

Life Education Programme



Role-playing a bullying scene

At DGJS we believe that educating the heart is as important as educating the mind. As part of the newly launched Life Education Programme developed by a team of dedicated teachers as well as Dr Sharon and Mrs Williams, our girls engaged in some very exciting events and activities in the month of October, learning about different ways to build a supportive school community.

A key topic that was presented to the girls this month was anti-bullying. It was the perfect time to introduce this topic as October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Every October, schools and organizations from different parts of the world carry out activities to educate children and raise their awareness on the topic. In our school, Mrs Williams hosted two sharing sessions during assembly to talk about anti-bullying.



Mrs. William's Assembly Sharing



The first sharing kicked off with a role-play by four students who acted out a bullying scene at school. Many of the girls felt sorry for the girl who was being bullied. At the same time, they understood that they should not be a bystander in times of bullying.

The girls were then introduced to the definition of bullying, which involves 3 elements, namely, an imbalance of power, an intention to cause harm and repeated occurrences over time. Different scenarios were then presented to the girls and they were asked to identify whether those scenes involve bullying. At the end of the sessions, the girls understood the harm of bullying and discussed ways to tackle it. Furthermore, they made a pledge together, promising that they would stand up against bullying.

Primary 1 and Primary 6 students, who are the first batch to experience the Life Education Programme, were also given opportunities throughout the month to get to know each other better and form special bonds. During the 'buddy reading' sessions, the big sisters took hold of their little sister's hands and went down to the library, where they got to share a good book together and engaged themselves in interesting conversations. During their class periods, the Primary 6 students were given opportunities to create their own board games which they would play together with their little sisters later on. When designing their own board games, the Primary 6 students not only had to be strategic about how the game would work, but also think about ways to appeal to the young ones. Their hard work paid off when they saw their little sisters enjoy the products of their creativity and they all had a great time playing the games together.

One of the highlights of the month was when the whole school was involved in creating a collaborative artwork during the Common Test Days. Each and every student from Primary 1 to 6 reflected on what makes DGJS a happy, safe learning environment and wrote their thoughts on some colourful post-it notes. These notes were then collaged together to create a mural, which is now on display in the PTA Room.

Through engaging in exciting, hands-on projects and activities such as these, we hope that we are another step closer to building a supportive and loving DGJS community.



The mural consisting of more than 800 messages written by our girls!



The girls creating a mural with their ideas written on colourful post-it notes.

Music is in the Air

Instrumental Demonstration in September

A Turkish musician Ahmet Say once wrote that "It is an evident fact that 95% of human beings have inherent musical taste. It depends on us to make our lives happier, more enjoyable and better by awakening such taste and walk the right path." This precisely explains the whole purpose of organizing the instrumental demonstration workshop every year in September for both our students and parents. Stimulating the musical sense in each student and guiding her in finding an instrument that matches her interest are the School's endeavours each year. During the two-hour workshop on 12th September 2018, conductors, instrumental tutors and their students alike gathered on stage to play their favourite instruments zealously, demonstrating their passion for music. This year's workshop was especially awe-inspiring with performances by the newly-established Chinese music ensemble. The performers' love of music was expressed and successfully captured the hearts of the students, who themselves will soon embark on the journey of music. Special thanks go to the conductors and tutors without whom this event would not have been possible.



Concert Performances

"If music be the food of love, play on, ..." is a frequently quoted expression from *Twelfth Night*, a play written by the British playwright William Shakespeare who believes that the power of music can infuse people with love. At DGJS, not only do our musicians enjoy making music, they love igniting the flames of love in the community with their musical talents.

Fundraising Concert for the Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship

On 20th October 2018, our String Orchestra was invited to take part in the *Enlighten Fundraising Concert* organized by the Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship, a Christian organization, to raise funds for the underprivileged. As an overture to the event, the orchestra played two pieces of music, *Concerto for 2 Violins in D Minor* and the very popular Cantonese song 獅子山下. The latter must have touched the hearts of the audience and evoked nostalgic memories of the past Hong Kong. We call Hong Kong our home, so let the music play on and let love penetrate us fully to help those in need.



City Hall Community Concert (美樂管弦之夜)

On 7th November 2018, the DGJS Wind Band and Senior Percussion Band were honoured to be part of the Instrumental Community Concert (美樂管弦之夜) organized by Central & Western District Office and Central & Western District Association for Culture and Arts. The bands performed two pieces of music—*Music from Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Suite from Carmen*. Judging from the elated responses of the audience, it was evident that everyone, enjoying the music, felt closer and more connected to one another at the end of the evening.



