



ESTABLISHED 1860

DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

School Council

Chairman:
The Most Revd Andrew Chan

Vice-chairman:
Revd Alex McCoy

Supervisor:
Mrs Doris Ho, JP
Ms Benita Yu (effective January 2022)

Honorary Treasurer:
Mrs Josephine Chang

Members:
Mrs Stella Lau, SBS, JP (Headmistress, DGS)
Mrs Annie Lee (Headmistress, DGJS)
Mrs Sheilah Chatjaval
Ms Stephanie Cheung
Mrs Yvette Ho
Prof Arthur Li, GBM, GBS, JP
Mr Hardy Lok
Mrs Susanna Wong
Mr Marco Wu, GBS, SBS
The Hon Madam Justice Yuen, JA
Ms Yvonne Chan (DOGA President)
Mrs Christine Nip (PTA Chairman)

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DGJS Website:
<http://www.dgjs.edu.hk>

A Speech Day Like No Other - 12 November 2021



School Council

On the fast track to post-pandemic school life, DGS's annual Speech Day commenced joyously in the evening of 12th November, following the long-awaited resumption of whole-day school. Along with DGS students, distinguished guests, members of the School Council, teachers, parents, and friends joined us in celebrating the graduation of the Class of 2021.



Mrs. Doris Ho

The ceremony commenced with an opening prayer from Reverend McCoy.

Our Headmistress, Mrs. Lau, ensued with her heartfelt appreciation for the steadfast achievements of DGS girls in academics as well as in sports, music, technology, and community service through the troubling waters of the pandemic. She also highlighted pioneering programmes in the DGS's STEM education, such as the AI Lab, Blockchain Club and Mathematical Modelling.

Mrs. Lau's speech ended with a moving tribute to our Supervisor whose wise counsel over the past 37 years saw the transformation of a good school into the exceptional campus it is today. Mrs. Lau led the school in a standing ovation for our beloved Supervisor.

We were privileged to hear the call to 'take the lead in kindness' when the esteemed Professor A. Lin Goodwin, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong, took the stage as our guest of honour. She shared her experience in an all-girls school similar to DGS in Singapore, and prompted us to appreciate the rich resources and supportive environment in which girls can cultivate their interests and passions with confidence. Though students, especially those about to embark on the next leg of their journeys, might find their future undirected and overwhelming, she encouraged everyone to embrace the world nonetheless, and to incorporate those we admire and respect into our aspirations.



Professor Goodwin

After the prize presentation, in which students shared with the audience their joy in receiving accolades for their hard work, our Valedictorians presented, on behalf of the graduates, their Vote of Thanks in English, Cantonese and Putonghua, expressing their gratitude towards the Headmistress, teachers, parents and classmates for their unconditional support and dedication over the years.

The lights of the Auditorium then dimmed to reveal a surprise prepared by the Computer Club on behalf of all DGS girls: carefully programmed drones whirred in a special formation of '10' and 'X'. The drone swarm performance drew gasps of astonishment from the audience, which turned into delight when everyone understood the formation was a pun for the word, 'thanks'.

The evening concluded with a benediction from the Most Reverend Andrew Chan, praying for our Father's guidance and protection as we strive for excellence.



Prizewinners with Headmistress

In Praise of God's Manifold Gifts: Gospel Week & Harvest Festival 2021

Amidst the full swing of schoolwork and assessments in the middle of the first term, members of the school community were given the opportunity to pause and reflect on the blessings of God in the months of October and November through the annual Gospel Week and Harvest Festival.

Gospel Week

A longstanding tradition of the School and faithfully led by generations of girls from the Youth Fellowship since the 1990s, the Gospel Week this year was held from 19-22 October. Having observed the uncertainty brought about by recent social issues, the anxiety associated with the current public health situation, and the everyday stress from school life, the Youth Fellowship committee members shared on the very relatable theme: "It's OK to be not OK: God is in control".

Through an original animation story of a two-legged fox, a skit dealing with questions of our purpose as students, as well as a worship session on songs of finding lasting joy in the Lord, the Youth Fellowship explored in three morning assemblies how God not only understands us in our struggles, but also comes near to comfort, encourage, and point us to His good plan for us in Christ.

The Gospel Week culminated in the evangelistic meeting, held on Friday afternoon. Our recent graduate, Mercy Wong, shared a moving testimony of her struggles and encounters with God in her S6 year leading up to the HKDSEs, which resonated with many. Coupled with the meaningful sharing by Pastor Zung from Yan Fook Church, as well as the songs of faith led by their youth worship team, many were reminded of God's unchanging faithfulness and loving pursuit of an intimate relationship with His children.



God knows my name

Harvest Festival

Having reflected on God's blessings in our lives throughout Gospel Week, the school came together a few weeks later to share in the joy of giving through the Harvest Festival on 10 November. In this much-loved event that was temporarily suspended in the last school year, students and staff alike joined together in donating food and money to the needy. During the assembly, the Youth Fellowship sang a worship song on how God's love can make an impact on our community, and displayed the food items on the Auditorium stage in celebration of the joy of sharing the provisions received from God.

