



DGS Captures Grand Prize in Silicon Valley

Technovation Challenge 2017

"With technology, we can do great things. Through Technovation Challenge, not only did we gain new knowledge from our own group mates, but we also cultivated life-long friendship with new friends from all around the world. Technovation opened a whole new chapter in our books, or should we say updated the apps of our lives?"

What is Technovation Challenge?

Technovation Challenge is the world's largest technology activity program for girls aged 10 to 18. The challenge offers girls around the world the opportunity to share their ideas of solving existing problems in their community through building a mobile app. Every year, more than 10,000 girls from 78 countries participate in the Challenge. Technovation Challenge also helps expand your field of vision and imagination. Opportunities for learning skills such as coding, promotion of the app and entrepreneurship are made available throughout the whole program. Five of us from the DGS programming team participated in the 2017 Technovation Challenge. We were very honoured to be named the winners of the junior division in the Hong Kong regional pitch. We also made it as one of the five junior finalist teams, and were rewarded with a chance to visit San Francisco for five days and participate the final pitch at Google headquarters in August. At the end of the whole program, to our surprise and delight, we were named the Grand Prize Winners for the Junior Section, out of teams from all over the world.

What is our app?

DCC, Dementia Care Companion is a personalised app made especially for dementia patients. We hope to delay the decline of cognitive ability of the patient through our app with interactive games and personalized alarms. Our games include Family Face Matching and Mahjong while the alarm function is personalised and settings can be changed by family members freely. Meanwhile, stress of caregivers could be relieved through our connected family app with a location sensor and analytical statistics. Ultimately, we aim to improve patient's health condition and encourage more bonding between family members and patients through this platform.



We first spotted this serious problem in Hong Kong when our friend shared her experience of her having difficulties in communicating with her Grandpa, who is suffering from dementia. From this, we saw that there could be a real impact on the whole family if we could solve some of the problems. Last year, when our IT teacher introduced us to this competition, we thought that it would be a great chance for us to use our knowledge and skills to help the others, by really making a real app for them and raising awareness about this problem. Therefore, we designed our app, Dementia Care Companion.



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What we learnt from our experience?

The field of Computer Science has long been dominated by men, and girls, like us, are often underrated in the field. However, through this competition, we met girls from all around the world, from students like us to successful female entrepreneurs who are truly passionate about computer science and technology. This greatly motivated us to continue in discovering our interests in computer science. Seeing girls around us being so passionate about their apps and the development of technology, we felt very moved. We feel like we are more determined than ever to help others with our app, and be just as passionate as those girls.



Everyone can make a change in the world. Even if you think what you are doing now is insignificant, it might change the world one day.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas... Almost

Mini Bazaar 2017

This year's annual mini bazaar was held on 19 December, 2017. Junior and Senior DGS students, parents, teachers and old girls reunited as one family for the much-anticipated event. This year's bazaar was made up of over 30 sales stalls and 15 game stalls for the school and multiple booths set up by outside organisations.

The event commenced with an inspirational speech presented by a DGS old girl, Joyce Samoutou-Wong, who, after her career at DGS has gone on to open an eye clinic in the Democratic Republic of Congo following God's calling. Immediately after the Opening Ceremony, eager students and parents rushed towards their targeted stalls to purchase their favourite products.

Of the DGS-branded products sold this year, many of them displayed innovation and were extremely popular. For instance, some of the newly introduced products include cushions, round melamine dishes and luggage belts. Additionally, several external organizations joined us in celebrating this joyous event. St. Andrew's Church, for example, set up a dart game; while the Lutheran Social Services, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Patient Resource Centre, and the Fu Hong Society came to sell charitable products and food to raise money for the needy. Moreover, 11 students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities from the Mary Rose School were invited to attend the Mini Bazaar, sharing the warmth and joy of the Christmas season with our girls.

The jovial atmosphere was complemented with the reappearance of the Song Dedication Booth. Heartwarming messages were read aloud, while popular 2017 party bops and Christmas songs were played as current students and old girls reunited at the DGS Plaza to a frenzy of cheers.

In the lower form classrooms on the 4th to 6th floor, Junior School girls could be found running enthusiastically with smiles painted on their faces, from one game stall to another. The excitement to fill up their stamp sheets came from, yet again, the abundant supply of prizes at the Prize Collection Centre. In particular, Bella the Bunny served as our mascot and featured as the extra-large prize this year. Her cute appearance certainly attracted attention from the masses as adults and children alike hurried to bring a Bella home.

This year's Mini Bazaar could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of the teachers' committee and a student committee consisting of prefects from the class of 2019, and students in charge of various stalls. Congratulations to everyone involved, it was an exciting and successful day in the life of DGS.



A Day to Celebrate!

DGS Speech Day 2017



The evening of the 24th November witnessed the jubilation and excitement of the Speech Day 2017. In this joyous evening, students were praised for their achievements and development under the five pillars of DGS education - steadfastness in learning, sensitivity towards beauty, stamina for sports, generosity in service and spiritual nurturing. It is the occasion when graduates, parents, students, and distinguished guests showed warmly their appreciation of the prize recipients' perseverance and commitment to excellence.

