



# TANGO

# EXTRA

*Dancing with Words*

Senri & Osaka International Schools of Kwansei Gakuin

TANGO: *Dancing with Words*

Volume 13 Number 2 May 2020

## "Let's Use This Time to the Fullest"

by Tyus Sheriff

**Tango President Tyus Sheriff writes on making the most out of a challenging—and often disappointing—situation.**

I'm sure this is not what we all imagined the spring trimester at SOIS would come to. If you asked me a year ago what I'd be doing in March 2020, I would have told you, "Studying for IB exams... Or at least trying to." Nobody would have predicted the unprecedented cancellation of IBDP exams, the transition to online learning, and, more seriously, the devastation wrought by the coronavirus pandemic. I could even go as far to say that we wouldn't have predicted this a month ago; as classes were suddenly cancelled following a nationwide order by Prime Minister Abe on February 28th, many students, myself included, assumed we would be back to school following the spring break. The possibility that I would be taking classes from home past April didn't cross my mind.

The cancellation of in-person schooling means different things to all of us. I'm admittedly a sentimental, "save-this-moment-for-posterity" kind of person, and I wanted the chance to attend my final day of classes fully *knowing* it was my final day. I wanted to absorb the "last-ness" of everything—the last time I would sit at that cafeteria seat, or the last time I'd walk through the halls as a student. While I shouldn't be speaking in the past tense (optimistically speaking, maybe we will return soon), I can't shake off the feeling that I left school in a rush, never taking the proper time to say goodbye to the place that has nurtured me for the past six years. When I talk to my friends through FaceTime or Line, many express similar sentiments of wanting to return to school and see, in person, familiar faces and a campus we've perhaps taken for granted.

Of course, I recognize a certain degree of privilege when discussing such concerns. I am not immunocompromised and I haven't had any close friends or relatives afflicted by the virus. In the grand scheme of things, not getting the senior year of Hollywood movies isn't nearly as serious as the human lives at risk due to COVID-19. (And, let's be honest, between attending classes and cramming for IB exams, we probably wouldn't have had the time to fully soak up the rest of what high school had to offer anyways.) Still, for many of us, we feel we are "missing out" on something, whether that be an exciting end to high school or a sports tournament to show for months of practice. The best we can do now is to turn quarantine into an opportunity.

This past year, I've lamented the fact that I no longer read books for pleasure. If I'd get free time, I would much rather have sat in bed watching Netflix than cracking open a book. To me, reading expended too much mental energy to be considered respite from schoolwork. Now that my excuse for not reading (IB coursework) has been rendered invalid, one of my goals throughout the next few weeks of quarantine is to read more. Starting with *The Great Gatsby*, I've made my way through authors from Hemingway to John Green, diving into stories I wouldn't have explored were I not confined indoors. I've also taken up baking (producing a surprisingly delicious batch of chocolate chip cookies), reorganizing my room (with much-needed cleaning), and attempting to memorize all U.S. Presidents in chronological order. While it may be tempting to use isolation as time for back-to-back TV marathons (which is sometimes okay too!), I encourage you to take up an (indoor) interest or activity that you've never had the time to pursue. We rarely ever have this much time to ourselves, and none of us have our usual excuses on which to fall back.

That said, we shouldn't shut ourselves off from human interaction. I try to text and call my friends nearly every day, checking in on them and chatting about life. No matter how unimportant or nonsensical the conversations, talking with friends keeps me grounded.

This is in no way an ideal situation. It's not my ideal senior year, it's not the school's ideal way of conducting classes, and it's not ideal at all for countries around the globe taking action to prevent the spread of the disease. There's little we can do, however, as students to stop the virus, besides practicing social distancing and proper hygiene. Just as we took school and meeting friends for granted, let's not look back on the great lengths of time we had during quarantine and regret not using that time to the fullest. Let's pick up a new hobby, blow off the dust from a book, and call our friends, all the while hoping the world will soon return to normal.

*Plenty to Look Back on and Celebrate...*

*Still So Much to Look Forward To...*



# My Jump Experience

by Rena Kawasaki

I had the incredible honor of participating in the JUMP workshops that were held from January 7th to 11th. The JUMP workshops were a great experience to learn different leadership techniques and activities regarding international-mindedness. During the 5 days of workshops, the students got together to plan and create different workshops including forms of experiential learning to inform students from 5th grade to 11th grade as well as parents and teachers. This experience helped me to expose myself to different perspectives that I wasn't aware of before and helped me grow significantly as a global citizen.