As we continue to uphold the fifth and foundational pillar of the DGS education – spiritual nurturing, as well as the school motto "Daily Giving Service", we pray that our school will continue to grow as a community abiding in the love of God as we, in turn, share this love with those around us.



God's love for all creatures



Sharing our joy



Sharing our harvest

Spirits High at Athletics Meet 2021



Discus

After a 2-year hiatus, the heats of our long-awaited Athletics Meet finally took place on the 22nd of November at Wan Chai Sports Ground. Athletes and spectators alike joined in the fun, with the exhilaration of competition filling the air, despite the restraints brought by social distancing measures.

House captains and committee members came with bags filled to the brim with brightly coloured signs and banners, while the track dance team hurried to get some additional practice outside the spectator stand. Whoops and cheers could be heard all across the field whenever someone raced past the finish line. It was great to see that our spirits were not dampened by the pandemic.

Despite the recent resumption of sports training at school, and the limited external competitions in the past 18 months, our athletes still performed to a high standard. Two DGS records were broken and another athlete equalled a meet record. Our athletes could finally reap the fruits of their labour.



Long jump



High jump



Winners



Sprinters



Fun Race

Our Athletics Meet is not only for record breakers, but also for seniors who want to celebrate their last school year together by participating in events just for fun. Groups of friends leapt over hurdles, one after another, while holding hands and savouring the thrill of the day. Another memorable scene was when all the competitors for one of the 100m heats dressed up in Disney costumes.

All in all, despite the tricky weather and uncertainty at the start of the day, everyone would undoubtedly agree that the Athletics Meet was a rousing success.

Anticipation and energy abound for the Interhouse Athletics Finals, which turned out to be remarkable! The event highlight was the teacher-student relay: finally, a chance for the teachers to showcase their athleticism. Excitement filled the entire sports ground as they dashed neck and neck toward the finish line. Pride of place, however, was taken by a relay team comprising DGS Old Girls who represented Hong Kong in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. All four exerted Olympian effort, even if sprinting was not their sport. The Athletics Finals was the perfect opportunity to enjoy sports, and a great way to lower our stress levels as we approached our mid-year examinations.

DGS Whizz-kids at InnoCarnival 2021



Team DGS interviewed



Thumbs up, everyone!

Last summer, a team of DGS innovators was awarded the Gold Prize in the 16th Soong Ching Ling Award for Children's Invention national competition. Their remarkable accomplishment was highly recognized by the Education Bureau and Innovation and Technology Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR which chose their invention, Asthemeter, to be one

of the premier exhibitions in the InnoCarnival 2021. At the opening ceremony on 23 October 2021, Mr. Paul Chan Mo-po, GBM, GBS, MH, JP, Financial Secretary, and Mr. Alfred Sit Wing-hang, JP, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, visited DGS' booth. Our team's experience in the InnoCarnival 2021 and the journey of their invention were documented in the TV show "Innovation GPS" broadcast by TVB on 8 December 2021. If you miss the broadcast, click on this link. <https://youtu.be/MIuKhqV3MGU>



Christmas at DGS



For a cushy life



Affordable wellness - Mora



Bargain hunters



Sorry, sold out

“Mini” Mini Bazaar

This year’s Mini Bazaar was successfully held on 17 December.

In line with the Centre for Health Protection guidelines, the scale of our event was reduced to 8 game stalls and 24 sales stalls, and the number of family members each student could invite was lowered from four to one. Guests were allotted two separate sessions: the visitors from session A would leave the premises before the campus was thoroughly sanitized to prepare for the guests in session B. Classes and clubs teamed up in innovative ways to run the game or sales stalls, and do their bit for charity. Online group pre-ordering of merchandise made sure shoppers were able to fill their Christmas stockings with an assortment of gifts, no less impressive than in past years. The proceeds of this “mini” Mini Bazaar meant our charities would have a delightful Christmas too.

The day commenced with the Opening Ceremony when our current and our succeeding school supervisors, Mrs. Doris Ho and Ms Benita Yu respectively, and Reverend McCoy joined the headmistresses of Senior School and Junior School for the ribbon cutting. Excited parents and girls alike, thronged around stalls in different zones, queueing outside classrooms and in the DGS plaza. Intricately designed backpacks, convenient multi-purpose folders and DGS fabric design tote bags sold like hot cakes. DOGA and New Sight Congo sales stalls were also set up for fundraising.

Missing this year due to COVID measures were catering services, but a variety of activities were included like never before. Beautiful Christmas carols performed by our school choirs filled the auditorium during both sessions; the carpark dance routine charmed visitors in the Plaza, in the upper floor corridors, who clapped to the music as they admired the cool moves of our talented dancers.

Pandemic restrictions notwithstanding, a festive atmosphere permeated the campus, bringing unadulterated joy to all in the season of merry-making!



is number



Ribbon cutting



PTA keepsakes



Xmas who dunnit



Having fun



Happy shopping



DGS Dancers

Project 30



Look at the houses we've designed for villagers living in the Amazon rainforest!

