



# TANGO

# EXTRA

*Dancing with Words*

Senri & Osaka International Schools of Kwansai Gakuin

TANGO: TWO SCHOOLS TOGETHER

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## *Tournament of Champions!* *SOIS Scholar-Stars Share Their Memories*

This year, five teams from SOIS competed at the World Scholar's Cup Tournament of Champions held at Yale University. The World Scholar's Cup is an academic competition, bringing together students from 50 countries to compete in the Scholar's Challenge (a 120 question multiple choice test), Team Debate, Collaborative Writing, and the Scholar's Bowl (a quiz bowl taken in teams). WSC, although being an academic competition, focuses more on collaboration and celebration than competition. It encourages students to engage in discussions about a range of topics with students from all over the world.

Since you probably have heard enough about the competition itself, for this article we asked a few participants to write about their most memorable experience at the ToC.

*Mina Allen:*

Getting a taste of the college lifestyle was definitely the most memorable experience for me. As a student that'll most likely go off to College in nearly 2 1/2 years, I have heard more than my share of College stories. Eating pizza in the middle of the night while

trying to finish last minute papers, only being able to afford ramen packs, Chipotle and Donuts for lunch. Those stories that you may have heard from your parents or close relatives are all true.

During our 5 day stay in New Haven, there was not one day where we ate vegetables. We stress-ate old pizza and mozzarella sticks at 2 in the morning, had microwaveable mac 'n' cheese for dinner, chose sleep over food and skipped breakfast; we did it all.

We even experienced living in our own time zone. We hardly got any sleep throughout our whole stay, and when we did it was hard to actually get up. This trip changed my whole view on the human body; I have learned that the human body can (barely) function on 3 hours of sleep.

It's most definitely safe to say that College lifestyle is not the healthiest — nor the wisest. But it was great that I could experience it before it actually happened, otherwise I wouldn't have been able to adjust or live like that.



sandman got the best of us-- we found ourselves woken up by a staff member (thank you, Joga) to the sight of an empty building. "This," he said, "is what jetlag looks like." Prior to falling asleep, the staff members were announcing the dinner locations for each school delegation. Our team, wanting a bit of shut-eye, decided to multitask by "resting our eyes" and waiting for our school's name to be called. A bit embarrassed, but mostly finding the ordeal telling of our sleep deprivation, we were ushered as a team to the dining hall.

*Shuri Kozu:*

Although I am hesitant to determine a single best memory amongst all the great experiences I was able to have at ToC, having been able to be a flag bearer was definitely one of the highlights of this trip. Award ceremonies held in both the global round and at ToC, begin with a march of one representative from each participating country bearing a flag of their own nation. And I was fortunate enough to be the representative from Japan, holding the flag of my own country.

*Tyus Sheriff, Skye Inada, Noah Izumi:*

Our most memorable experience was on our first day of the competition. Our team, jet-lagged and exhausted after getting little sleep on the plane flight over, managed to stay awake during the opening ceremony and on the coldest scavenger hunt of our lives. (A cold front hit New Haven that day.) After attentively listening to a keynote speech made by poet Rita Mae Reese, however, the



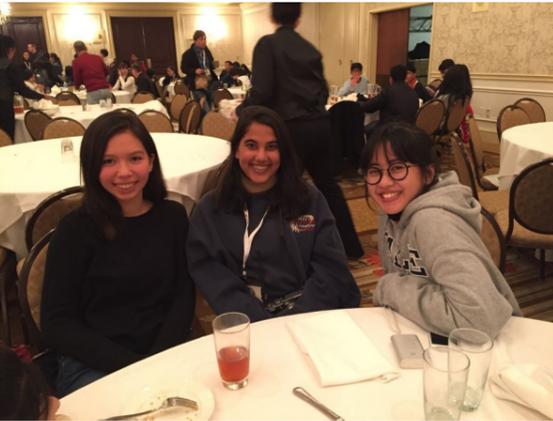
*The Tango Team wishes all our readers a joyful  
Holiday Season*



When I saw my name up on the screen on the flag bearers list, I was confused at first but then thrilled for this wonderful opportunity. As Daniel (the Alpaca in Chief) called my name, I walked on the red carpet towards the stage where other representatives from other countries stood. As I waved the flag with other representatives I came to realize how diverse everything and everyone was on stage. Those moments I waved my flag while marching across the aisle, I'll never forget. It will always remain fresh inside my mind.

*Sophia Smith:*

The best thing about the Tournament of Champions was probably my three roommates and the events and conversations that went down in our room. It may not be considered a major part of the tournament, but it was definitely the most memorable. All of us were severely sleep deprived from jet lag and went semi-insane from that, making our late night conversations full of crying, laughing, and crying while simultaneously laughing.



There were four of us, yet we stayed in a room with only two beds. We weren't all from the same team, and we weren't even in the same division, but somehow that made everything seem like more fun now that I think about it. The tripping over of each others' suitcases, the not knowing how to turn the shower on, even the

frantically looking for missing phones minutes before the bus was about to leave. All of these events were very trivial, and yet they seem to be the ones that I remember most.



At the time, I was overwhelmed by the stress of it all. However now that I have the ability to look back at all of my memories from Yale, those small ones are the ones that make me feel nostalgic every time I think back to them. Although many moments over our five days could be described as dysfunctional and/or slightly problematic, the nights that I spent with my roommates are undoubtedly something I'll reminisce about for years to come.

Although it is true that the Tournament of Champions at Yale was filled with sleep deprivation, fast food delivery, uploading papers onto Managebac, and cramming 500 pages of World Scholar's Cup notes (with material covering anything from Coleridge's "Kubla Khan" to the science behind Apollo spacecraft), it was an experience participants would say they would do again. Through debating topics about mythologies and science fiction with teams from China, Kenya, and Israel, and meeting new friends in a scavenger hunt around the Yale campus, the competition saw bonds being built between scholars of different nations. The survivors of New Haven's freezing cold would all agree that it was a wonderful close to an "unlikely" 2017 season.



**Reporting by Tyus Sheriff**

## Volunteering in Cebu

by Masami Nagasaka

For three days, I visited a public school in Liloan, Cebu, to teach children, most of who are orphans, the culture and language of Japan. I did not join any kind of organization, however I got in touch with a nun who takes care of boys from ages 10-17 in a school, and decided that I wanted to do some volunteer work there. I chose to teach the students there a little bit about the culture and language of Japan. The reason why I wanted to do this was because I am half Japanese and Filipino. I was born in the Philippines and lived there for 12 years then moved to Japan and have been living here for 5 years now. When I just moved to Japan, I had close to no knowledge about the culture and language of Japan. Now that I have been here for 5 years, I have learnt a lot about the country and its language through my experiences from living in Japan. I wanted to give back to the country I was raised in, which is why I thought sharing my knowledge would be a good way to achieve this. My goal is to make the students learn more about the international community. I hoped that once I finished and left, the knowledge that I shared with them would be kept and remembered.

On the first day of this volunteering activity, I talked about the geographic characteristics of Japan. Where it is located, what kind of land form it is, how far it is from the Philippines, etc. I also mentioned Japan's seasons, art, food and etc. In order to also show and not just inform them, I prepared a powerpoint presentation to allow them to see photos so that they could imagine what I was saying. After giving a brief introduction to Japan, I discussed about what happened to Japan in the second world war, specifically the atomic bombing of Hiroshima City. I mentioned about Sadako Sasaki and her story with the origami cranes. After discussing about the cranes' symbolism I distributed pieces of origami paper and taught them how to make origami cranes as well. At the end of the day, I gave them some Japanese snacks so that they would be able to taste how the food I told them about earlier tasted because none of them had ever tried Japanese food.

On the second day, I taught them the basics of the Japanese language. I mentioned



how the Japanese language has 3 alphabets: hiragana, katakana and kanji. Since I did not have enough time to teach them all 3 alphabets, I just taught them how to write hiragana. I used a small blackboard in front as I showed them how to write each letter, while they followed by making notes in their notebooks. After, I taught them how to say basic Japanese words like good morning, thank you, hello and good bye. I also taught them basic sentence structures like how to say "Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you" in Japanese. After finishing the language part of the day, I distributed homemade onigiris (Japanese rice balls) that I prepared the night before. Each student received 3 rice balls in total.

On the third and final day, I gave a short presentation on some aspects of Japan that I thought they might find quite interesting. I discussed about the traditional Japanese clothing, onsen, anime, and the biggest cities in Japan. Once again, I prepared a powerpoint presentation with pictures so that they would be able to imagine how these things looked. As for the traditional Japanese clothing, I also brought 2 different kinds of Japanese dolls that were wearing kimonos so they could see a model of how

it looked in real life. After my presentation, I distributed rice and curry to everyone to give them a final taste of Japanese food.

Having the opportunity to give back to my country was a very heartwarming experience. Before moving to Japan, I had participated in outreach programs in my previous school. These activities included donating food and clothing to the less fortunate and playing games with them as well. However, after living in Japan for 5 years, I hadn't been able to do any volunteer work in my home country for a long time. I was born and raised in Cebu. Therefore, I am very much aware of the realities and poverty that exist in developing countries like the Philippines. I know that education is not a privilege that can be easily accessed and enjoyed by everyone.

Ever since I moved to Japan, I have learned so much about the Japanese culture and language through my experiences here. When I realized that I had the opportunity to visit Cebu during my summer vacation, I really wanted to volunteer in teaching students about the culture and language of Japan. These students had never had the chance to travel outside Cebu, nor had they experienced eating food from other countries. I wanted to widen their understanding of the world and maybe in whatever way it might have been, inspire them through this experience.

## Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House

by Freya Kirwan

Imagine your child, or your brother, or your sister was in hospital. Now imagine that this hospital, while prestigious, was far from your house, so visits were costly and time consuming. And this is in addition to the significant amount of emotional stress already involved. This is just one type of situation that the Ronald McDonald House works to relieve. According to its website, the Ronald McDonald House is a non-profit organisation that works to 'create, find, and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children'. In a situation similar to the one imagined, the House provides affordable accommodation for the families of children that are institutionalised in a local hospital.

The House's ability to offer its low prices rests mainly on its reliance on volunteers. These volunteers assume a role similar to the staff of a hotel. Shifts are three hours long and mostly include checking in/out families, cleaning rooms, and desk work. I have volunteered at the House opposite the Junkanki Byoin for last two years, and found the experience very rewarding.

The families that stay at the House form a supportive community which I feel is important in, what I can only imagine to be, very stressful situations. The public dining room and kitchen provide an area in which communication is open and comfortable. The volunteers also create their own community, with the mix of senior members, new recruits and students making up a diverse environment.

There are many things one could do to support this organisation. Whilst volunteers are always wanted, if you find that is too time consuming, donations are also welcome. These could come in the form of financial support, but can also be in the form of goods. On their website (<http://www.dmhcj.or.jp/en-house/1640/>) the House has compiled a wish list including toilet rolls, tea, batteries, and canned food.



