



PTA Bulletin



Issue 2 /2019-20 (Nov - Jan 2020)

Home and School Together

Quarter 2 Highlights

We wish you all a happy, prosperous and healthy new year of 2020.

Quarter II has always been a busy one and flashed by in an instant while students and teachers were preparing for multiple events and celebrations. Here are the highlights of those important happenings.

Halloween Events

Halloween day was filled with fun with colorful and scary costumes parade by students and staff members on 31st October 2019. The Halloween of today is when children dress up as ghouls, ghosts and witches and demand treats from neighbours and also face a threat of trick. This custom has begun in the United States where the Irish immigrants introduced this custom in the early 19th century.

Students enjoyed the day in their scary costumes and student council decorated the school with skeletons, witches and scary pictures all around.





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PTA Evening:

The principal addressed the important topics of university options, career cruising, overseas trips, grading system and requirements for graduation during the parents evening on 01st November 2019. PTA Annual General Meeting was held on the same day with the discussions on involvement of parents for forthcoming events.

Parents evening is a wonderful opportunity for parents to discuss with every subject teacher, about their child's progress. If you have missed this day, you have another opportunity on the 03rd April 2020. It is strongly recommended to attend this meeting with the student, to have a fruitful discussion with the subject teachers to look out for next steps of progress in academics.



UNICEF Talk:

UNICEF HK organizes various educational activities to promote children's rights in primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. Students learn about the life of children around the world through videos and life stories. We had one such session on 05th November 2019 for all grade levels. It brought in a global awareness of about how the lack of education, nutrition, hygiene, medical facilities and impacts of poverty affects children around the world.





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Poverty Campaign:

Collaboration is needed in this era as people are touched and would like to express their feelings through actions. No church, organization or professional sector can alleviate, combat to prevent poverty alone. Hence students, who are future global citizens, should be shaped with a kind and caring mentality to extend a helping hand to the poor in their community.

An assembly session was conducted by Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor (HKCNP) on 12th November 2019 as an approach to connect and empower our students to become aware of the community around them and to create a feeling of care and support towards the poor and needy.

Students understood how blessed they are to be able to have all their needs and wants satisfied. They also realised that poor children who are also the children of the loving Heavenly Father, should be remembered and the need to share and care was emphasised. Students brainstormed varied simple ways to help the poor in day today life. We hope to bring in a mental frame of love, empathy and kindness in their hearts to serve and share with the community around them.



Concordia Professional Development at Shenzhen:

Professional development programs are very important for educators to keep up with the pace of development in the field of education and to improve their professional knowledge, skills and to explore innovative pedagogies to cater to variety of student population. Concordia offers varied professional development programs for teachers in Hong Kong and China every year. This conference was held on 15th and 16th November 2019 at Buena Vista Concordia International School in Shenzhen this year.

The keynote speaker Dr. Vicki Anderson from Concordia University, Nebraska, USA, conducted courses on differentiation, feedback for better learning and principles of assessments for English language learners. A variety of sessions on effective teaching techniques based on student learning needs and pedagogies for improving reading and writing skills were focussed on. The importance of Service learning in education was emphasised. These programs help teachers to achieve high standards of teaching in order to prepare the student to be independent and lifelong learners.





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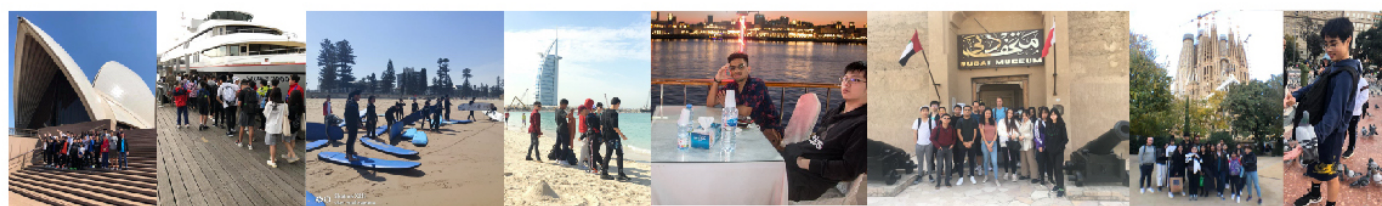
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Activity Week:

Overseas field trips offer more experiences than mere learning outside the classroom. In today's scenario, students must develop to be global citizens to compete in this world full of challenges and changes.. The true educational value of overseas trips is apparent when we see the impact they have on students. These trips give a chance to bring in a personality development and work towards enhancing the confidence levels while teaching to adapt to different social situations. It is very evident that such knowledge and skills gained from these trips cannot be acquired in the classroom setting.

This year we had three overseas destinations - Dubai, Barcelona and Australia. A variety of activities were offered in Hong Kong for those students who did not go overseas. The trips were full of adventure and action that made amazing experiences that students will cherish and reflect on in their lives.

Here are some of the student's reflection about their overseas trips.



