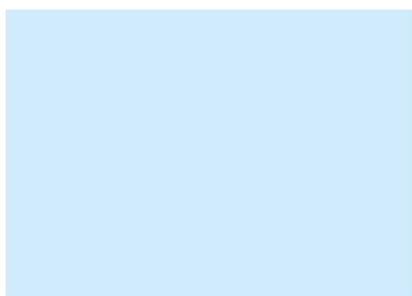
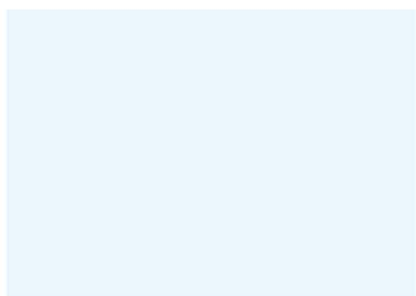
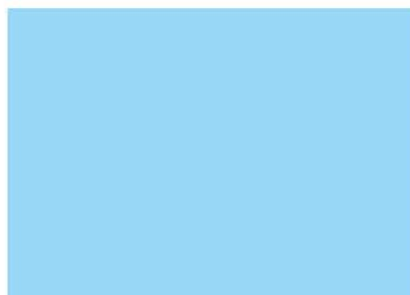
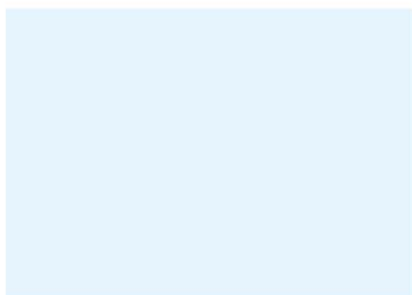
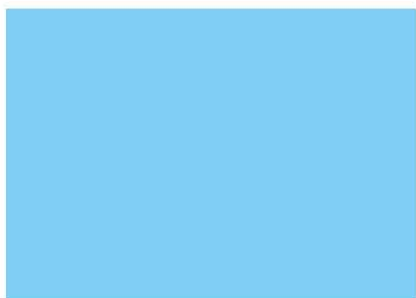
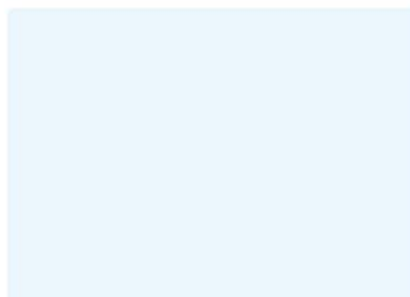


The Firefly



27th
June
2018



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Daniel's Life of Art and Education

I was born in Davenport Iowa in the United States of America. I come from a slightly unusual family. I'm the ninth child of 12 children. I have six brothers and five sisters. My father was a highly skilled craftsman, who specialized in terrazzo flooring. My mother was a teacher for the Davenport School District. Because of my mother's concern for her children and her love of travel, we would often spend summers driving around the United States visiting my siblings and other members of our extended family. These experiences fostered my love of travel and influenced me to see the world.

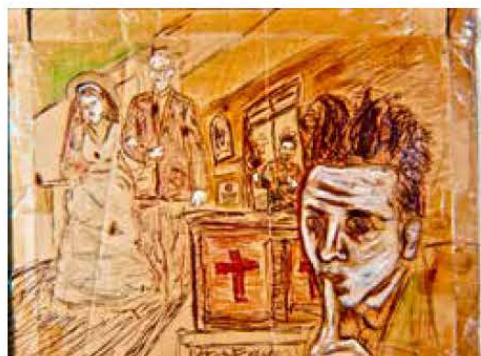
In junior high school, I struggled with academics until one special teacher found the time to explain things clearly. From then on, I started to excel in school. Other interests developed as well. As a child, I was fascinated by gymnastics and acrobatics and was involved in other sports as well. Most recently I competed in the 2018 Xiuguluan River Rafting Triathlon, and I was the 21st person to cross the finish line, out of 505 competitors.





One of the most important interests I developed in high school also continues to this day. I fell in love with the camera and the darkroom. At that time, digital photography was still in its infancy and the vast majority of people still used film. Upon seeing my work, my teacher decided to enter me into a big art competition. I was surprised when I won the top prize. This led to other competitions and an interest in other art media. It also led me to study both art and education in college. While studying in college, I also developed skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, and videography.

In college, I participated in numerous exhibitions and competitions. My artwork received many awards. Among the highest of my accolades include having a piece in the White House permanent collection and other work that was purchased by the University of Northern Iowa and can currently be found in some of their buildings. My portfolio led to several grants, art scholarships, and commissions.



Even though art is something I love, it is not an easy career to break into. Many artists struggle to follow their dreams and also pay the bills. After graduation, I became friends with many DJs. I used to attend lots of electronic music festivals and events. This connection led me to start a small videography business. I designed and constructed sets for many events. I also created countless hours of video that would be played on the screens on the stage and around the venue. While DJs were mixing music, I was shooting video of them as well as the crowd and mixing it together with other videos I had created to make video art. In combination with DJs and videographers I became friends with, I started a long-running TV series on the local Public Access Television station. Every other week we would bring DJs into the studio and do a live music mix that would be combined with our videos and sent out through cable to thousands of viewers.

While creating art for regional electronic music events was artistically fulfilling and exciting, it was hard to make a living. Also, because of a growing concern for my aging parents, I moved back to my hometown. I decided to postpone my desire to become a famous artist, and pursue something more stable. This is where I put my education degree to use. I worked with the Davenport School District in a variety of different classrooms for just over three years. A majority of my time there was spent teaching art to children at Lincoln Fundamental School and other schools.

Working as a teacher in my hometown was also a rewarding experience. However, districtwide budget cuts prevented me from receiving a decent contract. Because of this, I returned to my alma mater for an education expo. It was there I was first presented with the idea of living in Taiwan.

I wandered around the exhibition hall with a stack of





resumes and cover letters in my hand. I talked to people from across the United States. Many of them encouraged me to schedule interviews with them. After scheduling several afternoon interviews, I came across a booth for “Montessori Schools of Asia.” I was intrigued, and I stopped to inquire about the organization. She asked to look at my resume and then adamantly insisted I come for an interview.

