

An Interview with Our Principal



Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a principal? Are you curious about our new building on campus? In this edition of the firefly, we are lucky to have an interview with the man himself, our principal. We sat down with Principal (Liu, Yung-Shun), and asked him some of the questions that are on Yan Ping students' minds. We received some very interesting answers. If you'd like to know what we discovered, read the following interview.



Q: Why did you want to become a principal?



A: When I was younger, I had no intention of getting involved in education. I was the first-born son, and my family was poor. Sadly, my father died when I was in college. As a result, I was obligated to find a job to support my many brothers, sisters and my mother. This was really tough, for I was only a mere college student at the time.

At this point, an assistant professor recommended that I become the dean of students at a junior high school. As you know, sometimes the wrong path can take you to the correct destination. I found out that education was my true calling. I realized that I enjoyed working with children. After discovering this, I was determined to take the exam and get my teaching license. Life sometimes forces us to make difficult decisions, but sometimes we discover that it was all for the best.



Q: What on earth is the principal's job?



A: I want to be honest that being a principal is definitely no easy job. Arranging the courses, hiring new teachers, dealing with financial problems, and most of all, managing a school's unique culture, are all tough tasks. I have to put people in place so that they can utilize their abilities and the school can function as a whole. These tasks alone keep me very busy. On top of that, we are still in the middle of the construction of our new building. Before construction could be started, many problems needed to be solved. Being a principal is a very difficult job.



Q: That does sound like a tough job. Have you ever wanted to quit?



A: I had never even considered quitting until I came to Yanping on February 1, 2012. In the beginning, there were many difficulties I had to face. It took me time to adjust to the new school. I was unfamiliar with the teachers, and there were competing opinions about how the school should be run. These difficulties were very challenging, and I contemplated the idea of leaving. Before coming to Yanping, I was the principle of many public schools. At those schools, I was able to build a sound school system, hire excellent teachers, and help students excel. Yanping was my first private school. I was surprised that the culture was a bit different. The things I had done before that had helped me lead other schools to excellence, weren't working. I wondered why, and I was determined to face every obstacle, shoulder the responsibility and succeed.



Q: We are in the middle of the construction of the new building. Many students wonder about the unique architecture. What's the idea behind the design of a building like this?



A: I believe that every student has discovered the building has a very special appearance. Perhaps it may seem a bit strange to you right now, but there are many reasons for the design. Long before construction, the board of directors and I had been planning a major refurbishment of the school. Renovations are never easy, especially when you're renovating a school that must remain in session. Many things had to be taken into consideration. Despite the difficulties, I never flinched. Over the past 28 years, I've cultivated my perseverance. The first obstacle was the space. The use of space at YP has always been one of our shortcomings. We came up with creative solutions to maximize our use of the space we have. We built vertically to minimize the building footprint. Rooftop gardens allow students to have a place to hang out and get some fresh air. We even extended the track and other areas for physical education, so that they go under part of the new building.

Our second concern was the use of technology. Technology is improving at tremendous speed. This provides new ways to teach and new teaching aids. Figuring out ways to integrate technology into the new building was very important for us. This technology will help YP become a better place to learn.

After much time and discussion, the blueprint for the new building was finally settled. The new building has more green spaces, a modern shape and appearance and most of all it resembles a firefly. The firefly is the symbol for Yanping. When the gymnasium is finally completed, the shape of the two parts of the building will look like a firefly from above. The completion of this new building and the renovations to the campus will be an important milestone in our long history.



Q: What's the most heartwarming thing students have done?



A: Students have done many heartwarming things. I remembered that there were students willing to spend their time to help manage a great graduation ceremony. In addition, there are benevolent students who spent their summer vacation volunteering in Yilan and Hualien. They really helped the people in those communities. There are many things worth encouraging.

After this Q&A, I believe that all of you have more understanding of our principal and Yanping. This is the last year the principal can take good care of us. After he retires, never forget what he has taught us—be modest all the time. Thanks for reading.



By 105 班 楊佳璇 106 班 蘇昱揚
107 班 許敦皓 108 班 李承燁

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The New School Building

Next to Chiang-Kuo expressway stands a twisting and peculiar construction, yet it is neither an art center nor a firm's office complex. This is the newly-built building of Yanping High School.

When you walk into the front gate, what comes into view directly is the atrium and staircases lying in front. Irregularly formed edges look fairly quirky, but I like it very much. When you turn your head up, a bridge stretches across the sky. The first time when I saw this sight, my jaw dropped. I stared at this incredibly fantastic scene. I was asking myself, "Will people fall down when the building shakes?" For me, it's magical to see the bridge between the two sides of the building.

What's more, it is surprisingly ingenious for the running track to be semi-outdoors. The tracks pass under the southern part of the building, which is elevated and two floors above the ground. Whoever came up with such a creative design deserves our respect. With this design, some classes no longer have to be bothered by the ever-changing weather. It's sure to be a benefit for basketball lovers to play even if it rains. What's more, there's a "bonus" room upstairs, doubling as sports courts and activity center. But sadly, that space is not open yet. The activity center, along with the auditorium downstairs, are still under construction. Anticipating and exhilarated, I must be in awe of the finished product. I can imagine what can happen in the future: guys are playing sports, the Student Association is hosting activities, and clubs are using the establishment for their presentations.





Besides the exteriors, the inside surprises me. We have a brand new library that occupies the whole floor. The funniest thing to me is the winding divider that separates computer desks. The curling divider shows that the library is not just new but also elaborately designed. With this facility, students finally find their own peace so as to study in a much more formal library study room, and I have a new choice of places to study other than the one in the National Library where I previously intended to go. Also, the lighting is perfect for students who want to study for the exam or to read while savoring the taste of off-class leisure time.

To sum up, this new building indicates the school needs some alternations so as to fit in the new era of more changes in both technology and society. The future is unknown and probably dangerous. Every so often I feel anxious about the earthquake drill and evacuation, though. Some facilities are still under construction as well. Even so, it is my honor to witness the change of our school. I hope the school will become better in every aspect, so as to outshine other top private high schools.

By 209 班 蔡宗穎

Yanping 5: The New Library

Last semester, our English teacher asked us to make a five-minute news report, named “Yanping 5” , for our academic portfolio. The idea was derived from CNN 10, which includes several important news stories and trivia every day. Each group had to think of one or two subjects associated with Yanping.