Project T at DGJS is a complement to our rigorous academic curriculum. Every Thursday afternoon, students and teachers transform together and embark on a learning journey to discover. Using design thinking principles and a project-based learning (PBL) approach, students are engaged as they apply interdisciplinary skills to solve real-life problems.

This unique programme provides an opportunity for our girls to foster teamwork as the projects are designed to develop their 5 core skills which include problem-solving, collaboration, inquiry, communication and reflection.

Starting from October 2021, the School has launched 30 brand new projects to challenge students throughout the course of the year. Each grade level will be experiencing 5 projects, which will expose our students to different issues and disciplines as they formulate their solutions with their teachers.

Highlights from some of the projects...



With this elderly simulation gear, we're re-experiencing the life of an 80-year-old granny.



From this multimedia exhibition you can see how we express ourselves from different perspectives.



It's amazing how the water filter works to remove the debris and smaller particles layer by layer!



I wonder what dishes we can create using these ingredients from different parts of the world...



We are presenting an advertisement to promote a fundraising event for an NGO.

Failure and Mistakes— Journey for Personal Growth



Having adopted the above theme for this year's Life Education Programme, the DGJS community set aside three days in October and November to experience failures. Activities included a movie screening of *Monsters University*, discussions, and different challenges such as tossing and catching ten pencils with the same hand and building the tallest tower with hex nuts, culminating into an inter-class competition where students cheered for their class representatives, regardless of the competition

results. World-famous Balloon Artist Wilson Pang was also invited to share his story of failure with our girls and of course, to share his balloons, too!

Through these activities, the girls were able to reaffirm that “succeeding” doesn't always mean successfully finishing a task. Instead, the key lies in the willingness to try again and again—because after all, true “success” is found in growth, and nothing helps us grow more than failure does.



Dress Casual Day

Although the School Picnic was cancelled, it doesn't mean that our girls had to miss out on the fun. Our school participated in the Community Chest Dress Casual Day on 22nd October and both students and teachers came to school in their casual wear for a worthy cause.

Students also brought snacks and board games to school and had a party inside the classroom. It was a time for them to take a break from their books and iPads and gather around to enjoy some quality time with their friends.



Bridge Construction Workshop



In September, the Primary 5 girls took part in the Bridge Construction Workshop. Girls appreciated different types of bridges and considered the shapes they can utilise to construct a stable bridge. In groups, girls got some hands-on experience in building their own bridges on which they also wrote and hung their dreams. At the end of the workshop, girls put their bridges to the test to see how much weight they could hold. It was a fulfilling afternoon of creativity, teamwork, STEM learning, and looking into the future.

Drama Club Outing

In early October 2021, the Primary 2-5 Drama Club girls enjoyed a professionally staged performance *Walking the Amazon* in Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre. It was a rare opportunity for the girls to witness actors involved in physical theatre; body movements such as dance and mime were used extensively to bring the lush and perilous tropical rainforest to life.



GalaMusica School Creative Works 2022

A group of young artists at DGJS explored and celebrated the aesthetic appeal of raindrops in their contemporary multimedia musical production "In-between raindrops". Composed by Yuen Fé of Class 6A, the piece was performed by a diverse team consisting of instrumentalists, dancers and a video jockey as it explores the intersection between music, dance, and interactive computer-generated graphics.

Led by Mr J Ng and Mr Ringo Chan, the recording of the performance was used to take part in the competition called 'GalaMusica • School Creative Works 2022' organised by the Education Bureau. To enrich the performance and the girls' learning experience, the School has invited Mr Eric Huynh and Dr Vanissa Law to serve as consultants for the project.





ESTABLISHED 1860

拔萃女書院

DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL



150th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre in May 2010

THE EPITOME OF DAILY GIVING SERVICE



Because it is not Mrs. Doris Ho's nature to talk about herself, we must. Though our words cannot adequately express our gratitude to her, we must thank her for her service to our alma mater since 1984 – not counting her contributions before she was Supervisor.

Only those who have served with her will know how she has tirelessly worked behind-the-scenes to shape DGS into what it is today. In 2005, she was behind our exciting transition from a grant school to a Direct Subsidy Scheme School with more flexibility in curriculum design, diversity in student intake and resources to nurture each student over the course of 12 years of DGS education. Thanks to the 'One School' concept, we are, as our school hymn declares, 'one family unbroken'.

When this growing family needed a new home, she rallied everyone to put aside feelings of nostalgia and fund a state-of-the-art campus to prepare DGS girls for the 21st century and beyond. The new sporting and performance facilities more than doubled the built-up density on campus, enabling us to offer the widest array of sports teams, musical groups, and interest clubs among secondary schools. The outdoor swimming pool became an all-weather indoor one; not surprisingly, our swimmers have ruled the water for thirty-two of Mrs. Ho's 37 years as Supervisor.