## Don't Worry! Everyone at University is in the Same Boat...

by Kaya Frese

I speak on behalf of the current OIS seniors when I say we have had IAs, EE, written assignments, CAS, TOK, predicted grades, paper 1s, paper 2s, and the occasional paper 3 hurtled at our faces. On top of that, we have had the pressure of deciding what we wanted to do for the rest of our lives. I feel as though I never understood the weight of the word "deadline", until I had to finish a university application in two nights. If you're anything like me, you had no clue how to narrow your interests, much less decide a "dream job". I read online that, what you do in your free time is what you're meant to pursue. While this may apply to most people, it seems untrue for myself considering I watch reruns of MasterChef in my leisure time. It's a shame that we often don't hear much from OIS students after they graduate, aka the IB Survivors. If you think about it, they essentially hold the key to everything.

**Which is why I present to you, "the key to everything" and some other stuff:**

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?**

**Kento Moriguchi:** I wanted to be like Lionel Messi when I was a kid.

**Kai Junge:** I always wanted to be an engineer. I clearly remember reading a biography on Thomas Edison and being inspired.

**Manaka Oyama:** I wanted to be "Miss Universe" after seeing photos of confident women lined up on stage.

**What university are you attending and why?**

**Kento Moriguchi: University of the Pacific (UoP)**

Not only did the university provide me with generous scholarships and grants, but my brother lives near campus which means I can easily hang out with my niece and nephews during the holidays. Moreover, the professors here are very accessible.

**Kai Junge: University of Cambridge, Homerton College**

Firstly, the engineering course here is one of the best in the world (QS ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> for "Engineering and Technology"). Secondly, I really love the city of Cambridge and the whole university atmosphere. Thirdly, I feel the course structure fits with what I want to learn.

**Manaka Oyama: Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)**

I applied because I was interested in the "Culture, Media, Society" major that APU offered.

**What subject are you majoring in and why?**

**Kento Moriguchi:** I am majoring in Health and Exercise Science to pursue my vocational goal of becoming a chiropractor. I am currently taking Engineering Ethics, East Asia and Civilization History, TOK ish, and Exercise Physiology class.

**Kai Junge:** I am studying for a M.Eng (masters of engineering) degree here over the next 4 years. Currently in the first term I have 4 main modules: mechanics, structures, electricity, and mathematics.

**Manaka Oyama:** I majored in "Culture, Media, Society" and currently study Japanese culture.

**What should we seniors expect?**

**Kento Moriguchi:** Expect the difference in assessment: the grade boundaries are different, and the style of exam will differ based on the professor. Expect to have a lot of unsche. When I mean is that you may only have 2 or 3 classes in a day, sometimes none. So, it becomes your responsibility to use time wisely. Most of all, expect to do a lot of things on your own.



**Kai Junge:** Expect the increase in responsibility you have over your work. A lot of times I hear students complain how teachers aren't teaching them well. While this may be partially true, from my own experience it usually boils down to students not engaging with work in the correct attitude. You are expected to ask questions and review in your own time, and not be spoon-fed all the course content.

**Manaka Oyama:** I feel that university life gives you more freedom. At the same time, there's more responsibilities you need to carry, especially with time management.

**Any regrets so far?**

**Kento Moriguchi:** I should have talked to the professors earlier about how to be successful in class.

**Kai Junge:** I wish I had a better appreciation towards humanities and literature at a younger age. It's very easy to just not like a subject, but I think it really fulfills you if you can develop an appreciation towards all subject areas. I personally found this out at the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade when preparing for my English and Japanese paper 2.

**Manaka Oyama:** No regrets yet because I'm very much enjoying campus life. Although I occasionally stress about exams, there's something to look forward to every day.

**What is your favorite part about university?**

**Kento Moriguchi:** My favorite part about university is meeting all sorts of people and learning the beauty of getting to know someone.

**Kai Junge:** The first term here has easily been busier than the days before the IB exams. Moreover, there are so many extracurriculars which make life here unbelievably busy but to that effect extremely exciting. The amount I learned in this month and a half is incredible. Also, everyone has an intense passion for their learning. I haven't met anyone who's doing a subject "just cuz", which makes them that much more interesting.

**Manaka Oyama:** Definitely the multi-cultural weeks held. For example, for Korean Week, the cafeteria menu changed to Korean food.

**What career path are you pursuing?**

**Kento Moriguchi:** After university I plan to study another 2 years at another college to earn a PhD.

**Kai Junge:** Currently my plan is to start up a company on robotics technology. It is just an ambitious idea, but possible. I am still unsure of whether this would be done right after university, during university, or sometime after working at a company.

**Manaka Oyama:** I want to convey the image of Japan better to other countries through Public Diplomacy. More specifically, I want to use media as a tool to present Japan by engaging with global audiences.

**Any general advice?**

**Kento Moriguchi:** Get involved! Be in the moment. Don't miss classes. Play hard, work hard. Stay clean. Stay safe. Love what you do. Believe in yourself. Keep in touch with people back at OIS and 'of course' your family.

**Kai Junge:** If you're applying to the US, don't underestimate the importance of the SAT. Don't apply to many different regions of the world: it was an insane number of essays to apply for Common app, UCAS, a university in the Netherlands, and Canada. Take advantage of teachers for essays and interviews; you don't know anything, but they do. Finally, start early (even if none of your friends are).

**Manaka Oyama:** Eat well and don't forget the importance of sleep. I tend to not eat breakfast and stay awake until 3AM even if I don't have anything to do. This makes me feel tired the entire week, which makes my motivation to do anything disappear.

(A special thank you to Kento Moriguchi, Kai Junge, and Manaka Oyama for their answers.)

Maybe what we wanted to be as a kid actually does have an impact on our adult dreams: Kento is pursuing a career still relevant in athletics; Kai always wanted to be an engineer; and Manaka, who has always been interested in visual aesthetics, wants to work with media. Thinking about it now, in elementary school my dream job was to be a teacher (which is what I plan on pursuing after studying biology). This suggests that maybe we don't change that much from childhood. Of course, I also thought I wanted to be a maid so who knows?

## ***My Internship Experience at Uematsu Electric Company***

**by Keiya Iwamida**

During the summer break of 2017, I flew to Hokkaido to participate in an internship program at the engineering company Uematsu Electric. This company mainly develops and produces electromagnets, a type of magnet that can be switched on or off, but they also work on projects for research and development in the field of aerospace engineering by launching "hybrid rockets": a type of rocket that uses a hybrid of solid and liquid fuels. I've always had a passion in aircrafts and rockets, as I was fascinated by how they can lift the body into the air and travel a long distance, and this is why I am planning to take aerospace engineering at my college. The president of this company Tsutomu Uematsu was famous for his presentation on TEDx about how his company was able to launch a rocket despite the small size of the company. Here's the link to his presentation if you are interested:

<https://youtu.be/gBumdOWWMhY> (the presentation is in Japanese but English subtitles are available). Earlier this year, I was invited by my mother to go to his lecture at Kobe. At the end of the presentation, he mentioned that a few positions for internship are available, so I decided to email the company asking if I could work for a week during the summer. Fortunately, they have accepted me. As I travelled to the company, I soon realized that it was in the middle of nowhere (no convenience store within 2 kilometers), and it took a total of 3 hours from the closest airport. But including this adventure, my experience at Uematsu Electric was very unique. After being introduced to the departments of the company, I decided to spend a few days to work in the space development department. Here, I had a chance to learn about how every part of a rocket works to fly into space and with my fellow interns we studied about computer programs that control the rocket and monitor the conditions of the rocket. One of the activities was creating a program to calculate and record the altitude of the rocket by measuring the pressure. If you've taken physics, you'd know that at higher altitude the air pressure is lower (which is why water can boil at 95°C at Denver, CO), and we used this principle to find the altitude of the rocket. To measure the pressure, we connected a barometer to a microcomputer and programmed the microcomputer to use a formula to calculate the altitude from the pressure. To test if the system works, we installed

the computer onto a small experimental rocket and launched it to see if any change in altitude can be recorded. The experiment was a success, as the maximum altitude reading matched the standard maximum height of the rocket. Staying at Uematsu Electric was also a unique experience because it was the first time for me to live by myself, and although the company had a dorm, I had to make myself food everyday. And also, the atmosphere at Uematsu Electric was very at home since the company only consisted of 20 employees, and I had many occasions to talk to the president about aircraft and rockets. For a person looking to go to the field of aerospace engineering field, this was a valuable experience and I'd definitely encourage people to participate in these career-related programs as it gives an idea of what it's like to work in that area.



## ***Could Tango Play a Role in Your Future?***



This *Tango* edition features contributions from new *Tango* Team members : Keiya Iwamida, Mark Yamamoto, Kaiyo Freyder and Owen Kralovec. Thanks guys!

By contributing to *Tango* each trimester, students can improve their writing skills and hone their creativity. They can gain valuable experience and impressive credentials for their resume when they apply for colleges and universities. In particular, students who are planning to work in journalism or any related fields should definitely look into joining *Tango*. Talk to Mr. Algie, or to Meg Hoffman, Freya Kirwan or any of the *Tango* team if you are interested.

## A Career in Forensic Entomology?

by Sarah Kitamura

I don't like bugs. I don't hate them, but I don't like them. I'd rather stay as far as I can from them than to get a close-up look of them. They're everywhere, whether I like it or not, but them being everywhere can be a very helpful thing for the FBI.

Last time, I wrote about how I wanted to be a forensic anthropologist working with the FBI. This time, it's a job that's just as important as forensic anthropology: forensic entomology. Thanks to *Bones*, one of my favorite TV shows, for some reason I thought that I'd enjoy being a forensic entomologist. Dr. Hodgins, also known as the "King of the Lab," made studying bugs seem cool. And to be frank, it is pretty cool for a number of reasons, the first being that the information of site of the murder can be revealed, and secondly (the primary purpose of forensic entomology), in estimating the time since the victim's death.

The data collected from the insects can be useful, for example when it comes to finding out if the crime site the body is in is actually where the victim's death occurred, or if the spot is used as a dump site. According to the US National Library of Medicine, one can determine "species variation, as species associated with one type of habitat present on a corpse is found to be different from those when the corpse is transported after death" (NCBI). *It's a possibility that the murderer disposed of the body in a location away from where the victim was actually murdered to cover up their tracks.*

While using the bug's information to figure out the original crime site is important, a forensic entomologist's main focus is on finding out how long it has been since the victim's time of death, as Virtual Museum states. According to the same source, there are five stages of decomposition of a body: 1) fresh, 2) putrefaction, 3) fermentation, 4) dry decay, and 5) skeletonization. In addition, every one of these stages attracts a variety of organisms that feed off the decomposing body. Shown below (figure 1) is the chart I came across when I was looking more into this area of forensics, and even now I go back to it every once in a while because it is helpful when trying to understand the process of decomposition and the insects it attracts.

There's quite a lot of jargon in the table, but it can give one a basic overview of what occurs during the stages of decomposition.