Before the workshops, I thought leadership was a sort of gut feeling, an instinct that everyone had and had to use to be a good leader. The JUMP workshops taught me that this was not the case. Leadership is something that can be taught and is a skill set that can be mastered. Our administrators taught us tips and tricks that help us grab people's attention, and activities for workshops about international mindedness. One tip that I found extremely helpful was the pairs discussion. I am currently the leader in my dance group and I have a really hard time getting the members to express their opinions in a group discussion. The pairs discussion is when you ask the members to go into pairs first to discuss the topic and make the pairs into a 4 member group, an 8 member group and so on until it goes back to a whole group discussion. I found that this way, I can make speaking up and expressing opinions easier once they get to share in a small group before they speak in front of a large group.

An activity that I enjoyed and found interesting was an activity using a ball. In this activity, you get into a group and discuss how you can get everyone to touch and pass the ball and get it back to the starting person in the fastest time. A few weeks ago, my JUMP team got to go to the Grade 2 classroom to do this activity with them. We gave them context that the ball was a vaccine and they had to get them all vaccinated (touching the ball) to stop the spread of the virus. The Grade 2s had a hard time discussing their methods and ended up talking over each other. After some intervention, they stopped and were able to try different things. Interestingly, this was the case with any grade, even us JUMP members when we tried this activity for the first time. This activity reminded me of the importance of equal opportunity of speech and respecting the opinions of others no matter how old you are. It was interesting to see some of the grade 2s taking leadership roles within their class and maintaining order. It reminded me that you can always be a leader no matter how young you are.



Photo supplied by Rena

Experiential learning was a large aspect of what the JUMP workshops taught us. Experiential learning is a type of learning where students can move and take action on what they have learned. This type of learning has already been integrated into our school and it was interesting to see that our school already had this leading aspect of modern education in its curriculum. The workshops taught us how to take this form of learning to a higher level in forms of workshops. It was inspiring to get together with students from different grades to create a learning experience from scratch. We learned about and used graphic organizers and activities that we learned to create a 20-minute long workshop that we taught to students, parents, and teachers. We also included time for debriefing to incorporate and hear what participants gained and learned from this experience. It was interesting to see the similarities and differences between age groups and how they affected each workshop's outcome. Although we were the ones administrating the workshops, it was fun to be able to gain different output and comments along the way.

In conclusion, the JUMP experience was a worthwhile experience that taught me the skills and tips that will help me in the future to educate other people about the issues and methods of education I am passionate about. I believe the school can do more to incorporate student leadership and experiential learning in opportunities such as Friday flex and long home-room to further incorporate factors of international mindedness in the school community and be an influence on our local and global community.



Photo by Dave Algie

## Congratulations on Your Graduation, SIS Class of 2020



Photos by Ryo Fujii

## ASP 2020: Once on This Island—A Phenomenal Performance

by Tanishka Murthy

From February 13th to 15th, SOIS had its All School Production, with this year's musical being *Once on This Island*. The musical this year had an entirely different feel compared to past musicals our school has put on. Last year, as many students may remember, we put on *Shrek*, and a year before that it was, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Both are very famous productions. However this year it was a complete surprise when the decision was made to try out a completely new style. I believe students were also confused about the choice of musical at first, but as a person who watched what a wonderful show it turned out to be, I must say this musical was the perfect choice. Personally, I think it showcased the cast's incredible acting skills as well as their phenomenal singing and dancing skills. The costumes were beautiful and the music, performed by our very own SOIS band members conducted by Ms. Deklinski was extremely professional. From the catchy songs to the powerful acting, I think it's safe to say that this year's ASP was definitely one we will never forget.



The cast and everyone involved in this year's ASP were working on this production for over 4 months in total, and although as an audience we only get to see the final performances, we know how hard working and dedicated everyone involved was. Special credit must go to the producer, Ms. Namba, the director, Mr. Nicholl and all the other faculty and community members who worked so hard to bring everything together.

I asked Rena Kawasaki (OIS G9), who played one of the main characters Ti Moune, what her favorite thing about being a part of the ASP is and she said, "Definitely being a part of the cast. We ended up becoming like family and we had each other's backs when something went wrong". She says the most difficult part of this musical was the emotion changes since she had to go "From happy, to in love, to dying all in the span of one hour". Rena says that this production was really slow coming together, but the extra rehearsals they did definitely paid off.

A few wise words from our beloved Ti Moune, Rena Kawasaki, "Have fun, work hard and do the best you can do in that moment". Great advice for anyone thinking of participating in the ASP next year!

Curtis Noguchi (OIS G11), who played Papa Ge in cast 2 said that he enjoyed working with a lot of new people this year. He said that in ASP, working as a group and maintaining the spirit of family is important.

