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ESTABLISHED 1860

DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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DGS Band Strikes a Chord in Kagoshima



This year opened with a bang! We received an invitation from the Kagoshima Prefecture Government through the Hong Kong Education Bureau in September inviting our Concert Band to the 43rd Kagoshima Prefecture Wind Festival as the featured guest ensemble. With less than two months to prepare for this performance, our girls got to work rehearsing for a 30-minute programme. One of our pieces among our repertoire was Satoshi Yagisawa's "Hunting Scenes", which

our band performed at the Hong Kong School's Music Festival in March 2016. However, most of the pieces were completely new to our members, and with quite a number of new students taking part in this trip, a lot of ground work had to be done to build our ensemble ship and our sound within those few weeks.

This was the first trip to Japan for the musicians. Twenty-nine girls, accompanied by our Headmistress Mrs. Lau, and band conductors Mr. Leung, Miss Chiang and Miss Hui, took an afternoon flight to Kagoshima on Saturday, 5th November. When we landed, we were greeted by a colourful banner welcoming us to their city, and soon were treated to a shabu-shabu buffet dinner.

第43回鹿児島県吹奏楽フェスティバル



The Festival was held on Sunday, 6th November. We arrived at Kagoshima Joho High School early in the morning for our joint rehearsal. We were amazed by how well they played their instruments. They paid so much attention to detail, and had powerful energy whenever they were asked to play. We also shared lunch with their students, and connected over selfies and the pineapple-pen song. In the afternoon, we performed at the Festival in the Taniyama Southern Hall. Our band was among eighteen bands that performed, and each performance was well-received. We also performed Frank Ticheli's "Shenandoah" with the KJHS students. After saying goodbye to our new friends from KJHS, we returned to our hotel for a dinner with the Government officials, who surprised us with a visit by the international sumo-wrestling champion. Our trip finished with a visit to the Sakurajima volcano on Monday before we left Japan, bringing home wonderful memories from these three days.

For the Internet lovers, you may check out two of our girls' video recaps of the trip. Their YouTube channels are "Rach!" and "RimFilms Productions".



An Evening to Celebrate Speech Day 2016

Despite the windy and slightly colder weather, the DGS Auditorium was filled with warmth, smiles and never-ceasing applause to congratulate the prize recipients of Speech Day 2016 on Friday, 25th November. The evening was a joyous ceremony, in recognition of our Secondary 6 graduates and other students, who strove hard in the past academic year to reap excellent results under the five pillars of the Diocesan Education. It was also a time of reflection and praise, to thank God for bestowing DGS with numerous blessings in His grace and honour.

The Speech Day Ceremony began with a report by our Headmistress, Mrs. Stella Lau. She outlined the many academic and non-academic achievements DGS had attained in the previous school year, as well as a variety of new programmes and initiatives. She then took this opportunity to share her views on parenting. With reference to an analysis by Alison Gopnik, a psychologist, Mrs. Lau drew comparisons between the work of a parent and a gardener and a carpenter. She urged parents to be more like the former rather than the latter, emphasizing the importance of allowing children to explore their capabilities boldly and to overcome challenges independently. Ultimately, this would provide children with the breathing space to grow and develop, in the same way as how a gardener would tend to plants that are subjected to the many environmental conditions beyond his/her control. A carpenter-like parent, on the other hand would limit the development potential of young minds so that they become only what parents would like them to be. This goes counter to the very aim of education and parenting, which is to enlighten the youth of today, and empower them for the unknowns of tomorrow.

We were especially honoured to have Professor Gabriel Leung, Dean of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, join us in our celebration. In his address, Professor Leung gave a diagnosis of the underlying and often overlooked dilemma of inequality in society, highlighting that education can be a double-edged sword that empowers young minds while catalyzing social

injustice. Citing examples of discontent brewing in polarized global communities, Professor Leung reminded us that while we, as privileged young women, should be grateful for our achievements, we should also utilize our abilities and education to contribute to society, to close the gap between the haves and have-nots, and to push forward for an equal playing field enjoyed by all, "earnestly equal while excellent".

After waves of unyielding applause for prize-recipients, the Head Girls and Assistant Head Girl gave their Votes of Thanks on behalf of the student body. They expressed gratitude to the guests, headmistresses, teachers, parents, and schoolmates for their constant support. The Right Reverend Andrew Chan drew an official close to the Ceremony with the Benediction, reminding us of God's blessings on DGS, and a prayer for continued guidance and care.



DGS Swimming Team Clinches 29th Consecutive Overall Championship



For the members of the DGS swimming team, the Division One Inter-School Swimming Championships, held each October, is the most exciting competition of the year. This year was no exception: the team once again captured the title of Overall Champion, making it our 29th consecutive win in the championships.

This was not an easy accomplishment. Swimmers undergo intense training throughout the year, arriving at school as early as 5 a.m. every day for training. Students continue training after their lessons end in the afternoon. In addition, Typhoon Haima hit Hong Kong on October 21st, which meant the need to postpone both the inter-school heats and finals. The change of dates meant that the finals fell just one day after another major competition, which left our swimmers feeling quite stressed and tired.