"I went to a fantastic trip where I learned the history of Sydney. It was a really interesting trip. I made many nice and generous friends. There were a lot of activities, some boring and some amusing. My favorite activity was climbing on the Sydney bridge. The landscape was amazing! If I can, I will absolutely go to Sydney again!" - Alex, Grade 8.

"This is my first time to travel to Australia and join the school overseas trip at school. I was so excited. In this trip, I expected to get some exposure of this famous city, their cultures and taste their food. Also, to develop taking care of myself and get along with other schoolmates. I think my objectives were all achieved. It was a nice trip and I enjoyed every activity arranged on each day. The bridge climbing was my most favourite activity. I had no fear of heights and the city view from the top of the bridge was very beautiful. We took a group photo there which was unforgettable." - Oscar, Grade 10

"In this trip to Sydney, my favorite place is climbing the Sydney Bridge. I enjoyed a lot of scenery on the Sydney Bridge and it was very exciting. And learning to surf is also my favorite part. I really felt the thrill and joy of surfing on the surfboard." - Vincent, Grade 11.

"My favourite part of my trip in Sydney was we went to have a Bridge climb at Sydney Harbour Bridge. It was an unforgettable experience because I climb up to a high level of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. I'm always afraid of high buildings and I have to go up with my team together. We spent 30 minutes to go up to the bridge and it was very scary for me. At the end, I made it to the top with my team. I am proud of myself because I overcome my fear and it was a very memorable experience." - Alen, Grade 8

"Today, we came across many plants and insects in the Wetland park. But one plant sparked our interest a lot. It's called 'White Mulberry', which is an herb. We learnt that different parts of White Mulberry, including powdered leaves and velamina, are most commonly used for medicine. The white mulberry fruit is an antioxidant, and it is high in vitamin C, iron, potassium and magnesium. It can be used to treat diabetes, high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, a sore throat, and the common cold. The fruit can also be used for food, which can be either both raw or cooked to eat. In the past, white mulberry was cultivated to feed the silkworms for the production of silk. It was introduced into the United States in colonial times, during an attempt to establish a silk industry. The wood is very flexible and durable and has been used to make tennis rackets, hockey sticks, furniture, and boats. We learnt a lot about other plants too, but white mulberry caught our attention. Below are all the pictures we took during our trip to Wetland Park." - Maryam, Grade 10



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Career Talk:

PTA sponsors guest speakers from different expertise to host a career talk aiming at providing students with an understanding of a wide range of career choices available. Students receive necessary information about the subject requirements at the high school level and the course availability at different universities around the world. The achievement of school wide learner outcomes are emphasised.

In line with the above, on 3rd December 2019, we had a career talk by Dr. M. Lim, who is a general practitioner and the mother of our grade 8 student. A holistic view of varied challenges on choosing to work in the field of Medicine and the requirements for the possibility of embarking upon one of the most dynamic careers was given by Dr. Lim. It was well emphasised that all of our SWLO is to be completely achieved to succeed in this path.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Lim for her precious time and effort spent to enlighten our students about the requirements to enter the field of medicine.



Christmas Celebration:

Concordia Christmas was a grand event with student performances, PTA charity food sale and student dramas. Parents set up their booths for selling food to students in order to raise money for charity. Christmas is a time to share and care. Thanks a ton to these parents for their great effort, time and support. Thanks to all students for spending generously to support the community we live in. An amount of HKD 4,172 was raised and the same was donated to Mother's Choice, Hong Kong.

There were students dance and songs from every grade. Thanks to great effort and time of students council members facilitated by Mr. Cha for putting all things together to present this grand celebration. There were two PTA sponsored drama performances by grade 7 and grade 10 students. The dramas were about the birth of Jesus Christ and what Christmas actually means. This boosted students' confidence to perform on stage and improved their English language, dialogue delivery and acting techniques. Thanks to drama teacher Ms. Jardin and ESL teacher Ms Pineda for working with students over the quarter to make this happen and thanks to Ms. Sivakumar for coordinating and facilitating the whole process. Here are some student reflections.

"Before I join this drama and stand on this stage, I could never believe that I can perform like this. It makes me feel confident in my self and also increases my courage! After this drama, I'll never scared by standing on the stage. I like it when I'm talking to others on the stage, this interact makes me feel I'm not alone. I learned that we need to speak louder and powerful in the stage, it'll have more charm! After a lot of practice, I think I can do better than before. I don't want to re-perform rapidly, but just in current, after more practice, I'll come back." - Jenny, Grade 7

"I thought that I'll forget all my line but I just forgot 1 line. I think I am more confident now. Behind the scene. I used to watch the drama as an audience, but now I am going to perform it. I learn confident from Eunice, Katie, and Karlie. I also learn to be serious from Jenny." - Sophia, Grade 7.

