

The Firefly



25th
May
2017



Anniversary

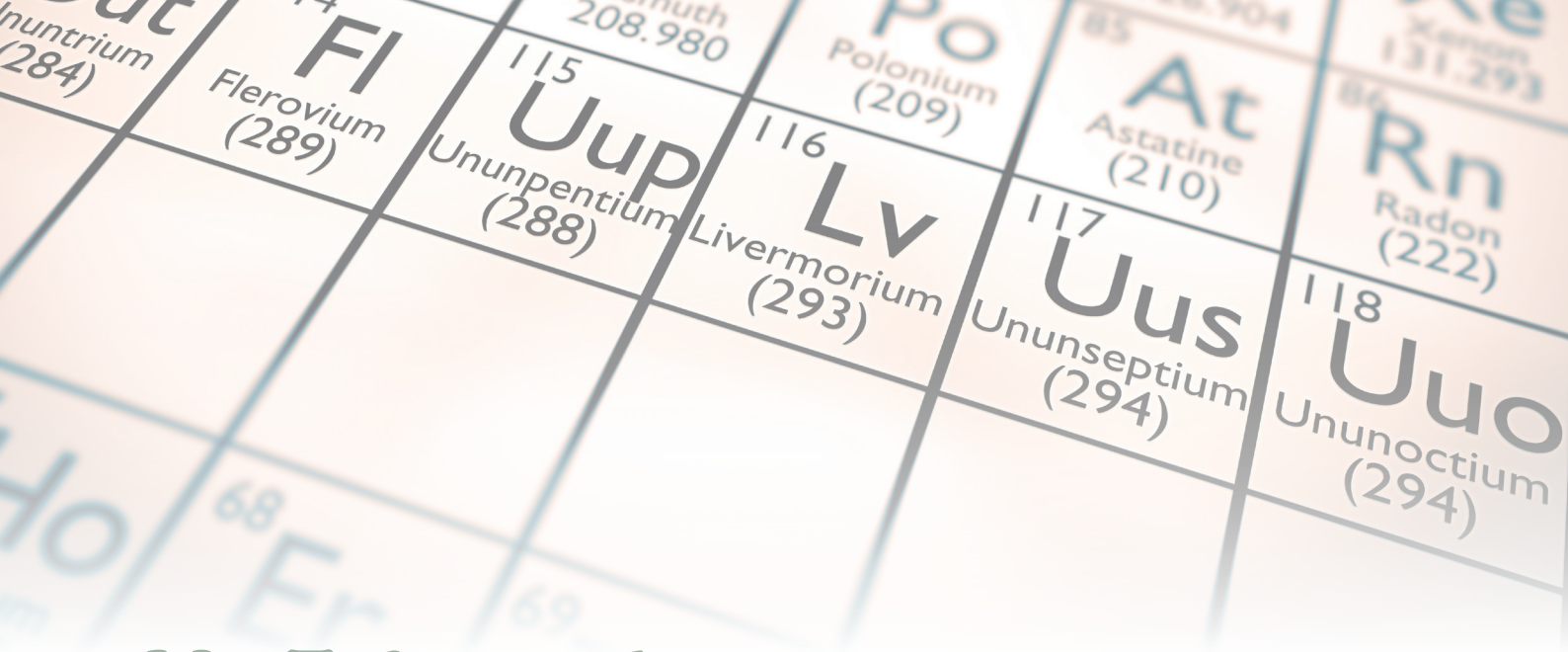
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外語中心主任 Michelle Hsiao

Dear Firefly readers,

Greetings from the Foreign Language Center! April is here, and that means it's spring time again. Though many people don't think the winter that just left counts, it's still delightful to finally be able to get rid of the humid cold weather and enjoy the warm sunshine as well as the flowers in bloom. This new issue of the Firefly features the 70th anniversary of Yanping High School. Last November, we celebrated Yanping's 70th birthday. The school went to great lengths to get back in touch with alumni over the past seventy years and invited them to come back to school and participate in the celebrating event. Of course there were sports events held on our own campus, which was especially meaningful since it was the last time we could do so before the completion of the school's new construction starting this summer. We include in this issue several articles on the school anniversary for readers to look back on the grand occasion. As usual, we have articles about Yanping students participating in various activities and competitions outside school such as the Junior Diplomat, the Cicero English Debate Tournament, and the Youth Ambassador. Learn from these outstanding students' valuable experiences and the effort they made in preparing themselves for those major events. Last but not least, readers can always find essays and poems by Yanping students who are really into literature writing. Their contributions have always add to the variety and richness in our magazine. Don't be an April Fool, and don't miss out on the brilliant articles in this issue.



My Trip to the National Taiwan Science Education Center

As an eighth grader, I have grown to be interested in Physics and Chemistry. For example, I am learning about optics recently. Therefore, when I heard that we were going to the National Taiwan Science Education Center for our school trip, I was really excited for it.

The first place we visited when we arrived at the museum was the 5th floor, which is about Mathematics. The tour guide told us an interesting story about the famous Mathematician Descartes and the Origin of Geometry. After that, we started our tour around the museum in groups. I was lucky to have teammates interested in science, so we enjoyed ourselves learning and discussing. We saw things such as the Lightning Ball and tried the facilities, one of which displayed our shadows on the wall. Besides, we observed the Pythagoras's theorem, which is what we were learning in the math class a few months ago.

The thing that I'm most interested in is the geography area, where there are so many kinds of rocks like gold, silver, iron, and so on. There is even a physical demonstration of all the elements on the periodic table of elements!

Although the school trip was a bit short, I had a really good time touring with my friends. I was thrilled to have learned so much during this trip and it helps me understand Physics and Chemistry in a comprehensive way.

By 801 班 徐苡芮 Valerie

Visit to the National Taiwan Science Education Center

The chemistry class arranged a special trip for us to visit the National Taiwan Science Education Center. Although most of the students have been there before, we have new experiences and perspectives with the passing of time.

The NTSEC was established in 1956. The museum's permanent exhibition area includes various displays of life sciences, physics, chemistry, mathematics and earth science interactive exhibitions. Not only did we explore the theoretical basis of science, but experienced science through hands-on operation.

Its appearance and structure designs are amazing, especially the lobby and the ticket booth that looks futuristic. The exhibition starts from the second floor. I even saw some models of the molecules I just learned about. Roaming around the museum was like an adventure. I felt like a kid again, pressing the buttons and laughing at the effects.

This field trip was for our chemistry and physics class, so I went to the chemistry exhibit to take a look. There was a demonstration of the cycle of carbon dioxide, which was pretty educational. There was also a periodic table of elements. It's in line with the contents we are learning.

The NTSEC taught us science with a large amount of pictures, specimens and electronic devices. This way of learning doesn't give me any stress. I can actually see how it happened instead of descriptions in a textbook. Science can be interesting. It's the lack of real life experiments that makes it hard.

We were immersed in the scientific world, free of the chains of our textbooks. I would be happy to visit here to explore the unknown horizon again.

I will remember the wonderful experience today and appreciated the exhibition. I learned a lot of scientific facts and learned more about the world.



An Unforgettable Experience

There are many ways to learn. We can gain knowledge not only by sitting in the classroom listening to the teacher but also by stepping out of school and observing the world around us. Therefore, on a sunny Wednesday, we went on a trip to the National Taiwan Science Education Center.