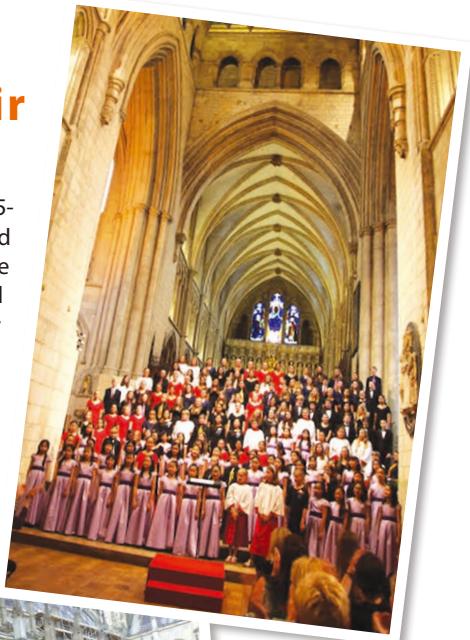
Our team was able to persevere, though, and the hard work and efforts paid off. As a result, the swimming team won the Championship for both A grade and B grade, as well as clinching the 1st Runner-Up for C grade, ending the day with an astonishing score of 554 points. In addition, our team set four new meet records: three in individual events, and another in the 4x50 meter freestyle relay. The year's success would not have been possible without the effort of our teachers, coaches, and old girls who have worked especially hard to keep the team functioning in tip-top condition. We are indebted to our parents for their infinite well of support, and to our Headmistress Mrs. Lau, whose encouragement and assistance has made all this possible. With continued support and hard work, we remain confident and reasonably optimistic that we can extend our record with a 30th consecutive championship next year.



Rejoicing in Music

The International Children's Choir Festival

The Diocesan Festival Choir, comprising 43 girls from Primary 4 and 5 in the 2015-16 school year, participated in the International Children's Choir Festival held in Canterbury and London 23 July – 30 July 2016. This was a non-competitive music educational tour in which the girls attended choral workshops, combined rehearsals and presented their own a cappella performance in the Canterbury Cathedral. The girls also gained valuable experience in joining other young choristers from other parts of the world to sing in a mass choir of 170 singers. The mass choir presented 2 concerts, one in Canterbury Cathedral and the other in Southwark Cathedral. This music educational tour also included visits to historical sites in the UK to broaden their cultural experience.



Can you spot our choir girls in their beautiful purple dresses?

Exchange Programme with Raffles Girls' Primary School

DGJS warmly welcomed Raffles Girls' Primary School (RGPS) on their visit to our school on 22nd November 2016 for a school exchange. Twenty-six Primary 4 and 5 students and some teachers from RGPS joined a school tour led by our Junior Prefects who served as ambassadors.

Students from RGPS took part in a lively musical exchange involving fun rehearsals and a memorable performance with members of the DGJS Symphony Orchestra and Senior Percussion Band. Our Primary 4 to 6 girls were the lucky members of the audience and had the chance to enjoy the wonderful performance.



Our girls serving as hosts at the school tour

A Time to Love and Appreciate

Primary One Father-daughter Breakfast Meeting



On the morning of 23rd June 2016, close to 140 pairs of Primary One girls and their fathers strolled hand in hand, not towards the Chi Wo Street gate but into a Chinese restaurant near the school. They were participants of the first-ever Primary One Father-daughter Breakfast Meeting, which was jointly organised by the School and the PTA. This event, held only a week after Father's Day, was hosted exclusively for fathers of last year's Primary One girls, in order to recognise their every effort to be involved in their daughters' school life.

Not only did the fathers get the chance to communicate with the headmistress, subject panel chairpersons and teachers in an informal setting, they also had the opportunity to mingle with other fathers and their girls over a relaxing dim sum breakfast. Moreover, the gentlemen were enlightened by Dr Hugo Chan's speech, as he shared his valuable insights on raising happy daughters. Dr. Chan is the Chairman of Hong Kong

Character City Movement, an organisation that promotes character education. He is also one of the founders of DadsNetwork which promotes active fathering in Hong Kong.

The highlight of the morning was when girls from Primary 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D took turns to perform. For this purpose, Mrs Chiang, the music teacher, had in fact rewritten lyrics to the tunes of some well-known hymns. It was quite a stunning scene seeing so many fathers crowding round the stage, getting ready their cameras and smartphones. Everyone was enchanted by the angelic voices as the girls sang songs to honour their fathers. After the heartwarming performance, the fathers lovingly presented appreciation cards to their daughters in return.



