

VISTAS

April 9, 2010

The IBSH Student Newspaper

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

Carnival was eco-friendly

By Victoria Wang

What are some of the things that make students look forward to our School Anniversary every year? In addition to the excuse to get out of class for the morning, the carnival that has a multitude of food available is another feat that students enjoy most about the celebratory day.

While students were debating whether to eat pizzas or taco salads, Mr. William, the sanitary coordinator of our school, was busy trying to make the event more environmental. Before the carnival, it was made clear to classes who wished to set up booths to make their booths as eco-friendly as possible. Taking a stroll during the carnival, Mr. William would be glad to see that many booths were doing their best to be environmental. For example, unlike previous years, there seemed to be less people using coal this year during their sale. Most seem to have resorted to small stoves that were not as smelly or smokey. After the carnival, students from every class stayed after to clean their area and made sure to look through their trash and recycle items that can be reused.

All in all, it seems that the School Anniversary this year was much more environmentally friendly. With our school trying to push for a more eco-friendly environment, there is no doubt that our learning habitat is going to be improved tremendously.



7th-grader Matthew Zung performing at Charity Night.

Photo: David Lee

Charity night: a big production

By Angel Chang

2010's Charity Night, co-hosted by Key and InterAct clubs, took place on Friday, April 2, in the school gym.

Surrounded by ludicrous yet entrancing decorations featuring Wonderland's creatures and fed delicious food, the event was, as always, rather dizzying and surreal. But the real magic lay in that night's performances – including songs "Two is Better than One," "Say it Again," "Black or White," "Stacy's Mom" – and, of course, the long-anticipated Game Show.

Even after watching the hilarious games (the last of which was Human Tetris) students sure will remember this night, whether they were allured by BYC's magic or by D.Co's sexy performance.



D.Co's performance.

Photo: Diane Lee

His paper airplanes finally appreciated

By Tiffany Wang

On March 3, 7B student Yuhan won an airplane race held in the school gym by Ms. Christine Smith. He was awarded a goody bag, a drink, and a certificate. The contest was based on flight distance, and every contestant had to use standard A4 sized paper of the same weight to construct his or her plane. Ms. Smith said that this was the first home base activity in which students competed and got awards.

The distance that gave Yuhan his victory was 1,872 cm.

Ms. Smith described Yuhan's airplane as "long, narrow, skinny," and "not wide at the flaps." Ms. Smith also said, "It was also a bit heavy, because it was so neatly compacted together."

Yuhan started constructing airplanes when he was in the sixth grade. Sometimes he would get in trouble in Eduard Liu's science classes. Mr. Liu would punish him by having him stand at the back of the class or write a test. Mr. Liu wanted the students to remember to "think ahead" and to "clean up after their own mess."

Yuhan taught himself to make airplanes at home, and said that the experience was just, "Fun!"



Delegate Patty Yeh at the recent BEIMUN.

Photo courtesy of Nathan Bryant

IBSH sends gophers to World MUN

By Kenneth Hsia

On March 14th, eight juniors from IBSH participated as administrative staff at the prestigious, 18th World Model United Nations conference in Taipei. They took the role of "gophers," responsible for delivering notes to and from delegates. High school students are not allowed to participate in debates but can volunteer to help out as admin staff.

Our students also served as guides for foreign student delegates. The students

were Kenneth Hsia, Jonathan Tsai, Fiona Liao, Joyce Chen, Stephanie Chen, Michael Chen, Sunny Wang, and Annie Fu.

Our school also sent students to BEIMUN, the Model United Nations in Beijing, China, but these students were engaged as delegates, doing what students usually do at MUN conferences: debating and passing resolutions.

WorldMUN ended on the 18th of March after five days of debate between college students from all over the world.

Desperate vendors slashed prices

By Molly Tsai

Nothing's better than skipping classes without permission; nothing's better than slacking off the whole day on school anniversary. For some people, the anniversary is a chance to get rid of old junk and add something extra to their allowances at the same time; for clubs, it is a chance to raise funds for activities. However, when there are leftovers, it's a different story.

Though school anniversary ends officially at two, most booths start cleaning up at one. For food-sellers, this is about the time when people start to battle for leftovers—the killers of profit. To kill leftovers, the original prices are often lowered. For example, a booth's burritos of started out 50 NT and ended at 0 NT—the last 5 plates were given out for free. On the Experimental side, one class gave extra portions of fries to its customers toward the end of the sale.