### Forensic Entomology: Bugs and the Postmortem Interval

Stage of Decomposition	Description	Insect Activity
First Stage	-Begins @ moment of death until onset of bloating. - Characterized by early stages in decomposition: algor mortis and livor mortis (3).	-First insects are Blow flies (Calliphoridae) and flesh flies (Sarcophagidae) -Eggs deposited around natural body openings and open wounds.
Bloated Stage	-Putrefaction begins. Gases from anaerobes cause inflation of abdomen. -Temperature of carcass rises from putrefaction and metabolic activity of Diptera larvae. -Fluids seep from openings -Soil under body becomes alkaline from larvae under carcass. -Normal soil fauna under body leaves.	-Blow flies strongly attracted to remains during this stage, -Attraction reaches a maximum when the body reaches its peak inflation. -Some predatory Staphylinidea may be present.
Decay Stage	-Begins when skin breaks (sometimes classified as wet decomposition <sup>4</sup> ) -Gases escape. -Remains deflate.	-Diptera larvae prevalent in large feeding masses. -Coleoptera arrive -Blow fly and flesh fly larvae completed development and have departed -Necrophagous and predatory insects in later parts of decay stage. -Diptera larvae will have removed most of the flesh by end of decay stage.
Post-decay Stage	Remains reduced to skin, cartilage and bones. (Sometimes classified as dry decomposition <sup>4</sup> )	-Diptera no longer predominate group. -Various coleoptera will predominate throughout this stage. -Diversity of this taxa will predominate -Increase in number of parasites and predators of beetles.
Skeletal Stage	Only bones and hair remain	No obvious carrion-frequenting taxa present. -Gradual return of normal soil fauna to area beneath remains. -No definite end point to this stage -Changes in soil composition may last for an extended period depending on local conditions.

Ultimately, *Bones* got me interested in making forensic entomology as a possible career in the future, but as of now, I think, along with forensic anthropology, this job isn't right for me. I still think that learning about insects and their role in crime-solving is fascinating, but after coming across multiple crawlers around my house, I decided that I will pass with getting a hands-on field work with them.

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## SIS Grade 10 Kwansei Gakuin Campus Tour by Tasuku Azuma

On 17th October, SIS grade 10 students took a campus tour at Kwansei Gakuin University Campuses. The campus tour was aimed to familiarize students with Kwansei Gakuin University and hopefully serve as a valuable opportunity to start considering about what majors, universities, and future careers we would be interested in studying. Prior to the tour, students chose what classes they would like to try out. The majority of students went to Ugegahara or Seiwa campuses where various courses, such as economics, jurisprudence, psychology, are offered. Students interested in School of Policy Studies and School of Science and Technology, tried out classes in Sanda Campus.

We first attended the Chapel Hour program, where students assemble at nearby designated classroom to pray. All students prayed in silence, although the room was overcrowded. We sang hymn at the beginning and the end of the program. After, we listened to a short anecdote from one of the professors, and sang a hymn before dismissal.

We then went to the 2nd period, took a short lunch break, followed by another period. It was a fascinating experience to learn about something I have interest in. The lecture we attended was about how television advertisements are made.

Since we are used to classes lasting about an hour long, with small number of students at SIS, I felt it challenging to stay focused during the entire 90 minutes non-stop lecture, but was overall very interesting.

Thinking back to the day, I think it gave me a moment to step back and think about my future. I had been feeling the need to think about what university and career I should choose, since around entering high school. But I had been reluctant to do so, and with many other things to focus on, I had hardly spared time to seriously contemplate the matter.



## A Week at the IB World Student Conference *by Mia Lewis*

For a week during August 2017, I participated in the IB World Student Conference, hosted by Kings College London. After attending the Cambridge Tradition last year, I had high hopes for the future waiting for me. The theme was 'Well-being in a healthy world: personal responsibility and global health'. In order to plan methods, projects and tools to improve general well-being, the students were divided into Global Action Teams, otherwise known as GAT Groups. During the week, GAT groups met 2 ~ 3 times per day in meetings, discussing issues for at least 4 hours.

Team Hardy, named after English Novelist and Poet Thomas Hardy, an alumni of King's College London, was my GAT Group. With IB Students from America, Singapore, France, Qatar, Russia and Canada, we discovered that each country had their own unique problems. There are a multitude of problems which concern all countries. However, for example, issues regarding immigration are much more severe in France in comparison to Japan. Further, in Singapore, academic pressure in society is a key problem, yet not as relevant in Denton, Texas. Therefore, unlike other groups who tackled one problem and developed a solution, our team decided to create one strategy to aid students in solving problems crucial to their community. Such a method revolved around bringing communities outside the school into the school community, in order to collaborate towards solving the problem. This would theoretically expand the extend to which students could contribute to society, as well as having access to more resources and people to solve the problem efficiently. Although we are yet to update our project, we created a website by the end of the week, explaining our ambitions and goals. Feel free to have a look through the link <https://londonibwsc.wordpress.com/>. Working with an amazing group open-minded peers, the long GAT sessions and planning flashed by. By the end of the week, I felt enlightened, with a broader perspective of specific problems unique to each community and how solving small pockets of tensions would lead to an overall increase in general wellbeing.

Other than the GAT sessions, we had the opportunity to go to the Tate Museum of Art, a tour of London, a scavenger hunt across the West Bank, Yoga Sessions, short Coffee shop trips and more. The dorms of King's College London at Stanford Street Apartments had a shower and bathroom in the single rooms, with only one road to cross to the lecture halls. London was the best place to be when discussing humanitarian issues, as places where such events happen, where problems are discussed allowed us to have a hands-on experience with real world problems. Although the conference lasted a mere week, I easily became close with members of my GAT group and others who I met around campus. These friendships may seem temporary at first, but they are certainly not. I still contact my friends to this day and my global connections instantly expanded.

There is one anecdote that left an impression on me, when I made a friend just one day before the conference ended. I went to the conference with my managebac t-shirt, thinking it would be funny, especially as the students would know what it is (and the stress it brings IB students). After one of our lectures, a student from Singapore came up to me and asked where my shirt was from. Flustered and not too sure what to say, I suggested he email managebac and ask for a shirt, as they were not for sale. Amazingly, he told me on the last day that managebac replied and were going to send him a shirt. From then, I learnt about his school and life, it was extremely eye opening to talk about a life completely different from mine. Aside from our GAT groups, people were engaged and enthusiastic, with their life stories being beyond my imagination. Being from OIS, a small



school in a small community, learning about different lives of peers only wants me to explore the world even further.

Personally, one of the best experiences I had going to IBWSC was not having to explain the IB system to people I met. Everyone understood the struggles of TOK, EE and CAS, as well as the subjects we all take. Being able to easily bond through complaints conversations concerning the IB was a huge convenience towards making friends. Although people were at different stages of their DP, it was great to always have a stable conversation starter and to make friends I could rely on after the camp as well.

One week in a foreign country to discuss world problems, with a diverse group of people is an opportunity that you should not miss out on. Go to the website: <http://www.ibo.org/university-admission/ib-world-student-conference/> to see what country IB WSC is going to be in next year, and consider signing up! Also feel free to ask me questions on more details about the experience, or to see what the schedule could be like.



# Mr. E's Mysteries: Episode 1: A Frozen Fatality

by the strange and elusive Mr. E

(Difficulty 3/5)

Around 12:00 in the afternoon, as reported by a witness, Mr. Brenner Hawkings was dropped from an airplane. He was frozen solid, and shattered when he hit the ground. Now it's up to you, the detective, to find out who, and why.

- Mr. E

**Victim Report:** Brenner Hawkings was a 78 year old man, with no wife or family, and divorced parents. He lived alone, with a house in Bristol, Indiana. Mr. Hawkings was a biological scientist before retiring at the age of 65. He took up gambling after his mother died at the age of 60, and was slowly losing his life's savings to this sin. The death seems too complicated to be a suicide, but he had plenty of enemies, and he owed money to most of them. Around a year earlier, his life started to turn around when a new casino opened up at the edge of Dunlap, a 45 minute drive away from where he lives. He drove there constantly, and was actually starting to make money. However, this also made him even more enemies.

It appears he was frozen into a block of ice, and dropped from a low flying airplane or helicopter. This happened around 12:00 noon, on January 17, 2016. No autopsy was conducted due to there being multiple pieces of his body, however, there were bruises found all over his body upon closer inspection. The body was also in very nice condition before he shattered, signifying that Mr. Hawkings was frozen shortly after he died.

**Crime Scene:** It was quite cold on the day Mr. Hawkings died, but there was no snow. The crime scene is ranged 32 x 24 feet. He was also dropped in a small clearing in Constantine, Michigan, around an hour north of where he lives. There were two houses right behind the clearing. The first belongs to Joyce Newby, a Mother of two, with a husband. The other house belongs to Hopper Martins, a lonely man who had a wife and daughter. The two of them heard the crash of ice hitting dirt, and were the first people to witness the crime scene. The police arrived 6 minutes later. Witness reports have been prepared for both of them.

Witness Report, Joyce Newby:

Police - Around what time did you witness the crime?

Mrs. Newby - i-it was a little past n-n-noon, l- my old g-grandfather clock had j-just rung.

P - What were you doing at this time, ma'am?

N - l-I was reading a book, all alone. M-my husband was at work, and my k-k-kids were at school. I'm s-so glad they did-didn't have to see this horrific scene! \*sobs\*

P - Did you hear anything beforehand?

N - T-there was a loud buzzing s-s-sound r-right beforehand. It-it sounded l-like an airplane. M-mr. Martins said h-he saw a h-helicopter, but l-didn't see anything.

P - Was there anyone else who saw the scene?

N - N-no sir, j-just me and Mr. Martins. \*sobs lightly\*

P - And, when you came out, what did you see?

N - l-it, it w-w-was, i-it, i-it, \*sobs heavily\*

P - What did you see, ma'am?

N - l-i-i I saw a-a man, a-and he-he was dead! Th-there w-were pieces of h-his body all over. Oh, it was h-h-h-horrifying! \*sobs heavily\*

P - Is there anything else you saw?

N - N-nothing but his d-dead body, s-s-sir. \*sobs\*

P - Thank you for your time, Mrs. Newby

The next day, Mrs. Newby confessed that she actually did see a helicopter, but had just forgotten about it.

Witness Report, Hopper Martins:

Police - Around what time did you witness the crime?

Mr. Martins - I'm not sure, I don't keep a lot of clocks around.

P - Is there a reason for this?

M - I only keep this watch \*motions to a watch\*, Gloria liked to collect clocks.

P - Gloria?

M - She was my wife.

P - I'm sorry sir-

M - It's fine.

P - Do you know what you were doing at the time of the crime?

M - I was watching the TV.

P - Did you happen to hear any noises beforehand?

M - Not until the crash. I usually play the TV pretty loud, though.

P - But you claim to have seen a helicopter?

M - Yes, because I got out of the house before Joyce did. My house has a back-door, and hers does not. By the time she got outside the helicopter had flown above the clouds.

P - Mrs. Newby actually ended up saying that she did see a helicopter, but had forgotten about it.