After our interview, she asked me to take a job with one of her schools. I was honored, but I told her of my reservations: I didn’t think I could make the move or live in a place so foreign. She insisted that her organization could pay for my flight, the first two weeks in a hotel, assist me in doing the paperwork and help me get settled. Fearing that my family might have issues with me moving to the other side of the world, I quickly called my mother. She told me to take the opportunity and see the world. Within three months I sold my car and packed my life in America into small boxes. I tucked those boxes away in the storage rooms of family members. I packed my suitcases and arranged my flights.

I enjoyed working with children. Their enthusiasm and ability to absorb new information was invigorating. I worked in early childhood education for over two years in Taiwan. I was somewhat tired of simple phonics lessons, and I decided to pursue more academically rigorous and intellectually stimulating work. That is when I took my job at Yan Ping High School.

Although wanderlust and my work in the field of education has usurped my dreams of becoming a great artist, I’m still involved in many creative endeavors. While my photos are more than likely to “hang on the walls” of social media rather than in galleries, I’m having a great time seeing the world.



By Daniel

Camping

On May 3rd and May 4th, all the students in Grade 8 went to Little Ding-Dong Science Theme Park to camp for two days. We were all excited about this experience because this was our first and also last time to take a trip with the whole class.

On the morning of the first day, we went there very early. Everyone chatted happily on the tour bus. The leader taught us a lot of things about scouting, like tying knots, tying scarfs and shouting slogans. After arriving at the campground, everyone was shocked by the instructors. They shouted at us, and some of us felt like being cheated. Some outsiders might have thought that we were to play for two days, but no one knew it was actually a military training trip. The training was hard. Everyone shouted loudly or stamped their feet hard. We did everything the chief military officer wanted us to do. Although our team didn't get the championship, we still felt proud of ourselves.

What impressed me the most was the campfire party. Every class prepared a program and performance. Our class had been practicing for the program since March. When we finished the performance, the sense of achievement was beyond description. Maybe our dancing was not the best, but everyone did their utmost. The applause from the audience made us feel that all our efforts paid off.

After all the classes had finished performing, the chief military officer played some soft music and said some touching words. Some students cried, and I must admit, I cried too. Next year we are going to separate and be divided into different classes. This was the last activity we had together. I will always cherish this memory, and I know everyone will, too.



My Camping Trip



Last Thursday, all of the eighth graders had a camping trip. I had been excited for this trip since I was in seventh grade.

On the way to the campground, everyone looked happy and the atmosphere was joyous. But when we got there, things didn't sound cool. The teachers there were mean to us. They yelled at us loudly; I was so shocked. I thought it was a relaxing trip, but the teacher told us that we were there to be trained, not to play. After the "Training," we set up our tents. Finally, it was time for lunch. We were all hungry then. I ate quickly and hoped that I could take a rest, but NO! We needed to quickly get our baggage, and go to learn something else. We did many things: tying knots, cutting wood, using signal flags, and so on. Many of them were new to me, like cutting wood. I had never tried it before. In the evening, we cooked dinner by ourselves. It tasted bad, but it was a great experience. After we were full, the activity I most expected, the campfire party, was on. The

teachers told us to yell as loudly as we could, and dance to the beat of the show. We were so high-spirited. It was really exciting. After the party, it was already late at night. It was time to take a shower and sleep, but I didn't take a shower, because there were too many people waiting in line for the bathroom. At night, I didn't sleep well. The space in the tent was too small for me. I felt bad.

The next day in the morning, we did more activities. The coolest thing was the indoor skiing field. I played it two times. It wasn't very quick, but it was so much fun. At noon, we had a barbecue, which was the best meal of the whole trip. After the barbecue, the trip came to an end. It was time for the closing ceremony. The two-day trip was officially over. Without a doubt, there were many things that made us tired, but what stayed in our heads were sweet memories. It was the last time the whole grade could come out for a trip. I will always remember this trip with all of my best friends.



The Camping Trip

Recently, the eighth-grade students went camping to Hsinchu. We've got hundreds of unique memories during the overnight trip. If you ask me what the most wonderful experience of the two-day trip was, I will tell you that cooking meals by ourselves and playing team games were both so impressive that I believe I'll keep them in mind for good.

To begin with, making our own lunch and dinner was a lot of fun. We needed to assign work to everyone on the team and collaborate with each other well. For example, one of the teammates was the chef, another had to wash the vegetables, and the others had to blend the sauce or keep the fire for the barbecue burning. On the first day, we were not that proficient at cooking, and we added too much soy sauce to the chicken, but on the second day our barbecue tasted perfect. Overall, though our cooking skills were not the best, we not only happily devoured the dishes we made on our own, but also learned a lot about cooperation.

Also, we played numerous team games. The most interesting one was tic-tac-toe. Players had to hold a small traffic cone and use their legs to bring the ball to the hula hoops. The first team to make a line won the game. During the competition, our class cheered for our classmates at the top of our lungs, screamed loudly at crucial moments, and wildly jumped up and down when we finally won the game in the last round. I felt that the atmosphere in the class changed dramatically. We had great team spirit; moreover, the friendship between us became even closer.

Although cellphones were not allowed at the campground, we enjoyed ourselves in the simplest way — the craziest cheers and the most immaculate teamwork. I'm sure that I will never forget any trivial details of this one-of-a-kind experience. After all, camping is an interesting activity, but camping with the whole class is an even more fantastic experience.

OVERNIGHT CAMPING



On alighting the bus, we saw three men in military uniforms shouting loudly at us and asking us to sit in order. They were our captains. Their job was to train us and lead us to win the spirit award. During the training, we learned about greeting and saluting our elders. Although these things sounded very simple, they made us practice them again and again until each of us did them accurately and loudly. Then it was time to set up tents.

Thanks to our solid teamwork, every group finished quickly and correctly. After an exhausting morning we finally took a break and had lunch. In the afternoon, our leaders taught us how to tie knots and we made simple stretchers. The best part of the training was how to identify poisonous snakes. Finally, at dinner time, we made our meals. Whether the meal was delicious or not didn't matter. By working together, we took care of our group.

The highlight of this trip was not the medial work we completed, it was the campfire show. Each class had been waiting for this moment. It was our task to cheer, jump and dance to the beat. We reveled in the light and music. At the end of the performance, the principal gave a speech. He said that he was gratified to see our



energy and manners. It was a memorable experience for everyone.