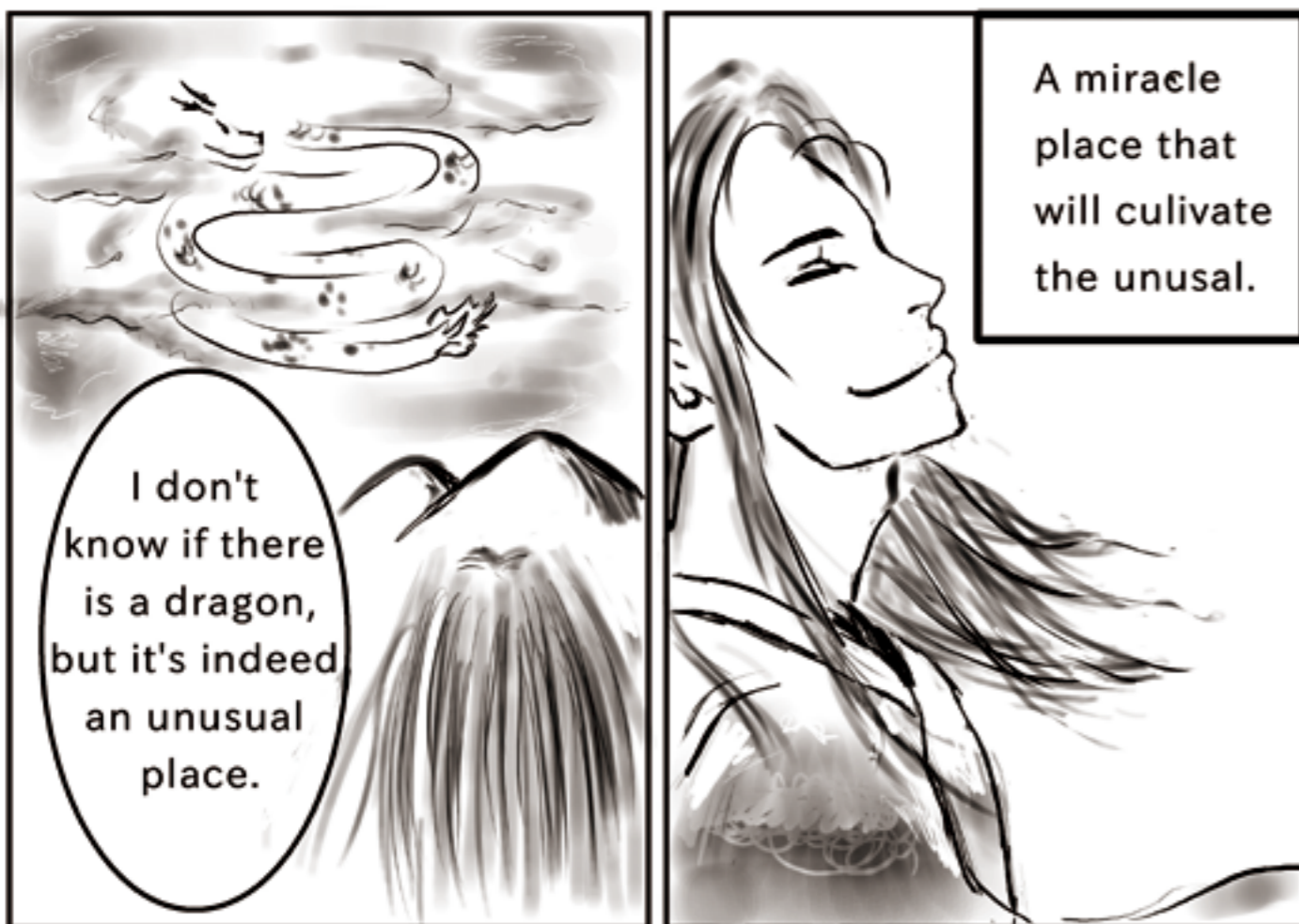
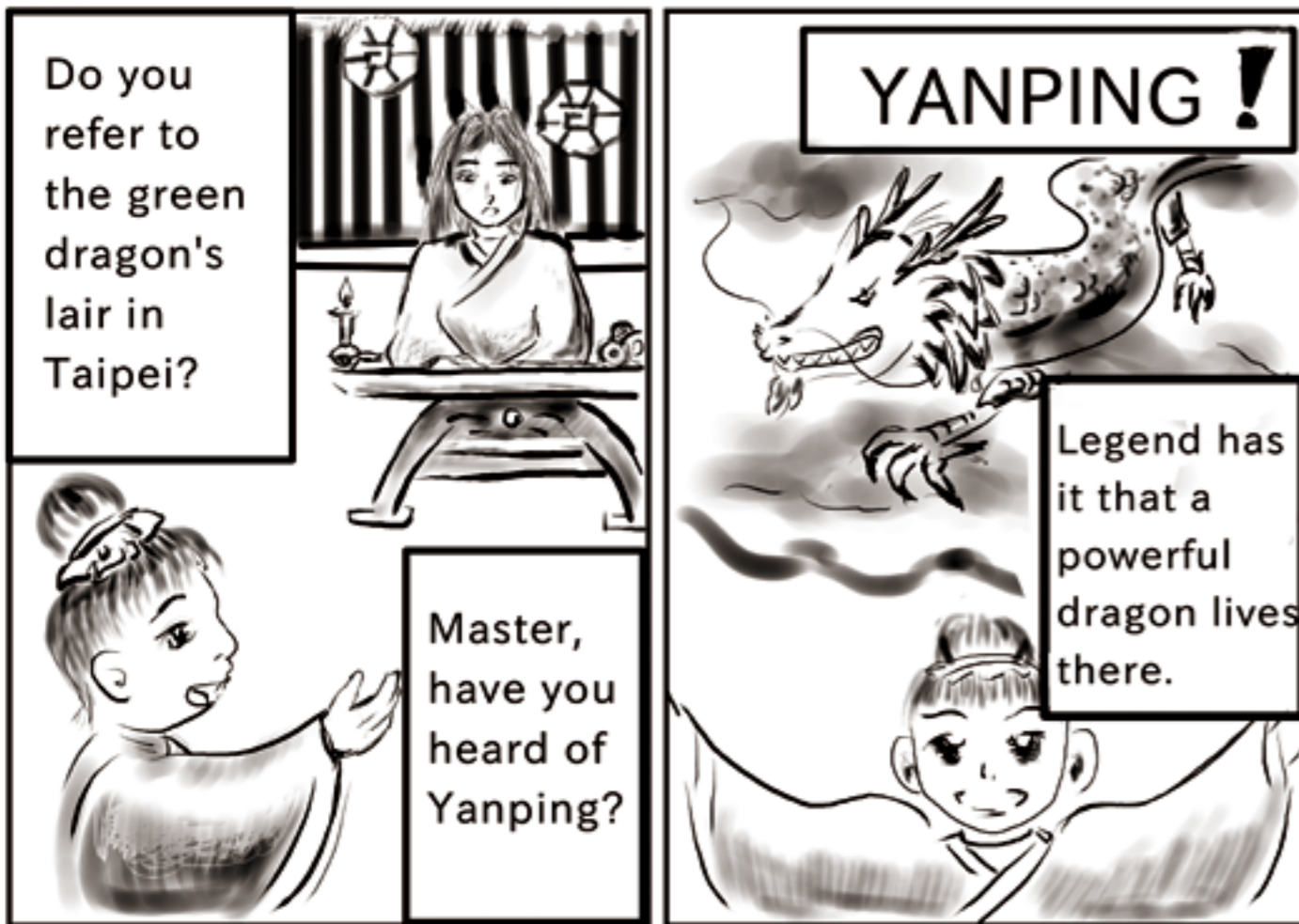
At first, we had no idea which topic we should do. Then we learned that the reading room was about to close because they needed to pack up the books and move them to the new library in the new building. All of my group members thought that this was exciting news, so we swiftly decided to do this theme.

To learn more about the new library, we consulted the director of the office of General Affairs. Much to our surprise and gratitude, not only did he explain the spatial layout to us in detail, but he also proposed an idea to lead us to the construction site and tour the new library. The next morning, the director, Julia and I went to the construction site. In the beginning, we went to the fourth floor where the new library is situated. At first I saw piles of construction debris. To be honest, I had no idea what the new library would look like when it was still under construction. But after the director explained the layout to us, I could imagine how beautiful it would be when the new library was completed. Then the director kindly showed us around the whole new building. Although much was still incomplete, I thought the new classrooms were bigger and brighter. The hallways were also more spacious. After the tour, I was looking forward to moving into the new building.

The beginning of this semester, we moved to the new building. I visited the new library immediately. To my amazement, it was practically the same as the blueprint. Compared with the old reading room, it was brighter and more spacious, even more multifunctional. It is a shame that we can't study at night there because of the coronavirus. I look forward to doing so when the epidemic is over!



By 108 班 莫詠綺



By 208 班 蔡喬伊

The Stain

As I finally finished gridding the huge piece of paper, I picked up the brush and dipped it into the pitch-black ink. Suddenly, with the brush full of ink in my hand, I hesitated. Thousands of questions burst into my mind, distracting me from making the first move. I wanted the first character to be perfect, but the more distraught I got, the more doubts bubbled up inside my head. I could feel my hands quivering with adrenaline surging through my veins. Just as I made up my mind and moved my hand gently to the upper-left corner, I witnessed a big fat droplet of jet-black ink in the middle of the milky-white paper. The ink ran swiftly through the fiber, blooming like a devilish flower. I felt as if I was stained by the fatal mistake.

"Sometimes, I actually prefer writing on cheaper paper, so I can write without the fear of making mistakes," my calligraphy teacher said as his hand maneuvered confidently across the paper. As I stood by him and observed closely, my mind flashed back to that piece of paper and the ink stain in the center.

"How can you always write with such perfection at once?" I asked my teacher. He laughed and went into the store, coming out with a scroll of calligraphy in his hand.

"How many versions of this same piece do you think I wrote?" The traces of the strokes indicated their fast movement.

"Two?" He shook his head with a grin. "Three?" He shook his head again, with a wider smile. "Five?" He clapped his hands and let out a laughter.





“Wow, it took you five...” as I was flabbergasted to learn how many times my teacher wrote the same piece, he whispered with calmness, “Ten. It took me ten times to get the version that I was satisfied with.”

As a perfectionist, I have always expected myself to be perfect at once. In reality, no one, not even my teacher, can reach perfection straightaway. I had always deemed mistakes as stumbling blocks, but they turned out to be stepping stones. Every piece of perfect work people see has been shaped by pieces of imperfections and errors. Sure, we all aim for perfection, but we should never let it become the excuse for avoiding failure. We are still a blank canvas and have plenty of space to make mistakes, and only through trial and error will one be able to truly reach perfection. After all, no masterpiece can be created overnight; those who failed and learned piece by piece are the ones who become true masters.

I used to spend too much time perfecting every letter and mending every tiny imperfection, but always ended up with lifeless words. From that day on, I tried hard to fight against my fear of failure. I still have doubts, but I push myself to go against my instinct to shrink back. Whenever I make a mistake, I use the rest of the paper to practice the same character again and again until it feels right. The process can be monotonous, but I enjoy seeing my gradual progress. After years of repeated failure and practice, I finally feel confident writing down the first letter and bracing myself for potential mistakes.

Before learning calligraphy, I had always been overly cautious in the fear of making any minor mistakes. After repeated failure and practice, however, I grew to realize that no progress can be made by sitting there and worrying about mistakes that haven't even occurred. I forced myself to be comfortable going straight at everything I do, and the mindset helped me in every aspect of life. I'm still a perfectionist, but now I know that perfections can only be achieved through accumulated imperfections.

Recently, while I was sorting out my creations, I compared my works throughout the years that I learned calligraphy. In the old ones, the letters were stiff with hesitance; in newer works, the thick strokes were like rough waves, bold and unconstrained. However, the smooth traces of every stroke did not appear out of thin air; it was the mistakes and practice that pushed me forward, bit by bit. When I almost finished sorting out the works, I spotted a blank piece of paper sticking out from the bottom of the stack. As I pulled it out, I recognized that it was the gridded paper, the failure that I was too afraid to face. It had been laying at the bottom of the pile of paper for years as if it had been waiting for me to discover its existence. Staring at the black stain in the middle, I took a deep breath and spread the paper on my desk. I dipped the brush into the ink, feeling more confident than ever. Holding the brush firmly in my hand, I knew I was ready, ready for my next mistake.