The moment I stepped into the center, I couldn't help but exclaim, "Wow! How cool this place is!" I got to understand complicated theories easily by doing experiments with the equipment it provided. For example, I learned how to change the airflow with a switch by observing the airflow shown on the screen. It was a pity that we had only thirty minutes to

look around before we had to go to the 3D theater. Hoping the film would be great enough to stop me from missing the fancy equipment, I put on the 3D glasses. Surprisingly, the film was awesome! The bombs and the weapons appeared to be flying out of the screen, making me want to take off the glasses so that I could stop screaming. It was so exciting that I hoped the film could be a bit longer!

After watching the film, it was time to learn some theories about electricity. We followed our guide to a high voltage platform. He told us how the high voltage platform worked, so we knew it was safe to stand on. He then asked for two volunteers to go on the platform. Thinking I might never have the chance to experience something like this, I raised my hand. The experiment was to make us understand how electricity travels. The other volunteer and I stood on the platform hand in hand, while the other students below lined up and held their hands together. When the guide counted to three, I touched the first classmate in line. Suddenly, I felt a strong electrical current coming up from my leg to the hand and then passed on to my classmates! Feeling too painful to stand straight, I ran away from the platform and collapsed on the floor. Although the experience was special, I hoped it would be my last time to get an electric shock.

During the educational trip, I learned so many things and even got an electric shock! It was an unforgettable experience that reminded me of the pleasure I could find in learning. I hope I can have more opportunities to explore the world of science and have fun at the same time.

A Field Trip to National Taiwan Science Education Center

On December 21st, 2016, the eighth grade students in our school went on a field trip to National Taiwan Science Education Center.

When we got there, our class listened to the guided tour first. The guide introduced a lot of amazing devices and their principles. We learned a lot of new science knowledge and had a good time.

Then my favorite part at the Science Education Center came, the short film about angry birds. We had to wear the 3D glasses and sit on a chair that can move and shake in order to make the film look more real. That was super awesome. The film was not really long, but it was pretty interesting. I liked it a lot.

After that, it was free time. My group mates and I looked around on different floors. There was plenty of cool equipment which we could operate by ourselves. The most impressive thing I saw there was the bicycle on a cable. I couldn't believe that people can actually ride a bike on such a thin cable! It was really fascinating.

However, I think that there were still some cons to the field trip this time. The biggest regret was there wasn't enough time, so we only focused on some devices and missed a lot more. Plus, we had to finish several pages of worksheets. That was another problem because we already had little time, and we needed to try our best to finish the work. Instead of enjoying the free time, we spent most of the time figuring out the answers to the questions. I wish we had more time to play with more equipment and less worksheets so that we can really have fun.

To sum up, visiting National Taiwan Science Education Center was a special and fabulous experience. Although there were some disadvantages, I am pretty satisfied with the field trip this time. I wish there is going to be another soon!



A Trip to the National Taiwan Science Education Center

On Dec.21st, our school teacher took us to the National Taiwan Science Education Center. We were very excited about the trip because we could see a lot of interesting and amazing things about science.

After we got to the place by bus, we were led to the fifth floor to the Physical Science Exhibition Area. It included The World of Science games, Exploring the Physical World and Exploring the World of Chemistry.

My favorite part was in the Exploring the Physical World where we can experience the phenomena that occurs in various physical fields by operating an exhibition device.

We thought that the most interesting thing was the “lightning ball”. When everyone in my class saw it, we stayed there and kept looking at it for a long time. It looked fun and special, just like a crystal ball. Although we didn’t quite understand the theory about how “lightning ball” worked. It was more important to have fun. When we touched the ball, and then touched someone else, he would feel like he got an electric shock. One of my classmates, Channing, seemed that he was addicted to the magic ball. Even if he felt hurt, he couldn’t stop playing with the ball again and again. So funny!

Then we went to the Area of the Chemical World. It consists of experiential devices which aim to look at the nature and structure of objects and changes in matter from a chemical point of view. By experiencing the exhibition device we understood how material changes.

We had to finish the worksheets while we were visiting the exhibition. Our team members walked around the area and tried hard to find the answers. It was such a wonderful way of learning. One of the questions on the worksheets was about Michael Faraday. He was the British physicist who had made many important contributions in the field of electromagnetics and electrochemistry. We thought it was the most difficult question that we had to answer, so we spent a lot of time looking for information about him. Then our group members talked about what the answers were.

The most awesome part of the trip was that we could go to the 3D movie theater to see a film called “Angry Birds Ride.” While we watched it with 3D glasses, the chairs moved and shook, too.

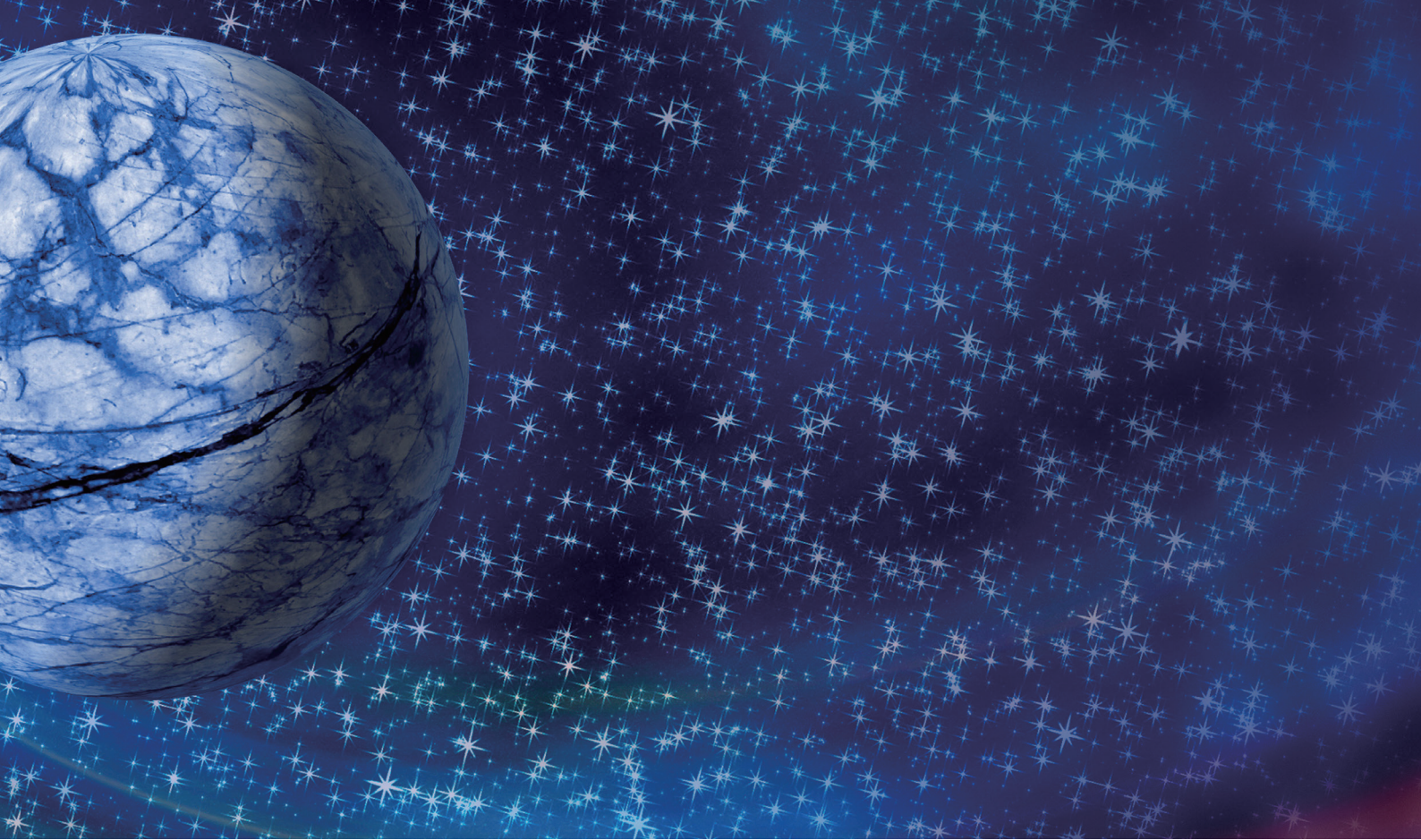
I really enjoyed the trip to the National Taiwan Science Education Center and I learned a lot about the greatest scientists.



