# The Hilltoppers Times



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#### **Main Article**

# Emerging Young Diplomats: SJA Jeju's SJAMUN I Debut

JungWoo Park, 11th grade



MUN SJA Jeju students participating for presentation

On October 13, SJA Jeju made history by hosting its first MUN conference, SJAMUN I. MUN, short for Model United Nations, is a renowned academic activity that enables students to step into the roles of various countries or characters, demanding them to showcase their diplomatic, oratory, negotiating, and problem-solving skills, much like the real-world representatives at the United Nations. The significance of this event lies in its status as the first independently established MUN conference under the SJA Jeju banner. Prior MUN conferences attended by our SJA MUNers were usually organized by external institutions. Therefore, this inaugural MUN conference marks the commencement of a new chapter in SJA Jeju's MUN journey, one that future SJA Jeju students can nurture, develop, and contribute to the GEC community and beyond. The inception of SJAMUN was initially conceived and received approval from Mr. Boyd, the high school principal, in December 2022, underscoring the substantial effort and dedication invested over more than 10 months to bring it to the real event. The conference took place over two days, from October 13 to October 14. Students from all four international schools within the GEC were invited to participate in various roles, including delegates, chairs, and secretariats. Dong Yoon Lee (junior), the secretary-general of SJAMUN I, stated, "Participating in MUN conferences enables students to interact with new people, make memories, take risks, and step out of their safe zone. I want students to be able to experience this as much as possible, which is limited within GEC. Therefore, I hosted this conference to offer students additional opportunities to enjoy MUN."

Delegates in the MUN engaged in comprehensive and intense debates, ultimately acquiring valuable skills in negotiation, public speaking, diplomacy, and conflict resolution. Luis Lee (sophomore), who received an honorable mention as a delegate of Iran in the Security Council committee, stated, "Overall, I believed that the conference was exceedingly productive. We engaged in meaningful discussions on critical topics, such as the Israel-Palestine conflict in Gaza, and other global issues, alongside students from fellow GEC schools." The conference not only empowers students to articulate their views with professionalism but also encourages them to research deeply into global issues. While delegates experienced the powerful impact of MUN, the chairs, who serve as the leaders and representatives of the committee, overseeing its proceedings and debates, also cherished the moments. Chris Song (sophomore), a deputy chair of the crisis committee, expressed, "As a student of SJA Jeju and a student who serves as a chair for the first time, I was committed to representing the committee and our school with the highest standards and responsibilities. The conference began with some nervousness, but I am proud to have served the delegates and conference as a whole." The SJA Jeju community eagerly anticipates the continuation of our MUN culture and the prospect of hosting a second SJAMUN next year. This momentous event has not only showcased the dedication and talent of our students but has also set a significant precedent for future MUN conferences in the community.

In closing, Dong Yoon Lee's message to all MUNers is clear: "Do not hesitate to take risks. Try and speak about everything. You will not be in trouble."



#### **Academics**

### First Parent-Teacher Conferences of the Academic Year

Goeun (Jenny) Choi, 10th grade



MUN SJA Jeju students participating for presentation

The Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on Friday, October 20th as our St. Johnsbury Academy community approached the midpoint of semester 1. It took place on the SJA Jeju Campus in the PAC building either in the Black Box theater or the Mini-PAC. The conferences were an excellent opportunity for parents and students to discuss their progress with their teachers. During the Parent-Teacher Conferences, families were allowed to meet their child's teachers based on their preferences. They could individually discuss the student's progress, academic achievements, and any concerns and questions they have about class. It is not mandatory to have an appointment with every subject teachers. Parent or a guardian of a child had to simply arrive on campus during either the morning session (8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) or the afternoon session (1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.). During the on campus session periods, it was possible for them to meet with their student's assigned teachers. To ensure that all families have a chance to speak with their student's teachers, each conference was limited to 10 minutes per meeting. Similar to previous Parent-Teacher Conferences, students were encouraged to join the parents in the conferences as there were only a limited number of translators available. Subsequently, since teachers are spending time with the parents for the whole day, the students were excused from classes on Friday 20-Oct-2023. Hopefully, this was a time for the students to rest for the upcoming academic week. With success of the first Parent-Teacher Conference, the SJA community looks forward for more communications on the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences as well. Stay tuned for further updates on other various school events!



