

Science Fair

— By Arleyen Xue



Science sounds so familiar to us, but we seldom do the science experiments ourselves, which makes us not have any opportunities to taste the failure or success of doing science experiments. In the first quarter of this semester, both Grade One and Grade Two students got a fantastic chance to do the science experiments and share the experiments with our splendid and responsible science teachers – Mr. Doug and Ms. Linda. Through doing the varied experiments, students clarified some of their ambiguities in the theories. Also, from watching and knowing about all the processes of doing experiments for a

whole quarter, their curiosity became deeper and deeper, which made them have the desire of doing their own experiments. They tried no matter how many times they failed. They had never had the thought of quitting. Eventually, they succeeded after they persisted in trying tens of times with optimism and enthusiasm. On last Wednesday evening of last quarter, they showed their projects by showing their presentations as groups of one or two, which were really fabulous. Because the time was limited, they could not show the whole process of doing their experiments. Afterwards, a pretty good idea came up into our teachers' minds, which was to choose several individual groups to do their experiments in front of all the guests we invited, teachers, and students on the last Friday evening of last quarter. From the people's facial expressions, we could see they were really fond of the experiments and they had a quantity of fun. Besides



happiness and laughter that they had gotten, they also had sadness because of Mr. Doug and Ms. Linda's departure. They had to leave China right after they successfully finished their jobs. Of course, all the teachers and students wanted them to stay longer, but they have their own life to live on, and they have other things to do. What we could do for them is to respect their choice, to say the word that we don't want to say but we must – farewell. Even though they left us, the memory they have left for us won't disappear with their leaving.



The Orphanage Outreach Project

On April 5th, Miss Christy arranged a community outreach project at the orphanage for Grade 2 students. This extracurricular activity provided a great chance for the students to show their love and care to those discarded or disabled children and homeless elderly people in the orphanage. They were willing to share their feelings and thoughts with you all after going to the orphanage. Hope you enjoy them!



Last Saturday's orphanage trip gave me an unforgettable experience and an unique start in my life to contribute my love to those people who really need it in our community as much as I can. The people in the orphanage, especially the babies, really need people to take care of them more, play with them more, hug them more, communicate with them more, smile and sing songs to them more, etc. A little baby who lost his eyesight seized my heart most. While I was feeding bananas to him by using a spoon, I called his name, spoke to him, touched his arms and hands, and patted his back. Then he lifted up his head, laughed and he opened his mouth to look for another spoon full of banana when he finished a bite. When I said good-bye to them, a few babies smiled and followed me by driving their carts. Their sparkling eyes and smiles are still fresh in my mind.

—Regina Peng



That was the first time I had been to the Ping Liang orphanage. My heart was wrapped up with happiness with those cute and unlucky kids in those short 2 hours. Just because of their bad looks, they were abandoned by their parents and lost a lot opportunities to enjoy a splendid life. At that time, I just realized how wealthy I am. I paid a special attention to a little cute girl who was 7 months old and had a small tumor on her back. I was glad that the caretaker told me she will have an operation in 5 months and will be able to be adopted by others. I hope I will have other chances to spend time with them. I think I will try my best to provide my tiny strength to help orphans in the future.

—Selina Li



I think the most significant thing is that I talked with a woman who has worked there for three years. I asked some questions about the orphanage. She told me that she has taken care of a girl for three years. Now, she just can say several simple words. She always lays on the bed. She cannot sit up by herself. When I saw her, she smiled at me and called me "sister." I felt sympathy for her. When she smiled, I thought, "I am the luckiest person in this world. I am not disabled and I have ability to take care of myself."

—Kitty Chen



Last Saturday, We went to visit the orphanage together. When we got there, there were several babies laying on the baby cart. They were all so cute and curious about our coming. I talked a lot with a blind girl who is 13 years old. She comes from the same county as me, so I noticed her very much that day. From her conversation I got that she could do the basic needs by herself. After we talked about her daily life, I was touched deeply at that moment. We also had much fun together. She sang songs, recited poems and English vocabulary, and played with some toys. I observed that she is optimistic about her future and she is so brave. I really felt fulfilled a lot in this unusual experience. I hope that I can go there again.

—Melissa Yang



I went to the orphanage on Saturday with 11 of our classmates and several of our teachers. That was a special trip for me. I have never gone to that kind of place before in my life. My first impression of the orphanage was that it looks like a very cold place with the door locked. Honestly, I was scared at first about the small kids' unusual mouth. I have heard about that kind of illness, but I have never seen it before. This kind of fear disappeared after a few minutes. I got a chance to hold the babies and took them walking around the small yard. On my way home, I thought a lot. I thought people are so greedy and we always think we do not have enough of what we expected. Compared with them, I am so fortunate and lucky. I do believe that they will be blessed by the benevolence of people and I would appeal to people to pay more attention to this charity. Just like the old man in the literature book "The Old Man and the Sea" regards the fish as his brothers, why don't we care about those people who are our real brothers and sisters?