Our trip to the Science Education Center

On December 21st, we went on an outing to the Science Education Center and our topic was eighth grade Physics. It started with lots of students chatting away outside the Center while waiting for teachers to call our class to take a group photo.

We got to take a look around for one hour before the guide started his explanation. When my group was running in and out of the digestion system tunnel, other friends were battling each other in a game of balance. After that, we were all on the fourth floor looking at samples of insects, such as butterflies and beetles, making comments on how it looked. I liked the fifth floor the most. It had lots of things to explore and play with. For instance, have you ever ridden a square-wheeled bike? It is ridden on a semicircle surface to allow you to move and keep your balance. Or have you paid 50 dollars to ride a bike on a thick wire in the air like a ropewalker? I was practically wobbling even after having my safety belts buckled. Riding from one side of the building to the other side in the air above sixteen meters is definitely stimulating yet so fresh and fun that it's worth a go. You can also play with a slide that rises up on one side to seventy-five degrees. But you must grab onto something otherwise you'll just slide down before it has even stopped rising. The friction from the ground will be near zero causing it really hard to step firm on. We also played with the airflow barrel which sends strong gushes of wind up. The wind coming through was strong enough to keep a plastic ball floating in the air and when you turn the barrel, the ball will start floating in a circle wider and higher every second, until the ball



starts to tilt, which is probably when the wind will lessen and the ball will drop.

At ten, we started our tour with the guide Mr. Zhou. He taught us basic gravity principles and wave mechanics, using different instrument bows to make different kinds and shapes of metal vibrate. Due to the different frequency of each object, the sand covering the surface will split and form new patterns. We learned about electricity by trying out the high pressure discharge machine. They picked me as a volunteer to prove that the machine is harmless but electricity was really travelling inside me since my hair was sticking up. We had everyone stand in a long line, fingers touching each other. As soon as the machine was turned on, everyone could feel a slight tinge because of the electricity travelling through us. We also checked out the electronic lightning ball and felt like magicians controlling the energy while touching friends to give them a small shock. That was when we were supposed to head down to the 3D theatre to watch an Angry Birds show. We sat back and enjoyed the seats rotating, going up and down, and bringing us pleasure. It was a delightful but short show.

Finally, it was time for the school to gather so after the show we raced upstairs and prepared ourselves to go back to school. It was a bright day and everyone enjoyed themselves. To be honest, I thought it was going to be a boring trip but the equipment here proved me wrong. It was a lot more interesting than I thought!

A photograph of a theater interior. The scene is mostly dark, with rows of teal-colored seats visible. A bright light source is located in the upper right corner, creating a strong glow and casting long shadows. The seats are arranged in a curved pattern, and the floor appears to be a dark, polished surface. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat somber.

An unforgettable competition

This year, my whole summer and autumn were dedicated to an activity, the Teen Diplomatic Envoys competition. During the first few weeks of our summer vacation, my teammates and I gathered around and began to set out for the inside-school pre-competition. It took us a lot of time to shape the story for the drama.

After our successful efforts we became the representative team of Yang Ping. Actually, it wasn't that smooth. We didn't come in first, and were disappointed for a while. Then someone informed us that the team who got the higher score quit the school's election. In order to prove we had the strength to represent our school, not just a reserve-team, we decided to rewrite the script for the drama part. Being fast to get on the right track, we had sufficient time to practice. So we passed the first knock-out phase of the competition.

As we prepared for the competition we became closer and a bond developed among us. We began to understand each other and communicate in a more intimate level. It was like speaking in code. However, since we don't think exactly the same way, we did have conflicts. If it had not been for our desire to win this competition, we could have split, and would have never had the chance to go on stage.

In spite of the fact that we squeezed every minute we could into rehearsing, when on the stage, it's another matter. One of the major stage props fell off during our performance. As my teammates were at their wit's ends, I walked and put it back on, enabling us to continue this drama. I thus understood the importance of practice.

This competition was not only a great way to improve my English, but it also gave me some on-stage experience. As we paid almost all our effort to the first part, the speech part then required more improvisation than other teams. We tried our best. As far as I am concerned, we are great enough.

Holes

Events happen in our lives like little dots scattered all over, or to reference the book, like holes five feet wide and five feet deep scattered on Camp Green Lake. However, when the dots are connected, the truth can be surprising. This is how I felt after finishing the engrossing story of “Holes.”

The way the author intertwined the present and the past kept my interests as the story unfolded. At first, everything seemed unrelated, and then coincidentally, everything associated with one another. Confusing isn't it. When it all surfaced, the whole adventure started to make perfect sense. I couldn't help but believe in the power of punishment and redemption. Even after hundreds of years, the unfinished things in life still need to be done.

This book wasn't only about truth and destiny, though. The evolution of Stanley and Zero's friendship touched me deeply as well. Stanley had been bullied at school, but even a victim of vile acts like him refused to befriend a child considered to be retarded at first. Nevertheless, after he started teaching Zero and discovered his talent in math, they grew closer, and Stanley even escaped from the camp himself, carrying Zero all the way up to the Big Thumb, where they could find shelter. It struck me that only when we are willing to understand someone and appreciate their merits, only then can we become friends. I also found out how prejudice and discrimination can stop us from getting to know someone that might become our confidant. Everyone is worth understanding and people don't deserve isolation. We should try to accept others with open arms.

On the contrary, how the adults treated Zero was really despicable. The Warden and the counselors decided to make him vanish into thin air like nothing had ever happened after he ran away from Camp Green Lake. I was especially startled to see Mr. Pendanski, who appeared to be nice to the juveniles, seemingly enjoy jeering at Zero and work with others to wipe out the files. It was reasonable that Zero didn't want to answer most of the questions asked by his fellow campers or the counselors. His childhood experience probably taught him to keep himself away from others for self-protection. It was also no wonder that Zero would want to get away from all the derision and harm. Even adults could do something like this that may destroy a teenager's confidence and self-esteem. Denying someone's existence is really contemptible, not to mention doing so in order to evade responsibility. We shouldn't look down on someone because of their background. The more respect we have for others, the fewer conflicts there will be.