My Study Tour to Gold Coast



Through the airplane window, skyscrapers of Taipei had gradually become smaller and smaller, and finally changed into little sprinkle dots. After an eight-hour flight, twenty Taipei students arrived at Gold Coast, Australia with high spirits. Glad to be selected as one of the group members who won the intense competition and became a leader of Taipei high school students, I not only met a lot of Taipei students who can express themselves well in English, I also found out several impressive differences between Taipei and Gold Coast.



Both similarities and differences exist between Taiwanese culture and that of Australia. Take aboriginal culture for example. On the first day of our study tour, we went to Dreamworld, the biggest theme park in Australia. To my surprise, the whole amusement park was full of aboriginal elements. On the wildlife island in the theme park, the place was decorated with aboriginal patterns like koalas and kangaroos, and in the dining area, the sound of “didgeridoo”, the musical instrument of Australian aborigines, accompanied us during lunch time. In the English class we attended on weekdays, we learned a lot about Australian aboriginal legends and we even made our

own dot painting, which was filled with Aussie features. What I felt throughout the trip is that aboriginal culture is one of the characteristics which Australians are proud of. I believe that Taiwanese aboriginal culture has the same potential. I think what needs to be done is to put more emphasis on our own culture, so that the aboriginals could be regarded as one of the highlights of Taiwan.

We also visited a lot of universities on the Coast like Bond, Griffith, and Southern Cross University. The universities welcome students across the globe to become international students, and each university has its own popular schools,



which are usually law, business, or tourism. We also visited vocational schools. For instance, Tafe provides a professional training environment for students to learn what they will do in their future careers in restaurants, hair salons, and hospital wards for nursing students. Meanwhile New York Film Academy trains students to become directors or actors, and Airways Aviation even has real planes and helicopters for their students to actually take flight into the blue sky! In my opinion, the core value of Australian education system emphasizes international world view and vocational education. This is what Taiwan can learn from Australia, and I believe we can improve our own higher education.

As for the secondary education, we went to Emmanuel College and took some classes with the students there. Although we were supposed to have classes in two different subjects, I was placed into humanity class twice by accident, one was for junior high school, and the other was for seniors. This accident gave me the opportunity to compare the classes of different grades in Australia. In the junior high school class, the teacher taught about ancient Rome, and we worked on the sheet that told us to imagine if we were Roman citizens, and then compared it to our lives today. While in the senior high school class, the content and atmosphere were more serious and professional. I was fascinated with the vivid situation set for the junior high school class and their expertise taught to the seniors. After experiencing the Aussie teaching and learning environment,



I hope that my high school, Yanping, or the education in Taiwan, can integrate our system with Australia's teaching method, which is combining knowledge learning, creativity, and the skill of critical thinking.

Besides schools, life in Gold Coast is so amazing that it contains both outdoor activities and urban experiences. Our group stayed with several homestay families during our tour. On the weekend, our homestay parents would bring us out separately to have authentic Australian experiences. Some of us went to shopping malls and bought a lot of souvenirs back to Taiwan, some went to Warner Bros. Movie World for the whole day, some went to watch their homestay brother's rugby game, and some even went hiking in the evening for stargazing. The time we stayed with our homestay family made our tour unique from person to person, and it was truly a great way for us to know what it felt like to be in an Aussie family.

All in all, I love my Aussie experience and there will probably be another study tour to Gold Coast next year because of the sister city relationship between Taipei and Gold Coast. I learned and improved myself a lot from this study tour, so I hope that students from grade nine to twelve can enthusiastically join the selecting competition and get the chance to visit this gorgeous city!

If you want to know more about my study tour to Gold Coast, please scan the QR code and click the like button or share my fan page!



By 107 班 隋尚媛

An Educational Trip to Japan

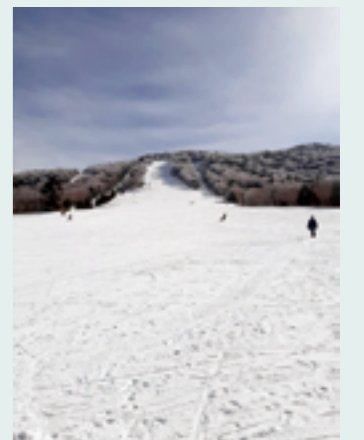
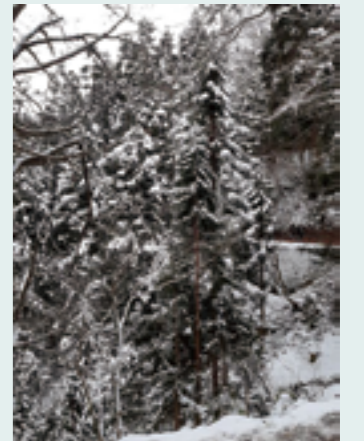
Living in Taiwan, a subtropical island, "snow" is a fantastic, stunning, and romantic fantasy for me. For the past 16 years, I've never seen the marvelous natural phenomenon with my own eyes. And I've been longing to see it personally one day.

In the first semester in high school, I joined the international communication club. The club gave me a chance to go on a 6-day educational trip to Japan. During the stay, I visited a high school, met local students, did a home-stay in their local rural village, and what's better, went skiing at a resort.

On the first day, we arrived at Tokyo International Airport. The temperature there was 9 degrees Celsius. It was really cold. But to my disappointment, the temperature wasn't low enough for snow to form.

On the second day, we headed for Nagano, which has a higher latitude than Tokyo. I couldn't help but wonder if I could soon see snow if it got colder. As the tour bus rumbled on the highway, I fell sound asleep overcome by travel fatigue. I woke up and looked out of the window. What came into view was a vast expanse of whiteness. The ground was covered with a thin layer of snow, and snow was also on the roofs, the trees, and the top of the mountains. Amazed by the astonishing view, I stared at the gorgeous scenery speechless in awe.

When we arrived at the nature reserve, snow was everywhere. Getting off the bus, such was my eagerness and curiosity that I took off my gloves and couldn't wait to touch the snow. It felt really soft and delicate, like touching a ball of cotton. I played with it in my hands and didn't want to put it down. But suddenly, I felt tingling pain and found that my palms had turned red and numb with cold. I





dropped the snow and quickly rubbed my hands to keep warm. The discomfort lasted for the rest of the hour, but I think it was worth it.

On the third day, it was time to ski. I had never skied before, so I was really excited and looking forward to giving it a try. The temperature was around zero. I should have been feeling frozen, but because of the ski jacket and the ski pants, I felt warm instead. Then we started the skiing class. With the snowboard on, even walking was very difficult at first, not to mention skiing down or controlling the direction. After practicing for about an hour, I improved a lot. When I was on the ski chairlift, heading for the hill, it started to snow! Snowflakes were fluttering in the air. How beautiful it was! I was immersed in the dreamlike sight. I took out the cellphone to capture the fantastic and miraculous moment regardless of the risk of dropping it. Finally, I got to the top of the hill. I plucked up my courage to ski down the hill. I felt like I was flying, my hair blowing, my face hitting against the dancing snowflakes. What a thrilling moment!

Even now, I can clearly remember the ecstasy from my first encounter with snow. It was a wonderful and unforgettable experience that I will remember my whole life!

By 105 班 林易樺



An Educational Trip to Japan

What is your first impression of Japan? The cute characters of Disneyland, ancient temples, or mouth-watering sushi and ramen? This winter vacation, I went to Tokyo and Nagano for a memorable educational trip with Yanping.

The activity on the itinerary I'm most impressed with was our visit to Ueda high school. Ueda is a school surrounded by beautiful plum blossoms and gorgeous buildings. When we arrived there, the students there rolled out the red carpet to welcome us. In the beginning of our exchange were speeches from the two principals and student representatives. Afterwards, both sides introduced their school history and academic affairs. In contrast with Yanping, Ueda students only study for six hours a day, and there are various kinds of unique school clubs in Ueda, such as kendo club, carta club, and tea ceremony club. Then the two schools started their performances. For our performance we sang a song called "The Wind Rises." It was originally sung by a Taiwanese singer named Wu Qing Feng. The reason that we picked this song is because it was adapted from a popular theme song in a Japanese drama. We had practiced this song for almost two months, and we also practiced its Japanese lyrics for students in Ueda. Although memorizing foreign lyrics was exhausting, at the sight of their applause and satisfied facial expressions, I felt a sense of fulfillment. The performance Ueda carried out was a dance by their dance club. To our great astonishment, the dance performance was marvelous. In spite of the sheer number of members involved in the dance, their moves



were well-synced, and the choreography of the dance was cute and vigorous. It's no wonder that they won a silver medal in the national competition.