—Sophia Sun



This was my second time to go to the orphanage. Some babies I met last time were not there anymore and there were some new babies. I think this is a good thing because those prior orphans must have been adopted by kind people. When we arrived there, the babies were in the yard enjoying the sunshine. We brought some toys, fruit, and books to them. We fed the babies bananas and held the babies while walking around. That was great because I have never touched a baby so close before. The age of the babies was 3 months to 3 years old. Some of them have cleft lips. Fortunately, the government offers a free operation for them, so they can become as normal as we are. We are sad that there are many babies who have chronic illnesses. We need to be concerned about them and care for them. I think the rest of the students who have never been there before will get a chance to go in the future. I hope everyone can show your best to those delicate people, so you will get some unspoken feeling that can motivate you to cherish what you are doing.

—Hunter Kong



My small hope to go to the orphanage to see the people there became true. After we arrived there, the worker led me to the elderly people's room. I saw an old man who was lying on his bed. I went in and introduced myself and told him why we were there and where we were from. He was interested in what I was talking about and he also told me about some of his past. Then, I went into another room because I wanted to know some of other elderly people. There was a man with a hat that caught my eye because of his smile. At first, I didn't realize he was blind until we talked for a while. I took him to the first man's room, talked about the history of the Qing dynasty, and I also read some articles about enjoying our lives to them. The departure is always the hardest thing to me, and they held my hand tightly when I was going to leave there. I understand they are very lonely. They need other's love and care, and they also need someone to talk with them. After we came back to school, I missed them so much and I hope I can go to visit them on each weekend. I will fulfill my promise to them which is that I will go to see them again.

—Peter Wei



One thing that was remarkable to me was a 13 years-old girl who was blind, but she is very smart. She studies at the special school near No. 4 market. She told us she wants to be a teacher after she graduates. She likes to learn new things. She said she will study hard in order to reach her goal. Compared with her, we have such a healthy body and good environment, but we do not cherish it. How much time do we waste? No one can count. Why don't we give our free time to the person who needs help? We should pay more attention to those who need help.

—Jenni Shi

The Open Gym Is Open for You!!

—By Ms. Angie



How do you usually spend your Saturday mornings? Come join the fun with us at the gym from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. About fifteen to twenty students come every week, but there is still room for more OTC students to come and play.

We have many different activities you can choose from. Ping pong, of course, is a favorite gym activity. We have games being played on two tables. We also have two badminton courts. Many students like to play basketball at the gym. We also bring a jump rope which is long enough for several people to jump together.

Last Saturday, the girls played against the boys in basketball. The boys won, but I will not tell you the score. A few weeks ago, Ms. Joy taught the students a fun shooting game called “bump”. Jack won the game twice in a row.

Students and teachers alike really enjoy having the opportunity to go to the gym. Ms. Joy said she enjoys going because students come ready to participate and have fun.

Many grade 2 students enjoy coming to the gym every week to spend time with friends. Delia enjoys playing badminton with her friends every week. “The gym is a good environment,” she said. “The floor is smooth, and we cannot fall down easily.”

Grade 1 students also enjoy the morning exercise. Wade goes to the gym every week to play ping pong, basketball, and sometimes badminton. He likes to exercise to become stronger and healthier as well as have fun.

The Pre-OTC class also is also well-represented at the gym. Sky comes almost every week. She likes to play badminton and ping pong. She suggested, “Maybe we can have a competition sometime.”

So come join us at the Saturday Open Gym. Not only is it a good opportunity to exercise, you can have a wonderful time visiting with friends. Please note that the gym will not be open during the May Holiday weekend.

Angel’s Angle



The Chinese government has set up Tomb-Sweeping Day or Pure Brightness Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival and the Mid-Autumn Festival as the National holidays this year in order to help carry forward traditional culture. Tomb-Sweeping Day falls on April 4th this year and it really means a lot to Chinese people. Personally, I am pleased and proud how the Chinese commemorate and honor our ancestors. As a tradition, people usually go to clear the family graves, touch-up tombstone inscriptions, burn incense, money, and offer sacrifices to the dead. As we show our respect to the ancestors with all sorts of different ways, we also cause some

troubles for our society. For example, several forest fires have been reported on the news and in the newspaper during the Tomb-Sweeping Day because of the paper burning. In Ping Liang, it is not practical to cause a forest fire, but the environment is affected a lot. The people here just burn the paper on the street, and the next morning, you see thousands of piles of paper ash on the street. It is really not a good view and also makes the cleaners’ jobs harder. There are more and more people showing the respect to the dead by offering a bunch of flowers. I think it does not matter which way we use to commemorate the ancestors, but it is really important to make our society more civilized and our environment cleaner. It’s hard to change the old generations’ habits, but as the new generations, we can begin a new chapter.