



# Successful Student Events

## Message from the Editor

**Since our last edition, our school community has been bustling with activity, celebrating a series of memorable events.**

Our annual Christmas Concert was an enchanting evening, set against the backdrop of our newly inaugurated convent building, on a balmy December night. The students sang like angels, creating a magical atmosphere that perfectly captured the spirit of the season.

As we stepped into the new year, our Chinese New Year celebrations were filled with excitement. The beats of the drums that could be felt and heard, the vibrant energy of the lion dancers, and the beauty of traditional crafts provided a valuable cultural experience for all. The school was alive with the buzz of students eagerly preparing to spend the holiday with their families and getting red envelopes. The Science Fair showcased the incredible knowledge and creativity of our students. Many delivered outstanding pro-

jects, and choosing winners from such a diverse and impressive display of work was no easy task. It was inspiring to see the dedication and effort each student put into their projects.

Our Sports Day was another highlight, featuring a real Olympic-style flame and student runners leading the event. It was a day of great fun, filled with energy and joy as students competed in various events.

The Kindergarten Sports Day was equally special, with young students pairing up with parents or older siblings to share in the excitement. The beautiful weather made it a perfect family event.

None of these successes would be possible without the unwavering support of our parents, teachers, and event organizers. A special thank you goes to our dedicated Events Coordinator, Ms. Yao, whose relentless efforts ensure that each event is a great success.

In this edition, we bring you a closer look at these wonderful moments. Enjoy the highlights!

## Our Amazing Parents



Our marvelous mums on duty at the Christmas Concert with Ms Sunny Liu, VIP President, fourth from the left.

**Few schools have the level of parent support that DISK enjoys.** The Volunteer Involved Parents (VIP), under the leadership of Ms. Sunny Liu, continue to play a vital role in school life. Their assistance with events, collaboration with the Activity Coordinator, and ongoing communication with parents and the School Administration make a real difference.

Their support was key to the success of our Chinese New Year celebrations and Christmas Concert. The lovely dinner that followed the concert would not have been possible without their efforts. The school community is grateful for the dedication and teamwork of our parent volunteers. Their involvement helps create a stronger, more connected school environment for students, teachers, and families alike.



## **St. Valentine's Mass February 14th 2025**



**During the Valentine's Mass, Fr. Prudencio shared the story of St. Valentine.** He was a legendary Christian martyr from 3rd-century Rome. According to tradition, he befriended and healed his jailer's blind daughter, while another account states that he secretly married couples to prevent husbands from being conscripted into war. His feast day, celebrated on February 14, honors his legacy of love and sacrifice.





## By Alfred Wilson

**The Dominican 2024-2025 Science Fair was a resounding success, with students showcasing their creativity, critical thinking, and scientific curiosity.**

The event, held around the Administration Building, brought together participants from grades one through twelve who displayed a range of fascinating science and engineering projects that captivated both judges and fellow students. From batteries to environmental science, the projects at this year's fair were as diverse as they were impressive. Students delved into topics such as energy sources, earthquake readiness, the effects of climate change, and the chemistry behind everyday products. Whether it was experimenting with acids and bases, building motors, or purifying water, each project was a testament to the passion and dedication of the young scientists at our school.

Among the standout projects were our winners who were divided into three groups of G1-2, G3-5, and MS/HS:

Third place: Adrian Chiu, Lucia D Vicente Diaz, Kairos Lau, Elisa Wang, Ian Yeh, Claire Yeh, Suzy Kang, Emma Lin, Jeanelle Li, Zoe Su, Vivian Yang, and Ian Goh.

Second Place: Audrey Chiu, Renee Lei, Willow Tseng, Mia Chen, and Oviya Sivasubramanian

First Place: Benjamin Wang, Liam Goodwin, Brody Lee, Sebastian Gaerlan, Riccardo Gay, Matthias Graesing, Isa Goh, Veronica Cheng, Hunter Wang, and Milton Cheng.

The fair wasn't just about individual projects; it also highlighted the power of teamwork. Many students collaborated on projects that demonstrated the value of cooperation and shared knowledge.