"I never thought I could be the center of the stage. this experience made me slightly more comfortable on stage, since i got used to it after so many days of rehearsal, and coincidentally that's my favourite part, the process of the play. I learnt so much from Miss Jardin, she taught me a lot about acting and overall improvement of speaking. It really depends on what the title or story is for me to want to do it over and over again, but if it's something i find interesting then yes." - Will, Grade 7

"I went up to the stage and performed in front of people. I feel very embarrassed because the drama didn't go smooth. I love preparing the props because it is fun. I learn to practice is important." - Harris, Grade 7



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Chairman's message about the charity food sale:

We raised \$ 4,172 during our Christmas Charity Food Sales on Dec 19 2019. This year, many parents participated and provided many kinds of food such as Christmas cookies, jellies, chicken, sushi, homemade buns, pizzas, chocolates, etc. It was a good time to build up relationships with teachers and other parents.

We cannot succeed without all your support. Really appreciate all of you! Welcome to join and support the school activities. Thank you all, once again.

Great applause to all parents and Ms. Sivakumar to have organised this fabulous event. This has been an avenue of giving opportunities to many students to gain more confidence, improve language abilities and get a feeling of being an integral part in Concordia community. Three cheers to all parents, students and teachers!!!



Dr. Carter's Column

A Time of Testing

How long after school resumed after Christmas break did the signs go up, the schedule for examinations? There it was: starting 16 January, a time of testing.

The first test, of course, is that students must sit their exams. How many other "tests" come at the same time? Faculty have to set the exams. Staff may help to move chairs and desks. Parents and family are "tested" by the tension or attitudes, or results, of their students. As Religious Counselor for CIS I know that many religions offer teachings or practices about times of testing, in school or out---in health, in family, in work, etc.

This point appears, from the Christian context of CIS: the time of testing for Jesus. This can refer to the stories of Jesus suffering, just before Easter. But these times of testing for Jesus begin with Christmas. The Christian tradition tells the story that Jesus came to be tested because we are so much tested. The 14 January Religion Assembly finished with this point: that little Christmas baby could be called by the name or title, "Immanuel." That name means, from the Hebrew language, "God with us"---also in our times of testing.





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Sports @ Concordia:

The Concordia Wolves continued sports with basketball, cross-country, and football, in Season 2. The cross-country team ran in a competition against 4 other schools on December 4th. Congratulations to Fiona for placing the 2nd best time amongst the U16 girls, and to the other runners for representing the Concordia with pride and honor. The football team is working on improving their skills to get ready for league competition in the future. They played 2 friendlies against other schools during this season. The football team gained good experience playing against Renaissance College on January 8th, and against Carmel School on January 22nd. The basketball team played a friendly against Korean International School on January 14th. They played again on January 21st for the Bronze division championship against The Harbor School and Korean International School.

Sign ups for Season 3 and 4 have concluded but the results are still being finalized. Possible sports include badminton and volleyball. Additionally, we have an opportunity for an official table tennis coach to come teach us some table tennis skills. Teams will be formed if there are sufficient people interested in them. Sports are an excellent way to improve physical fitness, train discipline, learn new skills, and in some sports, learn how to work in a team. We look forward to an exciting and fun Season 3.

Parents, family members, and friends are welcome as audience to support our sport teams at various competitions. We shall post the matches schedule on wechat in advance, for you to make yourself available to join us to cheer up our team.





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Uniforms

Winter Uniform

Starting from Quarter 2 (November 5th) all students will need to wear their winter uniforms.

Boys should wear:

- White Dress Shirt
- Black Dress Shoes
- Blue Trousers
- Black Belt
- Dress School Tie
- Dress School Jacket
- School Sweater

Girls should wear:

- White Dress Shirt
- Black Dress Shoes
- Winter Skirt
- Winter Dress Jacket
- School Sweater

The school uniform can be purchased from:

Golden Dragon School Uniform

194, Prince Edward Road West, Ground Floor,

Mongkok, Kowloon (Prince Edward MTR B1 Exit)

Phone number: 2381-1408 (Please make an appointment).

Upcoming Important Dates

Feb 1	Chinese New Year Celebration
Feb 4 - 8	Chinese New Year Holidays (No School)
March 8	Sports Day 9am-12pm
March 19	Mental Health Talk
April 4	Quarter 3 ends
April 5	Ching Ming Festival Holiday (No School)
April 8	Quarter 4 begins
April 12	SWLO Project Presentation ,PTA Meeting & Parent Teacher Evening
April 15-18	Spring Break (No School)
April 19	Good Friday Holiday (No School)
April 22	Easter Monday Holiday (No School)
April 25	Science Fair
May 1	Labor Day Holiday (No School)
May 13	Day After Buddha's Birthday Holiday (No School)
May 23	Cultural Day Parents Food Sale
June 1	SAT Subject Tests
June 6	Activity Day for Winning House
June 7	Tuen Ng Festival Holiday (No School)
June 12	End of Term 2 and end of Quarter 4
June 13-17	Term 2 Final Exams
June 21	Graduation Day

Parents can volunteer with their innovative ideas for involving in academics, sports or any other way you wish to. Please join our wechat group CISPTA or email to pta@concordiaintl.edu.hk to mingle with the community and know more about what your child is doing at school. Please remember that parents can influence your child's learning in many positive ways and it is a way to know more about your teenager!