M - I don't know what helicopter she was talking about, but the one I saw was gone before she even got outside.

P - Did anyone else, besides you and Mrs. Newby, happen to witness the crime?

M - Not that I know of. Not till you cops came around, at least.

P - And what did you see?

M - A dead man, frozen in shattered ice. Mrs. Newby was wailing like a banshee as soon as we saw the poor guy. I found around eight pieces in the dirt (upon further inspection, 11 big pieces of ice were found), while Mrs. Newby called the cops.

P - Did you happen to see anything else, anything unexpected?

M - Besides a dead man? No.

P - Thank you for your time, Mr. Martins.

M - No problem.

It was discovered afterwards that both Mr. Martins and Mrs. Newby had obtained large amounts of money after their interviews, leading us to believe that someone paid them for something to do with the crime. However, we were unable to trace the money, and both Mr. Martins and Mrs. Newby deny everything.

## The suspects:

After further research upon the situation, the police found three suspects.

**#1, Mark Steger:** The first suspect is Mark Steger, who was a rival scientist back in Mr. Hawkings' days of lab work. He too studied biology, and both Mr. Steger and Hawkings published a book about the behaviours of carnivorous plants. However, Mr. Hawkings' book was published less than a week before Mr. Steger, causing Mr. Steger to be called a copycat and for his book sales to drop exponentially. Neither scientist knew each other before this, but Mr. Steger's neighbors say that Mr. Steger was extraordinarily angry afterwards, and vowed to get revenge. Mr. Steger claims that he got over the hatred long ago, but the Morgan family, who lives next door, claim he will get tense if anyone mentions the situation. Though this is not much of a motive, he has no solid alibi the entire day, and says that he was watching TV and lounging around. He has an uncle who pilots his own helicopter, which leads to Mr. Steger knowing basic controls of a helicopter. However, his uncle has been in China the last week, so no one can tell who went in or out. Finally, there does not seem a conceivable way how he was able to freeze a human being, besides the nearest meat locker, which is a three day trip from his house. With a desultory motive and alibi, Mark Steger is an open case.

**#2, Bobby Brown:** Bobby Brown is the owner of the new casino that Mr. Hawkins drove to frequently. Mr. Hawkins was winning quite a lot, especially in poker, and posing a threat to the business. The more he won, the less other people came, knowing that he would just beat them. The casino also just recently opened, and can close just as easily. We were unable to reach Bobby Brown, as he was in an

important business meeting, so his butler answered our questions. Mr. Brown does have an alibi, he was in a meeting during the time of the murder. Another official at the same meeting has backed this up. Bobby Brown does not own a helicopter, but does own a private jet. Finally, upon close inspection of Bobby Brown's mansion, a hidden door was revealed that led to a cryogenic chamber. The butler says that Mr. Brown plans to freeze himself in the future. This raised some suspicions, but according to the butler, the chamber had been added a week before, and was completely new. It was confirmed that the chamber had been implemented exactly a week before the death, and there isn't any decisive evidence that it has been used. Bobby Brown has almost all the tools to do the job, yet the evidence says otherwise.

#3, Will Schnapp: Will Schnapp is a wealthy man who Mr. Hawkings owed a lot of money to. Mr. Schnapp is a professional lender. Considering Mr. Hawkings has no wife or children, a good portion of his savings are going to go to Mr. Schnapp. The more money Mr. Hawkins lost to gambling, the less he'd have to pay Mr. Schnapp. The motive here is obvious, and the facts line up. Mr. Schnapp is quite wealthy, and owns his own private helicopter. He also knows how to fly the helicopter, and does so often. There is also a meat locker two blocks down from a small apartment complex that he owns, and he is very good friends with the owner. We asked the owner, Bill Dacre, if Mr. Schnapp had used the freezing facilities in the last week. He said no, but he didn't seem completely sure about it. But, Mr. Schnapp

has one crucial detail: a watertight alibi. Mr. Schanpp was out bowling from 11:00-1:00 on the day of the murder. Seven of his friends who went with him have backed this up, along with the owner of the bowling alley. In addition, Mr. Schnapp lives with no one but his wife and kids, who have no idea how to fly the helicopter. If it weren't for this, he would've been arrested on the spot.

Now, all the details are set, and all you have to do is solve the age old question of: whodunit? The answer will be in the next edition of Tango.

#### Need a hint?

Turn the page upside down for two hints if you are stuck.

1. Does a helicopter really make a buzzing sound? Were there really two different helicopters at the scene? Something seems fishy about that detail...  
2. Just because a person is a suspect doesn't mean they committed the crime...

## A Dog's Life Before the "Re-Life"

by Kako Shintani

Ever imagined the previous life of a rehomed dog that looks like the happiest puppy in the world?

Everyone has their own stories. That's why they say "don't judge a book by its cover". It applies to dogs and cats and hamsters and all sorts of animals, too.

\* \* \*

Cages

Leashes

The raised hand.

Barks

Cries

The raised hand.

Gruel

Toilet sheets

The raised hand,

And we feel that same-old pain

Zap through our bones.

Our jaws clenched,

Our tails wrapped around touching our stomach, trembling.

We feel this pain everyday

Yet it tremors our souls like it's our first time.

We rarely sleep

Huddled tightly within our walls

We can feel each other breathing

Or panting or gasping for air.

And then he comes in again.

\* \* \*

That's how I picture my dog's life to have been. A breeder dog, forced to make babies for nine years straight. Finally rescued...or rather abandoned due to old age. From the rescue shelter she came to our home, became part of our family and she is now 11 years old. She is so adorable, sleeps so peacefully and you would never imagine she had had a traumatic past.

In Japan, currently, there are 10,000 dogs and 45,000 cats being killed per year due to abandonment and lack of homes (2016 Survey, Environment Ministry of Japan). The numbers are consistently decreasing each year but that does not make this matter any less significant. Before considering getting a dozen puppies from the pet shop, please take a look at rescued dogs...



Sources:

"統計資料タイトル." 環境省\_統計資料「犬・猫の引取り及び負傷動物の収容状況」[動物の愛護と適切な管理]. Accessed November 29, 2017. [https://www.env.go.jp/nature/dobutsu/aigo/2\\_data/statistics/dog-cat.html](https://www.env.go.jp/nature/dobutsu/aigo/2_data/statistics/dog-cat.html).

## Puppy Barn

A short story by Maurice Tokai

I must confess that I have never been so utterly perplexed, nor so thoroughly vexed. It has been four and sixty days now, that I have been here, all by my lonesome, in this cursed place: this damp and cold hole in the Earth. But how did I get here? I ask myself that every second I am trapped here, in this stupid, miserable gaol.

It was June, just before midsummer when I came, wide-eyed and innocent, done with a day's fishing. There are many ways to prepare a fish, but on that particular day, I had developed a hankering for some real meat, so I threw my fishing rod back into the lake. The water reddened slightly- isn't nature just amazing?

But I digress. I do that a lot, actually. It's a real problem; I've seen doctors about my condition. They want me to laugh, at least that's what they want me to do. They laugh in front of me to show me how to, but they don't have to, I'm a pro at laughing. Personally, I think that if anybody should be taught how to do anything, it should be the doctors. They don't ever do anything but laugh in front of me; in fact, I've always operated under the impression that everybody in that profession is mute; the production of laughter being the only function of their mouth-besides eating of course. But then again, I've never seen a doctor eat. Do they?

I remember when I was a kid, when some family member of mine went under the knife. Many knives actually. He was stuck in a room with many doctors for hours on end, and I'll tell you this: not one of the five or eight surgeons ate a single morsel of food. So scientifically speaking, I would have to conclude that no, doctors do not eat. Data never lies.

But back to my story. As I was ambling along in the woods, humming to myself (to scare off bears), I saw a big hill, like a mole hill, but much, much bigger- steeper than anything I've ever seen. I did what I had to do. I sprinted down the hill, before a rock moved to trip me over. I'm a good person-I've never even hurt a fly-so I had faith in that moment that everything would be all right. And it was, to an extent.

I was sent straight up into the air, and then by some strange quirk of gravity, my body rotated so that when I met the ground, it was my head that was the first to greet it. And so I began my descent, my head making contact with the ground as my feet, my heels specifically, pointed daintily into the air. I rolled down so gracefully-boy, you should've seen me-; I was like a freaking ballet dancer in a sumo match.

Once I made it to the bottom, I stayed on the ground until the sun went down. It wasn't because I *couldn't* get up, it was because I simply felt like staying on the grass, which had been drizzled with the light rain of the typhoon that had come and left that morning.

I looked up to see a tiny wooden structure, a barn it looked like, standing just a few paces from where I was. Struck with a desire to explore-the same burning yearning to discover the unknown, I believe, that led Columbus in discovering that new way to India-, I kicked the barn door down. It is always better to make a grand entrance, especially if the door originally there was rather shoddily made. Real estate is one of my many passions in life.

I had expected there to be riches waiting for me behind that horrid door, but alas, there were none. I was very disappointed, after all, it is very natural of one to assume that behind the door of every molding and wormy shack are piles of gold! But there were none, and so I had to settle for puppies. Adorable, adorable puppies. Breathtakingly, heart-achingly, heartbreakingly gorgeous puppies. The entire barn, overflowing with them.

Like any rational and sane human being, I barreled into the barn, causing a few yelps (I may or may not have trodden on a few tails in my haste to make contact with the little canines). This next part may sound slightly odd, and I understand if you can't understand why I did what I did. I had to. Like I previously mentioned, one of my hobbies is real estate. I love it. Can't live without it. I like assigning prices to random pieces of land. I'm not allowed in New York City anymore actually, because they said that I wasn't allowed to stick "For Sale" signs onto the property of total strangers. I don't see what the fuss was all about; I wrote fair prices down on all of those signs. People these days baffle me. Absolutely they do.

But anyways, what I did was I started jumping on the floor of the barn. I cleared some space for myself with a few well-aimed kicks, and I began to jump up and down on the floor.

I immediately began to hear this horrid screeching sound, but I must assure you, I knew better than to stop. You see, to the layman, a screech is simply that-a screech. But to my trained ears, I am able to differentiate between a screech and a screech-like noise. The former is, of course, a bad thing and whatever is causing the screech should cease doing whatever it is doing immediately. The latter, however, is a little more complicated. Yes, it is probably advisable that one should treat such a sound like it is a screech, but sometimes you get lucky. I'm a very lucky person; I regularly attend four leaf clover auctions, you see. I've yet to outbid anyone though. I've been unlucky to go up against some real moneymakers.

Anyways, after the third or fifth screech, the floor gave way. Those blasted puppies tried to kill me, I tell you. When somebody is jumping up and down in a tight place, you do not start running around and causing a ruckus. That's just plain stupid!

Anyways, apparently the puppies had their own sewage system underneath the cabin. Who would have guessed? I certainly would've. What kind of genius digs a huge hole directly underneath a wooden cabin, with pipes and all? Disgusting. I felt sick, I tell you. And you know what the worst part of it all is?

