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THE RECYCLING SYSTEM IN TAIWAN

What comes to mind when you think about your home country? Is it the national culture, the local delicacies, or the liberal government itself? For me, when it comes to my home country, Taiwan, I think about its recycling industry. Taiwan has one of the most efficient recycling systems in the world.

Taiwan was once known as a "Garbage Island." So Taiwan decided to change its act. By introducing recycling reforms, Taiwan went from being a garbage dump to one of the world's garbage disposal geniuses. According to statistics, Taiwan has an impressive recycling rate of 55%. Even the Wall Street Journal is as proud of Taiwan as I am.

Taiwan's yellow garbage trucks outperformed other countries in garbage pickup. Compared to Taiwan, other countries pick up garbage once a week, while Taiwan does it twice a day. Furthermore, Taiwanese workers and volunteers work hard at collecting garbage, while at the same time, building the local community.

The recycling system has brought invaluable benefits to Taiwan. Take my cousin for an example. She is a 28-year-old accountant, living alone somewhere in downtown Taipei. Thanks to the improved recycling system, yellow trash trucks arrive twice a day to pick up garbage. Therefore, she doesn't need to keep the trash in her house for more than one day. Thanks to an efficient garbage system, my cousin has time to throw away her garbage. Isn't it a feat worth our pride?



By 110 班 李苡睿

Loving Our Earth

Protecting the environment is very important. While other junior high schools take their trips to amusement parks, we had a chance to clean the beach instead. The weather that day was good for relaxing at the beach, but definitely not good for cleaning up the beach. We had a fifteen-minute walk before we arrived at the spot that we were going to clean. I thought that cleaning the beach implied walking around the beach and looking for trash or some plastic scraps to pick up, but I was totally wrong! There was garbage everywhere! It was nearly impossible to clean all of it.



This was a very important activity. Not only because we cleaned the beach, but also because it reminded us of the importance of saving the environment. We can see more and more news about nearly all kinds of sea creatures getting hurt or killed by our garbage. I don't think that we should destroy nature. If we do that, it hurts us too.

People have started to say that they'll save the earth from global warming and pollution in recent years. But ironically, the amount of garbage wasn't reduced significantly. The earth is taking more and more damage, and most scientists agree that there'll be a huge change within the next fifty years. Perhaps the only way that people will realize that we need to reduce our environmental impact is to see the damage with their own eyes. But shouldn't we try to stop this together? If we don't act before it's too late, we will all regret it in the future.



By 710 班 廖奕安

AN EXPERIENCE OF BEING A TOUR GUIDE

A few weeks ago, some of my dad's foreign colleagues came to Taiwan for a trip. I was their tour guide. When I heard the news, I was shocked. On one hand, I would like to make friends with them, but on the other hand, my English isn't good enough to introduce attractions in Taiwan. In order to introduce Taipei City and Datong clearly, I read many articles about Taipei history. I couldn't wait to see them.

The next day, we met them in the hotel where they stayed. I introduced myself and shook hands with them. When we arrived at our destination, I started to talk about Taiwan's history and other attractions in



Taiwan. Taipei's Dadaocheng area was one of the first commercial areas to flourish in the Taipei Basin, and it had been the most important for a long time. After going through a period of decline during the last couple of decades, today it is flourishing once more and is a fascinating historical site laden with traditional commerce. As the Chinese New Year approaches, it always turns into a busy place, becoming even busier and more festive than usual. It is a great destination for travelers to get a taste of Taiwan's New Year spirit and traditions. We took a ride along the nearby bike-path system, which is built along the Tamsui River. To round off the day, we had some traditional Taiwan snack food in the night market.

After the trip, I have learned more about Taiwan and wanted to introduce our country to more and more people. What can we do for Taiwan? First, we have to rebuild our infrastructure, strengthen our economy, preserve our environment and showcase our culture. More importantly, all the people in Taiwan must be united together to dedicate ourselves to the change of our image to attract more foreign visitors. By doing this, we may make our country more attractive to foreigners!

Shilin Night Market

There is no denying that night markets in Taiwan are a symbol of the local culture. Many people find them appealing and fascinating, and I am no exception. Almost every city and town has several night markets, which attract both locals and visitors from other countries. Of all the night markets in Taiwan, Shilin Night Market is my favorite. It has come a long way since its beginning in the 1900s, when a few vendors gathered in front of the Matsu temple, which is now crowded with shoppers and diners every night.

On weekend evenings, I often pay a visit to Shilin Night Market to look for fun, bargains and delicious food. I always start with some interesting games, such as net fishing and balloon shooting. After that, I will do some shopping. All kinds of inexpensive products are sold in a night market, including toys, watches, clothes, and fashion accessories. When I have a worked-up appetite, I would have some of the mouthwatering snacks and drinks. One of my favorite snacks is the oyster omelet, which is made of oysters, Chinese cabbage, eggs, sweet-potato powder and red sweet-and-sour sauce. It is colorful, aromatic, and tasty, and includes all the nutrients you need. When summer comes, I highly recommend iced tofu pudding served with peanuts and tapioca balls. The velvety texture of the pudding matches perfectly with the chewy balls. Thanks to those delicacies, I am always stuffed after a trip to a night market. However, I don't worry about gaining weight because I believe strolling the night market could burn calories.