The fourth part was our report about SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations). The concept we chose was "Ocean Waste, and Humanity". We mostly talked about the ocean waste and how Taiwanese government and NGOs have been working on it. We had been preparing this report since October. Both memorizing a four-minute English draft and speaking smoothly were not easy for me, and we had a hard time polishing our manuscript. In order to let the students there understand what we were talking about, we had to replace some advanced vocabulary to easier words and accompany them with pictures occasionally. The most difficult part was devising the questions for the quiz. We taxed our ingenuity designing moderate questions so that they could successfully get the prize we prepared. To our delight, the report was successful, my group members and I cooperated with one another perfectly, and the Japanese students listened to our report attentively and jostled to answer the questions.

Finally, we came to the last part of our exchange—meeting our study partners. Regardless of the awkward atmosphere between my partner and me in the beginning, we chatted joyfully about half an hour later. My partner was a member of the gardening club, and she has already been to Taiwan for the exchange with our school once. I'm glad that she was impressed with Taiwan's delicacy and friendly students.

Well goes the proverb, "As he sows, so shall he reap." After the whole preparation for this educational trip and these six days in Japan, I discovered that it's worth the effort. Through this meaningful trip, not only did I make many foreign friends and dramatic progress in my English skill, I also realized that "He that travels far knows much."



By 108 班 鄭宇彤

Youtuber Contest

Information Explosion

Good morning, honorable judges. Today, I will explain my youtube video about information explosion. Have you ever clicked on Facebook and thought to yourself, "I'm only gonna use it for 10 minutes." but end up wasting hours scrolling through your feed reading things that have nothing to do with your life? I suffered from the exact situation, so I decided to do some research on the topic of information explosion, in the hope of learning how to use the internet in a healthier way.

After some research, I decided to choose the simplest method to explain to my audience. The method that I introduced in my video is easy- classify the information that you receive into three categories: noise, data and wisdom. By doing so, everyone can prioritize what information to absorb first, and avoid wasting time on useless things. Besides, in a bid to highlight the essence of the three different categories, I changed my outfit three times throughout the video.

The first type of information is noise. Noises are like my red skirt- they may seem cute and interesting, but they're usually information that are useless, so people should learn to resist the temptation of wasting time on noises.

The second type of information is data. Data are stats and numbers that are hard to digest, and I brought up three key words to help my audience memorize how to utilize data: evaluate, search and interpret. For data, I chose an outfit that looked professional to remind the audience that they must analyze data in order to use them correctly.

Last but not least, I introduced the concept of wisdom. Wisdom is valuable, because they are usually principles that people spend a lot of time to come up with. Wisdom is also the most important type of information that people should prioritize absorbing. In accordance with the nature of wisdom, I managed to dress like someone wise.

After watching my video, I hope that everyone can avoid being bombarded by excessive information. Of course, it is easier said than done, and I still waste almost an hour on shitposts every day, but at least I'm making progress by applying the methods in real life. Let's all work together to combat information explosion! Thank you.



By 206 班 張哲瑄

Media Literacy

Hello ladies and gentlemen. My name is Howard. Today I will talk about my video. First of all, I want to say sorry to every syndicate about the lame joke in the video. Anyways! It really is a great pleasure to stand here.

Do you know that the social media website Facebook and the search engine Google have been fighting “fake news” in recent years? There have been so-called Internet “trolls” use these websites. Trolls are people who try to make others angry with their posts and spare out all the negative emotion.

You might have same questions in your mind, that is, “why do these mostly computer-operated services keep failing to separate truth from lies?” One reason is that most Internet-based service systems often bring greater attention to posts that get and keep their users interested.

I truly feel that the importance of media literacy, which is the ability to evaluate and separate fake news from real news. By doing so, it can make news become more reliable for the readers.

That's why I wanted to make the video. I hope everyone is warned to employ good judgment when it comes to information on the Internet. In order to prepare ourselves faces the trolls; we can cultivate their media literacy in the education system.

I really hope more and more people, especially grownups, become concerned about the problems associated with the Internet and work to make the world a better place for teenagers and children.



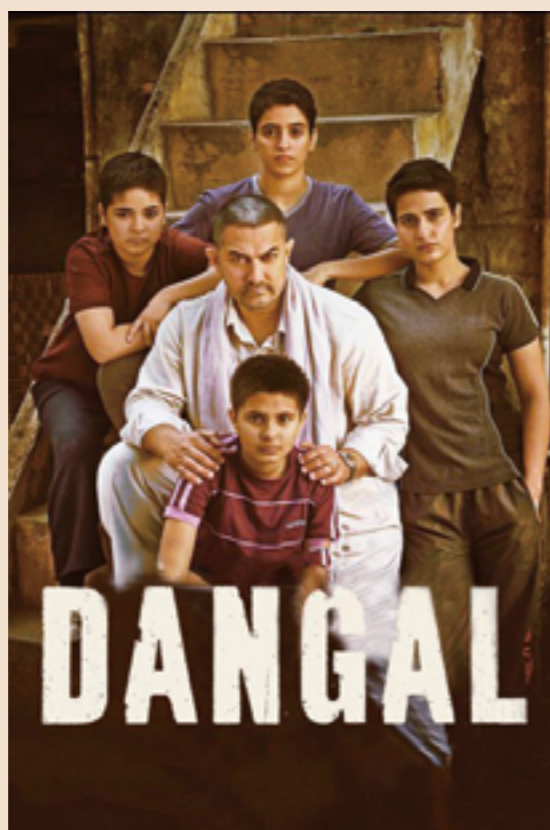
By 810 班 吳東翰

Three Minutes to Watch a Movie: Dangal

During winter vacation, I watched an Indian movie called Dangal. The movie is about an Indian girl named Gita, and how she became a wrestling world champion. Mahavira, Gita's father, was once India's national wrestling champion. However, he couldn't make enough money to raise a family from wrestling, so he was forced to give up. Therefore, he wanted his children to follow in his footsteps. Unfortunately, he had four daughters but no sons. One day, he found that his two eldest daughters had a lot of talent for wrestling, and he began to train them rigorously. At first, they felt their father was too hard on them, but they later understood that their father's high expectations of them were just a way for him to show his love. They started to take training seriously, and the eldest daughter, Gita, won the national championship. Right after the championship she went to the capital, and continued to study at the Institute of Physical Education, but without her father, who was also her coach and toughest critic, she did not take practice seriously. As a result, she began losing in competition, so she pleaded with her father to come train her in person. She made it to the final round of the next competition, but her father had to leave before the final round, which caused Gita to lose her faith. She was losing the final match, but towards the end, she heard her father say to her: Gita, you haven't lost yet! She dug deep inside herself and launched a fearsome attack. The buzzer sounded; she won the gold medal by one point.



There are several reasons I like the movie. For one, Gita's father's dedication to his children deeply touched me. Although his neighbors laughed at his ambitions, Mahavia still insisted on giving his daughters the greatest support and encouragement that he could. For another, I truly admire Gita's perseverance. Women in countries like India are often discriminated against, but she persevered in training and won. Her spirit inspired me to overcome such difficulties as conquering the formidable devil, Shouka Mountain, by bike during one winter vacation. Also, this inspiring film teaches me the importance of reflecting on one's own mistakes. If Gita didn't notice that she had lost her motivation after she won her first championship, and turned to her father, then she wouldn't have won the national championship. It reminds me of something that happens here at Yanping. After the exam, teachers often ask us to correct our examination papers because it's important that we review our mistakes so as to avoid making the same mistakes again. Lastly, this film teaches me to rely on myself. Since my parents will not always be around, I have to learn to deal with difficulties by myself. As Gita's father says, "You have to fight on your own!"



By 105 班 蕭佑臻



John Wick

John Wick returns! The exciting action movie hits the headlines by releasing a brand-new sequel performed by the classic crew including the exceptional actor “Keanu Reeves “. Renowned to the whole world, Keanu Reeves is noted not only for his extraordinary acting ability but also for his well-built physique and masculine appearance which captivate a huge throng of fans all around the world. Like others, I admire his outstanding acting skills and unexpected performances. He perfectly demonstrates the above features in his latest work” John Wick 3” .

In this remarkable masterpiece, he portrays a deadly assassin” John Wick” who has taken countless lives in his entire career. He encounters being the target of a public hunt and ostracizations on account of betrayal to the High Table who hold great power as the symbol of authority. Haunted by a relentless force, he is thrown into a slew of predicaments fighting for his life. His great ability to overcome all difficulties has also become the appeal of the series.

Beginning on a raining day it is announced that John Wick is Excommunicado. It indicates a fairly serious matter that John is wanted, and no one can ignore the drastic issue any more. That is, he is in danger of being murdered. In a race against time, he comes across his first crisis. A gang of about ten killers chase him at a crowded fair with knives, guns, and even axes in hand. Some pull the trigger, another slashes at him, and others hurl sharp projectiles at him. He proficiently catches axes, evades bullets, and doesn't forget to retaliate with extreme ferocity. In comparison with those killed by John,



he merely got tiny scrapes which demonstrates his superior fighting ability.

As the plot continues to move on, John seeks out people who had received markers from him in the past for his assistance. In this movie, for a man to grant a marker to another is to bind a soul to a blood oath. If you break the promise, you have to compensate with your life. As a consequence, he gains lots of friends' help and finally reaches a hotel to cooperate with his old acquaintances to fight against the high table...

As the sky continues to darken, fewer and fewer people wander the streets, and the whole world seems to go silent. Contrary to the atmosphere outside, a creepy and frightening melody lingers in the hotel's lobby, and something lurks intensely in the near future. Wearing a bullet-proof vest, equipped with lots of guns and of course grenades and knives, John is ready to "throw a party" in a unique way.

