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Cambodia Volunteer Trip



When I heard that there was a volunteering trip during summer, I was so excited that I signed up immediately. This is because I really like to help others and I am interested in south east Asian culture. The two things which I really liked were building the house and Angkor Wat.

First, I liked building a house and toilet for the villagers because I am very interested in building things. I learned some things I had never known before. For instance, when we were building a toilet, it was the first time I finally knew how to make concrete. We helped the workers mix it. Also, I was tremendously impressed by how the villagers made good use of the natural materials near them. Although I have been to a variety of places in Taiwan, none of the people there use wood or bamboo as their main building material. However, all of the houses in Cambodia use bamboo and they are more beautiful than buildings that use concrete.



The well-known world heritage site, Angkor Wat, is the other reason why I loved the trip. I always heard from my friends that Angkor Wat is really worth visiting. After this trip, I clearly understand why. The whole palace was so spectacular that everyone was continuously taking photos to seize this amazing moment. What's more interesting, each of us brought a primary school student with us on the trip. We even drew pictures of some famous spots of Angkor Wat and gave them to each other. I could tell that the little





girl was full of excitement when we were heading to Angkor wat. According to the local guide, most of the children had never left the village their whole life.

I enjoyed the trip to Cambodia to improve the locals' lives. Whenever I saw a smile on their face, I could totally understand what “a sense of achievement” felt like. I really appreciate this opportunity to help more people in this world, and I hope I can help more people to make their lives better.



By 209班 林宇璿

The Volunteering Work in Cambodia

This summer vacation I traveled to Cambodia for volunteer work. Before setting off I thought Cambodia was a hot, dirty, and underdeveloped country, but when I arrived there, I discovered the city was as vibrant as Taipei. Sometimes the temperature in Cambodia was even lower than that of Taiwan. I was very surprised at everything I saw in Cambodia. It is starkly different from what I had imagined.

However, there were many poor people in need of our help. For instance, we helped a family build their house, and they treated us to two bottles of cola. Two bottles of cola may not be much to us, but it cost them half of their daily living expenses. After the house was completed, we had a family visit with the owner. We found something that we could not believe. The hostess makes baskets and sells them for a living. One basket took her two days to make, but the maker could earn merely US \$0.25 from it. How low their salary was compared to the comfortable lives we live.



Cambodia, A Place That Influences My Life

Speaking of Cambodia, what first comes into your mind? The scary temperature? Angkor Wat? Extreme poverty? After I joined the volunteer service to Cambodia, I realized that Cambodia is a beautiful country with a pure blue sky, a friendly place with cute children, and a place where people are satisfied with what they own even if their material life isn't abundant.

Wearing a hat and sleeves, and putting on a huge amount of suntan lotion, we arrived at the small village after riding on a small bus for forty minutes from Siem Reap. Under the instruction of the local craftsmen, we helped to build a new house for one of the villagers. We use hammers and nails to form bamboo sticks into the frame of four walls. Though it seemed to be an easy work, the nail under my hammer often bent because of my awkwardness. The next part of work was far easier for me, using nails and metal wire to tie the frame together with palm leaves. We did the work with people standing on both sides, one puncturing the leaves, the other putting the wire across the bamboo sticks. With great team work, we had it done with great efficiency. I couldn't believe that I have the ability to build a house for others, but when the craftsmen composed the four walls we made into a stilt house, I suddenly realized that with the bravery to step out of my comfort zone, nothing is impossible.



There was one thing that truly amazed me. A species of big rats are raised by APOPO, an international non-profit organization, to locate landmines underground. During the war between Cambodia and Vietnam, many landmines were buried, and killed many people. After the war, nobody dug them out. So APOPO helps Cambodia find those landmines and dig them out. We also saw some landmine victims in the night market. They hoped that we could donate some money to them. Some of them lost hands and some of them had their legs injured, but they still made every effort to earn a living. The setbacks we meet are nothing compared to them, so we can't be defeated by every trouble we meet. Looking on the bright side, we will find that the world is beautiful.

Another event I was impressed by was bringing elementary school students on a field trip to Angkor, the most popular tourist attraction in Cambodia. The Cambodians can visit Angkor for free, but many children have never been there because they can't afford the fare and the high cost of the food in Angkor. Every child we brought to Angkor was very excited and happy. We stayed all day in Angkor with children, drew, took photos, and played games. It never occurred to me that I could get along with them happily without an interpreter. I also learned a very important lesson from them: Smiling is the best expression in the world.

The journey to Cambodia was very significant and helpful to me. I learned that many people around the world don't even have enough food to eat, clean water to drink, and are deprived of opportunities to learn. That's why we must cherish what we have now and do whatever we can to help those in need.



By 108 班 蘇恩萱

We talked to the owner of the house we built, and understood that because the price of uniforms and tuition fee is too high for most Cambodian families, although she hopes her one-year-old daughter can receive a college education in the future, she believes it's just a dream which won't come true. To bring Cambodian children a different educational experience, on this volunteer service, we also prepared classes about science, culture, art, and health education when we were in Taiwan. I'm one of the teammates of the culture team, and we tried to introduce our Dragon Boat Festival by telling the story of Qu Yuan and making rice dumpling shaped ornaments with red tassels. When we were preparing the class, we surprisingly discovered that people in Cambodia also eat rice dumplings, but they eat them on "Pchum Ben," a day similar to "Tomb Sweeping Day" in Chinese culture. Although we couldn't communicate with the children with words, I could clearly see their eyes light up when we are explaining our culture. When we asked them to share their experiences with rice dumplings, their interaction with us was so impressive that I believe they were really enjoying the class. Do I have the same passion for learning as they? I hope I can always remember the feeling in Cambodia, and most importantly, always cherish the opportunities to receive education I have.

