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ACCORD

Featuring:

A Word From the Deputy Director of Learning, Mr: Kasson Bratton

Alumni Interview With Lucas Smulders, an Undergraduate Student at Vanderbilt University

Faculty Interview With Activities and Global Citizen Diploma (GCD) Coordinator, Ms. Anna Yuen (B.A. and Teaching Diploma ESL & FSL, McGill University; M.A. King's College London)

Guest Interview With Facility Assistant, Amy Yang (Beneficiary of the Amy Yang Fund)

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Magazine of Nanjing
International School

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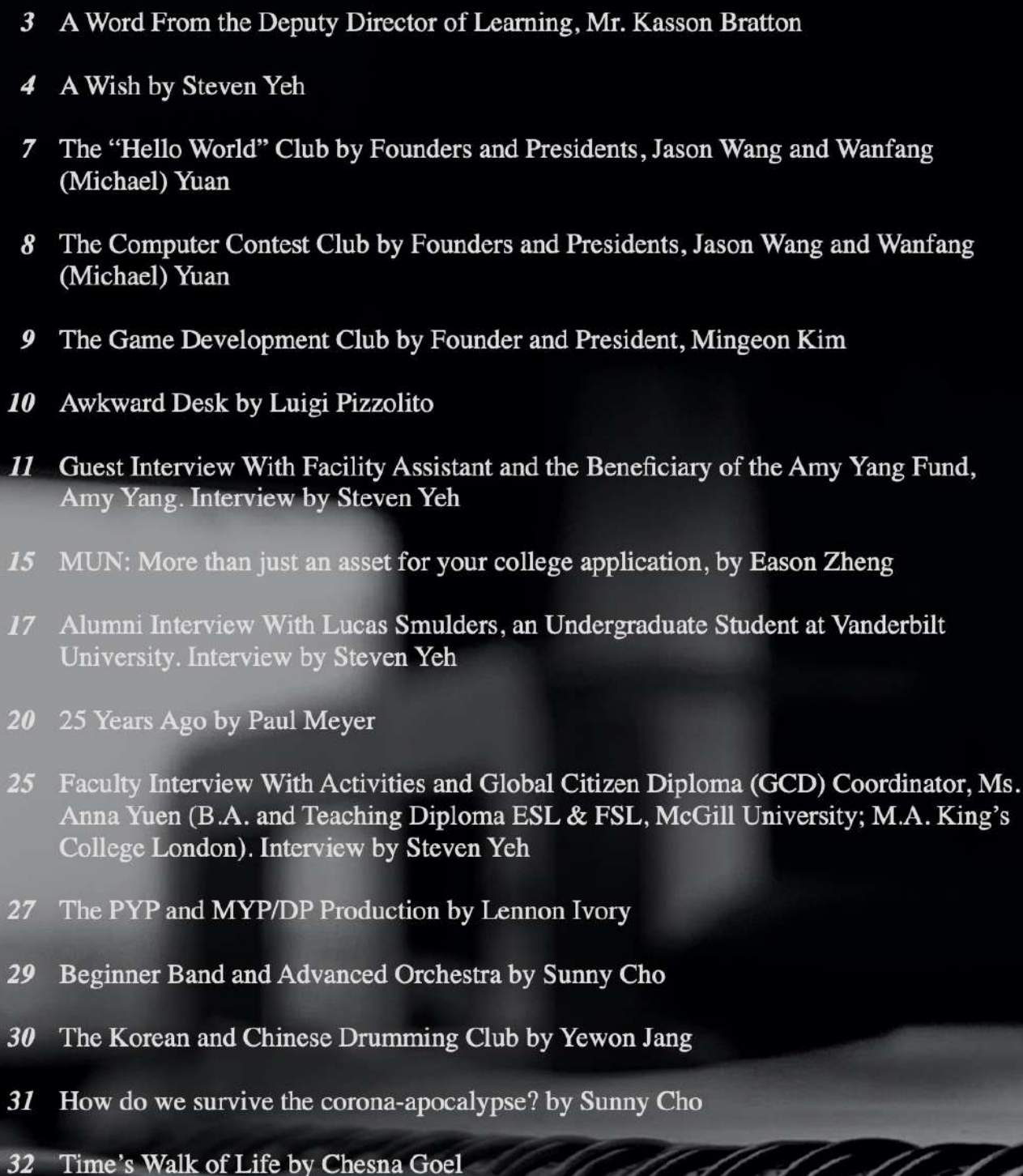
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A Word From the Deputy Director of Learning, Mr. Kasson Bratton

One question that I ask myself more than any other is, “what does it mean to be an NIS student?”

A friend told me a story of how she was in line at a grocery store late at night, with two carts brimming with items and a jet-lagged 3-year-old in tow. After everything had been scanned, bagged, and stacked back onto the cart, she realized she had left her purse at home. As she began to get visibly upset in the checkout line, a group of teenagers approached her, and she noticed their school mascot emblazoned upon their jackets. Without skipping a beat, the students expressed that they would be happy to watch her things while she traveled home to retrieve her purse. Minutes later, she returned to find her cart as she left it, with these students responsibly watching over it. She chatted with the teens about their school, thanked them, and paid for her mound of items. The next year, she enrolled her child in that school because she wanted her child to become a supportive, caring, and responsible citizen.

What do our actions say about our school’s character as we sport our NIS “hoodies” around our community and the world? How are our students living up to the ideals of this school? Do we exemplify personal excellence, international-mindedness, service to others both inside and outside the school walls? Are we holding ourselves accountable to this standard?

There is evidence all around us of NIS students defining our collective identity through their words and deeds. We only need to look into the recent past to see our students stepping into pivotal roles at major regional conferences, leading our school into the Global Citizen Diploma Consortium, and developing award-winning sustainable service in our community. Beyond these high-profile events, our students have distinguished themselves throughout the COVID-19 crisis through their levels of engagement in distance learning, as well as on-campus learning, which resumed last semester. As I write this, we are concluding one of the most positive and productive first days of school that I can recall.

Of all these examples, the most recent is the founding of *ACCORD*, the school’s first student-founded and student-led literary magazine dedicated to building a stronger sense of community at NIS through literature and art. The *ACCORD* is the most recent manifestation of our core values by our students. Creative Thinking and Student Voice, two of our guiding principles, are at the core of this publication. I anticipate the impact its stories and artistic expression will have upon our wider community as they project who we are, far and wide.



Layout By
Romana Xu

A WISH

By Steven Yeh

Layout By Fay Fay Cheung

In first grade, I remember myself asking my dad for long toilet paper rolls and rubber bands after school and during the weekends. I would cut the rubber bands then tape them onto each end of the toilet paper roll to make a violin. Then, for the bridge, I would place a Lego piece underneath the four rubber bands, so the rubber bands could make a louder sound when plucked. Next, I made a bow for my violin by using a chopstick and two long pieces of electrical tape, as well as another two Lego pieces at each end of the chopstick. It's no wonder my DIY violin didn't project any musical sound; but, at least, it grabbed my parents' attention! I was playing my own DIY violin every day, making very twangy rubber band sounds. My parents were surprised to see me making a violin and even more surprised that I played it every day because they never seen anyone so in love with a violin.