Even before the pandemic made home-based learning essential, the IT infrastructure, included in the School Redevelopment Project Mrs. Ho oversaw back in 2009, enabled us to pioneer mobile learning and brought the world into our classrooms, as well as planting the seeds for learning about Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Mathematical Modelling today. Hearing that our parents were looking for an alternative curriculum in 2016, she supported the more cost-effective GCE A levels so that every child can learn to her full capacity.

To anyone who thinks Mrs. Ho cares only for the students, she has just surprised the community with a farewell gift. She is dedicating funds for staff development because she believes that there are no better role models for lifelong learning to inspire students than teachers and non-teaching staff at school.

In the new year, a new generation of DGS girls will be able to enjoy the boarding facilities completed in 2020, which she helped make possible and whose blessing ceremony she attended. She has supervised the transformation of this campus and invested generously in its people over nearly four decades of service. As a token of our gratitude and with the support of the DOGA, we are setting up a green corner inside DOGA Place for everyone to enjoy.

Mrs. Ho will be the first to tell you that what she has done is nothing to speak about for she follows a long line of Diocesans who loved and served this school. We are indeed blessed with alumnae who give back to the community in daily giving service, as she has.

Let us salute this Diocesan: a Christian at heart and in deeds.

Dear Mrs. Ho,
Thank you for your devotion, support and guidance to the school for the past 37 years. I still vividly remember your warm smile in prize-giving events as you shook my hand on stage and the care you expressed through your eyes in our conversations about my life at DGJS.
I'll miss you a lot! Wishing you a blissful retirement!
Yours sincerely,
Kaylie Wong

Dear Mrs. Ho,
Thank you for...
Devoting your life so we may soar;
Imbuing our lives with joy galore.
Our paths will shine with fire you lit,
Cascade your love to us you did.
Embrace your guide for us to glow,
Seeds you have sown will thrive and grow.
A kind of love that'll not retire,
Nor cease to be the fuel for fire.

Calissa Poon

Happy Retirement, Mrs. Ho!





DGS Redevelopment Project Topping Out Ceremony in December 2010



Campus Redevelopment Opening Ceremony in January 2013



140th Anniversary Celebration in January 2000



Alumnae Wall Opening Ceremony in January 2013



PTA Stall at Mini Bazaar in December 2018



Dear Mrs. Ho,
I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your valuable contribution and selfless dedication over the past decades. May I wish your retirement be filled with love, joy, and many wonderful memories of DGS and DGJS.
Sincerely,
Cherlin Chow

Dear Mrs. Ho,
I'm Charlie Ho from IC. Do you feel sad to retire? Please don't! You can bake cookies, do some exercise or come back to visit us anytime. I can perform the trombone for you when you are back.
Happy retirement and wish you good health!
Your lovely
Charlie Ho

Dear Mrs. Ho,
Do you feel sad to retire? Please don't! You can bake cookies, do some exercise or come back to visit us any time! I can perform the trombone for you when you are back. Happy retirement and wish you good health.
Yours sincerely,
Charlie Ng

Dear Mrs. Ho,
I am so grateful that you did everything you could to help all DGJS girls shimmer and shine. Thank you for your endless patience, motivation and love over the 37 years of service. You'll always be in our hearts. Happy retirement!
Sincerely,
Trinity Chan

Dear Mrs. Ho,
I am so grateful that you did everything you could to help all DGJS girls shimmer and shine. Thank you for your endless patience, motivation and love over the 37 years of service. You'll always be in our hearts. Happy retirement!
Sincerely,
Trinity Chan
30 (5)

DOGA is extremely proud that Mrs. Ho, their ex-President and alumnae, has made such an indelible contribution to the school. Knowing Mrs. Ho cares for the environment and had always wished for a quiet corner within DGS for students to converge, DOGA will dedicate a green corner inside DOGA Place in her honour. We hope this will augment any conservation initiatives within the school and provide another reason for Mrs. Ho to visit DOGA Place after her retirement!



The PTA 70th Annual General Meeting

The 70th Annual General Meeting of the DGS Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was held on 30th September 2021 and hosted in the brand-new AI Room. Mrs Christine Nip, the PTA Chairman, welcomed parents and teachers who joined the meeting via Zoom due to the pandemic.

After 37 years as the School Supervisor, Mrs Doris Ho would retire at the end of 2021. We expressed our deepest gratitude to Mrs Ho whose sterling leadership, wise counsel and faithful service to the School would leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.



Established in 1951, the PTA celebrated its 70th anniversary this year. In her report, Mrs Nip highlighted the PTA's role as a bridge among parents, teachers and the School. In 2020-2021, the PTA continued to enrich our girls' school life and connect parents through book recommendations, online seminars, breakfast meetings, the Christian Mothers' Group as well as the Primary 6 Retreat. The PTA also sponsored scholarships to recognize good conduct and dedicated service. To commemorate the School's 160th anniversary, the souvenir team designed a range of products, and the PTA sponsored the mural painting in the Junior School.