The next morning, we were full of beans and couldn't wait for that day's outdoor activities. After having a quiet and serious breakfast, we learned dining etiquette and faced the day ahead. We tried paintball shooting first and learned about several kinds of scientific principles in the process. We discovered that without working together nothing gets done.

As the trip came to a close, everyone had a chance to win the spirit award. We yelled, jumped, and cheered for ourselves. It was a time to let our spirits speak for themselves. I for one, found it memorable. It was a great trip.



By 804 班 林順文

Overnight Camp



It was a chilly Thursday morning at Da An Park. Several tour buses were parked along Jianguo South Road. A peaceful neighborhood became unusually noisy because of the laughter and chatter from hundreds of 8th graders as they got ready for their once-in-a-lifetime overnight camping trip.

As the clock struck 7, the buses departed from Da An Park and headed to Hsinchu. On the bus, the instructor taught us how to become scouts. And after an hour of training and practicing, we finally arrived at the campsite. The first thing upon arrival was we suffered from more training and wasted an hour getting chewed out by the instructor for no reason. But I guess that's what being in the army feels like. In the afternoon, we went to different places for some outdoor "education." This part felt a lot like school but in the woods. After that, it was dinner time. We split into groups and had to cook by ourselves. It felt like the organizers planned this section just to embarrass the boys. We didn't have a clue as to what we were doing and the food ended up raw. I suggest they cancel this activity and just give us lunchboxes because a lot of people got sick from eating the terrible food.

Since I started following basketball, I've always wanted to go to an NBA game. I wanted to know what chanting "defense" with 20,000 people felt like. The campfire party gave me more or less the same experience. Roars and screams from hundreds of people rocked my ears and it was at that night that I found out what home court advantage really was. After the show, the only thought left in my mind was "WOW." We managed to smuggle some snacks into the tent and we spent an hour eating chocolate and chatting before finally falling asleep.



After eating another awful meal, we entered the final segment of the field trip, the closing ceremony. Throughout the field trip, the team captain kept reminding us to win the teamwork award and that we had to work together to overcome all the challenges. I think teamwork is the essence of being a scout, and it makes solving problems a lot easier. The team captain told us the closing ceremony was the most important part of the field trip and we had to do our absolute best if we wanted to win the teamwork award. The ceremony turned out to be even crazier than the campfire party. I even got a chance to get in front of everybody, but the only thing I wanted to know was who won the award. The team captain left us hanging before finally revealing the ultimate winner. You guessed it, it was us. We got a big bag of candy as a reward and returned home happily.

The overnight camp brought me tons of unforgettable memories. I will always remember the fun I had with my classmates and all the friends who accompanied me through my time in Yanping.

By 804 班 項達均



The Soul of Youth

“Taiwan is the center of the world; Taipei is the center of Taiwan; Yanping is the center of Taipei; Team Two is the center of Yanping. Team Two, Team Two, we’ll win the championship!”

This was the slogan we shouted during the camping trip this year. At first, we were emotionally unstable and could hardly work with each other. By following our coaches’ instructions, we did a great job. After the opening ceremony and a series of educational courses, I saw that a lot of students were shocked by the strict training, but none of us complained.

When it came time to cook lunch over the fire, every member of my group tried their best to pitch in and do their part. They also provided different opinions and tips about how to cook a delicious meal.

Following the most significant event, in which Principal Liu carried the torch circling around the field heroically and lit up the campfire to all students’ cheers, the campfire activity started! The magnificent fire burnt ardently, and I knew an awesome show was ready to begin. We shouted and jumped with the instructors and engaged actively with the performers. While classes were dancing on the stage, not only did the enthusiastic performers dance hard, but the whole audience also yelled out the slogans loudly and paid their full attention to support and encourage the performers on the stage. Each class showed their characteristics and created an unforgettable night in their unique way.



Pleasant hours flew fast. It was time for the closing ceremony. Though most of us were exhausted, we still gave our undivided attention and cheered with excitement. When the announcement was made that our team won the Spirit Award, all of us jumped to our feet, and yelled out cheerfully with the military instructor. Everyone shouted at the top of their lungs to celebrate this honor.

With this two-day camping trip, I deeply appreciated the importance of team spirit and the value that "No man is an island." Despite the fact that we still may have argued sometimes, all of us did our utmost to show the best side of ourselves and cooperated well with the military instructors.

The team spirit award is not just the symbol of honor, but also proof of our change and growth during these two days.


Though not every member won a prize, we all have new memories, which will stay with us forever!

An Exhausting yet Wonderful Trip

It is a tradition in Yang-Ping that all the students go camping in the 8th grade. This is a labor-consuming and throat-hurting trip, but also an unforgettable experience for everyone. This year, we chose to go camping in Hsinchu on May 3rd and 4th.

Fortunately, the weather was not hot, just right for camping. I was so excited as I got on the tour bus. I believed that it was going to be a happy and relaxing trip. However, when arriving at the campsite, I was shocked by the strict regulations of the team scout leader. All the students were asked to obey the rules like soldiers in the military. We had to reply to the orders in the loudest voice to show we were energetic. We could not move an inch to show our tidiness. The scout taught us some basic gestures in order to communicate with each other. I felt manipulated under his rules.

Afterwards, we learned wilderness survival skills, including how we could provide self-aid to our injuries. We learned how to treat a bone fracture, how to chop lumber, and make a fire. Finally, it was time to prepare our dinner. We seldom had chances to cook at home by ourselves, but we were all looking forward to show what we could do. Our plan was to make fried cabbage, curry, fried fish and soy sauce stewed pork. Even if we made some dishes in the wrong way, it was still fun. We forgot to unfreeze the fish, which resulted in hot oil bursts. Cooking is not an easy job. All these dishes might not look as good as those prepared by our moms, but I think it is the most delicious dinner in the world because we made it. As the saying goes, "No pain, no gain." It was a pity we could not have enough time to taste this wonderful "feast."



After we tidied the table, it was time for the vital issue of the trip, the campfire party. The exciting atmosphere made everyone insane. My class' show was different from others. We had a special arrangement with a musical drama. By acting and dancing, we went up the stage and danced our hearts out. Although our throats were sore as we shouted, and our hands were hurt as we clapped, the party was a big success.

We were exhausted. After a quick shower, we went to sleep. My eyes closed in the darkness and silence. I was half-awakened under the hug of Mother Nature. The tent was so crowded that we had to sleep in different positions. We couldn't avoid being kicked as we turned. A bird's tweet woke everybody up in the tent. And that was at 4:00am in the morning! I didn't sleep well.