Although I had been learning piano since kindergarten, I had become inspired to learn violin because of a string ensemble, formed by middle and upper school students who played the violin, viola, and cello. Their first performance in that school year made me like the violin because I thought the scroll of the violin looked cool; I liked the harmonies played by the two violins in the group; and I also loved the high sound of the violin melodies in the ensemble. So, while looking at their performance, I wished I could perform violin onstage one day.

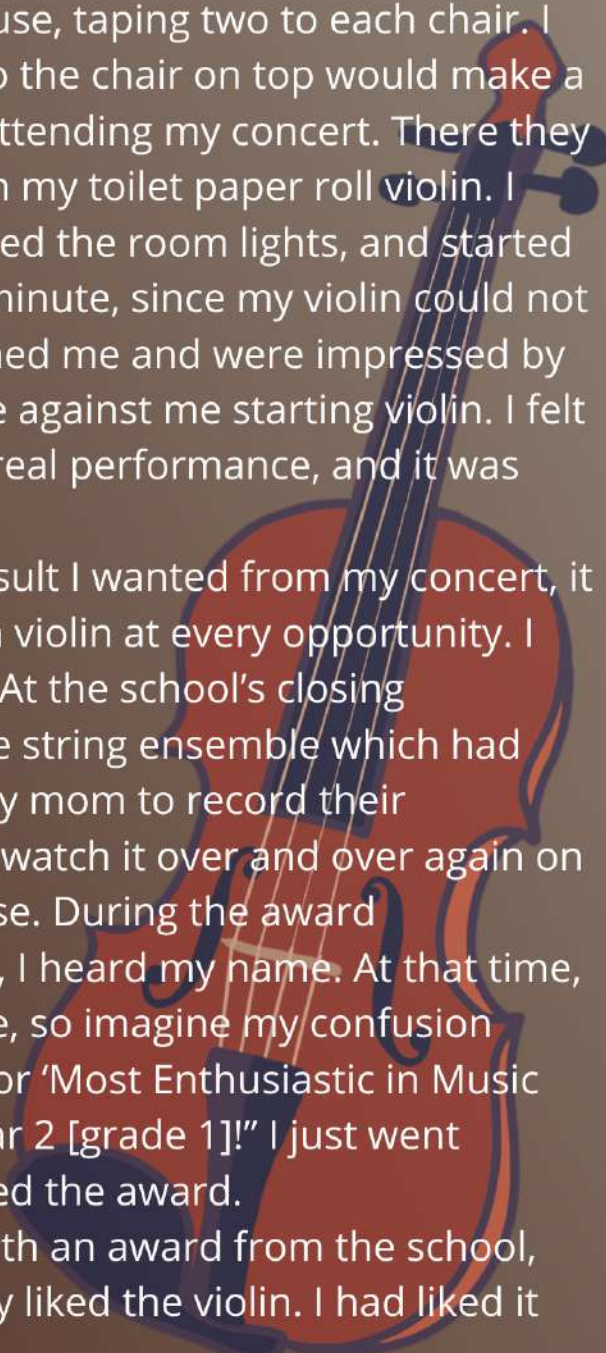
Still, my parents were against me playing violin; they constantly reminded me, "You are already learning piano. I think your piano teacher would not be happy if you switched to another instrument,

and you are too young to learn the violin. Violin is hard, so wait for a couple of years, and we will think about it.”

So, a few weeks later, after continuing to play my DIY violin despite their comments, I decided it was the “later,” my parents had been mentioning. Ramping up my attempt to get them to agree to let me start violin, I decided to create a home concert home to prove to them how serious I was. I dragged chairs into the living room and collected all the flashlights in the house, taping two to each chair. I stacked a couple of the chairs too, so the chair on top would make a spotlight. My family cooperated by attending my concert. There they were...front row seats to see me with my toilet paper roll violin. I switched on all the flashlights, dimmed the room lights, and started my concert, which only lasted for a minute, since my violin could not produce any sound. My family watched me and were impressed by my determination, but they still were against me starting violin. I felt disappointed that I couldn't make a real performance, and it was late at night, so I went to sleep.

Even though I did not get the result I wanted from my concert, it did not stop me from trying to play a violin at every opportunity. I kept it up all during the school year. At the school's closing ceremony, I had a chance to hear the string ensemble which had sparked my wish again, so I asked my mom to record their performance. I wanted to be able to watch it over and over again on her phone. Then, I got a huge surprise. During the award presentations for the year, suddenly, I heard my name. At that time, I didn't even know what awards were, so imagine my confusion when they announced, “The award for ‘Most Enthusiastic in Music and Singing’ goes to Steven from Year 2 [grade 1]!” I just went onstage expressionlessly and received the award.

My parents were very happy! With an award from the school, my parents finally realized that I truly liked the violin. I had liked it



enough to make the school notice, so my parents decided to begin to fulfill my wish; they found a teacher and got me my first real violin. I was very excited about my violin lesson, and I began dreaming that I could play violin properly and beautifully. I felt that my wish to perform on stage was moments away.

“The teacher will come next week, so don’t touch the violin for now,” my mom said.

WHAT?! WAIT?! I was so curious and excited; I couldn’t resist picking up my waiting violin. I took it out and played it on the balcony, only managing to make squeaky and terrible sounds. While I was playing, a couple was walking nearby; when they heard my beautiful sounds, they looked up at our apartment. Since they were staring at me, I tried to look very professional, but then I felt shy and ran inside. I felt my dream flicker, but I was determined to be able to play on stage and still couldn’t wait for the first lesson.

With time, I have learned how to play the violin properly, and I finally fulfilled my wish four years later when I started performing on stage in fifth grade. My first performance was at a school assembly, and everyone in school was amazed by my playing. The music teacher even came and told me how talented I was! I felt so amazing! I was the one onstage. I did it! I made the melody which other people could sing! I did it!

I have continued developing my wish into reality and have now performed many times on stage. I now know that when inspiration strikes a spark inside, one must follow through, even if people might not get it or think you are crazy, because when that wish is fulfilled, life is amazing!

**JASON &
MICHAEL'S**

print ("Hello
World Club")

THE "HELLO WORLD" CLUB



As we live in an age of technology and innovation, many industries rely on data and software. Computer Science (CS) links to everything, from scientific research to medicine, economics, telecommunications, you name it. Many jobs rely heavily on CS, such as data science, cybersecurity, machine learning, software engineering, et cetera.

Now more than ever, the demand for people who have a proficiency in coding and CS concepts are skyrocketing. Python is one of the most loved programming languages by developers, data scientists, software engineers, and even hackers because of its versatility, flexibility, and object-oriented features. Many of the innovations we enjoy today are programmed using Python's abundant libraries and various frameworks. Although it's a high-level language, Python is easy to learn and has a clean syntax, and it can do complex tasks.

In this Student Activity, led by Fujia Wang (Grade 10) and Michael Yuan (Grade 11), students will go from beginner at Python to hopefully intermediate in Python. Students will learn a range of Python topics such as flow control, modules, operators, data structures, functions, recursion, Object-oriented programming, et cetera. Furthermore, students will also learn about basic CS concepts such as integers and branching, Boolean logic, Spacetime complexity, et cetera. Seeing how this club goes, which is affected by the rate and number of participants, engagement, et cetera, we might decide to extend the field of learning to maybe more intermediate concepts, or data science, data visualization, or even Artificial Intelligence (Machine Learning). With the future in mind, at the end of this ASA, students will also use their newfound problem-solving skills and possibly showcase it in a more practical setting such as solving computer contest problems or maybe even participating in an online Hackathon.