Mrs Lee began with Junior School girls' achievements in academics, STEM, sports and music. Next, showing us videos of students interviewing janitors and presenting gifts to non-teaching staff (NTS), performing household chores and helping siblings at home, Mrs Lee highlighted the School's effort to cultivate empathy and gratitude in our girls through schemes such as Adopt an NTS and Kingdom of Kindness. In addition, Project T trains our girls' collaborative, problem-solving and inter-disciplinary skills and also fosters their creativity and imagination. 30 projects with key driving questions will be implemented this year, with topics ranging from animal welfare to food wastage, to help our girls acquire higher-order knowledge integration and application skills. Lastly, Mrs Lee thanked God for His blessings and guidance of the School.

Mrs Lau shared the pleasing HKDSE and GCE A-level results as well as local and overseas university placement figures. Mrs Lau applauded our girls for their achievements in music and sports, and gave a special mention to the eight old girls who competed in the Tokyo Olympics. Mrs Lau emphasized the importance of technology and the School's commitment to implement robotics, computational thinking, Blockchain technology and AI empowerment in the curriculum. Not only has the DGS Blockchain Club been established, our girls have also achieved amazing results at the Blockchain Olympiad 2021. Four girls also won the Outstanding Award at the International Mathematical Modeling Challenge 2021. Mrs Lau invited Valerie Chan and Kammy Miu, the Chairladies of the Computer Club, to give parents a virtual tour of the AI lab, including 3D printing, autonomous driving, and dancing robots. The tour ended on a high note with drones performing aerial acrobatics and wishing the PTA a happy 70th anniversary. To celebrate its 70th anniversary, the PTA will set up an IT fund to support the School's IT education and activities.

The Chairman also thanked retiring Vice-chairmen Ms Winnie Cheung and Ms Virginia Leung and ExCo member Mrs Esther Tang for their contribution and dedication in the past years.



Executive Committee 2021-2022

Supervisor:
Mrs Doris Ho, JP
Ms Benita Yu (effective
January 2022)

Headmistresses:
Mrs Stella Lau, SBS, JP
Mrs Annie Lee

Teachers:
Mrs M Fong
Mrs J Mak

Chairman:
Mrs Christine Nip

Vice-chairmen:
Mrs Ada Yip
Mrs Hynn Ming Yeh

Hon Secretary:
Mrs Suzanne Wong

Hon Treasurer:
Mr William Lee

Hon Auditor:
Ms Salenda Lam

Members:
Mrs Angela Chan
Mrs Janice Chan
Mrs Patty Chan
Mrs Ceci Cheung
Ms Queenie Choi
Mrs Catherine Siu Doo
Mrs Frances Ho
Ms Catherine Lee
Ms Vivien Li
Ms Phoebe Man
Mrs Daphne So
Mrs Bianca Tan
Mr Kenneth Tsang
Ms Camille Tse



PTA Activities

Primary 6 Retreat

Co-hosted with St. Andrew's Church, the Primary 6 Retreat was held on school campus on 21st June 2021 to prepare our girls for their transition to secondary school. Through reading Bible stories together and engaging in role-play, experiential activities and interactive games, our Primary 6 girls learned to support and help each other, and to find peace in God during difficult times.



Brownies' Flag Day

The Junior School held a Hong Kong Girl Guides Association Flag Day on 12th October 2021. Our brownies pack sold flags at the Chi Wo Street school gate in the morning. Later during break time, the brownies also collected donations from teachers, staff members and classmates to support the development and education of young girls and women.



Webinar on Happy Marriage by Dr Wat Wai Ho

Dr Wat Wai Ho gave a webinar on "Making Time for a Happy Marriage" on 1st November 2021 with more than one hundred parents in attendance via Zoom. Through Dr Wat's humor, experience and wise advice, parents learned about the sustainable development of marriage and the importance of bringing appreciation, consideration and warmth to the relationship and our family.



Mini Bazaar

The Mini Bazaar and Souvenir team designed cozy, stylish and practical products for this year's Mini Bazaar. The cushion blankets, memo cubes and umbrella pouches sold like hotcakes, while parents and girls were only too happy to bring home the DGS-PTA 70th anniversary commemorative bookmark. All of our parent helpers at the PTA counter were thrilled to be back in action after two years!



Making History for Hong Kong: Conversations with DGS Olympians

In summer 2021, Hong Kong celebrated the best results in history at the Tokyo Olympics. DOGA is proud to have eight alumnae spanning Classes of 2009-2020, to represent Hong Kong in swimming, table tennis, badminton, fencing, and golf.

Following the Olympics, the DOGA Editorial Subcommittee had the opportunity to sit down with four of our DGS Olympic athletes, who shared their fond memories at DGS and DGJS, their journeys to professional sports and unforgettable experiences at the Olympics, as well as personal reflections and words of wisdom for those coming after them.

Despite the uncertainties and stresses posed by COVID-19, which included the yearlong postponement of the Tokyo games, in addition to lockdowns and disruptions along the way, DGS Olympic athletes found new and effective approaches to continue training. What they share is perseverance, self-discipline, and wholehearted dedication to achieving their biggest dream of competing at the Olympics. They also hope that the Hong Kong team will achieve new milestones in the future. All Olympians emphasised the importance of both individual preparation, as well as teamwork and much-needed support from coaches, family, and friends. The old girls also share a sense of gratitude towards DGS, for the support they received from the school, teachers, and classmates in striking what was often a challenging balance between sports, academics, and personal interests.



