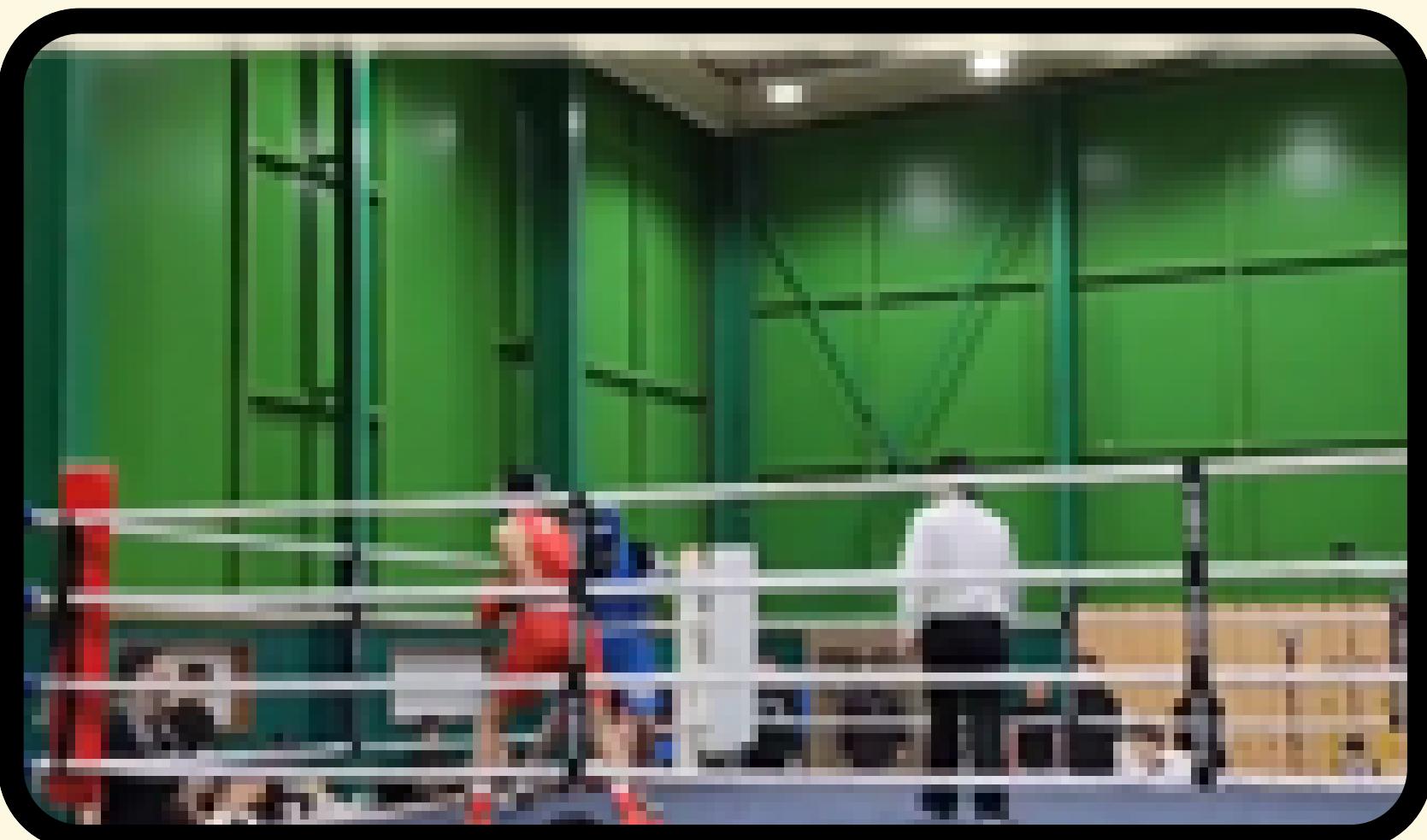


Boxing Champ! Edward



Edward recently made his mark at the 1st Yongsan District Boxing Tournament, where he fought his way to the finals and came out on top. Representing Grade 6, he showed incredible focus, strength, and determination in every round. His victory wasn't just about winning a title—it was about proving his hard work and dedication in the ring. Edward's triumph in the tournament stands as a powerful start to what looks like a promising boxing journey ahead.