Visiting Cambodia, the magnificent view of Angkor Wat is absolutely a must-see. After several days of teaching the Cambodian children, we came back to their school and took them to Angkor Wat to get a deeper understanding of their culture. Different from tourists, we walked hand in hand with our Cambodian buddies, watching the beautiful



historical sites. We climbed on the wonderful bricks and sketched the scenery together from the majestic architecture. In my sketch, I

drew my Cambodian buddy with her cute pink rabbit hat in front of Angkor Wat. In a short period of time after lunch, we played with frangipani grown next to a temple in Angkor Wat. The girls loved to put frangipani on their hair as decoration. We also played a game in which we poked one another for fun. Between us, there were no words, but we were still full of laughter. At the end of our visit, we exchanged our sketches as gifts for one another. At the sight of red tassels on her bag, I was so touched and I thought we really did something that may influence their future.

After eight days in the foreign country, I discovered that the way to create happiness is really simple. We don't need the assistance of high technology; all we need is a caring heart. I think that I grew a lot and became a better person who is more willing to deliver my own concern to those in need.



By 105 班 隋尚斌

Playing Cards



I have lots of hobbies, such as playing video games, listening to music, playing basketball, and so on, but among all these hobbies, I like playing cards the most.

I think playing cards is an absorbing activity. I often play cards with my classmates in our free time. We can play from morning to evening. We are all exhausted but contented. The reasons why I like playing cards so much are as follows. First, I feel relaxed while playing cards. Second, it contains numerous variations. It is practically impossible to have the exact same card combination in two different games. The most important thing is that people can have a closer relationship through playing cards. Unlike playing cellphone or computer games, people can talk and laugh together while playing cards. On the other hand, when people play games on their cellphones, they just look at the screen intently without saying a word. In my opinion, interaction with others is what makes an activity fun. That's why I prefer playing cards rather than playing cellphones games.

We can also learn important life lessons from playing cards. No matter how awful your cards are, you'll have to try your best to finish the game. Just as cards one gets in each match are not predictable, so life is full of uncertainties. This teaches us that when we are faced with predicaments, no matter how difficult the situation is, we have to go all out to resolve the situation instead of surrendering or giving up.

In summary, I think playing cards is an intriguing activity. We can not only have fun but also learn something from it. I hope that everyone can give it a try. It is worth it.



By 107 班 郭宇恆

Paper-Bridge Competition

This semester, I saw a paper bridge building competition on the school website. It was called the Science Fun Competition held by Yuan T. Lee Foundation Science Education for All. In order to win, contestants have to make a paper bridge that can hold the most weight possible. I thought that it would be a lot of fun. My physics teacher encouraged us to take part in the contest by saying science is experienced through trial and error and experimentation rather than through descriptions in the books. Therefore, I decided to sign up for this competition with my two fellow classmates, Ethan and Jackson. We planned to take advantage of a four-day Moon Festival holiday, and dove into the exploration of the mystery of bridge-building.



On that day, we three met at a nice cafe to make our paper bridge. First we researched a lot of information and discussed which kind of bridge we should make. We planned to construct a suspension bridge at the beginning, but I found that a single-log bridge may be sturdier, so at last we decided to make a single-log bridge. Once we made our decision we quickly began. We were restricted to using only twenty sheets of paper, which was a big challenge. We rolled the paper diagonally so that it would be firm in the middle. Ethan is good at rolling paper, so many paper rolls were made by him. Jackson and I then assembled paper rolls to form the main framework of the bridge. After about three laborious hours, we finally completed our construction and we were all exhausted.

However, because of humidity, our paper bridge became damp

over night and was unable to hold too much weight. What's worse, we were running out of time. As we worried, many classmates got the flu and according to our school regulation, the class was required to be suspended for a few days to stop the spread of the flu. Thus, we were given extra time before the deadline to redesign our bridge. This time, we made an even sturdier one by strengthening both the internal and external structure. After we made every possible effort, our bridge was able to bear four point nine kilograms, which awarded us an honorable mention in the competition.

It was unbelievable that we were able use paper to build a bridge. It was an extremely interesting eye-opening experience and I obtained so much Physics knowledge from this competition. I also discovered that Ethan has nimble fingers. Most important of all, I found that teamwork is essential, and with cooperation, any task can be completed promptly and exceptionally. Therefore, joining this sort of competition is beneficial and meaningful to me. I will try my utmost to participate in similar future science competitions.



By 107 班 戴銘辰



The IDEA In-Depth Exploration



Getting to high school also means we're going to take on more responsibilities and bear more pressure. In order to train us to adapt to the coming high school life, the school arranged for us to go to the IDEA In-Depth Exploration of Educational Institution located in Hsinchu.