General Committee 2021-2022

President:
Ms Yvonne Chan

Hon Vice President:
Mrs Stella Lau, SBS, JP
Mrs Annie Lee

Vice President:
Mrs Grace Lee Lam
Ms Benita Yu

Treasurer:
Ms Winnie Kong

Company Secretary:
Ms Cindy Hui

Administrative Secretary:
Ms Connie Lung

Members:
Mrs Shirley Cheng Chan
Ms Vicki Chan
Ms Irene Cheong
Ms Andrea Lai
Ms Charis Lee
Ms Vanessa Leung
Ms Janice Li
Ms Gladys Lo
Ms Greta Ng
Ms Diana Ting
Ms Helen Wong

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Minnie Soo

“I was too short to see the top of the table but loved the sound of the ball!” joked Olympic women’s table tennis bronze medalist Minnie Soo (Class of 2016), as she reminisced about the beginning of her table tennis journey as a child. With her father as coach, Minnie started playing when she was 3.5 years old, and over time, was captivated by the mental and physical rigours of the game. At DGJS, in spite of her busy training schedule, Minnie was able to find time for her multiple interests, including percussion, choir, solo singing, and art. She fondly recalled the supportive teachers, especially Mrs. Christina Chiang who encouraged her and ensured that she would not miss out on the opportunity to sing in the choir, despite her commitments to table tennis. Minnie treasures the lifelong friendships formed at DGS, and the learning environment, which encouraged critical thinking and the pursuit of different interests. In particular, her love of books, cultivated at DGS, helped her reach a breakthrough in her mental game, after reading the biographies about top athletes in different sports.

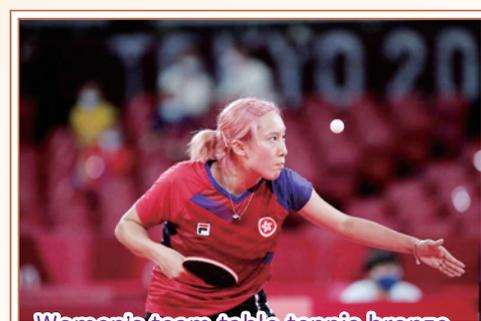


Minnie and sister Queenie at Hang Seng All Schools Championships 2012



Painting is one of Minnie’s favourite hobbies

As an elite athlete, she learned that enjoying the process and fighting for herself was a far greater motivator than meeting the expectations of others. This lesson particularly empowered Minnie in her Tokyo Olympics experience. In April 2020, after sustaining an injury to her arm, Minnie was determined to make it to the Olympic Village. Despite the physical and emotional challenges, she persevered. As Minnie overcame the pressure to meet others’ expectations, she was able to enjoy



Women’s team table tennis bronze medal match

the competition process. She considers her medal-winning table tennis match the most enjoyable one in her life. “I did not have any expectations and just fought hard for myself,” said Minnie.

In her path to success, Minnie has had to pause full-time studies in order to commit fully to table tennis training. She is grateful for Mrs. Lau’s support and guidance in helping her to weigh her options, and considers her sacrifices for the sport that she loves worthwhile. Even when she was not at school every day, she never gave up learning. The love of books and love of learning instilled in her at DGS have provided a foundation throughout these years as she studied with tutors and looks to return to formal academic studies in the future. Minnie enjoys physics and talks about it with as much enthusiasm as she does with table tennis. “Physics gives me a new pair of eyes to see the world. We see very little, and we know very little,” Minnie said. While seemingly different, Minnie observes that both playing table tennis and studying physics require open-mindedness, in order to understand what at first may seem impossible. “We cannot control the results, but we can control our attitude,” she explained. Finally, Minnie encourages others not to fear failure, as conquering fear is crucial to enjoying the competitive process. “Once you overcome your fear, positive results will naturally follow.”



Olympic bronze medalist
Minnie Soo

Coco Lin

Coco Lin’s (Class of 2013) fencing career started serendipitously. When Coco was in Primary 5, her dad asked her to try out fencing with her cousin’s used fencing gear. Coco started with foil, which she initially did not enjoy, but later when she switched to épée, she found this discipline easier because of the simpler rules.

After just over one year of lessons, Coco surprised herself and her coach by placing third in an interschool individual competition. Her coach saw her potential and she also increasingly enjoyed training with teammates who motivated her to continue pursuing the sport. Coco joined the Hong Kong junior team in S4. Regular trainings were manageable, but travelling for 1-2 weeks at a time for overseas competitions made catching up with schoolwork during downtime and after competitions more challenging. At university, Coco continued to balance her studies in landscape architecture and fencing, but it was taxing at times.



