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ERB Code: 571530

Inter-House Sports Day at Nantun Sports Center

by Johnson Su, Marketing and Events Coordinator



For our first Inter-House Sports Competition this semester, HWIS students and faculty traveled to the Nantun Sports Center on September 30th to compete. We planned for basketball and badminton tournaments in the morning, lunch at a shopping mall, and then volleyball games back at school in the afternoon.

With our In-House Competitions, House points are always at stake because winnings at these tournaments often bring the victorious Houses substantial bonuses. All House members had strategically put forth their all-star lineups, hoping to snatch more wins to gain an advantage over their opponents.

We kicked off the day with our 3-on-3 basketball games and badminton games. These competitions were intense and ferocious. Tough plays were made on the courts, and emphatic cheers echoed the stadium.

After a morning of sweat and hard work, we went to ShowTime Live to enjoy lunch. Interestingly, lunch at the mall seems to be what students always look forward to the most. They get to choose the foods and drinks they like, and share

some quality time eating and resting well with their friends.

After lunch we returned to school for volleyball. What is worth mentioning is that this year Mr. Ternelli, our Sciences teacher, and a group of volleyball enthusiasts gave birth to our very own HWIS Volleyball Team. They spend time training weekly and put a lot of heart, time, and effort into developing a great team chemistry. Our students' interest towards this particular sport has spiked, therefore in response to popular demand we scheduled volleyball games to put their passion and skills to the test.

Not only did we play House competitions, but we also had student all-stars playing the faculty team towards the end of the day. We believe that a match of this nature strengthens both the student-teacher bond, and also drives the team spirit among our teachers. Through these games, we aim to show our students the true value of passion, sportsmanship, team effort, communication, and cooperation. After all, these are contributing factors to group achievement and success.

With more students joining HWIS, our

student body has since grown in size. Activities are becoming more difficult to host, but our students are enjoying them more than ever. This is the reason HWIS aims to put a huge emphasis on hosting activities to ensure our students learn and grow, both inside and outside of our classroom walls. This is also the reason HWIS has been successful in cultivating a strong student mindset and shaping their behavior and values. HWIS is undeniably the top international school to be at or to become a part of. 🏆





Why Write?

by Laszlo Kecsed, Language Arts Instructor

"I write because I don't know what I think until I read what I say." – Flannery O'Connor

The question in the title is a reasonable one. You might say that writing is an activity that is becoming more and more irrelevant as so few people really read anymore. Many would-be writers might also say that the world these days wants to be entertained, not inspired, and so it makes little sense to engage in the backbreaking, mind-breaking, lonely work that writing is. So why?

Perhaps you can relate to the feeling of being misunderstood, or not understood. Perhaps you feel that your meaning hardly ever comes out clearly enough when you try to speak. You might be too shy and/or embarrassed to speak your mind. It is natural to want to rephrase the world, to take it in and give it back again differently.

The primary reason for writing anything is to communicate with others, to stimulate interest or action from the reader. You may also use writing to help you to reflect on your experiences and learn from them. While at University a key way of assessing the progress and learning of students is via the written work you produce. When you write, therefore, you are either writing for yourself or for others.

Writing has a number of key benefits:

- It is fixed and is therefore more permanent. You can keep coming back to a previous piece of writing and you may gain more benefit from reviewing it as a result.
- Writing offers you time and space to re-draft and refocus your message. In this way, perhaps, it is easier than spoken communication. When speaking, you have to think of words and immediately release them to the audience, and

once spoken there is no opportunity to 'edit' them before they are heard.

- Writing sometimes has more impact than other communication channels. Through writing, you can select language to influence the thoughts and actions of your reader in particular ways, guiding them through your evidence and argument to convince them of your analysis and conclusions.
- Writing can boost your memory. By writing down your daily thoughts, you can remember things clearly which can help you in different ways.
- If you experienced a traumatic event, writing can help in your recovery. Expressive writing, where you write down what happened and the feelings you had or have, can help you become emotionally stronger.
- Writing can help you have a better outlook on life. You can start viewing things from a new perspective. You can also handle challenges in a better way as you will see the positive aspect instead of focusing on the negative things.
- You can boost your creativity through writing. This is because you will be able to see things in a different light. An improved point of view means you will have improved ideas.

