School Life
Gifted Young Scientists Workshop

This year, the Gifted Young Scientists Workshop members ended their last session with a BBQ cook off on our very own rooftop playground. As a year-end activity, our little scientists assembled a solar cooker from scratch in the new Science Centre. The students were eager to get cooking so the assembling process was intense and focused. Afterwards, the students were given UV film to protect their eyes from the intense sunshine. Students had to learn how to position their cooker so that the sunlight could roast their yummy marshmallows. Although we didn’t have any burnt marshmallows, the students were able to understand the principles of light reflection in this fun-filled activity.

One-Student-One-Flower Campaign

In this year’s One-Student-One-Flower campaign organized by The Leisure and Cultural Services Department, students were challenged to grow Cosmo Bipinnatus, a daisy-like flower with lacy leaves. After receiving the seedling in November, students worked hard to nurture the plant at home and recorded its growth process. Despite the Cosmo being a difficult species to grow, many of our students managed to cultivate the seedling into a full-grown plant with beautiful flowers. After 4 months, they brought back their plants to share their joy with their classmates. Students with the best plant in class were awarded an environmentally-friendly gift as an encouragement for their hard work in taking care of the plants.
Environmental and Gardening Club

Strictly speaking in Mathematics, one plus one equals two. However, in some special circumstances, one plus one is more than two. This all began last September.

Maybe it was the bareness, maybe it was the business or maybe it was for the betterment of the school. For whatever reason or reasons, a group of Pr.4 and Pr.5 students began to help green our newly completed campus. Like all past and present pioneers, they had to start from scratch. Every pot, every bag of soil opened and every seedling they planted was new to them. To some of the girls, it was the first time they had ever picked up a trowel or touched the soil. Under the instructions and supervision of their teachers-in-charge, these girls have given our school much delight and pleasure. Indeed, this group of girls has put in much of their time and effort to beautify and to promote the importance of a green campus.

Once a week during the Environmental and Gardening Club (EGC) meeting, they learn to plant seeds or transplant seedlings. They also learn the characteristics of different plants, how to water them, how much water and sunlight they would need or if they are indoor plants or for the outdoor. Not only do they “work” during the weekly meeting, often the EGC students have to give up part of their playtime during recess or lunch to water the plants or to do the weeding. Most of the members find that being a gardener is not easy, especially when they have to work under the hot sun. At times, while they are planting, someone would drop soil on their heads. At other times, water would seep into their socks and shoes, or the cracks of their fingernails are covered with soil. Once a member commented, “I didn’t know we need to have strong muscles.” This is dirty and messy work, and not at all lady-like.

However surprisingly enough, their sacrifice yields much inner satisfaction. The messiness and the heat did not deter their wish to work together and to make the school beautiful and homely. They find that nothing goes to waste. A tangerine to be preserved; a new seed from a wilted flower to be planted; a bug that lives among the leaves is to be respected; and every drop of their sweat is for a worthwhile cause. Together with the outing to an organic farm, the visit to the annual flower show and the environmental walk, the EGC students have gained the basic knowledge and skills of gardening as well as the understanding of their own endurance, the patience in working with each other and their appreciation of the beauty from Nature and from their hard work. With all these, one plus one means more than two.
Joyful Fruit Day

In order to increase students’ awareness of the importance of fruit in our daily diet, the school organized a “Joyful Fruit Day” on 29th March 2012. Besides enjoying fruit together with their class teachers during class period, students also expressed their creativity in the “Mini Fruit Platter” competition. Students cut a variety of fruit skillfully and created an array of artwork that is pleasing to the eyes, taste buds and body!

Library Fence

The spacious two-level DGJS library houses a big collection of beloved children’s books and has plenty of comfortable seating areas. One of our students’ favourite reading spots in the library is undoubtedly the Reading Cottage; a fairy tale inspired carpeted area complete with gingerbread walls, a brick fireplace and piles of soft, colourful cushions.