Miss Ma and Mrs L. Fung's Retirement



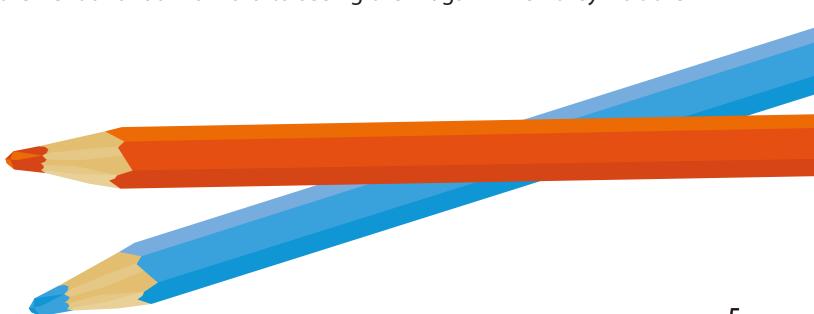
The DGJS Prize-Giving Ceremony was held in July 2016. Before presenting prizes and trophies to the recipients, parents and teachers joined all the students in thanking the retiring teachers, Miss Ma and Mrs L. Fung, with an enthusiastic round of applause.

Miss Ma opened her speech by sharing with the audience the many headmistresses she worked with, which was greeted with another round of applause. She expressed her thanks to God and her colleagues for their support and care. Students also benefitted from her words of wisdom as she talked about gratitude and life.

Mrs L. Fung received a Brownies trophy from Mrs Yau, her former student. The trophy was the first one that a school club she was in charge of won for the school. Mrs Fung encouraged students to follow their hearts and work hard to realise their dreams. Her humourous yet insightful speech was greatly enjoyed by the audience.



The School would like to thank Miss Ma and Mrs L. Fung once again for their hard work and dedication throughout the past years. We wish them both a happy retirement and look forward to seeing them again when they visit the school.



Goodbye,

From Vision to Reality

A quote once said "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." Throughout her 18 years at Diocesan Girls' Junior School, Mrs Emily Dai has transformed many visions into reality.

One of the major challenges was the rebuilding of the new Jordan Road campus. In 2008, Mrs Dai worked selflessly to prepare the hotel school in Tseung Kwan O so that staff and students would feel that it was a home away from home. The return to our spectacular campus in September 2011 marked the hard work of Mrs Dai's vision of creating a beautiful campus in which the students could grow up happily in.



Under her leadership, she created the Collaborative Learning Groups in Chinese, Mathematics and English to promote small group learning. She also introduced new extra-curricular activities such as the Gifted Young Scientists Workshop, Junior Classics Drama Club (formerly Shakespeare 4All Drama Club), and overseas educational tours which have all been very popular with the students. The study of Chinese classics such as the reading of Di Zi Gui and San Zi Jing was introduced by Mrs Dai to nurture our students with important Chinese moral values. The Daily Giving Joyful Service Scheme is yet another milestone that Mrs Dai established to instill in the students the virtues of service to others and giving back to the school community. Mrs Dai also created the "Headmistress Award Scheme" to honour students who have shown exemplary behaviour and achievements in school.

In her many years of dedicated service to the School, Mrs Dai has always maintained a cooperative and positive linkage between the school and the Parent-Teacher Association. More recently, Mrs Dai pioneered a series of informative Breakfast Meetings for Primary One to Five teachers and parents, and the heartwarming Father-daughter Breakfast event in June 2016, all of which fostered a stronger bond between the School, teachers and students.

Bidding Farewell

A number of farewell events were organised by the staff, students and the PTA to show our gratitude and appreciation towards Mrs Dai, our beloved headmistress, who retired in December 2016.



From left to right: An endearing rendition of "Wishing You A Sunrise" by the Primary 1 girls; a Primary 6 girl reciting a poem she wrote in honour of Mrs. Dai; one by one, the Junior Prefects present handmade roses to show their love to Mrs. Dai; posing for a group photo at the Farewell Tea Gathering.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Christmas Concert on 19th December opened with a grand performance by the school's string and symphony orchestras and was followed by eclectic poetry and prose pieces in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by winners of this year's Hong Kong Schools Speech Festival. The Diocesan Festival Choir's angelic voices and the rendition of the harmonic speaking pieces were a feast for the ears. The Wind Bands' Christmas songs were upbeat and festive.

The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the farewell segment dedicated to Mrs Dai. Primary One students began by singing "Wishing You A Sunrise", expressing their good wishes to Mrs Dai in her retirement. Students also presented Mrs Dai with a gift made by every single student in the school. It was a memory book that contained writings and drawings from the students about their most cherished memories and moments with their Headmistress. The audience was all able to admire the beautiful pages in the memory book in a short video. From her warm smile on their Primary One interview day that melted away their nervousness, to her words of encouragement and strength before important competitions, students from each grade level also stood on stage and reminisced their fondest encounters with their Headmistress.

As the concert drew to an end, the melodic voices of the Primary Two to Primary Six girls resonated across the Hall as they bid a musical farewell to Mrs Dai with the song "A Blessing". It was a moving celebration and many tears of sadness and joy were shed as we recalled together the fond memories of our time shared with Mrs Dai throughout the years.

Mrs. Dai!

Farewell Ceremony

On 21st December, the last day of term, the School listened intently to Mrs Dai's recollection of her childhood and adolescent years. She shared with us fondly her encounters with Dr. Symons, who was then Headmistress and gave Mrs Dai her English name "Emily", and Mrs Rebecca Yip, who was her scripture teacher and predecessor. After the walk down memory lane, Mrs. Dai concluded her speech by asking the girls to consider what they can give back to the School with their education, talents and expertise.



