



# TANGO

# EXTRA

*Dancing with Words*

Senri & Osaka International Schools of Kwansei Gakuin

December 2016

Volume 10 Number 1

## SOIS World Scholars Take Center Stage

Participating in the World Scholars' Cup is becoming a rich tradition here at SOIS, and this year saw the SOIS team reaching new heights of success. An obvious highlight has been the trip that members of the team took to compete in the Tournament of Champions round at Yale in the US. The team was away from November 17 to 22, and was supervised by Mr. Sheriff, who provided coaching and guidance, and by Minakuchi sensei, who took care of organization and logistics.

In the World Scholars Cup, teams from around the world compete in activities such as debates, quizzes and collaborative writing. It is a great chance for students to challenge themselves, to show off their skills and knowledge, and to learn from others, all in a fun, warm environment that celebrates diversity and different perspectives.

Students who participated in the WSC this year spoke highly of the experience. Chisato Suga said that it makes education fun, "You really enjoy learning."

Fun was a key word that kept coming up again and again when WSC team members spoke about their experiences. It seems that the organization keeps a firm eye on fun even as all the intellectual demands keep coming. Those of us not in the know have to ask ourselves: What's with all the alpacas?



*I guess you really had to be there.*

The students who participated in the global round at Yale said it was a really challenging experience. Nanami Hasegawa spoke of the sleepless flight from Japan to the US, desperately cramming in as much information as possible during the trip. She said the experience of "hanging out" with her team was a real highlight. She said that through debating at WSC she developed her confidence in public speaking.

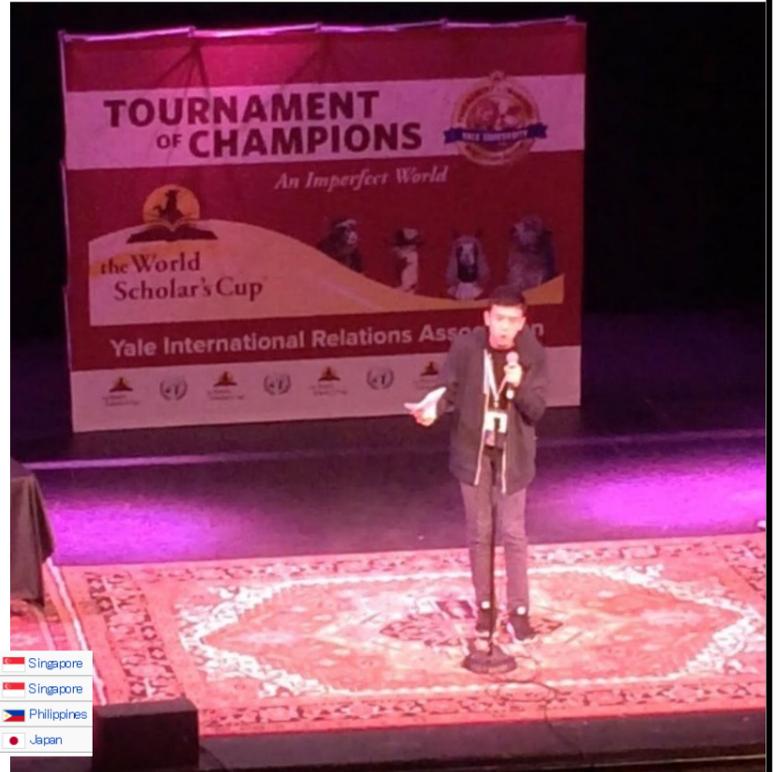
Even for the friends and supporters left back home, there was a real buzz about what was going on at the global rounds. Members of OIS grade 9 tuned in in through Skype in morning homeroom to listen to Tyus Sheriff give a rousing debate speech on center stage.

Tyus established himself as one of the rising stars on the WSC scene through his performances at the global rounds. He was named WSC Junior Individual Champion for 2016, a wonderful achievement. A quick check of the WSC page on Wikipedia shows he has really arrived:

2015 ToC	Sze Ann Pang	Nanyang Girls High School	 Singapore
2016 Global	Alessandra Lim	S.J International School	 Singapore
2016 Mini Global	Alexa Jeanne Wong Loste	Immaculate Conception Academy	 Philippines
2016 ToC	Tyus Sheriff	Osaka International School	 Japan

However, as impressive as Tyus' accomplishment is, all students who went to the global rounds of the WSC performed well and made their friends, families and the school proud. Indeed, all SOIS students who have participated in World Scholars' Cup so far should be proud of the ways they have challenged themselves intellectually in this way. Attributes such as creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication are highly valued here at SOIS, so by becoming involved, WSC members are really engaging in what our school is all about.

As Tyus told us, many of the things he has learned at WSC he later hears mentioned or reinforced in lessons here at school. This emphasizes the academic value of being involved in WSC. "The experience of participating in World Scholars' Cup is beneficial in so many ways" Tyus told us, "It develops your public speaking. It gives you confidence in what you say. It helps develop your writing, of course. And it's great for critical thinking."



For example, many of the examinations and tests WSC makes you take aren't really about facts but more about connecting ideas. So it really hones in on your critical thinking"

Special credit must go to Mr. Sheriff, Mrs. Inada, Minakuchi sensei and all the other teachers and parents who support SOIS involvement with World Scholars Cup and make it possible.

Chisato and Nanami were quoted as saying that students who were interested in joining World Scholars' Cup should definitely try it. It is such a worthwhile experience. Students who are interested in taking part should talk to Mr. Sheriff.

**A shout out to all the Tournament of Champions participants:** From OIS--Malka, Sana, Antonio, Tyus, Minami, Nanami. From SIS--Mizuki Ito, Natsumi Kato, Mio Kodama, Kikka Okuda, Satoi Akeda, Sophia Smith, Sean Matsuura.

Reporting by Dave Algie. Special thanks to Steve Sheriff, Tyus Sheriff, Nanami Hasegawa, Chisato Suga.

Photos courtesy of Nanami Hasegawa.

*The Winter Holiday Season is Upon Us!*

*The holidays are a time for family... so check out Yuroo's and Kaya's moving family stories on pages 6 and 7!*



## Editorial *by Sophia Grabowski*

# Senior Stress

I estimate that half of the conversations that my classmates and I have nowadays are (complaining) about our school work, and the other half is about what we're going to do after this year. It seems like this next chapter in our lives has completely consumed our minds. I often catch myself spending a significant amount of time worrying about what my options are, which ones I will choose, and whether I can pursue them with what I will achieve at OIS. It is obvious that in this transition time these thoughts are completely normal and even important. However, I have realized that to spare myself from experiencing unnecessary stress and anxiety, I cannot let my accomplishments or failures be what defines me. Let's say I get a seven in my Chemistry test and I build my value on getting sevens in that class. Once I fail to live up to this self-set standard, who I am is shaken, and I lose worth and confidence. Another example for this is our IB score. If we don't get a certain grade which we would've needed to enter a certain university, what are we going to do if, throughout the past 2 years, we have told ourselves that the only way to be happy and successful is that we go to that uni?

I feel like what should drive us to excel is not to sustain a certain identity, but instead the identity we already have should motivate us to do our best. If we do that, when

we fail, it is not the end of the world. We can instead be confident that we are defined by something that doesn't rely on our ability to succeed.

What we identify ourselves with varies from person to person. In most cases I don't think they can be pinpointed to one thing, as there are so many nuances to what makes us who we are. It might be certain character traits, hobbies, or even relationships, even though defining ourselves with other people might not be the wisest thing to do. Choosing to not live for other people's approval but instead to really evaluate for myself how I want to act and why I want to act that way is something I really want to work on.

I think that dealing with the pressures of IB and the future doesn't have to be as daunting as they seem to be. Complaining doesn't get us our diploma, so I think we should focus more on what we can do better instead of how the system might be bad/ how we have too much to do. However, if you see us 12th graders sitting in the lounge, it never hurts to come up to us, give us a hug, and say that everything is going to be fine.

#HugAnOISSenior

## A New-look Leadership Team for Tango

by Dave Algie

As Tango enters its tenth volume we are proud to announce a new leadership team that will help continue the tradition of celebrating the creativity of students at our school, and producing an informative, entertaining student newspaper from a caring, internationally minded perspective.

**Sophia Grabowski** has been chosen for the position of President of Tango club. She is a long serving member of Tango who has contributed a range of articles and interviews over the years, and has recently been in charge of the Tango



Pictured: Sophia Grabowski

whiteboard you might have seen out and around the school campus, advertising our newspaper. Sophia is hugely involved in SOIS life, and epitomizes the kind of internationally minded, creative student we are lucky to have at SOIS and in Tango in particular. Check out Sophia's editorial above, and her article about her experiences on student council on page 5!

We are very fortunate to have **Mio Okuda** back as one of our two Tango Vice Presidents this year. Mio has been a great contributor to Tango for over two years now. She has had several front page articles and it has been great to have features in Tango written



Pictured: Mio Okuda

from an SIS perspective. As Mio has mentioned in some of her recent articles, graduation is soon approaching for her as she is an SIS senior. We wish her all the best as she enters her last trimester here. Check out Mio's article opposite!

**Airi Wakasa** has been a very reliable writer for Tango in recent years. You might have read her interviews with teachers new to the school. Airi's dedication to the Tango cause has seen her appointed Vice President this year and we look forward to more of her great work appearing in our pages.



Pictured: Airi Wakasa (left) with her well-known associate, Sherlock Holmes.

## Meet Our New Tango Mascot!

by the Tango Team

This is タンちゃん (Tan-chan) our new tango mascot created by the Tango team!

Here are some facts about タンちゃん:

Favourite colour: Purple

Favourite food: Kit Kat

Hobby: Reading Tango!

Message:

Hi, Tango readers! Though I am only a fictional character, I am a new member of Tango and part of the SOIS community. You'll see me again in future Tango issues. I'm also very easy to draw. You should try it sometimes~!

See you around and Yoroshiku onegaishimasu!



# The thing you need to remember: Togetherness

By Mio Okuda

There are only a few months left this year. For SIS seniors, especially, this is the vital period to decide on the course to take after graduation. At this time, students are more likely to consider about their own future. However I have heard that nowadays it is common for young people not to have any prospective aims. Actually, I have been worried over my future course. I assume that people tend to encounter unexpected difficulties. So I would like to introduce about the village that I visited. It might be something to help those of you who are wondering about your future path.

Anyway, I participated in the “むらのこし (muranokoshi) camp” in this summer. This is the first time that SIS has had this camp. During this camp, students visited a little village called Oami in Nagano Prefecture. They stayed at a rest accommodation called “Tuschinoie”. They can get close to nature and touch the traditional culture to protect. They owe a lot to the people who run “Tuschinoie”. These people had moved to Oami from Osaka and other prefectures to deal with the serious issue that Oami has been facing: a falling population. They became attracted to the little village and realized the problem. They decided to move there and they have held many workshops for young people to teach them traditional activities and about the attraction of the place, which is that the distance between people

in such a village is really small. That is to say, that this is a natural situation in which people give a hand to their neighbors. In a city, this hardly ever happens.

These days, people tend to compete with other. In reality, I agree that people need to do that. On the other hand I strongly believe that people should not forget that every single of person is not alone. People must have a place that they can go back to and have other people who always trust you and protect you. This is a fairly obvious truth, but sometimes people might forget it. The village, Oami teaches us the warmth of people. Moreover, people who live in the village always say that people can support each other. I recommend that when you are



<http://kurashite.com>

having a difficult time, you think about the fact that you are not alone. If you want to know more about the village, go to the website below.

『くらしでKurashite』 <http://kurashite.com/>

## SIS Grade 9 Trip to Awaji Islands!

By Tasuku Azuma

On the 20th and 21st of October, the entire SIS ninth graders took a small trip to Awaji islands. The island is known for onions and its beautiful nature.