Sneaking in such a quiet place, every movement or sound can be easily noticed, even a drop of water falling on the floor will be regarded as a threat. Suddenly, John finds an enemy hidden in the dark and kills him in a wink. He then successfully wages a large-scale gun fight with a lone friend against a wave of well-trained enemies.

Just when we think the movie is about to end, we are shocked to find out that the ultimate betrayer is John's old pal. As the saying goes, "don't be a fence-sitter", his friend says as he reveals he has taken sides with the High Table shooting John in the chest. John Wick then falls off many stories of a building landing hard on the pavement below only to be saved by an underling of a friend. The movie finishes with John wearing a mysterious smile whispering something to the man that saved him.

After finishing the brilliant film, I feel excited and I'm looking forward to the next sequel coming soon after. If you are a Keanu Reeves' fans like me, "John Wick 3" is a must-see action thriller.



By 107 班 鄭尚亞

The Nth Room Case

Many people may have thought that 2020 would be a year filled with love because of the Chinese homophonic of "love you". Ironically, by April, there have already been lots of heart-breaking news, such as Kobe Bryant's death, the novel coronavirus, and the Nth room case; the fourth sexual assault case in Korea.

Actually, the Nth room case didn't originate in 2020. It was a sexual crime in Korea that started in the second half of 2018. A reporter unintentionally discovered an app called "Telegram", which is known to be an app with strong privacy settings. He started hiding himself within the app and tried to gather as much evidence as possible for the police. The founder created the "1st room" up to the "8th room", so it's nicknamed "the Nth room". The members needed to upload erotic videos they had or sexual activities they participated in. In addition, the more they paid for, the more videos they could watch. Surprisingly, there were over 260 thousand Koreans watching those cruel videos. A total of 74 confirmed victims included 16 minors with the youngest child being only 11. The main suspect used high-paid part-time job wages to lure the victims into sharing their private pictures, personal information, and successfully forced them to make sexual exploitative videos.

This case wasn't reported until March this year. Many people launched a cosignatory on the Blue House to open the personal information of the suspects and the identities of the members to the public. The former has surpassed over 2.7 million people signatures and the latter has reached 2 million. Therefore, the police opened the suspect's appearances because of the people's rights to know also to avoid similar cases from happening. That was the first time personal information was made public because of sexual crimes in Korea.



With the development of the Internet, people have more opportunities to commit crimes. It also has become the hotbed of sexual crimes, especially against teenagers. After this incident broke out, there are still many people blaming the victims by making comments like “because the girls uploaded those videos first, they became subjects of crime” . This is tragic because victim blaming prevents victims from coming out and telling authority of their suffering in fear of having the fault placed on them.

The misogynist culture in Korea also played a role in this case. Korea is profoundly affected by traditional Confucianism, so the system values “women are inferior to men” is deeply rooted in their lives. That really deepened the distinctions between men and women, causing the rise of some radical feminism in Korea. However, the arguments over the status between men and women are still controversial. There is still some rational feminism in Korea, so I think that the nation is going through a transition period now.

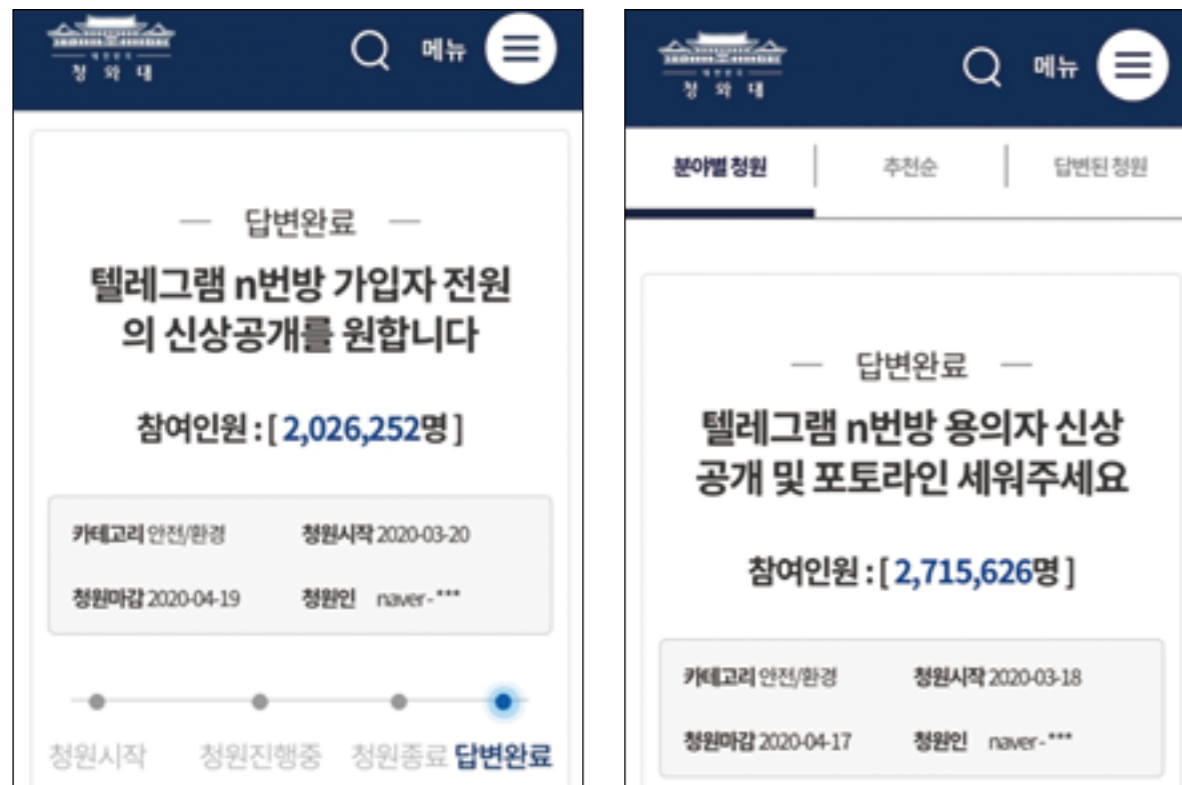
The sadness of this incident was not only the suspects' criminal methods but also the people who disregard decency surpassed over 260 thousand. None of them tried to report it to the police for more than a year. Although this incident didn't occur in Taiwan, it isn't far away from us. After this incident, we can ponder whether to make public the identities of the members or suspects of sexual crimes. Does it really guarantee the lives of the victims? Does it really reduce the crimes?



Talk Show

The first time I heard the term “talk show” was on YouTube in 2018. A video from a channel called “STR NETWORK” popped up on my recommended list, and I clicked it out of curiosity. The video, hosted by Brian Tseng, humorously analyzed the problems of Taiwan's tourism industry from several different aspects, and this humorous approach to sharing information appealed to me. I was immediately hooked, and I started to watch their videos on a regular basis. Not only does the host identify problems and provide possible solutions for them in a hilarious way, but he also makes fun of silly things that politicians have done. These videos spiced up my monotonous life, and informed me about many problems in our society, all in a way that was funny and easy to understand.

To know more about talk shows, I decided to attend a live talk show in person. I searched for tickets to the show and bought one immediately. That day, I got to the studio half an hour before the program started so as to get a seat in the front row. Upon arrival, to my great surprise, there were already about 40 people waiting in line. At the sight of the throng of fans, I couldn't help but get excited for the coming show. After waiting in line for what felt like hours, I was finally admitted into the film studio and the long-awaited show started right away. Following a round of deafening applause and cheers, the host showed up in neat suit. The host first spoke about issues concerning hybrid warfare, which is a modern style of



By 206 班 謝岳庭



war that is fought both with firearms and information. The host then informed us that the researchers had discovered that they could use statistical data to predict the results of the 2012 election in the United States with seventy-percent accuracy. Most of us were shocked by this.

After talking about hybrid warfare, the show took a short break. The host interacted with us for about 15 minutes, such as chatting and playing some games with us. He did this in order to understand what the audience found funny, so he could set up jokes specifically for us. Of course, we then got more involved with the amusing atmosphere and enjoyed the rest part of the show.

Seeing a live talk show was a wonderful experience, and if I ever have the chance to do it again, I will definitely buy a ticket without any hesitation!



By 105 班 李少棋

Dr. Stone

An Anime Series Tells How Useful Science Is!

“Teacher, why do I have to study complex matters, such as how to make soap? Why not purchase one in a grocery store?” Many students have questions like this, since what they learn in class seems to have nothing to do with their daily lives, and I am no exception. I constantly wonder if the formulas, equations, and principles shown in my textbooks will ever become applicable in the real world. To my great delight, an anime series from Japan serves as an excellent response to my age-old questions.



Dr. Stone, a new anime series, features a novel setting — with a sudden flash of light all human beings are “stoned” and the world we know today is instantly reverted to the prehistoric world — with no skyscrapers or smartphones. In this new world, a clever high school student, Qiankong, known as “the last hope of science,” awakens from the curse of the stone. In an effort to uncover the truth of humankind's extinction, Qiankong works tirelessly to restore society and strives to figure out hints left by his father. During the process, we are able to probe into humanity's brightest and darkest times,



and the war scenes demonstrate the old saying— “History repeats itself.” Despite the countless obstacles, they sail through all adversity with the enchanting power of science. The characters in the series also demonstrate the familiar method we learn in school, step by step. Frankly speaking, not until I watched this did I admire scientists for their devotion. Thanks to this fascinating series, it brings these dull terms in textbooks to life, which enables me to immerse myself in the charm of science.