The word “IDEA” stands for “Institute on Developing Enhanced Adventures.” In this educational institution there are many different facilities, including a climbing wall, outdoor rope course and so on. We departed from school at 7 a.m. and arrived at the field at 9 a.m. At first, we were taken to a cabin for a lunch break and rest. The staff gave a brief introduction to our itinerary for the day and the precautions to follow. Then we were taken to the field and divided into groups. The instructors played several games with us. Then without warning, they told us that we were going to climb the ropes. Although shocked by the news, we had no choice but to move forward slowly.

The first facility I used was the rock-climbing wall. Compared to others, I thought that it was relatively simple. All you need is strong arms but that's what I lacked at the same time. Every time I tried to climb higher, my hands ran out of strength. It was such a terrible experience! After that there was a lunch break.

In the afternoon we could choose another facility. This time I chose the “Wooden bridge.” The so-called wooden bridge is actually just a thin wooden plank suspended between two pillars. When you stepped on it; it just kept shaking. At first, I got stuck on it. Step by step, I slowly moved across the plank. When I finally got down, and my classmates cheered for me. I thought that was the purpose of this class. We learned about cooperation, encouragement and praise. I think that's something that will stay with us throughout our high school life and beyond.

By 105 班 陳茂紘

The Exploratory Course in Hsinchu

High school is an important stage in our life. We have to enrich our high school learning process. Therefore, we went to Hsinchu to take the exploratory course.

In the morning, everyone began their group activities. By discussing problems and solving them together, we achieved our missions quickly. Even though the missions seemed negligible, they are important to our future life. In the future, we may encounter all kinds of difficulties. We have to face the problem, discuss with our friends and family, and find the solution to the problem. As an old proverb goes, "United we stand, divided we fall." We need to cultivate a tacit understanding between teams and work together so that we won't be defeated by difficulties.

In the afternoon, we went on participating in a variety of activities high above the ground. These activities included walking on a single-plank bridge, rock climbing, rope walking and so on. These activities were carried out at a height of 9 meters above the ground. For most people, the activities are arduous tasks which need them to try their best to overcome.

I did two activities. One is to walk on the single-plank bridge, and the other is to jump down from a 9-meter-high log



and hit a ball. This activity is such an exciting and rare experience that I really wanted to challenge myself to do it. While I was climbing up the log, my legs couldn't help trembling. I told myself not to be scared and not to give up. Standing on the 9-meter-high log is the most difficult part. You have to be brave, and I succeeded. When I stood on the 9-meter-high log, I made a wish and jumped and hit the ball. I felt a sense of accomplishment. I was so happy that I had overcome my fear to complete the task. This task is just like the road to our future lives. We may face all kinds of challenges, and we have to be brave and overcome difficulties. Besides, some things are valuable experiences in our lives. You only live once. If you want to do it, just do it. Don't let golden opportunities slip away.

By 107 班 陳菀妮



Two Impressive Activities in Yanping

Yanping held two events for grade 10 students this summer, which not only gave us happiness and fond memories, but also let us gain plenty of knowledge and spirits of unity and cooperation. They were the medical camp and concept exploration courses.

Our school has held medical and humanities camp with Taipei Medical University since last year. There were quite a few memorable events and dozens of unforgettable experiments that happened during these days with all of Class 106. Every morning, students brought their enthusiasm to TMU, while they enjoyed practical courses by teaching us “Why should we eat?” , “How do parasites affect human beings?” and “What's the physiological anatomy of life?” In spite of the fact that those topics seem too boring and esoteric for us to love them at first sight, I actually learned many things from those veteran professors and doctors. Aside from those speeches, we had some dynamic activities, experiencing how pharmacists offer services and treatments to their consumers. The most impressive one was “Fellowship Campaign” . Not only was it a lesson of medical lore but it was also comprised of some practical issues, including geography and political science. Each student could put good use to their favorite subjects or abilities to help their team earn a victory. In addition to these courses, our assistant professors also played games and danced with students during our lunch time. How fun these days were!

The other event for us was going to the IDEA institution in Hsinchu for a one-day trip. Everyone had been told by our homeroom teacher the previous day that this trip would be challenging. In the morning was the class team-building time. Everyone formed a circle by holding hands with one another. Through quite a few problem-solving



exercises, we ultimately got to know each other better. After lunch, every student could take a crack at some elective courses. I gave rock climbing a try. You might think that challenge is a piece of cake while you were looking at your classmates trembling and hesitating at those facilities, but when it's your turn, you will understand how scary it can be. Still, I felt deeply touched and seriously appreciative with my classmates encouraging me and cheering me on when I was terrified of leaping down. It was their encouragement that brought me down!

To me, the best class consists of good personalities between our companionship and our good cheer. Everyone plays an indispensable role in Class 106. I sincerely hope that our relationships will stay intact when we go to different classes!



By 106 班 郭奕寬

My Hobbies

My hobbies are really special. I think you can't think of it. Do you know what I collect? First, it is decoration tape. I started to collect it when I was in grade five. My friends were all shocked when I told them what I collected. Actually, I was not really surprised when they were shocked because I think it is really special, too. I have collected many different kinds of tape, like: Sanrio characters, flower, animals and also Sumikko Gurashi. I have 32 varieties of decoration tape, and I cherish them a lot. I built a "house-looking" dispenser for them. It's built out of a paper box and chopsticks. My sister and I use the scissors to drill six holes in the box and put the tapes onto the chopsticks then put the chopsticks through the box. I think it is a really convenient place for them. When I want to make a birthday card for a friend, or I want to decorate my art homework, I will take out my box and choose the right pattern of tape to finish my work. It makes me feel happy when I see my cards, and it also makes my work special.