### Planning the trip - from a committee member's view of point

At the SIS 9th grade trip committee's meetings, members enthusiastically discussed how to make the trip more memorable (in a good way, of course). Also, they made sure that all activities would link to what the entire grade is currently studying about. In some of the discussions, we struggled to find an appropriate solution, in which both of us students and teachers agreed. But, at the end of the trip, we felt great sense of accomplishment, and thought that the trip was successful. Below is a summary of our activities during the two days.

21st	22nd
8:40 Departure	6:30 Time to get up...
11:00 Arrival & orientation to the facilities	6:55 Morning gathering
11:40 Lunch	7:20 Breakfast
13:00 Sailing on cutter	8:30 Cleaning our rooms
17:00 Gathering	9:00 Tye-dyeing cloth
17:30 Start cooking dinner	11:00 Frisbee and other small group activities
20:30 Bathing	11:40 Lunch
22:00 Time to sleep...	12:45 Departure
	13:30 Picking and eating grapes
	15:30 Buying souvenirs at service area
	17:15 Stopping at Senri-chuou
	17:30 Arriving at school

Although there were many complaints about trip being way too short for a Junior high-school grade trip, in the end, most of students said that the trip deepened their friendship and was a good opportunity to communicate with whom they have never worked with before. Also, as a member of the 9th grade trip committee, I was relieved that the entire trip was safe and successful.



Photo by Nao Ijichi:



Photo by Ahn Ri Lee:



Photo by Ora Okazaki:

# Student Collapses From Hunger While Searching for Seat in the Cafeteria

by Taizo Heimer

Tragedy almost struck Wednesday, November 9, at SOIS when senior Kai Junge (OIS class of 2017) collapsed from hunger when he couldn't find a place to sit to eat in the cafeteria during Flex time. Witnesses reported that Junge collapsed in the middle of the cafeteria after "wandering around for, like, 30 minutes" looking for an open seat. SOIS nurse Natsuko Inoue arrived on the scene within minutes to revive the unconscious senior, feeding him a Parm ice cream bar.

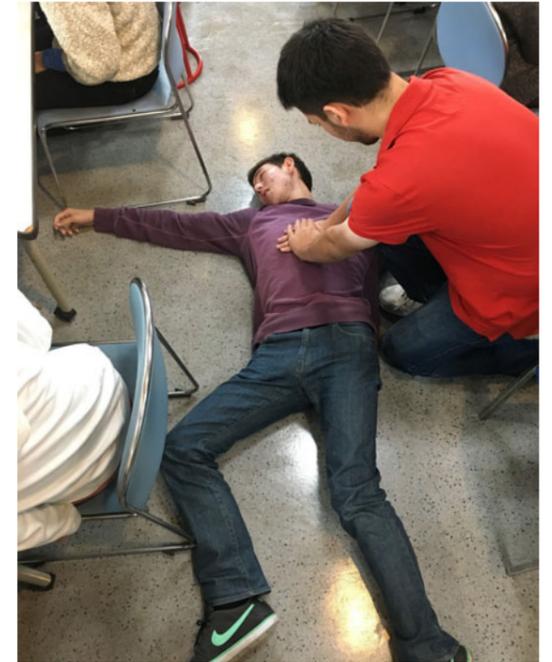
Nurse Inoue stated that "Kai-kun is now healthy and should recover in time to take his HL math test." When asked about the incident, classmate Kento Moriguchi stated that he is "very unhappy with the status quo."



Moriguchi isn't the only one unhappy with the current situation. The incident has caused panic and outrage, especially within the senior class. Riots and some discussions broke out Wednesday afternoon on the third floor where masses of up to 3 or 4 seniors took to the hallways to voice their concerns over what they believe to be a Dickensian system.

One protester and Junge classmate, William Menezes, stated, "The incident is really scary. You never know when you're going to be the one without a seat in the cafeteria."

I sat down for an exclusive interview with the man himself to ask him what he believed to be the right solution for hungry students at SOIS. Still feeling weak and looking gaunt, Junge stated, "This is the most crucial time for students from both OIS and SIS to come together as one and work collectively to solve pressing issues regarding student seating and eating rights." When asked whether he would try again to find a seat in the cafeteria or just sit on the stairs outside the library with the 6th graders, Junge replied, dejectedly, "I don't know, man. I just don't know."



In a heroic response to what social media is calling the "no seat, no eat" situation, Mr. Van Plantinga from the Learning Lab is developing plans for a taco stand on the third floor next to the senior space, projected to open after the winter break and supplied with in-season artisanal vegetables from the SOIS aquaponics garden. If this dream becomes a reality, it just might stop another senior from collapsing in the cafeteria.

Taizo Heimer from *Tango News*, giving you the latest.

## IB Hacks

by Chie Sakano And Tuvshinjargal Battogoo

The seniors are counting down to our mock exams and with what we have learned from being in the IB program, we thought we'd share some tips with you for your future in the IB. We're no experts and we still haven't mastered all the skills we need in order to survive, but hope this helps!

### 10 Tips for Surviving IB

- 1. Make a to do list** Write down all your homework and cross them out as you complete them. This will help remind you what you have left to do. Might be useful to keep a diary with you to keep track of due dates. BUT don't spend too much time on this otherwise you're just procrastinating. Which leads us to our next point...
- 2. Time management: Don't procrastinate!** This is hard, I know... Been, there and still there. It's inevitable but instead, you can reduce the amount of time you procrastinate. Start early: Get used to studying for maybe an hour and taking a 10-20 minute break and get back to work again. Keep this cycle going and maybe you'll have a good balance of work and procrastination.
- 3. Make neat notes** Try to keep your notes organised. If you have a lot to write during class but not enough time, reorganise your notes before the next class. Try to use 2 or 3 colors and keep it simple. Emphasise titles, highlight key terms, put an asterisk where you need extra review, etc., etc.... This will be so useful for your upcoming tests and exams.
- 4. Revise. Always revise.** By this, I mean, not only on the day before your actual exam. Try to revise every night and always revise previous topics. The IB exam tests your knowledge of what you learned in grade 11 and 12.
- 5. Complete all your homework.** ...Need I explain why?
- 6. Ask for help** Your teachers are here to help you and if you don't understand something, ask! Don't be scared to ask questions and if you are scared, do it for your IB diploma. There are chances it won't come up in your exams but don't risk it! You can also ask your classmates and peers for help and help others whenever you can. (\*Remember: respect for learning and respect for others)
- 7. CAS** Try to be apart of as many CAS activities as you can. (but not too many. Remember manage your time wisely.) If you don't already know what CAS is, it stands for Creativity, Action and Service and you need this to get your diploma as well as EE and TOK. Try to do this during your first year (grade 11) So you have more time in your second year to focus on school work and college application. The worst thing that could happen is not getting your diploma because you don't have enough CAS activities.
- 8. Don't freak out** Easier said than done. I know the workload can be overwhelming sometimes and you can't help but panic about not having enough time. You will not fail if you try really hard. Encourage yourself and others. You can do this.
- 9. Don't be too hard on yourself** Of course you would want to aim higher and you definitely should but you might get a lower grade once in a while and don't punish yourself. You're doing a good job. Just keep trying.
- 10. Treat yourself!** Give yourself a break, maybe treat yourself with some sweets after an exam or a test. You earned it and be proud of yourself!

# Behind the Scenes of Student Council

by Sophia Grabowski

To be honest, I first considered joining high school Student Council because I thought that it was tragic that the group that was going to represent the student body was only made up of then 10th, now 11th graders. My class, at that point, was always described as the lazy one, one that would never volunteer for anything. I am not sure if that is the best reason to why one should join Student Council, but I proceeded to run for the role as Secretary. Being the only candidate, I got the job, and am now very close to finishing my term. Throughout the year, I've had many experiences, and to share my insight, here is "Behind the Scenes of Student Council".

## The roles

### President

OIS: Mark Yamamoto

SIS: Meg Nakagawa Hoffmann

Main job: Lead the meetings

### Vice President

OIS: Masami Nagasaka

SIS: Airu Mukaiyama

Main job: Student Congress

### Treasurer

OIS: Anna Kim

SIS: Kotaro Minamiguchi

Main job: keep track of finances

### Secretary

OIS: Sophia Grabowski, new OIS Secretary: Jenifer Menezes!

SIS: Miki Fujito

Main job: write down meeting notes, Cleaning day

### Translator

OIS: Yuto Baba

SIS: Aidan Frater

Main job: translate between English and Japanese for meetings and surveys

### Advisors

Teachers: Mr. Welburn, Mr. Mitsuhashi, Mr. Sheriff

Main job: guide the members

## The meetings

We meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45. We try to finish at 4:30, but especially during times leading up to a major event, it often goes until 6:00 pm. It is led by the OIS and SIS Presidents, who, before the meetings, talk with Mr. Welburn, one of our Student Council Advisors. We mainly discuss and plan topics regarding Sports Day, School Festival, Prom, and all other Student-council led events. We have to make and finalize schedules, posters, and jobs. Meetings are usually taken quite seriously, as there are a lot of things to do. If we have extra time, we try to think of new activities. One of the ultimate goals of the student council is to bring OIS and SIS together. The Student Council is made up of half OIS and half SIS, so I feel like we are at the core of student OIS - SIS relations. On November 11 we came up with the Pocky Day event - students received a certain number or letter, and had to find their match. When they then went to the Student Council base in the courtyard, they re-



ceived a pack of Pocky. Food seemed to be a good motivation for students from both schools to come together.

## Social Media

High School Student Council is very active on Social Media! Our OIS Treasurer, Anna is in charge of it, and will post often concerning events. We are @soishssc on Instagram and Twitter. For Halloween, we had a costume contest, where anyone from High School could post a picture of their costumes with the hashtag #soishsschalloween. Prizes included a Starbucks and Amazon gift card, as well as snacks!

## When the work is done

After big events such as school festival or sports day, we're usually very tired from running around all day. We conclude such days with an uchiage (celebration of successfully completing a project). These can vary from going to eat yakiniku ("grilled meat"), having donuts/ice cream at school, or going to someone's house and ordering pizza. They are always very fun, and a nice way to bond.

This year's Christmas Party will be my last event for Student Council. Although it has been quite time consuming, I am taking a lot out of this experience. Probably one of the biggest surprises for me was how much work really goes into all events. Before joining, I was always quick to complain about certain aspects of events, but I now understand the effort the Student Council puts in to making all activities enjoyable for everyone. Next time during School Festival, Prom, or any other events, why don't you go up to someone from Student Council and thank them for their work? It all makes it worth it :).



### *My Grandfather is in History Textbooks* by Kaya Frese

This summer changed how I approach history. Since exploring my family heritage, I've been able to treat history classes more like a movie. I've developed a more personal connection to the stories and characters in textbooks. How? This summer I learned that, in the late 1940s, my grandfather made an appearance in the Second World War. In fact, my entire family did. Their role in this movie, was the generic German family; one family of millions that were impacted by the war.

My father's eldest brother was sent a book titled, *Famille Frese-Stamel*; research done by a German diplomat (of the Stamel family) that summarizes the intense documentation of the Frese-Stamel lineage in 300 pages. Being a diplomat, he had access to undisclosed documents and typically inaccessible records: birth records, immigration papers, newspaper articles, etc. were amassed and recorded. The book currently remains untranslated from German. Our lineage has been traced as far back as 986 AD to Helyas 'The Swan Knight' von Potenburg; a total of 28 recorded generations.

**Background Information:** As a result of losing the First World War, Germany was burdened by unbearable reparations, restrictions to their military, and loss of vital/industrial territory. Arguably the most controversial term to the Treaty of Versailles, was the "War Guilt Clause"; Germany was forced to take full responsibility for starting the war. The majority of German citizens had not witnessed the devastation of WW1 directly, as most combat had taken place on the French border. In fact, Germany had signed an armistice – a ceasefire – in 1918, believing they were accepting Wilson's 14 Points, few of which were implemented in the Treaty of Versailles. Thus, a number of German voices argued their nation had never been defeated. The severity of the treaty, the "Diktat", which led to feelings of betrayal and vengeance within Germany is a notable cause to WW2. Most importantly, the Nationalistic ideology: Germans for Germany.