Is this for you?

Beginner, intermediate, or no programming knowledge are all acceptable. People who are proficient at using one or more programming languages (familiar with one or more programming languages but don't know Python), check out our Computer Contest club.

**By Founders and Presidents: Jason Wang
and Wanfang (Michael) Yuan
Layout By Andy Zeng**



JASON AND
MICHAEL'S

COMPUTER CONTEST CLUB

One of the most vital skills required in computer science (CS) is problem-solving, as well as algorithmic and computational thinking. The purpose of this ASA is to learn and improve students' abilities to solve problems using programming and CS concepts such as data structures and algorithms.

We will cap off this ASA by entering a very well-known and prestigious computer competition, Canadian Computing Competition (CCC) held by the University of Waterloo Canada. Therefore, you can see it as preparation for this upcoming competition.

Most of the time spent during this club revolves around learning data structures and algorithm concepts through websites, books, and, most importantly, each other. Every meeting, we are striving to achieve a 1:1 ratio of application and implementation. Therefore, you should expect a lot of our time spent on websites such as Leetcode or Codechef practicing CC problems.

This club heavily emphasizes collaboration skills because team effort is one of the most important aspects of a good CC team.

Is this for you?

Intermediate or advanced in one or more programming languages, preferably C++, Java, or Python. For example, C++ students should be familiar with the STL library, et cetera. Python students should be familiar with intermediate concepts such as list comprehension, recursion, etc.

**By Founders and Presidents: Jason Wang
and Wanfang (Michael) Yuan
Layout By Andy Zeng**

The GAME DEVELOPMENT Club

By Founder and President: Mingeon Kim
Layout By Andy Zeng

Yes, I know; you might as well think "making video games? He's wasting his time! Do something that would actually help," which is not wrong. I think partially the same as well when looking at friends spend their time on activities that make people go 'Woah.' While I spend most of my time on, sometimes neglected or uselessly concerned, game design - speaking of neglect, I've experienced another yesterday: a miserable disregard. Still, quite surprisingly, I have never felt regret in this hobby. In fact, it makes me think selfish and egoistic but reminds what has been pushing me from the beginning of the project, and I have opened this community to give you a taste: why rejection cannot stop such activity from happening, how much power it has. Then, your mind will be dyed by the color of its thoughts.

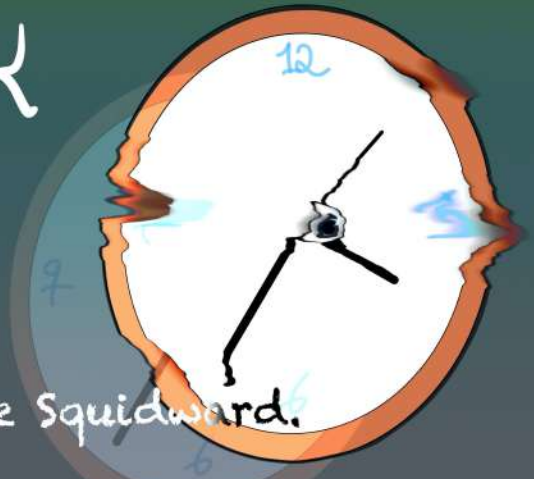
You will learn how a basic game is made, making the miracle with your hands. A simple platformer game, like Mario, where a player can move, jump, and collide with the terrain, is where we will start. The variables that form the game, such as gravity, friction, force, will be identified and controlled by you. As we go through more complex structures, hp systems, interactions, enemy AI, you will start to have a new perspective on the games. In the end, you will have built your own world, a world where you can always go back and enjoy, interact with your buildings: a world set by imagination.



Artworks By Andy Zeng

Awkward Desk

By Luigi Pizzolito



It's so awkward that I feel like Squidward.



When to say hi? Will they hear?
Was I rude, am I now too near?
Alas, I was too far, they didn't hear.
I have to restart.

Do I go first, or do they go?
Why is it so hard to say hello?
We've looked at each other for too long.
Everything was just bound to go wrong.
I open my mouth, but they open theirs,
a disaster that halts,
and ends in stares.

Finally, we're there,
we've said hello;
but there's cringe to come,
beware.

- at the meeting desk, that's a nightmare.



Layout By Gayeon Sim



Guest Interview With Facility Assistant and the Beneficiary of the Amy Yang Fund, Amy Yang

Interview and Translation By Steven Yeh

Layout By Romana Xu

• May you describe the experience in 2014 at Hangzhou?

On 2014, July 4th, our family went to Hangzhou for a holiday. On July 5th, we decided to return downtown for dinner after visiting the tea museum and Lingying Temple. Unfortunately, due to traffic, we were not able to return by taxi, so we chose the tour-route line 7 public bus as our transportation method. Everything seemed ordinary at first as we sat at the back, but due to fatigue, we took a nap. Abruptly, we heard others screaming for help! Opening my eyes, I saw people pushing each other on their way out. Some were even smashing the bus window. Shortly, the cabin-filled smoke obscured my vision. I felt the burning sensation on my skin and had difficulty breathing to a point where I fainted. People outside the bus were busy trying to extinguish the fire, and some were smashing the bus window, rescuing people. When I slightly regained consciousness, I jumped out from the high-elevated bus window. I landed hard on the floor. Disregarding the pain, I rushed to find my family: my mom and dad were already sitting on the ground beside the road, with their entire body black after being in the fire. Subsequently, knowing about my husband and child being transported to a hospital by a benevolent person, we also headed to a nearby hospital in a private car offered by a generous person. Upon arrival, we were placed in the emergency treatment medical bed when the nurses were crying while registering us. Soon, I was unconscious. Afterward, I saw my entire family in the burn center for emergency treatments.

• How many recovery surgeries have you completed?

What are the processes?

I cannot remember the total number of surgeries I had in Hangzhou, but I know I had at least one or two weekly surgeries for about a month. Then, it was just a regular process of debridement and changing medicine for months; after that, it was recovery treatment. Once arriving at Nanjing, I contacted Shanghai People's Ninth Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine, for recovery surgeries, which started from 2015 until now. So far, I finished over ten recovery surgeries: two, abdomen and thigh skin removal for skin grafting and recovery surgeries, softening the arm burn scars, and improving the hand function; the next three were the removal of the grown scar tissue from the left armpit, two weeks of artificial skin pressurization for skin growth and recovery, then skin transplant from the left abdomen to the left armpit, and improving the left shoulder joint function; the next four surgeries were neck, shoulder, and cheek skin removal, expander placement for skin used for future neck and face skin recovery; and, improving neck function. In between surgeries, I have to visit the hospital weekly for expander water-injection treatment. The other four or five surgeries were entire-body laser surgeries, softening surgeries, and skin polishing surgeries for removing grown scar tissues, while the other two were laser surgeries for preventing new growing scar tissues. There are still more surgeries to complete.

• After the incident, how has your life impacted?

The most direct impact is my body: change in appearance, limited bodily functions, continuous shoulder and back nerve pain, and chronic diseases like rhinitis and pharyngitis triggered by smoke inhalation.

The most painful is my state of trauma: the sense of suffering from a setback, loss of confidence, not wanting to go outside, the fear of the upcoming long-hour surgeries, emotional pain, et cetera.