Even though this year's ASP was completely different from other years, it seems as though the spirit and fun that comes with it hasn't changed. As a person who was able to witness the cast during their morning practices from time to time, I think it's safe to say that the amount of effort they put into making this production what it is was incredible.

おつかれさま to the talented cast, chorus, and everyone involved in this year's All School Production!! I'm sure everyone is super excited for the next one!!



## ***What is Gender Equality?***

**by Leiko Tajiri and Hyo-Jin Kim**

In design class, we are researching gender equality for the Sustainable Development Goals. Please read this article if you are interested in gender equality and want to know about it.

Fighting for gender equality has become a major issue around the world in various countries. Inequality occurs where a culture or tradition is favored rather than equal rights for men and women. Many nations face such problems, including Japan, Korea and China

In Japan specifically, there are many challenges that must be addressed in order to solve the problem of gender inequality. In fact, Japan is placed 110th out of 146 countries ranked for gender equality. Japan, as an Asian country, has a culture where men are overly represented in areas such as higher education. According to the New York Times, only 1 out of 5 in Tokyo University is female (Rich). This leads to many of the problems associated with gender equality.

One of the problems that Japan has had has been unfair grading at some universities. Female students have been deliberately graded down. This happened at Tokyo Medical School which held the view that women would be pregnant someday and they would need to rest for more than a month, which would make the hospital run slowly afterwards ("Tokyo medical school offers places to women after sexism scandal").

Another issue in Japan is that employment is largely gender-based. "Job-Type Employment" is used in countries like America where the employer looks at the applicant's skills and their ability. However, Japan uses an employment method which is based partly on gender. The guiding idea is how well a person will contribute long term to the company. Women are expected to eventually have children and stop working for the company. This causes the rate of men employed to be higher than women employed ("Japan's systemic barriers to gender equality").

To deal with these issues, we have thought of 3 solutions that we could do to over time, help decrease the gap between men and women.

- 1) A poster which shows general facts about gender equality,
- 2) A video for elementary students.
- 3) This Tango news op-ed for SOIS students and teachers

In order to share some facts and ideas with students, we will post some posters around the school and create a video to share with elementary classes.

Sources:

Hayashikawa, Maki and Manns, Mark. "Japan's systemic barriers to gender equality." *The Japan Times*. July 4, 2019 Online

Rich, Maktoto. "At Japan's Most Elite University, Just 1 in 5 Students Is a Woman." *The New York Times*. Dec. 8, 2019 Online.

McCurry, Justin. "Tokyo medical school offers places to women after sexism scandal." *The Guardian*. Dec.8 2018

## ***United Nations Eiken***

**by Tanishka Murthy**

I'm sure a lot of people in this school have experience taking an English proficiency exam of some sort. Some of the English Proficiency tests that are well known in Japan are the Eiken and TOEIC. TOEFL however, which stands for Test Of English as a Foreign Language, is more widely recognized all around the world. I myself have taken Eiken and TOEFL for various purposes and I believe that the people who have experience taking these tests will agree with me when I say you get a great feeling of satisfaction when you pass.

One day I was thinking about whether or not any other exam exists where I could test my level of English. I started doing some research and found out about this exam known as the United Nations Eiken(国連英検). I was originally interested in the United Nations and I thought this would be a good opportunity to learn about it and at the same time test my English level once again.

The first part of the exam tests your knowledge on the UN itself. You will have to purchase (or download online) the textbook which has all sorts of information on the UN. You will be required to memorize some dates, statistics and functions of the UN. However, even though this is an important part of the exam, it isn't the only thing.

You are mainly tested on your level of English and therefore you have to make sure to choose the appropriate level. The highest level being Special A, then A, then B and so on until the beginner level which is level E. The questions will be related to the UN so you will require a wide range of vocabulary and understanding in order to take this exam. Another big part of the exam is the writing section. You will be given a motion and will be required to state your opinion. To score highly on this section, you will need an understanding of the UN and the ability to phrase it in a way that shows your knowledge as well as your English ability. Although it is only a short paragraph, it is also a very important part of the exam.

If you pass the first exam, you move on to the interview. The best way to prepare for the interview is to watch the news on a regular basis and have a good idea about what is going on in the world at that time. The questions they ask are sometimes vague and although that gives you a lot of freedom to answer whatever you feel like, it also means they are looking at the depth of your knowledge. Watching the news to make sure you have a variety of topics to speak about will be helpful.