Kaya's grandfather is on the far left. Photo courtesy of Kaya Frese.

My grandparents lived in Germany (my grandfather's family is from Hamburg) before immigrating to Canada in 1950; prominently because of the significant economic instability within Germany following the Second World War. A result of nationalistic propaganda, militarism was celebrated; to fight and die for your country was the ultimate sacrifice. In 1939, 46% of the German male population were in the army (an approximation of 13 million men). My grandfather remained in the German army for the entirety of the war; he was the equivalent of a sergeant in the army. He was in charge of the cannons in his regiment and fought on the eastern front against Russia for the majority of the war. In his total time in the war, he was shot once. Despite being in charge of such large weaponry, he did find it necessary to use guns. He said that during his time, he wasn't sure whether he shot or killed anyone; an indication of the treacherous nature of warfare. My grandfather was lucky, he survived 6 years with only a rifle wound; the bullet went straight through his body, in the area between his shoulder and neck. His brother died December 31, 1942 in the Battle of Velikiye Luki in Russia. His remains were identified in 1973 and were buried near the battle site.



Kaya's grandfather is the fifth from the left. Photo courtesy of Kaya Frese.

Just as the majority of Germans were, my grandparents were supporters of Hitler in the beginning of the war. They supported the idea of a greater Germany, the fight for a better life. As my grandfather, his brother, and millions of other men fought for Germany, their wives, sisters, and mothers took over domestic roles that needed to be filled. The capacity for war was thus reliant on loyalty to Hitler. Loyalty could thus be considered one reason as to why censorship was introduced, to maintain and enforce support. My grandfather had very little to no communication with his family during the war effort. Additionally, my grandmother and grandfather were completely unaware of the horrifying actions taken to purge ethnicity, ideology, and religion. Until the war had ended and documents resurfaced, they had no idea that the Nazis were responsible for the millions of deaths in concentration camps.

So that's my family's involvement in brief. As the book remains untranslated, there is still a vast majority of information that I have yet to read. With just the information above, my outlook on history has changed. The battles we study in history suddenly became more personal, just as the details on the way soldiers lived became more interesting. As I learn about the Battle of Stalingrad, I consider my grandfather's possible involvement in any shape or form. As a result, the lesson becomes one chapter of a movie. On my mother's side, my grandfather's brother took part in WW2 in the Japanese military. His involvement I know nothing about, yet knowledge I gain in history class shapes my understanding of his life and the Japanese in general. We are taught to learn objectively and so, until this school year, I never fully grasped the idea that these events did happen to real people. This understanding now shapes the way I absorb information in my history classes. These are the reasons this summer changed the way I approach history.



Kaya's grandfather is the second from the front. Photo courtesy of Kaya Frese.

## TANGO Special Feature: A Focus on Family

### *A Better Love Story* by Yuroo Achit

"It was my last and final year at university in Odessa, Ukraine, when I was assigned to be in charge of showing around the new group of students coming in from Mongolia. Your grandfather came in a skinny little boy with snot dripping from his nose and I had to show him around," says my Grandma when talking about how she met my Grandpa back in college. I honestly think their love story is the best love story out there. It's amazing how my Grandpa was able to get an older woman to fall in love with him when he was just a little freshman straight out of high school. I always laugh when she tells me this because I can never imagine my Grandpa to be that way. He's so strong and carries himself with great power. But of course, it's only because of my Grandma pushing him and encouraging him to be a better person everyday. As well as my Grandpa guiding her through her tough times as well. They both bring different traits to the table and bring out the best in each other. They work so well together that I'd almost call it destiny.

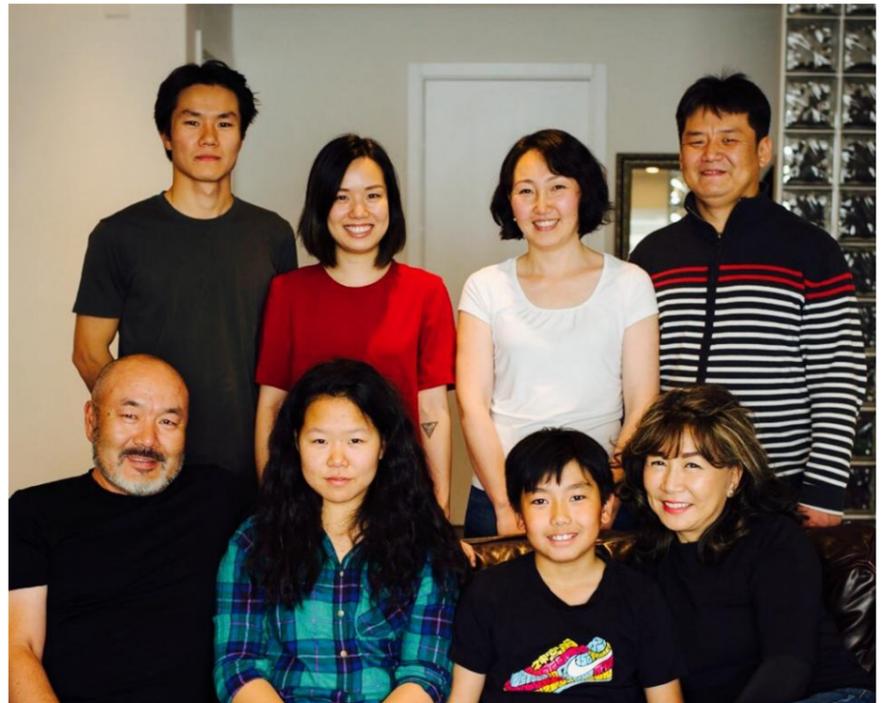


One of my favorite things about them is that they always make time for each other. Grandpa is into the outdoors and rock music whilst Grandma is usually out and about in the city with her sister or working. They both have different interests and hobbies but at the end of the day they always make time for each other and sit together and watch movies. My room is on the top floor and I always smile to myself whenever I hear them laughing together so hard from the first floor. I usually know what they're watching or what the movie or TV show was about, but the day after, Grandma likes to sit down with me for breakfast and tell me about whatever they watched together and about whether she and Grandpa liked it or not. I never say, "I know, I already watched it," instead I like to hear what they thought and how they interpreted it.

I always say to myself, "This is the kind of love I want to have with my husband," whenever I see them doing cute stuff together. Two years ago my Grandpa wanted to purchase an RV from Germany and as a test drive, he took the RV all around Europe. Guess who went with him? Travelling around Europe in a vehicle with the love of your life? Now that's what I call love. This trip lasted for about two months and Grandma's birthday happened to be during the trip. They were in a small motel that funnily enough didn't have a birthday cake or birthday candles. With what they had, my Grandpa had to make-do and I swear it is the cutest thing I've ever seen. He sent me a photo of the exact moment Grandma blew out her candle, and I couldn't stop staring in awe for the longest time.



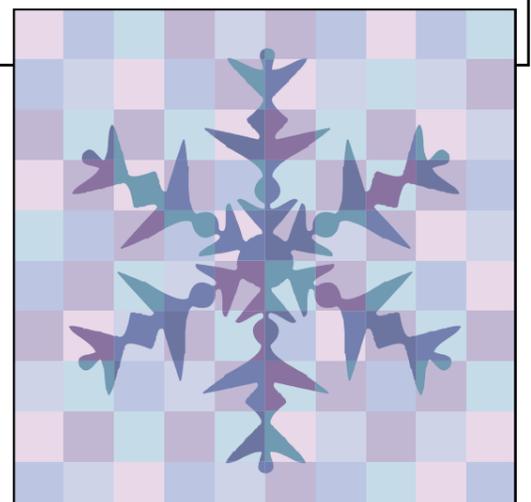
But the main factor that sets their love story apart from all the other clichés is their children, whom I call Dad, Uncle Tamir and Auntie Onon. The three of them are so close and have such a good relationship. I'd say more my aunt and uncle but that's just because they're closer in age while Dad is much older than them. I know so many siblings who drift away from each other especially in their late 20s to early 30s but that is not the case with them. My aunt married her husband 3 months before my uncle married his wife. The four of them are best friends and went on their honeymoon together as a family trip to India and Mexico, which they were later, joined by my Dad and Stepmom in Hong Kong. The fact that all ten of us (Grandma, Grandpa, Dad, Stepmom, little brother, Uncle and his wife, Aunt and her husband, and I) are able to stand each other during trips and work well together shows how much my Grandma and Grandpa worked so hard to make life easier and enjoyable for us. Ever since they first met they both worked so hard to provide the best of the best for their family. My Grandma always says to us, "Our biggest goal in life is that all my children, grandchildren and so on are all happy and live a fulfilling life together." And that's exactly what we're doing, together.



All photos courtesy of Yuroo Achit

Yes, my Grandma and Grandpa have an amazing and romantic love story, but our family makes the story that much more extraordinary.

*Tango wishes you and  
your family all the best  
this holiday season.  
Happy Holidays!*



## Exploring Scottish Cuisine by Tyus Sheriff

*Disclaimer: the author of this article is not Scottish, nor does he fully understand the food culture in Scotland.*

Scotland isn't too well-known for its dishes and delicacies. Before I left for Scotland, I wasn't too sure as to what I would be eating in the coming weeks. However, after my Scottish vacation was up (in which I walked across the West Highland Way and stayed in Glasgow & Edinburgh), I ate enough to consider myself an "expert" of sorts. So, here are just some of the dishes that I enjoyed while in Scotland. (Warning: most of these dishes are rather unhealthy.)

### Haggis



Photo taken by Kim Traynor. Accessed from Wikipedia.

Considered by many to be the national dish of Scotland, haggis is a "savory pudding containing sheep's pluck." (As described by Wikipedia. It's best not to think about what you're eating, while having haggis.) Before I ordered haggis, I honestly didn't know what I was in for. I heard some mixed reviews about the dish; some love it, some hate it. And, although it did taste a bit gamey, I have to say that I very much enjoyed haggis. In fact, I enjoyed it so much that I ordered it on (at least) three other occasions. Haggis can be found anywhere in Scotland—be it in pubs, be it in the highlands, or be it in pizza. It's unavoidable.

### Fish & Chips

Not exclusively Scottish, fish & chips is another favorite in the UK. Unlike haggis, fish & chips can be enjoyed in almost all parts of the world, Japan included. Still, your stay in the UK isn't complete unless you find yourself indulged in a plate of chips (translation: French fries) and deep-fried haddock or cod. Fish & chips can be bought as street-food, or as a fancy dish at a restaurant. Although I wouldn't call it the best food in the UK, it's certainly a signature dish.

### Deep-fried Mars Bars

Yup, you read that correctly. In Texas, you can find deep-fried butter, and in Scotland you can find deep-fried Mars Bars. A bite into the bar, and the ridiculously sweet, warm, and melted inside of the Mars Bar will ooze into your mouth. If you don't like sweet, then this is not the dessert for you. And if you do like sweet, deep-fried Mars Bars changes the definition of sweetness. That is to say, one deep-fried Mars Bar feels like enough sugar for an entire week.

### Steak & Ale pie

The UK is famous for its pies, and steak & ale pie does not disappoint. The pie is usually served with a side of vegetables and/or mashed potatoes. The pie is great on cold, chilly days (which Scotland has a lot of.) Eating this pie, you will find yourself savoring every bite of the tender steak and thick gravy. You may find your table to be a bit messy after eating the pie, with crumbs and flakes of the bread scattered around you. Nonetheless, you will always have regrets about your trip to Scotland, if you don't order this dish.

### The Scottish Breakfast

Photo sourced from [myscottishheart.com](http://myscottishheart.com)

The "Full Scottish Breakfast" varies from location to location. However, the breakfast consists mainly of bacon, sausage, eggs, mushroom, blood pudding (it's not as gory as it sounds), and slices of tomatoes. Although not the healthiest of breakfasts, the option is irresistible when presented to you on the menu. I tried this breakfast multiple times throughout my vacation in Scotland, and it never failed to stuff my stomach fully. Further, the breakfast, as previously mentioned, usually includes tomato slices, which gives one the justification for devouring a plate of haggis for lunch.

