

Unexpected accomplishments from my volunteering experiences



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By Miriam Chang, Grade 11

Volunteering had always brought me outside of my realms of comfort and exposed me to new friendships—often unexpected ones. Every encounter has proved that volunteering is rewarding and fulfilling. From taking care of stray dogs to helping kids create art at the National Museum, I've encountered all kinds of people every time. Every person I have met whilst volunteering has warmed me with stories of why they were here, while I exchange my stories in return. Each week, I teach children English as a second language, introducing them to novels I read while they tell me about their horrible swimming classes or cats shedding fur. I vividly remember telling a student about my most recent read—The Dead Poets Society. As I told them the gist of the story, her eyes slowly lit up. I had successfully made her want to read at home! It was something I didn't like doing as a child either. I couldn't wait for her to tell me about the book after. In an attempt to educate these kids on disabilities, I asked the kids to practice their English and accompany me in writing letters to kids who have disabilities—they spread some love towards them. As they thoughtfully told me what they wanted to tell those kids, one of them asked me, "They don't look like they have disabilities". I chuckled and told her that disabilities might not always be visible, which is why we need to treat everyone with a little more kindness. Although I might not have done much to impact the lives of these kids, they will always have a spot in my heart for their pure curiosity. 🌟



THE HWIS-Per

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Starry Night is the theme for this year's HWIS party, our students have been looking forwards to this one of a kind event since the beginning of this academic year. Dance moves were rehearsed, social etiquettes were practiced, and outfits were all hand picked by themselves! We were blessed to end 2022 with such a glorious evening event and we wish all you have a Merry Christmas with lots of love and laughter!

Christmas Banquet

By Abigail Shieh & Tiger Tang, Grade 10

Happy new year!! This Christmas we had our first annual banquet. Our international conference hall was transformed by the student council into a winter wonderland with balloons, starry walls, candlelight, and more that turned the empty hall into a magical ballroom. Snacks, pastries, pizza, and soft drinks were shared to celebrate this special event. Honorary guests were invited to enjoy the banquet, including multiple alumni, who sang and danced for us.

Thanks to the hard work and careful planning of the student council, students and teachers alike enjoyed the event and had lots of fun. A few teachers have said that it was the best Christmas party that they have been to in a few years. Hopefully next year we can have just as much of a subliminal experience as this year's. 🌟

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After the special performances, there was a chance to request songs and sing and dance together. Party songs blared and lights flashed, it was a grand time for the banquet-goers. Towards the end of the night, the mood of the songs were toned down, and it was time for the slow dances where everyone had a chance to dance with their fellow students and dates. This ended the party beautifully, and marked the end of the day before Christmas eve.

2023-2024

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The F-it Safe Space



By Miriam Chang, Grade 11

Two best friends walk around the city and talk about the recent mental health struggles they have been facing. As their minds think about the culture they have been raised in and the conditioned mindset they now have to openly express their feelings around each other. They realized they might be the only ones comfortable doing so. A few days later, F-it was born. Striving to promote more awareness regarding mental health and social subjects in personal, social, familial, and all other contexts, F-it has aimed to provide a “safe space” for students to release stressors and balled-up emotions in an anonymous form when they feel distressed.

Over the past two years, F-it has put in an effort to educate HWIS students regarding sensitive topics that are often overlooked in educational settings. In school assemblies, F-it has touched on topics such as burning out, social anxiety, gossip, jealousy, and many other social topics students may face and are unable to deal with independently. Other than educational speeches and anonymous spaces, F-it also provides in-person sessions for students who need physical proximity to release their emotions. As mental health still seems to be a sensitive topic in Asia that is treated lightly or ignored, F-it wants to remind people that it is normal to be feeling emotions other than happiness.

Currently, F-it is still providing its services in HWIS and plans to continue on! We encourage you to speak to us if you have any questions or if you are struggling at all. 🌟



FIFA World Cup 2022



By Ethan Ku, Grade 9 & Ruby Lai, Grade 10

The FIFA World Cup, which began on November 20 and ended on December 18, is one of the most exciting events for which people all over the world have been waiting for four years. It is also known for being the shortest World Cup ever, as it concludes in 28 days.

This year's FIFA World Cup was held in Qatar, which spent approximately \$220 billion to host the event, making it the most expensive World Cup ever. The winner of the FIFA World Cup in 2022 can receive \$42 million, which is the greatest prize that FIFA has awarded. More than 1.4 million fans from across the world have visited Qatar for the FIFA World Cup 2022. Interestingly enough, only eight countries have won the FIFA throughout its 92-year history: Spain and England once, Uruguay and France twice, Argentina three times, Germany and Italy four times, and lastly, Brazil five times! Unfortunately, this World Cup is also the swansong for both Messi and Ronaldo, with two completely different endings. Messi has made 24 World Cup appearances, attended his first World Cup when he was 18 years old, and ends his last World Cup by bringing back the championship trophy, whereas Ronaldo ends his last World Cup by being named on the bench again for Portugal's quarterfinal against Morocco.

Another surprising event in FIFA 2022 is that they invited BTS Jungkook, the first K-pop artist to perform solo, the Golden Ball, went to best Messi; the Best Young Player to Enzo Fernandez; the Golden Gloves, to the top performing to Emiliano Martinez; and lastly, the Golden Boot, to

Mbappé. It was probably the best World Cup ever. We can't wait for the next one in 2026! 🌟

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