I am really fond of night markets in Taiwan. Strolling through night markets is indeed an interesting and relaxing activity after work or school. You don't need a vacation nor



to be dressed up to go. Most of all, it is cheap to enjoy food, games and shopping in night markets. If anyone wants to get a real taste of Taiwanese local culture, night markets are the place they shouldn't miss.



By 802 班 胡立平

The Beauty of the Beach and Sea

The ocean, the largest habitat on Earth, is full of animals, plants and other creatures. Water covers 70% of our planet and the ocean is one of the biggest mysteries of our world.

Like the land, forests can also be found in the ocean, with the most enchanting one called a kelp forest. In ideal conditions, kelp can grow up to 18 inches per day. If you go underwater deep enough you'll see the giant kelp canopies towering above the ocean floor. The giant algae provide food and shelter for many organisms.

On the shore is where the Laysan Albatrosses breed. This is the shore of the Midway Atoll, about one-third of the way from Honolulu, Hawaii to Tokyo, Japan in the Pacific Ocean. These big seabirds feed on cephalopods, such as squids, also fish, and crustaceans such as shrimps. Their chicks feed on their parents' digested food, so they eat what their parents eat. However, some scientists have found little plastic in about two hundred thousand chicks' stomachs; that also means that their parents have apparently eaten plastic, too.

How did these albatrosses ingest all this plastic? The answer is humans. We throw plastic and other chemical garbage into the sea, where the fish eat them. Then the albatross parents eat the fish, and ruminate the fish with the plastic within the fish to their chicks. The chicks eat so much plastic that they can't eat other "food" anymore and die.

The reason why we went to clean the beach is because we should try our best to





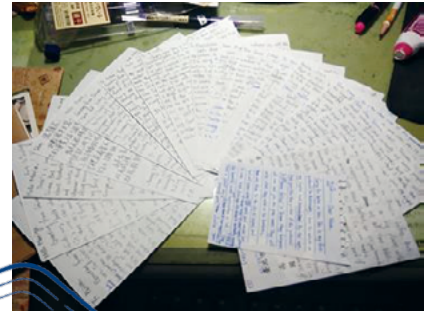
help OUR Earth and the creatures, be it animals or algae. "Now birds, then humans." The sea is critical to sustaining life on our planet. To the vastness of the big blue, the Midway Atoll is surely a stunning place so far away from other lands, yet there is still trash from humans there. If we keep throwing trash casually, not only will the birds die, the beauty of nature also dies, and then we die. This is our Earth, so this is our business; we must do what we can do to help the Earth and the sea.



Postcrossing

I was first introduced to the website in my English textbook. After signing up as a member, I soon decided to send a postcard. My first card went to Kazakhstan. I still remember how nervous I was sitting at the desk, thinking hard about what to write to the "postcrosser." I chose a card showing the Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival. I introduced it, talking about my own experience at the festival and how impressed I was. As I sent it out, I was so anxious for days; I worried it was lost in the mail, but on the other hand, I was wondering about the look on her face when she received my card. As I almost forgot about it, 48 days later, she received my card. I almost shouted out loud when I learned the news!

Long after that, I received a card. I didn't know whom the card was from because of her illegible handwriting. I took such a long time trying to understand what she had written to me. I first guessed it was from Canada or Greece. Well, it turned out to be from Czech Republic. What a great surprise!



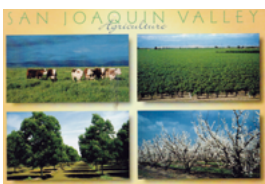


After sending and receiving so many cards, I finally sorted out the rules below.

1. You write and send a card to postcrosser A. (don't forget to write down your postcard ID!)(Taiwan's ID model: TW-1234567)
2. A receives and registers the card (A will write you some lovely words!), and there will be a postcrosser B whom you'll only know on receiving his/her card.
3. You receive and register B's card (and there will be a postcrosser C sending card to B).

There are more details waiting to be discovered, which always make excite and interest me.

Don't worry about what to write to your postcrossing partner; it's just like chatting with your friends. If you're interested in Postcrossing (I hope you are; it really is amusing and full of pleasures), go search for it, and sign up as a member. It absolutely will not let you down! Enjoy your postcard trip around the world!



By 907 班 楊佳璇



SHOOTING EVENT

When we were informed that there would come a marksmanship class, some of my classmates, including me, were tremendously excited because we had never touched a real gun, or even a fake one in our lives. On the other hand, others were so terrified due to the danger posed by guns. However, with a month of thorough instruction from the military instructor, my classmates waited in anticipation for the appointed day.

