

Diocesan Llangollen Tour to the United Kingdom and Wales July 2010

PTA

After six months of planning meetings, some 400 exchanges of email between the Organizing Committee members and countless hours of rehearsals and hard work put in by the girls, Mrs. Dai, Mrs. Chiang and Mrs. Nam, the Diocesan Girls' Junior School Llangollen Choir (the DLC) finally landed with great excitement at Heathrow Airport on 6th July 2010.

"It had been my dream to go to Llangollen to participate in the singing competition since Primary 2, when I first saw the girls who had gone that year perform on stage."



Emma Poon 5B

"I had attended many competitions in Hong Kong, but never so dramatic as to attend the one in Wales."



Rachel Ann 6B

The Eisteddfod (Welsh for "festival") was truly rich and varied in musical entertainment from all over the world. On the afternoon after our arrival, our young singers participated in the Opening Parade – a joyous march through the tiny village of Llangollen with all the other participants from all over the world. It is difficult to describe the air of musical festivity and verve that pervaded the entire community, but clearly our girls (and their proud teachers and parents) were so caught up in that atmosphere that they were full of energy even though it was already well after midnight in Hong Kong time.

"People from all over the world sang and danced in costumes, holding flags and giving souvenirs to each other. I felt I was one of the contestants in the beauty pageant. I was proud and happy!"



Ines Chu 5B

"The wonderful weather at Llangollen on the day of the parade lifted my emotions and made me feel excited about the event. The screams and cheers from the people on the street made my heart beat loud and fast. Though we were shouting when we were supposed to sing, our music blended into the overall atmosphere."



Katrina Fung 6B



▲ A proud moment holding the National flag



▲ DLC girls and Mrs. Chiang in high spirits during the Opening Parade

"Walking in the dreamy site of Llangollen is really pleasant, with its scenery appealing to my eyes. It was so charismatic that I was totally absorbed in the enchanting view. The ample lush of greenery was bordered by little white tents, whereas every single one of them contained numerous treasures for us to discover."



Charlotte Wun 6A

"The many rehearsals, both tough and fun, never failed to get us focus and sing as one. Beautiful singing from countries apart, echoed by smiles and cheers from the heart."



Jasmine Wong 6B



DLC performing at the
"One World One Stage" concert at Llangollen

At the "One World One Stage" concert in which we were honoured enough to be invited to sing, our DGJS girls looked wonderful in their costumes and impressed the audience with their most entertaining performance. On the day of the competition, the DLC again looked fantastic and sang beautifully. They did not come first, but they certainly did us all proud as most of the choirs they competed against were made up of much older children and mixed choirs.



"More importantly, we learnt to work together as a team towards a common goal. The whole experience of having the opportunity to sing to thousands of people (or maybe even a million!) who appreciated our voices and the joy of music was in itself, very satisfying."



Jasmine Hodgson 5B

"I deeply appreciate the organizing PTA team, Mrs. Dai, Mrs. Chiang and Mrs. Nam for bringing us there. Even though we were not awarded with any prizes, I learnt a lesson that we should not regret if we tried our best. After all, the precious moments, regardless happiness or sadness, are deeply carved into my heart ever and forever."



Celeste Wu 5B

"The result is just a number that I will forget as I go on in life. But the experience is an unforgettable memory that will stay with me forever in my heart."



Michelle Mui 6B

"Though we didn't win the competition, I still won the best summer of my life."



Natalya Ho 6C

After the Eisteddfod, we went to Stratford-Upon-Avon where we not only took in the Shakespearean sights, we also visited a local school there, the Croft Preparatory School. There, the DLC and the Croft senior choir performed at a mini-concert followed by a lovely lunch given by Croft. Even in the short time that we were there, our girls managed to make some friends with the Croft children and all involved felt that they had benefited and learnt much from that exchange.



▲
DLC, Mrs. Chiang and Mrs. Nam
at the lake by Llangollen village

"During our brief stay, we got to know each other better and have developed a strong bond among all the choir members. Even with teachers, we chatted and laughed together as if we were good friends. The journey lasted for mere 10 days, but I am sure that to each of the participants, the memory is forever."



Tiffany Sham 5A

"I am honoured to be a DLC member, and would like to thank Mrs. Chiang for her tremendous effort and hard work in coaching us for the Llangollen choir competition. Even though we have not won in the competition, all of us thoroughly enjoyed and treasured the experience we had in summer, and are very thankful to our beloved music teachers."



Charis Yue 5B

▼ Fun at the Roman City of Bath



Thereafter, the "pure fun" part of the tour began, and we managed to take in a whirlwind tour of Oxford, Stonehenge and the Roman city of Bath, Windsor Palace, Legoland, and many sights in London, including the London Eye, Kew Gardens and Buckingham Palace, just to name a few. One highlight was the musical, Wicked, which we attended after a veritable feast in Chinatown. Another was a visit to a real Welsh Castle, Chirk Castle, where we met a medieval knight who looked quite young even though he told us he was more than 500 years old.



Enjoying the scenery of London in the London Eye



▲
Mrs. Dai, teachers and parent helpers
taking a moment to relax at Chirk Castle

The hotels we stayed in were very comfortable, and the tour buses and guides were very efficient and accommodating. It was an especial treat to go on holiday with our beloved music teachers and the Headmistress, no less. All in all, a most enjoyable and educational trip, and we were all very fortunate to have been able to participate in it.

"The trip to England has successfully ended, leaving happy memories and a beautiful ending. From a shy girl who doesn't know how to take care of myself without the help from my family, I have learnt a lot from my independent friends and the kind and smart aunts. Now I have become a smarter girl, and more than that, I know how to spend my money wisely."



Tsang Wing Yi 6B

"Our last summer trip was so much fun! It all started by learning how to pronounce the word "Llangollen" – a small dot on the map, a place where I have never dreamt of visiting, but ended up becoming one of my favourite places in the whole world!"



Jane Chloe Tung 5C

Healthy Eating Honours

Standing proudly at the entrance of DGJS, among other illustrious prizes, are two highly coveted EatSmart Accreditation Awards and Certificates, given to the school for the tremendous efforts it made last year in promoting healthy eating within the establishment. The credits do not belong to one single person, or just one team. It is the joint achievement of every member of the school, from Headmistress to teachers, students and parents alike.

In fact, out of 171 schools which took part in the Accreditation scheme last year, only six schools received such recognitions. Needless to say, DGJS did not take part simply because it was competing for awards. With the help of the PTA, the School has long been committed to cultivate a healthy eating culture for our girls.

Take the lunches, for example. By working closely with our lunch caterer, our lunchbox menus not only conform to the recommended "Golden Rule" of 3:2:1 (grains: vegetables: meats), they also contain "less salt, less oil and less sugar". Our teachers have also equipped themselves with sufficient healthy eating knowledge to ensure their monitoring of homemade lunches and snacks is effective. In the girls' Homework Record Books, parents may have already found "stamps" from teachers about bringing healthier food to school, and they are happy to comply.

In addition, there are various projects to strengthen nutrition education, including seminars and workshops for parents, as well as art assignments such as clay model lunch boxes and food pyramid posters for the girls. There is also the annual Fruits Day. Through these activities, both students and their parents relish the opportunity to think seriously about preparing quality meals!

The PTA looks forward to seeing all parties continue to work closely together, as we believe with good eating attitude, our children will develop healthily and learn more effectively.

*Mrs. Dai, Mrs. Sham and
our PTA Chairman Mrs. Yvette Ho
at the Eat Smart Accreditation Awards
Presentation Ceremony.*