As a resident in a modernized metropolis, it's not surprising that we are unable to imagine a primitive life. To be honest, I don't believe I could survive in the harsh realities I would face in the prehistoric world. Therefore, I admire Qiankong for his wit and perseverance. He tackled the crisis and drummed up people's faith in science so as to accomplish the restoration of civilization with him. Always anticipating what clever innovation will appear in the next episode, I felt invigorated every time I watched this amusing anime series. Dr. Stone provides us with an opportunity to appreciate what we have today, and conveys a mighty take-home message, “Knowledge is power.”



By 208 班 蔡喬伊

How to Make a Mask Cover

Welcome to home economics class. My name is Ivy, and today I'm going to teach you how to make a mask cover during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Materials you'll need to make a mask cover

- * two pieces of elastic string
- * a piece of waterproof cloth (Make sure you have the correct size)
- * a pair of scissors
- * a ruler
- * a sewing kit

Let's begin!

First, fold your waterproof cloth in half, and then open it. You will see a fold line in the middle. After that, sew 1 centimeter from the dot towards the center. Fold the two sides along. Next, you will see a protrusion in the middle. Flatten it, and you have already finished one third of the work. Now, repeat all of these steps with the breathable cloth. When finished, stack the two pieces of cloth on top of one another, and then sew them together at the top and bottom. If you are worried that the stitches won't look good, choose the color which is similar to the cloth so that they won't be visible.



Second, sew the elastic strings to the mask cover. Turn your mask cover to the breathable cloth side and sew the strings to it at the top and bottom, forming a loop. Then, reinforce your stitching.

Third, sew a mark of your own so that your mask cover is easily recognizable and won't get mixed up with someone else's. You can sew anything you want to the mask, as long as it's recognizable. After this, you're done!

Are you satisfied with your work? Mask covers are quite useful especially during this current pandemic. Once you know how to make it, you don't have to waste as many masks. By putting a normal mask inside of the cover, the mask itself can be used for several days. Lastly, don't forget to clean the mask cover every day by sterilizing it in boiling water or throwing it in the washing machine. Air-dry it afterwards and it will be ready to protect you in no time!

By 704 班 蔡欣霏

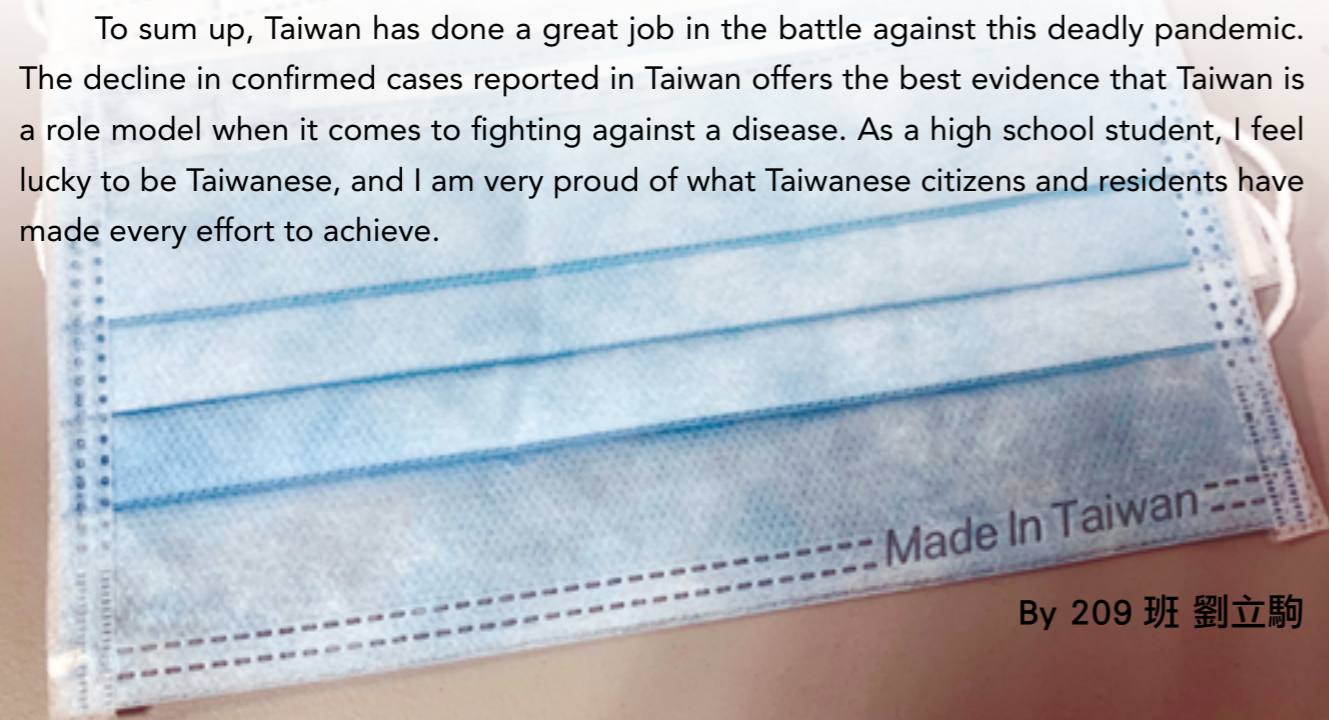
COVID-19

With COVID-19 metastasizing to every continent other than the Antarctic, it has expeditiously and effortlessly besieged almost every hospital across the globe, forcing many countries to adopt an ancient but effective tactic: the lockdown. But there is an exception, a country that boasts its sound medical system and thorough health insurance: Taiwan.

Thanks to the fact that we are living in Taiwan, we senior high school students can keep going to school during the Covid-19 pandemic, while students in most other countries are forced to learn from home. However, we still have to do our best to combat the lethal virus because the future still appears gloomy. The pandemic has exploited many countries' medical resources, making the systems there collapse and leaving those in need unattended, and causing the death toll to rise unnecessarily. Although Taiwan does not currently face this problem, my heart broke when I read articles about healthcare workers taking care of patients around the clock, foregoing food and rest, and putting their lives at risk.

The best way to help is to do our best to stop ourselves from being infected, which will effectively lighten the load on them. First, keep social distancing (at least 1 meter) when you are around others. The virus can be transmitted between humans through droplets. By observing social distancing, we can effectively reduce our chances of contracting the deadly disease. Second, wash our hands frequently. The virus can also be transmitted by human contact, most commonly from “hand-to-face” transmission, which means if we have dirty hands, it is easy for us to contract the virus. Last but not least, wearing face masks in spite of the discomfort they bring. Face masks may not provide perfect protection, but they can help to reduce droplet spread, as well as reduce the frequency with which we touch our faces while wearing them.

To sum up, Taiwan has done a great job in the battle against this deadly pandemic. The decline in confirmed cases reported in Taiwan offers the best evidence that Taiwan is a role model when it comes to fighting against a disease. As a high school student, I feel lucky to be Taiwanese, and I am very proud of what Taiwanese citizens and residents have made every effort to achieve.



By 209 班 劉立駒

My Thoughts about the COVID-19 Outbreak

2020 has been a hard year for all human beings around the world. Millions of people have been infected with COVID-19, with hundreds of thousands of people dying of the virus. As of now, we have had hundreds of confirmed cases in Taiwan. Given that we are just off the coast of the country where the pandemic broke out, we have done a remarkable job.

After watching a great deal of news, I think the key is that we are all cooperating. The collaboration and resilience of each person serve a useful function in combating the virus. Although the government has set up a comprehensive system to prevent the spread of the virus, the government alone is never enough.

We should start with ourselves as well. For instance, we can use hand sanitizers constantly to kill bacteria and viruses, cancel all nonessential meetings to reduce the risk of contracting the virus, and wear a face mask to protect both ourselves and others. Since most of us are concerned about the pandemic and are happy to comply with the recommendations given by the government and other medical experts, the measures taken in Taiwan seemed to kick in while COVID-19 was still raging in many western countries. As President Tsai Ing-Wen said, “Together, we can be more than the sum of our parts.” Truly, not only the government but every resident plays a vital role in containing the further spread of the virus.

Now, we are able to help other countries by providing complimentary face masks to countries that are lacking in precious medical supplies. However, we have run into some problems. The WHO has neglected our advice concerning the pandemic. How absurd! The whole world is still in a dire situation. The world needs our assistance, but for a few politicians, the only thing that matters is publicity. Every global citizen is responsible for fighting against the virus and should keep a sense of perspective and the goal of improving public welfare.

Despite the fact that we are now in a diplomatic quandary, there's no way we should stop helping others. “Taiwan can help, and Taiwan is helping.” I appreciate living in this country and hope we can continue to work together to minimize confirmed cases and get through it as soon as possible.