Excitement was in the air when we assembled for departure. Along the journey to our destination, we alternated gleefulness with a bit of anxiety. No sooner had the gun been triggered than we were overwhelmed with nervousness. As we stepped closer and closer to our target, we were awakened to a sense of reality. The deafening boom from the guns indeed startled all of us. When I was finally ready putting both my hands on the gun, my heart pumped so fast and loud that I was almost stricken deaf, unable to discriminate between the gun shot and my heartbeat. Frankly speaking, I acted instinctively and without conscious thought. While we were on our ride back to school, all my classmates talked excitedly about the event. And it was interesting that we remembered nothing except hitting the trigger five times in a panic.

I had never thought that I would have a chance to operate a real gun because my image of guns was quite negative. However, instead of only being used as a tool for killing, guns have a huge number of different usages. For example, guns are indispensable for soldiers to defend the civilians. Moreover, the Olympics have some



shooting competitions to test the proficiency of the competitors. That is, guns are regarded as something a person can use to show his capacity. I may not have a chance to fight for my country in real battlefields in the future. However, I can cherish the opportunity I had at the shooting range and enjoy the same feeling as an athlete with serious skills. Although I might miss all of my shots, I think that the most important part of this event is the collective memory my classmates and I cherish.



By 109 班 林宇璿

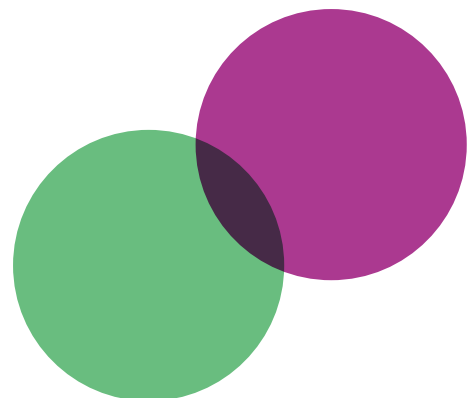
The Strength of Friendship

Friendship is a sort of simple but powerful strength, which can soothe your soul no matter where you are. Let me elaborate on this by telling you a story about Rose.

Rose was an adorable girl with a beautiful oval-shaped face. I liked her because she would make me come out of my safe, shy, self. It was Rose that invited me to her birthday party, even though I was just an acquaintance of hers. Rose enjoyed making friends feel comfortable and welcomed.

To my great surprise and excitement, a relationship blossomed. While she had a gift for singing, I was good at drawing, dancing, and Math. Her favorite color was green, and I preferred purple. Even though we had distinct characteristics, we shared our laughter and tears. We went through it all in the last three years. Our friendship gained strength as we bonded over life's little nuances.

Afterwards, she got admitted to a bilingual school, whereas I went back to Taiwan to study. It was a vital turning point in my life. I was put into a brand new place, surrounded by unfamiliar faces. I had a great deal of difficulty learning Chinese. For the next two years, whenever I was in a bad mood or under peer pressure, I always recalled the smiles



on her face. Remembering Rose's face brought hope into my life.

Rose, do you still remember the time we spent together? We used to grab a bite at the convenience store after school. We made a group of tight-knit friends to chat about the novels and songs we were so fond of. We spent many afternoons playing skateboard, badminton, and online games in your home.

Rose, I would like to thank you for being my friend, keeping me company, and bearing my immaturity. Now I can march over and present myself with confidence. I heard that you won a prize in an International Bridge Competition for teenagers in Paris and that you are preparing for the High School Entrance Exam in June. Rose I pray that you work hard and get into the school of your dreams.

I believe that there is an unspoken bond between us, regardless of distance. When we meet again, I will show you the positive influence you have had on me in life.

A Visit to Takatsuki High School

During winter vacation, I joined Yanping's educational tour and flew to Japan. On the fifth day of the trip, we visited Takatsuki High School.

I was shocked from the very beginning. The school's student buddies welcomed and greeted us with thundering applause as we walked into campus. Their claps made us feel like superstars. The scene was a bit too "spectacular" for an introvert like me, someone who had to speak in front of them all at the end of the ceremony.

Following the ceremony came the presentations. Our topic was to introduce the unique features of Taiwan to the Japanese students. The presentation was divided into 4 parts, and I was the host. I got so nervous when I saw the large crowd, I nearly forgot my lines. Thankfully, I had the courage to finish strong, and we all had a good time speaking.

Speaking of the presentation, I was impressed by the Mazu Pilgrimage presentation. Local custom is not an easy topic to present in a foreign language. Not only did the group introduce the Mazu Pilgrimage in perfect English, but they also made sure Japanese students understood every aspect of the presentation completely. The group did a great job introducing the features of Taiwan.