### Final thoughts

I may have omitted some authentic dishes in this explanation of Scotland's famous foods. However, as can be seen, Scottish cuisine tends to be rather unhealthy. If you are currently dieting or are planning to diet, perhaps Scotland may not be the ideal location for you. However, if you can brave the cold and tolerate spontaneous rain showers, Scotland would be a wonderful vacation spot. The country is rich in history, and the people there (along with their accents) are truly unique.

## A Trip to Cambridge University by Mia Lewis

The Cambridge Tradition is a summer programme for 16 to 18 year olds organised by the Oxbridge Programmes. It runs for the month of July, where students stay in Jesus College of Cambridge University and take major and minor classes as well as engage in multiple other activities and make friends from around the world. I myself participated in this programme this year (there is a poster near the councillor's office for anyone interested) and it was the best experience of my life. Not only was there a lot of free time to explore and get to know Cambridge, I took a major in International Relations and minor in photojournalism, learning more about the world than I ever thought I would. Even though it was only a month long, the friends I made there felt like I had known them forever and they are some of the best friends I have. Opposite are some photos taken by me in the photojournalism course as well as some by my close friends

Emma Potter and George Lloyd.



Photo by Mia Lewis



Photo by Emma Potter



Photo by Mia Lewis



Photo by Mia Lewis



Photo by George Lloyd

# The Situation in Syria

By Meg Hoffman

While the majority of the world watched in anticipation as the US elections played out, appalling airstrikes continued to exacerbate the starvation of, and physical harm to vulnerable civilians in Syria, Haiti continues to struggle with the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew that killed 1400 people (Al Jazeera) and most recently, a shrine bomb in Pakistan killed more than 52 people, many of those being children. (BBC)

Although the issue of who the next US president will be affects the whole world, there are other issues that should not, under any circumstances, be forgotten or be considered unimportant.

Amongst the many humanitarian crises occurring throughout the world, one that never seems to leave my mind is the conflict in Syria, and since we have all heard enough news about the presidential election, this article is dedicated to an intrepid group of people part of the Syrian Civil Defense, more commonly known as the 'White Helmets'. No, these are not a group of trained soldiers fighting the Assad regime, they are not rebels backed by Western countries, they are a group made up of former bakers, builders, tailors, university students, teachers and carpenters. They are a group of valiant volunteers who sacrifice their lives everyday to save the innocent civilians affected daily by airstrikes. (The Syria Campaign)

In 2014 the UN Security Council passed resolution 2139, officially banning the use of barrel bombs and other indiscriminate weapons, however, they continue to be used to this day. (UN News Center) On a daily basis, more than 50 bombs and mortars land on neighborhoods in the cities of Syria. Rolled out of government helicopters, these bombs are usually rusty barrels filled with nails and other explosives causing extensive damage. The government targets markets, bakeries, and most despicably, hospitals or any medical facilities. Whenever an airstrike hits a neighborhood, the White Helmets are the first to arrive at the scene, knowing full well that they are in danger of yet another attack on the area in which they are doing these rescues. They pull women, men, children, and sometimes even newborn babies out of the rubble. (Mirror UK)

Over the three years since their formation, the White Helmets, have saved over 62,000 lives, and this number continues to increase daily. (WhiteHelmets.org)

Having pledged commitment to the principles of "Humanity, Solidarity, and Impartiality", the White Helmets save people on all sides of the conflict. Although they mainly deal with the aftermath of government airstrikes, they have also risked their lives to save bodies of government soldiers in order to give them a proper burial.

*"When I want to save someone's life I don't care if he's an enemy or a friend. What concerns me is the soul that might die"*

- ABED, THE WHITE HELMETS

(WhiteHelmets.org)

As well as saving lives, the White Helmets deliver public service to nearly 7 million people by doing work such as reconnecting electrical cables, providing safety information to children and securing buildings. The White Helmets are the largest civil society organisation operating in areas outside of government control in Syria. Every day, their actions continue to provide hope for millions.

It is unfortunate that so few people know about the White Helmets, considering their huge contribution to saving Syrian lives and providing hope for them every day.

For years I have been following the crisis in Syria. I've shared posts on Facebook, watched documentaries, and read numerous articles but most importantly, I've been astonished. Astonished by the amazing lack of improvement in the situation. Russia continues to veto cease-fire agreements while the Assad regime is starving, besieging and destroying its people.

Five catastrophic years have passed since the start of the Syrian Civil War, and rather than improving the situation, what started out as peaceful pro-democracy protests have now led to a proxy war between countries such as the US and Russia. On top of that,



politicians and the media have managed to forget what is considered by the UN as "the greatest humanitarian tragedy of our time". It's as if the rest of the world has started to accept the fact that a solution to the situation is currently nowhere in sight, and not only we are accepting it, we are okay with it.

When I hear stories of Angela Merkel being criticised for welcoming refugees into Germany or hear President-elect Donald Trump saying that he will 'ban Muslims from entering the US', it truly agonises me.

Is this how we want to be remembered by future generations? As an egocentric, callous, close-minded population who 'couldn't have been bothered' to care about issues affecting innocent human beings, who shut out what they claim is 'not important to them'? If anything, in times of such dire despair such as right now, we simply must show concern and empathy for countries experiencing a humanitarian disaster.

I encourage you to watch documentaries, read the news and empathise with the people encountering death and tragedy on a daily basis. I encourage you to take a deeper look, beyond what the media might be portraying or not portraying, and see the calamities affecting our brothers and sisters.

If you would like to learn more about the White Helmets or the situation in Syria, there are a few amazing documentaries on Netflix: The White Helmets and Salam Neighbor.



## Sources

- **BBC News** *Pakistan Shah Noorani Shrine Bomb Kills 52* Date Published: 12 November 2016 Date Accessed: 15 November 2016 <http://www.bbc.com/news/37962741>
- **AlJazeera** *Haiti death toll from Hurricane Matthew passes 1,000* Date Published: 10 October 2016 Date Accessed: 15 November 2016 <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/haiti-death-toll-hurricane-matthew-passes-1000-161010042033130.html>
- **The Syria Campaign: Homepage** Date Accessed: 15 November 2016 <https://thesyriacampaign.org/>
- **United Nations Security Council** *Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2139 (2014) to Ease Aid Delivery to Syrians, Provide Relief from 'Chilling Darkness'* Date Published: 22 February 2014 Date Accessed: 15 November 2016 <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11292.doc.htm>
- **Mirror UK** *Stenhouse, Ann Who are the white helmets? Heroes of Syria's brutal war who risk death every day to save innocent lives* Date Published: 16 October 2016 Date Accessed: 15 November 2016 <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/who-white-helmets-heroes-syrias-9059271>
- **The White Helmets: Homepage** Date Accessed: 15 November 2016 <https://www.whitehelmets.org/en>

## *How We Found the last piece*

by Pansy

*This is the continuation of Pansy's mystery story How She Walked Back In in the previous edition of Tango (So check it out!). But even if you haven't read that one, you can still enjoy this mysterious and atmospheric short story.*

"The Midnight Writer," I growled, slamming yet another case file onto the growing pile on the conference table.

Chairs squeaked as heads turned towards me.

"Who?"

"What's he talking about?"

"Geez he's been thinking about that girl again."

I opened my mouth to object before realizing that I did, in fact, just see her. "It doesn't matter. Another person has been killed. The killer's getting messy now. He just dropped the body in front of us."

Declan cleared his throat. "Sir, he's taunting you."

I raised an eyebrow, gesturing him to continue.

"The marks he make on the person were too precise. He'd never do something so sloppy as dropping a body down a building. And,"

A sharp knock interrupted Declan's analysis. A young woman poked her head through the gap in the door and nervously stuttered "sorry for intervening but a note was dropped off at the security. It's say's it's for 'the people in room 727 when it's 3:00'."

It was dead silent.

"I..." Everyone was looking at me for an explanation.

"Alright thank you very much."

Declan cleared his throat. "Sir, an explanation please."

I shook my head. "I'm not sure."

"Read it!" I turned around to see a young man with clenched fists, his hair a ruffled, dirty blonde mess. I frowned—wondering where I had seen him before. Maybe around the office somewhere.

"It says 'a dance between two strangers—opposites on the skill spectrum, one an omniscient queen, one a short sighted pawn. A dance in which you can only follow while

I lead. A dance where you can't do much but to be spun to your death.'"

"So he's a poet. Great," Declan said with an exasperated sigh. "Well now we know that lady friend of yours knows her info."

I rubbed my temples with my fingers, trying to make sense of it. I felt it—the answer, the killer. But one thing was missing. Something that stopped me from seeing the complete picture. I shook my head. "This is getting us nowhere. We'll think about this tomorrow. For now, you are dismissed."

As people filed out of the room, I reached out to grab Declan. "C'mon. We're taking a quick field trip."

And that was how we ended up hiding in the bushes outside of a mansion, in the most uncomfortable position ever might I add.

"So, could you explain why we're here?" Declan asked in a hushed whisper.

"You'll see," I said, pointing him towards the window leading into the living room. "You see that?"

"Uhh"

"That. The picture. Everything in that corner of the room."

"Still don't see the point of this?" Declan looked at me, one eyebrow raised in question.

I sighed. "That's her. That's a framed picture of baby Ly-sandra."

"So? All this proves is that you know where she lives. It shows that your a stalker," he said nudging me playfully with a smirk.

"And next to that is Perlouse, and Ellis, and well pretty much everyone that's been killed."

"Oh. so who's house is this?"

I had already lost myself in a train of thoughts. I remem-

bered the time we snuck in perfectly— running from bush to bush for cover, jamming my feet into small cracks in the seemingly perfect creamy white walls, the feeling of finally reaching the top of the mansion and seeing the whole world pan out in front of my eyes. I remembered the near death experience I had right after a part of the wall paint cracked and left me hanging by a hand; followed by the rush of adrenaline I always got when I went places with her. I still remembered how her cold, rough hands felt when they reached down for me to pull me up—how we sat there and talked after the long climb.

"We sat right there on the ledge," I said, pointing at an edge of the roof. "But at one point, she disappeared. She left saying that she needed to find something."

"And?"

"Look inside. Everything is symmetrical in that corner. Everything but those four hooks on the left wall. What should be there are two swords. Swords that are twins to the one on the right. Look at their lines. So random that no one would know that they were the same pattern, but once someone tells you, you'll see it."

"So maybe he took it down for cleaning?" Declan had no clue where I was going. He never saw the pendant hanging from her neck.

"Now look at the corner. There's a hook. And a light above it shining so it will reflect the most beautiful colors. But only if it was still there." I fished out my phone, scrolling to find a picture of the pendant. "Here, look at this—it's the same pattern."

"So she stole it?"

"She never steals. I think he stole it from her and she's just trying to get it back. I know that. I do."

"This doesn't make a difference unless we know who this house belongs to. Whoever lives here has the pictures of all the dead people and apparently matching swords with you're girlfriend," Declan muttered as he jotted everything down in a notepad.

I took one last look at the mansion. The corner of symmetry, the pictures of all the people killed and dead in the center, the hook for Lysandra's necklace.

I wondered maybe, just maybe, if she stole—not just the priceless artifacts, but lives that could never be returned.

## *What the Doll Tells: A Horror Story* by Aimi Mizuno

A long time before I began attending high school, I went to this horror spot which was famous around my town. There was this rumor about this place and according to that rumor, when you approach this tree that was planted next to a grave you will be able to see a girl who had hanged herself. Since I loved these kinds of rumors, I went to this place by myself without telling anyone. When I approached the horror spot, I was able to find the grave and I looked around to find the tree. When I finally found the tree, I no-

ticed that the rumor was just a rumor. There was a porcelain doll hanging on the branch of the tree. When I pulled off the doll from the branch of the tree it was hanging from, I noticed that the doll had a piece of cloth over it's eyes. When I tried to take the cloth off, I noticed that there was something written in it. It said that if I take off this cloth, the person that I most loved will die. Some people might just laugh about it and take off the cloth. But to me, I started to feel 'something' about that doll so I ran away from that

place, leaving the doll behind. From that day on, many people started to talk about this new rumor about the horror spot. They say that when a person goes inside the horror spot, there is a doll sitting on a grave stone. And from that doll, you can hear whispers, "Take off the cloth". No one knows what is going to happen to that person. There is no way I am going to investigate that rumor.