Second, I collect coins, too. I collect coins from all over the world. When I went to Japan, I got coins from Disney Land, Osaka, Kyoto, Tokyo and other famous landmarks from Japan. When I went to the U.S. I bought the coins from the National museum. The machine that makes the coin is really cool. After you pay the money,



you can choose the one that you like by pushing the button on the screen. The machine will start to spin, and the coin will come out with the picture you like. The pictures on the coins are usually the famous shop or landmark. It can also be a great souvenir. I now have 18 coins in my collection book.

Those two strange hobbies are my favorite. Now, I think it's time for you to share your hobby with me!



Hobbies

By 704 班 蔡欣霏

Be Creative-Build A Buddy

The idea that you can make your own stuffed animal is quite unique and very inspiring. It's very exciting and brings out the creative energy in you. When I was in sixth grade, I went to visit my cousins in New York. I had the chance to experience such an activity with my cousin.

On the fourth of July, my aunt, Mom, and I saw a store called "Build-A-Bear." My aunt asked if I wanted to make my own stuffed animal. Of course, I answered in a resounding "YES!" Who could resist such an opportunity? Once I entered the store, I quickly picked a black dragon and named it "Toothless." Do you know the reason for my choice? I'll tell you anyway. It was because I liked the movie "How to Train Your Dragon." The dragon in the movie is considered very special. It was a "Night Fury." The rarest and most intelligent of the dragon species. And it looks very adorable, too.

The process of making a stuffed animal is quite easy. First, you choose an animal that you like. Then select your animal's sound and smell which is chosen from a variety of scent disks. Have it stuffed afterwards, which includes giving it a "heart." Then your new furry pet needs an air bath. After all of these steps,

you can choose an outfit. There are thousands of costumes to choose from. Finally, write a birth certificate. Voila! Your new pet is born. I only put a heart in my dragon and didn't choose clothes for it. Because it really looks strange if a

dragon wears clothes, I couldn't imagine what it would look like! So, I decided not to buy him an outfit.

"Build-A-Bear" is a great store that is filled with wonder. The store is so popular that many children go there to make their own stuffed animals. The founder of the workshop is called Maxine Clark. In 1997, she founded a teddy-bear themed retail-entertainment experience. Today, there are over one hundred and twenty-five million furry friends adventuring around the globe. Isn't very incredible?

Creating your own dragon or other furry friends is more fun than buying a ready-made one. I hope that one day, Taiwan will have a store like "Build-A-Bear." The children in Taiwan can make their own furry animals and start a Build-A-Bear trend.



Be Creative-Build A Buddy

By 807 班 廖敏好

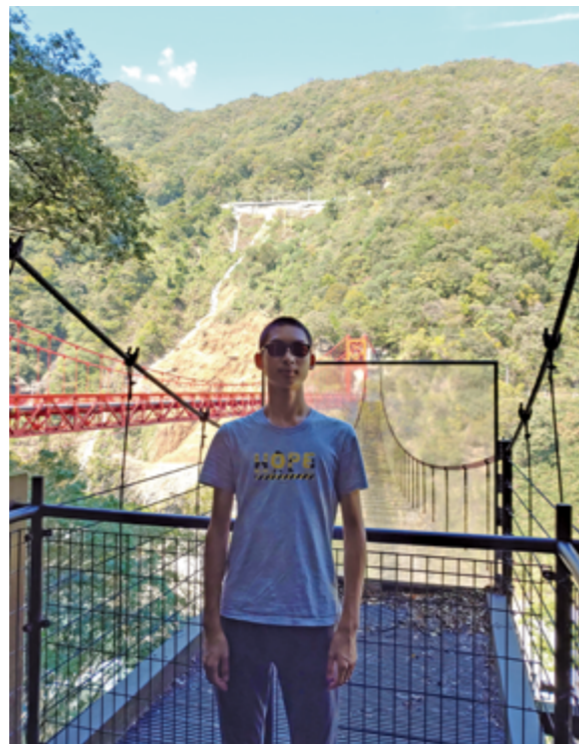


The Natural Beauty of Taiwan

Taiwan has its own diverse, special, and gorgeous natural scenery. Thus, Portuguese sailors, upon their arrival, called this island “Formosa” or “beautiful island”. Of all of Taiwan's geographic terrain, mountains are my favorite. You can appreciate the spectacular view while having a healthy hike. My family often goes to different mountains on Sundays, and recently we went to Taoyuan city and visited the giant trees on Lalashan (拉拉山).

Lalashan originally means “beautiful mountain”, and the Atayal (泰雅族) used to hunt there in the past. The altitude of the mountain is about two thousand meters, so Lalashan is pretty cold and a little misty at times. There are twenty-four numbered giant trees on the mountain, and each has a peculiar posture.