First Term Common Test Day Activities

Talk on Pollution and Cross-curricular Art Project



On 30th October 2018, the Primary 5 and 6 students had the opportunity to meet Ms. Mimi Law, the Education Manager of Plastic Free Seas. Ms. Law delivered a talk and shared how the disposal of plastic waste is taking an increasing toll on marine animals and affecting the food chain. During the talk, students learnt how they could contribute to tackling and slowing down this environmental problem, which include using reusable cutlery and containers as a habit and raising awareness by educating those around us. After the talk, the Primary 4 to 6 students had a fun time turning plastic waste into artworks. With the use of old plastic folders, students collaborated with one another and made some handmade Christmas wreaths to beautify the campus.



Lego City



Our Primary 2 girls had a fruitful afternoon on 2nd November 2018. Students were given Lego bricks to design and construct devices in rescuing animals from the Ice Age period. They were asked to take up challenges which required them to think outside the box, such as constructing a shipping container to transport an injured saber-toothed tiger to an animal hospital or a vehicle that can free a mammoth from being trapped in glacial ice. This learning experience enabled our students to build creatively and develop problem-solving skills through trial and error.



Fanling Environmental Resource Centre

Our Primary 3 girls took turns to go on an educational visit to the Fanling Environmental Resource Centre on 22nd and 25th October 2018. Through a special guided tour and interactive exhibitions, they learnt about plastic pollution and its impact on our living environment and other wildlife. The students also benefitted from learning how to reduce plastic waste in their everyday life by practising the different 3 Rs – reduce, reuse and recycle.

Primary 5 English Writing Workshop

"I was woken from my blissful sleep by a loud 'clang'. The shop keeper had accidentally knocked me over the shelf and I had a little dent on top of my forehead... From that day onwards, I've been sitting in the dark, cold, stiff corner of the shelf admiring my other friends taken to the counter and leave the shop happily with their new owner." This is an excerpt written by a

group of Primary 5 girls who learnt how to tell a story from different point of views – in this case, from the perspective of a chipped teacup in a kitchenware shop. At a workshop held on 25th October 2018, the Primary 5 girls honed their writing skills through stimulating activities which included a guessing game, class discussions and collaborative writing tasks. The classrooms were filled with busy chatter as the girls put their heads together to brainstorm ideas and craft their creative stories.



Home for the 100th Sheep

In May 2018, the school hosted a charity drive for an organisation in the Philippines that serves underprivileged children in the area. The organisation is called *Home for the 100th Sheep* and was founded in 2002 by Kaloi and Edna Ranario. Earlier in the school year, Edna gave a sharing during assembly, which allowed our girls to witness some of the good works that educators, like Edna, do for the children who are living in poverty.

The girls were asked to bring items to school to donate to the home during four specified days. Items were categorised into four main groups – clothes, toys, kitchen supplies, and school supplies. Before school and during certain break times, volunteers recruited from primary levels assisted with the collection of donations. This included moving each item from the collection point to the Project Rooms inside the library until the time came to pack them into shipping boxes.

During the packing of the items for shipping, many girls and their parents came in after school to help sort the items and put them into huge boxes. The collaborative effort from all put smiles on the faces of those in need and those willing to give to those in need.



Old Girls Assembly Sharing Series



Mrs. Julianna Young, a graduate of Diocesan Girls' School, a mother of three young children and a devoted Christian, has kindly joined the Junior School in a few sessions of morning assembly this year. An energetic, dynamic speaker, Mrs. Young's talks are always something students and teachers look forward to. Her messages about God are humorous, simple and insightful. She reminds us that we are 'beings and not doings' – God loves us because we are beings that he created with love and not because of all our worldly achievements. God doesn't want us to be under so much stress and pressure; instead, He wants us to have fun doing the things we love.

Mrs. Young also teaches us the importance of having a relationship with God, just like how we cherish our relationships with our families and friends by talking to them and spending time with them. When we quiet our hearts and open our eyes, we can see God reaching out to us in the most unexpected places. It could be in a dream, a picture, a street sign or anywhere. We too can cultivate a close relationship with God by praying to Him, singing songs of praise to Him, going to church to worship Him or taking a stroll along quaint streets with Him.