## Christmas Day

by Freya Kirwan

The familiar tunes boomed from speakers. Did he know the most famous reindeer of all? Yes, he did, he did! It was Rudolf. A minute later the speakers confirmed it. The Christmas tunes were all but drowned to a hum by the buzz of anxious shoppers all bustling to get last minute gifts and cards. Flushed faces and stressed minds, clearance sales and holiday deals; their desperate eyes flickered wearily from one good to the next, picking and over picking.

And yet when the morning came, they would wake laughing, bright and early despite the bite of the frosty morning air. They would wake to presents under the tree, and children, still in their pyjamas, bounding down the stairs. There would be stockings above the fireplace and distant relatives in the evening. Or so he had seen. The streets would be quiet tomorrow. How strange, the boy thought to himself, that the tensions of this night would be forgotten by morning, but then he figured: everything's all right on Christmas day.

The smell of warm cakes and the slight suggestion of spice could just be picked up on the chilly wind. The lights decorated the streets, delicately swathing the streets in a romantic glow. Couples walked arm in arm, children ran alongside their parents. The boy stopped in front of one of the many expansive windows showcasing elaborate decoration, all trying to out do the last. Pushing his nose up to the window, his breath fogged up the glass, his eyes squinting. Inside, the harsh department lights illuminated the tacky decorations, reflecting off cheap tinsel and blown up plastic figures. And yet the unmistakable charm was still there. The stressed shoppers transformed into busy elves, the dejected tree morphed into a magnificent pine tree standing proud and tall in the center. If one listened hard enough, even laughter could be heard over the tinny music.

Leaving the window and stuffing his hands into his jacket pockets, he walked along the streets, huffing clouds of fog. The boy had experienced many a Christmas like this, yet the atmosphere never ceased to excite him. The Christmas he had only experienced through windows. He stopped abruptly: he had arrived home. A home where he would have a clear view of the open sky, to wait for the arrival of Santa, the man he had once heard passing children talk about. He flies across the sky in a reindeer-driven sleigh, they had said, and delivers presents to all those who deserve it. The boy shivered absentmindedly, wrapping his jacket a bit tighter. But for once he didn't mind the biting cold, his eyes still upturned, closed as the first flakes of snow fell.

'Everything's all right on Christmas day.'

The cardboard was clammy with the cold and he had to prise apart the makeshift door of his home. The bridge usually afforded some shelter from the weather, but tonight the wind was driving the snow slantwise into the darkness beneath it. He should move his box, but he felt too tired, too cold and tired, to do so. He closed his eyes. Images of the streets through which he had passed crowded into his mind. Christmas. The smell of the food. And the music. 'Good king Wenceslas looked out ...' Good king. On the feast. All about. It was so cold. Merry Christmas.

The deep snow lay evenly over the riverbank, sparkling in the crisp morning air. The boy's eyes were open, staring blindly into the sky. The snow on his eyelashes did not melt.

## Neptune Eyes

by Manon Raby

*Can Neptune Eyes see Today like a newborn child?*

*The sky shall be veiled by a shade of hope*

*In the hour of the wolf, the clouds will not weep*

*For Neptune Eyes has a beating grenade*

*Neptune Eyes feels emptiness in the mailbox*

*Words lost that could have been exchanged*

*Memories so distant that could have been made*

*But all is okay when you have a beating grenade*

*Neptune Eyes dreams of Whisky Eyes*

*Nights of inaudible shrieks and blood-stained sheets*

*The pay cheque and bottles so deeply in love*

*All must be okay with a beating grenade*

*Neptune Eyes is alone amongst hundreds*

*Alone when the silence is thunderous*

*Alone when the screams are disturbingly quiet*

*All should be okay with a beating grenade*

*Neptune Eyes cannot feel his beating grenade*

*For the watch on his wrist beats like Whisky Eyes' fists*

*Unintended words trickle from his lips*

*Almost as painful as Whisky Eyes' whips*

*Can Neptune Eyes see Tomorrow like a newborn child?*

*For they say that all is okay when you have a beating grenade*

*All must be okay with a beating grenade*

*All should have been okay with a beating grenade*

about himself, having a family and living peacefully. When the man woke up, he was surprised to see this family that he had seen in dream actually in front of him. The young man was overwhelmed and he lived happily ever after.

*Good morning everyone, welcome to The Daylight News. There was another strange death at this city and the citizens are in fear. A young man has died while he was sleeping, but with hand marks made by a young child and a young woman. The police announced that they have also found a black book next to the man. Because of this evidence, the police decided that there is a serial killer involved in this case and are calling citizens to be alarmed.*

## Wish....

by Aimi Mizuno

Once upon a time, there was a young man who didn't have a family. He didn't have any relatives and his parents had died when he was young. One day, the young man found this strange book in the garbage bin. There wasn't a title on the book and the cover of this book was black. When the man flipped the page over, he stopped at a page which said, "Write in your wish." The man wrote in his wish that he wanted a family and closed the book and brought it back home. That night, the man dreamed

# They're Hiding Something!

By Alex "4L13N" Knox

Hello my curious friends, and welcome to the beginning of a new era of truth! This column will serve to reveal truths that the government is hiding from us, no matter how disturbing. We have a lot of ground to cover so without further ado, let's put on our tinfoil hats and dive into the secrets of the Reptilian Elite.

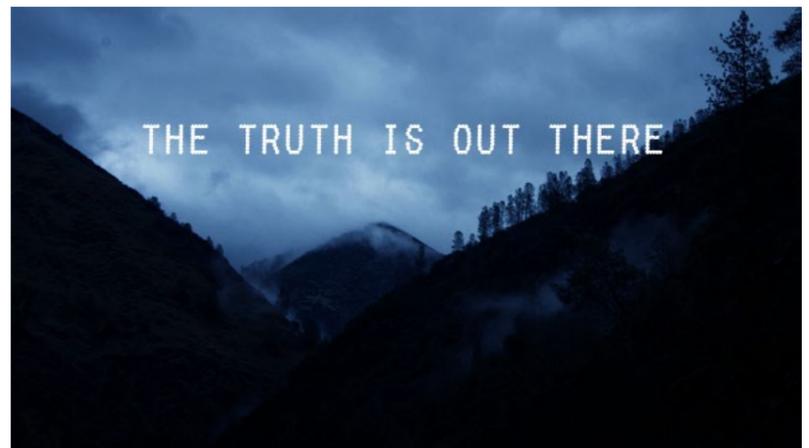
Most of you novice truth seekers are probably aware of secret societies like the Illuminati (which will be covered in a later issue), but the Reptilian Elite is much bigger. In 1998, a former BBC sports reporter named David Icke revealed that all politicians and celebrities are actually bloodthirsty alien shapeshifting reptiles. This makes perfect sense because how else did they get fame and money while my fellow truth seekers and I are stuck hiding in our parent's basements???? Highly suspicious. While we do know that these vile creatures are taking large positions of power within our societies, we don't really know what their goal is. Some believe that they need our gold to stabilize the atmosphere on their own planet, while others think that they simply enjoy living life as rulers. Another theory is that Reptilians are trying to cause human suffering and ensure constant conflict because they consumer negative energy as a source of food. I personally think that the last one makes the most sense. If they just needed gold or to have power, they could go to some other planet. But humans are very emotional beings so Earth would be a prime target for any alien species that need negative energy in order to survive.

Now that you are aware of the motives of our Reptilian overlords, here are some ways to identify them in your daily life. Some general features are that they are

usually Caucasian with piercing eyes that are green, hazel, and sometimes blue, but they can also change color. Since they hide as

humans, it may be hard to tell based on looks alone. Luckily, you can tell based on how they act. Reptilians usually don't express love easily, have a hard time relating emotionally to others, are incredibly smart, and have a love for space and science.

I hope that was enough to help you avoid any Reptilians you may encounter. Good luck, my fellow truth seekers!



## Cruel and Unusual Pun-ishment

by Skye Inada

Warning: I made this article with the sole purpose of making the most horrific puns I could. Please, have some respect for yourself, turn to another page, and read an article by someone else clearly more qualified than me to be writing in this newspaper. However, if you do choose to proceed, good luck. There's nothing I can do for you know if you think an article like this is worth your time.

What's to a pun? In fact, there's a lot more to a pun than you might know. But look a little closer with your real eyes and realize, there's a whole lot of backstory. Sometimes labeled titles like "the lowest form of wordplay," and those who tell them "incorrigible," puns often illicit groans from those who are on the receiving side, and apologies from the punster themselves. Modern society often frowns down on puns, not realizing their fundamental importance to today's culture and civilization as we know it. In the end, it's quite hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

All puns aside, puns trace all the way back to the beginning of writing, Sumerian cuneiform and Egyptian hieroglyphs, the writing systems themselves being based off of punning systems. Some might call this a cunning system, but puns have actually been sourced as the fundamental base of alphabets, writing, and our human civilization. In fact, Jesus himself has been cited as a punster, saying, "Right now you are fishermen, but I will make you fishers OF men!"

My personal favorite type of puns? I like short, easy, and lame. For example, take these amazing pun specimens right here:

"There was a prison break and I saw a man climb up the fence. As he jumped down he sneered at me and I thought, well that's a little condescending."

"What does a nosey pepper do? Get jalapeño business."

"What's the best part about living in Switzerland? Not sure, but the flag is a big plus."

"Why can't a bike stand on its own? It's two tired."

Wonderful. If you've lived here in Japan, for any amount of time, you may have come across what is called a "dajare." For those who hate puns, there jokes are pure evil. In short, they are a type of word play that rely on the similar sounding words in the Japanese language to make a simple, but beautiful pun. These are a few of my favorites:

「アルミ缶の上にあるみかん」

「ニューヨークで入浴」

「A: 大食いのたけし君も、宇宙ではあまり物を食べられないよ。」

B: なぜ?

A: 宇宙には空気(食う気)がない。

More amazing than a May sing (I'm actually sorry for this one).

In the end, what is to a pun? Simple, history, His story, and how he [the kleptomaniac] stole he.

He he.

Skye Inada

# Checking out Akita International University *by Ami Eldridge*

We welcome Ami to Tango's writing team. She recently traveled north to check out Akita International University. While there, she investigated the university for a report in Tango, and interviewed some of the students she met there.

The focus of her investigation was the university from a foreign exchange student's perspective.

## About the School

Akita International University is a four-year liberal arts university that is taught all in English. It is located in a small town in Akita Prefecture of the Tohoku region in Northern Japan. AIU is surrounded by nature—mountains, rice fields, and farms.

The campus is rather small. You would be able to circumnavigate around the campus in 15 minutes. Walking around the campus, you can see many international students talking, laughing, and enjoying themselves.

There are many options for lunch. If students do not want to eat the school cafeteria food, they can always go to the convenience store right across the street from the campus, which is also next to a café.

The most famous part of the campus is the library. This library is not like any other library; this library is shaped as a semi-circle which is why it has won the Best Architecture Award.

International student share a dorm with a Japanese person. This is so the international student will be able to learn about Japanese cultures and customs while they are here.

## Student Life

On their free time, students often like to go on hikes and explore the wilderness. There is a club called the wandervogel club, which is a club that gets together once a month to hike and take pictures. Along with that club, there are many sports club, dance teams, and even Akita's tradition, kanto club. AIU does not have an actual team, but the clubs there travel and compete in tournaments, just like a school team would. The kanto is a spiritual ritual Japanese in this area do to repel the evil spirits. They do this by balancing this large bamboo stick with lantern on them on their body parts.