We were pleased to welcome our judging panel consisting of the MS/HS science teachers and several administrators who shared their expertise and provided constructive feedback to all participants. The judges praised the students for their dedication and offered insightful questions that allowed the students to display a deep understanding of the scientific concepts behind their projects.

We look forward to continuing to foster a love for science and innovation in our students. The creativity and hard work displayed by all participants show that the future of science is in great hands.

Congratulations to all the students who participated, and special thanks to the elementary homeroom teachers who organized each grade's projects and supported them along the way. We can't wait to see what next year's Science Fair will bring, so start thinking about new questions to investigate!





## A Joyous and Successful Chinese New Year



By Hector Tung

This year's Chinese New Year celebration was a resounding success, thanks to the collaborative efforts of our Chinese Department. The event was enriched by the presence of esteemed folk art teachers from outside our school, who shared their expertise in traditional crafts, drumming, and cultural performances.

A highlight of the celebration was the spectacular Lion Dance, made possible by the generous sponsorship of our VIP team. The energy and rhythm of the drumming, combined with the skillful performances, created an unforgettable experience for our community.

We were also honored to welcome special guests from the Kaohsiung community, who showcased traditional craftsmanship and brought authentic cultural elements to our festivities. Their contributions added depth and authenticity to the celebration, allowing students and attendees to engage with Chinese culture in a meaningful way.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated, contributed, and supported this event. Your involvement made this celebration not only memorable but also a wonderful reflection of cultural appreciation and community spirit.



Traditional calligraphy is not easy!



Fun with bubbles



The drummers had everyone fascinated by their skills and the sound could be felt and heard! The lion dance is always a highlight .





# Christmas Concert

## News

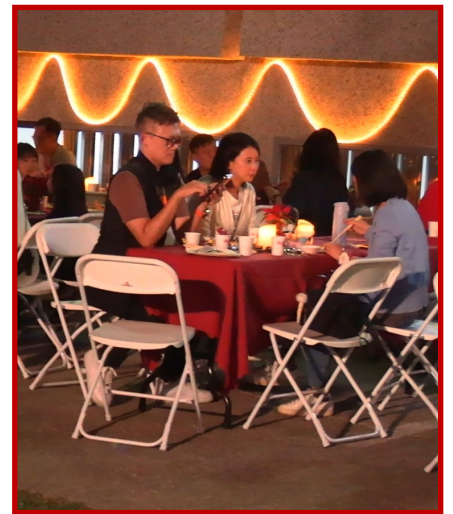
On December 12th, the school's annual Christmas concert took place in front of the new Convent building, providing a perfect setting for a balmy December evening.

First the story of the birth of Christ was told during the Nativity Play as a reminder that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Then the students, expertly trained by our dance teachers, delivered an ambitious rendition of *The Nutcracker Suite* by Tchaikovsky—and they pulled it off beautifully! The audience was delighted by the outstanding student performances.

The Volunteer Involved Parents (VIP), led by Ms. Sunny Liu, helped organize a delightful dinner following the concert, creating a warm atmosphere of togetherness that truly embodied the spirit of Christmas at DISK.

A highlight of the evening was the lucky draw for teachers' red Christmas envelopes. The happiest winners of the night were Mr. Jones and Dr. Mercia, whose numbers were drawn for the grand cash prizes. This thoughtful gesture from the VIP made the teachers feel genuinely appreciated. The event captured the joy of the season, filling everyone with festive cheer and anticipation for the upcoming two-week Christmas break.



Left: The Nativity, and right :parents enjoying the scrumptious dinner after the concert.



Left: "The Dance of the Flowers", and right: Ms Sunny Liu assisted by Ms Yao doing the lucky draw.



## Our Dominican Star

This edition's **Dominican Star** is Matthias Graesing from Grade 4.

The editor has chosen to publish his amazing story about a hot air balloon ride. Well done, Matthias!