When I first got into the forest, it was foggy and mysterious. Giant trees blocked the sunlight and formed a dark path at the bottom. I stared at a massive tree and thought, “Why isn't this tree numbered? How huge could the numbered trees be then?” After a while, I arrived at giant tree number one. It was a forty-one-meter tree and that's about fourteen stories high! I stopped there and I found out how tiny human beings are. Nevertheless, it wasn't the most titanic



member of the group of numbered trees.

When we almost finished a round trip in the area, I finally discovered the tallest tree on Lalashan, which was fifty-five meters tall. And of course, it was numbered too. I took a photo with it and I couldn't forget how impressive it was, because I looked like an ant when I stood next to it.

Besides the beauty of enormous plants, Lalashan also offers cold fresh air. I have always lived in a dusty polluted environment, so I'm especially fond of the clean air on the mountain. More than that, the beautiful view never disappoints us. At the end of the hiking trip, the clouds gradually disappeared. I gazed at another mountain and saw the lush trees so clearly. At that time, I was glad that I could view such aesthetic scenery in Taiwan.

All in all, if you want to go on a trip focused on natural beauty, I strongly recommend that you explore the mountains in Taiwan. The amazing scenic views will definitely enchant you.



By 801 班 陳俊羽

My Trip To Japan

My parents, my brother and I decided to join a 5-day tour group on a trip to Japan. Our journey began once we arrived at our first destination, Sendai International Airport.

Matsushima (松 島) is one of the three most scenic spots of Japan and we headed there as soon as we landed. We took a tour boat to view the expansive 260 islands in the fjord. The shapes of some islands were very strange and each island has its own story for its name!

The next morning, we went to get a view of Gembikei Gorge (巖美溪), a 2-km gorge formed by the Iwai River. Beside the beautiful view, there was a store selling dango (糰子). The special thing was that there was a rope hanging across the river, and you can buy the dango by putting money in the basket attached to it. Our tour guide said that if not for the shop, there wouldn't be this many tourists going there. I think it is a very smart way to attract customers. We then went to Koromonoseki (中 尊 寺); it was built in 850. Konjikido (金色堂) inside the park is one of the world cultural heritage sites. The whole structure is golden. It is complicated and delicate. You will find yourself holding your breath as you enter the magnificent wonder.

On the third day, we went to Tazawako (田澤湖), the deepest and clearest lake in Japan. Everyone took a lot of pictures because you can never see a lake in



Taiwan as blue as Tazawako. Afterwards we hopped on a sightseeing tram. The view is known as the most beautiful and the most original scenery in Japan. We saw endless views of well-organized rice fields!

On the fourth day, we went to Aomori (青森) which is famous for its apples. We even went to a market named “Apple Factory,” where you can buy almost everything containing apple there. We also hiked along Oirase Mountain Stream (奥入瀬溪流). The air was so fresh and the walk was all so relaxing. Then we had a visit to WARASSE (睡魔之家), “the home of sleeping demons.” The building itself was a beautiful artistic masterpiece. We saw a lot of huge and colorful lanterns describing the festivals in Japan. They design a new style every year!

We flew back to Taiwan on the fifth day. It was a wonderful trip even though we met a typhoon. I think we were very lucky to have good weather during most of our trip. I had a great trip and I look forward to going to Japan again!

By 105 班 溫上儀

My Trip to Australia

Last summer, I went to Australia for two and a half weeks. Before the trip, the country had always seemed like a place I would enjoy. In my mind, it was a country full of sunlight, enthusiasm, and warmth. But, as I set foot outside the airport, contrary to my expectations, it was freezing cold, and the wind chilled me to the bone. To do Australia justice, other than the extreme weather, the scenery is stunning and spectacular. The picturesque landscape took my breath away, and I will never forget it.

I went to Sydney, Melbourne, and Tasmania. Each place has its own characteristics. The first place I visited was Sydney, a cosmopolitan city filled with lots of skyscrapers, just like Taipei but with less air pollution. Sydney is famous for its convenience and cultural diversity. You can see metro stations everywhere and you can take a train to almost anywhere you would like to travel. What impressed me the most was the food there. On the first day, we went to a fair which was only open on weekends in winter. It was filled with a variety of local cuisine offered at reasonable prices. We had some burgers and meat pies. Without a doubt, they were absolutely delicious. The charming textures and aromas still linger in my mouth today.

The next place was Tasmania. We reached it by air. In contrast to Sydney, Tasmania is a natural island with horses roaming across the prairies and kangaroos jumping across roads. Cows lying on the grass enjoying the sunbathing could be seen all the way along. The pace suddenly slowed down, and we didn't feel the need to rush to another tourist spot. We rented a car, and simply cruised around. Once in a while, we got out of the car and did some hiking, or stopped by the beach wandering around, enjoying our slow-paced trip.

The last stop was Melbourne, where many famous universities are situated. This city was super clean, and even more convenient than Sydney. I liked the weather there. Because our hotel was nearby the sea, I liked to sit on the balcony, feeling the brisk sea breeze refreshing my mind and body. The city impressed me not only with its comfortable weather, but also with its fresh sea food. On the second



day in Melbourne, we got up early and went to the harbor to sample some sea delicacies. We ordered the famous fish and chips and some fried scallops. The fish was crunchy outside, but fluffy inside, tasting moist and juicy. With a twist of lemon, the food rose up to another level.

