned into action that might possibly have helped her even further. They were just not recognized because I just so happened to be the closest person to Hailey. Nevertheless, this does not mean that their potential had gone to waste; they just did not get the opportunity to display it yet. I learnt from this lesson that literally anyone could be a hero if they cared enough for the things around them. I hope that more people would pay attention to their surroundings and possibly bring a positive impact to it.

Even though I did not successfully save Hailey, I felt satisfied at myself for being brave enough to help her. After this incident, I realized that one could be a hero if they brought positivity around themselves by being selfless and by understanding others’ needs.

The Hero for Me

By TIM LEE Grade 10

Have you ever thought that written words could change one’s view of life? In the story “Typhoid Fever,” by Frank McCourt, Frankie gained new hope from the poem “The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes. I was also once healed by words –the lyrics of a song, when I fractured my leg. This song encouraged me to be strong and healed me from hopelessness.

After I fractured my leg, I was totally hopeless and feared the unknown of what was going to happen to my leg. I was waiting and waiting for the day that I recovered. When I felt depressed, my mom would play a song that gave me energy and that healed me. The song that my mom played was “Hero,” by Mariah Carey. The song was mainly about how there’s a hero in one’s heart. It convinced people to feel the power inside their heart and it showed the truth of the side that hides from hopelessness. My mom has also listened to it a thousand times when she has felt depressed. After listening many times, I myself felt the power to stand up against my pain and be strong again. I finally felt that I had a little hope toward dealing with the bone fracture. By listening to this song, I recovered my fracture within 3 months. It was the first time I felt my body healing.

In my personal story and in Frank McCourt’s “Typhoid Fever,” healing happened from the written word. The poem healed Frank McCourt and the song healed me. This proves that written words can heal one from sickness or injury.

Haikus by Grade 11 IB English A

By JENNIFER LIU

Small shimmering lights
Energy of the city
Pulsates through the air

The tiger bore down
on me, fear made me tremble
Oh God have mercy

By ROBERT WANG

Rain drops like my tears
Thunder stabs my heart with roars
Yet God saves my life

Flower withers down
With me standing by your tomb
For you my only girl

By ALEX LO

I am so worn out
Just let me go down to sleep
The nightmare never ends.

As the night gathers
The fire lights and the watch begins
The end shall never come

By MAGGIE LAI

The warmth of my bed
Is calling me to approach
I shall not leave it

A bed of feathers
Putting all life in deep sleep
Cold, yet comforting

STUDENT CULTURE

Winners at the 2016 World Robot Contest!

By AMY HO & JENNIFER LIU Grade 11

On April 25, the winners of this year's GreenMech Competition were announced.



Once again, one of Kang Chiao's teams won first prize! The competition was held in Taichung, and three teams from our school participated.

The winning team of eighth graders created an experimental device which looks like a flying eagle.



The junior high team worked on dealing with volcanic eruptions, while the senior high students dealt with earthquake solutions.

In this competition, the participants use building blocks and their knowledge of different fields of science to create possible solutions to real-life natural disasters. Their inventions need to focus on energy sustainability.



803 Amy Weng said that she was inspired to join the club because of her enthusiasm for science.

Sometimes it can take a while to get used to working with others, however.

"When we were doing

an experiment, it often failed because I and my teammates had different kinds of ideas that we wanted to do, and this created lots of conflict between me and my teammates," she said.

However, she also explained that their solution was to communicate with and discuss problems with their teacher, Mr. Hsu, to find the best way to do experiments.

Like Amy, Max Lin



technology, we can collect metal in water. In other words, we can purify heavy metal pollution water."

He added that he did not think that the winning team was special, but that they did well because they paid a lot of attention to their science books, and that they are diligent students that focus on their science classes.

Of course, creativity is also an attribute that is highly valued in this competition.

According to the organizers of the competition, they are looking to give both elementary and high school students an understanding of green energy technology, as well as to stimulate their interest in creative science.

We are looking forward to seeing what smart and creative inventions our students will come up with next year!

