

STUCO NEWSLETTER

Third and Fourth Quarter Issue 2020

What's been happening?

The time between the third and fourth quarter of the school year has been challenging for all HIS students, teachers and parents. And for Student Council, the closure of school meant that events and our physical connection to the student body were lost. Nonetheless, our mission to provide the best opportunities for students to enjoy their time at HIS prevailed, and together, student council Officers, representatives and advisors worked to raise our school spirit again after time apart from each other through events like Pi-Day and Prom. We feel incredibly lucky and grateful that we are one of the few schools around the world able to plan and hold physical events, and we hope we were part of students' joy at coming back to school.

Valentine's Day

The annual gram sale for Valentine's day was cancelled, but we still wanted to do something nice to welcome back our students, so we gave out free packaged chocolates to all students and teachers.



Pi-Day

Pi-Day was postponed multiple times because of the school closing, so instead we had to change our original system for Pi-Day voting. Instead of money donations, five teachers and five students took a math test of speed to determine who would get pied. Students were allowed to take this test as well, and the two winners with the highest scores got to pie the teacher and student. This resulted in Mr Haltom and Daniel (on the right) being pied by Elisa and Rayden respectively. We saw many students attended this event, and that many enjoyed it greatly as the first Student Council event to be held after the break.



Promposal event

This year, student council introduced a promposal event that gave anyone who recorded their promposal a 10 RMB discount (for both the promposer and the proposed) . We received various entries (cute and funny!) which we shared with the rest of the students through WeChat.



Prom

Prom was a great success even after having less students being able to participate in the event! Our theme this year was “Havana Nights”. We had a backdrop of a street in Havana, a flower instagram frame, fruit crowns and beautiful table decorations to match the theme. We even had a zoom call, inviting students outside of the country to join us. The venue this year was in the “Le Meridien” hotel, once again allowing us to use their venue and serving us a great dinner and service. We hope everyone had an enjoyable night and a made everlasting memories during the last Student Council event for High school. As one of the few fortunate schools who were able to hold Prom this year, we felt incredibly grateful for our school and all the members of student council that helped with the organisation of this event.



Middle School Formal

Due to a lacking number of middle school students that ended up purchasing a ticket for the middle school formal, a decision was made to cancel the event, as student council stood to lose several thousand RMB. Student council relies on funds from the student body to organise events for our student body, so we believe that our decision is justified as saving these funds would mean that our money could be used for events in the future. We hope that our middle school students can understand and we hope that in the future, students will be more proactive to buy event tickets within the deadlines set for them to avoid cancelations that certainly will disappoint many students who were looking forward to said event.

New Officer Terms

After much discussion between the Officers of Student Council on the subject of a new election term for Officers, it was decided that this idea should be presented to the general student council for voting. The new term would mean that Officers would serve from January until December, as opposed to the original term which ran from August until June. The result of this vote meant that the new election term would be put in place, starting from 2021, after a transition period in which new Officers elected in June of 2020 would serve a shortened term from August to December of 2020.

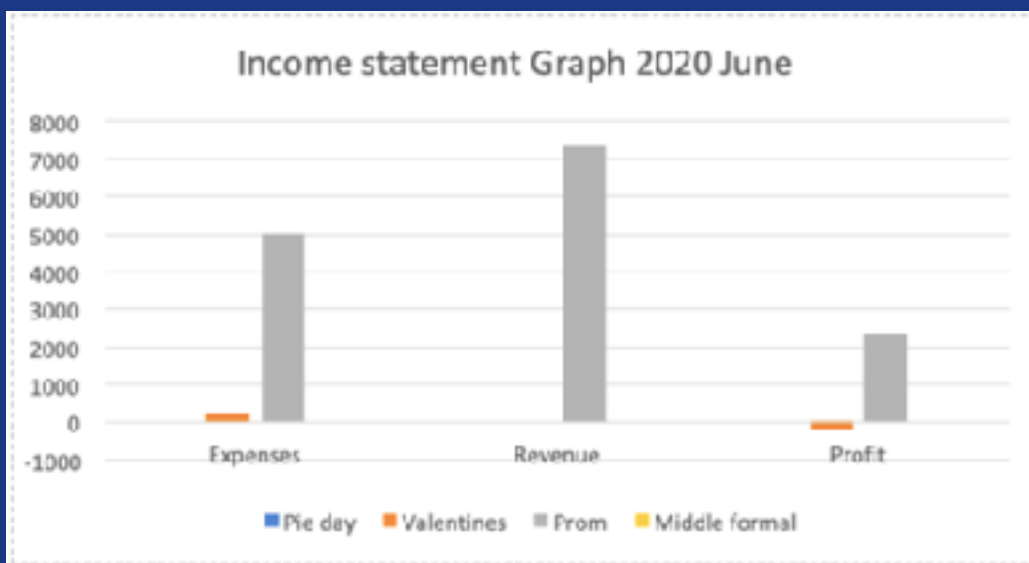
The idea for the new term stemmed from various reasons, but one of the major ones involved seniors having the responsibility of being officers as they prepare for their final IB exams. This decision was reached after much discussion, and its pros and cons were also presented to all representatives before voting took place. So, there was an awareness that not everyone would benefit from the outcome of this vote, however the majority agreed that the new terms would be more beneficial for Student Council in the long-term.

General Welfare

Once school started after quarantine, students had to learn to practice social distancing. Students were expected to wear masks, practice frequent hand washing and were encouraged to keep distance from students and teachers around them. After a few weeks of following these strict guidelines, school admin gradually allowed students to do certain activities, such as playing sport during breaks. And in order to encourage social distancing, student council provided soccer balls and many other sports equipment to use during break time so that students wouldn't have to crowd to use only one piece of equipment. It's inevitable that students will be feeling awkward after the long break we've had, however, we hope that our efforts to listen and provide solutions to their feedback have helped made them feel more comfortable. The admin is constantly improving things, having the comfort and safety of students in mind, and student council will continue to actively involve ourselves as the bridge of communication between the admin and the student body.

Finance

Due to the suspension of the school finance has gained no income since December. Finance has funded pie day and the valentine's grams without gain. Attendance from Prom was below the expected number, so losses were due to Student Council having to pay the remaining fees for the event. At the moment, our total balance is around 21 000 RMB.





**Don't
find
fault,
find
remedy.
-Henry
Ford**

**HIS Upper School
Student Council
Interim Officer
Elections
Fall 2020**

- Students in current grades 8-11 may run.
- See Ms. Bowers or Ms. Stowell for an Officer Candidacy Intention Form; due Monday, May 25 by 3:00 PM

Student Council Officer Elections

The student council officer elections were held on Friday 12th of June, offering three spots out of five in the Student Council Officer board for election. This year we saw an increase in interest in the student body for becoming Officers despite the decreased number of available seats in the board, with 8 students running. We see this as a good sign that students feel an increasing motivation to join Student Council and take on responsibilities in leadership positions at school.

We look forward to welcoming our new Officers Flora, Daniel and Andy for August-December of 2020 to join Jaewoo and Grace as the two remaining Officers of the 2019-2020 school year.