There are also others aspects: the regular disruption of work, the dining and traveling inconveniences, I cannot go out in the sun, I can only choose long-sleeve collared cardigans that are convenient to wear; because burned skin do not have pores, they cannot dissipate heat, so I cannot complete high-intensity or long-duration exercises, as a prevention of the overheating of the organs, as well as skin pain and itching, et cetera

• How have you managed your mental wellbeing, overcoming the trauma?

I have used a range of methods: 1. Pour out my grievances and sufferings to friends; 2. Call the mental health consultation for help and counseling; 3. Cry alone; 4. Read to find inner tranquility; 5. Develop interests and hobbies; 6. Watch comedies and fun variety shows; 7. Discover all the positive sides of life; 8. Use essential oil aromatherapy for a better mood. Nevertheless, the supportiveness from the NIS students, parents, and colleagues are profound because they enabled me to live in a safe environment where I could resume my work and group participation. Throughout this process, I felt the caring and heartwarming encouragements and supports, which made me feel valued at group activities and work. My confidence was restored, which enabled me to see the possibilities I could experience in life, knowing that there are still love and happiness. Overall, these optimistic thoughts have reinforced my mental wellbeing. They taught me to accept myself, motivating me to become my better self.



• Through this experience, what are your valuable points of realization in life?

Cherish every day, especially when you are still healthy and well. Never feel painful and disappointed when your appearance change, never become immersed in the agonizing memories, never grumble about accidents befallen. There are always love and warmth. You are stronger than you imagine. Never give up, because you will learn something after you try. Your effort will shape the future you envisioned.



• What is the Amy Yang Fund?

I know that the founding of the Amy Yang Fund was proposed by the parents, which was then founded and supported by the school. It is an honor to have a fund established with my name, and even though I experienced an unexpected misfortune, I see myself as the luckiest person in this incident. The Amy Yang Fund not only helps me, and my family, for better treatment, but it also embodies the love from NIS. Just like the Amy Yang Fund logo, there is a focal point for sincere love, that has been growing and strengthening to a sturdy tree trunk. It is changing magically to powerful arms cultivating newborns' hope—hope is the full-of-life, fresh, brilliant green leaves. It is only because of the love-irrigated fertile soil of NIS that thrived the evergreen of the tree.



QR Code of the Amy Yang Fund

MUN: MORE THAN JUST AN ASSET FOR YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION



By Yixing (Eason) Zheng Layout By Andy Zeng

As I envisioned authoring this article, there was a recurring idea that appeared: the satirical meme of “We live in a society.” Often, our work in classes consists of assignments requiring comprehensive research and investigation that help us fully understand our society. The thesis statements of our English essays often wind down to a general criticism of society. However, what is the role of our criticism if we have not even practically tackled the issues we have identified in this exact society?

Model United Nations (MUN) conferences, aside from being a place where you can discuss various contentious, international issues, and produce detailed resolutions addressing the issues, is ultimately a platform for you to exercise your critical and creative thinking, share insights, and collaborate to gain an essential understanding of the world today. It involves analysis and judgment of an issue during speeches and debate and innovating upon existing efforts on issues to devise impactful solutions.



Frankly, people, societies, and institutions are immeasurably complex. When people hear about the breaking news stories and crises taking place over the world, their reactions may often be limited to vague indifference to vague concern. Many of you, when exposed to commentary on current affairs, may want to step away from the pile of mess and have some fresh air.


Sure, you could avoid that awkward discussion, but to ignore it, or to be fixed in a single predisposed perspective, will have insidious effects. Without your voice on whoever and whatever governs you, you are giving way to a future that you will perceive as only confusion and disorder, a future in which you will witness the destruction of your power in society. Epitomized in the quotation of the poetic-form post-war confession by German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller following the Nazi's rise to power and purging of groups after groups:

**"First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me."**



MUN is a superb starting point to assimilate perspectives from across the globe and to evolve your voice on international relations and diplomacy. Aside from serious discussion and debate on such pressing issues, MUN is also an opportunity for you to develop confidence in speaking and writing, improve your grammar, expand your vocabulary, and meet other students from all parts of the world. Leading MUN this year, I hope those who join will stay committed and find the experience to be enjoyable and meaningful.





Alumni Interview With Lucas Smulders, an Undergraduate Student at Vanderbilt University

Q1. May you describe your college life at Vanderbilt University?

At Vanderbilt, college life is what you make of it. I try my best to utilize the resources available around me to maximize my learning and personal development, while also dedicating time to myself, friends, and family. Just like high-school, although sometimes it may be difficult and overwhelming to keep up with the rigor of the various courses offered, difficulties are meant to be overcome. So, ultimately, it leads to a unique and rewarding academic experience.


Q2. How did the intensive and rigorous IBDP program prepare you as a college student?

The IBDP program prepares you as a college student to a certain degree. It offers you a selection of challenging courses that cover materials you might see in college-level classes while also acclimating you to the intensity of college courses. However, I feel like it should be understood that college is different from high-school. No matter how well you did in IB, it won't guarantee you easy A's in your college classes. Going to college still requires you to adapt to a new learning environment with different expectations. To succeed both academically and personally, you must continue to push yourself as hard or even harder than you did in high-school.



Interview By Steven Yeh





Alumni Interview With Lucas Smulders, an Undergraduate Student at Vanderbilt University

Q3. How did you balance your time during IBDP?

I felt like balancing my time came naturally during IBDP and was not something I had to focus on. I worked when I had work to do, and I focused on my hobbies and friends when I did not. Nonetheless, something I feel that must be stressed is that balance requires sacrifice. You must have some form of understanding about what you are hoping to achieve in your time in IBDP. To accomplish your goals, sometimes it means that you will have to give up something that you want to do. It may not feel great at the moment, but if done correctly, it will be worth it.

Q4. What are some things that you wish you had known before IBDP, the university application process, and going to Vanderbilt?

I wouldn't say I would have wanted to know anything in particular as part of the fun is jumping into the unknown and seeing where you end up. Though, in a general sense, I feel that something I could have understood better is to approach everything and everyone with an open mind. Going to an international school, or an institution like Vanderbilt is a unique experience as you get to meet people from such a diverse range of backgrounds. As a result, approaching things with an open mind ensures that you learn the most from these encounters and, in the long run, helps to develop you as a person. In regards to the university application process, I feel like there isn't a need to worry too much about it. Ultimately you are just trying to find a place where you can maximize your growth, and no matter the ups and downs, I feel that you will end up where you need to be.



Alumni Interview With Lucas Smulders, an Undergraduate Student at Vanderbilt University

Q5. What are your aspirations? What are your life goals?

Honestly, I have no clue. Currently, I am just trying to make the most of the situation around me while tackling challenges that I find intriguing and fulfilling. I don't feel the need to set anything as grand as a life goal because who knows what I am going to be doing in twenty years, five years, or even next year. For instance, a few months ago, I would have never imagined myself sitting in my room and taking online classes in the middle of the night.



Thank You

Layout By Gayeon Sim

25 YEARS AGO

Literary Journalism

By Paul Meyer

Layout By Fay Fay Cheung

After the reunification in 1990, the Stasi Legacy was made public through the creation of the “Federal Stasi Records Agency,” filled with what remained of the Stasi archives. People were able to access files on themselves and their families, and it was done so more than 2 million times since 1992, with the most shocking devastations. They learned how their friends, siblings, and parents spied on them, and let them be arrested, interrogated, and tortured. While this may seem like an authoritarian futuristic dystopia to many, it was real. It was taking place in a state that existed not too long ago, in my country, when my father was my age.