The sad story of Kissin' Kate Barlow gave me a glimpse of how racial discrimination and the power of wealth resulted in a tragedy. However, from Stanley's perspective, the deranged outlaw was the person who turned his family's life upside down rather than a heartbroken lady that people would have sympathy for. The contrast of his feelings and mine let me know how important it is to walk a mile in another's shoes before judging them. And in the end, what belonged to the Yelnats' was returned. The Warden paid for the cruel behavior of his father, the arrogant millionaire Trout Walker, while Kissin' Kate inadvertently compensated the Yelnats' decades later with her spiced peaches. The way every family in the story was connected and how they made up for one another was so carefully planned that I admired the author's ability even more.

Fate contributes to a part of our lives. Some of the things happening around us may not be coincidence like we think, but signs of punishment or redemption. When we dig deeper, everyone's life may all be related. It is the story of each of us that is woven to become the world we have now.

Teen Diplomatic Envoys

Participating in the teen diplomatic envoys is one of the toughest decisions in my first year of senior high school since it was hard for me to keep up with schoolwork and manage to practice for the competition at the same time. However, I felt that it would be a unique chance to approve my English ability and test my limits, so I decided to team up with three other classmates to join the competition.

Before we can represent our school in the competition, we had to go through preliminaries in our own school. After a harsh contest, we finally got the ticket to the formal competition in which we had to perform a drama on a certain topic, which was “Building Global Vision through Youth Exchange”. We found it difficult to figure out the meaning of the topic when we first got our hands on the theme, but with the help of the Internet and teachers, we finally figured it out and get on the right track.



Time flies fast and before we noticed, the day of the competition had come. We were nervous, and we kept worrying about anything that might go wrong—what if we forgot our parts, what if the costume breaks.....At last, it was our turn to perform the drama. Everything went really well for about a minute. Then one of our fundamental costumes, the propeller blade of the fan fell off right in the middle of the drama! How embarrassing it was! Fortunately, one of our teammates put the propeller blade very smoothly back on so that we could continue acting. We all made some minor mistakes during the performance, so we were all anxious about the results. Luckily, we had the chance to go on to the next stage.

Though we were eliminated in the second part of the competition, we all learn a lot through the process. Not only did we advanced our English skills but learned how to cooperate with one another. Better yet, through the competition, we formed a strong friendship, and that's what really matters.

MY EXPERIENCE AS THE YOUTH AMBASSADOR

The Youth Ambassador Exchange Program was lit! I believe that this would one of the best experiences of my entire life. Being a representative of Taipei is really something I can be proud of, but it also comes with some responsibilities. Our job was simply just to promote Taipei, Taiwan, and have fun with each other at the same time.



Since Taipei has three different sister cities: Riga, Latvia; Warszawa, Poland and Phoenix, U.S.A., I was chosen to exchange with Phoenix students. Though our trip in Taipei was amazing, I would show my trip to Phoenix. That was when I became a tourist but I had local fun since I had a nice counterpart. Something that I could never imagine before I went there was that I became friends with almost 50 people from 8 different countries! When I was there, the youth ambassadors of Phoenix sister cities stuck as a group to travel very often, so we got to know each other and their experiences well. These would be the best of the best to tell.

One impressive experience was the baseball game. It was my 3rd time watching an MLB game, however, I was stunned by the people's passion. "Let's go D-backs" was shouted by everyone all the time during the game, and not just in English, but also in Chinese and Italian which is called "Forza". Girls painted on the laps and boys painted on their tummies to give the support to the team, and we cheered a lot by singing different songs. Everyone was in a craze and we got ourselves onto the big screen, and we were just trying to be "international"!

Beautiful sceneries like the Grand Canyon, the Santa Monica beach in CA, or places like Six Flags or the Musical Instrument Museum were appealing to me,

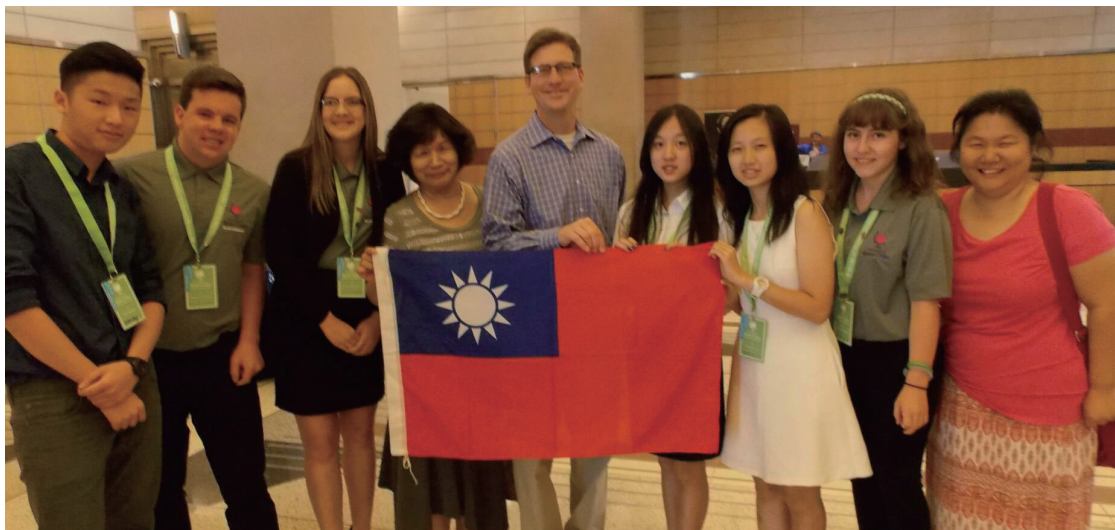
but I enjoyed the time with people more. Prom was a first time ever experience for me and I wished it never ended! High heels, prom dress and make up were things that I wasn't familiar with, but they made me really excited. The only problem was that the heels were killing my feet that I could barely walk. Fortunately, before I seriously fell over, the guys lent me their hands, and I just randomly grabbed one and walked through. The only thing appeared in my mind was that they were so gentle! The party began in an empty room with only a few tables in the back, but after the DJ dropped the beat and lights went off, the whole thing changed. The music was too loud that I could literally hear no talking but shouting the lyrics. Before that, I rarely danced, but there we could dance however we wanted, just have fun. One moment I loved the most was that my buddy shouted out my name because she saw me dancing, and I was in the middle of the circle, so the people around me started to follow my dance moves! It was pretty hype!

After joining so many activities, it was time for us to give back at the Thanksgiving party. Since it's a special American holiday, they made it earlier for us. On that day, we Taipei students did the city presentation, so we introduced things like location, architectures, food, big events and celebrities to everyone including the Phoenix parents. I really appreciated that my friends from Italy, France, Japan and many more said that our presentation was cute, and they would want to visit Taiwan! I was so happy.... On the same day, we did the talent show on a big stage. I had two different performances, one was our Taipei group karaoke because they loved the karaoke bar in Taipei, so we mixed up several throwback songs and some Chinese songs, then we just brought back the same thing on



stage. The other one was pretty cool. We were formed because my buddy lived near one of the local boy's house in the "Ahwatukee" neighborhood, so they came up with an idea of me playing the piano, the boy playing the Ukulele, my buddy and a Mexican girl dancing, and the French girl singing, our "Tukee squad" was a success.

Everything had to come to an end, though we only met for 18 days, it was still unforgettable. How adorable was it that we signed on each other's shirt with messages on them, and our memories were locked in our own box with notes from others. I even got candies! This was an experience that can never be replaced, and we will always be the perfect symbol of "global friendship".





THE CICERO DEBATE TOURNAMENT

One of the greatest challenges in my life is none other than debating. What made it more intense was that we did it in English. The Cicero Debate was not only my first time representing the school for a competition, but a never before experience of formal debating for me. I've learned much more than I expected.