(附圖取自外交部推特)

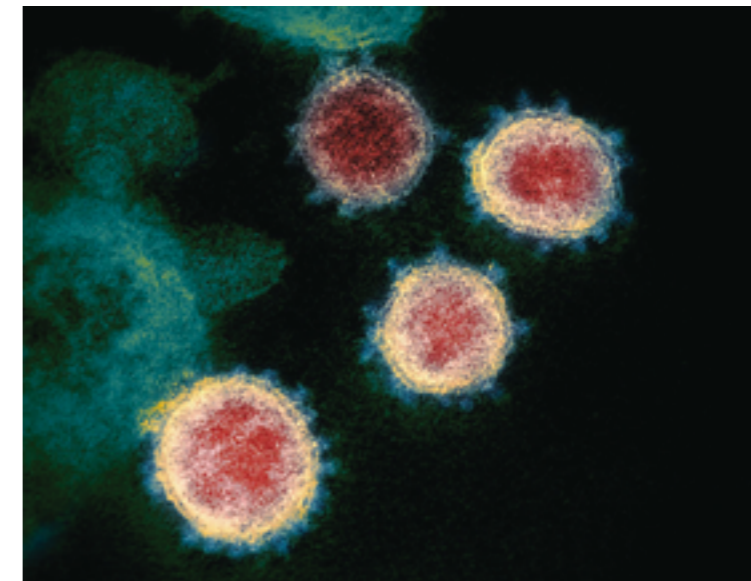
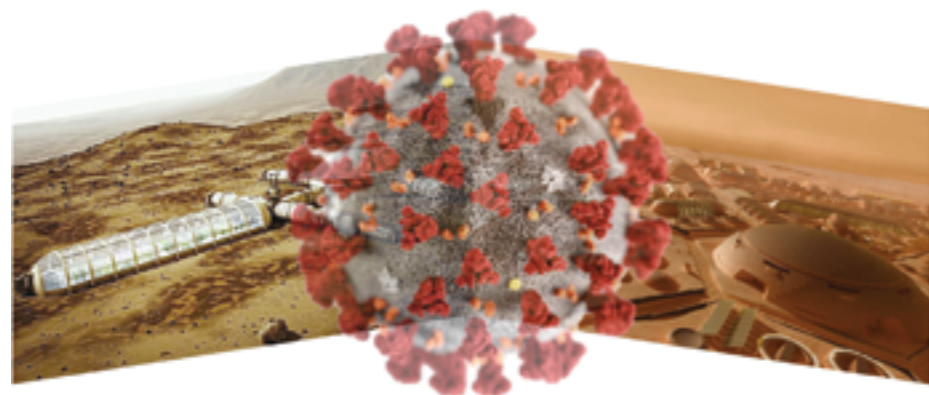
By 209 班 張瑋庭

The Virus Standing in the Way to Our Dream

Two decades ago, a movie called Mission to Mars became a global hit, in which an expedition managed to land on Mars in 2020. Since then, 2020 had been expected as the start of the “Mars era” or even “Deep Space era” because we believed that we have reached a new level of space exploration and have the ability to overcome any difficulty. Now that it is 2020, we are confronted with a tremendous problem, which has nothing to do with space. Instead, a global pandemic. The COVID-19 virus emerged out of nowhere and then proceeded to infect millions around the world in a matter of 90 days. People are more shocked than mournful about such a horrendous disease killing thousands per day. “Social distancing” replaced “colonizing Mars” and became the slogan of 2020, a year humans are confronted with changes.

Throughout the history of scientific development, public health is scarcely in the spotlight. People dedicated to the field of public health often scramble when there is a widespread epidemic that sweeps throughout the whole world. Surely, humans rise to the occasion when our public health is tested. For example, the WHO led the world in eliminating Smallpox within 30 years. However, we tend to take action after situations have gotten worse, so a totally new virus can wreak unaffordable havoc on society, as it is happening now. “We can't do anything without a healthy body.” The cliché has a new interpretation when the world is confronted with such a pandemic—we ought to have an awareness of public health even during times of peace, for nobody knows when the next challenge for humanity will arise.

While experts work on their research, what can the rest of us do to help? During these times, it is to exercise “social distancing”. The strategy calls for reducing as much human contact with others as possible, hoping to flatten the epidemic curve. Schools and companies take extreme precautions in order to maintain operations in case the virus



grows even more dangerous. Family and friends stop chatting face to face; instead, they make use of modern technology, interacting via social media or video chat apps. We may feel upset by being advised not to go to the movies, sing in KTV or even embrace our darlings; yet it is clear that all we do now is for a brighter future without regret. For those who are doubtful about our competence to outwit the sly virus, see how we successfully dealt with the lethal smallpox and how confident we are to navigate across outer space to reach Mars! We have to take it to heart that we should always beware of unknown diseases and believe in the experts, meanwhile complying with the rule of social distancing to protect others and ourselves. Most importantly, all of us must have faith in our ability to overcome any difficulties, and the one we face now will eventually become a glorious testament of how tough we are. “Those that don't kill you make you stronger”. If we pass the monumental test of COVID-19, we will surely eventually reach anywhere we want, even Mars and beyond.



By 208 班 邱士紘



Be Earth Friendly

On a Wednesday, I went to a beach in Kenting with my mom and her colleagues. We did not go there for recreation. Instead, we were there for beach cleaning. When we arrived, there were mountainous piles of trash on the beach; more than you can ever imagine. There were plastic bowls floating on the sea like boats and tiny pieces of styrofoam drifting with the tide. There were even these incredibly long fish nets tied up to floating wood and other trash. We only had a little time to clean up the beach. Given all that garbage on the beach, it was an impossible mission to accomplish. Although the sun was high up in the sky, we still picked up as much garbage as we could within a short period of time. At last, we managed to pick up many bags of trash. But no matter how hard we tried the beach was still far from clean.

After I returned home, I saw an MV of a song made by Alan Walker called “Different World” . It's about the problems that trash created and the pollution that humans produced. In a footage, there was a poor sea turtle suffocating from a net that was thrown into the ocean by fishermen. A seabird turned completely black from its original beautiful white color. I was totally saddened by all the unfortunate animals suffering in the video.

Where did all that trash come from? The trash came from humans and our civilization. Research shows that around 4 billion pounds of garbage end up in the ocean every year (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2018). Even if you are nowhere near the beach, the garbage that you leave on the ground will still find its way into the sea. Among all of the items, plastic products are the most dangerous, because plastic bags can take up to 1000 years to decompose! The plastic that you throw on the ground today still exists even

after your grandkids die. There is no benefit for you to kill an innocent turtle, so put your trash in the garbage cans instead of on the streets. It is easy for you to throw away the trash properly, but it is hard for animals to live with trash.

Besides, the trash in the ocean might not only take the marine animals' lives, it can also be a threat to your health. The very little pieces of plastic that are eaten by a fish could end up on the plate at your dining table. Therefore, all people should be aware of this problem. Everyone should do their own job by throwing garbage away and remind others to do the same.

We humans aren't the only owners of this planet Earth. It is owned by all living creatures on Earth. There is a line in Alan Walker's music video that I really like: “This is not the world we had in mind. But we got time.” We can't be so selfish. Be a good person. We still have a chance. Let's all work together to save the Earth!



What Music Means to Me

Growing up, music has always been an indispensable part of my life. In addition to listening to music, I also relish performing music.

I started playing the drums when I was nine. An online clip of someone making a drum cover of my favorite song sparked my interest. The excitement of drumming really appealed to me, and since then I have immersed myself in this hobby. What I acquired wasn't merely drumming techniques, but a better way of thinking and doing things. Even though it has been a while since I last picked up the drumsticks, I'm convinced that I'll be back at it in the near future.

Unlike most people, I expose myself to many different genres of music. Every genre has its own characteristics and captivates me in its unique style. For example, hip-hop is one of the most popular genres of contemporary music. Although it's often criticized for its explicit content and vulgar language, there's usually a profound meaning behind the lyrics. Many rappers come from poor living conditions and are often surrounded by drugs and violence. Music has provided them with a way to escape from their harsh reality and focus their energy in a creative and positive way. It also gives them an opportunity to change their lives. What really draws my attention is how they incorporate their ideas and thoughts into their music. From their lyrics, I can sense their determination to fight poverty and their desire to lead better lives. Whenever I'm having a hard time, I'll listen to hip-hop to motivate myself

and encourage myself to work harder.

While hip-hop may be my favorite style, I listen to other genres on different occasions. To me, every type of song fits a certain mood. Pop, rock, country, and every other type of music are all suited to different occasions, and they help me through different stages of life. Without music, my life would be tedious and emotionless.

I firmly believe that music can make a huge impact on people. It's a crucial part of my life, and I can't neglect the influence it has had on me. I'm currently learning to play the guitar and I'm looking forward to making more progress in the future. Nothing can match the pleasure of listening to music. It relieves me of pressure and brings me happiness. No matter what obstacles I encounter, music is definitely the best way to get past them!