Then our Japanese partners showed us around the campus and let us join their class. It might be weird to say that my partners were quite cute, but that was the first impression I got when we first met. I tend to feel nervous in an unfamiliar environment. However, I soon discovered that the

feeling of nervousness was mutual. Perhaps it was because "girls" are rare in a boys' school?



In one of the classes we attended, we played with jump ropes. Our task was to jump over the rope in single file. The students of Takatsuki High School seemed to be experts at it. They jumped over the rope with such ease. Their acrobatic prowess made me look like a bumbling amateur. When it was my turn, I couldn't help but stumble on the rope. I was really bad at this, but it was fun.

As fun things sped up time, the inevitable good-bye came. No matter how challenging the day was, I had a good time. I made new foreign friends, learned something about being sporty, and gained the confidence to speak in front of large crowds. It was an overall success.



By 909 班 吳芊慧

Unity Wins the Championship

On the last week of March 2019, the school had all kinds of sports competitions, such as basketball, volleyball, and dodgeball. And the objective of those ball games was to foster unity and cooperation among students in Yanping. For us 7th graders, we played dodgeball. Although it was not the most popular and interesting sport (especially when basketball was played at the same time), our class practiced hard the whole March.

In the first game, we competed against Class Ten. Actually, they are not as tall as we are, but they have more advantages than we do. But, as we played, there were several times our mainstay Ryan easily smashed those girls who clustered together in the corner. Also, other boys caught balls and passed them to Tommy for hard slams on our rivals.

However, our opponent team seemed to become more aggressive and attempted to win that game. For some reason, Ryan became nervous, so our teammates kept getting hit. One by one, they got out. When it looked as if we were going to lose, the sound of the whistle was heard. What a relief! We had a tie! The referee then put us in a sudden death situation. For those who got hit, their team would lose. Class Ten had the ball first, but they missed it when passing it. That allowed Tommy to get a perfect kill and that was how it ended.





Finally, we made it to the year's championship game. This was the game where we made even more effort and showed our spirit of unity. This time, we played against Class Two. Though we had been defeated by them in a friendly match a few days ago, it doesn't mean that we would fail.

After the game started, our supporters and fans cried, "Come on!" and cheered for our players whenever they had a nice play. As for me, I kept hollering, "Watch out!!! Be careful!!! Calm down and stay steady!" I shouted to remind our players not to be too proud of themselves thus make huge mistakes. Guess what? It worked! After hours of hard battle, all our efforts paid off! "We are the champion!" Everyone was filled with happiness and contented with the excitement of victory. This marvelous outcome isn't only because of the participants in the game but also because of the audience's encouragement. It was unity that brought us together. Unity is power!



By 701 班 陳俊羽



Exploration Trip to Taipei Medical School

On a sunny afternoon, we went to visit Taipei Medical University. Taipei Medical University is located in the center of Xinyi District, next to the world landmark Taipei 101. It is a school with more than 50 years of history. It has 15 departments in 10 facilities, adhering to the spirit of medical education and the use of biomedical clinics to cultivate interdisciplinary talents and continue to make outstanding contributions to medical development.

The departments we visited this time are the Department of Biomedical Engineering, the Department of Dental Technology and the Department of Food Safety.

First, we took a look at the Department of Biomedical Engineering, which uses scientific and engineering expertise to systematically analyze, design, manufacture, and solve problems in the biological and medical fields to achieve both clinical diagnoses and daily health management. It provides comprehensive innovation and improvement. The Department of Biomedical Engineering expects to achieve the goals of cultivating medical engineering professionals, leading the medical engineering research field, and establishing a complete national management system for therapeutic diagnostic instruments.

Next was the Department of Dental Technology. The lecturer explained to us the meaning of dental technology in an easy-to-understand yet humorous way. Basically, if the dentists, nurses, and patients are removed, everything inside the dental clinic can be classified as Dental Technology. They intend to educate professionals through the integrated teaching of technology, art and academics. In the current professional climate of oral medicine, in addition to having traditional licenses, it is necessary to have digital capabilities and incorporate artificial intelligence to provide patients with the best technology and equipment in this new era.



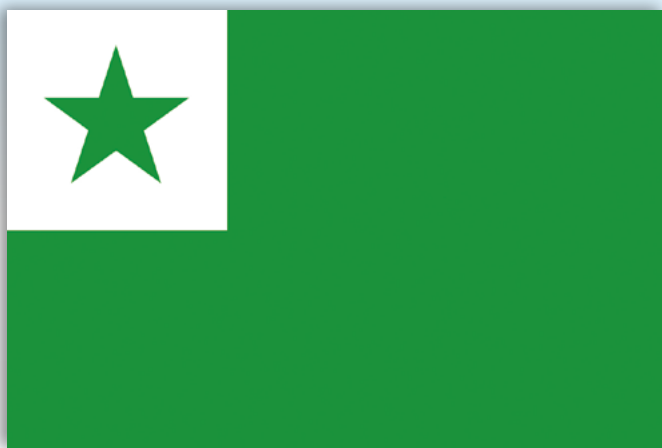
Finally, we visited the Department of Food Safety. With the increasing number of food safety issues in our community, the importance of food safety has gradually become a priority. Food safety checks, which improve consumer awareness of food safety through education, require effective management and supervision. For the health of our citizens, fostering talents in the field of food safety is a must. Food safety aims to promote healthy standards, prevent diseases, supervise food safety, improve quality of life, extend the human lifespan, and achieve the ideal of great health for all.