#### **Entertainments**

### SJA's New Dance Group, Winsome

ChaeWon Lee, 11th grade



Winsome dance crew members performing at PAC

Winsome, SJA Jeju's new dance crew, took the stage for their very first performance at PAC on SJA's first-ever house spirit day. Their performance took place before the spirit day started in earnest. After the announcement from STUCO introducing and explaining the overall system of the spirit day, Winsome's performance began. The first song of their performance was Attention by New Jeans. As the music started, they moved together in sync, creating a cool dance movement. A total of six members had performed together so smoothly like they had been dancing together forever. The audience clapped and cheered, getting into the rhythm with them. Afterward, they switched up their moves, changing the mood to more energetic and faster. The next song was a remix version of Fantastic Baby by Big Bang. More members joined the stage, and the performance became even more colorful and brilliant. Each dancer expressed excitement through their dance, and the audience could feel the emotions as well. When they finished, the crowd expressed their love and joy by cheering and clapping loudly. It was clear that their first performance impressed everyone. The whole PAC was buzzing with excitement. Backstage, the dancers were all smiles and high-fives. Jessica Kim (Junior), leader and founder of Winsome, told her crew was totally exhausted by using all powers for the performance. She mentioned her preparation progress, saying she had prepared about a month for the performance, and it wasn't enough due to the break in between those days. Nevertheless, they knew they did something really special, and all their efforts eventually resulted in the best. Jessica Kim (Junior) expressed her mixed sense of fulfillment and regret, saying, "People's reactions were the biggest element that made me feel fulfilled. We were using PAC as our stage, and usually, people's reactions are not that rich, but on our performance, I think the spirit from the house game created the mood". SJA Jeju's new dance crew, Winsome, has started their wonderful journey at the first house spirit day. With their fabulous dance performances, SJA Jeju's community and spirit have blossomed more than ever. Let's stay tuned for their next performance!



## Tunes, Jazz Band, and Choir Shine in Fall Performance

Kang (Michelle) Lee, 9th grade



All SJA member participated in Fall Performance, Tunes band members performing

St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju High School music concerts are one of the biggest events of the whole semester! The 2023-2024 fall concert was held on Tuesday, October 10th, where all high school students with their parents came to watch it together. After strings and jazz bands performed last April, this music festival returned with a wider variety of instruments and genres, with three teams dominating the stage. Starting off the show was SJA's official band Tunes. Students from grades 9 to 12 prepared a variation of compositions including guitar, bass, drums, etc. The songs chosen included 'Steal the Show' by Lauv, 'Square' by Yerin Back, and 'Lost Stars' by Adam Levine. Second, the Choir colored PAC with their beautiful voices. The songs were performed by students of an official chorus class in a unique way compared to other teams in that a small number of students performed only with their own voices without background music. SJA high school music teacher Mr.Moy said, "This group of students that performed in the 2023 Fall Concert were almost all experienced singer choirs. They had to work very hard in developing their singing technique and learning how to sing in harmony." The last performance ended with a jazz band! This group, which consisted of various instruments such as flute, saxophone, trumpet, and piano, played songs such as John Coltrane's 'Blue Train' and Bruno Mars' 'Uptown Funk.' Mr. Moy claimed that jazz requires learning about music improvisation and is rarely covered in any high school music curriculum. So, the Jazz Band class at SJA Jeju stands out in the international education circuit. SeYi Kwon in grade 9 said, "I really enjoyed taking jazz classes. I'd never played this kind of music before, so I was a little nervous when playing jazz in front of an audience. I'm proud to play this kind of music and to show on stage what I had practiced together in the band. It was great to have the opportunity to perform, and I hope there are more performances like this!" Mr. Moy said that even if students are not in formal music classes or ASA students, they can form ensembles and participate in music performances. SJA's next concert will be the 2023 Winter Concert, on Tuesday, December 12. If you are a student who wants to show off your musical skills, it would be a good idea to take advantage of this upcoming opportunity!