The Primary 6 girls presented a jar of origami cranes filled with their personal messages to Mrs. Dai

"Let us join our hands that the world may know we are one in the bond of love." As the School sang with one heart and voice, student representatives from Primary One to Six received the baton from Mrs Emily Dai's hands, and passed it on to the incumbent headmistress Mrs Annie Lee, signifying a legacy that will continue for generations to come. Mrs. Dai will be greatly missed by the entire school community and her invaluable contributions to the School shall continue to live on.



The passing of the baton signifies a legacy that will continue for generations



Farewell Tea Gathering

After the concert, up to two thousand past and current parents and girls enjoyed a cosy tea gathering with Mrs Dai in the Junior School Hall and DGJS Courtyard. In her speech, Mrs Dai looked back on her formative years as a student and how her life blossomed at DGJS like the java apple tree which stood at the gate of the old campus. The PTA presented a number of thoughtfully beautifully handmade souvenirs, one of which consisted of eighteen clay figurines of DGJS girls symbolising the number of years Mrs Dai led the School as Headmistress.



The PTA Annual General Meeting

The 65th AGM of the PTA took place on 30th September 2016. It was truly a memorable evening attended by over 1,300 parents, teachers and guests.

Before the formal AGM proceedings, the audience was mesmerized by the beautiful and lively performances by the DGJS Diocesan Festival Choir and the DGS Senior Choir under the batons of Mrs. Christina Chiang and Ms. Grace Chiang respectively.



DGJS Diocesan Festival Choir, in the 2016 International Children's Choir Festival, Canterbury and London



DGS Senior Choir, 2016 Champion at the 3rd Singapore International Choral Festival and recipients of many prizes

PTA Executive Committee 2016-2017

Supervisor:
Mrs Doris Ho, JP

Headmistresses:
Mrs Stella Lau, JP
Mrs Emily Dai

Teachers:
Ms K Suthiphongcha
Mrs M Kan

Chairman:
Mrs Sherlynn Chan Wong

Vice-chairmen:
Ms Winnie Cheung
Mrs Chlorophyll So

Hon Secretary:
Mrs Wendy Wai

Hon Treasurer:
Mr William Lee

Hon Auditor:
Mrs Joanne Ng

Members:
Mrs Janice Chan
Mrs Cecilia Cheng
Mrs Michelle Cheng
Mrs Conny Ching
Ms Catherine Siu Doo
Mrs Daphne Ho
Mrs Andrea Kee
Ms Vanessa Leung
Mrs Stella Ma
Mrs Bikie Miu
Mrs Esther Ng
Mrs Christine Nip
Mrs Bianca Tan
Mrs Esther Tang

During the formal AGM proceedings, the PTA Chairperson, Mrs. Sherlynn Chan Wong, delivered a report on a very busy and fruitful year of activities, ranging from organising seminars for parents with emphasis on Family Harmony and Fatherhood, organising author talks and cultural/educational outings for primary girls, to sponsoring Parent Teacher gatherings held by both Senior School and Junior School to enhance communication between Parents and Teachers.

Mrs. Wong also thanked our Supervisor, Headmistresses, all the Parents and Teachers for generously giving up their time, resources and energy to support the School and PTA towards the common goal of providing the best all round education for the girls.

Mrs. Lau then addressed the audience with an insightful and informative speech on the alternative curriculum of GCE A Level and shared about the girls' wonderful academic and other achievements, including the DGS graduates who participated in the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

Thereafter, Mrs. Dai delivered a touching speech to recap her 18 years at DGJS and encouraged parents to spend more time with their girls and to reflect on the noble virtues and core values we should instill in our girls at a young age.

There was a cake cutting ceremony at the end of the AGM to commemorate 65 years of close partnership between the PTA and the School. We were happy to have past PTA chairpersons, Ms. Stephanie Cheung, Mrs. Lisa Tang, Mrs. Yvette Ho and Mrs. Deirdre FuTcheng together with DGJS Head Designate, Mrs. Annie Lee, join the Exco on stage for this special occasion.

The PTA would also like to thank the long serving PTA Exco members who retired this year, Ms. Sylvia Leung (Head of Library Sub-committee), Mr. Andy Ngan (Honorary Auditor) and Mr. Danny Ma (Honorary Treasurer) for their dedication and support throughout the years.



The cake cutting ceremony



The PTA Exco members





Seminars and Workshops



Reintroducing the NLP Workshop - Parenting through Positive Stimulation

In response to request from parents, we reintroduced the popular workshop in June. Our speaker, Mr. Chris Man, through interactive activities and real life examples, shared his knowledge and skills in motivating our children in their learning and promoting their self-esteem. A total of 45 parents attended the workshop.



Fatherhood Seminar - Raising Happy Daughters

On 24th June, Dr. Hugo Chan shared with more than 200 fathers on how to raise happy daughters through providing them with senses of being loved, cherished and valued.