Through this exploratory course, we have gained a more comprehensive and thorough understanding of the three fields of biomedical engineering, dental technology, and food safety. With the wonderful lectures and our own personal experiences, these departments of the university are no longer strange and unfamiliar to us. These activities not only broadened our horizons, but have also given us the courage to think about our future goals.



Esperanto

– The "International" Language



Meet Aki. She is a Japanese woman living in London with her flat-mate Khaemt, a man from Egypt. They want to have a deeper understanding about each other but they don't speak English well due to its complicated grammar, extensive vocabulary, and difficult pronunciation rules. Their friends suggested that they learn Esperanto in order to handle this

problem, but what is Esperanto and how can it help them?

Widely considered to be one of the easiest languages to learn, Esperanto is a constructed language made by a Polish-Jewish ophthalmologist named L. L. Zamenhof in 1887. He created this language in order to serve as a universal auxiliary language to foster peace between every person on the planet.

To achieve such a goal, there are numerous features designed to avoid difficulties a typical language learner often encounters. For starters, every letter in the Esperanto alphabet has its own dedicated sound which never changes. In other words, the letter "A" always sounds like the "a" sound in the word "Ark," the letter "Ŝ" always sounds like the "sh" sound in the word "shine," and so on. Compared with the English alphabet, in which the letter "E" has almost 10 different possible pronunciations, Esperanto clearly has a much simpler orthography.

Furthermore, there are only 16 grammar rules in Esperanto, and no exceptions. For example, all nouns in Esperanto end with the letter "o," and all adjectives end with the letter "a." Moreover, all verbs are conjugated in the same way, meaning that the subject doesn't affect the spelling of the verb. For example, the sentences for "I eat (mi man as)," "she eats (ŝi man as)," and "they eat (ili man as)" all use the same spelling for the verb.



Esperanta Alfabeto						
A	B	C	Ĉ	D	E	F
á	bó	tsó	tchó	dó	è	fó
G	Ĝ	H	Ĥ	I	J	Ĵ
gó	dĝó	rró	rrró	i	ió	jó
K	L	M	N	O	P	R
kó	ló	mó	nó	ó	pó	ró
S	Ŝ	T	U	Ŭ	V	Z
só	chó	tó	u	uó	vó	zó

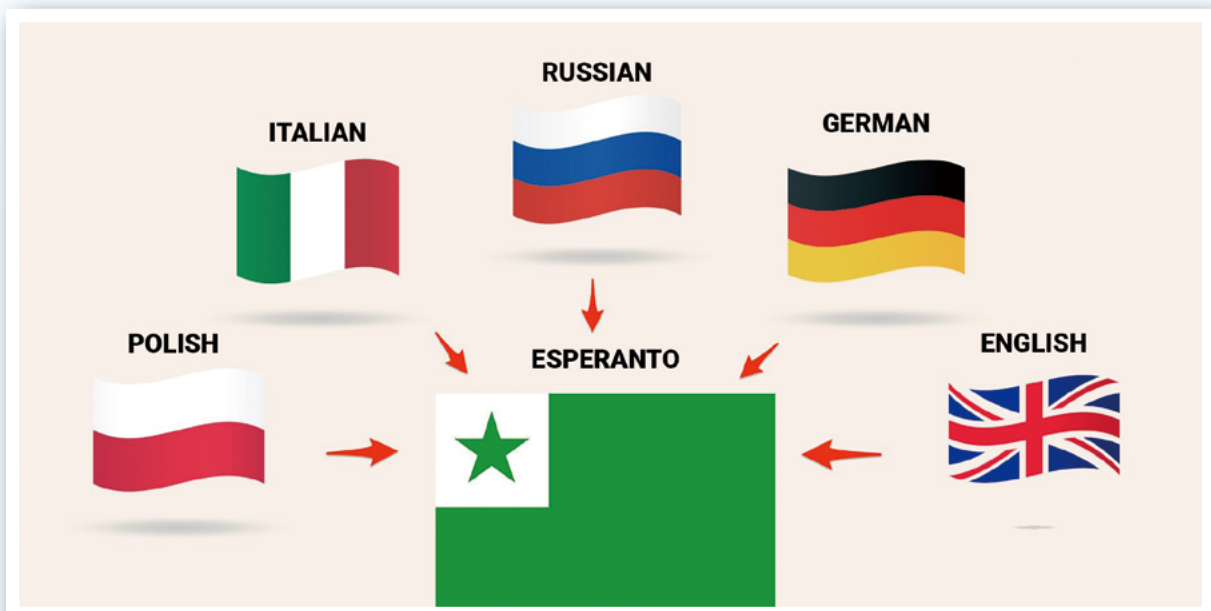
■ Letras existentes no alfabeto português com sons semelhantes no Esperanto
■ Letras não existentes no alfabeto português

