



GPA Newsletter

March 2016



Vice Principal's Greeting

Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting week for me. I participated in several excellent workshops at KORCOS (Korean Council of Overseas Schools) conference on Friday 11 March. One workshop offered a valuable lesson about homework. Research on

homework suggests that smaller but meaningful amounts per day has a stronger effect on student achievement. For example, homework will not take more than 90 minutes, and it will develop critical understanding of the material. From 13-17 March, I had the fortunate opportunity to be part of a school accreditation team to evaluate a school in Shanghai. That school, like GPA, is accredited by WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) so that colleges and universities recognize our course credits. You can be assured that each GPA teacher is striding to ensure the best quality education for your children.

“*Research on homework suggests that smaller but meaningful amounts per day has a stronger effect on student achievement.*”

Sincerely,

Joseph Lynn

School News : New Student Council



Simon - Prez



Sinae - VP



Daewook - 11th



Kyulim - 10th



Amy - 9th

The student council for this semester has been selected!



—Mr. Cabrera

In Student Council, *Simon Park* will be our president and *Sinae Park* will be our vice-president. *Daewook Lim* will be the representative for 11th grade, *Kyulim Lee* will represent the 10th grade, and *Amy Lee* will be the 9th grade representative.

We will soon be discussing our options for the school field trip, which will take place at the conclusion of midterms.

PSAT news

—Mr. Lynn

GPA's students earned laudable benchmarks on the PSAT in comparison with their peers in the U.S. and other international schools. The mean total score reported for all **grade 10 students is 953**, while the mean total score reported for **all grade 11 students is 947**. The statistical benchmark range for both grades is 320-1520. More importantly, our students are meeting benchmark percentiles in Evidence- Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Math. For instance, 73% of the grade 10 students met the benchmarks for ERW, and 91% met the benchmarks for Math. Grade 11 produced similar numbers, for instance, 71% met the benchmarks for ERW, and 86% met the benchmarks for Math. These statistics tell us that your children are being prepared by their teachers for success in college. Last week, your child was given their individual score reports. Please review it, and access the online report, which will give you more information to consider.

Study Skills —Ms. Fleece

As a celebration of **Pi day (3/14)** and a culmination of 2 weeks of learning memorization skills by studying memory champions, students participating in the study skills activity competed to recite Pi to as many digits as possible. Our champion, Mina Jeong, recited Pi to 94 digits. She says she thinks of it as a song. In second and third place, Chaehee Han and Richard Kim recited Pi to 31 and 30 digits respectively.



In the Classroom : Socratic Discussion

—Mr. Murphy

World History B class participating in a Socratic Seminar. Students share opinions and evidence while trying to answer the question, "Did the Industrial Revolution help women become more successful? Why or why not?" The students demonstrated impressive research and preparation helping to create an impactful learning experience.

“Learning Math as a Group”

—Mr. Dong

I'm very excited to announce that I have made some changes in my math classes this semester and decided to gear towards "Learning Math as a Group". It's been proven that learning experiences become more memorable when social-emotional memories are part of the learning event. That's why I decided to use cooperative learning techniques.

Students will be divided into groups and work on few math problems cooperatively. They will not only learn their collaboration skills but also their social skills.

Another important change I made is I decided to divide all my assessments into 4 categories "Knowledge/Understanding, Application, Communication, and Thinking/Inquiry/

Problem/Solving. They are vital components that will lead to success in the future. I've seen students struggle in college due to lack of exposure to various types of questions in Math. I will make sure to make my class not only exciting but something that is applicable to real life. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns with particular students/course.

“*It's been proven that learning experiences become more memorable when social-emotional memories are part of the learning event.*”

Mr. Dong

In the Science Classroom

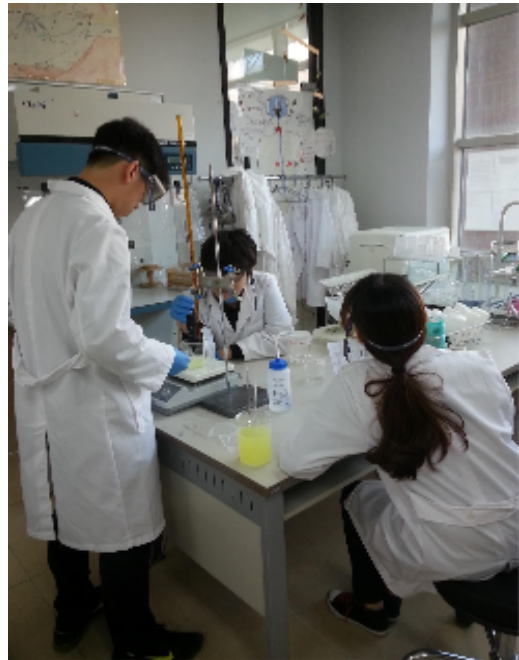
—Ms. Turner

Earth Science B

In Earth Science B, students have successfully completed models of water treatment plants (*first two pictures below*). Seula & Jean worked together (yellow labels) and Jeahyuk & Kiback worked together (white labels).

Middle School Science

The middle school science class finished their Rube Goldberg project. Attached are pictures of Marina & Michael working, Chanwoo and Kunwoo working, and Richard & Hyeonjin's final project. The students have made videos to explain how their machines work, so feel free to ask the students to share their videos.



AP chemistry students performing an acid-base titration using lemonade as a buffer. (Ms. Moore)



Activity Time : Futsal

—Mr. Murphy



Students participated in a futsal tournament on Thursday, March 17. We played three games at Handong International School in Pohang. The students played well and showed great sportsmanship and teamwork. Our next tournament is a Busan International Foreign School on Saturday, April 23.

“ Unfortunately, we lost all three games, but the students did better than they initially thought they would and are excited about the next tournament.

—Ms. Stitt