#### **School Wide Activities**

## The First-ever House Spirit Day

EuiGine (Eugene) Kim, 10th Grade



SJA Jeju girls' soccer team and boys' soccer team

On October 13th, 2023, STUCO and the House Council joined forces to host the inaugural House Spirit Day at St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju. During the Friday morning assembly, Spirit shirts were distributed to each house by members of STUCO and the House Council, with each shirt's color representing a specific house: red for Pokpo, orange for Shikmoolji, blue for Haebyeon, black for Dongmoolgoon, green for Oreum, and purple for Seom. As a result, teachers and students gathered in their designated areas, proudly showcasing their house spirit through their colored shirts and face painting. After igniting the students' house spirits, each house gathered in their assigned areas to create exceptional chants. The purpose of these chants was to foster a sense of unity among the houses, promoting better teamwork for the upcoming afternoon activities. Each house came up with a unique and fantastic chant. Following this, two houses were paired together to play mini-games, encouraging collaboration and preparing for the subsequent events. Seom competed against Shikmoolji, Haebyeon with Pokpo, and Dongmoolgoon with Oreum. These two games, the Corner game and the OX quiz game, facilitated communication among students, built chemistry, and increased competitiveness, as the winning team earned points for their house. Students could keep track of the scoreboard by checking SJA STUCO's Instagram account. The results of the mini-games were 2:0 for Seom and Shikmoolji, 1:1 for Haebyeon and Pokpo, and 1:1 for Dongmoolgoon and Oreum. Following the mini-games, all the houses congregated on the field. They played Red-Light Green-Light (무궁화 꽃이 피었습니다) and Group Jump-Rope. In the Red-Light Green-Light game, three houses played simultaneously, with Pokpo, Shikmoolji, and Dongmoolgoon competing first, followed by Haebyeon, Oreum, and Seom. Ultimately, Dongmoolgoon and Seom emerged as the winners of Red-Light Green-Light. The second game, Group Jump-Rope, proved to be a more challenging mission compared to previous activities, as each house member had to take turns jumping through the rope for two minutes. Haebyeon, Oreum, and Dongmoolgoon recorded the most jumps, in that order. After lunch, the dance team Winsome delivered a performance during the afternoon assembly to boost the spirits and enhance the enthusiastic atmosphere. Subsequently, students engaged in Capture the Flag, Tug of War, and Relay Race in the afternoon. Shikmoolji and Seom emerged as the winners in Capture the Flag, while Dongmoolgoon secured victory in the Tug of War. In the Relay Race, Shikmoolji finished first, followed by Dongmoolgoon and then Oreum. In the end, the total points accumulated were as follows: Pokpo with 1300 points, Oreum with 1700 points, Shikmoolji with 1950 points, Haebyeon with 2100 points, Seom with 2350 points, and Dongmoolgoon with 2400 points. The first-ever House Spirit Day was won by Dongmoolgoon. A member of Dongmoolgoon, Ha Un Paek (sophomore), expressed his pride and contentment, saying, "I'm so glad that I can't express it in words. We faced some challenges, but we never gave up. I want to thank my house members for what we've accomplished! Let's go Dongmoolgoon!" With the resounding success of the first House Spirit Day, the SJA community eagerly anticipates more exciting house activities for the rest of the school year.



## Highlight a Hiltopper!

WonSeok Lee, 11th Grade

As a way to recognize the SJA Jeju community that is filled with students who "go above and beyond" to help others and make the school a better learning environment, the "Highlight a Hilltopper" program was announced by Ms. Gruzynski. The "Highlight a Hilltopper" program encourages students to nominate other students who have made an effort to benefit the whole school community. This could include anything from "helping a classmate in need" to volunteering their time to clean up the learning pods after school, said Ms. Gruzynski at the morning assembly. To nominate a Hilltopper, students should complete a short form that can be accessed through the QR codes or URLs that are included in the weekly announcement presentation. The form will ask for the name of the student being nominated and a brief description of their behavior or selfless action that contributed to their nomination. Then, the several selected students will be reviewed and finally recognized at the morning assembly. At the assembly, the students will be called to the stage in order to share their stories with the school community. "I scanned the QR code to highlight my friend who always pushes chairs in even after the entire class has left the classroom," said Soomin Lee (Junior). "He's a nice guy, but rarely recognized," Soomin stated. "This indirect way of thanking students is especially helpful when you're not so close with that student," Soomin added. Because the nomination process is anonymous, students feel more comfortable appreciating others who are not necessarily close friends. The "Highlight a Hilltopper" program can be a great opportunity to show appreciation for the students who work to make the school a better place.