English debates, unlike tongue fights with classmates, requires some essential skills, including critical thinking, solid expressions and a certain standard of English skills. It takes time to prepare since we have to discuss about the status quo, issues that are controversial these days, and bring up our solutions to the topic according to which side we are on. For instance, the debate's topic this year is on "That the government should abolish priority seats". The very first step to do is to define "priority seat", then continue looking into problems happening in Taiwan.

We believe the topics we debate on must have something to do with our society. Hence, they are meaningful and should be taken formally. One of the vital skills in performing is to have confidence in what we're saying. Points should always be explained clearly, and all contents are put in order and entitled. As for the debaters, there's nothing more important than staying conscious and keeping our minds clear! During the cross examination, we could easily be induced by the other side's statement. It would be horrible if we fall into their trap. Thus, logic is something that cannot be neglected.

Believe it or not, debating is not an easy thing due to tasks appearing countless at times. It may be frustrating sometimes, whereas it enhances our abilities with all the process. Gradually, I've gone out of my comfort zone and broadened my horizons!



By 1105 班 張晏瑜



This year, it was Yan Ping's 70th birthday. Everyone's face lit up with joy and excitement for being fortunate enough to join this "one-in-ten-years" unprecedented celebration.

To open the ceremony, the school surprised everyone with a dancing dragon and lion. They hopped up and down, jumping from one bar to another. Everyone was ecstatic how amazing they danced. The blinking eyes of the huge puppets attracted us as well, and we could hear people praising their cuteness in awe. The twenty-minute performance was so thrilling that everyone gasped in amazement. It was also my first time watching a dragon and lion dance in person. What a blast!

Then it was the teachers' dance. Our Mandarin teacher was the leading dancer and also the organizer. She mingled traditional Chinese martial arts with Western pop music. We once saw the teachers sacrificing their lunch break to practice dancing in the pouring rain! The spectacular sight of so many teachers moving altogether so orderly gave us goose bumps, and we yelled back much praise in return. The hard work definitely deserved the thundering applause!

Finally, it was our 10th grade's opening performance. We were so anxious waiting for our turn to amaze. Words of encouragement and a reminder to smile flowed among 47 people. "Let's welcome class 1009!" we stood up and trotted to our position, waiting for the music



to begin. The eyes around us became so sharp as if an eagle looking for its prey. The music hit and we started to wave our hands and move our hips. I couldn't help but smile. Whether it was the nerves and excitement or the urge to perform that put a big bright smile on my face, it didn't matter. It was so genuine that it made me enjoy the stage more than I had ever imagined. At last, we got third prize. We couldn't wait to share with everyone the good news, cheering at our achievement.

Two days of celebration went by very quickly. We soon felt a sense of fatigue after the sports day and school fair. I think the purpose of the school anniversary isn't merely about celebrating Yan Ping's birthday, but also putting a class together, gathering everyone's effort to reach the same goal. The four silk pennants we got this year not only represented us as a class of excellence and unity, but more importantly, it symbolized the endeavor we would put in each competition as 1009. We shouted out, cheering with one another as winning awards. I was so exalted that the feeling of excitement was running



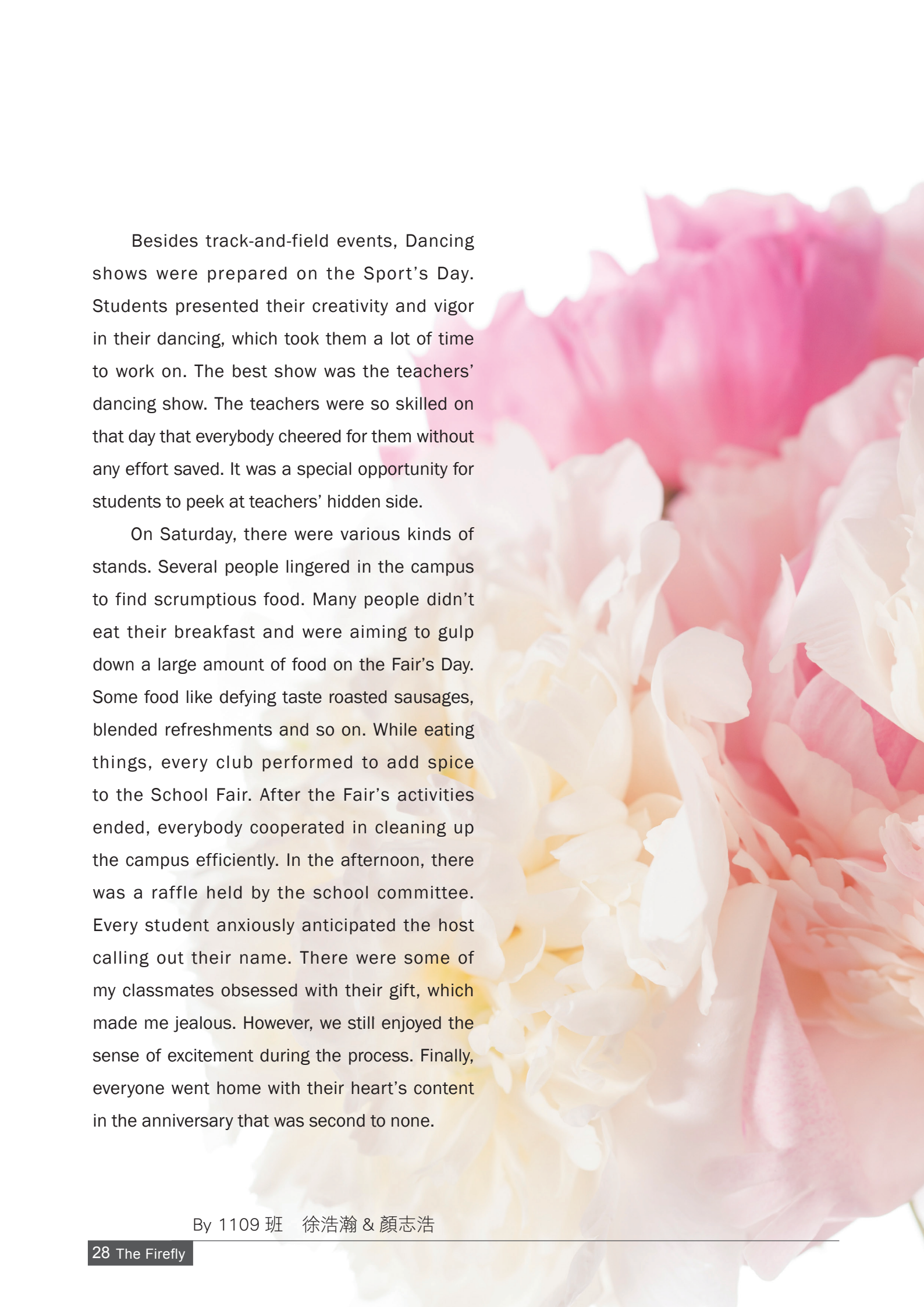
through my veins, thinking that our effort had finally paid off. Deep down inside, we knew it was the ultimate dedication of 47 people that made this success meaningful.

By 1109 班 吳欣育

70th anniversary of Yanping!!!