My Pet Dog Woofy

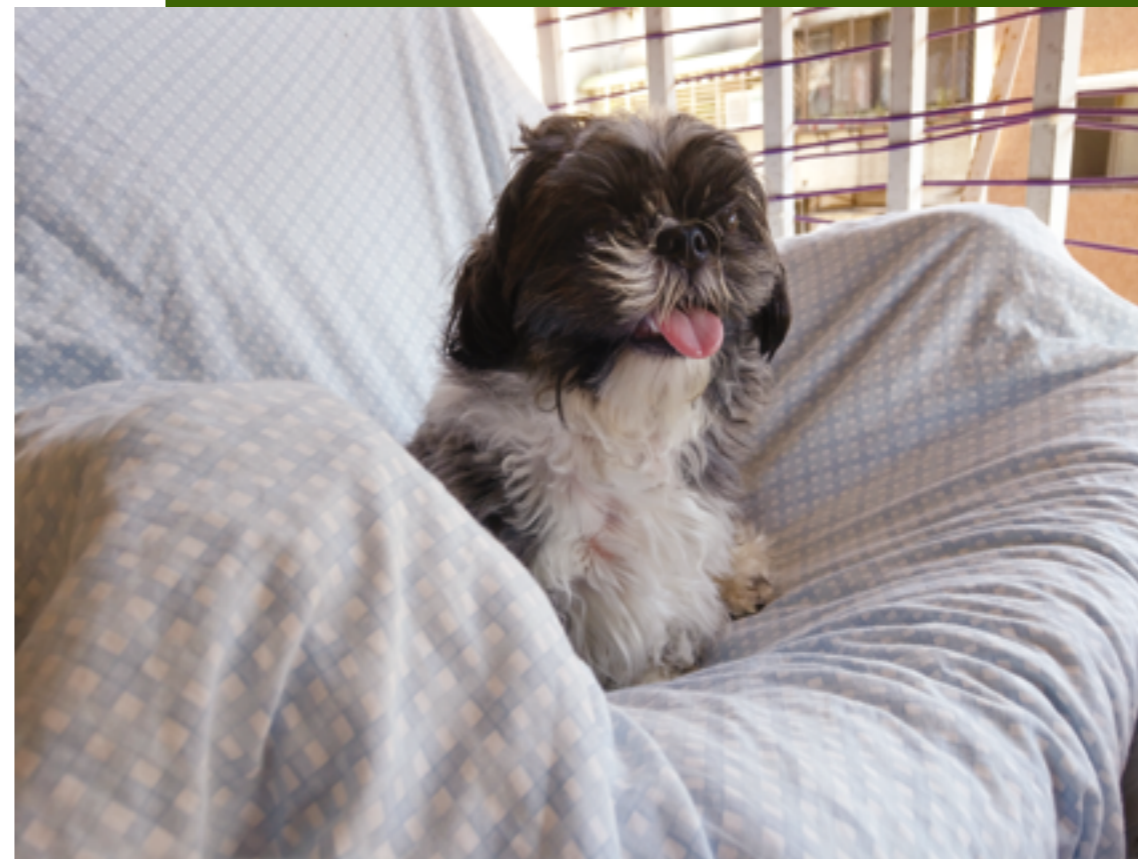
I have a pet dog named Woofy. He is very cute and very fluffy. The color of his fur is a little gray, but not too gray yet. His eyes are big and dark, his nose twitches when I tickle him, and he has a small mouth with a little red tongue. Whenever I see him, I feel he is the cutest dog in the world.

One early morning, my sister and I took Woofy out to the park for a walk. While we were walking through the hall, Woofy took off running. He ran toward the glass door because he wanted to go out, but he didn't seem to notice that the door was closed. Thump! He bumped into the door, and immediately whimpered and whined! I quickly ran over to Woofy to see how he was; I felt so heartbroken! But my sister laughed at him instead, and said to me, "How could Woofy be so stupid?" I hugged Woofy and he seemed to feel better, and even began to wag his tail. My heart melted at the sight; how could this dog be so cute?

There was another time when I took Woofy out to the park to play. He was happily playing with the other dogs, and I went to the bathroom. After a while when I came back, I did not see Woofy anymore. I was terrified! I called

his name, but he didn't come. I called out the name of Woofy's favorite snack, hoping it would lure him over to me, but I still got no response. I went to ask the other dog owners whether they had seen Woofy or not, but they all shook their heads. At this point I started to panic. I looked around searching for my cute little furball, but I couldn't catch any sight of him. I ran all over the park looking for Woofy, but to no avail. I became desperate. I asked some people who were passing by the last area that I had seen Woofy. Finally, someone said that she had seen a dark gray dog going towards the female bathroom. I jumped at the lead, thanked her, and ran over there. At last, I found him. While I was searching the park for Woofy, he had gone to the bathroom to search for me.

I told him that I was afraid that I had lost him, and that I would never leave him on his own ever again. He looked at me, as if he was telling me he understood every single thing I said to him. From now on, when I take him out, I will always stay by Woofy's side.



By 807 班 顧勻捷

Language Learning Review and Gist of Spanish

What comes to mind when hearing about learning a second language? Is it countless vocabulary words and phrases, or dull grammar practicing? To me, it is a marvelous process accompanied with a lot of fun.

Owing to the implementation of the 108 syllabus, the MOE added a self-designed course to a week's lessons. This led to my initial encounter with the Spanish language. At first like most people, I pondered where and how to begin while resisting learning. However, after I started working on it, it turned out to be relaxing. It soothed my tight nerves derived from a week's hard work of pronouncing words, sentences, and finally completing an article. That sense of accomplishment is irreplaceable.



In fact, besides the above points, there are lots of other benefits to learning a language such as the improvement of memory, decision-making skills, and, most importantly, it can also increase your career options. In accordance with Eton Institute's Language Development in the Workforce survey, 89% of the clients stated that multilingual employees add value to the workforce and 88% stated that recruiting team members with language skills is important to their organization. Multilingual ability definitely gives us a competitive edge in today's world and based on the above points, learning a second language is obviously a prudent decision.

But why Spanish? First, according to most estimates, Spanish is one of the most spoken languages globally, with about 460 million speakers; even more than English speakers! Second, since so many people speak Spanish, acquiring Spanish can help you make friends all over the world. Last but not least, there are more

Spanish speakers in the United States than in any other Spanish-speaking country, except Mexico.



In other words, Spanish is as useful as (or even more useful than) English in America!



Speaking of my thoughts after learning Spanish, in my personal experience I find it way harder than English, but if you only want to be able to read articles, the pronunciation part shouldn't be a big problem. Every letter has its fixed pronunciation; most of them are similar to English. But when it comes to the grammar and writing, it's a total nightmare. First, merely every single noun has two forms, the masculine and feminine. Usually, the masculine form ends with the letter "o" , and the feminine "a" , but of course, there are lots of exceptions. Second, almost everything in Spanish includes indefinite articles, definite articles, verbs, to name. But a few have masculine/feminine and singular/plural forms, which has to agree with the subject in the sentence. Finally the order of the words are confusing. For example, in English, the adjective should be placed before the noun it describes, but in Spanish, it's the opposite, which gives a lot of beginners like me a hard time differentiating between the subject, the object, and even the verb.

In conclusion, in this era of rapid change, learning a second language can definitely have a positive impact on our lives. Languages that are widely used are usually better alternatives, such as Spanish, Japanese, and French. Learning Spanish really requires a lot of time and effort, which is not that suitable for students who have to spend most of their time on schoolwork. On the other hand, there's a lot for you to learn from it besides the language itself. It really is a lot of fun including the process of memorizing new vocabulary words, the cheerfulness of learning new

patterns, etc. As long as you are willing, your efforts will all pay off in the end.



The Insight into Our Bodies

No sooner had I stepped into the newly-built biology laboratory than I saw a myriad of cutting-edge and shimmering experimental equipment awaiting me. While other classmates were still marveling at the high-end devices on the table, I noticed today's subject of observation—pigs' kidneys and hearts. I had never seen real organs before, so this was a whole new experience for me. Soon, we started observing the organs up close.

First, I grabbed the heart in my hand, taking a close look at the inside. I clearly observed four divided spaces—right and left atriums and ventricles. I was thrilled to find myself able to distinguish them with the knowledge I had acquired in biology class. Next, I looked further at the veins and arteries stretching out from the heart. They were tangled and hard to differentiate, so I infused some water into them. The ones that water failed to penetrate were arteries, since their semilunar valves prevented water from flowing into ventricles.

Next, I observed the kidneys, which were much less complex than the hearts. I quickly compared them with the pictures in my textbook to refresh my memory of the technical terminology associated with them, and then I moved on to today's main experiment.



Carefully removing three daphnia from three tanks filled with water of different temperatures, my teammates and I nervously held our breath until they finally reached their glass slides intact. To prevent them from being crushed by the cover slip (the top layer of glass), I even used some of my own hair, putting strands on the both sides of the slide to ease the pressure from the cover slip. Despite our best efforts, when I looked through the microscope and spotted the tiny creature, its heart had already exploded—it had been crushed! Letting out a sigh of irritation, we had no choice but to start from scratch. However, the failure annoyed me, and filled me with childish impatience. Unsurprisingly, my team killed several daphnia as a result. We learned that haste not only makes waste, but dead daphnia as well. Therefore, we did it again, with patience and care, and eventually succeeded in recording the heart beats of daphnia. Ironically, viewing these tiny creatures felt like a truly Herculean feat!

In retrospect, this experiment was a precious experience. The laboratory was wonderful, and viewing real animal organs in person was totally different from studying pictures in a textbook. For the first time, I was fully immersed in the experiment. I would love to return to the biology laboratory for more experimentation in the future!