The amount of studying you need to do for this exam differs from person to person, but regardless of how much time you put into it, there is definitely a sense of satisfaction when you pass. Therefore, I hope that more students from both SIS and OIS challenge themselves to things like this. I personally feel like, even after taking the exam, I have a lot more left to learn so may consider taking the exam again in the future.

## ***Flooding in Indonesia***

**by Melody Meline**

As 2020 started, many places began the year peacefully and safely, while in Indonesia, large amounts of rainfall caused triggering of mudslides, and floods. No flood like this had happened in Indonesia since 2003. The rainfall resulted in the Ciliwung and Cisadane Rivers overflowing, making flooding worse (Suhartono, Russell).

These incidents have displaced about 175,000 people and killed 66 people. More than 1,300 homes were destroyed and 74 districts were flooded. The capital city, Jakarta has been sinking so much that officials are trying to move the capital to the island of Borneo. Due to the water level, citizens of Jakarta are using rafts to navigate through water-logged roads.

The Central Java provincial government sent truckloads of blankets, tents, and mattresses to the city of Jakarta, Banten, and Java. The National Disaster Management Agency of Indonesia has established evacuation centers for victims, according to AHA. The Indonesian Red Cross deployed 455 volunteers and staff to the affected areas, and is also providing first aid. (Leung)

Although floods do not last long, after a severe amount of rainfall, extreme dryness comes. Winds from Australia will also start to blow towards Indonesia, leading to major forest fires, choking air pollution, and searing heat. When this dryness comes, water becomes scarce and agriculture decreases, causing a lack of food.

Floods have hit Indonesia in the past years, 1621, 1654, 1918, 1942, 1976, 1996, 2002, 2007 and 2013. Certain parts of Jakarta have been sinking 6-10 inches a year because of floods, and by the year 2025, North Jakarta can be predicted to be 16 feet below sea level (Suhartono, Russell).

As the research has demonstrated, Indonesia has been facing one of the worst natural disasters, and is not a safe place right now. However, many people have managed to evacuate. 62,000 people to be exact (Leung). It might take a long time for the city of Jakarta to resettle again, but citizens of Jakarta and districts around are lucky that this incident is over.

Sources:

Leung Hilary "66 People Have Died in Indonesia's Devastating Floods. Here's What to Know" Time. Jan 14 2020.

Suhartono, Mukhita and Goldman, Russell. "Flash Floods in Indonesia Leave Hundreds of Thousands Homeless". *New York Times* January 2, 2020.

## ***"We've Got Your Back"*** by Janet Jones

Hi, as some of you may know, I'm Janet from 10th grade and I am "different."

You may think, "But you look so normal?"

This is where you're wrong. All people are unique and different in a variety of ways. One of my many unique aspects, that largely defines who I am, is that I am a non-stereotypical disabled person. I'm sort of invisibly disabled, because I have been diagnosed with scoliosis and spondylosis, which are hard to recognize from outward appearances.

I'm here to talk about scoliosis. This is where the spine is abnormally twisted or curved. It can be genetically passed down but the cause is not clear yet. There has not been any cure found yet that is 100% successful and the severity can only be reduced through braces, surgery and in some lucky cases, stretching and exercise. According to the Spine Correction Center, this problem affects about two to three percent of the population, which adds up to about six to nine million people just in the United States, women predominantly.

Okay, I'm done scaring you with all the facts and now onto my main point. I have recently become the first Japanese International ambassador for an organization called Curvy Girls. Curvy Girls is a wonderful organization that supports the backs of girls world wide in countries varying from Sweden to South Africa. This support group is for girls that have or had scoliosis and need a safe space to open up their feelings toward this life-changing problem. This organization and other groups worldwide are also a relief for many parents since they don't have to feel totally alone trying to comfort and find cures for their children.



Photo supplied by Janet Jones

I am here to announce that I am trying to launch the formation of this group in Japan so I am inviting any girls who feel like they want to be apart of this community because of this common issue that you may be facing alone. Hopefully, this organization will allow girls with scoliosis to pursue their dreams that may have been put aside because of this disease.

The group members will stay confidential so there is no need to feel vulnerable to your peers. If you have any questions or concerns about wanting to join, please email me at my soismail account, or come and chat to me at school!