There is one more food in Australia worthy of mention. As everyone knows, Australia boasts quality dairy products, among which are milk, cheese, and ice cream. But my favorite was undoubtedly yogurt. Australian yogurt was so creamy and there were a wide range of flavors to choose from, like blueberries, vanilla, and many others. I couldn't resist its temptation so I bought a family-size tub each day and enjoyed it to my heart's content. Now in Taiwan, I can't find any yogurt which can compare to the one I tasted in Australia. If you are visiting Australia, yogurt is a must-try.

Australia was a place that I enjoyed a lot. Between its local snacks, splendid scenery, and human warmth, it is definitely worthy of its reputation. After the 10-day stay down under, the cold didn't seem to bother me at all. I miss it a lot, and I hope I can travel there again, this time in summer, for I would like to experience the warm side of Australia.



By 107 班 鄭尚亞



This year's MLB World Series has ended with many records being set during the game. It used to be believed that the home team was more likely to win the game as a result of the fans' support and the higher familiarity of their own baseball field. Now that has all changed.

During this year's World Series, neither the Houston Astros nor the Washington Nationals won any games on their home field. This is a situation that rarely happens in the history of baseball. In the 2019 MLB regular season, it's estimated that the winning percentage of the guest team was 46.5%. Meaning the percentage which the guest team can ride a seven-game winning streak is 0.47%. How low it is! What's more, in the beginning of the season, no one could imagine that the winner of the World Series would be the Nationals. In May, the probability of the Nationals winning the championship was less than 0.1%. But against all odds, they actually did it! Is it just simply a miracle? Obviously not. In my opinion, their achievement and success are credited to their

persistence and bravery. Facing the mightiest opponent, the Astros, they all did their utmost to work together and defeat them. They overcame all difficulties and frustrations, such as all the unfavorable data and negative comments from the media and commentators. Since everyone had doubts about their abilities, the Nationals proved their legitimacy with determination. Although the Astros has double or even three times the number of all-star players compared to them, there was no denying that the Nationals worked harder to improve their pitching and hitting ability. Report has it that players were always discussing how to break through the pitching from Gerrit Cole, Zack Greinke or Justin Verlander in the team locker room. They collectively attempted to seek ways to overcome the obstacle that the all-star pitchers presented them. These are the reasons why the Nationals were able to defeat the Astros in the World Series this year. Above all, what I want to say is that the future is now filled with all new variables. Just like the World Series, nobody will be able to predict what will happen next. Well goes the proverb, "Chance favors the prepared mind."

It's never easy to swim against the tide when everything goes against you. All we have to do is make every possible effort to cope with all the intimidating challenges that we meet. Stick to what must be done and surrender under no circumstances. Nothing is impossible as long as we have firm faith in ourselves. After all, chances are that you will have a wonderful and unbelievable journey just like Nationals in your brilliant future.

By 107 班 胡書華



HOBY WLC

I went to Chicago this summer to attend HOBY WLC, a leadership camp amassing worldwide alumni. I initially only expected to have a chance to meet more foreign friends at the camp, but HOBY inspired me far more than that.

•Illuminating speakers

Houston Kraft, a curriculum developer, taught us that the habits we gain every day can change our character significantly, and encouraged us to form a good habit. Diane Latiker, a mother of eight, regardless of her harsh living environment where shootings happen frequently, founded schools in her house to teach the local children and curb shooting incidents. She told us to never give in to the status quo, especially the one you can't accept, as there are always some opportunities that we can seize to improve it. These two are a few of the speeches that I heard during the camp, and although they were the most impressive ones for me, there were more speakers that also motivated me very much. Not only their accomplishments but their toughness to make themselves become true leaders, their willingness to challenging reality, and their actions carried out to make a world a better place also marveled me.

•Outstanding ambassadors

Jetlag made me so tired and unable to concentrate on the activities, and thus I lost some chances to get familiar with our group members and meet more people for the first two days. I was like a cub in a herd of lions which could not adapt to life



on the wild prairie. But thanks to the fact that I was surrounded by the energetic and enthusiastic lions that helped me overcome the first uneasy days, I got to know some people outside of my group and was able to chat with my group members more confidently and freely during the remaining time in the camp. Contemplating my personal growth afterward, every outstanding person I met in Chicago played an indispensable role. They encouraged me to do something that I was afraid to even try; they never hesitated to praise others; they naturally became leaders and the things they said always appealed to me. I trusted them without any reservation, and longed to become more like them. Everyone I met during the WLC possesses a positive attitude toward their life and the qualities to become a distinguished leader.

The HOBY Instagram account posted, “Leaders inspire themselves and others to do, be, give, and become more than they ever thought possible.” It seems a vague definition or even nonsense when one first reads this. However, I don't think it is. The ambassadors of HOBY WLC will not think so either. This is what we've learned from HOBY, and this is absolutely something we can do in the future: inspire ourselves and others to make the impossible into reality, and to become leaders of ourselves.



By 306 班 楊崇岳

What about Earth?

Right now the Earth is suffering because we use too much energy in our daily lives and we buy things from foreign countries. These activities produce lots of CO₂ and this is the main reason why global warming is getting worse.