On the second day, there was still a bunch of training ahead of us. We had to start a fire with coal and matches. It was not easy. If you didn't make the fire successfully, you couldn't have lunch. The smell of the meat and sauce made me feel extremely hungry. Eventually, we were successful.

The closing ceremony was the big hit of the day. Every class wished for the honor and the prize of being the best. My heart was beating so fast then. We were nervous to hear the results. Then we heard, "The best and the most honorable team goes to team 2." Everyone in my class was thrilled. All of our hard work of preparing, practicing, and rehearsing paid off in the end. It was a gift for everyone before class regrouping. I will certainly treasure this memory deep in my heart.

Camping



I knew it was going to be tough when I first stepped onto the campground. As expected, the instructor told us to keep our volume at maximum, which meant we had to yell in response to all his commands. It brought up my thirst really fast and the water bottle at my waist saved me. I think this was an important, but fun activity, and I can't wait to talk about the most interesting part.

It was time for cooking! I just wanted to say that I love cooking, and this is a rare chance for me to cook for my friends. I was appointed to be a chef; actually, I volunteered. At dinner time, I saw the menu and decided to stir-fry the vegetables first. I also cooked something different from the recipe. For example, there was a dish called pan-fried chicken with pickles. Because of dietary habits of all the teammates, I removed the pickles and kept the sauce. We also changed the material of the pan-fried mackerel. I saw that the spring onion and the garlic were not used, so I asked my helper to chop them up and put them into the pan-fried fish. All of my teammates said that the sweetness of the spring onion was beautifully connected with the taste of the fish, while the garlic eased the unpleasant smell of the fish. At last, I think it was a great dinner until something infuriated me.

"Ok, students, it's time to clean up", said the instructor. Unfortunately, I heard the command just as I was sitting down prepared to eat. I was really shocked and got extremely angry. Everything I cooked was going to be thrown away, and everyone enjoyed my food except me. I took a deep breath sadly, and the aroma of all the cuisine ran straight through my nose.



This was not the right time to enjoy. I knew I had to realize that the only thing I could do was obey, and accept all the commands. That was why my dinner was a bowl of rice that wasn't even made by me. How ironic! I spotted the “waste” thrown into the bin, and I couldn't taste any of it. Although all of my friends said that I cooked well, there was a really big gap between us—the satisfied feeling after enjoying my cuisine. At least this meant my cooking style was right.

Although I accepted the sympathy from my friends, I thought this was what I should do. I felt cheerful at night after I contributed to the group; seeing their smiles was a strong means to motivate myself to cook for them the next day. I also felt grateful for all of my helpers for all the support they offered me: the teammates who cleaned the vegetables, washed the pans, sliced the meat, cleaned the table and when I felt down, the friends who cheered me up were all helpful. I love teamwork; it enhances friendships, creates a chance for us to know each other better, and reminds us to contribute as much as we can as a team player.

CAMPING TRIP

As our teacher told us that we were going on a two-day camping trip in May, none of us could hide our extreme excitement. We started to prepare for the trip wholeheartedly, learning how to tie knots, being trained to pitch tents on our own, practicing our campfire show, etc. Everything went smoothly, and the day approached faster than any of us had thought.

On that day, we met our amiable guide on the bus. She told us that the trip we were going on wasn't going to be as relaxing as we had thought. There would be military officers and a star officer who might be quite mean to us. As we got closer and closer to Little Ding-Dong Theme Park, I suddenly felt worried about the situation we would face after we got there. Although I had butterflies in my stomach, I still looked forward to beginning our camping trip. When we finally arrived at our destination, we were urged to get to the assembly venue at our fastest speed. Our squad leader made us do a lot of shouting and screaming, and he also told us to do everything quickly, perfect, and seriously. In order to avoid punishment, we did our utmost to complete all commands the leader had given. After that, the star officer showed up and told us to do almost the same things we'd already done. We were tired after the one-hour "military training," but we were still delighted. Afterwards, we went to the campsite to pitch our tent. Due to our excellent teamwork, much to our surprise, we finished in less than 5 minutes!

We experienced twenty activities in total that afternoon and the next morning. My favorite part was walking on a tightrope. It was very exciting and challenging. The rope shook so hard that I almost gave up, but I decided to overcome my fear and walk to the end of the rope. The most touching part was that my classmates cheered hard for anyone who was on the rope. Even though we were not the fastest class to reach the goal, we were still a cooperative class in everyone's eye. After



the activities, we were told to cook dinner for ourselves. We needed to make six courses plus soup as the menu said. When the meals were ready, I was worried that it wouldn't be edible. But thanks to our superb chef and helpful team members, the meal was both delicious and beautiful.

After we enjoyed dinner, it was time for the highlight of this trip, the campfire! We first watched a cool dancing performance from the guides and squad leaders. Then, every class performed a show. We danced, sang, and jumped on the stage, and we also cheered loudly for other classes. As all performances ended, sad songs began playing. Several of my classmates and I burst into tears because we were going to be separated after this semester. Later, the principal gave us an inspiring speech, telling us to learn more. I felt very comfortable and satisfied that night.

Time flew, and before we knew it, it was time to finish the journey. This trip made us grow, and we were also taught to become independent, cooperative, and courageous in our lives. During these two days, we laughed, we cried, we cheered, and we went through challenges with our classmates. We will never go on a trip like this with the same group of people in the future, but the memories of this trip will be imprinted in my heart forever.

By 806 班 夏滢庭

Camping Trip

Most of us had camped before this trip. But to me, it was the first camping trip in my life. I was so excited that my imagination ran wild.

Finally, my first camping trip began. On the coach, we met our guide, and she taught us about important gestures and their meanings. After we got off the coach, we walked to the campground. We were trained to do a lot of things, such as greeting all the teachers and the principal, screaming and cheering. Each team needed to make as much noise as possible to earn points for our team. We also had to sing our school anthem as loudly as possible. Then we were told to set up our tents before lunch.

In the afternoon, we started our scout lessons. We learned about semaphore, tying, and poisons in nature. We also learned to cook two meals. The first meal was a total disaster. Some of the dishes were raw, and the food was either too salty or too oily. The worst thing was that we were told to eat as much as we could and waste not. It was agony, however, we were glad to have some soup and rice. We really tried our best. In the second meal, things turned better because we finally worked together. Working as a team helped us cook better.