■ Letras existentes no alfabeto português, mas com sons diferentes

Last but not least, Esperanto uses a "root word" system similar to languages like Arabic and Hebrew, thus making the vocabulary expandable. For instance, if you have a root word "kolor," you can form the word "koloro (colour)," "kolora (colourful)," "kolori (to colour)," etc.

Although Esperanto has advantages over other languages, it still failed to be the universal lingua franca due to discrimination and political suppression. By the late twentieth century, very few people could speak Esperanto. But in recent years, Esperanto has started to spread via the Internet due to the rise of language learning websites like Duolingo and Learnu. Now, there are more people speaking Esperanto than ever before.

To sum up, Esperanto is easy to learn due to its simple yet logical features. Now, with Esperanto, Aki and Khaemt can easily communicate with each other without the hassle of going through the frustrating and long process of learning a complicated language.



Yanping Winter Study Tour 2019

This winter vacation, I attended our school's winter study tour to Japan. Before leaving for Japan, we made a lot of preparation. For instance, every group had to come up with a plan for their city exploration in Osaka. In the beginning, we were faced with some internal conflict. Some of our group members wanted to go to an outlet to buy some cheap sneakers, but the others had no interest in it. After non-stop discussions among us, we finally reached a consensus.

It was the first time that I went abroad with my classmates instead of my family. Therefore, I was so excited that I could barely sleep the night before we left. After we arrived at the Kansai Airport, our guides and teachers never failed to remind us that we should take care of everything we brought with us from Taiwan, such as our passports, money, cellphones, medicine, and so on. Our guide taught us a lot about Japan. For example, he told us that we actually could take the ship to the Akashi Bridge (明石大橋) when we reached Kobe Port (神戸港).



We went to Himeji Castle (姫路城) in Hyogo (兵庫). The castle, which is famous for being very lucky as well as magnificent, is one of the well-known castles in Japan. The reason why it is lucky is that it hasn't suffered any serious damage from either natural disasters or war. Hence, we could see it in all of its original beauty. We also paid a visit to Osaka City by ourselves. We went to many places like Osaka Castle, a museum of Osaka's past, present and future, a shopping mall, shopping arcades in Shinsaibashi (心齋橋) and Dotonbori (道頓堀), and more. At these spots we took a lot of photos, purchased many mementos and gained a great deal of knowledge of Osaka in the past

I thought the most unique and unforgettable time was the two days we spent with a host family in Miyamamachi (美山町), Kyoto. The host was a kind and humorous old man. He was a monk, so we meditated together with him for 20 minutes after we prayed to their god. Even though he was a monk, he could eat meat, so he prepared a lot of delicious food for us. We made dumplings on our own, and they were very tasty! We built a special cave out of snow as well. I scraped my left index finger by accident while working, but fortunately, my host gave me a small bandage. Since my hand was sweating, the bandage fell very quickly. Accordingly, I had a short rest and took some pictures. Fortunately, we finished our impressive cave, and it didn't collapse! We were so glad about our accomplishment and the experience taught us that diligence is the mother of success.

In my opinion, this was a successful, memorable and distinctive trip. If I am lucky enough to be chosen next year, I will take part in this activity again!



Debating to learn

I had never thought I would ever participate in a debate. I used to look upon it as a scary and intimidating activity, and it was way out of my comfort zone. However, Roy T. Bennett once said, "We have to be honest about what we want and take risks rather than lie to ourselves and make excuses to stay in our comfort zone." It was obvious that in order to grow and to have more experiences, trying debate was the perfect opportunity for me at the perfect time. It was quite interesting regarding our debate team as some were more fluent in English while others were more proficient at debating. We were the perfect combination of complementary skills. As a person with no debate background, I was completely lost and nervous at first. Nevertheless, thanks to my fellow debaters that were well experienced in Chinese debate, I was able to follow their footsteps and do my utmost, but I was still worried that being a novice would hold our team back.



With these concerns, I tried my best to always be focused and fully engaged in every single discussion we had. We had numerous discussions, which I never expected to be such a protracted process. We got together every two or three nights after school or on weekends each week. Moreover, we had to search for evidence for our case and write out our speech. Although this may seem like a monotonous and lengthy process, I actually enjoyed it very much. Being so keen to build up an invincible case, all the hard work felt effortless to me.



