

DRAGON CHRONICLES

Issue no. 7 Volume 1



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Over the past five years, CISM's student population has been increasing. Currently, the school has more than students from different nations such as America, Japan, Korea, Europe, Pakistan, among others. Thus, it is important that students embrace each other's cultural differences and accept subtle contrasts in our ways of thinking.

At CISM, United Nations Day (5) is celebrated yearly, with this year being no exception. Aside from selling food, playing games, parading costumes, and learning each other's customs and traditions, we want to be more aware of the ideas of respect, pleasant camaraderie, and a unifying spirit within the CISM community. We also aim to have deeper understanding and promote true acceptance.

Learning to respect each other's cultural differences also holds true when attending conferences. Recently, eight Upper school students participated in a Global Issues Network Conference held in Singapore (GINSING)(9). The students, Andy, Megan, Caitlin, Neil, Spencer, Karen, Steffi, and myself, interacted with students from various international schools. Each of us was assigned to tackle a particular global issue and come up with sustainable solutions that could be implemented in our schools. To accomplish this task, we worked with fellow delegates whom we've never met before, but got along with as time went by.

In all, the GINSING conference not only raised our awareness on the various global issues we must collectively deal with, but also made us more conscious of appreciating and embracing individual differences.

In our own communities, it is also important that we respect and empathize with the less fortunate (3). Last August, the severe flooding in Metro Manila brought out the community spirit in a number of CISM students who immediately responded to requests for donations of clothing, food and cleaning supplies. The students packed these relief goods, which were then distributed to flood victims in Taguig City. As I write this, parts of our country have been ravaged, once again, by a typhoon. Let us do our share in helping the victims by donating goods and volunteering our time in on-going relief efforts.

To close, RESPECT, is so important in our daily lives. For the CISM student body to become stronger and more united, it is important that we go beyond tolerance to achieve a truly global community. Happy Holidays, everyone!
Serena

Helping others one step at a time

By: Serena
Grade 10

Last August 8, 2012, widespread flooding occurred in Manila due to the convergence of monsoon rains and a tropical storm. While classes in Manila were suspended for a week, most of the students took time to help out in their own communities, and CISM students were no exception. A few days after the suspension of classes, a text message was sent asking students to donate and help pack relief goods. A number of them responded immediately, and came to school eager to extend their help.

With cooperation and teamwork, the students sorted out and packed abundant lots of relief goods donated by fellow classmates and their families. Parents also helped out, and organized items such as rice, canned goods, soap, and clothes.

Afterwards, some students went to the Taguig City Hall to distribute assorted foodstuffs and clothes to flood victims in the area. With the help of Mayor Lani Cayetano and her staff, the event went smoothly

and grateful recipients had smiles on their faces. Kuya Kim Atienza was also on hand as he captured the children's attention with his usual ebullience.

As the day drew to a close, students felt a tinge of sadness mixed with happiness; their only hope is being able to continue spearheading such events, knowing that slowly but surely, they can be counted on to uplift more lives.



Billie distributing relief goods to flood victims



A banner Taguig City hall made for CISM



From left to right: Dr. Oraa, Mrs. Atienza, Mayor. Lani Cayetano, Justin, Madeleine, Maxine, Billie, Serena, and Chloe



CISM volunteers cheerfully giving out relief goods

Across the world in one day

By: Maxine
Grade 11

After a week of planning, the Upper School celebrated their United Nations Fair last Wednesday, October 24. They represented countries from across the world; the Grade 6 class represented Spain; Grade 7, China; Grade 8, France; Grade 9, Korea; Grade 10, USA; and Grade 11 and 12, Japan. Parents, teachers, and students all supported one another by participating in the activities and purchasing food or products from each booth, making the fair very successful. Not only were students selling food items but everyone was also dressed in their native costumes. The most memorable costumes were those of the Grade 10 students dressed as Spider Man and some of the Avengers: Iron Man, Black Widow, and Hawk Eye. Many also put in great effort to decorate their booths based on themes such as a French bakery and an American Diner. However, the best part of the fair was the food. My personal favorites were the Korean Spicy Squid and Chap Chae, Mochi ice cream from the Japanese booth,

as well as Milk Tea from the French booth. The day turned out to be a great success and a timely break from our academics.



Gr 7's China booth



Gr 8's France booth



Gr 9's Korea booth



Gr 10's USA booth



Gr 11 and 12's Japan booth



Maxine and Bille selling Japanese goods



CISM students flocking to different booths

Lower School

Filipiniana Week

By: Gabe and Brianna

Grade 4-L

The Lower School celebrated Filipiniana Week from August 28-31, 2012.