## ***Pack Your Life with Lifelong Discoveries***

### ***My experience at HLAB OBUSE 2019***

by Oka Maeda

#### **What is it?**

Pack your life with lifelong discoveries. さあ始めよう。「あたりまえ」から踏み出す夏を、小布施で。 This was the slogan for the summer camp that I attended last summer called HLAB, held in Obuse, Nagano prefecture. HLAB is an organization that holds liberal arts summer camps every summer in 4 different areas; Tokyo, Nagano, Tokushima and Miyagi prefectures. High school students from all over Japan gather to experience a one week liberal arts school. In Obuse City, 50 students came together and we were divided into 10 houses; a group of people (consisting of 5 high school students and 3-4 university students) with whom we were to spend the most time during the day. It was like a 'third home', separate from our family and friends, and through reflecting on our past and discussing our future, we shared our thoughts and forged strong bonds

#### **What was the learning experience like? What did I get out of it?**

Every day consisted of different activities such as seminars, forums, workshops and free interactions with the university students and adults working in different parts of society. Through taking 3 different seminars including "Genogram - A Picture That Worth A Thousand Words", "What's the Right Thing to Do? - An Introduction to Ethics", and "Being the Best You - The Road to Self Improvement", not only did I learn about the content presented by the university students, but about myself and the 'true me' that had been hidden deep inside. For example, in the seminar "Being the Best You", my mentor taught me that first impression, persuasion, and a proper mindset can greatly affect how you may be seen to others. However, what I realized after taking this seminar was that I had a very fixed mindset, and that this was the reason why I was not able to think about things positively at times. If something went wrong, I would recuse myself without even finding a proper reason, and give up even when I had not yet tried hard enough.

Four pieces of advice were given to me:

1. Find all your limits.
2. Push the limits little by little.
3. Find what motivates you .
4. Understand the importance of having someone to support you.

These words inspired me to change myself as a whole, and I promised myself to try to live up to these four statements, which I believe will lead to making me a better person overall. In our last seminar, my mentor said, "A lot of these lessons do seem kinda obvious sometimes but that's what makes us forget them unless we really sit down and talk about it".

HLAB is a summer school where you will be able to find lifelong friends, and can learn about who you are as a person. It is held every year in August, in four different locations, so I recommend all high school students to participate in this program in order to experience what a liberal arts school is like and to talk with different people in different universities and occupations.

For more information about HLAB: <https://h-lab.co/summer-school/>



Photo from HLAB website

# Film Reviews



## Snowpiercer

Reviewed by Mary Yang

Japan: PG12 (US: R)

Rating: 95% Rotten Tomatoes

Summary: *Snowpiercer* (Released in 2013) is a film by director Bong Joon-ho. This movie follows a post-apocalyptic society, caused by an attempt to reverse the effects of global warming. This results in another Ice Age, killing off most life on Earth. The survivors board the Snowpiercer, a train on a never-ending track around the world. Each train car is separated by class, and lower-class citizens occupy the end car. Curtis (played by Chris Evans!), one of the people at the end car, wants to attempt a revolution.



Source: *Snowpiercer* official website

*Snowpiercer* may not be the most family-friendly movie. The movie is rated R in the US, as it involves violence/gore and frightening or disturbing(!) scenes/dialogue. There are also usage of profanity and mild references to/usage of (fictional) drugs.

Otherwise, this is a fantastic movie! This movie was fascinating, with many twists. It probably shows the extreme disadvantages of capitalism and has mesmerizing visuals. As the film progresses and the other cars are shown, they look very fancy and luxurious. The outdoors shows out of the windows, and the snow looks beautiful. The contrast between the end car and everywhere else also emphasizes the theme while keeping the movie intriguing.

Overall, this movie appeals to a broad audience as long as they are fine with the warnings mentioned above. 9/10, I would recommend it.

Although it is rated PG12 in Japan, please be aware of some scenes as it is rated R in the US



We need **HELP** with the next edition of Tango, due out in June.

Articles poems, drawings, stories, photos welcome!

Please contact Mr. Algie or Tyus Sheriff if you are interested.

## Inception

Reviewed by Chiharu Nagasaka

*Inception* is a film written and directed by award winner, Christopher Nolan. *Inception* has an all star cast with Leonardo DiCaprio, Ellen Page, Cillian Murphy, and Tom Hardy.

The film follows Don Cobbs, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, a thief with the ability to enter people's dreams to steal secrets from their subconscious. Cobbs then gets offered a task, where if done successfully, can provide him with everything he's ever wanted, but if failed, can result in terrible consequences for him, and everyone he's associated with.

*Inception* overall is a spectacular film. It will shock you with its outstanding action sequences and fast-paced storyline. *Inception* has such an imaginative plot with complex characters and mind-bending cinematography. The storyline itself is a beautiful mix of a variety of different genres. It can move from intense action to a tear-jerking romance, but it all works so well. The changes in genre are smooth and impressive. It'll keep you at the edge of your seat the entire time.