Building Resilience in Our New Generation

There were more than 300 parents who attended the seminar by Dr. Choi Yuen Wan on 27th October. Dr. Choi shared with parents his ideas in character building and resilience enhancement of our children.



Christian Mothers' Bible Study Group

Our Bible Study Group resumed in October on a biweekly basis. We have a bigger group this term with over 30 Christian mothers attending. Through this study group, mothers will find biblical support for the journey to raise Christ-centered children.

Eatsmart School department of Health Workshop

On 25th and 28th October 2016, Ms. Chow from the Department of Health's Central Education Unit visited our school and talked to our parents on the EatSmart@School guidelines on choosing nutritional lunches and snacks for school children.

DGJS has been one of the few accredited participant schools in the EatSmart@School programme and we were awarded the Gold Award earlier in June this year. Thanks to our teachers and the 70+ parent volunteer team, we conduct periodic checks on the lunchboxes supplied by our supplier and also the snacks and home lunches of our girls.



PTA Educational Visits

All girls went on their long-awaited outings after the mid-term exams.

On 2 December, P6 girls spent an entire day exploring the different heritage sites and museums including the Ruins at St Paul's, the Macau Museum and the Grand Prix Museum. The highlight for the girls was definitely the Science Museum which contains a range of interactive exhibits. They all had a wonderful time especially at the sumptuous buffet lunch at the Macau Tower where there was a delightful surprise of Portuguese tarts as dessert.

On 9 December, P1 to 5 girls enjoyed a sunny day out engaging in different kinds of outdoor activities from farming, planting, baking, making of photo frames, detergent and soap, to learning about renewable energy and the history of Ma Wan, and last but not least, playing hard of course, at various educational venues in Hong Kong. Look at their happy faces!

Over 800 students supervised by 3 teachers and 128 parents participated in these enjoyable outings. Thanks to all teachers and parents for devoting their precious time in taking good care of the girls, and to all venue and travel organisers for their meticulous planning, touring guide and support!



P.6 Macau



P.1 Holiday Farm



P.2 Noah's Ark



P.3 Zen Organic Farm



P.5 Ma Wan Park



P.4 HKFYG Organic Farm

Parents' Appreciation Breakfast

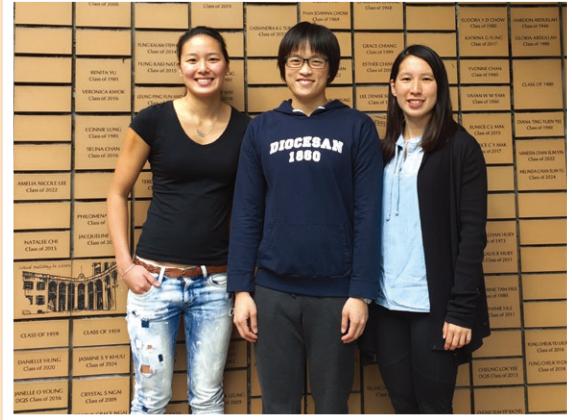


On 8th July 2016, a breakfast gathering was held at a nearby Chinese restaurant to thank our parents for their invaluable help and support to DGS-PTA activities in the past school year. Over 300 attendees enjoyed hot dim sum breakfast as well as delicious snacks from a beautifully decorated dessert table. Photo taking sessions were arranged for each of the 12 PTA sub-committees. Each parent also received a special USB as souvenir gift.



A Conversation with Our Inspiring Olympic Swimmers

Three months after the Rio Olympics, the Editorial Subcommittee was very fortunate to have the opportunity to meet up with our DGS alumnae Olympics swimmers – Rebecca Sze (2004, 2012, 2016 – Butterfly, Freestyle), Claudia Lau (2016 – Backstroke) and Yvette Kong (2016 – Breaststroke). They shared in the following interview their days at DGS; as well as their challenges on the road to the Olympics, and gave valuable advice for our younger sisters who will enter the field of sports.



From left: Yvette Kong, Rebecca Sze and Claudia Lau

R: Rebecca Sze (Class of 2006) C: Claudia Lau (Class of 2009) Y: Yvette Kong (Class of 2010)

When did you first start training and how did you balance between school work and swimming training when you were in DGS?

- R: I started when I was ten and at the time I was training five days a week. The best thing about DGS is that it has always been supportive of girls with different talents. Students are given opportunities to develop their strengths outside of the classroom. Studies are always important but the School does not only focus on academic results.
- Y: I remember when I had to miss lessons due to swimming training. I was grateful to my friends who were always willing to share their notes with me.
- C: The teachers were very supportive and when I missed a whole week of class, some of them would give me extra lessons during lunch time to go through the material with me.

How about the teachers? Do you remember any particular one of them?

- Y: One of my most memorable teachers was Ms. B. Liu who was my class teacher and English Literature teacher. She really cared about my personal growth.
- C: I have fond memories of Ms. Ma (later Mrs. D. Lam). She taught me Geography and was very encouraging. It is great to be able to build up a relationship with a teacher and be able to keep in touch; to have someone support you at different stages of your life.
- R: Mr. Jack Ng, my computer teacher, who was also my class teacher for two years. He was caring and would constantly ask me about my training. I was just going through my computer notes the other day and I tagged him on Facebook, and he instantly approached me and asked if there was anything he could help. I also go back to see Mrs. Stella Lau these days. She has been very supportive throughout my swimming career at DGS.