### My First Hot Air Balloon Flight

#### Part 1

##### Up, Up, and Up

One peaceful morning, I was eating breakfast when unexpectedly my friends called me. They invited me for a hot air balloon flight in the afternoon, so I agreed and decided to join them. When I arrived, my friends were waiting for me. The hot air balloon was gigantic and had vibrant colors. It also looked sturdy. When I got on the hot air balloon, we took off, and no one realized that the balloon was going endlessly higher, higher and higher until the pilot called it out. **"Mayday! Mayday!"**

The balloon is out of control! We are only going **Up!!!!** the pilot shouted into his black walkie-talkie. It was then that I realized the middle of the floor was made of glass!!! As we got higher and higher, Earth got smaller and smaller.

#### Part 2

##### The New World

Days later, we saw modern houses, floating islands, a lot of people who looked very alien, and levitating trains. Everyone was surprised that we found "people". Suddenly the pilot shouted to his black walkie-talkie, **"Mayday! Mayday!"** We are

**crashing!!!!**" The pilot actually didn't know that we were in space. Then, we crashed into one of the islands and we were all unconscious...time passed...then we woke up lying in the beds of a sky hospital.

#### Part 3 Home

We left the hospital when we woke up, and in the lobby we asked how we could fix our hot air balloon. A strange looking woman told us we could stay in the sky hotel, and fix the hot air balloon at a hot air balloon take off and landing platform mechanic.

Days later, the hot air balloon was fixed and we took off that day. The hot air balloon was better than before!!! It had **thrusters** which gave extra speed, and the rest was the same. The last problem was how we could get home. One of the aliens, because we knew by now who they were, gave us a GPS which led us back home to earth.

On the way home, the basket of the hot air balloon made a beautiful rainbow road which now led from the Lost Planet to Earth.

We all arrived safe and sound. After that, everyone could go to the Lost Planet by car, motorbike, scooter, and even a bicycle, using the rainbow road.

It took one minute by motor vehicle, half an hour by bicycle, and one hour when walking.

Both places lived happily ever after.

The end!



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## Pre-K and K



## Elementary, Middle and High School







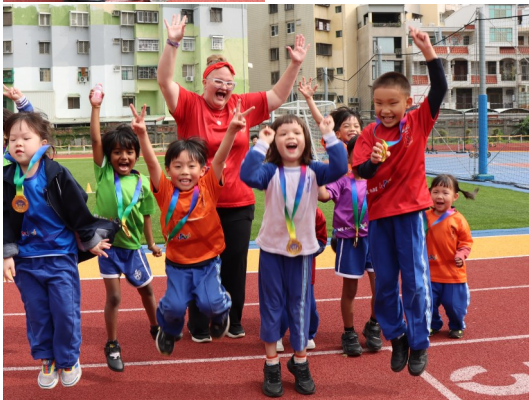
**On February 27th all students from Grade 1-5 participated in the Famlympics.**

The well-organized event featured exciting activities that tested students' agility, coordination, and teamwork. From the Basketball Dribble Relay and Soccer Dribbling Obstacle Course to the 50-meter Sprint Race and Bowling Accuracy Challenge, students embraced the competitive spirit with enthusiasm. The fitness challenges, including the Long Jump and Jump Rope Challenge, added an extra layer of excitement, while the Group Relay Races brought a strong sense of camaraderie to the day.

Throughout the day, students displayed outstanding sportsmanship, determination, and teamwork, making the event a fun experience. With cheers ringing across the field and the spirit of friendly competition in the air, Famlympics once again proved to be a highlight of the school year.



School Principal, Sr Eva Gamotin, handing out Eugene Chen's medal.



## Pre-K and K Famlympics

**On March 7th, the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students had their turn to shine at Famlympics, an afternoon filled with laughter, energy, and friendly competition.** After their nap-time, the young athletes kicked off the event with a heartwarming entrance parade, marching proudly alongside their parents and siblings to the sound of Olympic-style music.

The excitement continued as children participated in a series of engaging activities. Parents and siblings joined in the fun, making the event a true family affair. To celebrate their efforts, students were awarded medals for their individual achievements, while families shared in the joy of the experience.