*Inception* may seem confusing at first, but once the story is laid out, it becomes an emotional thrill-ride. Not only is this film entertaining, but it teaches the audience valuable morals and lessons that will benefit them for the future. Overall, *Inception* is a thought provoking, tear jerking, and action packed movie which I fully recommend for anyone to watch.

Image sources

*Inception* official website: Warner Brothers. <https://www.warnerbros.com/movies/inception/> Designer unknown. Accessed April 20, 2019

*Snowpiercer* official website: <https://snowpiercer-film.com/> Designer unknown. Accessed April 20, 2019



Source: *Inception* official website



## Tango Team

President: Tyus Sheriff  
Vice Presidents: Yu Takahashi, Tasuku Azuma  
Editor: Dave Algie

*The Tango team:*

Rena Kawasaki	Leiko Tajiri
Hyo-Jin Kim	Tanishka Murthy
Janet Jones	Oka Maeda
Mary Yang	Chiharu Nagasaka
Sophie Lim	Eojin Lee
Do Hee Kwon	Hana Manfred
Claire Kitamura	Melody Meline

*Special thanks to:*

Tara Cheney	Stephen Frater
Myles Jackson	Kurt Mecklem

*Special contributions were made to this edition by:*

Ryo Fujii	Steve Lewis
Peter Heimer	Rikuto Hong
Chika Nasu	Seri Kimura
Hikaru Takagi	

# Catch Up with K Pop

with Claire Kitamura



## LOONA WORLD DOMINATION

LOONA, also known as 이달의 소녀 is a Korean girl group consisting of 12 members, formed by BlockBerry Creative. This group is not like your typical group where they debut as one whole group. The group LOONA debuted as solos first, which corresponds with their Korean name “이달의 소녀” being translated to “Girl of the Month”. This group has sub-units (common in k-pop) meaning that within this group, there are smaller groups. The first sub-unit in LOONA is “1/3” which consists of the following members, Heejin, Hyunjin, Haseul, and Vivi. The second sub-unit is “Odd Eye Circle” which consists of, Kim Lip, Jinsoul, and Choerry. The third sub-unit being “YYXY” also known as “Youth Youth by Young” has Yves (pronounced Eve), Chuu, Gowon, and Olivia Hye. Yeojin (a member) is not in any of the sub-units because apparently “she doesn’t fit any” which I think is totally bananas.

The amazing group, LOONA is most known for their amazing synchronization as well as their message. But one amazing thing is the LOONA lore. The lore comes from their music videos as well as the lyrics. Many fans have different theories on how this timeline (the storyline is fictional) plays out. To be honest, I have absolutely no idea about what the heck is happening in the LOONA timeline and story, but it is very fun to try and understand.



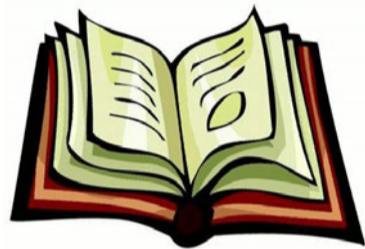
Photo source: <https://altselection.com/billboard-mascullins-loona-kcon/>

The message of their songs is an amazing aspect of LOONA as well. From last year’s track, “Butterfly” which gives a message for people to be themselves and do their own thing, to their newest track “So What” which tells people to be fearless of challenges and to take on those challenges passionately.

Overall, LOONA is a group which is amazing and deserves recognition for their originality and their messages. Although LOONA isn’t popular in Korea, they are very popular internationally which is why there is a saying, “LOONA WORLD DOMINATION” by fans across the globe. Anyway, stay awesome and stan LOONA.

# Book Review

by Sophie Lim

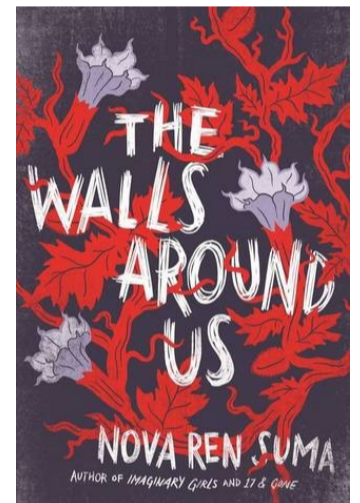


The *Walls Around Us* is a novel written by Nova Ren Suma in 2015. The book tells the story of two girls, Amber, an inmate in a juvenile detention center, and Violet, a ballerina. Their story is connected by Orianna, Violet’s childhood best friend and a fellow ballerina who had been convicted of murder and sent to the same detention center as Amber.