Any fond memories of DGS?

- C: My most memorable event is definitely the Secondary Interschool Swimming Competition. I still remember the fervent, fiery cheering from everyone on the stand - the swimmers, the spectators and all the supporters. Even today, I still keep the notes of encouragement written by the swimming captains and passed to members of the swimming team. Old girls and ex-swimmers also attend the event and cheer for the School too. I can really feel the DGS spirit.
- R: I like the morning assembly – the old assembly hall with the large, round lights hanging from the ceiling. It felt wonderful when the school gathered together, especially in the school hall during the winter months - the feeling of the whole school gathering together was so warm and cozy. I also miss the tuck shop where we ordered our sandwiches in the morning.
- Y: My memories of DGS have always been the old campus. It was where we grew up back in the old school days.



What were some of the most important things you learned at DGS?

- C: Definitely perseverance. I learned not to give up against challenges. I saw perseverance in students generation after generation. My peers definitely influenced me and pushed me.
- R: For me it was being involved in teams and clubs – a part of our School tradition. Participation in school teams gave us the opportunity to learn about leadership. Being in charge of a stall at the mini bazaar also provided us with the experience of dealing with suppliers and business people in the real world. These are invaluable skills.
- Y: Involvement with extra-curricular activities taught us how to interact with peers and with people younger than us.

What were some of the challenges being a full-time athlete? And the path to the Olympics?

- R: I started being a full-time athlete after I completed Form 7. Although I now train thirty hours a week, I have more time to rest in between trainings and I can become more focused. I have represented Hong Kong since I was 12, and was 16 years old when I had my first Olympics in 2004 at Athens. I then made a second try at the 2008 Olympics, but unfortunately did not make it. My momentum started to drop when I realised other swimmers could be overtaking me. My coach at the time supported me by giving me a very clear goal to focus on – the 2009 East Asian Games. I continued working towards that goal and eventually won the first gold medal for Hong Kong. With constant training and determination, I was able to reach a breakthrough with my timing and qualify for the 2012 and 2016 Olympics. I am happy to say that I am a veteran on the Hong Kong Swimming Team now, being the oldest!
- C: After graduation from DGS, my swimming training continued at the University of Michigan where I also trained for the Olympics. I have now decided to come back to Hong Kong to become a full-time athlete, and this is a conscious decision I made after finishing Business School. I was at a cross-road after college graduation, struggling between whether I should go into the business world or continue with swimming and aim for the Olympics, a goal that I aspire to. After much deliberation, I made my choice and I knew this was a decision that I would look back on years later with no regret. Once I have decided, I was 100% committed going forward.
- Y: I was a scholarship athlete at University of Berkeley when I hit a low period of self-doubt about my future in swimming because my results were not going anywhere. I could not find any good reasons to continue swimming. In the end, I retired, but only for three months; and with much guidance and encouragement from my coach, I came to realise I still had the passion for the sport. I was only trying to hide from it as a form of escapism. I realised that it went from hurting to swim to hurting not to swim, and I was really not solving any problems by quitting. In 2013, I chose to go back to swimming and started to aim for the Olympics. It was more important to have tried my best in the pursuit of my goal. I realised that success for me is not measured by results, but rather by efforts. When the focus is on efforts, I can channel positive energy into controllable factors which is a much better way of living. I get to enjoy the process more with growth, friendship and memories.



What did you have to give up and was it worth it?

- C: When I was studying at Michigan, my friends would go skiing in the winter and I had always wanted to try. However skiing was considered as a high-risk sport and I decided to refrain from it. Although I had to give up a lot of time for swimming, it was worth it in the end because not everyone has a chance to become a full-time athlete.
- Y: I have definitely gained more from swimming compared with what I had to give up. I was able to develop personal growth, expand my horizons and become a stronger person with persistence. I also learned to become more independent.
- R: I don't see swimming as a choice which made me give up other things in life. I choose to take this path and therefore do not look at other paths or options as things given up. Swimming gave me much more in return than what has been missed out in daily life. Only sports can provide you with these invaluable experiences that can carry through for the rest of your life.

What is your advice to our young athletes?

- C: I think this generation of athletes are very lucky. I see transportation being arranged for students going to Sports Institute for training after school and it shows how supportive the School is. Keep persisting even if there are other things to deal with and work hard towards your goal. If you are considering sports as a full-time career, be true to yourself and ask yourself what are the reasons that drive you to pursue this goal. Once you have made up your mind, you need to commit 100% and not look back.
- R: The important thing is to enjoy the process. Do not take things for granted and always learn to cherish what you have. Family support is also very important if you are to pursue sports as a career.
- Y: In any profession or field, there will be many mundane tasks to do. You have to know how to find pleasure in these mundane moments. The important thing is to have fun and enjoy it – and remember to have passion, positive living and perseverance.