Coco’s first individual medal in an international competition

Despite the glamour, Coco’s biggest struggle was constantly doubting her own potential, because she had only mostly won accolades as part of a team, which she felt was not ideal for an individual sport. She dared not dream big and wanted to give up many times. Finally, in Year 3 of university, Coco won an individual champion at the under 23 Asian Championships, which solidified her belief that she could do well individually after all. Another big challenge Coco faced was watching her DGS friends move on with their lives and progress in their careers, while she was still following her “juvenile interests”. Ultimately, all these struggles were all worthwhile, especially after gaining the rare experience to go to the Olympics. Standing on the highest international sports platform encouraged her to remain an athlete and aim higher for individual breakthroughs.



Action photo from World Cup in Chengdu, China

Covid-19 affected the consistency and quality of Coco’s training. When Hong Kong Sports Institute was in lockdown mode, she trained with weights at home. The biggest impact of the Covid-19 pandemic to Coco was not only disruption to her training during Hong Kong Sports Institute’s closure, but the loss of touch with international players through overseas trainings and competitions. Something significantly positive, however, also came out of the pandemic: the chance for the Hong Kong women’s epee team to qualify for the Olympics for the first time. The most memorable moment at the Tokyo Olympics was watching Edgar Cheung Ka Long win his Olympic gold. Coco and her team went hysterical the moment he won! Coco thinks that the Hong Kong team and fencing in particular achieved amazing results this time partly because with Covid-19 under control in Hong Kong, training resumed earlier than in other countries. Also, a lot more resources such as world-class coaches and scientific research were invested into systematising the sport. It was prime harvest time for Hong Kong fencing.



At-Tokyo-2020 Olympic Games

Having an impressive eight alumnae on the Olympics team is a testament to DGS' support on sports development. Coco was very grateful that DGS encouraged the girls to not give up when overcoming challenges, but more importantly, it fostered their all-round development. This kind of support enabled her to become the athlete she is today. As a full-time athlete, she will continue to train for the Paris Olympics, after which she may retire and enter the sustainability field.

The DGS days were memorable to Coco because she experienced all three campuses: the old, the temporary (in Sham Shui Po), and the new. The Sham Shui Po campus felt like a more tight-knit community due to the physical layout of the school. Coco also fondly remembered the girls having to bring down their \$8 stools to assembly and then hanging them next to their desks afterwards every day.

Coco's advice for young athletes is to try more things and take the time to find their passion; once it's found, they need to have clear goals and pursue them wholeheartedly, but also understand that there will be sacrifices along the way. Having put a high priority on fencing, Coco lost a lot of play time as a child, the chance to do other activities, and even family gathering time. So, prioritising, trusting oneself and having a strong will to fend off distractions are key to success.



Coco won silver medal at interschool fencing competition in S2

Karen Tam



Grand Slam for DGS in Karen's final year

Olympic swimmer Karen Tam (Class of 2016) began her swimming journey at a young age. "I was not afraid of water. My love of water made me want to jump into a pool whenever I saw one," said Karen. She started swimming at age four and joined the Hong Kong swim team at age 12. She recalled having a packed routine starting with swim training at 5:30 a.m. every day. During secondary school at DGS, Karen found herself juggling swim training and academics, but felt thankful for the support she received from teachers who provided guidance outside class and classmates who shared notes with her for classes she had to miss due to her swimming commitments. To this day, she remains close to her swimming team friends from DGS. Reflecting on what she learned during interschool swimming competitions, Karen said, "It is essential to manage stress and also care about others on the team besides yourself."

Karen became a full-time swimmer in May 2021 after finishing her studies at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada. While at UBC, she continued to balance her studies and swimming. She and her teammates would all catch up on academics while traveling to training or competitions. Even though it was hard work, "it is worth it—not everyone can have a dream come true." Karen's participation in the Tokyo Olympics was a big dream come true. The postponement of the Olympics for one year meant that Karen was able to finish university before returning to Hong Kong for training. Her relay team was able to train for an extra year and achieve faster qualifying times. Facing the uncertainty of whether the Olympics would be held, Karen again encountered stress, but learned the importance of self-discipline and the need to trust the training process. Echoing her past experience in the DGS swimming team, being a good teammate proved to be important as she cheered others on at other events following the completion of the 4x100m freestyle relay race.



The moment before Karen dived into the pool for her first Olympic race



Last day at Tokyo 2020 Olympic pool

Currently, Karen continues to work towards her future goals in both swimming, such as preparing for the World Championships, and academics, with the ambition of being a physiotherapist and working in the healthcare field. "As long as you put in the effort, you will get results," said Karen. She feels that staying positive and trusting the process are very important. Even amidst uncertain and stressful circumstances, she finds that doing what she thinks is right and truly enjoying it is key. Indeed, these are lessons learned early in life in her relationship with water—not being afraid, and loving it.

Toto Wong

Do you know anyone who learned all four swimming strokes just by imitation? Starting at the age of three, Toto Wong (Class of 2017) mimicked her older sister's swimming strokes and learned all four on her own eventually. Seeing such talent, and also for good health, Toto's parents encouraged her to continue with swimming. She started receiving proper coaching at Primary 4.