The *Walls Around Us* is a thriller, with elements of the paranormal and mystery. I enjoyed how strange, dark, and disturbing the story is. I also was intrigued by how the author shows the world of ballet.

The story paints a twisted picture of the friendships and rivalries of the ballerinas in a world where backstabbing, betrayal, and lying are encouraged to get farther in their craft. The story also shows the friendships formed by the inmates at the detention center and how close they become. Many plot twists came completely as a surprise to me but were fascinating nevertheless. The ending of the book might not answer all of the reader’s questions but is ultimately satisfying.

This book has some violence, as the main characters are involved in a murder and details are mentioned. It also has some disturbing content and minor sexual content. It should be suitable for a general audience with some discretion. As much as I personally enjoyed this book, it is definitely not for everyone. However, if this review even remotely interests you, give *The Walls Around Us* a try!



The Walls Around Us Book Cover Design by Connie Gabbert

# Keeping You App-to-Date

with Dave Algie

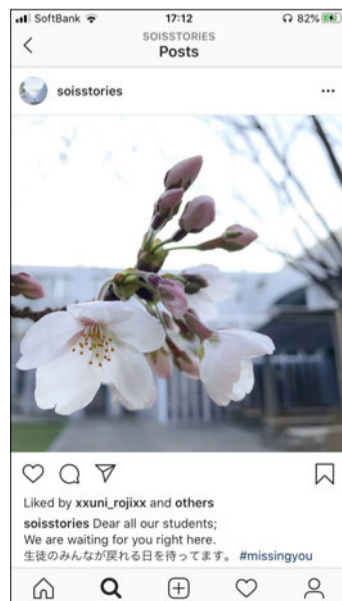


Hi folks. It’s everyone favorite tech columnist here:

Mr. Algie.

Today I am here to tell you about a brand-new app, called Instagram. As far as I can tell, it is exactly like MySpace, but completely different. To be honest, I don’t know much about it. I do know two Instagram accounts you should follow though:

[soisstories](#) showcases beautiful pictures of life at SOIS. Each photo is vibrant, artistic and conveys a real feel for life in our school.



The [saber\\_strong](#) Instagram chronicles the exploits of those in the SOIS community who refuse to diet, jog and exercise but choose instead to

EAT! SPRINT! And LIFT!

There are more SOIS and Sabers Instagram accounts you would be silly not to follow, and I will go over them in the next issue, so stay tuned!





# Sabers Sports



## High School Boys Basketball

### My First Year as a Varsity Player

by Eojin Lee

The basketball season was very interesting and new to me since it was my first Varsity season in high school. I was happy with how it went until we saw the results of WJAA and AISA. The end result of the season was definitely disappointing for everyone, especially for the seniors.

The strong points of our team are our individual skills. We have all played basketball for at least 2 or 3 years and we work really hard to get better. We also have great potential for the future. Since there are 4 sophomores in the WJAA and AISA team we have so much time to get better and we've been playing together since we were young, so I think that could be our strength going into the future.

Our team definitely has to work on playing as a team, though. Since our players are in different grades and played differently, we have different skills and different thoughts about how the team should operate. If we all settle on something and work together we will have a more successful season next year.

Still, even with those disappointments I mentioned above, I had a great season as far as having fun went. We had so much laughter together and good times. The most fun memory for this season can't be chosen. It has to be one of the best seasons I've had. I'd just like to say thanks to my teammates for a great season, and thanks to the coaches, managers and supporters for their help and support.



Photo from Sabers Website

## High School Girls Basketball: WJAA Champions!

by Do Hee Kwon

The High School Girls Sabers Basketball season was a great success. I had so much fun with my fellow members in the varsity team and I am happy that we were able to become first in WJAA after placing third in AISA.

We had great individual players but the strongest point of the team was that we had great team plays with a lot of passes and backing each other up.

We need to work on our shooting skills though because we have shorter members compared to other schools which makes us have to shoot more from outside.

The best memory was going to Korea for AISA and being able to get really close with SIS (SEOUL International School) players.

It was very fun being able to go to Seoul especially because of the amazing food. We got along so well with the Seoul International players. Even though all of this was wonderful, we couldn't play as well as we wanted to.

Some of outstanding players were Coco, Haruka and Sakura. Coco has helped the team greatly, scoring almost half of the points in some games. Haruka and Sakura had great chemistry on the court.

Sagara sensei takes the game seriously but always made the practice fun, accepting our mistakes. He always guided us to play as a team and not by ourselves which helped us to place first in WJAA.