Activities

Class of 1957 60th Anniversary Reunion

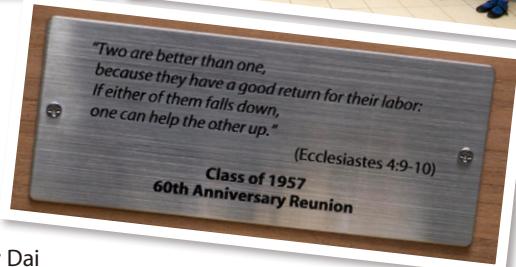
This year marks the 60th anniversary reunion for the Class of 1957.

15 old girls from Australia, Canada, UK and the US joined 17 of their Hong Kong classmates in celebration. As some alumnae were accompanied by their spouses and siblings, over 40 participants kicked off the reunion with a welcome dinner at Hong Kong Club on 31st October 2016. The next three days were jam packed with activities including an overnight stay at Beas River Country Club, mahjong games, cycling, swimming, outings to Stanley market, Tse Shan Monastery and Chi Lin Nunnery.

The highlight of the reunion was on 4th November. The class commemorated 60 years of friendship by donating two benches to the School, one to DGS and one to DGJS. The benches are to remind young girls to be aware of others' feelings, to show empathy, to give a helping hand, to lend an ear for their classmates and most importantly, to make long lasting friendships which they will treasure for life. All 32 alumnae were present at the ceremony on campus to witness five

representatives handing over the gifts to Mrs. Stella Lau, Mrs. Emily Dai and Mrs. Annie Lee. A farewell dinner that night at the Kowloon Cricket Club drew an end to the reunion celebration.

As time passes, many of their classmates are not as physically fit as they used to be. Nonetheless, the class spirit remains high. They look forward to many more reunions ahead to reminisce about their good old school days and have a good laugh!



50th Reunion of the Class of 1966

In celebration of their 50th reunion, the Class of 1966 alumnae in Hong Kong organised a series of events for their overseas classmates. The first round kicked off with a school campus tour, lunch at Eaton Hotel, and the evening highlight of the DOGA Annual Dinner on 28th October 2016.

For those overseas girls who missed the first round of fun, a campus tour, lunch and another reunion dinner at the Chariot Club were held on 4th November. A guided tour to Chi Lin Monastery and Nan Lin Garden followed on 5th November. The final event was on 6th November. The day began with a guided tour to two famous spots of The Chinese University of Hong Kong –the Promenade, and One with Nature at New Asia College. A sumptuous meal at the Staff Lounge at Lee Woo Sing College concluded the morning. The reunion celebration came to a delightful end after a post lunch guided tour to Tze Shan Monastery. With friendship so much rekindled, talks for another reunion overseas next year are already in progress.



40th Reunion of the Class of 1976

The Class of 1976 kicked off their 40th reunion on 28th October 2016 with Morning Assembly followed by a visit to the Tsz Shan Monastery. The highlight was a walk around the magnificent 76m tall Guanying. The day ended with DOGA Annual Dinner and a school visit was organised for the next morning. Celebration continued on 31st October. 16 classmates went on a 2-day excursion to Lantau Island. They strolled around Tai O fishing village, shopped for local products, and had drinks at the Heritage Hotel before going to the Auberge Discovery Bay Hotel. On the second day, some of them hiked up to the Trappist Monastery. That evening a class reunion dinner was held at the United Services Recreation Club where 40 classmates and two teachers, Mrs A Yau and Ms T Kan, attended. Friendships were renewed and there was great camaraderie.

A big thank you to their class representative, Lily Wong, and reunion working group (Anna Wong, Karin Hoo, Linda Fung, Sharon Cheng, Susanna Luk and Winnie Kwok) for doing an amazing job planning and organising this reunion.

Italian Cooking Workshop

Social Sub-Committee

"Cooking is fun!" and as participants at the Italian cooking class "Buon Appetito!" held on 25th June 2016, we certainly couldn't agree with it more! We had an overwhelming response with the class already full well before the deadline. With the coaching and demonstration of master chef Maggio, members learnt many useful cooking tips. The preparation of the 4-course lunch started literally from scratch - with members making their own pasta using flour, water and eggs. To make this delectable lunch, only the freshest seasonal ingredients were used. Participants enjoyed working in the clean and well-equipped kitchen, which was easily transformed into a fine dining room afterwards complete with crisp tablecloth and nice tableware. We cheered "Buon Appetito!" as we raised our glasses of wine to celebrate this wonderful culinary experience.



DOGA Orchestra

The DOGA orchestra made its debut performance at the DGS Summer concert on 9th July 2016. The orchestra comprises 29 alumnae members: 19 strings, 6 woodwinds, and 4 brass players. With the help of a few additional players in the various sections from the DGS Symphony Orchestra, we performed with much success Mozart's Overture to *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, under the baton of Mr. Leung Kin Fung. Some members of the DOGA Orchestra also played Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances with the DGS Symphony Orchestra as a finale to the evening. The evening also included as one of the highlights, Rachmaninoff's Variations on a theme by Paganini, featuring our alumna pianist Nicolette Wong. After this debut, the DOGA Orchestra hopes to hold at least one concert a year and welcome any interested alumnae to audition to join.



