Blast Off! The Thrill of the Launch



By Kaien Yeh, Grade 10

Although this isn't my first experience with experiments involving dry ice and liquid nitrogen, I always find them satisfying and enjoyable. Dry ice and liquid nitrogen are composed of carbon dioxide and nitrogen, both of which are closely related to our everyday lives. This time, I tried an experiment I hadn't done before: the liquid nitrogen rocket. It's truly amazing to watch!

The process is straightforward, but it's important to follow the safety instructions, as there is a risk of explosion. The process involves filling a soda bottle with water and then carefully adding liquid nitrogen. The rapid expansion of the gas upon contact with the warm water generates immense pressure, launching the bottle into the air like a miniature rocket. While seemingly straightforward, safety is paramount. Utilizing the wrong type of bottle can lead to catastrophic consequences, as the sudden pressure buildup

can cause the container to explode.

This year, we conducted a great demonstration of this experiment, which included all sorts of outcomes—failures, successes, and even explosions! One major cause of explosions can be using the wrong type of bottle. Non-specialized plastic bottles cannot withstand high pressure and may eventually explode.

Through these experiences, we gain a deeper appreciation for the scientific principles at play and the potential for both wonder and caution in scientific exploration. With continued curiosity and a thirst for knowledge, we can unlock the mysteries of the universe, one experiment at a time. I am excited about further scientific discoveries in the future.







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HWIS Christmas Dance: A Night to Remember

By Alicia Yu, Grade 9



This year's Christmas dance at HWIS was an unforgettable experience! As a first-time participant, I was blown away by the festive atmosphere. The hype and slow dancing were definitely my favorite parts.

The international hall was transformed with party lights, balloons, and music. It felt so enjoyable seeing everyone gathered in the muffle, dancing and laughing together when hype dancing. Also, romantic songs fills the atmosphere. Students cluster in the center, and pairs sway inside, we were all so indulged in it!

The food stalls were a huge hit, with students excited to grab delicious pizzas and puffins. The photo walls and signature board served as lasting reminders of the joyous occasion, capturing the memories of this special night.

Moreover, the dance competition was another huge moment for me. It was my first time participating in a dance competition and winning third place felt like such an honorable achievement. Friends screamed as they were watched. We were so united, their support made my performance more special. This Christmas dance will forever hold a special place in my heart and I'll never forget this experience!





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Diverse and Dazzling

HWIS Celebrates Christmas with a Spectacular Show





By Ethan Ku, Grade 11

Another annual event at HWIS is the Christmas Talent Show, which takes place yearly around the same time as Hong Wen Star but is specifically tailored for the creative and expressive members of HWIS. This time, there were some returning artists but also some new talent and new faces; many teachers showed off their inner maestro, with a great variety of singing, dancing, rapping, and other instrumental pieces, both as individuals and in groups.

The variety extended not only in the medium of delivery but also in the content itself. Life lessons were interwoven with folk music, pop danced with classical, and the variation of languages truly exemplified the international spirit of the school. Some performers were scheduled to perform multiple times; in fact, the schedule was so packed that some teachers sacrificed their time for the students. Nevertheless, everyone gave their best effort and performed well.

Not to be outdone, the administrators and some teachers had to say to themselves, "Here we go," as they stepped onto the figurative stage and sang in front of the whole school. Apart from that, our hostess made a motivating duo that served to intensify the enthusiasm of those in the crowd who were excited. It was also a great prelude to the events of that morning.









CENTMUN 2024



By Annabelle Chen, Grade 10

Last weekend, the HWIS MUN club participated in CENT-MUN XVII, hosted by Hui Wen High School. CENTMUN, which stands for Central Taiwan Model United Nations, was my first-ever MUN conference. This was a very interesting yet challenging conference, as we had to debate in front of everyone in the committee. I participated in GA3, which talked about issues related to Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues. This Committee discussed issues relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, and the treatment of refugees.

During the conference, I didn't talk much due to nervousness and the lack of confidence to express my ideas in front of the committee. However, as I observed how other delegates confidently debated, showed me the importance of preparation and the thought of not getting afraid of saying anything wrong.

I want to express my utmost gratitude to the organizers of CENTMUN XVII for hosting such an eventful conference. A big thank you to Michael and Belia, my chair and co-chair, for making the conference more relaxed and enjoyable. Additionally, I would like to thank Mr. Leggett, our club teacher, for his encouragement and support throughout the conference, and for taking photos of us when we were talking on the dais.

This experience showed me how important it is to prepare well and have the courage to share my ideas, even if they aren't perfect. Next time, I hope to step out of my comfort zone and speak up more, contributing my thoughts to the discussion. Though I'm still nervous, this experience has inspired me to keep trying and speak more next time. For anyone unsure about joining MUN, I'd say go for it, because it's a great way to learn, grow, and build confidence.