As a child, you don't realize the magnitude of the events that surround you. As time passes by, it takes time for you to understand how important that early stage of your life was. I hear a lot of these kinds of stories from my father about when he was young. He graduated in 1989, the year of the fall of the Berlin Wall, so naturally the East was a major topic of conversation, as were the experiences of those who lived in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), commonly known as East Germany.

At the end of the World War II, Germany fell under Allied occupation. It was split into four sectors controlled by France, Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union. As the relationship between these Allies deteriorated and the US and USSR emerged as two conflicting superpowers; they found themselves on two sides of an expanding Cold War. In the early stages of this war, Germany was split into the GDR in the East, consisting of the former Soviet sector, and the Federal Republic of Germany, consisting of the former French, British, and American sectors in the West. Germany was a centerpiece of the Cold War and the two nations developed in two radically opposite ways, leading to the building of the Berlin and Inter-German Walls, until reunification in 1990.

In the East, the GDR turned into a single party state where no protest was

permitted, with all aspects of life being strictly controlled by the communist government. Life was harsh, with many not having showers, hot water being heated by coal in an outside stove, and travel being limited and monitored. Most goods were highly overpriced, TV's and Radio channels were fully in the hands of the State, and exotic goods such as bananas were a rarity; while goods such as strawberries could not be bought but only picked, with one keeping only a portion of one's pickings.

It was just two years ago that Germany celebrated 25 years of reunification. It marked the end of an era, the end of one country separated into two completely different parts. My family has always lived in the West, the South-West, far from the border separating the two polar opposites, but even there, so far away from "the other side," everyone thinks about the past. In the scope of the festivities, life in the GDR was a focus and with that came the thoughts of the notorious Stasi. The tactics employed by the GDR's Ministry of State Security, as well as its extent and reach out of the GDR into the FRG and the West, showed that not only did those in the East fear the Stasi, but those in the West did too. The Stasi had wiretaps going into the West German Chancellery, having connections even to members of the FRG Parliament. When my father told stories of reunification and his visits to East Germany, I understood the historical and emotional value of the stories. Stories of the agents and the informants, even as young as 13, spying on friends or even their own parents.

The vast extent of the Stasi is unimaginable to those who have not felt it firsthand. At its height, the Stasi had over 91 000 agents, spying on a population of 17 million. This made for 1 spy per 180 people, exceeding the 1 to 595 ratios in the Soviet KGB. Spies were your neighbors, boss, co-worker, teacher, brother or even your longtime friend... Someone was always looking, you would never be able to know what was seen and who to trust, even in your closest inner circle. But the vast extent of the Stasi came from its informants. In addition to its agents, 90 000 Stasi informants existed, and anyone could be one. The recruitment of children as informants was not scared away from, and there were many cases of children spying on their parents or school officials.

My father is someone whom I trust, no matter what. You learn, when growing up, how your father is the central figure of knowledge, truth and

reason in a child's life. He is the person who has the answer to your question, the way out of the problem. All of these traits and more are shown in father. While he sometimes may, in my teenage eyes, know too much, I feel that whatever information or knowledge I receive from him is something that I can believe in, something that has a story, a connection, behind it. There is always a personal context, a context that I want to find out about, and this is what makes my father's stories special. Always truthful, but always interesting to listen to.

What I learned through the anniversary celebrations and the stories that were told, was that there were many father-son relationships that fell apart as they learned how their father worked for the Stasi. It was through these festivities of remembrance, that I began to look into these very stories, the fathers and the children of the Stasi Era.

Sven Schramm came from a Stasi community. His father and most of his father's friends worked for "The Firm" as it was known. A fully State-Loyal family, he felt protected by the Wall from the dangers that, in his eyes, came from the west, a feeling that has never gone away to this day. Working for the Stasi had its perks; including a car and a telephone, both very rare for East Germans at the time. It was at the age of 14 that he and his friend were approached by Stasi recruiters at a Stasi Christmas party. Sven was a very brave person at the time, as refused to sign on. When explaining this to journalists of *The Guardian*, he said that it was his grandfather who had persuaded him to stay away from these people. Schramm explained "[My grandfather] said, don't throw your lot in with these people. Once you're in there, you'll never get out." Since the reunification, his life has changed drastically. With the revelation of the actions of the Stasi, one thought cannot go away. What was his father's role? All of the secrecy when for working for "The Firm," the mistrust in the family, ended in his relationship with his father now being distant, eve leading to him changing his surname. The likelihood that his father arranged the recruitment meeting for him, is high. But even worse, whenever he hears about a Stasi atrocity, he will never know if his father was involved. The feeling of trust and value I can connect with my father, is something that he will never be able to connect with his, living on the edge, without knowing who or what his father was. While when I talk with my father, about his day at work, my day at school, I know the truth in his words.

For Sven, sitting down with his father would be surrounded by one question: What is the truth?

Gerd Kiel shows the other side of the Stasi, or what in the eyes of many in the West, including my father, was the real Stasi. The now 54-year-old is still plagued by fears from his past. Fears of basements, metallic scraping sounds and more, come from an era of suffering. In the 1980's, Kiel attempted to flee into the West, but failed due to being betrayed by Stasi informants. He was locked away by the Stasi in its own prison system for three years, where he was subject to the famous psychological Stasi interrogation technique of "Zersetzung" ("corrosion"), looking at undermining the subject's confidence and belief in the value of their actions through 'pressure points', and isolation from the outside world. While physical harm was usually refrained from, it was the mental torture that would scar thousands of prisoners. Being forced into dark basements prison cells, while hearing screams and crying throughout the night, while being locked away in total isolation, and only being let of the cell for interrogations where the fundamental goal was to undermine his values and beliefs. It was only later, after the reunification, that he found out the identities of the informants, and what he found, was devastating. The two primary informants, who sent him to jail to be subject of that mental torture, harassment, humiliation and isolation, were his own brother and father. Two individuals in whom one is supposed to have faith in, figures of authority and reason, sent him into what was seen as the successors of the concentration camps. After being released and breaking off contact with his family, he tried to reconnect to his father years later, to talk, to understand, but Kiel's father died 2 days before Kiel's visit. These experiences deeply affected Kiel. It heightened at a suicide attempt in 2006, where after both his wife, whose father was also a Stasi informant, and himself found their way towards therapy. As they slowly recover and get better, they are now able to help others overcome what they had to overcome. The struggle of never understanding why his father, a figure of reason and trust, sent him into this scarring experience. While he has no more contact with his brother, he says he is open for communication and wants to talk, to know why. It is an experience that he will, and can, never forget. It is a story I will always remember. A story I can tell my father, when we talk about the past.

Kiel and Schramm were both "Stasi-Kinder" (Stasi-Children), members of a

society who are neither victim, nor perpetrator but were simply involved with the system, handling their contact with the Stasi in their own way. The realization of the relationship of these children with their fathers make me able to value mine, his openness and truthfulness.