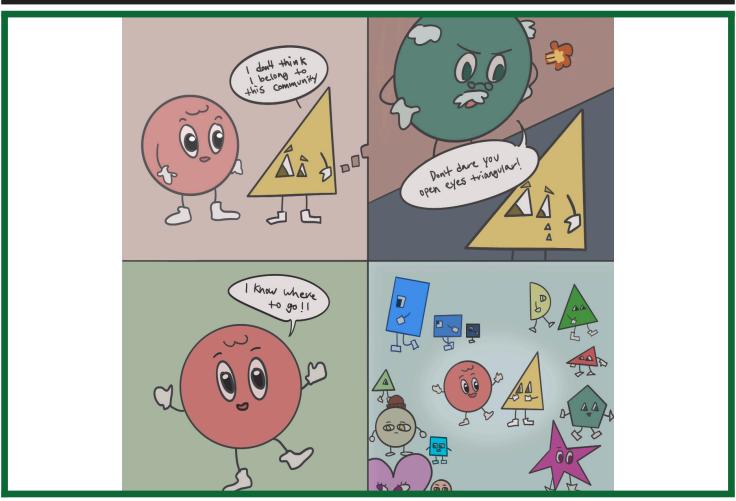
#### **Sports**

## October GEC Swimming Competition Highlights

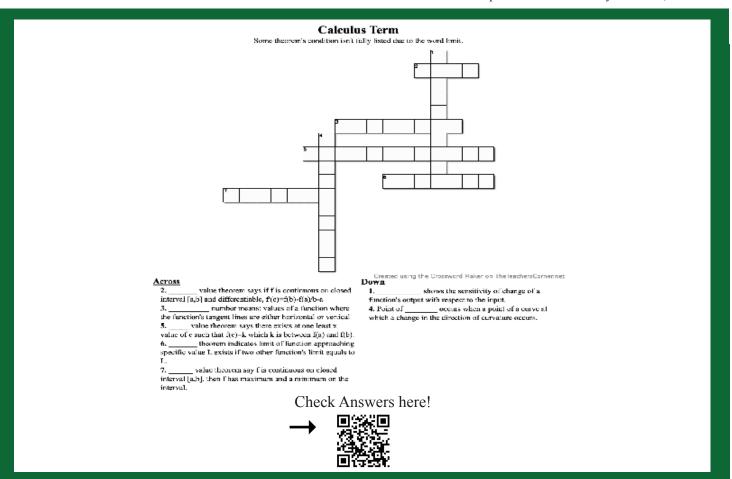
ChaeBum Lee, 10th Grade

On Saturday, October 14th GEC swimming competition was held at Branksome Hall Asia. The actual swimming competition is in sports season 2, and this time it was a pre-competition. Four international schools in GEC - Korea International School Jeju, Saint Johnsbury Academy Jeju, Branksome Hall Asia, and North London Collegiate School - participated in this competition, with a total of 151 students. At around 9 o'clock, all of the school representatives gathered at Branksome Hall Asia. The first event was an individual competition. Multiple swimming events were prepared throughout the competition, and the finale was 200m 4-person freestyle and medley. The competition was divided into junior school boys and girls, Middle school boys and girls, and high school boys and girls. In the end, the team with the highest cumulative scores from individual and relay ranking wins the medal. St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju High School boys and girls won first place, and middle school boys and girls won second place. It was a successful accomplishment for the swimming team of SJA Jeju. This year's accomplishment was especially meaningful because due to the MUN conference, the majority of the swimming players missed the competition. Seungwoo Kim (9th grade) said, "It was very rewarding to win first place with the school's name engraved on it, and I'm looking forward to next year." Also, the swimming team coach Mr. Hwang stated that, "SJA Jeju is the best swimming school in GEC." Our swimmers glorified SJA Jeju, expecting wonderful results in sports season 2 from our swimming team.





"There is no place we cannot fit" by Ian Kim, 10th Grade







Vantage Science & Technology Review Weekly Science Cartoon

## **ASSEMBLY SUMMARY**



#### 2023. 10. 6 Friday Assembly

STUCO/House Council is happy to announce the newly elected House prefects! Pokpo Representative: Hyun Uk Bang

Haebyeon Representative: SungWon (Sam) Chong

Seom Representative: TaeJun Park

Shikmoolji Representative: JungWoo Park Oreum Representative: SungWan Cho

Dongmoolgoon Representative: Eugene Kim



#### **2023. 10. 27 Friday Assembly**

During the first half of the assembly, House councils wrapped up the House Spirit Game that happened on Friday, October 13th by shouting out several house members who went above and beyond. Now it's time to sign up for the 2023-2024 Drama audition! This year's HS Drama Production Team will perform a classical musical Grease. The audition takes place on November 27 and 28, from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM at the Performing Arts Center (PAC). The winners of this week's Highlight a Hilltopper are DongYoon Lee and Jane Jung! Congratulations.



#### Leaders



Juliet Kim Advisor



JaeEun Jung Junior



Dong Yoon Lee Junior



Jeongwon Moon Junior

## Writing



Wonseok Lee Junior



Chaewon Lee Junior



Jung Woo Park Junior



Euigine Kim Sophomore



Chaebum Lee Sophomore



Goeun Choi Sophomore



Kang Lee Freshman

## Design



TaeHee Kim Senior



Rin Lee Senior



Ian Kim Sophomore