Other times, the students will go in the city and try eating new food, look more into the Japanese culture, or just generally try new things that can only be done in Japan.

## Interviews

*Students who are studying abroad*

### **Naomi Yocum (Richmond University, United States)**

#### **Why did you decide to go to AIU?**

I decided to go to AIU because I previously lived in Okinawa, Japan and I wanted to go back to Japan. I love this country. I also want to learn more Japanese.

#### **Anything you miss from Richmond?**

I miss my friends and working as a cook at the restaurant on campus. I miss the classes too, surprisingly. Classes here are very easy.

#### **What shocked you the most when you got to AIU?**

I guess how secluded it actually is but I don't mind because the people are so close here. It's a very close-knit community and I appreciate that.

#### **What don't you like about AIU?**

I mean, don't get me wrong, I appreciate easy classes because why wouldn't you want easy classes? But I feel like this school isn't as academically advanced as my school. It's fine though. It doesn't frustrate me or anything. There isn't really anything I dislike about this school. Being in the middle of nowhere would get to me if I actually attended this school all four years, but it's cool since I'm only here for a semester.

#### **What do you like about AIU?**

I love how close everyone is here. If I went to a school in Tokyo I definitely would not have made as many friends. Everyone here is very nice and can relate. Everyone has an interesting background. I love this school. I actually considered transferring here. After realizing that was unrealistic I wanted to extend to a year rather than just a semester. There's something about this school. Everyone here is family.

### **Patrick Horvath (Masarykova Univerzita, Czech Republic)**

#### **What do you like about the school?**

I like the 雰囲気, the atmosphere and how it is in the middle of no where. I love it here!

#### **Why did you decide to come here?**

I looked at other parts of Japan, like Tokyo, but it was quite expensive. I basically came to Akita because it was cheap.

#### **What do you like about Akita?**

It is peaceful and quiet. People from different backgrounds are here so you get to experience a lot of new things. I also love the music and culture here.

#### **What do you not like about here?**

At the same time, I also don't like the fact that it is peaceful and quiet. It gets a bit boring sometimes. I feel like I need a bit more excitement in life.

#### **How do you like the food on campus?**

8/10. I know a lot of foreigners don't like Japanese food, but I love it so the food works for me.

#### **Do you think since it's a small school, there's fewer opportunities compared to a bigger school?**

Yes, I think I'm mostly missing out on meeting many people.

*Student at AIU*

### **Isabella Fujimoto (Tochigi, Japan)**

#### **Why did you decide to come here?**

I wanted to learn English.

#### **What do you like about here?**

You meet people from many different backgrounds and it is a small community so you know everyone. It is always having a close community.

#### **What do you not like about here?**

Nothing is around here, where I'm from, there's a station near by and you can take the train every where.

#### **How do you like the food on campus?**

I mean it's cafeteria food but it's good and easy to buy.



#### **Do you think not having anything around benefits you?**

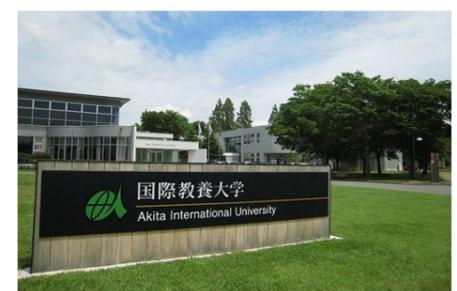
I like how you can really have a bond with nature. It kind of forces you to go out and explore.

#### **Do you think since it's a small school, there's fewer opportunities compared to a bigger school?**

I think there's not enough information to help the students out. For example, information about a job in Tokyo or maybe teams you can play against. Addition to it being small, it is in the middle of no where so there are no universities around which makes it hard to connect and have "rival schools."

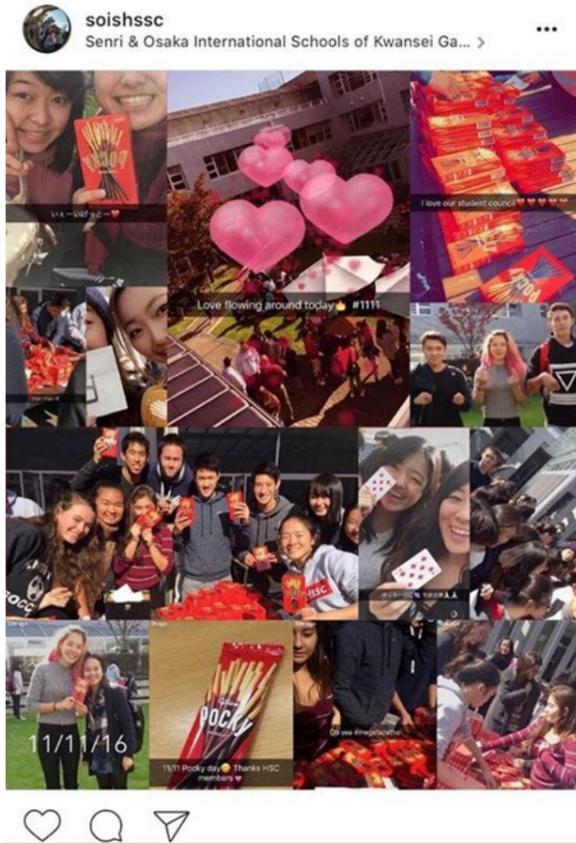
As you can see above from the interviews you can see the diversity and the reason to attend AIU. This is exactly what the school encourages according to the website, "students with an inquisitive mind and a keen interest in the various cultures, languages, histories, and societies of the world, as well as in topics related to international relations such as economy and environment." Having visited the school, and being an international minded high school student, I intend to keep this school in mind for when the time comes for college application.

For further information, look at their official homepage: <http://www.aiu.ac.jp>.



# Share Happy! by Anna Kim

Inspired by Pocky's slogan, “シェアハッピー” , or “Share the Happiness”, the Student Council members were inspired to take advantage of Pocky Day, or November 11<sup>th</sup>, to make OIS and SIS students come together. On the D-day, each student in Middle and High School were given a card with either a number, alphabet, カタカナ, or ひらがな during Short Homeroom. Their mission was to find their partner, who had the same card. After finding each other, the partners received one box of Pocky from the Student Council members during Flex Time. As it was our first time, the Student Council was skeptical about the whole system, but we were extremely glad and satisfied with the results. It seemed as though many had enjoyed the event, and we were able to see some interactions between an OIS and SIS students that had never talked before. Seeing the two schools come together in one courtyard made the Student Council extremely proud to be leaders of this unique school.



# Freegan > Vegan by Mia Lewis

Starting last year June, I decided to go vegan, not for ethical reasons, but simply to see what it would be like. One and a half years later, I am still enjoying the vegan life style. Vegans in general are hated on for being pushy, seeming to hate anyone who isn't vegan. However, I do not agree with this. The vegans who stand out happen to be the ones who will bad mouth anyone who doesn't agree with them, just like anyone else. The worst of the bunch always stand out because they are the minority. However, this stereotype gives vegans a bad ring. Many are just enjoying their life-style and do not mind about others.

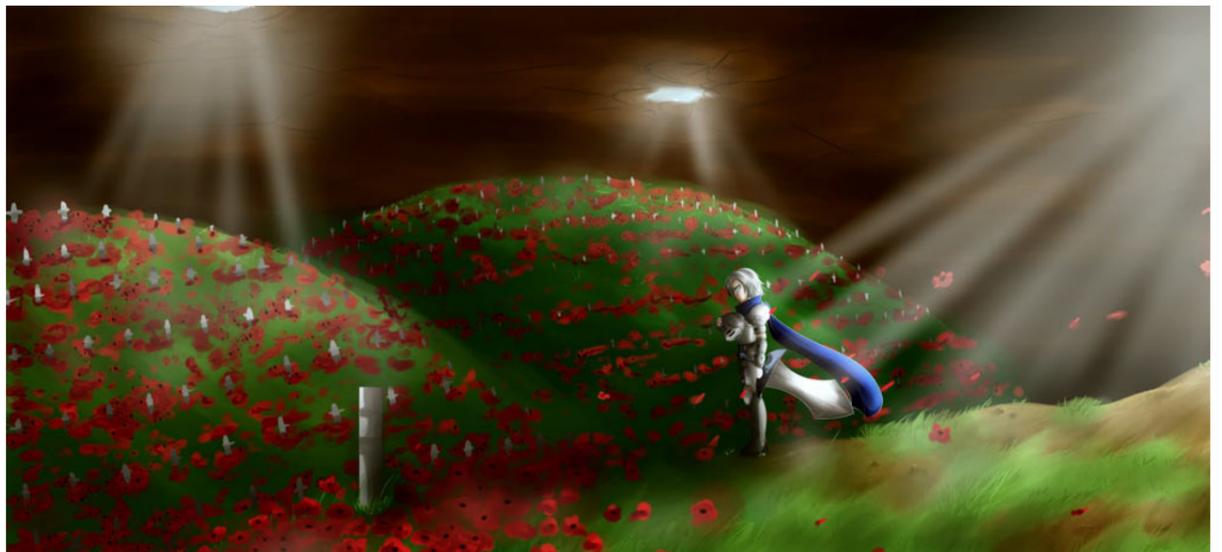
I now know that being vegan is better for the planet, contributes less to global warming as well as saving the life of one animal each day. However, I don't like the term “vegan.” It seems restrictive, giving the impression all I do is eat carrots and lettuce. Hence, I sometimes like to refer to my self as a “freegan.”

I try to stay animal product free most of the time, but that can get difficult especially in Japan. Even if I make meals myself, I'll find that soy sauce has fish stock in it, dairy free ice cream will include eggs, margarine will include whey power or some other discrete animal product. At these times, I believe it is ok to give in. Not only in Japan do you have to read each ingredient, meaning that if you can't read Japanese you have no idea what is vegan and what is not, things that are actually labeled as vegan are often more expensive. On top of that fruit is also expensive compared to other countries. This is where I become a freegan, mostly for my family and others. I can't wimp out on dinner just because the udon noodle soup has some fish stock in it. Sometimes you have to put your health, the basics of eating before your ethical beliefs. In the future I hope to use cruelty free products, eat cruelty free and be 100% vegan. However, right now have some lee-way in my diet, to make sure that I do have something to eat and don't restrict my options too much. I'm not saying that this is the way to be vegan, but I do think it is responsible to eat as much of what you are given and not reject something because of an animal by-product.

# I'm Sorry Picture and extract by Saria Howard

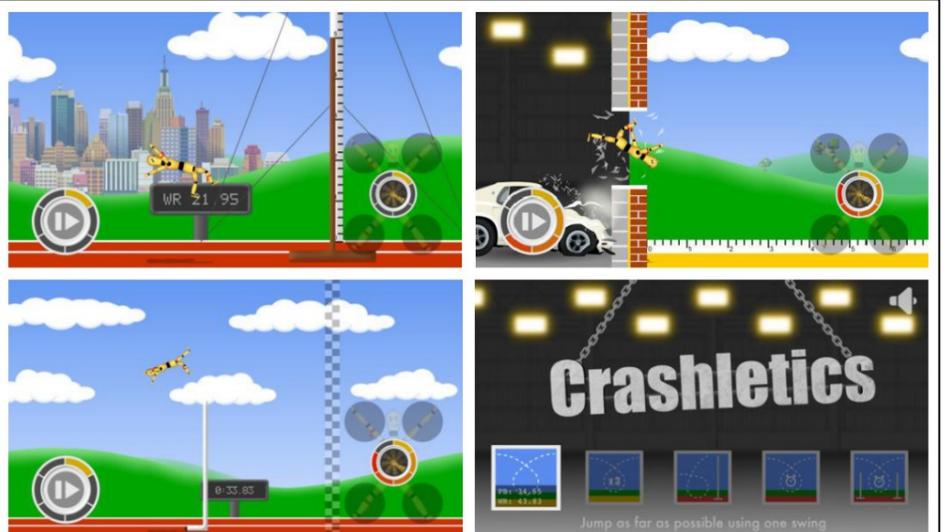
I stood in front of one of the many graves that rested in these caves. To think that these caves that were once my favourite places to explore, had now become the cemetery of the fallen soldiers during these wars. It was the only place safe enough to let them rest. I gripped my sword tightly as the screams of terror and the growls of monsters echoed down the caves. I knew this was the only way to stop the wars.