Through the 2006 Film "The Lives of Others" by the German Florian v. Donnersmark, the work of the Stasi was unveiled to the world, demonstrating what kind of organization and what its purpose was. The "Office of the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Records" provides a chance for everyone to see how their lives were looked into by the Stasi, to learn about their stories. But many choose not to do so. Schramm still hopes for his father to tell him what he did in the Stasi, how he contributed to the machine he sees it to be. He would rather learn it from his father, than read about it in a file, to know the truth personally, from the figure he was taught to trust, to rely on. There is a high chance that during my father's visits to east, or my grandfather's work as a nuclear scientist lead to files being created on my family, and while we have not done so far, we could see how the Stasi looked at us and our lives. But what I hear from my father is never as harsh as the stories of those who experienced the Stasi first hand. A moment that Kiel recalls well was when he was touring a group around his former prison, was when one child asked him "How do you live today?" He was not asking about the Wall or the prison but "He just wanted to know how I was," Keil remembers. "I said, thank God, I have a family, friends, two really great children. I'm fine." I know that when I next visit Berlin with my father, there are places that I would like to visit. Together. To tell stories of truth and emotion.

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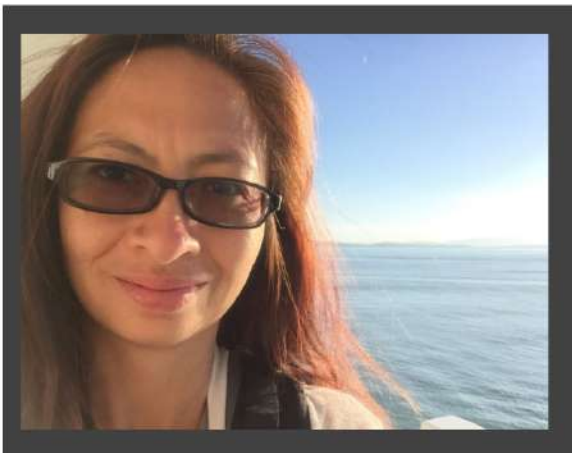
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Anna Yuen

Faculty Interview With Activities and Global Citizen Diploma (GCD) Coordinator, Ms. Anna Yuen (B.A. and Teaching Diploma ESL & FSL, McGill University; M.A. King's College London)

Interview By Steven Yeh
Layout By Andy Zeng

1 What inspired you to work at an IB School?

I was teaching at a Canadian public school that offered the "Programme d'Education Internationale," which was the MYP (Middle Years Programme). When I moved overseas, I wasn't looking for an IB school; IB schools were interested in my IB experience. All the schools I have worked at outside Canada happened to be IB schools.

2 Which schools have you worked in previously? What were your roles?

I have worked in several schools in Canada, the UK, and Austria before coming to NIS. I have taught ESL, French, Information Literacy, Geography, English B, and Moral Education. I have also coordinated the Personal Project and After School Activities.

3 How is NIS unique from other schools?

It's hard to explain, but something like NIS is big enough but small enough for there to be a sense of community, a sense of a family. The teachers and the families have a unique bond where we come together in times of celebration and in times of need. Families come and go, but everyone keeps a special place in their hearts for the fond NIS memories.

4 Why do you enjoy working at NIS?

I enjoy working with my open-minded colleagues, who make me laugh every day. The students are great. They make me laugh too.

5 What is service learning in MYP?

It is an opportunity for students to support those in need and to care for the environment authentically. We hope students can find connections with what they learn in the classroom with the real world. They are encouraged to find a cause that they are passionate about and work towards achieving their goals. Reflection is the key element of our Service-Learning program. Students are encouraged to identify goals, develop strategies, and determine further actions for personal growth.

6 What is CAS in IB?

Similar to Service in the MYP but different. The seven learning outcomes are the same, but CAS requires students to do experiences that fall into the categories of Creativity, Activity, and Service. The MYP lays the foundation, whereas CAS encourages students to go outside their comfort zone. Hopefully, the experiences leave students with the desire to continue a newfound interest or the confidence to seek more meaningful experiences.

7 How do service learning and extracurricular better prepare students for college life?

Service and extracurricular experiences allow students to improve their time management, social, and leadership skills, which are necessary to be successful in the world. Concurrently, students could step away from the stress and pressures of academics, which is beneficial since life is not all about academics and grades. Having outside hobbies makes people more employable and well-rounded. Simply more interesting.



Question about GCD:



8 How Does the Global Citizen Diploma (GCD) Structure at NIS Work?

NIS is one of the six schools world-wide that offers a unique credential – the Global Citizen Diploma. Students are encouraged to tell the world who they are, through an additional lens that highlights their actions and their passions. Grades no longer define who our students are because they are all more than numbers on their report cards. The GCD shows the world they are becoming ethical and responsible global citizens.

Beginning in Grade 9, students have the opportunity to participate in the Global Citizen Diploma program. This program emulates NIS's strategy of Student Voice and Choice, where they choose the competencies which they wish to highlight. In addition, all students must meet the requirements of the three core values which underpin the GCD – Academics, Community Engagement, Global Understanding, and Intercultural Communication. By the end of Grade 12, most students will be able to achieve the Global Citizen Diploma GCD, which the completion of the three core values and six competencies of their choice. Some of our students could also receive the Global Citizen Diploma with Distinction (GCDD) by completing a total of nine Competencies and three core values. We are very thrilled to be a member of this exclusive program where we can share and grow with other like-minded schools. We are the only GCD school in Mainland China, and we are excited to be paving the way for new schools to become a part of the consortium. For more information, please visit the GCD website: <https://globalcitizendiploma.org/>

9 How does the GCD prepare well-rounded students?

The GCD is an organized, achievable, and goal-oriented framework for promoting student achievements outside of the classroom. The recognition of the GCC, GCD, and GCDD, could be used for job and university applications.

10 As an experienced IB Faculty, what is your message to primary and middle/upper school students?

Do the right thing, even when nobody is looking.

12 In general, what is a life lesson that you learned that you would like to share with everyone?

Deadline matters.

11 What is your message to the IB students' parents?

Ask your child to SHOW you what they are doing. Them telling you about what they are doing is not enough because chances are, they may not have done anything!

13 What is your pet peeve?

Only one? Inaccuracies and spelling mistakes.