During the course, I acquired numerous invaluable skills. I finally understood what it meant to think in a logical way. While listening to my partners' discussion, idea exchanges, and case building, I slowly learned how to think logically, instead of just tossing the word "logic" around. Furthermore, evidently, my English improved. A tremendous amount of vocabulary words were seamlessly pouring into my brain and the uncountable moments of English speaking really brought my English to another level. But most importantly, I developed new friendships and broadened my horizons. Every single person has their own specialty, with different qualities that I was honored to learn from. We wouldn't be complete if we were missing a single person. They were the reason why this experience was so valuable as they were the proponent to my growth during this debate.

Though we did not win in the end, we did do our utmost and put on the best show. Being nervous in the competition, we took our swords bravely and went on the battlefield. We laughed as we were calming our nerves and we cheered as our teammates obtained honor. The final result was never the most important; what matters was what we learned and the time we shared during this journey.

Thanks to this debate I have grown a lot and I will never regret participating in this competition. It was stressful and tiresome, I will admit, but what I reaped was far better than what I sowed. It was frightening, but it was what I lacked that propelled me to push me to my limits and discover potentials that I never thought I had. Last but not least, I would have never achieved this without my teammates. We all did our best to apply our abilities, endeavoring to present a flawless debate; we are the puzzles to the perfect picture!



By 206 班 徐子涵

My Fresh Experience with English Debate



Faced with my opponent debater, I was trembling so badly that I had no choice but to put my notes on the desk before me while my brain struggled to come up with a strong and persuasive response to the question. Never had I imagined being confronted on a podium, not to mention taking part in a debate. The English debate that I attended in April was a fresh and valuable experience for me, which ignited a period of personal growth as well as a great interest in debate.

The journey started upon learning to resolve the question of whether cellphones should be banned in secondary schools in Taiwan. With tons of preparation assigned to both the affirmative and negative teams, I was not passionate about the seemingly tedious and tiring process at first. To my astonishment, it turned out to be one of my favorite parts of debate. During the preparation, we often came up with such funny and silly ideas such as "rolling a dice to determine how many days the phones should be confiscated for" and "installing surveillance cameras in restrooms to ensure students' safety," which not only brought us laughter, but also brought the team members closer to one another. In addition, I started getting better at defending my own stance and responding to questions promptly while building up critical thinking throughout the course. Despite the fact that even to this day, I still feel exhausted and frustrated merely at the thought of the late nights in which we racked our brains. Those memories remain fond and vivid in my mind.





With research documents piling up, the long-anticipated contest made its way to me. As the first negative constructive speech speaker, my job was to refute the problems of status quo raised by the affirmative with a pre-written draft. Confident and potent though I felt before the contest, I could not help trembling when I gave the speech before my fellow debaters and the judges during the first debate. I felt small, weak and helpless with my confidence shattered into pieces when the opponent's questions struck me one after another. Fortunately, I adjusted my emotions and relieved myself of tension with the help of my teammates, who successfully led the debate back onto the right track and assisted me in checking the evidence. Besides my turbulent emotions, I was impressed with the opponent's idea of banning cellphones through students' self-control. Unrealistic though it might seem, I firmly believe that fostering self-control serves as a better means than an oppressive ban. After all, the purpose of education, in my opinion, is to cultivate one's comprehensive ability to maintain well-being independently as well as fit in society while nourishing one's talent. With the cultivation of self-control, students are more likely to make good use of time spent on cellphones even if they graduate and are free from any restraint, which is sure to be a long-term solution.

Throughout the course of the debate, not only was my speaking ability greatly improved, but I also came up with my own points of view on the issue. I used to think of debating as an intense version of public speaking; however, it dawned on me that debate was so much more than that the moment I stepped onto the field. It is an art made up of devotion, courage, research skills, impromptu speech, and above all, critical thinking. With the abilities gained in debating, I now look forward to future challenges.

Overnight Camping



On May first, all of the 8th graders and the homeroom teachers in Yanping started their two-day camping trip. On the preceding night, my heart pounded with excitement. I quickly prepared my luggage, and went to bed early. I tossed and turned all night imagining how wonderful this trip would be. However, on the morning, I was woken up by torrential rain. I didn't expect that to happen, but what really ruined my boisterous mood was the traffic. The heavy downpour forced my mom to drive slowly, and I turned out to be the second to last person to reach the tour bus. How embarrassing! Soon after that, everyone arrived, and as the tour bus departed, our journey began.