Booths selling second-hand items didn't face such tragedies. Since selling second-hand items is not weighed down by the issue of cost, it doesn't really matter whether everything sells or not. Even if there are loads of "leftovers," the owners can just take them home and sell the same stuff next year.



Photo: David Lee



Letters to the editor and requests for corrections should be sent by Email to: vistasonline@yahoo.com

Editor-in-chief: Fiona Liao
Assistant Editor: Angel Chang
Layout Editor: Patty Yeh
Assistant Layout: Victoria Wang
 Angela Li
Artists: Lyra Hirotani
 Hannah Park
Photo Editor: David Lee
Adviser: Travis Clemens

Veteran Reporters:

Annie Fu, Kenneth Hsia, Vincent Lee, Angela Li, Fermin Liu, Molly Tsai, Shawwanne Wang, Victoria Wang, Joanne Wu, Emily Yang

Activity Reporters:

Anthony Deng, Dominick Chiang, Calvin Yin, Tsai-Wei Chen, Yue-Ting Cheng, Susanna Chen, Tiffany Wang

Photographers:

Diane Lee, Calvin Lin, Kristen Zung

MUNCHIES

By Joanne Wu

Our AP Chemistry students are going vegetarian, to try and decrease their carbon footprint. I decided to try and shrink my own footprint at Potential Park Leicha in Chutung, Dong-Man Lam Road, Hsinchu County 143 (竹東鎮文林路143號).

The shop's interior recreates 19th century agricultural Taiwan. The walls are decorated with agricultural tools used by Taiwanese perhaps more than two centuries ago.



One thing that struck me was that I didn't get to choose the courses of my meal: they chose for me. We sat down as they prepared the meal, and it felt strange at first, not getting the final vote on my dinner.

There was fried tofu with kimchi, stir-fried rice, and their signature Wu Xing noodles, just to name a few. The taste proved just as wonderful as their smell. I've never liked eggplants, but they were quite nice when sautéed by Chien-Yuan's chefs.

The restaurant is vegetarian not because of the smaller carbon footprint, but for the health benefits. The Wu Xing noodles embody this ideal, as the soup is composed of several herbs that bring the body back to balance and health, using the idea of the five elements, or Wu Xing.



Photo: Diane Lee

Strict boy/girl seating arrangements persist in some high school classes

By Tsai-Wei Chen

Homeroom teachers in IBSH have their own specific ways of organizing seating arrangements, whether it's allowing students to customize the seating structure and choose their own seats, randomly placing students side by side, or deliberately creating a seating arrangement based on gender. Out of the several homerooms in IBSH, 9A and 9B are some of the classes that have seating arrangements in which guys and girls sit side-by-side and in rows according to gender.

How do students feel about sitting next to the opposite gender? Patrick Lai, in 9B, tersely says, "Lucky." One student in 9A says it's "gay." However, 9A homeroom teacher Ms. Selena Hsieh feels that this

type of seating arrangement is necessary to prevent students from "chatting in class."

In other homeroom classes, such as 10B, homeroom teachers allow students to pick a partner next to who they want to sit. However, 10B homeroom teacher Ms. Catherine Liu still chooses which row the two students sit in. Kimberly Hsieh, 10B, says, "I think this seating arrangement is decent, because we get to sit with a friend, but it's also authority-based. We don't always get to choose whether we want to sit in the front and such." Although Kimberly says that sitting with a friend may encourage talking during classes, she also pointed out that "since we're in tenth grade and sometimes we don't have a lot of classes with our 'partner,' it's actually not that big of a deal."



College Life with Yue Ting Cheng

A few days ago, I remember still being up at midnight, glaring at my laptop, willing the words to pop out of nowhere. I had an English essay due the next day, yet I had barely finished half of it. I'm already starting to worry, I have trouble writing an essay to pass a class, how am I going to write an essay to get into college?

As with all essays, college essays should also show a certain criteria of writing skills. One thing to be glad about, though, is the versatility and creativity in topic. For instance, in one year, an essay prompt for the University of Chicago was to "Write an essay somehow inspired by super-huge mustard."

There is a great deal of freedom to such open-ended questions, but the hardest part would be to find inspiration to write an essay that stands out. An ideal essay should separate you from all the other applicants,

and at the same time show your true character.

Going by the books and writing a traditional five paragraph essay isn't necessarily the best way either. If you're willing to take risks and experiment with something different, you will definitely leave the admissions board with a deeper impression. However, you're the person applying for a college, so in the majority of situations, your essay should always be about you, you and you.