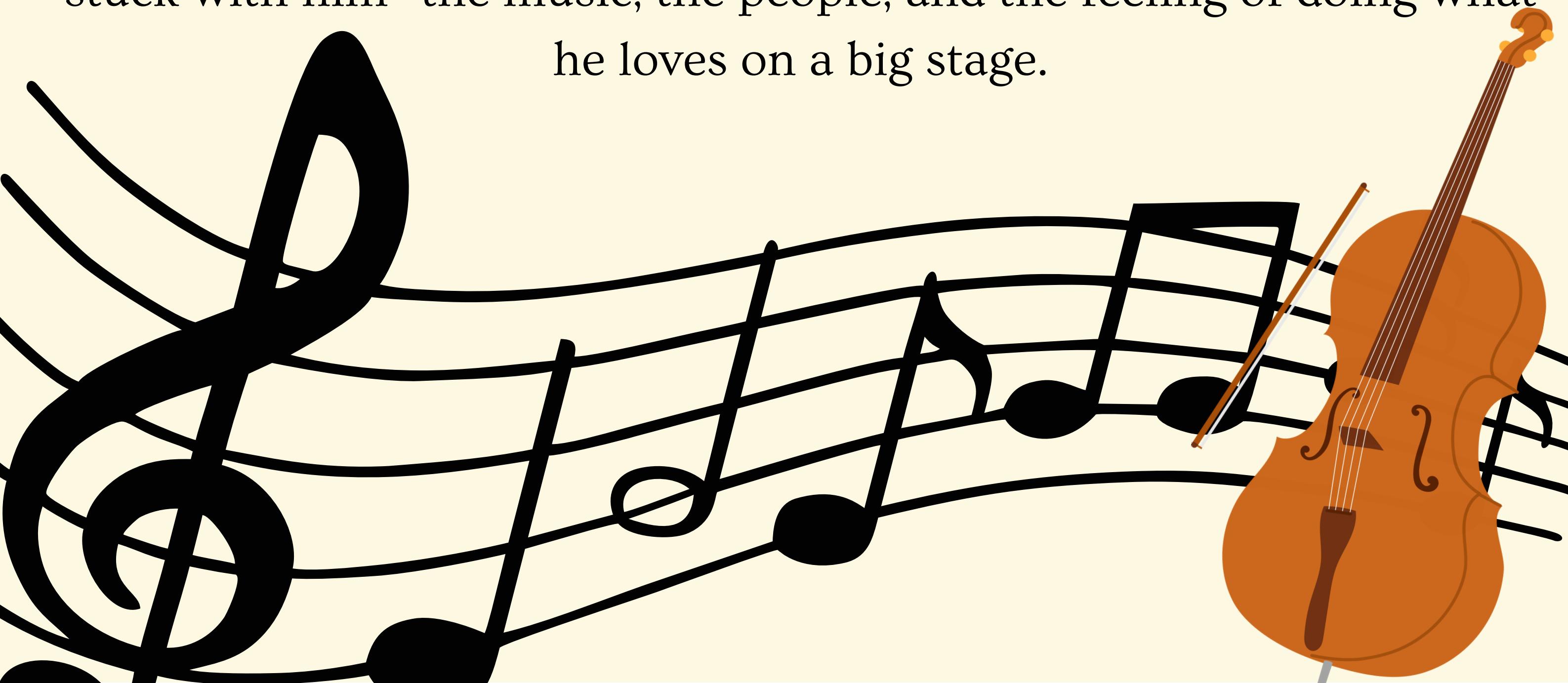
Let's Go Edward!



DJ's Majestic Cello Concert



Daniel's trip to Hungary was all about the cello. He went there to compete, putting everything he's practiced into those few powerful performances. It wasn't easy—there were nerves, long rehearsals, and tough competition—but his passion carried him through. In the end, he earned a certificate for his performance, a proud reminder of how far he's come. More than the award, it was the experience itself that stuck with him—the music, the people, and the feeling of doing what he loves on a big stage.



Elva Lee's Grand Essay

Elva entered the John Locke Essay Competition, choosing to write about smartphone addiction—why it harms people and why they keep using phones even when it's unhealthy. She felt a mix of nervousness and excitement, doing it mainly for fun and practice rather than for the prize.

During the competition, she worked hard, writing about 1,500 words, and felt proud of what she had accomplished. When she learned she had been shortlisted, she was thrilled and secretly hoped for first place, though the results hadn't been announced yet.

Writing the essay made Elva reflect on people's habits, wondering why so many spend so much time on their phones. The experience also showed her how much she enjoyed writing and exploring her curiosity, especially during her summer break when she could dedicate time to her essay.



Chie Shimada's Golden Essay

Chie Shimada recently made waves by winning the Grand Prize in Tsuda University's Jr. Essay Contest—a prestigious competition held annually at one of Japan's oldest women's liberal arts colleges.

For the contest, students were inspired by the painting "Lips Are Buds" by Wakana Yamauchi, a piece exploring life in places affected by disaster. Chie's essay imagined the girl in the painting as a silent, innocent child, hinting at quiet critiques of adults in power, all without naming them directly.

"I wrote about the girl in Lips Are Buds as a silent, innocent, hurt child, like a bud waiting to blossom. The part of the bud transforming into a flower was especially meaningful—it expressed the inner voice hidden inside the bud."

This was Chie's first essay contest and her first attempt at writing an essay from scratch. She also rediscovered a love for dictionaries, consulting one frequently to find just the right words.