On the bus, we didn't talk much. The guide told us about the safety rules, our team slogans, and some essential rope-tying skills. In a blink of an eye, we arrived at our destination. Despite the continuous dripping rain, we sang happily and energetically along the way to the assembly field. After laying our luggage, we were divided into teams. However, we were very disorganized then and our queue became a chaotic mess. Therefore, the squad leader shouted at us for the first time. Her voice was as loud as a lion's, and frightened our very soul. Shocked by harsh words, we swiftly formed an orderly queue, and cooperatively completed the severe training. At noon, we enjoyed our delicious lunch, and got ourselves prepared for the itinerary in the afternoon. After lunch, we experienced a diversity of scouting activities, such as bandaging wounds, playing paintball games, and even sawing timber. Each of them created an inerasable mark in my mind. Although everyone was reluctant, the activities ended with the setting sun. It was dinner time, and we had to cook by ourselves. Even though the ingredients weren't outstanding, with our intelligence and creativity, we still made a table of feast. Finishing our meals fast, we were ready for the campfire party. The party began with some cheers and rhythm, followed by the performance of each class. Through the campfire, I could see everyone's sparkling eyes, like stars in the dark night sky. The party brightened every possible spot on the campsite, and ignited all the students' and the teachers' passion. The first day ended with everyone fatigued.





The second day, we went to build rafts. It was a difficult challenge since the weather was cold and humid. My team and I worked hard. We put a lot of effort on tying the knots tightly, but had a hard time tying floats up. There was only one coach to teach us, but we could barely understand his words. Other coaches were busy helping other teams, and we were very impulsive. As the team leader, I assembled the team members, arranged their assignments and told them to do their best. In the end, we were the last team to finish building our raft. Finally, our raft was ready to enter the water. Afraid of disintegration, we gradually pushed our raft into the river and carefully crawled onto it. Fortunately, our raft didn't sink, but when I sat down on the raft, the icy cold water penetrated my pants and then a pang of coldness ran up my spine. It was freezing! In spite of that, I still finished paddling towards our target and then back.

When I returned to the shore, I felt like passing out. However, after looking back at the work we had done, I thought it worth it. Our journey ended right there. on our way home, we sang karaoke on the tour bus and recounted all the unforgettable moments. It was the most amusing trip ever.

By 803 班 張玠

Overnight Camping



Many people think of camping as a painful event, with only harsh trainings, disgusting meals, and pointless discipline. I used to think so as well, but it was after I truly participated in one that I found out how much fun it actually was.

On the first day, we took the tour bus to the camping site. On the way, my classmates and I had lots of fun. The guide also demonstrated how to tie different knots and sing marching songs. However, when we arrived at Long-Men camping site, things didn't turn out the way we had expected. We literally spent the whole morning standing, yelling "Attention!" and listening to speeches from the executive dean, the principal, and the teachers. Yet, we had to be patient. Those who joined the camping trip yearned for the team prize, and we had to seize every chance to get it.

Finally, it was lunch time, and we were free. In the afternoon, all the students were divided into two groups: one would go raft building and the other would participate in small games of different levels. My class was in the game-playing group, and this was when the fun began. In the first level Stand of Faith, one would have to pull the hands of another person while sitting, and stand up together without any contestants falling down. As contestants increased, the game became harder and all of us needed to work together to find a solution. At last, we finally let the whole class stand up together. In the second level, we learned how to bandage wounds in different places. We were even taught how to make a sleeping bag into a stretcher. In the third level, we used real saws and axes to cut wood. It required skills and patience, but it was fun. Other fun events were touching a real snake and target shooting with a paintball gun.

After many tough hours, we all got hungry. Yet, unlike the previous meal, we had to cook this one by ourselves. I was happy that dinner didn't turn out to be a disaster because we had great chefs and good teamwork. After dinner, the part everyone anticipated the most started; it was the campfire party. The moment the campfire was lit, there were fireworks in riotous profusion. At the party, everyone danced to all types of music, including pop music and even nursery rhymes. Everyone danced as hard as they could in the spotlight and to the cheers from the audience. We all got back happily to our accommodations after the party. To our surprise, we didn't have to build tents since it was raining, so we stayed in the hunting houses, wooden huts with nothing in them. We had to put sleeping bags on the ground to sleep. I enjoyed sleeping with my friends; hearing them snore made me laugh.

The next day, it was our turn to go raft building. I was nervous because I heard that one of the rafts built by the other classes broke apart. The type of raft we built is called an ark. We had to make sure every knot was tied carefully so the ark wouldn't fall apart the moment it went into the river. The goal was to row the ark to the middle of the river and come back at a different dock, and we did it.



After lunch was the most exciting moment and it was when the team prizes would be awarded. For the small prizes, every class got at least one. "Every team did well, and the scores were close, yet, there will only be one winner", the executive dean said. All three teams started shouting out their team name. "The winner is..." Everyone cheered and screamed as loud as they could. "Team One!" the executive roared. I was so happy that our team won the prize! The two-day camping event ended, and we all headed home.

Originally, I thought camping would be endless torture, but I was wrong. Instead, it was a chance to gain a lot more knowledge, but more than that, it was a chance to teach us to cherish what we have, and also the power of cooperation. Now, I will forever remember being in that wonderful environment, and I will cherish it for the rest of my life.