About a month ago was the 70th anniversary of YPHS. Because it was quite critical to celebrate our school's birthday, all the teachers and students prepared a lot for the premium shows and activities. Also, many seniors graduated from Yanping congregated to celebrate for Yanping's birthday. We enjoyed the celebration on Friday and Saturday. Friday was Sports Day; and Saturday was the School Fair.

All the participants in the race practice in their free time, trying to run to extreme extent on Sports Day. On Friday, there were some robust students breaking the school records, which was marvelous. It might be the last time we could attend the Sport's Day in YP because the ground and some buildings were scheduled to be renovated next year. Therefore, our class went all out in the running contest. Hard as we practiced, two people in our class fell down while running at a high speed. Fortunately, they didn't get hurt, and the perpetrators made an apology to us. Everyone in the class all accepted their apologies and harbored no grudges. Our class has a unique characteristic that we embrace any daunting challenge and never succumb to any difficulties together. Having this character is more vital than winning the competition, isn't it?



Besides track-and-field events, Dancing shows were prepared on the Sport's Day. Students presented their creativity and vigor in their dancing, which took them a lot of time to work on. The best show was the teachers' dancing show. The teachers were so skilled on that day that everybody cheered for them without any effort saved. It was a special opportunity for students to peek at teachers' hidden side.

On Saturday, there were various kinds of stands. Several people lingered in the campus to find scrumptious food. Many people didn't eat their breakfast and were aiming to gulp down a large amount of food on the Fair's Day. Some food like defying taste roasted sausages, blended refreshments and so on. While eating things, every club performed to add spice to the School Fair. After the Fair's activities ended, everybody cooperated in cleaning up the campus efficiently. In the afternoon, there was a raffle held by the school committee. Every student anxiously anticipated the host calling out their name. There were some of my classmates obsessed with their gift, which made me jealous. However, we still enjoyed the sense of excitement during the process. Finally, everyone went home with their heart's content in the anniversary that was second to none.

RACISM



The slaughtering clock was triggered

Racism lingers

We reproach the colored-teenagers

Minorities shudder

Resentment has intensified in their mind

Conscience, they can't find

The thing which emerges in our sight

Killing sprees and fighting become what they are convinced to be right



Paris, whole world prays

Black, keep at bay

Reveling at reckless Muslim behavior

People constantly recognizing themselves superior

But that begs the question. Who initially makes the society fear?



By 1109 班 顏志浩

What I Learned From the 2016 Taipei Cicero English Debate Tournament



On December 10th, two teams from Yanping High School participated in the 2016 Taipei Cicero English Debate Tournament, and I was one of the debaters. Given that it was an enriching experience, I have some inspiration of what I learned from the debate tournament to share.

When first introduced to debate, we learned that a strong argument usually accompanies a fluent logic and evidence. In the beginning, we were all impressed by our instructor's perfect logic when analyzing the topic. Therefore, we thought of it as an easy task to just copy the logic. However, not until the first time we ran through the arguments in our own words did we realize the difficulty of arranging all our ideas into simple speech. Later on, we got the tip that the only way to reach that seemingly unreachable perfection was to keep practicing by arranging the idea in our mind and saying it out. This way, whenever one got trapped in logical fallacies, other team members could help out by brainstorming together. In fact, it wasn't a rare scene that we experienced the awkwardness of being dragged away from our affirmative or negative stand and getting overwhelmed by the opposite side's mighty and fluent logic, but that was quite a successful moment. After all, luring the opposite team into our argument trap was our key to convince the judges, wasn't it?

The other reason for making this experience fascinating was my supportive teammates. Working with helpful people is like having powerful propellers, leading me forward steadily instead of holding me back. I really appreciate every member's contribution. We questioned. We discussed. We improved. Sacrificing leisure time to modify the drafts and cultivate debating skills was indeed bitter. However, a sense of contentment was equally exchanged. The contentment was not about how brilliant our result was or how fierce we beat the other team. It was about what we had been through together and what we had devoted. There's a bittersweet feeling of achievement rising from the bottom of my heart, and that's what made the experience meaningful.

Even though there were still parts of our performance left to be desired, I still firmly believe that taking part in the Taipei Cicero English Debate Tournament is a precious experience in my life. In addition, the lesson we learned from it can be applied in many aspects in our lives and thus creating more possibilities.

70th School Anniversary

As a student that had studied in this school since junior high, this is the fifth anniversary I have been with Yang Ping. What makes me a little upset is the thought that in some aspects, it may be the last one I can enjoy to my heart's content. One cause is that I will definitely be under enormous pressure for the college entrance examination on this day next year. Another reason for such sadness is that we will have to say goodbye to our playground and be somewhere else in our campus for a long period of time, providing that the construction of the new school building will begin not before long. But let's put the annoying sorrow aside first and talk about what was interesting at Yang Ping's seventy-year old birthday anniversary.



As a commemorative seventieth anniversary, the preparation of the celebration had started months ago. Speaking of some different looks in campus, huge banners with couplets, which show the great expectation for all the school members, were hung on the outside of the main building. Posters were pasted beside in the pattern of 70. Besides, there was a wall painted just like red bricks with white words sprayed on it showing “Yang Ping” and the year in which our school was founded, where many alumni liked to take photos when they came back to visit their alma mater.



During the two days, a gigantic inflatable castle was set in front of the school’s gate. When walking through, you would find yourself walking into a completely different world.

Contrary to the fast-paced world, our campus was filled with an easy and joyful atmosphere. Everyone’s face glowed with a smile, and, of course, I’m no exception. It could be easily seen that it is of crucial importance to hold such an exciting activity for all the members in the school, serving as a brief moment to relax and have some fun.

On top of that, down there in our library, a “time tunnel” was meticulously designed and arranged. The walls were repainted mottled deliberately in attempt to disguise as the time’s vestige. The display of yearbooks over the decades would come into sight. You could take a glimpse of the old times of our school, witness the passage of time, and exclaim in astonishment for all the changes subtle or significant within seventy years, as if, literally, passing through a “time tunnel” in person. As far as I am concerned, that was undoubtedly my favorite part throughout the entire activity. Not only was it a reminder telling us of the past stories that we aren’t in time for, but it was also an encouragement pushing us to move on and never stop, with a view to preserving the glory and passing it down to the next seventy years.

One splendid program especially worthy of mention is a unique activity in which several teachers presented a dance. Having learned dancing for a long time, our homeroom teacher was in charge of the surprising plan. She had spent a bunch of time arranging dance moves and taught other teachers involved in the performance. We often saw them practicing on the playground during the noon break or after school. “Those were hard days,” she said to us, “but meanwhile, it was rewarding and fulfilling. I will make every effort to bring a perfect show.” The efforts she made eventually paid off. The performance was so intriguing and fantastic that all the audience burst into deafening applause and loud cheers when they took a bow. I think the biggest reason would definitely be that we could seldom see our teachers reveal their youthful side.

We had a great time, as we always did on the two-day celebration every year. What leads to happiness varies from individual to individual, but I think we all share something in common at every annual celebration; that is, we were experiencing our youth, and just like the name of a song, “Live while we’re young”. We were doing our utmost to catch its tail while it was swiftly slipping away, which is only once in our life span and will never ever come back again. We cheered for every inspiring victory and cried for every unexpected failure. We were together, right there together, sharing all the pride. That is why we sing songs of friendship. Fond memories were created and perhaps every one of us was just trying to engrave in our minds all the bright smiles of those around at that eternal moment.