I've been here four and sixty days now, and quite frankly, I've had enough. I've had to do some ungodly things to stay alive, to stay sane. It has been truly horrible; I have not enjoyed my time here at all. When I came here, there were seventy dogs. I counted. There are now six, and they whimper every time I come close to them. I'm sick of it. When I get out of this place, I intend on writing the owner of this ramshackle hut a very strongly worded letter. When I get out. He can also expect to hear from my lawyer. I simply haven't felt welcomed here. At all.

## *The Corvid*

*A short story by Maurice Tokai*

A hooded figure sat alone in the far-flung woods, his stoic depression evincing no softness, his cold, dark eyes betraying no emotion.

There was no smile tugging at his thin lips, and absent were the wrinkles that so quickly mar the visages of human beings indiscriminately, dead or alive.

In the distance, he could distinctly hear the caws of a murder of crows piercing through the silence, as if they were stabbing the solitary stillness with their screeching shrieks with their sharpened beaks.

The corvids, seemingly unsated, seemed intent on robbing this secluded pocket of wilderness of its silent repose; they surely sought to scythe through the silence, to sow the discordant sounds of their own making throughout the tranquil and unmolested land the hermit had called home for so long.

The hermit barely batted an eye in response, doing little else but stare straight ahead at the heavily forested expanse in front of him. Those ghastly birds would soon depart, he reassured himself; they were sure to head off to some other land.

The thought of the birds leaving stirred nothing in him, for he could distinctly remember, when in some past September, a September bleaker than anything he had ever experienced before, he had for the first time in his miserable and woebegone existence, seen the emotion within him, fiery, passionate, or otherwise, had been totally and truly extinguished, leaving behind only the sad remnant of an abandoned fireplace, damp with years of rain and neglect; barren, inhospitable.

The cacophony that was the cawing of the crows, contrary to his expectations, only grew louder; he could not hear the flapping of wings aflutter, there was no telltale sign that the corvids were soon to depart.

The hermit shut his beetle-black eyes, shooing away consciousness and diving into the bottomless ocean that the ancients had named Sleep.

The waves were merciless; one was as likely to be thrown like a rag doll onto some rocky beach, as he was to land onto the Plutonian shore. The water-dark like squid ink -was formless; it permeated every surface, it chilled the hermit to his very core; filled his veins with obsidian ice. The ocean waves enveloped him, they churned him inwards; they churned him out. In an instant he went from floating atop the waves, a river otter at rest; in the blink of an eye, he was drowning, held down by some merciless mermaid.

He struggled mightily, kicking, punching, fighting tooth and nail to break free of their vise grips, but to no avail. Beneath them, some monstrous beast approached. It opened its mouth wide, revealing an uncountable number of rows of fangs, each sharper than the next.

The mermaids, their eyes glinting mischievously, tugged at his ankles, and suddenly he was in a place blacker than black, he was trapped in a space tighter than tight. He felt the fans press against him, twenty thousand pin needles bathed in the fires of Hell prickling his skin, causing an agony so severe that he could mistake it for pleasure.

Without warning, he was ejected from his oral confinement, like water shooting from a whale's spout, or the jet of water being ejected from a faraway geyser.

His dead eyes blazed with life. Burning with urgency, his body reacted before his mind could think, dashing to the shelter he had fashioned for himself what seemed like eons ago.

He hurled himself onto the piece of velvet carpet he had cut from his manor floor, the one luxury he had allowed himself in his hurried hermitage all those years ago.

An eternity of inclement weather soon met its end, and the hermit was free to poke around outside, he was free to see if his unmolested home had remained, for the most part, untouched.

He engaged in his confirmation process stoically, but he could feel something, something faint and dim; some tiny ember that effected a strange tingling sensation that ravaged only his inner self; a sprig of bamboo poking out from a dune in the desert.

Maybe, he wondered, his splendid isolation had been spoiled. Maybe this situation, which he had thought so highly of; the seclusion it offered being something he had prized above all, had been irrevocably altered. Maybe his little world, which he felt was valuable beyond compare, had been despoiled of its crown jewel: the rare and highly sought-after gem that was the absence of other life.

Maybe. Maybe. He had had enough of the maybes.

He let loose a guttural roar, the kind a lion makes when deprived of his pride, the kind an inmate on death row sobs as he shuffles in line.

From above the corvids screeched their song, a song of lament, of woe; they cooed that tune so familiar to the hermit, the one that succeeds Disaster, and precedes what it comes after. They sang, the tune tinged with heavy sadness, the song pregnant with melancholy dismalness, and the dirge laden with bleak despair.

In the corner of his eye, the hermit saw the shutting of a door; he knew then, or perhaps he had known all along that nothing would be as it was before; soon, he knew, this moment would be nothing but forgotten lore; like the nameless angel who had once glided across his tufted floors, his long-awaited peace would come never, never more.

# Comparing Sports in Schools in Hong Kong and Japan

by Nanami Hasegawa

It is commonly known that children should have the right to play and exercise is beneficial for their overall health. However, it is evident that the emphasis on sports in schools differ by region, even if they are neighbors to one another such as Hong Kong and Japan.

When education in Hong Kong is mentioned, most people would think about the high achieving Hong Kongese students; they would most likely not know much about the situation of sports in schools across Hong Kong. This is because most competitive local and private schools in Hong Kong prioritize academics in order to build up its reputation (Pühse and Gerber 351). Physical education is viewed as a subject that takes away time from academics and is not valued in competitive schools that rely on academic success to gauge their educational level. According to a male student at a prestigious school, "Students are told that academic results are more important and therefore do not spend a big portion of their time in physical education class." (Source) This mindset has become rooted in the citizens of Hong Kong over time, leading parents to believe that sports will not be necessary for their children's future careers. Correspondingly, physical education is not an examination subject in most local schools in Hong Kong, so the society as a whole does not regard physical education as equally important as other academic subjects.



Photo from Microsoft Clipart

Furthermore, the principal and teachers of some schools are scared of injuries, so PE classes are not encouraged in local schools (Pühse and Gerber 351). These local schools also tend to have a low budget since they receive their funds from the government, so they prioritize and mainly focus their budget towards students' academic needs (Hong Kong Education Documentary). It is difficult for local schools to invest in sports and they are unable to afford new equipment and provide after-school sports activities. These financial obstacles discourage students from wholeheartedly participating in sports during their time in school, and those who are passionate have to find other ways to pursue their activities.

In contrast, not only is Japan known for their solid academics, but it is also famous for its intensity in school sports. Physical education is not merely a subject in Japan but viewed as a part of the Japanese education plan (Nakai and Metzler 17). Unlike some public schools in Hong Kong, Japanese public schools organize extracurricular sports activities. Physical education teachers play the leading role in these activities in addition to their regular classes, so the problem of how they devote more of their time to these competitive extracurriculars than their classes are prevalent across schools. In addition to the teachers, there are also students who prioritize these competitive extracurriculars than their academics (Hasegawa). Due to this problem, there has been a recent push

for these extracurricular sports activities to shift away from the competitive aspect and instead encourage life-long participation in sports.

Multiple extracurricular school sports teams are also known to practice in extreme conditions. Students tend to train in the severe summer weather to improve their skills over the summer break (Source 2). However, this is the main cause of the 4,000 to 5,000 students that suffer from heat strokes every year (Kittaka). The physically demanding practices are too much for the students' bodies in the summer heat. This shows that Japanese schools tend to take sports to the extreme, to the point where it endangers the students' health. This is the opposite of some local schools in Hong Kong, where they don't encourage exercise in schools because they fear students getting hurt.

Parts of Hong Kong and eventually the whole city was part of the British Empire from 1842~1997 (History). Therefore the educational system of Hong Kong is heavily influenced by the British educational curriculum and is different from the one in Mainland China. The British system teaches the students the basics of PE and encourages students to do activities that interest them outside of school (National Curriculum in England). This may have led clubs such as Hong Kong Football Club and Hong Kong Cricket Club to become popular among students in Hong Kong who want to participate in sports actively. These clubs are also able to provide more high-quality facilities than most local schools in Hong Kong since their budget can be controlled through memberships.

Due to the possible influence from the British Empire, Hong Kong has a capitalist economy (Dodge). Therefore the bustling economy is full of competition and students are working hard to land a well-paying job so that they can support their family in the future. This environment pushes the students to focus on their academics and regard physical education classes as a hindrance from their studies.

On the other hand, World War II plays a massive role in the shaping of the physical education system in Japan. During the early 20th century, Japan was a militaristic nation until their defeat in World War II. In these critical times of war, even innocent citizens had to take measures to preserve resources and were trained to fight at a young age (Townsend). The role of physical education during the war was to raise healthy and physically fit children that would be able to cope during harsh times of war (Ogawa).



Pictured above: Japanese PE class. Photo courtesy of Japan Times.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2012/04/10/reference/teachers-with-two-left-feet-struggling-with-dance-classes/>

Even though it has been years after the war, the militaristic aspect is still present in the physical education system today (Arai and Sakakibara 37). In both the past and present, punishment in both physical education classes and after-school activities include physical punishment such as running laps. "When I was on the school's soccer team,

my coach used to be part of the military so he would not let us drink water during practice since that is how he trained soldiers to be stronger," said a former student at Waseda University Junior and Senior High School in the 1980s (Source 3). These types of punishment have been lightened as time passed. "Whenever they forget their gear for practice, we make them do 100 push ups and sit ups," said a high school teacher that coaches his school soccer team at a public school in Saitama Prefecture (Source 4). In addition, 30% of Japanese students can sense the impacts of the history of their region within sports in their school, compared to 9.1% of Hong Kongese students (Hasegawa). It is evident that even after over seventy years since its last war, hints of militarism and historical events still exist in the Japanese physical education system.

The geography and environment that partially shapes culture, also heavily influence students' attitudes towards sports in school. In Hong Kong's case, the majority of the region is mountainous (Land Utilization in Hong Kong 2016), so there is little space for people to conduct physical activities that require flat surfaces. Furthermore, public parks also have a long list of regulations prohibiting activities, such as no ball games, so there are fewer opportunities to play ball sports in Hong Kong. According to David Biddlecombe, owner of an educational curriculum development company and father of a 15-year-old, citizens of Hong Kong need to book a special indoor room one month in advance to play ball games at public spaces (Chung). Guards are also constantly on patrol to look out for any rule breakers within the public park. This emphasizes the inconvenience of being active in Hong Kong and creates a negative image of playing sports in public spaces within students due to its trouble.

In contrast, schools outside the Metropolitan Tokyo area commonly have fields or large barren spaces for students to be active, as Japan has more land area than Hong Kong. "We have a big field in our high school to conduct physical education classes," mentioned a student that attends a high school in Aomori Prefecture (Source 5). Public parks in neighborhoods also do not employ guards to enforce rules, so it is the citizen's responsibility to follow the rules that are listed on board. Even if there are rules, they do not prohibit all ball games, so it is much more convenient for Japanese students to conduct a pickup game in nearby public spaces.