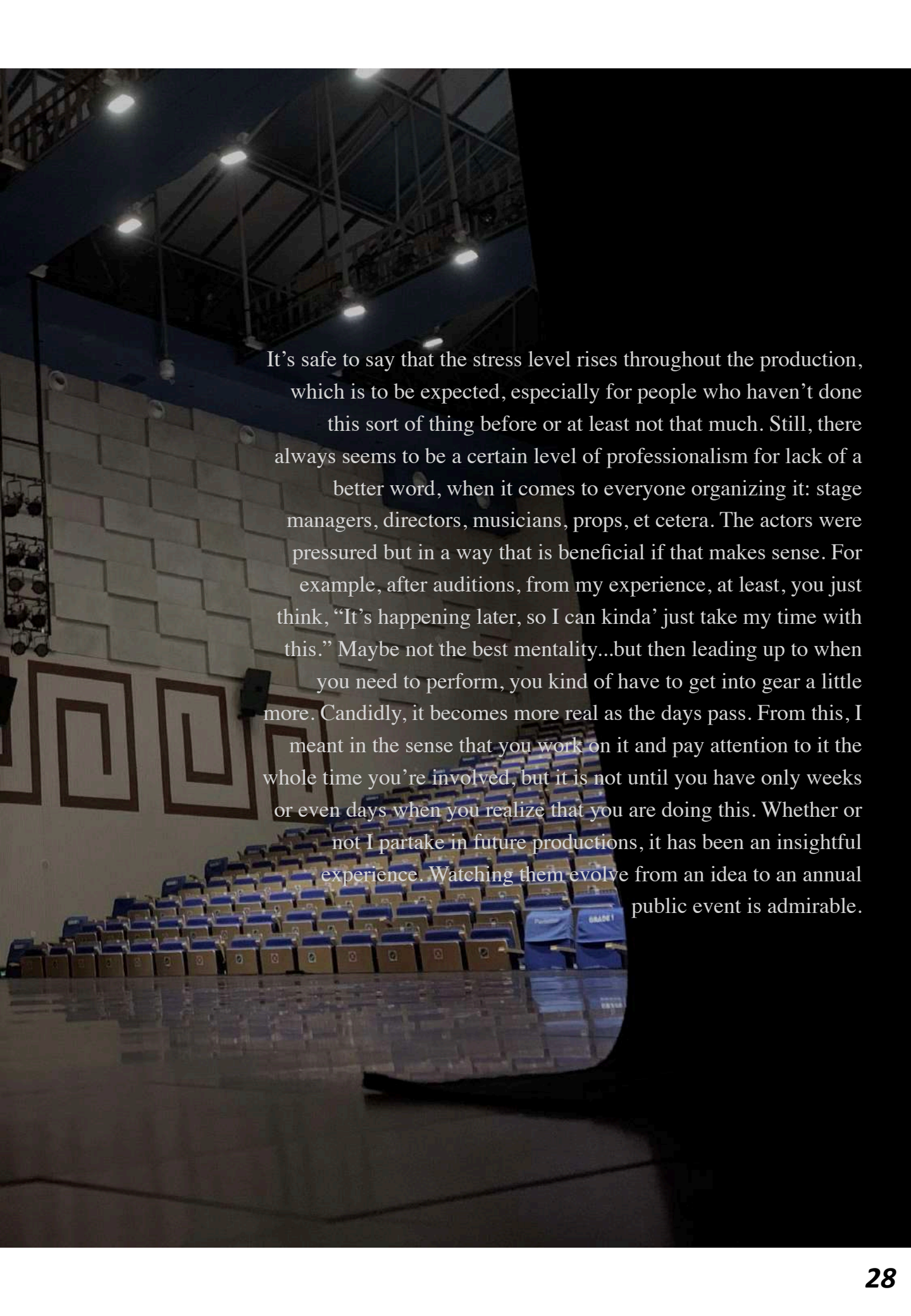
THE PYP AND MYP/DP PRODUCTION

By Lennon Ivory

Layout By Mingeon Kim

My experience in school production was fantastically memorable because of how fast time seems to go by. One minute, you are on the empty stage in the Performing Arts Center, and the next, it is performance night. It is hard to describe something like production because everyone involved had a different experience. Some came to every rehearsal, so they got to see firsthand how the set and performances evolved. Some came in every so often, meaning every time they would see something completely different from last time. My experience was somewhat in the middle. In fact, I thought it was surreal seeing the whole thing come together and see how every aspect contributed to how it turned out in the end. This may be because I do not have that much experience with productions compared to most people involved, which can tremendously affect the experience with something like this. However, everyone involved is given help whenever needed, no matter their role.

There is a certain level of fear, however, that everyone experiences something like this because no one ever really knows how it will turn out. When you first start, it is hard to imagine how, for example, would we be able to make an empty stage into a city street. Despite the seemingly impossible task, the production crews involved work their hardest to make it look as pleasing as possible, and this effort shows. To be honest, I wasn't convinced that two rotating platforms would work, but they managed to make it seamless and delicate.



It's safe to say that the stress level rises throughout the production, which is to be expected, especially for people who haven't done this sort of thing before or at least not that much. Still, there always seems to be a certain level of professionalism for lack of a better word, when it comes to everyone organizing it: stage managers, directors, musicians, props, et cetera. The actors were pressured but in a way that is beneficial if that makes sense. For example, after auditions, from my experience, at least, you just think, "It's happening later, so I can kinda' just take my time with this." Maybe not the best mentality...but then leading up to when you need to perform, you kind of have to get into gear a little more. Candidly, it becomes more real as the days pass. From this, I meant in the sense that you work on it and pay attention to it the whole time you're involved, but it is not until you have only weeks or even days when you realize that you are doing this. Whether or not I partake in future productions, it has been an insightful experience. Watching them evolve from an idea to an annual public event is admirable.



Beginner Band and Advanced Orchestra

By Sunny Cho

Layout By Lydia Meng

Step into the music room. It is three on the clock. Clamors bang your ears, people are now warming up, preparing for the rehearsal. Welcome to the orchestra.

Dictionary definition of the orchestra is a large instrumental ensemble mostly playing western classical music. It can be either purely instrumental or combined with a choir. The modern full-scale symphony orchestra consists of 1000 musicians. The etymology of "orchestra" dates to ancient Greece, and it used to describe the place where musicians and dancers perform. The modern form of the orchestra was shaped in the early 1600s by Claudio Monteverdi. He wrote a piece of music that is played by an ensemble, which was considered pioneering at that time. During the 19th century, composers created music pieces that required a large scale of an orchestra. However, in the late 20th century, the trend changed to minimalism, and composers opted for a smaller size, such as a chamber orchestra. This trend is clear in the recently evolving styles of orchestral music.



There are two orchestras in NIS: middle school band (beginner orchestra) and advanced orchestra. We practice two to three songs in one semester and perform them in various school events: music evening, assemblies, award assembly, graduation, *et cetera*. The middle school band is mostly composed of primary students, while middle and upper school students chiefly form the advanced orchestra.

As one of the orchestra kids, who have been in the advanced orchestra for two years and beginner orchestra for five years, I recommend you join these collaborative musical activities. As a student attending an international school, I often wondered what inclusive and collaboration are. Albeit their ubiquity in my life, I never knew the exact meaning of the words. Well, however, the answer was close by - the orchestra was a perfect example of them. In chamber ensembles, people play different instruments from different families. Like performers, we are of different races, ages. However, we work together to create euphonious harmonies. Therefore, the orchestra is more than just learning a new piece of music and getting better at performing. It is the most beautiful way of conveying the meaning of collaboration and inclusiveness.

Step into the music room. It is three on the clock. Harshly discorded sounds bang your ears, people are now warming up, preparing for the rehearsal. It might sound bad but do not worry because we will get a nice ring to it.

The Korean and Chinese Drumming Club

- An NIS student-led musical activity that holds the prospect of experiencing many different genres of music from different countries.

In the Korean Drumming Club, students will learn extensive knowledge revolving around Korean drumming and culture since the instructor is a professional in the Korean drumming field.

The Korean Drumming team has performed in several events like International Day and concerts. In recent months, because of school restrictions due to the COVID-19, guest teachers cannot enter the school. However, as soon as the school allows guest teachers to enter and leave, the club will resume.

Korean Drumming is a club that is mainly formed by Korean students. Therefore, the club is looking forward to welcoming Korean students. The planned practice session is Friday after school in the music room.

By Yewon Jang

Layout By Gaeyeon Sim

Chinese Drumming Club is an inclusive club that helps promote a deep understanding of Chinese culture. In the Chinese Drumming Club, not only Chinese students but also students from all different countries could participate. They will learn about Chinese traditional music and performance.

Over the years, the club performed at many prestigious events such as but not limited to, the North-East Asian Math Competition (NEAMC) and TEDx Youth. In recent years, the Chinese Drumming Team exemplified their unique performance at the Chinese New Year Assembly. Chinese Drumming Club is a distinctive and captivating activity to join.