Some people might want to turn on the air conditioners even if it's not very hot, but do you know that our Earth is getting hotter and the icebergs at the Poles are melting at a super-fast speed? Due to the melting icebergs, polar bears and penguins are having trouble surviving. According to NASA, the Arctic sea ice is now declining at a rate of 13.2% per decade, leaving more open water and higher temperatures. Polar bears now have to swim longer to get to another piece of sea ice. In many cases polar bears are swimming for so long that they drown in the sea out of exhaustion.

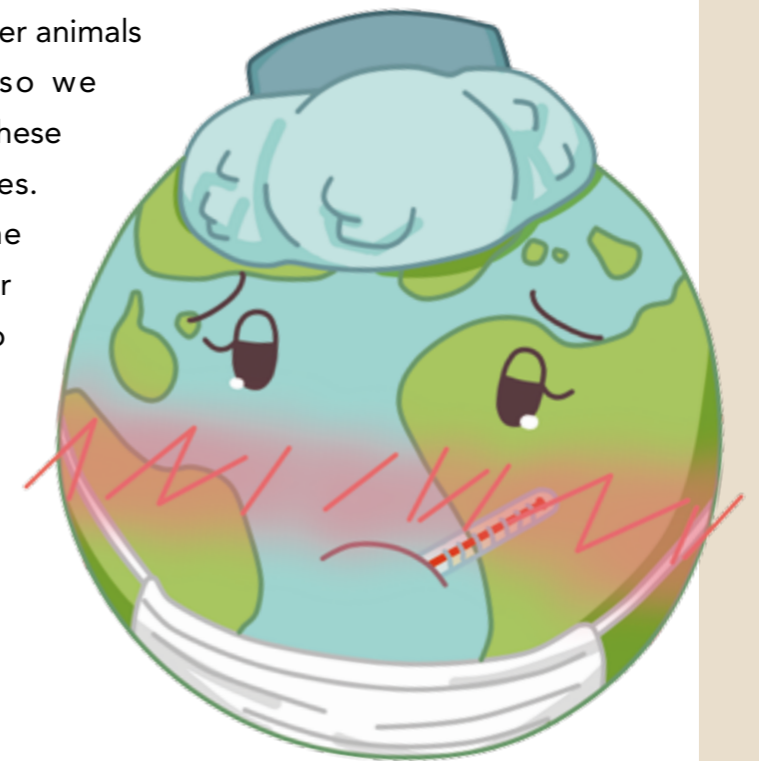
Meanwhile in Antarctica, the huge icebergs on land melted and re-froze again at sea, but due to ocean currents, they were frozen in the wrong place where it used to be sea and the penguins' fishing farms. The penguins don't have to swim a lot but they walk too much. According to Chinese Public Television, penguins used to walk for 20 kilometers, but now they have to walk for 30-40 kilometers. Penguins put their chicks at home when they go hunting for fish, but now they have to walk a longer distance for a longer period of time. Due to this, many young penguins are starving to death while adult penguins die from exhaustion from the long treks they must take.

According to BBC, recent research shows that as the melting of Greenland and Antarctica accelerates, the rate of global sea level rise may far exceed expectations threatening London, New York, and Shanghai in the future. At the same time, China released the latest "China Sea Level Gazette" (《中国海平面公报》), showing that the sea level rise rate of

China's coastal areas was 3.3 mm / year from 1980 to 2018, higher than the global average of the same period. Researchers believe that if the global temperature rises to around 5 °C, then by 2100, the world's sea level will likely rise by 62 cm to 238 cm. Polar bears and lots of other animals died because of us, so we should do something to save these animals and also help ourselves.

What we do in our lives can provide some important solutions to the threat posed by climate change. Reducing shipping will be a big step forward in this regard. Planting more mangroves and sea grass can remove a lot of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, too. If we can't do it, then maybe we can try something easier. Turning off unused electricity and buy items that are local, organic, or fair-trade could help.

Polar bears and lots of other animals have died because of us, so we should do something to save these animals and also help ourselves. Everyone should help save the Earth and innocent lives on our only planet. I will try my best to do it. Will you?



By 807 班 鄭心瑜



The Junior Diplomat Competition

The New South Bound Policy was the topic of our play at the Junior Diplomat competition this year, and we chose to focus on the issue of environmental protection in the New South Bound region since this issue has been more and more important around the world.

Nicole, Edward, Christine, and I became the Junior Diplomats of Yanping. Last semester, we attended the Junior Diplomat training course which taught us how to act and debate, and also helped us enhance our public speaking and acting skills. We started to work on the play in July, but not until October did we finish the whole play. We thought about many things when making the play since it had to be closely related to the topic while at the same time be attractive and interesting enough. Our play was mainly about a famous developer named Regina, who decided to build a luxury resort on an undeveloped island in the Philippines. At the same time, the local officials and the consultant and journalist from Taiwan made efforts to give Regina a lesson in the importance of environmental protection.

On the day of the competition, we were excited but nervous. We were looking forward to showing our performance, but we still felt a little anxious about making mistakes. When it was our time to get on the stage, we tried our best to speak loudly and clearly enough. After we finished our play, all four of us felt extremely relaxed and break into sincere smiles of relief.