Moreover, the climate in the two regions also influences how active the citizens are. While Tokyo's relative humidity by month never goes over than 80% (Average Humidity in Tokyo), more than half of the year's relative humidity goes over than 80% in Hong Kong (Climate of Hong Kong). "It is quite hard to do outdoor sports in the summer because of the heat and humidity," answered a student at a highly competitive school, to a question on whether he minded the humidity whenever he played sports at school (Source 6).

Even though different regions face different problems in their sports programs in schools, there are also similarities. For example, both students in Hong Kong and Japan state that the curriculums they follow are not enjoyable to students because they are inflexible (Hasegawa). However, this issue can be easily solved through the increase of variety of sports that are conducted in physical education classes. This shows that it is possible to increase student engagement in sports within schools and that students are motivated to raise ideas to improve their sports program.

All in all, there are differences in attitudes towards sports in schools between regions, but at the same time, there are also similarities, especially within international schools. The differing perspectives are caused by multiple factors including environmental and historical aspects in the two regions. Even though some of the issues that are caused by differing points of view can be solved through simple fixes, others involve large-scale government policies that are unlikely to occur. Nevertheless, it is crucial that students and educators take action to mitigate the negative effects that are caused by differing attitudes towards sports in schools.

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## Editorial *by Meg Hoffmann*

### Health < Grades?

When do you tell yourself "it's time to sleep"?

When do you tell yourself "it doesn't matter"?

When do you tell yourself "enough is enough"?

All throughout my middle school and high school years, I was a perfectionist. I lived by the quote "sleep is for the weak". Sleeping before midnight was absurd to me, getting a grade lower than a 7 was a nightmare, and if I wasn't in multiple extracurricular activities of some sort, I would feel like a failure. I was addicted to the feeling of being tired (ridiculous, I know). If I woke up with dark circles under my eyes, it meant I had studied thoroughly and I felt good about it. I look back upon those times and shake my head. I was sacrificing my own health so that I could get good grades. I measured my worth based on the number of 7's I had on my report card. And for almost five years, my body was able to keep up. I was never late or missed a day of school. However, three months into IB in my junior year, I one day woke up and found that I could not get out of bed. I had my first panic attack, and I felt like I was falling apart. Concentrating in class became almost impossible, and I wasn't able to complete tasks as easily as I used to. Before I knew it, the thought of going to school gave me so much anxiety it was common for me to miss school. My mental health deteriorated along with my physical health.

If I could say one thing to myself during those years, it would be to "take a break."

As students, it is common for us to push ourselves to excel in school. We all feel pressured to succeed. I'm not saying that we all should stop pushing ourselves and give up on school. However, I do think that it is incredibly important to know when you are pushing yourself to the point of no return.

As human beings it is natural for us to strive for greater things. We always want more than what we have in the present, whether it be more money or better grades. Although this is not necessarily a bad trait because it pushes us to work hard, there is a fine line between hard work and working too hard. The latter usually affects your mental and physical health. We are forgetting to enjoy our youth, and live in the present. Stop worrying about what university you are going to get into. Stop worrying about what you will major in and what job you will get and how much money you will make. If you get a low mark on your test or assignment, so what? If you feel like going straight home after school and being lazy, do it. If you feel like you're losing yourself whilst you bury yourself under tons and tons of school work, take a break. Sleep in for once. Spend the whole weekend doing absolutely nothing. Go on a hike, or a picnic. Go to the museum, go out for some coffee. Take a break, refresh your soul, reset your mind.

Trust me, your body will thank you for it.

### First Impressions as an IB DP Student *by Sho Sakura*

As a student in an IB school, we often hear that the IB Program is probably the most rigorous and challenging high school diploma offered by international schools around the globe. Considering how much of a struggle the seniors are in, this is probably true. Now that the first trimester of the new school year is over, I would like to give an account of my impressions on my first trimester as an IB DP student.

What was completely new was that I got free periods. During middle school, I did not have any free periods and I suddenly got nine free periods a week to do whatever I wanted. However, it turned out that most people in my grade spent their free periods in the library doing homework, working on assignments, or just chatting, so I ended up doing the same. Another thing that was new to me was CAS. During middle school, I only did activities that I wanted to do and solely because I wanted to do them, whereas now I am doing some activities because I need to fulfil the requirements of CAS. While this is good or bad is debatable, it certainly got me to start doing things that I wouldn't have started doing otherwise.

One of the difficulties that I faced was deciding on a topic for the Extended Essay. Since I knew I was going to have to follow through with the topic I chose, I took much longer to decide on a topic than I should have. Also, getting used to the new exam style was not easy; I did poorly on my first Economics test because I misread some of the questions and also did not know how to allocate my time effectively. Similarly, familiarizing myself with the Command Terms was not easy, and I feel that I still need to work on this.

Despite all these surprises and difficulties, I also learned that IB is going to help me grow not only as a scholar but also as a person. Like so many graduates say, IB is often harder than first-year studies at university and it really compels you to cope with the workload and depth of learning required. As an IB student, I wish to do my best not only in academics, but also in sports and my social life. At the end, I hope I will be able to savor the glory of completing the IB Diploma with my classmates, and be fully prepared for my studies at university.

### The IB's Favorite Phrase *by Nicole Yoo*



# Cycling from Osaka to Tokyo

by Ami Eldridge

During the summer, I rode my bicycle from Osaka to Tokyo. The bike I used is a Giant road bike.

I started my journey on August 1 (2017) from my home in Kawanishi City, Hyogo Prefecture, heading for Shibuya, Tokyo.

## Day One (Tuesday, August 2)

I left my house around 5:30 a.m. and headed toward Umeda, where Route 1 starts. I arrived in Umeda around 7:30 and looked for a place to eat breakfast. As I was looking for a place to park my bike, I found a place that was open. It was a vegan-friendly shop named "Gate." After ordering a veggie wrap, I quickly jotted down my route for my journey, following the advice my friend and fellow riding enthusiast had given me—follow Route 1, being careful of the two big mountains along the way, and finding a good route to take while in Shizuoka Prefecture since there aren't many by-passes for bicycle. (The route I decided to take, however, was different from that of my friend, in that my route was shorter in distance. However, because of the lack of research at that time, I did not realize I had to go over some demanding mountains, I just simply thought it was overall "better," because it was shorter.) After inhaling the tasty wrap, I got up and left, with notes in hand, for a journey that was more challenging and unimaginable than I could have imagined.

I biked non-stop till around 2 o'clock. By that time, I was exhausted, especially in the heat, so I went to a karaoke place and napped for an hour. I knew I couldn't waste time, so I quickly got up, paid, and continued my journey. Leaving Osaka in order to get to Nara was quite difficult; the Google Maps function took me through a "short cut," which was through a sketchy mountain area with no road and had to literally drag my bike through it. Looking back on the experience now, I suppose it was worth it because it only took around 30 minutes... it could have been worse. I was only in Nara for a bit, and before I knew it, I was in Kyoto. I instantly started searching for a place to stay for the night, and luckily found a so-called bed and breakfast place 20km away.

It was a random house in the middle of nowhere. I immediately recognized that the lady who was hosting me had a funny accent, but I quickly dismissed it. She was kind enough to take me to the nearest convenient store and in the car ride, she admitted she was also a bi-cultural. She was half-Japanese and half-Chinese. She asked about the school I attended. I answered with "Kansei Gakuin Osaka International School," and noticed her facial expression. She was taken aback, so I asked her why she was so surprised. She replied, "I used to go to Kansei Gakuin as well!!" I was amazed by how small the world is.

When we got back home, she brought me salad and drinks in addition to my dinner. Thank you, Kimiko-san!!

## Day Two (Wednesday, August 3)

I left around 8:30 that morning, later than I had planned, bound for Yokkaichi, Mie Prefecture. Kimiko had purchased energy drinks and protein bars for me before I left and we also took a picture together. It was a bittersweet goodbye, but I promised to write to her when I got to Tokyo, so she was happy about that.

This day had the best scenery out of all the days. I biked through the rural areas of Japan and through many mountains. Overall, it was a good ride.

I booked a room at a business hotel in Yokkachi, right next to the station. I arrived early enough to get some things done. After I parked my bike, I showered and got ready to go out to eat while I was waiting for the laundry to finish.

I walked around Yokkaichi Shōtengai, or Shopping District, but since it was the weekday, it was dead. I couldn't find a restaurant that looked friendly. Just when I was going to give up, I found a small restaurant with no one inside, so I decided to eat and go make some friends there with the staff. The owner of the restaurant was

a middle-aged woman and we bonded quickly. She gave me free food and drinks! She and her coworker also taught me some words and phrases in the Mie dialect. It was getting late, so I said my goodbyes to them and promised to visit them before the end of the year with my brother.

## Day Three (Thursday, August 4)

Although I went to bed quite late the night before, I was able to wake up rather early the next day. My goal for the day was to get to Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka Prefecture. When I arrived in Hamamatsu, I looked around for a place to eat and saw a café where three young men, including the server, were talking. It seemed like a friendly environment and I wanted to get to know them and about their town, so I walked in. I ordered a pizza and oolong tea there. The worker started talking to me because there once was a foreigner who came there and ordered the same thing. He asked if I knew him. We continued talking and soon the guys who sat at a different table joined in. I told them about my journey thus far and it turns out that they were bikers, too. They gave me much good advice and even some tools for my bike. They helped me map out my route for the following day.

## Day Four (Friday, August 5)

I have no great memories from the ride this day. It was long, flat and beyond boring. I only saw what appeared to be the same old views. On the bright side, at one of the conbini (convenient store) stops I made, a truck driver from Aichi Prefecture bought me a frozen sports drink and chocolate—thanks, Yuji-san!

## Day Five (Saturday, August 6)

As I woke up in Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture, I knew I had to go over the dreaded Mt. Hakone to get to Tokyo. I left around 5 a.m. I have never experienced anything that was more physically exhausting than that part of the journey. The ride up alone was three and a half hours.

After spending most of the day in the mountains, I realized how I was only 80km away from Tokyo. I knew it would be tough and that I will get in Tokyo if I continued my journey that day, but I was so ready to be in Tokyo and pushed through the rest of the trip. To keep myself motivated, I booked a nicer hotel in Shibuya.

Going through that bridge that connected Kanagawa and Tokyo later that night made me feel so accomplished. I was ecstatic. Although this journey was tough, I learned so much from it and I think I grew up a little more as a person. I would recommend everyone who has the chance, to do it.

If you guys are interested in doing a bike journey, here are some tips for you:

Bring around 3 portable chargers.

Sleep early and leave early.

Talk to as many people as you can (make friends)!!

Go to individually-run restaurants versus chain restaurants.

Pack lightly.

Hydrate (Even if you don't feel thirsty, your body is sweating, so keep hydrating).

Have good lights on your bike.

Limit your Google Maps use because you run out of battery and data quickly.

Bring a fanny pack.

Have two bank accounts where you can take money from.

Separate your cash/card, so it doesn't get stolen.

Bring bicycle puncture repair packet.

Wear helmet and gloves.