However, Toto's true passion was ballet. Ironically, she "hated" swimming and would cry whenever she was asked to train with her sister. Toto balanced ballet and swimming until her early teenage years when schedules conflicted and her physique could no longer support both. She made the difficult decision to give up ballet because she felt that with hard work, there was a higher chance of success at swimming than ballet, which is a more subjective performing art form.



Toto loves training outdoors

But the real motivation to focus on swimming came from the bells and whistles of the sport. Toto had long admired the new sets of uniforms, beautiful pictures and new friendships her older fellow trainees brought back from overseas competitions. This motivated her to enjoy swimming. Being in the water was her way of meditation amidst the stress of daily life. Toto chose to focus on backstroke because it is a unique stroke where she could feel the freedom of looking up at the sky. In S3, Toto joined the DGS family where swimming is valued and healthy competition is encouraged, and in S5, she joined the Hong Kong team. "DGS's healthy competitive spirit made me want to excel in everything," said Toto.



Toto was asked to compete in interschool swimming A grade relay when she was 13



The swim team hoped to build a taller pyramid each year

The path to the Tokyo Olympics was uncertain. When Covid-19 broke out, Toto packed her bags in Australia, where she was taking a gap year to train, and came back to Hong Kong hastily. With an immense amount of self-regulation, Toto trained, albeit a bit inconsistently and without a coach, with workouts at home and swimming in the open sea, under her own schedule until spring 2021 when the Hong Kong Sports Institute reopened. It was not until a month before the Olympics that she found out she was chosen to represent Hong Kong. At the Olympics, the quietness of having no spectators calmed her and allowed her to "get into her zone" more quickly, especially when swimming the first leg of the relay, which was rather nerve-racking.



The 4x100m Hong Kong Medley relay team at Tokyo 2020 Olympics

Toto believes that the increased opportunities for athletes to go abroad for competitions and trainings to gain international exposure played a significant role in the stellar results achieved by Team Hong Kong at the Tokyo Olympics. This achievement will be a big booster to rising athletes and proves that this small city can have a place on the podium as well!

In her journey to become a star swimmer, other than ballet, which Toto might have pursued as an alternative path, Toto did not have to give up much else in her life. Perhaps this is due to her high ambitions. One time, after she tore her tendon from playing dodgeball, Toto continued swim training with a waterproof cast in the water. As a full-time athlete, Toto is also studying optometry at Polytechnic University and is hoping to become an optometrist one day when she retires from swimming. It is not easy juggling both, but her desire to do well in everything takes over.

Lastly, Toto wanted to leave a piece of advice for DGS girls, "As long as you put your mind to something and prioritise it, you will find the time to do it. DGS is great and gives you a lot of freedom, but that also calls for self-discipline; you need to be clear about what you want to do." This mentality moulded Toto into who she is today.

ACTIVITIES

Diocesan Graduate Singers Recording Concert

《萃韻傳情》錄影音樂會

After a long break of almost a year, the Diocesan Graduate Singers finally managed to resume rehearsal in August 2021 and successfully completed their recording concert project in November. This is the group's first ever recording concert and also their first time singing a full Chinese repertoire. The theme of the concert 《萃韻傳情》 incorporated four types of affection – 愉悅之情, 不捨之情, 慨嘆之情 and 懷念之情. The selection of 11 Chinese songs, including 踏雪尋梅, 問鶯燕 and 杜鵑花, were composed by three Chinese composers – 黃自, 黃友棣 and 黃永熙. Under the baton of Mrs. Christina Chiang, over 40 choir members performed the melodious pieces in the form of full chorus, ensemble group and solos at the DGS School Auditorium. The recording concert will be released in Jan 2022.



Art Club Ribbon Hair Clip Workshop

The Art Club hosted an online workshop on 4th December 2021 to make Christmas hair clips and school colour ribbon hair clips. All participants were provided with a set of materials prior to the session. Our alumna instructor, Winnie Sze (class of 2004), explained the usage of those materials and patiently guided the attendees to create colourful festive hair clips for the holiday season.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Professor Vivian Wing-Wah Yam (Class of 1980) for winning the 2022 American Chemical Society (ACS) National Award - the 2022 Josef Michl ACS award in Photochemistry, which is presented to her for achieving outstanding research in fundamental photochemistry. As an elected member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (2001) and Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) (2006), Vivian's contribution to her field has won her numerous accolades throughout the years, including the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Centenary Medal (2005/6), RSC Ludwig Mond Award (2015), L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Award (2011) and many more. Vivian is currently the Dean of Science (Interim) and Philip Wong Wilson Wong Professor in Chemistry and Engineering at the University of Hong Kong.



Dr. CJ Symons Scholarship 2021

DOGA is happy to announce that Katrina Liu Tin Nam has been awarded the Dr. CJ Symons Scholarship for 2021. The scholarship, which amounts to HK\$160,000, will go towards her study in Computer Science at the University of Pennsylvania in the US. Congratulations! We wish Katrina every success in her future endeavours.