We had an assembly where our new Grade 5 teacher, *Ginoong* Ed Gascon taught us how to say some Filipino greetings such as *Magandang umaga at Magandang tanghali po*, *Ginoo at Ginang*, and *Salamat po*. In Filipino, it is customary to say “po” or “opo” to show respect for our elders. Other activities included were a Filipino read aloud, and food-making session. Some students and teachers wore Filipino costumes, like *baro’t saya* and *barong tagalong*. For the food making activity, Pre-K prepared yummy *tsokalate*, Grade 1 *buko pandan*, Grade 2 tasty *palitaw*, Grade 3 creamy *polveron*, Grade 4 delectable *minatamis na saging*, and Grade 5 chewy *palitaw*, sticky *suman* and, *puto* from Laguna. As a culminating activity, students were encouraged to come to school in their best Filipino costumes.

At the end of the week, we all had a great experience and we hope to have it again next year!



Lower school students enjoying buko pandan



Lower school students beaming for the camera



**Lower school staff: Top L-R: Lucas, Gabe, Brian, Brianna, Annika
Bottom: Xam, Dominic, Joshua**

Grade 11 and 12 Business Trip

By: Isabel

Grade 11

Last September 24, 2012, students from the Grade 11 and 12 IB Business Management class went on a half-day field trip to two companies in Metro Manila, accompanied by Mr. Azarcon and Mr. Caballero. The students were exposed to a real-life business setting and were able to visit a company, Ayala Land Industries (ALI), and a non-profit organization, Tulay sa Pag-unlad, Inc. (TSPI). The students had a meaningful time learning about the businesses, and enjoyed the presentations that the companies prepared.

From ALI, students learned how to develop effective mission and vision statements, and essential skills for managing business enterprises. The students participated in a Q & A session with ALI and raised questions on the differences between stakeholders and shareholders, management communication processes, and corporate objectives mapping. In TSPI, the students learned about micro financing and lending activities that aid the less fortunate. They also participated in a Q&A regarding TSPI's mission and vision statement, operational objectives, and socially responsible projects. Overall, the students learned about two different kinds of enterprises that could prove useful in their IB Business class.



From left to right: Karen, Gabby, Angeline, Isabel, Steffi, Maxine, Justin, Marlon, Greg, Suk Chan, Mr. Jaime Caballero, Mr. Ernie Azarcon, Luke



Billie, Maxine, Pyo, and the rest of the 11th and 12th graders listening to a presentation by Ayala Land Industries

Book Week



UN Day



My GIN Experience

By: Neil

Grade 10

Global Action Network Group Day 1

During our first meeting, we started by playing an icebreaker. Our facilitators gave us different topics to discuss, and we had to engage ourselves for 30 seconds. This way, we all got comfortable with one another. Then, we presented PowerPoints on how other schools help those who are affected by natural disasters, and what we want to learn from the Global Issues Network (GIN) conference. Andy and I gave a geographical backgrounder of the Philippines to the members of the Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (NDPM) group. We discussed how and why the Philippines is affected by numerous natural disasters, and facts about how many disasters take place each year. Next, we also mentioned that we at CISM want to spearhead projects that allow us to respond to natural disasters more rapidly and efficiently, and how other schools can reproduce this natural disaster response initiative. I was able to take notes on visual presentations made and topics discussed. For example, most of the schools help victims of natural disasters by raising money through bake sales and amateur performances. This way, they are able to donate the money raised for direly needed supplies and equipment. Another popular proposal was to organize relief drives in the event of a disaster.

GANG Day 2

During the succeeding meeting with the NDPM group, delegates agreed to focus on horrific effects caused by tsunamis. Both facilitators and delegates used Trello, a website where people can arrange information, brainstorm solutions to weaken tsunamis' force and lessen damages from tsunamis. For example, one suggestion was to elicit donations and use the funds to help a country's government construct sea walls. We then agreed to develop an awareness campaign by creating a video that showcased what the NDPM group discussed and accomplished.

Gang Day 3

The NDPM group divided themselves into two. Andy and some other members illustrated diagrams on the whiteboard. On the other hand, I was one of those making the outline of the issues that the delegates discussed. For instance, we wanted to raise awareness by teaching younger children about tsunamis and how they can help.

Afterwards, I helped Andy by coordinating with other members about the music, images, and graphics to be added to the video.

Reflection:

Attending GIN was a good experience for me. Through the discussion groups, presentations, and interactions with delegates that I had just met, my confidence was boosted. I was able to share creative ideas among other students that can be implemented in our school, and in the larger community surrounding CISM. The inspirational video entitled, "Dead Generation", could be a catalyst to the CISM community as a whole and inspire them to step up and make positive changes in their own backyards.

Give peace a chance

By: Madeleine

Grade 10

When John Lennon was senselessly murdered on 8 December 1980, thousands of people instantaneously gathered around Central Park in New York to mourn his passing. They carried posters, flowers, and lit candles, as they sang his songs calling for world peace. It was a poignant moment – complete strangers held each other’s hands, comforting each other, sharing each other’s grief. The scene was so moving that for an instant it seemed equanimity could reign after all.