If only the rest of my family could agree.  
 “I'm sorry”  
 I turned around headed back out, towards the light. I could feel something cold run from my chest to the rest of my body. It was new to me, yet why did it still feel so... familiar? I turned to the north, where the heart of the new kingdom was. To where my final resting place would be. To where my sister waited.



## Crashletics – by Kevin Bertman

Unbuckle your seatbelt, smash through the window and compete in a series of track and field events using momentum and gravity to travel the furthest, highest and quickest. Upgrade your skills by your beating personal best and aim for the world record.





## Recipe by Mia Lewis

### Vegan French Toast

#### Ingredients

- 100 ml of soy milk (or other non dairy milk)
- 50 ml custard (you can use Bird's custard powder, just make it with non-dairy milk! It's 100% vegan)
- 1 tsp cornstarch (SUPER IMPORTANT, this makes it crispy on the outside)
- one super thick slice of bread or two thinner slices)
- any sugar, cinnamon, syrup or other toppings
- sesame oil for cooking

#### Method

Make the custard (follow the instructions on the box)  
 Whisk together the soy milk, custard and cornstarch  
 Microwave the bread for around 20 seconds just to make it soft and warm  
 Soak the bread in the soy milk mixture until most of it is soaked up  
 Add about a teaspoon of sesame oil into a pan and heat it up  
 Add the soaked bread and cook on each side for 2 minutes under a lid, or until golden brown  
 Put on a plate and serve with your favourite toppings!

Enjoy this egg-y, yet cruelty free and delicious breakfast!



Image courtesy of Mia Lewis



## Noah's Garden with Noah Izumi

### Christmassy Plants

The holidays are approaching, with the cold accompanying the festive mood. Although we decorate our houses with Christmas trees, ornaments, candles, and wreaths, there comes the question of what to do with your garden or balcony. There may seem little to no options to work when decorating your garden or balcony, however there are a few plants which are sure to liven up the Christmas spirit.

#### Christmas Cactus



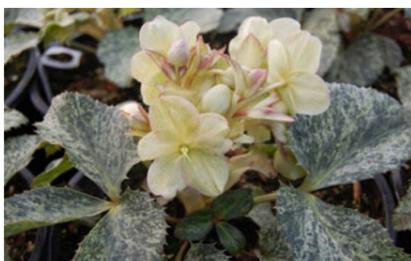
Yes, a "Christmas cactus" exists, weird isn't it?

This species of cactus may seem like a cluster of deformed leaves, however, similar to most other cacti, produce aesthetic flowers which have a tropical look to them. Most popular during the holiday seasons, these cacti bloom flowers with a range of colors including red, violet, and white. Although they are rather easy to grow, it takes a little magic touch to get them to flower.

It is important to keep proper light exposure and temperature, as well as limited watering during the fall months to get the cacti budding. During the day, the Christmas cactus should be placed in a spot where indirect sunlight would shine indoors, however must be kept away from nearby heaters and doors. Once it becomes night, the cactus must be placed in pitch darkness, where no artificial light would be turned on. Temperatures should be kept around 10~12 degrees celsius, with humidity of

about 50~60%. Placing the cactus on a saucer with gravel, filled halfway with water, can be another method of providing enough humidity to the plant. Lastly, the cactus should be watered thoroughly, watered once more when the top-inch of the soil dries, however more sparsely during winter.

#### Christmas Rose



What a coincidence, another plant that has "Christmas" in its name.

The helleborus niger, also known as the Christmas rose, snow rose, or winter rose, is an evergreen perennial growing up to 12~15 inches tall. Unlike most plants, which normally have a plain old green pigment, these plants have shiny, dark green leaves. Unlike most plants, which normally have a plain old green pigment, these plants have shiny, dark green leaves. It is better to plant these plants in partial shade, or preferably under deciduous trees, allowing exposure to sunlight during winter. The soil should be deep, rather than widespread, and should well drained but moist. Being durable and easy to grow, the Christmas rose can easily transform your garden into a festive mood

I personally recommend the helleborus argutifolius 'Snow Fever' which has deep green leaves. However, unlike other Christmas roses, has white and pink speckles that later turn to green and mint in color. It blooms light celadon colored flowers, which bloom from late winter to early spring.

Furthermore, the foliage is tough with spiny edges (not to worry, they don't hurt), which adds to the extra Christmassy air to it.

#### A Legend about the Christmas Rose

The Legend of the Christmas rose is a tale of a little shepherdess named Madelon.

*"As Madelon tended to her sheep one cold and wintry night, Wise Men and shepherds passed by Madelon's snow-covered field bearing gifts for the Christ Child. Following, Madelon saw the Magi present gold, myrrh and frankincense to the baby...even the humble shepherds had brought fruits, honey and doves to give to the babe...but Madelon had nothing, not even a simple flower for the Newborn King. Standing outside the stable where Jesus had been born, poor Madelon wept, wishing that she had a gift she could carry to the infant. A watching Angel, taking pity on Madelon, caused the snow at the feet of the small girl feet to vanish, thus revealing a most beautiful white flower whose petals were tipped with pink, formed by the Angel from the tears which had fallen from the eyes of the little shepherdess. Overjoyed, Madelon presented her gift at the manger of the baby Jesus...her gift of the Christmas Rose."*

The Christmas rose was traditionally planted by the door, in a way to welcome Christ into the house.

#### Sources

Christmas Cactus Image

Coxhead, Peter. "File:Cactus De Noël Rev.jpg." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 29 Oct. 2011. Web. 17 Nov. 2016. <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schlumbergera#/media/File:Cactus\\_de\\_noël\\_rev.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schlumbergera#/media/File:Cactus_de_noël_rev.jpg)>.

Christmas Rose Image

"Hellebores Bring Sparkle to Winter Shade." *North Haven Gardens*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Nov. 2016. <<http://nhg.typepad.com/north-haven-gardens/2014/10/hellebores-the-solution-for-winter-shade-so-many-of-us-need-that-plant-that-blooms-has-beautiful-leaves-doesnt-disappe.html>>.

Christmas Rose Story

"Christmas Rose." *Christmas Rose. Novareinna*, n.d. Web. 08 Dec. 2016. <<http://www.novareinna.com/festive/rose.html>>.

# Word Origins

With Keri Howard



The topic this time is the same as what I did on the last edition. If anyone remembers, last time I wrote about the origins of nightmare, nice, corridor, origin, and the name Ethan. In this edition I will tell you the origins of a few words and also two expressions. There will also be a special word at some point. To find it out you will need to read this article.

The word that I will introduce first is "Clue". You may have heard a story about a man who used a ball of thread to exit a labyrinth. That is where this word originated. It began with the word clew from the Medieval period, which meant a ball of thread. In classical mythology, Theseus was put in the Labyrinth of Minos with a clew and he used the ball of thread to solve the way to the exit. That is why clue means something that will lead to the solution.

Coming next is the origin for the word "Coconut". Yes, this is the fruit coconut that people eat also kills many humans. So, what is the origin for this amazing fruit? Some Spanish and Portuguese explorers were the ones to find this fruit. To them the three holes looked like a human face, which it kind of does. That is why they used "coco" which means grinning face and named the fruit coconut (I don't think that it looks like a grinning face but that's its origin).

Next will be KitKat, and that is the special word that I have for this edition. You didn't see this coming did you. And you probably didn't notice but by connecting the words of the first word of the first paragraph, the second word of the second paragraph, and so one it says, "The word is KitKat." But anyways let's go to the origin of this word. The actual origin for the name of our favourite chocolate snack is unknown.

It is said, however, that there was some influence from the KitKat Club of 1920. This KitKat Club is a nightclub in the 1990s. This is all that there is about the origin of the name KitKat, so I'll leave you pondering about it.

Now I will be talking about the etymology of expressions. The first expression I have here is "to give a cold shoulder". This means to ignore or being unwelcoming to someone. I thought that this origin was interesting and hopefully you do to. This originated from the Medieval period when people gave people shoulder meat to say politely, leave. I thought this was interesting because unless someone says the part of the meat I would never know if it was a shoulder or not. Just thinking that I thought how different people were.

The last word/ expression is "to rub the wrong way". This means to bother or annoy someone. This too I thought was interesting, or more hilarious when I imagine what it would be like. The origin is from servants not washing the floorboards the right way, which is wiping it with a dry cloth after a wet cloth. This would annoy the owner and that is how "to rub the wrong way" came to existence.

Hopefully this was as interesting as the last one (the last one might not have been interesting but let's just say it was). I'm starting to lose ideas of words, but this will probably continue to the next edition.

#### Sources:

"14 Expressions with Crazy Origins That You Would Never Have Guessed." Grammarly Blog. N.p., 29 Aug. 2016. Web. 08 Dec. 2016. <<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/14-expressions-with-crazy-origins-that-you-would-never-have-guessed/>>.

"The History of Kit Kat." Nestlé Professional The History of Kit Kat. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 Dec. 2016. <[https://www.nestleprofessional.com/uk/en/SiteArticles/Pages/History\\_of\\_KitKat.aspx?UriReferrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.co.jp%2F](https://www.nestleprofessional.com/uk/en/SiteArticles/Pages/History_of_KitKat.aspx?UriReferrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.co.jp%2F)>.

"KitKatClub." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 08 Dec. 2016. <<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/KitKatClub>>.

"Ten Unusual Etymologies - Listverse." Listverse. N.p., 18 June 2014. Web. 08 Dec. 2016. <<http://listverse.com/2013/03/26/ten-unusual-etymologies/>>.

"Word Origins And Interesting Facts." Learn To Read. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 Dec. 2016. <<http://www.learn-to-read-prince-george.com/word-origins.html>>.



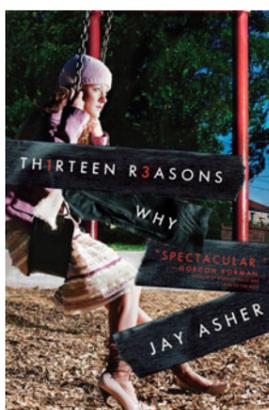
# Book Reviews

## *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher

Reviewed by Sarah Kitamura

Now that I was finally able read the book *Thirteen Reasons Why*, I have something to say about it. I've read nothing but good thing about this book and let me tell you, those people were completely right.

Although this story is told in the perspective of Clay Jensen, it's mostly about Hannah Baker—a girl he had crush on since forever but never had the guts to tell her. And now he'll never get to because she took her own life



After her death, Clay finds a box full of seven cassette tapes on which she explains thirteen reasons why she killed herself. And he is one of them. But how could Clay be responsible for her death? What did he do? He'll just have to listen to the tapes to find out.

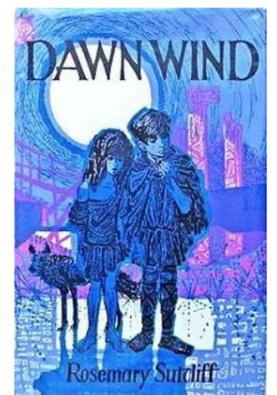
One word to describe this book? Just wow. I've teared up, then gasped, then teared up again. This was one of those books that did not fail to make me emotional. The story contains tons of emotion—intense and raw. The narration goes back and forth between Clay, what he was doing and how he was thinking, and the tapes. Personally, this was a great way to build up the suspense and to pace the story. I was hooked from the beginning. There were no embellishments or glorifications, it was just realistic. When hearing her tapes, it really made me realize that no matter how small our actions are, it can create a whirlpool of effects on people. This book, I believe, should be rated a 4 out of 5, because though the end was a bit upsetting, it was also a mesmerizing story. I would love to read it again, and I definitely recommend this for people who like getting emotional when reading.