By 1110 班 黃劭璋

A Time for Celebration

Not merely a ceremony, November 11th and 12th were also a golden opportunity for the members in the Yan Ping family to create lasting memories. We are said to be the blessed ones to be able to personally take part in such a grand event as the 70th anniversary of Yan Ping High School. And I sincerely agreed with that. The ceremony lasted for two days. The first day was composed of a wide variety of competition and epic performances of students and teachers in the school. While the second day, our campus was opened to visitors.

The first show was staged by students. As 11th graders we were the main performers. In order to show how energetic and creative we were, most classes chose to perform with either cute or unique outfits. It was such a joy to look at all the dancing, music, and costumes that varied from class to class. However, the most meaningful part of the whole project was the time before the show was on. We had a lot of fun preparing for it. We had a no pain no gain attitude.

However, being a student is not only about being a part of the class, but sometimes also as a key component in a club. Besides practicing with classmates, the preparations in each club had started much earlier. For instance, the orchestra was in

charge of the background music during the entire ceremony; their musical performance on the second day was also remarkable. Likewise, every club that participated in the show did their utmost to overwhelm the crowds, including the pop music club, the pop dance club, the magic club, etc. We put our hearts in it.

The other highlight of that day was presented by the teachers. The teachers were those who had been devoted the most. Therefore, they were also the ones who should enjoy the anniversary the most. And they surely did. With the deafening applause from the entire school, the teachers' dancing was no need to say the climax of the day. From my perspective, the award of the best performance undoubtedly goes to our teachers. Long before the 70th anniversary came, our teachers had plunged into practicing. The teachers were dedicated to work hard and play hard.

While students that graduated from Yan Ping High School attended the ceremony on the second day. You can certainly tell how much the school had done for them for there were yearbooks overtime and walls full of pictures since the very beginning of our school in the library. In campus, some of the alumni took photos in front of the wall with the school's name painted on it; and some were talking to teachers and old pals, recapturing those good old days. Upon seeing this, I started wondering how it would be like after my graduation. Will I too miss the days I spent here?

Far from being a place to cram knowledge in your brain, Yan Ping High School is a place where we meet our mentors, learn to be ourselves, and find friends. So don't take November 11th and 12th as just two other blanks on your calendar, because they are the time when you can create fond memories for days to come.

By 1110 班 楊姍柔



70th School Anniversary

November marks the anniversary of Yangping High School, a precious moment to commemorate its founding and create fond memories for the present and former students. Long leads the path of our school's history, which insidiously marched to its 70th year. To celebrate this meaningful 70th birthday, the school put effort into organizing a cascade of activities which made it different from the previous anniversaries.

Entering the school gate, you can see the eye-catching inflatable arch giving you a pleasant welcome with open arms, which heralds the beginning of the birthday celebration. Having sung the national anthem on the assembly, our honorable principal and esteemed guests delivered speeches to congratulate the school anniversary as well as inspire us students. Awards were presented subsequently to personnel that have worked in our school for over five or ten years and those who are scheduled to retire. We all appreciated their devoted efforts to our school. Soon after, a multi-layer cake appeared on the stage, accompanied by the birthday song. The elaborate decorations on each layer of the cake were symbolic of the long walk to the 70th anniversary, representing the

attempts and achievement made before to create Yanping a better environment for learning.

The double cross talk was one of the most impressive parts during the ceremony. It captured students' attention with dialogues concerning the school history, vividly depicting the stories of the founder in the past. We all strained our ears and focused attentively on it. Back during the Japanese colonial period, Yangping was first established as a college, founded by Mr. Zhu Zhao-Yang in the hope of making contributions on higher education. However, influenced by the 228 incident, the school was accused of hiding weapons and thus forced to shut down. Yanping then degraded into a night school, passing down its original notion. Having gone through regeneration, Yanping is now a private high school with high reputation and best represents the spirit of the firefly notwithstanding.

As the ceremony came to an end, the performance began. The dragon and lion dancing kicked off, leaving the audience stunned. Performers put on costumes in pairs and jumped on columns from one to another by cooperating with their partners. Each time they made a leap or performed a technical movement, thunderous applause aroused. It was their hard work that made it possible for them to act swiftly and stand on the



column so high that keeping balance was no easy task. The performers in lion costumes interacted with the audience by swinging their heads with the beats of drum and could even wink the eyes of the lions quickly. Despite their young age, they proved that these skillful performances could

be accomplished with determination and perseverance.

The celebration performance reached its climax when it came to the long-anticipated dancing performed by the teachers. The dancing had already drawn flocks of students as it was really rare to see teachers participating in activities together aside from teaching. The field was a perfect place for teachers to showcase their efforts after weeks of intensive practicing. The dancing was accompanied by loud applause and yelling of the teachers' names. From their uniform movements and choreographs, you could see that they had put great efforts into the show. The dancing topped off the celebration.



Walking downstairs to the library, you could see the anniversary display. The photo gallery exhibited the pictures of our school, from the past to present. It clearly portrayed how the school has developed in many aspects, such as the campus, facilities and various activities. Not only could the albums from the past be found in display but also photos of alumni of generations. What's more, the school released memorial MRT card with the 70th anniversary logo chosen by both the students and teachers. The student association also designed canvas bags as a token. The selling of these products helps raise the funds for the coming school renovation.

“In this chaotic and dismal time, we have to offer this society a slight ray of hope, and we have to be like the glittering light of the luminous firefly found only in a very harsh region of the world.” This was what the founder, Mr. Zhu Zhao-Yang had mentioned in a speech 70 years ago. The sights of the campus might have changed as decades passed, but the spirit persists. Just as a firefly, its trace links the history of Yanping, from the past to the present and the future.

REMEMBRANCE

Love hurts.

To be cast aside by your younger cousin and subjected to pain and humiliation for all eternity is a fate I wish not on anyone, except for the perpetrator himself.

Oh, how I regret not taking other's advice seriously. If I did, maybe we would have turned the tables during the Titanomachy, and my cousin would not be gathering his kin to form a council to rule the eons to come.



But those are lies made by my cousin and his cohorts that were meant for mortal ears, to keep the fires burning for them ever lit and their names ever sung by the generations to come.

While I have not seen my brother for eons, he is still kin of my kin. Our great Mother's blood flows in all of us, despite us being a generation apart. Even though my final image of him is he bringing this accursed weight upon my body, I know myself well enough that he would not be content to sit upon the throne forever.

As I am toiling under the pressure here, I can imagine him languishing in his so-called palace, just like his father and the father before his. I know he no longer cares for his realm, and until his sons topple him, there would be no reprieve from my enslavement. This leaves me to own the very thing he once claimed that is now resting on my hands.

Though I am the custodian of the skies now that doesn't make the agony any easier. Many times I have nearly dropped the weight that would have engulfed the mortal realm in eternal darkness and death. But one thing stopped me even with my protesting limbs shrieking otherwise. Mortals themselves.

From my prison here at the end of the world, I have seen the mortal kind rise and fall and rise again. The fires I have seen mortals created for helping or destroying their own kind has lit the distant clouds over and over. Yet, they still stand.

As my hands labor forever under the pressure of the swirling clouds over my head, I can't help but admire the kind my uncle long since hated. The sheer determination, creativity and devotion the mortal have for themselves. Their sheer will to live is more than enough to garner my affection.