In the school’s relentless spirit to provide a cozy reading environment for its booklovers, DGJS’s art teacher Miss Chu and DOGA members have teamed up to build the newest addition to the Reading Cottage: a two-foot high fence that lines the nook underneath the staircase. Miss Chu and the DOGA members spared no effort in making the fence a sweet masterpiece befitting of its surroundings. With their creative talents and lots of precious time, they brought the fence to life by painting on it a scrumptious landscape of donuts, candies and sweet treats. A big thanks to our art teacher and DOGA members for their wonderful work in creating yet another terrific reading corner that will surely stir the imagination of our young readers.
Morning Assembly — by Miss A Lau

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.” Even today, after more than 30 years, I can still recite the old King James’ version of the Lord’s Prayer. Every morning in assembly at school in the UK, we would troop into the school hall, sing a hymn and pray whilst running the risk of being called ‘Rubbernecks’! If we were caught turning round.

Whilst we may not call girls ‘rubbernecks’ today at DGJS, many readers will no doubt remember their own morning assemblies and the feeling of school identity it engendered. To be able to see ourselves as part of a larger whole is an important part of our school experience. Even better than, at DGS we can combine this essential school experience with daily Christian worship.

The Junior School, as with the Senior School, follows a liturgy based on the Anglican year with prayers and paraphrased Bible readings. In addition to these readings, the Junior School also incorporates Christian talks, currently twice a week.

Whilst I take most of the talks, we are fortunate to also have speakers from St Andrew’s Church who began in March of 2012 to come once a month to the Junior School and of course, have for many years also undertaken our Easter and Christmas assemblies.

When originally asked to take over from Mrs. Stanis in 2009, it was with a fair degree of fear and trepidation that I agreed, but despite the oft nail biting times of preparation when perspiration has more in evidence than inspiration, I have found the experience challenging but also fun. From the start, it was obvious that since these were to be talks about God, then God would have to help me give them! Beginning with a series on the Lord’s Prayer, we have had body parts, Fruits of the Spirit, Bible characters and the ABC God with numerous bits in between. The girls have proved to be great sports when it comes to taking part in the assemblies, whether in helping present them or in being volunteer participants. Memorable events have seen the girls presenting the story of Moses through drama, squeezing toothpaste (and then trying to get it back into the tube), creating an indoor storm, speed eating jelly and taking part in a Miss Holy Competition. Teachers have also been good sports in leading action songs on stage and generally willing to be silly.
I have no illusions that the girls will remember everything (or even a part) that is said during assemblies, but it is my hope that with the aid of sights, sounds, movement and even smells, associations will be made with Christian teaching that will last, perhaps subconsciously, even into adulthood; associations that will prompt them to think about the Christian faith and their own understanding of it. If nothing else, I hope they realize that God is not boring!

It is a privilege for me to be able to share the good news of humanity’s redemption through Jesus with the girls and an added bonus that it can be done with so much fun and joy; but good things should always be shared, as we tell the girls! Far be it from us to keep such opportunities for fun to ourselves. Should parents find they have a hitherto unrevealed talent for public speaking to children, or have speakers they would want to recommend, we would love to hear from you. You never know: 20 years from now, your daughter may come up with a thought derived from an assembly that connects them with God. Now that would be a blessing.

Book Sharing by Clemence Yung from DGS

On 16th December 2011, Clemence Yung, who is a DGS student, came back to DGS at lunchtime to share the experience of writing and publishing her book, “Out of Love.” Clemence gave students an insight into the process from start to finish, from how the idea was conceived and developed to finding a publisher, editing and finally publishing.

Clemence traced her interest in books and reading to her early childhood. In addition to talking about her experience, Clemence gave valuable and practical advice on writing through discussing how she tackles the problems she has encountered. She stressed the importance of imagination and observation by explaining their contribution to ideas, plot and character development. Paying attention to daily life occurrences and good use of a rich imagination can help budding writers overcome the obstacles posed by young age and relative lack of life experience. Clemence also discussed the role of research and planning and described how it not only prevents the possibility of getting stuck due to not knowing what to write next, but also smoothens the writing process. On an ending note, Clemence encouraged the girls to read extensively, develop their vocabulary and writing skills and to never give up even when faced with difficulties. With dedication, writers will grow to love their stories and produce work that fascinates and captures the hearts of readers.