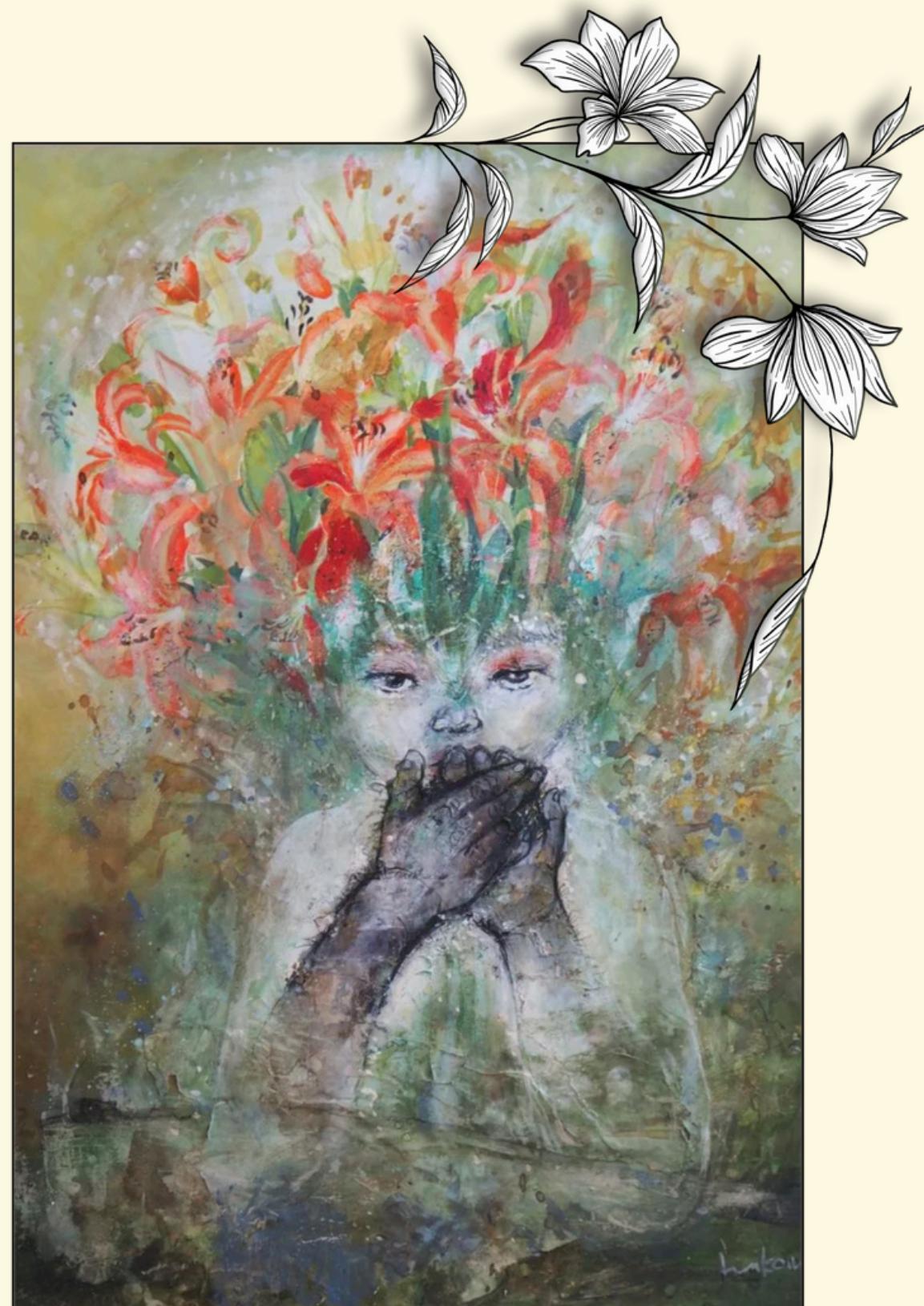
Chie's story is a reminder that stepping into new challenges can inspire creativity, growth, and even award-winning work!

Jr.大賞

Chie Shimadaさん Chadwick International School Grade 6
田 ジンさん 芦屋学園中学校 2年

(アルファベット順)

Lips Are Buds –
Wakana Yamauchi



Kavya Mandal's *Very* Fabulous 50

Kavya recently completed the FAV 50 Reading Challenge, finishing fifty books and deepening her life-long love for reading. Encouraged by her parents from a young age, she grew up surrounded by stories and eventually discovered that fantasy is her favorite genre. Out of all fifty books, her top pick was *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, and she's now enjoying *The Serpent's Shadow* from *The Kane Chronicles*.

Reading so much taught her how to balance schoolwork and hobbies — she learned to finish her responsibilities first so she could fully enjoy her books. One story that changed her perspective was *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, which sparked her shift from non-fiction to fantasy.

Kavya also loves writing and hopes to create a mythology-inspired book one day. She dreams of becoming either an English teacher or a writer. Although she reads e-books sometimes, she still prefers the feeling of holding a real book.

She plans to join another reading competition soon and recommends anything by Rick Riordan — and of course, the Harry Potter series — to anyone looking for a great read.