Don't listen to music while

riding, so you can hear

everything around you.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL SAMBA



## The Osaka Great Santa Run by Rena Kawasaki

On Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Osaka Castle Park, there was a charity marathon to raise money for presents for kids in hospitals. A woman who went England and saw a Santa run there started the event. She wanted a fun event that can tell people about charity. That's how the Osaka Great Santa Run was born.

This year the Osaka Santa Run reached almost 5500 participants and the next stage is to deliver presents.

I thought the event was very fun and their work of charity is really great!

To learn more, please visit: [www.santa-run.com](http://www.santa-run.com)



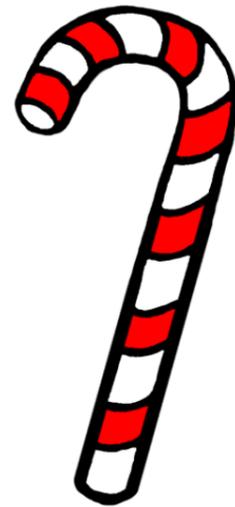
## The History of Candy Canes by Rena Kawasaki

Since it is Christmas season, red striped candy canes start appearing in shops and give us that festive feeling. But have you ever wondered where did these Candy Canes come from? Well, It's time to find out!

The Christmas candy canes originated from Germany around 250 years ago.

The candy canes were white at the start and the red stripes were added around 1900.

Around 1920 Bob McCormack started making candy canes to his friends and family. They became so popular that he started his own company, Bob's Candies. His brother-in-law, Gregory Harding Keller invented a machine to make candy canes from straight to that unique J kind of shape we see today. The machine was called the Keller machine. Now we know that the striped candy canes have a longer history than we think!



## The Story Behind the World Scholar's Cup by Rena Kawasaki

A lot of people may not know what WSC is to I will explain it here. To get to know it a little more, here is some backstory:

Daniel Berdichevsky founded the world scholar's cup back in 2007. The first global round was held in Korea where there were only a handful of participants. Today, the world scholar's cup has grown and the global round has more than a 1000 participants by now. The activities consist of debate, challenge (a 120 problem test), bowl (a quiz where your whole team will use a clicker to answer the problems on the board) and writing where you debate on paper. The SOIS community hosts regional rounds every year. If you qualify for the global rounds, you get to go very cool places around the world to get to know their culture.

If you have interest, please go check out the WSC website for more information.

<http://www.scholarscup.org/>



### We're Searching for Samba-dy Special.....

*Middle School Samba is the section of Tango Magazine where Middle School students get the chance to research, report and write their own articles. Maybe you write stories? Poetry? Draw cartoons? Take photos?*

*Whatever your creative outlet is as a Middle Schooler, why not consider becoming a contributor? We would love to talk to you about it. Contact either Mr. Algie or Samba lead reporter Rena Kawasaki for details.*

## **Camus: His Revolt, His Liberty, His Passion** by Freya Kirwan

Many people admire Camus for his creative genius and for his stories - he won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1957. However for others, the attraction of Camus lies in the elation that follows from the realisation that you are not alone in your 'absurd questioning'. (He's a perennial favourite among angst teenagers.) For me, it was not the 'existentialism' in itself - the idea of life's ineluctable meaninglessness - that drew me to Camus; it was his response, his revolt, against the despair that so often can follow such a revelation. Camus was not the first existentialist; indeed, existentialism could be seen as an inevitable response to the human condition. In modern times, Sartre is perhaps the most famous existentialist; however, in contrast to Sartre's emphasis on the negative ('man is condemned to be free'), Camus emphasises not the revelation of meaninglessness so much as the possibility of a positive response to it. Camus's work is about the rebellion rather than what is rebelled against; he faces the unrelenting absurdity of existence with defiance.

Perhaps the best known work of Camus is *The Stranger*. In this work, however, the emphasis is not on defiance, but rather on detachment; a detachment that seems to follow from a sense of the meaninglessness of life. In this way, although it is perhaps Camus's most famous work, it is also the least representative of what is valuable in Camus. *The Plague*, a much longer work, embodies the meaninglessness of life in a plague, which makes death imminent for everyone in the city in which the novel takes place. In this work however, we get, in the character of Rieux, a figure who exemplifies what Camus means by 'revolt'. The doctor knows that he is fighting a losing battle; there is nothing he can do to save the plague victims. However, he does not give up his struggle. He refuses to be resigned. He goes on asserting the value of life even in the face of the universe's indifference.

This attitude to life is examined more philosophically in Camus's non-fiction work, *The Myth of Sisyphus*, which ends with the famous short essay on the mythological Sisyphus. Sisyphus is condemned for eternity to roll a stone uphill. When he reaches the top, the stone rolls back down again. This is Camus's image of the absurdity of life, we are doomed to fail and there is no escape or higher meaning. However, he also insists that, in the brief moment when Sisyphus reaches the top of the mountain, Sisyphus is happy. According to Camus, we demand more from life than it can possibly give us: we demand a transcendental meaning and we demand immortality (in some form). Neither of these things are possible. However, he says that, even knowing that our aspirations and ideals are a matter of indifference to the universe, we should go on asserting them in perpetual revolt against that indifference and the meaninglessness that it seems to imply.



Photo sourced from Wikipedia

## **Forty Five** by Manon Raby

63 million seconds

that I've sat in this chair

thinking about forty-five

In the mornings I look around

and in the corner is Quiet Boy

sleep deprived

and only the warmth of the sun is keeping him conscious

One wave passes and another one comes

the sails of his boat are weary

Next to me is Hat Boy

He must do well

So he works on the train

he works whilst he eats

he works whilst he sleeps

Now Hat Boy only thinks about forty-five

I remember when Curly Hair would read philosophy

she would quote Camus and laugh at the simplest of things

No longer does she cry over the voice of Kurt Cobain

but over the digits, dates and deadlines

declared by forty-five

Everyone has been touched by forty-five

Some scratched, slashed and scarred

Some maimed, marred and mutilated

Some simply have a paper cut and

will one day have memories of more than just

the numbers that defined them

When I am forty-five years old

I will not show my children my paper cut

I will not tell them of the digits, dates and deadlines

I will tell them of how I laughed so often

I will tell them of the voice of Kurt Cobain

I will tell them of the moment I sat between the bookshelves of the library

and wrote this poem

# Movies To Watch When You Want To Forget Your Troubles For A Little While

Because we all have those days, right?

By Misaki Inokuchi

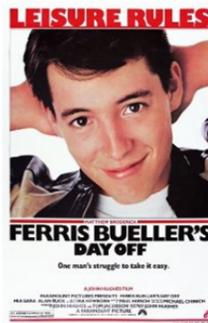
## 1. The Sting (1973) - PG4. Big (1988) - PG

After a colleague is killed by a dirty cop, con-artist rookie, Johnny Hooker (Robert Redford), joins forces with a legendary pro, Henry Gondorff (Paul Newman), for one last sting. The target: Doyle Lonnegan, the crime boss responsible for Hooker's friend's death. This comedy buddy-crime film won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1974 and features prime performances by the leading three actors.



## 2. Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) - PG-13

The perfect movie to watch on your day off, this classic 80s comedy follows teenage rulebreaker, Ferris Bueller (Matthew Broderick), on his day of fun as he skips school to explore the city with his friends. Written as a love letter to the screenwriter, John Hughes', hometown, this light-hearted film fills your heart with a desire for adventure and makes you want to discover Chicago for yourself.



## 3. Juno (2007) - PG-13

In this romantic comedy-drama, quirky teen Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) faces some tough decisions after she is confronted with an unplanned pregnancy. Ellen Page plays opposite Michael Cera who portrays Paulie Bleeker, a hilariously awkward teenager. (He is played by Michael Cera, after all.) You will laugh for its dry humor and cry for its heart-warming tale of love, family, and friendship.



## 4. Big (1988) - PG

After wishing to be "big" at a fortune teller machine 12-year-old Josh Baskin, finds himself transformed into a 30-year-old man (Tom Hanks). Though enjoying all the perks of his miraculous transformation, Josh soon discovers that being an adult isn't everything he hoped for.



## 5. Julie & Julia (2009) - PG-13

Based on a true story, Julie Powell (Amy Adams) embarks on a mission to cook and document every recipe in Julia Child's (Meryl Streep) first cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. This aesthetically pleasing comedy-drama features delicious looking French dishes the scent of which you could almost smell radiating off the screen. Oh, if only. Meryl Streep, unsurprisingly, was widely praised for her performance, garnering her a nomination for an Academy Award for Best Actress.



## The Dark Side of Technology.....

by Alex "4L13N" Knox

Welcome back truth-seekers! To be honest, I'm surprised that the newspaper editor contacted me for another piece. Most mainstream news outlets reject the truth, but who am I to refuse when they come knocking on my door? Then again, they could be working with the government in an elaborate ploy to get me out of hiding so they can end my journey into truth for good... But for my fellow truth-seekers I will continue to run these articles even if I have to sacrifice myself. Hopefully it won't come to that, but if you don't hear from me again CONTINUE TO RESIST! THEY CANNOT HIDE THE TRUTH FROM US FOR LONG!

Speaking of which, I've found a new juicy theory while I was in hiding. So here you go:

THEY'RE USING TECHNOLOGY TO MIND CONTROL US

But you're probably thinking, "But Alex, if all technology is unsafe, then how are you writing this article?" And to answer your question, I owned at least 10 typewriters prior to this occasion just in case. I never really trusted all of those Apples or Androids or whatever and I guess it paid off in the end. And if I ever have to go out in public, I always wear a tinfoil hat. It scrambles the government's signal and makes sure that they can't fry my brain from some remote location in the middle of a desert. Yeah, sure, they're not the most fashionable, but when your brain is fried don't come crying to me.



Anyways, let's start looking into the evidence. First things first, do any of you really know the origin of most of your computers and smartphones and other household appliances? Well since I'm mentioning it, most of you can probably guess that it was THE GOVERNMENT. Things like microwaves, radar, and the Internet are all the product of US military research. Don't believe me? Look it up. You can probably find it on Wikipedia pretty easily don't tell your teachers I told you to use Wikipedia always cite your sources kids. And if that isn't suspicious enough, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is attempting to repeal Net Neutrality in the United States, which will force anyone who wants to use the internet to pay extra fees for certain services or websites. That in itself is not that suspicious, but seeing as our current generation is "addicted" to technology, the government is going to become our drug dealer. Just think about it. Without the introduction of computers and gaming consoles and social media, our generation would be much more efficient. Then why would the government promote this technology? Because they want our money. Plain and simple. The government has been working for decades to get all generations hooked on technology only to take it away when all of humanity has become completely dependent. How are you going to pass IB or look at dog memes on Facebook if you don't have full unrestricted access to the Internet? Well one thing's for sure: we're pretty screwed.



## Evolving Streetwear Culture

by Shoko Yamaji

This summer, skateboard-clothing brand Supreme released a historic collection with luxury brand Louis Vuitton. Thousands of excited Hypebeasts- a derogatory term for people obsessed with trends, willing to sacrifice time and money for the sole purpose of looking "cool"- lined up in front of the pop up location worldwide to purchase the newest Supreme gears at retail price. The hype for the limited gears was so tense that desperate hypebeasts even paid people early in the line in exchange for their spots.