As important as college essays are, every school has different standards for how much essays stand in the evaluation, so don't ever depend on a college essay to make up for poor grades. Essays are the most challenging and time consuming part of the college application process, but they don't mean everything, because what's forever most important are your grades and what's on your transcript.

18 years!

Morris reflects on his legacy and what's next

By Fermin Liu

As the school's administrators occupy themselves with the task of replacing teachers that will be leaving at the end of this school year, there is one impossible mission that they will have to try and accomplish: hiring an English teacher who can live up to Mr. Morris's legacy. In his eighteen years teaching at IBSH, Mr. Morris has made his name in the community as an excellent teacher who has the magical ability to transform his students into great essay writers with impeccable grammar.

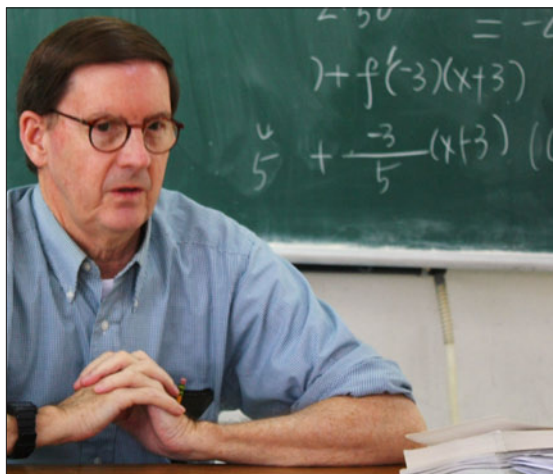


Photo: David Lee

While Mr. Morris never intended to stay in Taiwan for so long, he said that Taiwan has become his home, where he feels comfortable and where he has "more friends than in any other place in the world." He has found pleasure in the degree of freedom he has over his curriculum and the remarkable young minds that he has had the pleasure to teach. Thus, even though this will be his last year teaching at IBSH, there is a possibility that he will stay in Taiwan.

"My plans are fluid," answered Mr. Morris when asked about his plans after IBSH. All that is definite right now is what he will be doing for the six months immediately after the end of the school year. "I have to take two classes to renew my teaching certificate, so that will be the first thing once the classes are finished." After that, the sky really is the limit!

Mr. Morris says that he is open to suggestions. He talked about getting a part time job tutoring or working at Barnes & Nobles to pay for his trips to Europe or anywhere and anything else he may want to go or do. When asked about his hobbies, Mr. Morris said, "I have imaginary hobbies, potential hobbies, and past hobbies, but no present hobbies." So, something for him to do after classes are finished is to find himself a new hobby.

Some of these past, petrified hobbies include coin collecting, pigeon training, and skiing, which really come to show his perpetual inclination toward excitement instead of the lazy, leisurely life that one might picture retirement to be.



Levine's announcement at a staff meeting last quarter.

Photo: Kristen Zung

Mrs Levine leaving after 10 years Leaves us a charitable trick-or-treating legacy

By Yue-Ting Cheng

Students who have been in IBSH when they were in fifth grade would undoubtedly have had Ms. Levine for a teacher. Ms. Levine has taught fifth grade Humanities classes here at IBSH for around ten years. In 2005, she started the "Trick-or-treat For UNICEF" project at the school. Beginning as a small fundraising project run by the fifth graders, the UNICEF project has been led by Ms. Levine for several years, and now in-

volves other schools from as far as Taipei and Taichung.

However, Ms. Levine will be leaving IBSH at the end of this school year in July. She will be moving to Hefei City, the capital of Anhui Province in China. In Hefei, Ms. Levine will be teaching English to High School students.

To all the students that she's ever taught, Ms. Levine says, "I wish you all the best, for the rest of your school years here and beyond, in your entire education."

Basketball team falls behind Boys forfeit an early lead against Guang Fu Middle School and the final score is 63 to 33

By Dominick Chiang

On March 25, 2010, IBSH's A team went to Guang Fu Middle School for a basketball game. Even though Timothy Chang of 12A slammed the first few points, Guang Fu's team won back the game by the end of the fourth quarter.

Guang Fu was leading in every quarter but the IBSH team slowly began to catch up on the scoreboard.

"It was a good experience and it showed us how much more we can still improve," said one of the players. However, some IBSH players also claimed that the referee was biased to Guang Fu Middle School, and blew the whistle even when IBSH had not fouled.



Photo: Calvin Yin