Membership Sub-Committee Events

On 13th August 2016, the Membership Sub-committee held a University Gathering at DGS. Close to 50 DOGA members attended and amongst them were current students and staff of HKU, CUHK and HKUST. HKU University Group met at St. John's College on 29th September where 30 DOGA members met with 38 HKU students facilitated by HKU alumni and staff. On 17th October, DGS alumnae at HKUST gathered during the mid-term break.



HKU University Group

A "Finance Interest Group" has been formed to support our alumnae who are eager to enter into this popular industry. An "Introduction to Finance" workshop was held on 7th September where DGS alumnae currently working for top finance firms presented to 23 DOGA members. It was an invaluable networking and learning opportunity.



Finance Interest Group

7th November marked the first Interview Workshop to provide essential skills and advice in connection with job search and interviews for 15 DOGA members. Ms Maisie Lam (class of 1970), previously Director and Country Human Resources Officer at Citigroup, was invited to lead the workshop.

15th Anniversary Concert of the Diocesan Graduate Singers

Choir Sub-Committee

The Diocesan Graduate Singers took the stage at the DGS Auditorium on 19th November. With the theme of "Music Will Lead Us", this year's annual concert marked the 15th anniversary of our growing choir. The repertoire of songs performed reflected various aspects of our singing journey while glorifying the greatness of God. The highlight of the evening was a series of colorfully choreographed musical excerpts from Phantom of the Opera, Mama Mia and My Fair Lady. The Diocesan School Old Boys' Association Choir was the guest choir of the evening who collaborated with us on several mixed-voice pieces. It was a very successful event well attended by over 700 guests in the audience.





Lucky draw 1st prize winner

DOGA Annual Dinner

Social Sub-Committee

Our DOGA Annual Dinner has no doubt become an important annual event that brings us together for a great celebration of our school and its traditions. On 28th October 2016 550 old girls from the Class of 1957 to the Class of 2012 attended the gala dinner themed "Dazzling Glam Slam". Ten classes came together to celebrate their respective milestone years and the Class of 1991 won the Best Turnout Class, with 48 girls attending. With sparkling wine in hand, old girls went around the foyer looking for friends to greet, souvenirs to buy and fancy hats to wear for a memorable photo. In the Best Dressed Competition, a total of 15 gifts were given to the 5 houses, with 3 Glam winners from each house. There were 3,000 lucky draw prizes, table prizes and individual gifts – the most we've had in prizes ever! Everyone brought home a bag of goodies, and most importantly, some very fond memories of this reunion night!



Annual Dinner Organising Committee



Best Turnout Class – Class of 1991

Autumn Clay Craft Workshop

Art Club

The Art Club held three very popular clay craft workshops on 5th November 2016 from 10am to 5pm where over 50 alumnae and their families participated. We started with the morning clay doll workshop where our members had a great time using their creativity in making different outfits and hairstyles to personalise their dolls. In the afternoon, we had two workshops which proved to be more popular with young children as we made everyone's favourite food - cupcakes, doughnuts and macaroons!



Congratulations



Dr. CJ Symons Scholarship 2016
winner Laurice Wong Lok Sze

We would also like to congratulate Karen Mok (also known as Karen Morris, Class of 1987) for receiving the "Cultural Ambassador" award from the Bergamo Government, Italy, in May 2016. It is the first time that such an award was conferred upon an Asian global artist by the Bergamo Government, whilst previous awardees listed are such as Luciano Pavarotti and Elton John.



Karen Morris (Class of 1987)

Upcoming Events

January February

Inter-house Basketball Competition (Jan 8)

Inter-house Netball Competition; UST University Group Gathering; Inter-School Alumnae Badminton Competition; HK Adventure Corps Flag Day (Feb 4); Art Club Valentine's Workshop (Feb 11)

March April May

Introduction of DOGA to S6; Art Club Spring Event; Beach Netball Competition

Class Rep & New Members Tea Gathering; DGS Career Fair; Easter Project with DGS Citizen Club

Art Club Mother's Day Workshop (May 6); DOGA Netball Team in Festival of Sports; Community Chest Dumplings Making Workshop

June July

DOGA AGM; Dr Symons Scholarship Interview; DOGA Netball Team in Mixed League; Support of S5 Job Shadowing Programme

Art Club Summer Workshop

Details of the events will be updated periodically. Please visit www.doga.org.hk to obtain the latest information.

DOGA Office: 1 Jordan Road. Tel: 2771 5881, Email: doga.info@gmail.com

Joining DOGA:

Any old girl of DGS or DGJS (whether resident or abroad) who has completed at least one academic year at DGS or DGJS is eligible to apply for membership of DOGA Ltd. Details of the application can be found at www.doga.org.hk.

Class Reunion Gathering:

Alumnae who are interested in organising their class reunion gathering at the School, please contact DOGA office for further information.