At the end of this trip, it was time to announce the champion team. We were encouraged to jump, scream, shout, and make as much noise as we could to show our spirit. The more loudly we screamed, the greater chance we had to be the champion. Eventually, our team won the championship. We were so ecstatic that we felt like we hit the jackpot!

After everything came to an end, the most important thing was team spirit. Everyone worked together so that everyone can benefit from success. It was a tough two days that taught us the meaning of being more than a group. We saw each other as family. To sum up, I think this two-day trip was not just an ordinary memory, but an unforgettable experience.

Camping

Camping, the biggest event in the 8th grade, had come to an end. Even though we did a lot of difficult tasks, such as making meals on our own and getting up very early, it was still an unforgettable trip.

The most interesting activity for me was cooking. My teammates and I had never cooked before. Plus, having me as chef didn't help any. Luckily, the dishes we chose were easy to make. I think the pleasure of cooking is not how the food tastes but cooking itself. While holding the pan and the spatula, I felt like a real chef. What an amazing experience! After feeling a sense of achievement, I considered the food I made the most delicious I had ever tasted.

The campfire party was another essential event in the camping trip. We had been preparing for the performance for a long time. We practiced dancing almost every day, sacrificing our lunch breaks, our time after school and weekends in order to present a perfect performance. It was brief but excellent. As the saying goes, "One minute on the stage, ten years of practice offstage." Preparing for the performance was more important than the result itself. I'm sure that everyone can see the time and efforts we infused in this performance.

Years later, we won't remember clearly what we did, but we will remember the great time with our friends. That's enough for me.



By 808班 鍾鎮遠



Camping Trip

On a bright shiny day in May, a group of eighth-graders from Yanping High School, set off on a two-day camping trip. I guess some teachers would probably feel quite relieved and finally get a good night sleep. Anyway, before arriving at Little Ding-Dong Science Theme Park, I thought I would adjust to the environment quickly and successfully. Nevertheless, I soon realized that I was still too innocent.

It seemed like the instructors were all so crotchety, and whenever we followed their command, they thought it was not enough. "Is that what you call shouting out loud?" "I am speaking more loudly than all of you!" "Move faster! Why are you so late?" We'd been hearing things like this the whole day, and we had to shout out loud, jump high, step hard, and do almost everything in a rush. I was so badly drained that I couldn't help question why I paid money to torture myself. Furthermore, the restrooms and the showers looked unsanitary. I was unwilling to step in the shower when I saw a moth happily flying around the light on the wall.

I'd never gone camping before, but I always pictured it with stars glittering in the sky while surrounded by a soft blowing wind splashing its coolness on my face. I didn't really have a clear idea of what staying in a tent would be like, but it was definitely not seven people curling themselves to try to fit into the little space with the wind blowing hard outside. You started to worry if the tent would be blown away any second.

However, there was still a lot of fun during the trip. We played in the ski resort, touched a snake, and learned how to live as a Scout. It was really satisfying cutting down a piece of wood with a saw for the first time in my life.

Among all the activities we had experienced, perhaps the only event that had interested every one of us was the campfire. Every class was asked to put on a performance.

I was still extremely nervous, and it made me even more tense to be in a pair of shorts I'd quit wearing. I just don't wear shorts! I thought I wouldn't be in the mood to enjoy the performances, but to my surprise, the atmosphere was so jovial that I couldn't help myself cheering and waving as everyone else did. We were screaming so loudly in excitement that I wondered how we could manage to hear the music. In the end, all I worried about was whether I had the vigor to dance in our performance. Thankfully, it turned out wonderfully.

To me, the most exciting part of the trip was cooking. Having heard of so many cases of dark cuisine, I was thankful when we found out that the food we had cooked was edible. It was less tasty than that if it was served in a restaurant, of course, but for the first time ever, I had the impulse to kneel to the cook. We had a barbecue the second day. I was glad to be an assistant to a delicious meal. However, I discovered that the smoke from the barbecue turned on my allergies. Therefore, I was happy to watch the delicious food cooked in the open fire.

We had a lot of competitions during the trip. There were many ways to obtain points; for instance, setting up a tent, being well-behaved, greeting teachers with the squad's catchphrase, (The whole grade was partitioned into three squads with three classes each.) and so forth. Teamwork was an important role in all competitions.

I don't know how other classes behaved, but all of us in 809 really united together and cheered for the other classes. Maybe our "selfless" spirits moved the instructors, so we were given an award. We did not win the championship, but none of us thought of it as a shame. The squad leader said, "No matter if you win or not, the most important thing is that you've done your best."

The trip was rather toilsome, but it was really worth the pain. The memory may fade, but the lessons I got will stay in me forever.

Camping

To our excitement, the day we had long looked forward to finally came. The whole 8th grade was about to go camping for two days. The overnight camping trip took place in Little Ding-Dong Science Theme Park. Everyone showed up on time at Daan Forest Park and got on the bus cheerfully. It took us one and a half hours to get there.

The first thing we did was to take military training. We were asked to complete our task within three minutes, or we would be sent back to school. As a class leader, I even promised my classmates to buy them drinks if we completed our task successfully. Then we started to set up tents. It was not an easy job. Many of our tents were blown away by strong winds. It took us great effort to finally set them up.

After that, we took part in many activities, such as learning about wild plants and animals, first aid, cutting firewood, and flag communication. Though exhausted, we had a lot of fun. During the competition, we cheered for other classes, and vice versa.

Soon, it was time to cook dinner on our own. Many of us were in a spin. For instance, some dishes were half cooked; others had too much soy sauce and salt which caused many classmates to get sick after the camping trip.

Finally, it was time for the campfire party. Everyone looked forward to this very much. Each of the classes had practiced hard and presented wonderful performances. Some girls dressed up, and their makeup turned them into people that I hardly recognized. At the end of the party, we sang together to thank our teachers. Our principal gave a touching speech. Many of us were moved to tears.

The next morning, some of us were woken up by noise made by other classmates at five o'clock, one and a half hours earlier than expected. We played cards together, which was not allowed, so we were punished later. After breakfast, other fun activities were arranged for us. We explored the theme park, went skiing, played paintball and some other fun games.