SCHOOL CLUBS

The Scouts Club: More than Building Fires

By MAGGIE LAI & ROBERT WANG Grade 11

The Scouts Club, one of the most practical clubs in the school, is a club filled with joy and challenges. This club focuses on the skills and activities that are required if you want to be a scout.



The club also will regularly attend the annual World Scout Jamboree.

Mr. Kang Kan Lu is the teacher of this club. He is a qualified scout, and he believes everyone can be a good scout if he or she is passionate about it.

This is a club for self-growth and the development of self-esteem. He further stated that there are definitely difficulties doing the activities, but the members will always overcome with teamwork and cooperation.

Joey Wu described Mr. Lu as a teacher who "cares about everyone in the club."

Different from what some students believe, the Scouts Club is definitely not easy. Irene Chen said, "At first, I thought it would be easy, but the truth was totally the opposite! There are different skills tests for every level of scouts; each level contains harder skills."

Other than being able



to learn survival skills, such as knotting and starting a fire, joining the Scout Club creates a sense of unity and a strong bond between the members.

Irene Chen also said, "We learned most of the skills from our older schoolmates, not from our scout commander. This way is to let everyone learn from each other, work harder on teamwork, and I think it really works well."

Aside from learning technical skills, students can further practice their social skills, as communication and collaboration with others is

needed in order to pass through the stages.

Although the Scouts Club is not a piece of cake, it definitely is a lot of fun.

"There are a lot of interesting things happening in the club. But I think the most interesting thing is when we are cooking. Funny things will always happen when someone is cooking in the wild, such as making the food very disgusting and no one wants to eat it," recalled Joey Wu.

The students are encouraged to be open-minded and to try every activity in the club. There are various lessons to learn. Even though not all the students are always interested in everything, they are encouraged to overcome their disinterest and fear.

The Scouts Club is definitely a club worth joining as students not only gain a lot of practical skills but might even find their true selves in the process.

The Field Trip: The Mighty Power of Art

By HSUAN CHEN & JENNIFER LIU Grade 11

In April, the art history class and portfolio arts class went on a field trip to see Keith Haring's work, and also visited the Taipei Fine Arts Museum.



Art field trips enrich students' visual learning experience.

we look up at the ceiling and see shadows of pictures reflected on it.

Art depends on how we interpret it, and we each have a special way of seeing things differently from others. What makes art so fascinating is how messages are conveyed not only through conversations or movements, but also through how each individual expresses an artistic piece.



Have you ever looked closely at the delicate or fearless brush strokes that characterize each work? Have you wondered what inspired the painter to create their masterpiece?

Ruby Lee from 10E stated about Keith Haring's art, "The vivid color and the thick lines are boldly used without shades or an attempt at a 3-D figure. I think one of the characteristics of modern art is its ability to convey complex emotions and meanings in simple colors and brushstrokes."

Some students mentioned that some of the paintings that caught their

attention were depictions of homosexuals fighting for their rights. Many of the paintings portrayed the hardships of being homosexual and how people were



repeatedly treated poorly and live without the same rights as others.

Many students pointed out a particular painting displaying a simple picture of a man who is struggling to walk through a door. He is trying to break through the barrier which has divided homosexuals and the rest of the world.

About Haring's Fertility Suite, Vivi Lu from 12E said, "The Fertility Series makes me happy if I do not know the message behind it—happy because of the colour he uses and the outline and the position of people. Sad, because of



the story and message behind it."

Haring painted this series knowing that he would never be able to have a child of his own.

"The Blueprint Series inspired me the most. The composition of the paintings was really simplistic, but this raw depiction makes the paintings



even more impactful. Not only do the paintings attack issues of social discrimination, they also reflect the artist's own personal struggles with sexuality, AIDS, and being a person living with a disadvantage," commented 12E Vicky Lai.



"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." -- Edgar Degas

Fine arts present people with surprising sensations all the time. Everyone can experience these feelings when they focus on the details they encounter in their lives. Whenever we see something, we receive a completely distinct message. No one can make you see the message except yourself.



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