We will always welcome the new students! In addition, to join this club, you don't need previous experience of playing Chinese music or drum. Therefore, beginners can join the club with no worries. Chinese Drumming Club practices are every Monday the first half of lunch in the music room.

VACCINES

How to survive the corona-apocalypse



The world is now facing corona-apocalypse. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus, spread through saliva, droplets, and discharge from the nose when sneezing or coughing. The first outbreak was in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, and it caused about 750,000 deaths worldwide (2020.08.13).

Vaccines are one of the defense methods against these pandemics. Potentially, it could prevent the second wave.

What are the vaccines? What is the production procedure?

VACCINE

It is a prevention method against a specific disease. It contains a weakened microbe that trains the immune system for future infection.



In the United States, the FDA's CBER (Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research) is responsible for regulating vaccines. The general pathway for vaccine development is the same as that for drugs and other biologics.

VACCINE PRODUCT APPROVAL PROCESS



A sponsor who wishes to begin clinical trials with a vaccine submits an **IND** (Investigational New Drug) application to the FDA, which describes the vaccine, its method of manufacture, and the vaccine's safety.

1

Clinical trials are typically done in three phases:

Phase 1

- Studies of its safety and immunogenicity performed with a small number of subjects

Phase 2

- Studies of dose-ranging that might contain hundreds of subjects

Phase 3

- Critical documentation of safety and effectiveness with thousands of individuals

2

3

4

Biologics License Application (BLA) is submitted. It will be reviewed and approved by the FDA.



The marketing of vaccines will start if the **manufacturing** processes begin.





Time's Walk of Life

By Chesna Goel

Layout By Yerin Lim



At the beginning of time,
 first rays of light strike the newborn's eyes.
 As the first cry fills the air,
 bringing joy to one and all,
 happiness is evident in the parents' eyes,
 as they gaze upon their blessing.

But for every wrong turn,
 the consequences are severe.
 They are not a child anymore.
 From now, they have complete
 control of their lives.



Time begins to crawl slowly.
 As the child grows,
 and takes the first steps,
 falling a hundred or more times,
 crying because of pain.
 But after the first successful step,
 there is a look of victory on their face.

The time has begun to walk.
 Groaning each morning at the sun,
 getting ready for a hard day at work,
 raising money for their survival.



Now the time has begun to walk.
 Walking towards the first day of school,
 where both nervousness and excitement
 fill the air.
 Staying with strangers for hours,
 then become a part of the community.
 Part of their identity,
 ingrained in the depths of their mind.

Now the time has begun to slow down.
 Married the one true love.
 They watch their children grow up,
 struggling to find the right path,
 as they make their memories.



Running! Time has started to run.
 After years of education, the day has
 finally come.
 Graduation day,
 where they will throw their graduation
 caps in the air,
 receive their diplomas,
 and eventually, become adults,
 as well as a member of society.

Time has become shriveled and tired.
 They are old.
 Seen their loved ones depart.
 Now looking forward to the life
 that their grandchildren hold.
 Lighting them up from inside,
 they know that when darkness comes,
 their life will fulfill.



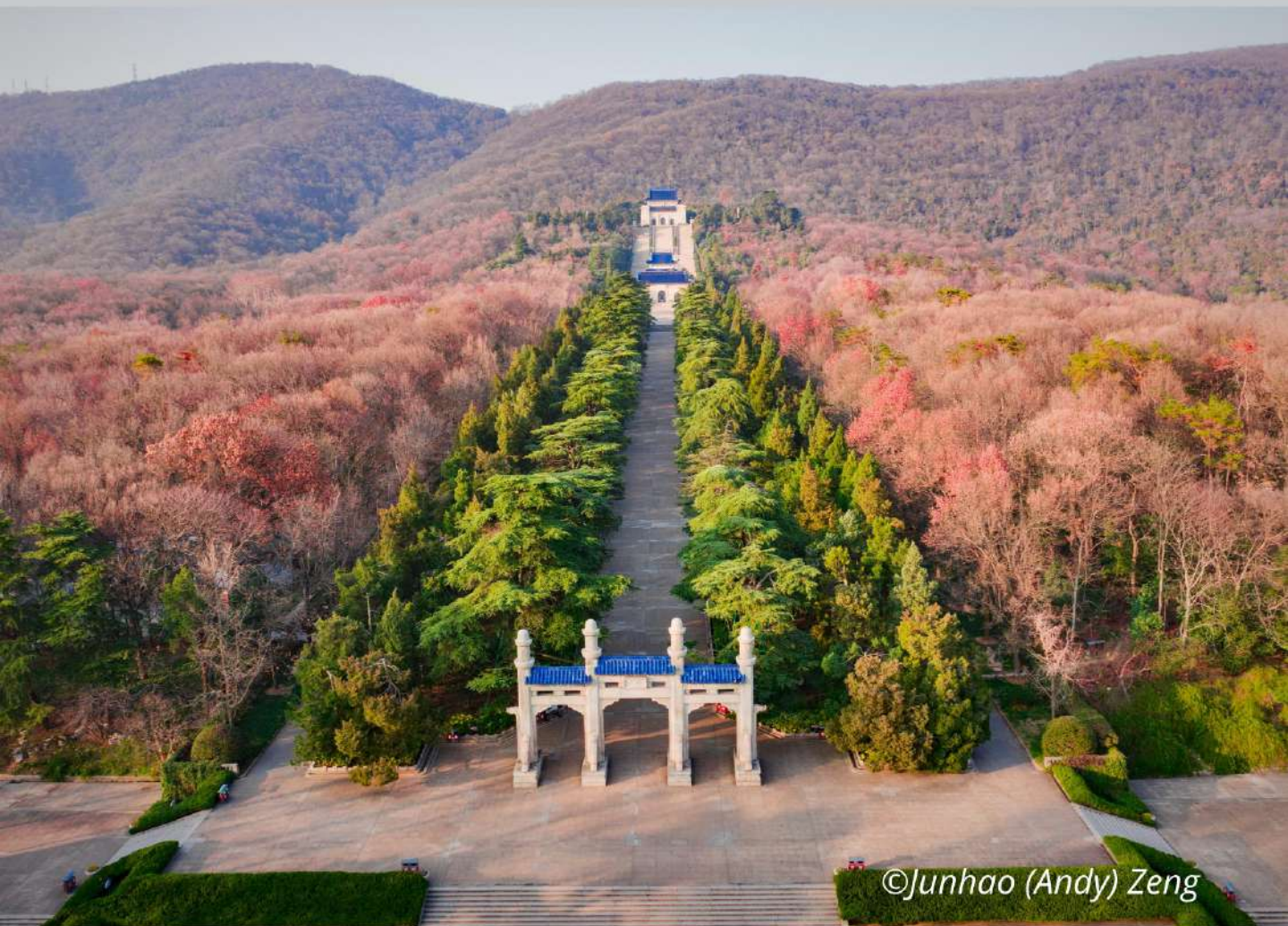
Time is racing.
 Another turn that brings so
 much more!
 It is like education at a whole
 new level.

Time is ending.
 Darkness blankets them,
 as it takes them to their afterlife,
 where from above they watch
 their family.
 Hoping them the best,
 where they finally let go,
 and fall into an eternal sleep,
 now the time has finally come to
 an end.



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