Anyone can be a writer. Not a "good" writer or a "bad" writer but simply a writer: a person whose most absorbed and passionate hours are spent arranging words on pieces of paper.

My personal favorite genre is poetry. It suits the modern, hectic lifestyle perfectly. Poems are more often than not shorter pieces that are possible to be consumed relatively fast. If you have a few minutes while you are waiting for your bus, train, or taxi - read a poem. If you are in between classes at school - read a poem. If you are in between two movies or two episodes of a TV series - read a poem. Poems are the MVs or YOUTUBE videos of the literary world. You might even want to try your hand at writing your own poem. It is like creating your own content, to use contemporary lingo. ☺

This is an excerpt of Mr Kecsed's article. To see his complete work, please visit our website at hwis.org.tw.





A Day at School

by **Venus Yen**, Grade 9

When the bell rings, all the students wearing yellow and blue T-shirts run into their respective classrooms like many small hamsters running back to their den when someone tries to touch them. Most of them are new faces since this is a new semester. More and more students are coming to our school. I was pretty excited to meet so many new friends from different countries, and there are now two gorgeous girls who transferred here from different schools. The first day I met these new friends, I knew that this was definitely going to be a great but also tough semester.

As I walked into the school after the long vacation, the first thing I saw were the fresh white walls that had been painted during the summer. All over these walls, many pictures and photos had been hung. I'm in one of the pictures, smiling happily and running with my classmates. The picture was taken during last year's sports day. All of us were racing with a different student from the Chinese Department. All of us were sweating like a man who just walked out from a pool.

When I first entered my new homeroom, I saw that all the tables and chairs were set up, the lockers were lined up neatly against the back of the wall. The homeroom bulletin board had our class schedule, classroom rules, and other reminders on it. I went to my morning classes in different classrooms and found out that every classroom was different from last semester; the walls were also painted milky white, there were more decorations on the walls and more greenery on the tables. The school looked very different, but it made me feel at home.

Time flew by fast, and it was lunchtime already. As I walked into the conference room, I was shocked. There were so many people! Compared to last year, all the tables were taken and there seemed to be no seats left for us. However,

the foods looked fabulous and mouthwatering. We had rice, chicken, and vegetables which smelled nice like the dishes served in good restaurants. I was very hungry, so I ate very quickly.

After nap time, we went to our new Science Lab right beside our HWIS building. In the new classroom, there were many hamster cages next to the windows and two rabbits hopping around on the floor. There was a row of cabinets with cool Lego robots inside. Also, the wall had also been painted yellow by the staff during the summer.

I have to say this school is getting better and better. From the first year till now, the arrangement of the classrooms, the number of staff and students, and even the look of dishes are all getting much better. I hope this school can keep going, keep innovating, and keep trying new things, so we can proudly tell other people that HWIS is truly the best! 🌟





HWIS BBQ

*It is Mid-Autumn Festival
At Hong Wen International School
Student await the 12 o'clock bell
To grab the barbecue grill*

*Start the fire, let's cook some meat
Don't be stingy, you need to add more cheese
With marshmallows as our sweets
What a great treat!*

*Reuse, reduce, and recycle
We are environmental friendly people
Put out the fire, leave no sparkles
Restore and clean, let us handle*

*At HWIS we chill
Or go play volleyball
After the sound of the last bell
"All is well, all is well!"*



ACHIEVEMENT!

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SAT: 1440/1600
SAT II: Chemistry 800/800
SAT II: Math 790/800

2021-2022 入學說明會



2020.12.19(六)
2021.01.16(六)
9:30 - 11:30