We did a great job on the play and we sailed through the preliminary round. We even got a prize for our performance in the semi-final round. Although we didn't advance to the final round, I still think we were the best team ever! I feel proud to have been part of the Junior Diplomats, I enhanced my composition and speaking skills while working on the play and speeches. I also made some awesome friends, Nicole, Edward, and Christine.

At last, I want to give credit to my partners and also to the teachers who helped us, Sandra, Daniel, and Michelle. Thank you for helping me perform my role better, properly pronounce the word “develop,” and always pardoning my indolence. I got a lot of precious experience through this competition and I'm so lucky to have been a part of it.



By 209 班 姚雲起

From My Online Tutoring Class, I Learn...

The teacher taught us how to use "must" and "ought to" and the vocabulary words for volunteers who work for charity. Like the word "moral" means concerning or relating to what is right and wrong in human behavior. It is very important for society. If there was no moral in the world, the world would be a terrible place. (701 21 何宗陽)

In this class I learned a lot of idioms about bananas and their meanings, such as "to go bananas" means to go a little crazy, "to drive someone bananas" means to annoy or irritate someone, and "top banana" means the boss or the leader. After that, we also learned how to make banana bread. (701 30 高語宥)



I found out that, it doesn't feel really bad when I'm chatting with the teacher. Mr. Alex was very nice to us. He was funny, and he also taught us some new words like "subconscious" and many useful ideas. I learned that some questions don't have a correct answer. When you're answering these questions, you can show your own idea or opinion. (702 17 蘇靜綸)

Your comfort zone is a great place that makes you happy and full of confidence. It's really comfortable, isn't it? In the lesson, I found that you can't always stay in the comfort zone. You must step out the comfort zone. Although you may encounter some obstacles or failure, that's ok. After you try harder and harder, you will learn many valuable lessons. (702 35 陳章帆)

Today's teacher was very interesting and funny! She taught us about collocation of adjectives and nouns. For example, "strong coffee" sounds correct to native English speakers, but "tough coffee" does not. This is what makes collocations difficult for non-native speakers to understand. This lesson was so cool. And I think today I learned so much about English. (703 07 陳信菲)

Animals may look beautiful but they might be very dangerous and can hurt us too. For example, Australian Box Jellyfish are really pretty and glow, which is gorgeous. However, they are full of poison and they might hurt us or kill us easily. So even if we are curious we can't get too close to look at them. (704 10 黃品允)

Not only did we learn about banking, we also learned the vocabulary, phrases and practiced English speaking. Most importantly we learned them all in a very fun way. We don't need to go to after school classes to learn them. We can just sit in front of the computer and talk with many different people. This class was a wonderful experience to have. (705 16 劉乙葶)



Our class was about blood. There were many difficult words that were all scientific. We used scripts and paragraphs to help us understand a lot of things about blood and doctors. It was much fun, because I learned lots of new things in today's lesson. And we all read paragraphs and answer questions in the class. (709 06 林佩穎)

In today's lesson, I learned a lot of new vocabulary like "applications" and "curriculum" which are words I didn't know before. In addition, this lesson was about tablets and applications. It said that the first tablet in the world was the Apple iPad. Nowadays tablets being used at school is common. Students prefer using tablets rather than traditional books. Although tablets are convenient, they can hurt our eyes.

(709 27 沈奕睿)

Today's class talks about special transportation in other countries, like Costa Rican zip lines, German monorails, Cambodian bamboo boards, Alaskan sled dogs, and Cuban camels. While sliding down the zip line, you can also enjoy the view. The monorail is a fast, unique, and cheap train, but it's not a good form of transportation for people who are afraid of heights. The bamboo board is a train that is made of bamboo and it's slow. The sled dogs are a sled you can sit on while dogs run in front of you at a high speed. The camel is a car shaped like a camel.

(710 15 楊凱涵)

Knowing how to express yourself is a crucial skill in life. Today, we are talking about the ways to express our feelings. As far as I am concerned, there are several ways to give your opinions. For instance, the phrase I just used "As far as I am concerned" is an example. These are commonly used in everyday English. This lesson allows us to step into the English community and learn about what people are saying.

(711 21 朱秣辰)

Today's lesson was about life in the future. It was about technology in the classroom. Many schools include laptop programs in learning, but just putting a laptop before a student doesn't really help them. It is how we use technology in the classroom that helps students enrich their learning. So we need a cool learning program to help students learn.

(711 34 陳則宇)

Today, the teacher is teaching us about the chemistry of bacteria. Bacteria are single-celled organisms that are so tiny for the human eye to see that in order to see them we need to use a microscope. Some bacteria are good, but some of them are bad. We can use the good bacteria to protect our bodies from germs.

(711 36 陳柏宇)



I know about the famous landmarks of Paris. My favorite place is the Eiffel Tower. At night, it will be very shiny and beautiful. I also want to go to the famous universities of Paris. There are many museums and a lot of history. The most convenient form of transportation in Paris is the Paris Metro. They serve about 4.5 million passengers every day!

(805 05 李采薇)



We talked about what we will order if we go to a restaurant. First you can order the appetizers that you like. Second, there are many different kinds of soups. My favorite soup is definitely the corn soup because of its special taste! Then it's the most exciting part, the main dish! The beef steak and the roasted chicken are nice, but my favorite one is pasta with a lot of meatballs.

(806 02 吳穎盈)