This streetwear hype phenomenon is mainly due to the result of the market strategies used by the retailers (Sagner, "Is The Streetwear Market Headed For The Mainstream"). Supreme, for example, is known to release limited quantities of new clothing every Thursday referred by "drops" online and in stores (Sagner). This involves limiting advertisement to maintain the exclusive feel of the brand and the value (Sagner). Another strategy in the street wear industry is releasing collaborations between streetwear brands, luxury brands, and celebrities.(Sagner). Supreme's latest collaboration was with The North Face which featured graphic prints of mountainsides on crewnecks, T-shirts, mountain parka, insulated Baltoro jackets and blankets. It sold out immediately on the day it hit the market.

Another example of a successful contemporary streetwear brand is OFF-WHITE, a fashion label founded by DJ and fashion designer Virgil Abloh in 2012. ("Off White") Back in September, Virgil Abloh and Nike released "The Ten" Collection in New York, London, Milan and Paris (Chin). The collection features well known shoes such as the Air Jordan 1, Nike Blazer, Nike Air Presto, Nike Air Max 90 which were all embellished with the OFF-WHITE signature orange zip tie tags, and reconstructed swoosh, finished off with capitalized letters on heels and laces (Chin). In a recent report by High Snobie-ty, Abloh's sneakers were marked as one the highest prices on the secondary market in 2017 (Welty). The Air Jordans 1s went as much for \$1985, while the Prestos went around the market for \$1236 (Welty). There are many mixed reviews on Virgil Abloh's collection with Nike, but I personally like the OFF-WHITE Air Jordan 1 and OFF-WHITE Nike Blazer, though I would never in my life pay the mind-blowing price for a pair of sneakers. However I would have to admit that I am jealous of those who were able to acquire them for retail price.

In recent years, reselling street wear brands has become a business and a way of life. Streetwear resellers have become part of a multibillion-dollar market, an industry driven by the existence of a secondary market. (Sagner) People who wait for hours in line to purchase hyped items are a common attribute seen in resellers. They use tools



The most hyped item in the market: the reconstructed Air Jordan 1s with Virgil Abloh. (B. Awin)

such as eBay, Depop and social media to provide merchandise from Supreme, Palace and many other contemporary streetwear brands worth significantly more than the original price.

(Sagner) Ironically, the term and service for Supreme specifically

states that their products are only for personal use and not for resale. (Sagner)

Unfortunately, the streetwear community has encouraged the counterfeit industry to mass-produce replicas of hyped items. The most recent victim of this problem is the Addidas Yeezy by Kanye West. Ever since the first Yeezy Boost 350 was released, the hype for the pair of sneakers blew up immensely due to the limited production. Following the release, the resellers began charging seven and half times the original price and the counterfeit industry soon picked up the trend. (Pierson) As day-by-day the replicas become increasingly difficult to distinguish, many opt to purchase the fake pair instead getting the real deal. In response to this activity, sneakerheads and hypebeasts have begun avoiding purchasing the Yeezy 350 as the value of the shoe has minimized and became more common in the streetwear culture.



Hypebeasts lining up in front of the London Supreme Store for the Supreme drop. (E. Elsley)



Gully Guy Leo, Instagram star and hypebeast from Warwick, England.

With that said, what are your opinions of the street wear industry? Some may mock the whole idea of "hyped goods" and "hypebeast" but as fashion enthusiast, I view the streetwear culture as a whole new world to discover your own style with people who share the same interest.

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## Tango Begins A New Era

A fresh chapter in *Tango* history has begun, with a new leadership team taking the helm. This year the leadership of *Tango* will be shared around. Congratulations to **Meg Hoffmann** who is currently President of *Tango*, and to **Freya Kirwan** who is currently Vice President. Both have already made an impact through their leadership. They are ably supported by some seasoned campaigners along with several new faces. Many new ideas for *Tango* are already in the process of being implemented.

One thing about *Tango* will not change however, and that is the aim of the club to be a fun, safe, welcoming environment for students to develop and display their creativity. New members are always welcome, so why not ask Meg, Freya, Mr. Algie or any of the *Tango* team what is involved and how we might be able to help you showcase your creative talent? We would be happy to have you join the team!



## Tango Team

President: Meg Hoffmann  
 Vice President: Freya Kirwan  
 Editor: Dave Algie  
 Layout Advisor: Paul Sommer

*The Tango team:*

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Special thanks to:

Melissa Lamug	Peter Heimer	Derek Entwistle
Kevin Bertman		



## Sabers Sports



### 2017 High School Boys Sabers Basketball

by Mark Yamamoto

The end of a successful Sabers AISA volleyball season (with the boys finishing first and the girls third) marks the beginning of a new exciting sport—basketball. The 2017-2018 winter season is a particularly interesting one, as the boys team will be comprised of many new faces after the graduation of four OIS starting members.

Losing these four, who were the core of last year's squad, has definitely left a large void in the team. However, with dismantling always follows the chance to rebuild by bringing together the strengths and skills of new players. In finishing third at last year's AISA tournament and having never advanced to the finals in the last four years, the make-up of this year's team is particularly inspiring. An all-around faster, more energetic group of boys shifts their offensive focus to generate more motion, ball movement, and fast breaks. Defensively, a new, more aggressive full-court press has been implemented to force more steals and create transition opportunities.

This style of play, compared to last year's, has definitely resulted in more points being scored, in contrast to last year's set offense, and from all over the court instead of just from the perimeter. Additionally, rather than a starting five, Coaches Heimer and Routh have decided on creating two equal "platoons" that will rotate every two minutes to minimize fatigue and maximize the team's vigorous style of play. The philosophy behind this unorthodox distribution of players is to run over teams in the second half, when the opponent's strongest players (who have most likely stayed on court for a majority of the game) begin to fatigue.

As of now, the group still needs to work on cutting down on the number of turnovers and making better decisions, but the results so far are promising. The team's record so far is 3-1, earning a 54-point largest margin victory against Marist Brothers International School, yet suffering a heartbreaking loss to Canadian Academy. The team's true abilities, however, will be tested this weekend as they travel to Canadian Academy to face off against two American base high schools, M.C. Perry and E.J. King.

For me, this year is a significant one, as it will be my fourth and final season on the varsity basketball team. My last season will also be a cherished opportunity to lead the team as co-captain

(or tri-captain, if you will) alongside SIS seniors Tommy Ban and Hijiri Kamigawa. As the only OIS senior, I look forward to getting to bond with my team and setting my sights on the real prize, AISA, which will be held at Seoul International School in February.





# Sabers Sports



## Middle School vs High School Sports:

### What you need to know before signing up

by Owen Kralovec

As I sprint with fellow teammates to the *Daini* gym, the bulky and highly uncomfortable bag of balls I have been forced to carry because I am relatively low on the hierarchy of high school basketball, awkwardly and monotonously bumps again and again against my knees and other parts of my anatomy. I realize that I have swum across the threshold from the shallow and innocent waters of what is called "Middle School



Coach Heimer introduces key points of practice at the Daini gymnasium)

Sports" into the deep waters of what is called "High School Sports". I now understand that there is a clear dichotomy between these two programs.

At the start of practice at *Daini*, outside of the gym, while we put our shoes on, coaches Mr. Heimer and Mr. Routh are briefing us on tasks: what is expected out of us and what is

expected to be worked on today. There is a clear and definite sense of a word that all anxious parents of pubescent, awkward teenagers hope they are ready for: "Responsibility". It is not asked for, but expected that we take every practice seriously. This was different in regards to the experiences I had when participating in middle school sports. It goes without saying that middle school sports were demanding and required time management but not to the extent of high school sports. In a sense, I believe that middle school sports prepare athletes at SOIS for what is to come later in high school, through commitment in showing up to practices ON TIME, representing SOIS correctly during travel on public transportation to games as well as being responsible and showing Sabers sportsmanship during tournaments. This said, middle school and high school approach sports with different mentalities and mindsets and below I have written about a few of the things I have noticed about how different they are in relation to each other.

Coaches Heimer and Routh take their coaching jobs very seriously and I really enjoy playing for them just because of that. One of the things I noticed about the high school basketball training regimen was the amount of strength and conditioning that we do every practice. On Wednesdays, we spend about 45 minutes on the field as well as the Skycourt, running sprints and working on our defensive posture as well as doing pushups and other exercises to increase our agility and endurance. In middle school sports, the time spent on increasing our durability was minimal in comparison to high school. Another thing I have realized in high school basketball is that there is a lot more practice time to work on extra things such as specific set plays against a zone or man defense in order to get a wide open shot. In contrast, in middle school, our coach Mr. Ray would outline the basic workings of the offence, which was "pass and cut". Essentially, as the name suggests, you pass the ball to either teammate beside you and cut to the basket for a pass. If you weren't open, you would go to the baseline and wait for your turn again. There were slight variations of this using things such as screens for the cutter as well as passing inside the key to the post players. With only two practices per week, the middle school offense was simpler in relation to high school basketball because high school works on different plays for how to beat different types of defenses, as well as increasing the amount of time we spend working on things like traps (two defenders guard one player and stop him from dribbling, thus putting pressure on him to make a bad or low percent-

age pass which leads to turnovers) or fastbreak offenses (the first eight seconds of the shot clock are considered the "fast break") which are far more complex than in middle school sports. However, this is due simply to there being more practices, longer seasons, and more experienced players, which means we get to develop and refine our offense and defense further than that of a middle school team. A final thing that I have noticed this season is the increased strength and speed of the competition. The pace of the game is much faster than the pace of a Middle School Team. Also, going up against grade 11th and 12th graders is difficult and can be intimidating due to them being much taller and faster than me.

I believe that everyone should at one point or time in their life join a team sport. Team sports force you to share and collaborate amongst your teammates, along with encouraging and helping others. They also force you to be vocal and communicate on things such as screens, play calls and on defence.



(Three on Three full court drills, where we practiced traps as well as how to score off the fastbreak)

Communication and collaboration, are essential in today's workplace environments. It is crucial to develop these skills at a young age so they become second hand once you are older and are ready to join the workforce. Team sports also require perseverance and tenacity. On some occasions, you will be facing a team that is far superior to you, however, it is how you face that adversity that truly embodies what sports are about. Even though it may sound clichéd, never giving up in the face of hardship is essential and it is a skill that is hard to come by in people these days. We students at this school should value the opportunity to play any sports at any level, and in other schools it is very hard to make the teams due to the number of students. This school has a relatively small amount of students compared to other schools, which means the competition for making the team is extremely low. Joining a sport almost guarantees that you'll make new friends. From my experience, I have made friends that I would have never had if it were not for joining sports. Also, for all you students worried about college applications, universities look favorably on students who are involved in their school community in any way. So even if you're terrible at the sport, you can still list your participation in your applications.



(Mr. Routh overlooks the offence of the Varsity players)