## *Dawn Wind* by Rosemary Sutcliff

Reviewed by Dave Algie

When I was a student at high school, I loved reading adventure stories by Rosemary Sutcliff. She wrote stories set at different times in history and I always used to like reading them and imagining what life would have been like back in the old days.

One day a few months ago I was feeling quite nostalgic and thought I would try re-reading one of those Rosemary Sutcliff books I had read as a kid. I chose *Dawn Wind* and bought it on Kindle. I chose this one because I didn't remember it as well as the other Rosemary Sutcliff books I had read.



In this novel, Owain is a British boy who loses everything in when Saxon invaders conquer his homeland. In the ruins of the city he meets and forms a friendship with a young girl and together they face great challenges and heartaches, twists and turns.

One good thing about this book is that it is really unpredictable. I couldn't remember the story, having not read it for thirty years, and I must say I was surprised by the way things turn out for Owain.

Another enjoyable aspect of Sutcliff's writing is the way she writes about characters and relationships in a way that makes them seem believable and real.

But re-reading this novel much later in my life I found one weakness in Sutcliff's writing. There is very little humor or laughter in the story, or if it is it is really subdued. These days I prefer to read novels that have at least a dash of humor in them.

# Talking TOK

with Dave Algie



The holiday season is all about celebration. As we come to the end of a fun but challenging calendar year here at SOIS, there is so much to enjoy, savor and relive in the memories

of good things that happened to us in 2016. One thing that I would like to celebrate is the great work done by my senior TOK class in their spoken presentations. From October into November, each student got up in front of the class and gave a seminar style presentation exploring a knowledge question.

What is a knowledge question? Well, they are questions about how we go about deciding what's true, gaining information and establishing conclusions.

In economics, I understand, economists are interested in the relationship between supply, demand and prices. A TOK student studying econ with Mr. Frater might come up with a knowledge question connected to this, something like, "How do economists understand the relationships between different elements in an economy?" This knowledge question could even be broadened further by stepping back and considering other disciplines as well. The knowledge question could be altered to ask, "How do we understand relationships between different elements in a system?" Then a student who was studying economics with Mr. Frater and biology with Mr. Stone could compare how economists and biologists went about establishing connections in similar or different ways. A lot to do in a 10 minute speech, for sure!

As I have already intimated, I thought the seniors did a good job this year. It was great to hear such thought provoking discussions on knowledge questions like, "How can we use data to make judgments about the education system?", "To what extent can mathematics be used as a tool to understand nature?" and "How can we ascertain who is responsible for an event". The seniors put a lot of work –and a lot of thought– into their presentations. I'd like to congratulate them on their thoughtfulness over this past year. And I'd like to wish them, and all Tango readers a very happy holiday season.



## Tango Team

President: Sophia Grabowski  
 Vice Presidents: Mio Okuda  
 Airi Wakasa  
 Editor: Dave Algie  
 Layout Advisor: Paul Sommer

### The Tango team:

Mia Lewis	Masami Nagasaka
Manon Raby	Tyus Sheriff
Anna Kim	Chie Sakano
Shoko Yamaji	Aimi Mizuno
Noah Izumi	Kaya Frese
Keri Howard	Yuroo Achit
Yuki Sutton	Pansy
Taizo Heimer	Skye Inada
Meg Hoffman	Sarah Kitamura
Tasuku Azuma	Ami Eldridge
Nicole Yoo	Tuvshinjargal Battogoo
Felishia	Hannah Kanada

### The "Tapdance" Team:

Rena Kawasaki	Mary Yang
Miina Ozaki	Tomoka Matsushima

### Special contributions were made to this edition by:

Leo Roberts	Kevin Bertman	Nanami Hasegawa
Saria Howard	Emma Potter	George Lloyd
Ora Okazaki	Ahn Ri Lee	Nao Ijichi

### Special thanks to:

Melissa Lamug	Peter Heimer	Mike McGill
Kevin Bertman	Derek Entwistle	Chisato Suga
Nanami Hasegawa	Leo Roberts	Steve Sheriff
Mune Sagara		

## Dear Abby...

Hi, I want to ask a question I feel like I've actually had for a long time. Yesterday I was hanging out with some of my best friends from school that I spend most of my time with. We were shopping for random things like we always do and went into one of our favorite shops. Well, it was a favorite for my other friends, not me, but I always acted like I really liked the shop anyway because I didn't want to ruin the fun. They found a shirt and suggested that we all buy the same shirt together so we could wear matching outfits to school. I didn't especially like the shirt, and I didn't have much money to spend yesterday so I wasn't for it, but I felt like I really had to buy it or else they would see me as someone who wasn't really in the group, or someone who spoiled the fun. Sometimes I think that if I don't buy the same things they do, and like the things they do, I might slowly drift apart from them. It might just be a passing feeling, but I've been feeling like this a lot these days, also when I'm not up to go somewhere with them but I force myself to go. If they know a lot about a certain magazine or TV show, I'll check them even though I don't have much interest in it. I know that this might not seem like much trouble, but I want to know if this is normal and people feel like this all the time. Can you give me any advice on whether I should keep going like this, or should I always be doing only what I'm actually into or interested in?

## Pressured in Hattori

## Dear Pressured

Yes of course, what you are experiencing is normal. As we grow and develop in middle and high school, we are finding our identity. We have our own distinct likes and dislikes and that is what makes us unique as an individual. But also, we want to be liked and accepted by peers, so we also want to belong and be like them. Finding that balance may be a challenge, but it is important to work on it because the process will help you determine your real self, the one that you will live with for the rest of your life.

Do not give up on the things that you want to do and the things you are interested in. But I think, at the same time, also share some common interests with friends because that is how you spend time and bond with them. You do it also so that you get to know them better. You can be a supportive friend, and they will also be supportive of you, and your interests. I think people can grow from these exchanges.

My bottom line always is, to gauge a friendship, you must feel that you become a better person from the relationship. If you are losing yourself in the process, or becoming someone you are not, then it isn't a good friendship. But if you are enjoying the company, finding yourself, liking yourself more because the friendship affirms who you are, then it is definitely a good relationship and you should nourish and keep it. At the same time, try to be that kind of a friend to others too!

Ganbatte!

Abby

# SOIS Sports Day 2016



Photos by Dave Algje

# Tapdance Elementary News

## 6th Grade

by Rena Kawasaki

What you will do when you are grade six

When you hear the term grade six, I bet your first impression is a lot of homework. Yes in reality, there is a lot of homework! But, for those who are going to cram school, you are lucky this time! Because of all the homework, you are getting trained to be sustainable for grade 6. People who do homework properly also have a heads start on grade 6 as well!

People tend to think, Grade 6= freedom. But there are disadvantages to everything and in this case, its the responsibility. Yes, we have about 2 hour free time, but it is your responsibility to do make ups(when you forget something or don't come to PE, you get make ups where you have to pedal bicycles 20 minutes non stop for each one) or else you have about 1 hour of make ups. (I'm not kidding)

I wish you all good luck in grade 6 and in the following years as well.

## Elementary

### E-Waste Assembly

By Mary Yang

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the elementary had an assembly on e-waste. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students presented their knowledge and their learning in a skit. The skit was about 2 minutes long, and the 5th graders worked hard to make it interesting for the younger kids, but not too funny so that they would lose their audience. The younger kids (and the other 5th graders) enjoyed their skit. The 5th graders were glad that their skit turned out well!

### We're looking for new Tapdance Reporters!

Are you an elementary student? Would you like to write articles about Elementary School events for *Tango* magazine? If the answer is "yes", please come and have a chat with Mr. Algje in Room 336.

## Tapdance Manga

By Mary Yang



## Sabers "Sports Shorts"

### Coach Heimer, AD

Sabers Athletics Facebook page: Check it out.

<https://www.facebook.com/soissabers>



Got jacket? Now on sale @business office.

#### Shout Outs

- Thank you again and again, super SSC members: simply the best. *Who are we?!*
- Sabers TV superstars: Great shows so far. More fun in 2017. Have a はるはる Happy Holiday!
- Kirara, Cocona, and Airi: Thank you, basketball managers, for your smiley help. The gym looks better than it ever has! Admiringly, Coach Routh and Coach Heimer
- Coach Routh: We promise to box out better and keep our hands up on defense. Love, Leslie, Hiroya, Tommy, Mark, and Tye
- Dear Walter Lee Younger: Don't give up on your "dream deferred". Respectfully, Misaki, Akane, and Tommy.

#### Sabers "in the bleachers"

Question of the week: What Sabers Christmas present do you want from Santa?

- Coach Routh: "A second home-court AISA basketball championship."
- Aki, Leo, Leslie, Hiroya, Tommy, Teru: "2016-17 back-to-back AISA championships in 2 sports."
- Leo and Hiroto and Suono and Ami: "A year-long Sabers soccer season (and a full-size pitch to boot)."
- Keita, Tye, Hijiri: "A smooth one-motion jump shot with 48-degree trajectory and lots of backspin, just like Coach Heimer's shot."
- Sabers badminton players: "A coach and a court."
- Detroit Lions: "More luck."





# Sabers Sports



## 2016 Volleyball

by Hannah Kanada and Felishia

The 2016 volleyball season was a successful one for both the boys and the girls with the boys coming out victorious at AISA and the girls finishing in third place.

Upon speaking to the OIS seniors of the boy's varsity team, they all summed up their last volleyball season with the one word: 'seaweed'. You are probably wondering "why seaweed?" but to the team, it was a motivational word:

"So we lost the finals and the finals of this season tournament. We realised that what we really needed the most was to be enthusiastic when we play. In Japanese 'nori' means high spirits, and for us to win we had to be in high spirits. But 'nori' also means seaweed so we started saying the word seaweed to mess with people."-Leo Roberts and Leslie Tokai

**'Working hard, loving what you do, and believing in each other and yourself is the path to success.'**-Kento Moriguchi, Grade 12



The girls had a different outlook to their volleyball season. Two SIS seniors, Sayaka Kishita and Leona Benfield, agreed that it was a challenging season with some of the stronger members graduated and disagreements about strategy and play but their final year of high school volleyball was an enjoyable experience with many memories made. Their advice for next year's team was simply: 'Ganbare!' and they look forward to hear of their successes next year.



Good luck to all high school students participating in the next basketball season!

## A Busy Final Weekend in 2016 Sabers Sport

by Dave Algie

The weekend of December 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> was a busy one for Sabers high school sport. Mr. Heimer and Mr. Routh accompanied the high school basketball team to CA to participate in the WJAA tournament there. Meanwhile, under the watchful organizational eye of Mitsuhashi sensei, the WJAA girls basketball team was held here at SOIS. To add to the excitement, the Sabers swimmers were away in Tokyo at ASIJ.



The Sabers boys basketball team came fourth at CA. The season is not over for them yet and its fair to say they are looking forward to AISA next year. Boys team captain Leo Roberts said the team was yet to reach their potential this season. The seniors recently bid a bittersweet farewell to Daini training gym at their last practice there.

The Sabers girls basketball played well to achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Coach Sagara said that the girls showed a lot of fighting spirit. He singled out Rio Kurosaki (SIS Senior),



Girls basketball photos by Mr. Algie



Nanako Ogura (SIS 11) and Ayaka Nishi (SIS 11) as having been players of the tournament.

The Sabers swimmers competed well at ASIJ to take second place. SIS Grade 10 Natsumi Takeda won three of four events including probably the most difficult event the 200 m individual medley, along with 400 m front crawl and the mixed 200m front crawl relay (along with Nanami Hariguchi, Koki Takine and Fumiya Okabe). She came second in her fourth event which was the 200 m medley relay (along with Julia Torieda, Hanako Uchida and Nanami Hariguchi).



OIS Grade 8 Yoshi Kamegai easily won the 100 m backstroke and came third in the 100m front crawl.

Well done to the teams, and to all Sabers teams who have represented our school over the course of this year.

Goooooo Sabers in 2017!



Swimming photos by Mr. Bertman