More than thirty years later, our society is nowhere near achieving John Lennon’s call for peace. The world has become more chaotic with despotic leaders claiming to bring justice and freedom to people. The news is constantly riddled with reports of massacres, wars, and betrayals. Despite growing social awareness on the plight of the less fortunate, there are still horrors existing like the Chocolate Child Slaves in Africa, sweatshops in Asia, human trafficking all over the world. Even Mother Nature is plundered; there is no harmony anywhere. With only one life to live, how can we choose to live it so wastefully?

There is so much hate in the world that even going to a movie can prove fatal, as in the Colorado killings that rendered twelve dead and fifty-nine injured. It seems that the human race has developed an art for destruction, turning even pleasurable events into macabre occurrences. Where indeed is our humanity?

If we can just but take a step back and evaluate our situation, we can hopefully rediscover our morals and sensibilities. For all the havoc and lawlessness, it is not too late to create a world where discrimination is a bygone word and anarchy is as scarce as snow in the summer. If we act like the people who gathered that bleak day when the music died, we can rekindle our innate good. As John Lennon once said, “You many say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one.” Therefore, let us all imagine – let us all dream John Lennon’s reality.

Pinagsama Day Care Center

By: Lucas

Grade 4-P

Lower School Interview

By: Xam

Grade 4-P

Last year was the beginning of our service learning classes. Last November, we started service learning and talked about the things we could do for our school project, such as helping Pinagsama Day Care Center. We separated our goals into two categories, short-term and long-term goals. All grade levels donated basic items such as school supplies, books, and toys. Grade 1's short-term goals were donating school supplies and food. Their long-term goals were setting up a playground set, painting the school, cleaning and improving the bathrooms, planting grass, and fixing the computer. Grade 2 donated basic needs and items. Grade 3 donated a first aid kit, a school bag with school supplies, books, and posters. Grade 4 L and A donated basic things and suggested lots of long-term goals such as fixing the structure of the school. Lastly, Grade 5 donated the basic materials and suggested long-term goals such as remodelling the bathrooms and the structure of the day care center. They also gave names of their parents who are architects. These long-term goals were given to the teachers to be presented to the mayor of Taguig City so we could get the approval to start the building construction.

Our donations were segregated into 9 boxes last January 2012. The Lower School Service Learning Committee did this. These boxes are still in school because the day care center needs more space. This year, service learning is going to be more meaningful due to the recent faculty seminar on Service Learning by Ms. Cathryn Kaye. The students will be more involved. Lower School will surely give the children of the day care center something to look forward to this year.

Do you like studying in CISM? What do you like about CISM? What is a new experience for you in CISM?

"Yes because we get cubbies and love doing art. The teachers make studying fun. My new experience is the Filipiniana Week."- Dominic Alexander, Grade 4

"Yes, because there is a playground and I like the subject P.E I like CISM because P.E is fun for me and there are clubs. A new experience for me is the new clubs I can join."- Christopher, Grade 2

Poems

Meaning of my Love

By: John

Grade 8

As the days go by, and the seasons change,
The meaning of my love remains ever so
strange,
You give depth to the worth of my lonely life,
This heart of mine stops, as you end its
prolonged strife,
My feelings flutter, as you would pass by,
No matter what you did, you'd catch my eye,
Though you never noticed the way I looked
at you then,
You knew deep down, my love was more
than other men,
Continuously, I would fantasize our affair,
While I stared at you, you were completely
unaware,
I never understood, why we could never be,
When my eyes implied, they wanted more
than camaraderie,
Courage seemed like it was not part of my
heart,
But the lack of it, only brought us further
apart,
As the emptiness brought ample despair,
Its mostly likely fate, keeping us from being
a pair,
Maybe it was I, or the forces above,
That wants to express, the meaning of my
love.

Winter

By: Pamela

Grade 7

No matter how cold or cruel it be,
Winter oh how I love thee.
From the way you make the birds and
geese flee,
To the way you whisper softly to me.
And no matter how harsh your wind blows,
I am the only one who truly knows.
Your solitude resides in my happiness and
when I am happy,
I am alone.

Art works

The Morning Jog



By: Annika
Grade 4



By: Pamela
Grade 7



By: Angela
Grade 8

Movies to watch out for in 2013

By: Karen

Grade 11

MOVIES TO WATCH OUT FOR IN 2013



GI JOE: RETALIATION (MARCH)



THE GREAT GATSBY (MAY)



IRON MAN 3 (MAY)



KICK ASS 2 (JUNE)



DESPICABLE ME 2 (JULY)



THOR (NOVEMBER)