



ESTABLISHED 1860

DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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# DGS Celebrates another Glorious Year

### Speech Day December 2009

On 11th December, 2009, the Annual Speech Day was held for the very first time at our temporary school campus on 101 Castle Peak Road to celebrate the achievements of the students in the past academic year and to commemorate the legacy of DGS as she approaches her 150th anniversary. We were most honoured to be able to have Mr. Andrew K N Li, Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, and his wife as our Guests-of-Honour. In his address to the school, the Chief Justice shared his beliefs in education with us, stating that schools are but a means of education, to help prepare us for the future and to ensure that we had the knowledge and skills to face challenges in the coming years. He stressed on the importance of creativity and innovation, and that it was through mistakes in life that we learnt so much more. He complimented our school and our programs, expressing his confidence in the roots of our education, trusting that it would lead each one of us to a bright future and to become successful women in society who live out our school motto, "Daily Giving Service".

In her address, our Headmistress Mrs. Stella Lau noted how the last academic year 2008-2009 had been another exemplary year in all areas, with four students receiving 10 As in the HKCEE exams, and another student receiving top honours of 6 As in the A-Level Examination, accomplishments which she credits to "both the students' hard work and the teachers' dedication in helping their students realize their potential and achieve their best." She reported on how the school did extremely well in various Inter-school sports and music events. The ceremony came to a close with the Benediction by Bishop Thomas.

Once again, we are very proud that our school has been able to achieve so much in the year 2008-2009, a year of transition as we moved to the temporary school campuses to allow for the Redevelopment Project to take place at 1, Jordan Road. We shall look forward to even better results in the coming years.



Prizewinners on Speech Day



Headmistress Mrs. Stella Lau reporting on the school's achievements in the past academic year



The Honourable Chief Justice Li addressing the school



Speech Day audience in the Hall



# Academic Achievement

The HKCEE results day on 5th August, 2009 proved an especially joyful occasion for DGS. Four scholars achieved the perfect record of 10 As in the public examinations, while five students were awarded 9 As and five others scored 8 As. In this article we invite two of our girls, Joyce Chan and Vera Lo, who achieved two 5\*s and 8 As in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE), to share with us their insights on study habits.



Scholars with certificates in hand with Headmistress Mrs. Stella Lau on HKCEE results release day



**Name:** Joyce Chan

**Class:** L6Sc

**House:** Sawyer

**Subjects taken in HKCEE:** Chinese, English, Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, Religious Studies, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Computer and Information Technology

**Clubs and teams involved currently:**

Hockey Team, Chess Club

**Hobbies:** reading, writing, playing hockey, listening to songs, drawing and scribbling

Top scores do not just come from sheer luck alone. It comes from hard work and vigorous practice. Joyce believes one key ingredient of her success is her ability to be inquisitive and ask questions. In asking and answering questions, Joyce was able to gain more out of a subject rather than by merely learning passively. In addition, Joyce recommends doing adequate amount of exercises in order to clarify concepts and consolidate learning. Finally Joyce recommends getting enough sleep and not to overwork. Her motto is 'Play hard, rest hard, work hard!'



**Name:** Vera Lo

**Class:** L6Sc

**House:** Skipton

**Subjects taken in HKCEE:** Chinese, English, Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, Religious Studies, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Geography

**Clubs and teams involved currently:** Athletics Club, Chinese Literary Club, Citizens' Club, Cross-country Team, Electronics and Robotics Club, Library Team, Orienteering Team, School Band, School Orchestra

**Hobbies:** reading, running, watching television, surfing the net, hanging out with friends

As for Vera, she believes the most crucial point is to be attentive in class. Students often see such a basic obligation as trivial, but Vera thinks that the importance of concentrating in class and listening to teachers should never be underestimated. She explains that paying attention in class has saved her a lot of time in revising and reviewing lesson materials on her own, which gives her more time for rest.



# LANGUAGE EDUCATION

## International Independent Schools Public Speaking League Competition

In the first week of October, three Secondary 3 and three Secondary 4 students, together with our teacher Miss Ashley Lui, represented our School in the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition at Deerfield, Massachusetts, which had participants coming from independent schools all over the United States, as well as schools in Canada, Britain, Peru, Cyprus, Bermuda and Jordan. As the only contingent from China, we were very happy to represent the Hong Kong SAR in this event.

We competed in three categories: Impromptu Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, and Parliamentary Debate. After two rounds of heated competition, the finalists were announced on the last day. We were very ecstatic to note that our teammate Amanda Hwang was able to enter the finals for Impromptu Speaking. Although in the end we were not successful in coming out on top in the three categories, we all agreed that we had gained valuable experience and insight and learnt important lessons.

During our free time, the Academy also organized a variety of activities reflecting American culture, such as line dancing and a pool party. We also had the chance to explore the beautiful Deerfield campus and admire the New England fall foliage. I learnt not only to deliver a speech more effectively, I also got to see new sights, try out new things and meet new people, including the colourfully animated delegation from Peru. Simply put, it was truly an educational and inspirational experience, and I am very grateful to DGS for having given me the opportunity to participate in this competition.

Priscilla Yeung



Touchdown at Deerfield Academy



The DGS IISPC Team.



Exchanging pleasantries with the boys from Peru



Making new friends



DGS Teammembers at the Deerfield Academy Hall