WJAA was great. We were able to win all the games and it was very emotional when all the seniors played their last game and we won

I love being part of Sabers Girls Basketball. It's great to get to play alongside SIS students. I get along very well with them as they are welcoming and always supportive. It is very fun getting along with new SIS people and making new friends

Photo from Sabers Website





# Sabers Sports



## Managers Provide Valuable Support to Middle School Girls Basketball

with Chika Nasu, Hikaru Takagi, Seri Kimura and Rikuto Hong

The Sabers Middle School Girls Basketball team had successful season (See page 10). The players were well-supported behind the scenes by a diverse team of managers from SIS and OIS: different grades, different backgrounds, three girls and a boy. Tango caught up with the managers' team to find out how such a great bunch came together and how they looked to support the players.

### How did you become a middle school girls basketball manager?

**Chika:** I wanted to be a manager because I didn't want to play basketball but I still wanted to be with my friends.

**Hikaru:** When I was in 7th grade I wanted to do it, but my parents wouldn't let me. But this year they let me do I did it.

**Seri:** I was a manager when I was in 7th grade because they wanted someone that can speak both English and Japanese. I knew what we need to do so I did it this year too

**Rikuto:** The coach was finding a new manager. I was interested to be a manager, so I asked the coach and that's how I became a manager.

### What things do you have to do as a manager?

**Chika:** We have to support all of the players.

**Hikaru:** We need to get the ice if someone gets hurt, get the balls out and get out the pinnies and cones.

**Seri:** For basketball, we need to keep points, get the balls out and clean them up, take care if they get hurt and translate what the coaches are saying. Also organizing the uniforms.

**Rikuto:** It depends on the sport but for most sports we need to open locks to get the balls out. We record points during tournaments. We need to record who has uniforms. We also do First Aid in case players get hurt.

### What is the best thing about being a manager?

**Chika:** I get to make a lot of new friends.

**Hikaru:** I get to be friends with the OIS students.

**Seri:** You are able to make friends in OIS and students that are in different grades.

**Rikuto:** The best thing about being a manager is you are able to go to tournaments with the players. Also you're able to meet students from other schools and even from SIS so you might be able to make new friends.



Photo by Dave Algie

### What is the worst thing about being a manager?

**Chika:** The times not everyone helps out.

**Hikaru:** We need to go to the games on Saturdays

**Seri:** There's nothing really bad about being a manager.

**Rikuto:** I think the bad thing about being a manager is that your time might get taken since you have to go to practices and help with tournaments.

### Do you think the team is having a good season? Why?

**Chika:** No because one of our best players got hurt (*At the time of the interview, star player Anju Manfred had just been injured*).

**Hikaru:** Yes because everyone is being good teammates.

**Seri:** Yes I think so. Everyone is having fun.

**Rikuto:** I think the season is going well since not that many players got hurt, except for one (*After the interview, the school shutdown occurred, but not before an exciting last game-See page 10*).

Thanks to the managers for their time. And thanks to **all** managers who help out with Sabers teams!



# Sabers Sports

## Saber vs Saber

### Middle School Girls Basketball

by Dave Algie



The Sabers Middle School Girls Basketball team started their season with a hiss and a roar. Injury and Covid-19 threatened to cast a shadow over the end of the season, but with some ingenuity and Sabers spirit, the players were able to finish on a high note with a festive but competitive domestic match that pitted Sabers players against each other.

The season started well, with many girls going out for Sabers Middle School Basketball. There was a lot of talent coming through, and it was expertly guided by Coach Mecklem and Coach Nicholl. The team had an unbeaten season leading up to what was going to be the AISA competition.

One player helping to lead the way was new Saber Anju Manfred (OIS 7). Anju has a great skillset and her excellent play was well complemented by other Sabers stars.

Unfortunately, a leg injury put Anju out for the season. Her teammates and fans wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her back on the court next season.

Then there was more bad news. Coronavirus meant there would be no AISA tournament at the end of the season.

Coach Nicholl and Coach Mecklem wanted the players to have a final match for the season, so they broke the team into two teams, purple and white. Coach Nicholl coached purple and Coach Mecklem coached white.

It was an exciting, fun, festive final match for the season. The players played their hearts out. Team Purple came away with the win, but the main thing was that the girls had great fun and the game was played in an excellent spirit.

"It was a fun game" Purple player Nene Yamanishi said afterwards. "I liked it that Purple team won. Even when we weren't out on the court—when we were on the bench—we always supported each other."

Kanon Nishikawa said she was nervous at first. "Well, I was nervous because we were playing hard and I really didn't want to accidentally hurt the teammates I was playing against. But nobody got injured in the match and it was actually pretty fun in the end."



Photos by Dave Algie