During the ceremony, our Headmistress Mrs. Lau shared with us her pride in the achievements of our girls in the academic year 2016-2017. She highlighted the outstanding performance of our fellow students in sports, music, and community service and reminded us of the imperative to adapt to the rapidly changing environment in the age of innovation and technology. In addition to our priorities of nurturing scholarship and virtue, the School will also put new emphasis on STEM education and technology training in our curriculum, in order to better prepare our graduates for the challenges in this dynamic world.



We were especially honoured to have Professor Tony F. Chan, President of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, to be our guest of honour. In his address, he shared with us his experiences and insights on how best to navigate the tech-saturated society. He advised us to capitalize on our own youth to realize our ambitions and dreams. His advice is timely and invaluable for those are us who are in our final year of DGS education and find everything overwhelming and confusing. As a leader with rich experience in academia and education, Prof Chan reassured us that though life might not go as expected, we could also be pleasantly surprised by where life leads us. He concluded that an open mind, willingness to learn and adaptability are valued qualities in a young person, echoing Mrs. Lau's words of encouragement.

As the applause congratulating the prize recipients faded into solemnity again, the Head Girls and Deputy Head Girl represented the student body to give the Votes of Thanks in English, Cantonese and Mandarin respectively. On behalf of the graduates, they expressed their gratitude to the Headmistress, teachers, parents, and classmates for their support and encouragement over the years. The evening concluded with a benediction by the Right Reverend Andrew Chan, praying for our Father's sustenance and guidance as we persevere on the road to excellence.



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30 Years and Counting: DGS Victory at the Division One Swimming Championships 2017



After 8 hours of tough competition at the Kowloon Park Swimming Pool, our swimmers' incredible effort and dedication enabled them to achieve outstanding results. The team experienced the joy of hard work paying off as they reaped the fruits of success – winning the Inter-school Division One Swimming Championships for the 30th consecutive year.

DGS has set 6 new records in 4 individual events and 2 replay events. Jenna Cheung set a new record in the A Grade 200m Breaststroke, while the relay team comprising Wong Cho Ying, Sharron Chan, Chan Tsz Ching and Hung Hiu Yan set another record in the a Grade 4x50m Freestyle relay. In B Grade, Ho Nam Wai set a record in the 200m Freestyle while the relay team made up of Ho Man Wai, Carissa Chan, Lai Lok Yee and Leung Hui Tung set a new record in the 4x50m Freestyle relay. In C Grade Wong Sze Ting swam her heart out, setting two new individual records in the 50m Freestyle and the 200m Freestyle.

We were especially delighted to capture this honour in the presence of our Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who officiated the ceremony on this occasion. We could not have reached such heights without the hard work and dedication of all our swimmers, past and present, dating back to 1988. With continued support from the DGS family and our esteemed Headmistress Mrs Lau, we hope to carry on the Diocesan legacy in the years to come.

A New Sport on the Block: DGS Rugby Team

Can you imagine girl's playing a contact sport like rugby? Well, it may well seem like a foreign concept to most, but we at Diocesan Girls' School (DGS) are never afraid of a challenge. Rugby has many frightening aspects such as tackling, rucks and scrums – totally barbaric. Now you might be wondering, why would girls be willing to participate in such violence and aggression? We're here to show that women are just as competitive as men in the sport and there is a sense of belonging and community that we've experienced. Three months ago, most of us started with little or no knowledge of rugby. Now we are taking everything in our stride.

Over the past sixteen weeks, many new friendships have been formed as we have embraced this ultimate team sport. Each and every one of us is committed, devoted and ready to put the team above individual achievement. Everything we do, we do for each other. With socks folded neatly to just under the knee, bright neon cleats and sets of new rugby uniforms, we can still recall that chilly Saturday morning that marked the first day of the interschool A and B grade girls' rugby sevens competition.

It felt special to be in the first DGS rugby team, and representing DGS for the first time ever on the field of rugby sevens was an exhilarating experience. We are grateful for everyone who came to cheer for us, especially for Mrs. Lau's support as we added a new chapter to the sporting history of DGS. After 4 rounds of keen competition we were ecstatic to be placed 3rd in this, our first year of competition.

We've worked hard to win each game, through which we realised the true meaning of teamwork. It's more than just cooperation, more than just trust. We fight for each other, and bleed for each other; we go through the pain barrier for our teammates, and they do the same for us; we stay together tightly-knitted, and overcome battles with combined strength.

So hands in, and on three: DGS Brilliance! We've had our obstacles and injuries, but our strong companionship allows us to overcome any battle, for we have fought, bled, won, lost, laughed and cried together. May we persevere through hardships and leave no stone unturned as we strive towards our highest level of performance. Rugby has become one of our life passions – so here's to training hard, playing hard, and having no regrets.