When we were starving to death, we couldn't wait to have barbecue. All of us were excited. Some classmates even roasted marshmallows for dessert. It was really delicious. After we had



a big feast, the closing ceremony was held. Each class was awarded for their excellent performance. Our teachers felt proud of us. However, it was time to say goodbye and return to our school. The two-day camping trip ended and left us an unforgettable memory.

By 809 班 丁睿濂



I sat down in my seat, rubbing the sleepiness from my eyes. Ashen faced, I rotated my head to stare bleakly at my comrades in arms and exchanged somber nods. We were in this together, and they obviously were as thrilled as I was about the trip, which is to say bordering on depression. Sitting down in a barely reclining leather seat was uncomfortable to say the least. At that time, a rectangular protrusion of plastic jutting into the crook of my elbow was torture. Little did I know, it was the most comfortable I was going to be for the next two days. I looked out the window at the red streaked sky and the sun that barely peaked over the horizon, thinking about the long trip ahead.

When we arrived, everyone was glad to feel solid ground below their feet, but before we had completed the luxury of stretching our frozen joints, we were marched briskly uphill to a gathering ground. Men clothed in camouflage apparel strolled between triple formations of three-class groups as the drills were about to begin. Harsh orders flew from the commandeering captain's mouth for the next two hours. The drills were simple, yet having forty-five people perform an elementary task simultaneously was still challenging, and nothing other than perfection was deemed a passing grade. We spent nearly forty minutes coming to attention. By the end the ground was stained wet with our sweat yet nobody dared to raise a hand to wipe their forehead. That is how you know it was a success.

Drills could be overcome with repetitive practice and sheer will power, cooking however, was in an entirely different league. With cooking there are no re-dos or second chances; once the meat is burnt no amount of cooling will un-burn it. You eat what you make. Our group

members were like ants in a frying pan, rushing to and fro. Head chefs were valiantly giving instructions while frantically adding pinches of spices to cover the taste of over-cooked pork. In retrospect, I must congratulate our admirable effort and teamwork. However, at that time, the only positive thing you could manage to say about our dish was that it was edible, and even that was questionable. Afterwards, groups of friends huddled together on rough wooden benches to enjoy the meager meal. However, judging from the pleasant faces, friendly bickering, and the fact that almost everything was eaten, I could say that hard work never tasted better.

A natural highlight of the trip, the evening festivities swept us off our feet. Amidst the cheering of throats already hoarse from shouting, the dancing began. It was spectacular to watch the fruits of our labor come alive on stage. The hours spent rehearsing every movement at noon while the entire school was resting was finally worth it. Actually, that was what this entire trip was like. From the start, we endured a sequence of brutal training; obstacles too big for any one of us to overcome. However, that was also the force that set teamwork in motion. In afterthought, I remember more vividly the moments when our team cheered for a member than when we got first place because without the sacrifice, there would be no cheering in the end. That was the finale that wrapped up our trip. On the commute back, I was once again sitting in the beaten leather seat with the same piece of plastic sending a throb up my arm. Gradually raising my head to meet the gazes of my classmates I knew we shared the same thought — we're in heaven.





The Field Trip to the Beach

This was my first time going on a field trip as a seventh grader. Therefore, I was extremely excited about the trip and couldn't wait to go to Jinshan. On our way to Jinshan, we ate Shimen rice dumplings and bananas. All my classmates loved the food very much, and so did I. While we were still on the bus, some of my classmates took lots of pictures, listened to music, and chatted with one another. The moment my classmates and I arrived at the beach, we cheered and were amazed by what we saw, especially the azure sky with the sun shining brightly above us. Then, it was time to get down to business. The purpose of this field trip was to clean the beach and to protect the marine life, so we took several bags and began picking up trash, including candy wrappers, bottle caps, plastic bottles, and even trash from China! It was a lot worse than I had imagined before the trip. There was so much trash for me to pick up that I ended up sweating a lot. Although I could only pick up a small amount of trash, it was worth it! I felt very happy to have done my best to protect the environment.

Looking back on this field trip, I find it quite educational and meaningful. For one thing, we finally got to do some extracurricular activities. For another, we also learnt how to conserve the environment. I'm convinced that once more and more students like me become aware of the importance of environmental protection, there will be fewer polluted beaches for us to clean and more clean beaches for us to enjoy sunbathing on.

By 709 班 林允璿



Coastal Clean-Up

Several days ago, we went to New Taipei City to clean the beach. I was excited about this event for two reasons. One is that it was my first time participating in a coastal clean-up. The other reason is that since I was little, I had always wanted to go to the beach.

When we finally got to the beach, I got off the bus immediately and took a deep breath. Unlike the air in Taipei, the air there was so fresh. After the guide told us what to do, we started to do our job. Most of us needed to pick up the trash, and the others had to keep a record of what kind of garbage we collected. To my astonishment, there were many kinds of unusual garbage on the beach, including ragged jeans and tattered shoes. After we finished picking up the trash, we put the trash on a scale to see how many kilograms the collected trash weighed. The result showed that we picked up as much as five kilograms of trash!

Thanks to this activity, I undoubtedly learned a lot. The most important thing that I have learned is to always use products that can be reused or recycled, so that the amount of trash can be reduced. Did you know that up to one hundred and ninety turtles died from eating plastic bags last year? To prevent such a tragedy from happening again, we need to stop using the plastic bags as soon as possible. To sum up, I find beach cleaning not only interesting but also meaningful. Everyone should give it a try to become aware of the importance of environmental protection.



Homestay



When I heard that our school was going to hold a cultural exchange with Japanese students, I signed up immediately. I wanted to enrich my international perspective and understand the culture and the habits of the Japanese.

I started to prepare without delay. During my preparation, I designed an itinerary diligently, even taking various weather conditions into consideration. I tried to find every piece of information about what may appeal to Japanese students. I purchased souvenirs and our local staples, wishing to introduce our Taiwanese culture to my guest. After finishing all of these preparations, it was time for me to wait with an expectant heart.

With the passage of time, the day finally came. I no longer had to toss and turn in bed. On the day I could meet my guest from Japan, we first lined up in front of the school gate. I couldn't help gazing at the distance seeking their silhouettes. Slowly, footsteps greeted our ears! We rolled out the proverbial red carpet, clapping as enthusiastically as we could. They replied with dazzling smiles.