At any time, I feel weary and lose all hope in this world, all I near to do is to gaze upon the lights in the distance. I know out there they are living their fullest, and that alone is sufficient to keep my mind and hands steady under the pain, because I love them.

Love truly hurts.

THE WEATHER CONTROLLER

Many people wonder what God looks like. He's five feet two tops, with a brown beard grayed at the edges and a smile that will make you want to love him (or punch him in my case). Often, he shows up in a pure white robe, as most mortals below picture him that way. But, I've seen God in suits or tuxedos a couple of times, proving that the old codger is still aware of the people he made.

How do I know all this?

Oh yeah, I guess I'm his Controller of Weather or something. It sounds awesome, but the title is awfully pretentious. I learned that the hard way when I blindly accepted the job offer. "Hey, Remliel, do you want to be in charge of the climate?" God had asked as the idiot that nodded without thinking. Not a second later, my halo and wings disappeared.

Sure, riding a lighting-charged cloud is sweet and shooting energy bolts out of your fingertips at others that mock you, however, I deeply miss the feeling of warm air gently buffeting me under my feathery wings.

Sigh. Apart from not getting paid well, this job doesn't really have the same benefits like my former one. For starters, I know for sure my name won't be getting into any mortals' books anytime soon. Oh, they'll chant God's name every weekend and occasionally a few of his helpers. But for the person who constantly watches over their lives, they could do

themselves a favor and write me into a few songs. Maybe then I'll start sending drizzle instead of hurricanes.

There are also the parties. Up here, we don't have any sore of the lame 'parties' mortal likes to call them. Being immortal, these parties last for weeks to months at a time and boy do they rock hard. In fact, I'm going to go so far to say that Pompeii was caused by Michael shredding on his lyre. It's a hush-hush subject here, but what fun would there be if secrets were just secrets? However, since I'm the 'Controller of Weather' I rarely get a break to go to one of these parties, where I know my former colleagues are enjoying themselves.

My temperament has gotten me chewed out by God several times. He used to threaten to remove my position. However, as the old bloke knows, there won't be a second angel to step up if he fires me. And frankly, he's spending too much time in his palace nowadays to berate me or listen to mortals.

Gabriel's birthday is coming up next week, and his secret buddy Uriel has told me that he would be pleased if I could put on a show for both Gabriel and the mortals below. Being an archangel, his words carried a lot of weight, so I was fretting for quite a while as I wanted to get on his good side.

Only until yesterday, did I think of an elaborate show I could put on with the weather. It's going to start off slow and peaceful, but it's going to end in a sharp twist. The others angels, especially Gabriel are going to love it, the mortals probably not so much.

Eh, I'm sure God wouldn't mind.



The minute hand froze exactly a minute to twelve.

Smiling to myself, I lowered my hand and examined the classroom as I climbed out of my seat. Teacher Sanderson's chalk was stationary in his unmoving hand, a broken piece floating in the air. Likewise, every other teenager in the class was frozen in the same position before I stopped time. Some kids kept dozing while others had their hands glued to the screens they were playing on under the desks.

Grabbing my bag, I walked out of the classroom. The hallway was empty. As it should be since everyone was in class. Only two people roamed the hallways during this quiet period, the principal and the janitor. But last I checked, the former was in his office, while the latter was in the boy's restroom on the third floor.

My feet made no sound as it crossed the hall, nor did the bathroom door at the end of the hallway as I pushed it open. Time had stopped, and everything else, with a sole exception. I opened the fourth stall from the right and put my bag on the shelf beside the toilet. Something caught my eye as I was about to close the stall door to play on my laptop in peace.

The mirror hung on the whitewashed walls. Stains were evident, here and there, despite the janitor's best efforts to keep it clean, to his ire. Yet, there was something odd about my reflection.

Death waits for everyone, but time waits for no one. Except me.

I remembered the line that I used to repeat. To my younger self, it was a quote of victory. A victory brought on by the daunting tasks I did in middle school. Evading bullies, cheating on tests, and for the hell of it, stopping everyone in their tracks.

But, why did I feel so weary even after the few years of middle and high school? Why was time stopped for even longer periods than before when I took the P. E exams every semester? And why was it that made other girls shy further and further away from me? I looked questioningly at the unfamiliar person in the mirror.

Realization hit me in a sudden, startling wave, and I collapsed against the sink. With weak hands I raised a hand to my face. I watched in fear as the stranger in the mirror touched the bags beneath his eyes and the very faint wrinkles on his forehead, horror gripped me as it dawned on me that even I could not escape the grasp of time completely. Nature was collecting her due for all the time I borrowed from her, and I was going to pay every cent of it back with compound interest.

The bathroom door suddenly banged open as the janitor strode in. Behind him, the hallway was suddenly flooded with the sounds of a ringing bell and hungry teenagers eagerly making their way out of

classrooms to the cafeteria.

“What--?” Janitor Joe yelled at me over the sound of hundreds of feet. But I acted instantly and lifted a hand almost accusingly towards him. “Stop!” But time kept flowing.

“What are you doing, in here?” he finished and moved forward. I stared uncomprehendingly at my hand.

“Pushing the shock away, I concentrated with all my might and bellowed the four letters as hard as I could. “S-T-O-P.”

Joe’s hand, which was inches away from my shoulder, froze in mid-air. I stared in fear at the expression of hate and loathing that was etched on the janitor’s face.

Slowly, I gathered my bag from its place and backed away from the immobile Joe.

Brushing against his cleaning trolley, I pushed it out of the way before making sure the bathroom door was closed properly. To the janitor, I would just be another one of his hallucinations about a ghost teenager that he commonly has, which he would talk about with the principal after his shift.

Avoiding the first few pupils that had stepped out into the hall, I skipped around them back to Sanderson's class.

The classroom door was slightly ajar as a couple of quicker students had twisted open the doorknob after hearing the bell. Thankfully, they were still on the other side and thus I was able to run back unhindered towards my seat and pretend I was there the whole time.

“Go.” I panted to the air. Yet, nothing moved.

“Go,” I said again with even more force, glancing nervously to the clock. “GO!”

But the minute hand was still stuck a minute past twelve.



SNOWDEN

“Most people don’t want FREEDOM, they want SECURITY. “

-movie<Snowden>

With Oliver Stone’s latest movie, Snowden, in the theater, the controversy that whether it is valid to keep national security at the price of privacy and freedom is brought up.

Edward Joseph Snowden, a former employee of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) revealed the NSA’s (The National Security Agency) global surveillance programs in Hong Kong in June, 2013. The disclosures led to condemnation against US authorities. The United States federal prosecutor charged Snowden with theft of government property and his passport was immediately canceled. Now, Snowden is under Russian government’s temporary asylum protection.

After the big hit documentary “Citizenfour” filmed by Laura Poitras, the movie “Snowden” complements more information about the whistleblower himself and his mental state turn. The famous actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt played the role of this gifted system administrator. He imitated Snowden’s accent and how he talks. This shows the actor’s highly praised acting skills.

“I used to work for the government. Now I work for the public.”

-Edward Snowden’s self-introduction on Twitter

Although it is difficult to tell which is more important, security or freedom, the only thing is clear is that we citizens should have the right to know that we are under surveillance. The fact is that the NSA secretly started their program not only targeting specific individuals but ALL of us. For conscience’s sake, Snowden had to leak the data.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have launched a campaign to request a pardon for Snowden. Sadly, the White House spokesperson refused the demand and claimed Snowden a criminal who should be brought to trial.

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