Then the welcome ceremony unfolded. At first, we sat still listening to the introduction of both schools' representatives, appreciating their incredible performances. In the process, I noticed our Japanese friends devoting their full attention to everything and



giving every performer a big hand. They presented the best of themselves, which made me feel that I still lacked a lot. Confidence, concentration, proprieties and earnest are what I really need to learn. Finally, it was time for us to meet our partners.

I was really surprised to find that my partner spoke fluent Chinese to me! We didn't have difficulty communicating with each other. We not only made tangyuan but also had fun doing other activities together. Eventually, the climax came—Homestay!

First, my parents took us home to unload our luggage. After that, we promptly went to the first stop of my schedule, the Four Four South Village. Unfortunately, many stores had already closed. But she and I took pictures there, and recognized a Chinese teenager who was also visiting Taiwan. Our second stop, Xiangshan, was the one about which I was most concerned. I was worried that she didn't have enough energy to climb to the top. But to the contrary, she made it with ease. She was astonished by the scene up there at night. We sat there watching the setting sun. I will never forget that memorable moment. To reward ourselves for accomplishing our mission, we decided to eat at the most popular restaurant in town, Din Tai Fung. We ordered dumplings, beef noodles, fried rice, and so on. The meal made us full of energy again, so we kept going on with our journey to the next stop, Ximending, which is the spot to which most high school students prefer to go. We shopped there and she also had her fortune told. It was the most unusual experience she had ever had. Owing to the short time, we took the MRT to our final destination, Raohe Night Market. She tasted all kinds of snacks, including stinky tofu, bubble tea milk, and even pig blood cake. It was the perfect end to a perfect night.

Two days was too short in my opinion, but it was really memorable. I hope I can always keep in touch with her, and I'll never forget the valuable adventures we had together.



The Reception of Japanese Friends

It was my great honor to represent our school and introduce the school in Japanese when our Japanese guests came on March 23 this year! That presentation took my partner and me three months to prepare. In the beginning, I spent a lot of time writing the speech. That was my first time to introduce Yanping, and most important of all, I had to do it in Japanese! After finishing the first draft of the speech, I made use of my free time each day to practice. At first, it was terrible, but I never gave up, and in the end, I really did it; I spoke with fluency. The introduction was a success. After introducing our school, many Japanese students praised me for having very good Japanese. That made me think that all effort was worth it!

Although that was not my first time receiving Japanese guests, it was my first contact with people from Tokyo. At first I was very worried about whether they would be very cold, but after we met, I thought they were quite lovely. Every Japanese person is very friendly, particularly the student I received—Kurozawa Leo. Leo had used Instagram to contact me one week before he flew to Taiwan. After the formal welcoming ceremony, we both had fun making Tangyuan, eating Xiaolongbao, ascending Taipei 101 to enjoy the night view and also making a commemorative bag! We also discussed the political situation of Taiwan and shared details of our lives with each other! I am really happy to meet people from every corner of the world. I just want to say to Leo, “Please come back to Taiwan and please keep in touch!”



今回私が学校に代表する日本語で学校を紹介することはとっても嬉しいです！このプレゼンは私とパートナー一緒に三カ月練習しました！まずはスピーチを考える、これは初めて延平高校を紹介する、特に日本語を使う！完成後毎日ずっと練習する、スピーチを全部覚えてる、そしてペラペラします！目標は失敗しない！最後本当にできました！さらにたくさん日本人は私の日本語を褒められました！とっても嬉しいです！

今回は初めて日本人と交流するじゃない、でも東京人と交流することは初めて！東京人は冷たいかどうかはちょっと心配します！でも会った後で、みんなはとっても優しい！活発です！特に私のパートナー：黒沢礼央。レオは一週間前インスタで私と連絡することはすごいと思います！ちょっとびっくりしました！会った後二人で一緒に湯円を作って、小籠包を食べて、101で夜景を見て、記念的なバッグを作って、台湾政治を討論して、嬉しいでした！いろいろなことを喋るのは楽しかった！みんなに会うことが良かった！また台湾に来てください！



And So, We Grow Up

Despite having looked forward to it for a long time, the arrival of our graduation trip still caught me off guard. Even the packing of my luggage was done in a rush: one day before the trip, standing in bewilderment in front of my bed—how did time creep up so silently?

Maybe it was the timing (right after our second semester test, preparation for our graduation trip performance and our test simultaneously was terrible); or perhaps it was feigned ignorance (the trip does, after all, signify the beginning of the end); or, it was simply the strange qualities time tends to take on: time really does fly, despite all we do to try and hold it back.

And so time had us together, a little less than four days, more than eighty hours, in the bus, in the hotels, at all sorts of tourist spots—together. We never cared about the where: what mattered, was who. Who we were in this moment; who stood beside us sharing this experience; who we are, to each other, and the tantalizing prospect of who we will be.

Time flows on, as always; but in this moment, time coalesces. Perhaps the edges will blur as the time flows relentlessly over it as we continue to trudge on in life, but this moment is and will be forever crystallized—with your laugh, my tears, our memories.

One day we will leave all this behind, but I hope you will still hold this memory close, somewhere in the dusty archives of your mind. Blow off the cobwebs of age, and there you'll see me—as clear as today.

By 204 班 簡名萱



GRADUATION TRIP

After being confined by exams and homework for two years, it was time for a break. We were all anticipating the graduation trip. Unlike other vacations or trips, when we usually travel with our families, in this trip, we went with our classmates and friends. This time, we went to Kaohsiung and Kenting. It was time to enjoy the sun and friendship.

On the first day, we gathered at Da-an Park. It was 6:30 a.m. and there were fifteen buses waiting for us. Our first stop was Chiayi. We went to Hinoki Village to see historical buildings built during the Japanese colonial time in Taiwan.

After going to Chiayi, we drove straight to Kaohsiung to its renowned Ten-Drum Cultural Center. It used to be a sugar plantation in Japanese colonial time. The plantation has been adapted to house a vibrant drumming culture. We were invited to a show put on by a famous local drumming group. They used different rhythms to convey ancient Chinese stories. The show was excellent! After that, we had our own chance to play the drums. It was quite relaxing to make our own drum beats. That night, we stayed in Eda and visited the grand shopping mall. Though it seemed enormous on the outside and full of stores, my friends and I couldn't really buy anything. After walking for almost an hour, we decided to chill in Starbucks and relax.

On the second day, we went to Eda Amusement Park. Of all the exciting and adrenalin rides we had ridden, none of them were exciting or thrilling enough to write about.



On the third day, we spent the morning by Kenting's sunny beach. The ocean was crystal clear and the sand was warm and silky. It felt great to squish the sand between your toes. We played dodgeball and volleyball under the scorching sun. It was one of the best times of my life. In the end, I accidentally had a taste of what would have been the world's saltiest drink, ocean water. It was so salty that your mouth felt like it would dehydrate and crumble to dusts.

In the afternoon we went to two places. The first one was the Pingtung Marine Museum and the second one was Guanshan. There were tons of tanks and maybe thousands of different species of marine life living in the aquarium. It was quite disappointing that we couldn't visit the whole aquarium due to the schedule. Our next destination was Guanshan, which is renowned for its sunset. However, when we got there, it was only around three in the afternoon. We weren't able to see the sunset. Despite that, the view from Guanshan is beyond description. You could see the entire curve of the southern tip of Taiwan with mountains on one side, and the ocean on the other.

On our last day, we headed back home. However, we made a stop in Tainan for the spectacular Chimei Museum. The majestic design of The Chimei Museum is what first comes to mind. Everything was made of marble from floor to ceiling. There were different sections in the museum with artifacts and paintings from different time periods. It was truly a must-go place.

After four days of excitement, an end had to be drawn. We returned home and went back to our daily routine. However, the happiness and joy we made with our friends and classmates will forever exist in our memories.

By 204 班 丘少緯

High School Graduation Trip



It was a cold and rainy Tuesday morning, but it didn't dampen our excitement for the four-day graduation trip. As we helped load boxes and boxes of snacks and drinks onto the bus, everyone was chattering happily about the fun and relaxation ahead of us. It was the first time I went on a trip with the class I am in now, so I was looking forward to a whole new experience compared to my junior high school graduation trip.

The time on the bus when we traveled south was already a blast. We played games and sang songs, and the pressure of schoolwork was thrown distances away. As we passed Taichung, the sky cleared up and the sun was blazing. On day one, we visited many places, but my most-vivid memory is my experience playing the drums. Everyone beat the drums so hard as if to relieve all their stress, and our final performance, though not flawless, was pretty impressive. That night, we girls decided to add another minute of dance to our performance on the third night, so we had a crash course on the dance moves. Surprisingly, everyone learned the moves within an hour, and we agreed to show the boys our accomplishments two days afterwards on the stage.

We spent the next day at the E-da Theme Park. Even though I had already been there twice, both times during graduation trips, taking the same rides with different people still created special new memories. It was kind of interesting, though, that every time we got in the short line for a not-already-popular ride, people started flooding in. After we left the resort and headed for Kenting, another funny thing happened when our guide told us that the class leader would be drawing lots to decide our opponent for the beach dodgeball game the next day. He asked us which class we wanted to face the least, and everyone said “Class Nine” without hesitation. They are good at every sport. After the class leader was back, he refused to tell us a word about the result. Everyone was prepared for the worst, and later the guide confirmed that we would be facing none other than Class Nine. Nobody blamed the class leader, and we just hoped that we wouldn’t all be hit within the first minute.





The time came for us to encounter the greatest challenge in the trip. As we stood on the court, eyes deadly focused on the ball, all we could think of was to not get hit. The first game went surprisingly well, and during the last couple of minutes we got a hold of the ball until nearly the end of the game and kept hitting our opponents. We won the first game! The second game was a tie, but winning the first game was something none of us had ever imagined, and since the final score was the sum of the people left standing in two games, we won first place in the end. That night was the evening party, and we showed the boys our secret performance during the final rehearsal. Other classes' performances were all awesome, and even though we didn't have much practice, we gave it everything we had. The surprise birthday celebration organized by Class Nine for their homeroom teacher, also our English teacher, was especially heartwarming.

The last day of the trip was basically spent on the bus, with only one attraction, the Chimei Museum. Everybody was reluctant to go back to school life, but the limited time was what made the memories so precious and irreplaceable. I will always remember the great time I had with my classmates.

TV Series Review



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/312789136606664605>



Western Show | Wizards of Waverly Place Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia
→Wizards of the Waverly Place

As a big fan of various TV series, I'd like to share some of my favorites with you.

Wizards is probably the first TV series I watched regularly. I believe it may have been a part of your childhood memories. Although I'm not a kid anymore, I've found the series still appeals to me "magically."

Alex, played by Selena Gomez, is a child with an older brother and a younger one. Raised up by a mortal mother and a wizard father, they learned to perform magic, which sometimes causes problems. Though they have super powers, they still have to deal with their lives as normal students.

In one episode, Alex learned there was another wizard in school. This made her best friend, Harper, feel as if she was the third wheel. Alex must strike a balance between these relationships. In another episode, Alex's principal is replaced by someone undesirable. Alex and her family used their magic to transport the previous principal into another time to make him realize he has to return as the principal.

If you are a fan of Disney and love magic, this series won't fail you. It's definitely a magical series.



<http://subhd.com/do0/26952099>



<https://ajay02.deviantart.com/art/Future-Flash-Savitar-Face-To-Face-The-Flash-691055722>
→The Flash

Produced by DC Comics, “The Flash” is a spin-off of Green Arrow. It’s a superhero show that also blends science into its plot. Some of the theories behind the science appear to be impossible in reality, but the ideas aren’t total nonsense. I think once our techniques advance, they might be possible.

Barry Allen was an ordinary forensic scientist before he became the Flash, a superhero of Central City. Even though he is very powerful and well trained with the help of his friends, he still faces some nasty villains, which always take him one season to take down. That is, it’s a pattern that each season has a tough villain waiting for Barry.

In one of the seasons Barry is facing someone who turned out to be his doppelganger, created by himself! He also messed up his timeline several times which made his friends get into a lot of trouble. He learns a lot from his opponents during the time he tries to bring them to justice. For example, Barry met the murderer of his mother and wanted to take revenge on him. He later learned that revenge won’t solve anything and will only make one feel even more terrible.

I think he’s acting more and more moral despite the fact that he sometimes makes a bad decision like you and me would. This is unlike those classic superhero series in which heroes always win, so “The Flash” always brings surprises for you. If you are sick of those classic superhero movies, “The Flash” won’t let you down. Besides, Barry Allen is hot.

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