

# THE ISA TIMES



BRINGING YOU A MONTHLY INSIGHT TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ALTDORF

MAY 2023



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FEATURING AN INSIGHT TO OUR WEEKLY ART CLUB



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# FIRST MISSION COMPLETE

## DP2 CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION CEREMONY ON LAKE LUCERNE

By Kirsten Lai

On the 26th of May 2023, teachers, students, and parents, all gathered at the school's entrance, ready to celebrate our graduating DP2 students on Lake Lucerne itself.

The 26th was an especially important day, not only for our DP2 students, who were charting a new path in life, but also for all their supporters who guided them through even the toughest of times – Their parents, teachers, and companions. From the Sciences, to the Arts, to even Humanities, each and every one of our graduating students worked hard to pursue their passions, and have demonstrated this throughout their years of education up till now. With gleaming hearts, and proud smiles, the whole school boarded the bus and headed towards Lucerne.

Upon arriving, the school was greeted with the shining sun, which seemed to shine as brightly as the smiles on everyone's faces. Besides just the excitement for the graduation, this year's location was incredibly special! Waiting at the dock, this year's ceremony was going to be held on the MS Switzerland. Once everyone boarded, the boat sailed off across lake Lucerne. Whilst cruising the calm waters, Mr. Blake, our University Councillor, the special executives of our school, and Mr. Francesco speaking on behalf of Ms. Nicole, presented wonderful speeches, celebrating the successes of our DP2 students. With cheers and claps, as Mr. Blake read out each student's name, they collected their diploma certificate and proceeded with a formal photoshoot taken by our student photographer, Yiwei Peng. Coming to around 5pm, everyone gathered on the top deck for some aperitifs and refreshments, before the boat began docking back in Lucerne. Once everyone disembarked, the graduation students prepared for the most exciting part of any graduation ceremony, the Cap Toss. 3...2...1...TOSS! This beautiful moment captured in a still shot was the perfect way to end the day.



# NO PAINT NO GAIN

## FEATURING AN INSIGHT TO OUR WEEKLY ART CLUB

By Eli Eronat

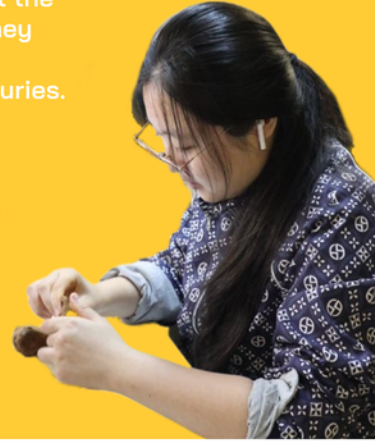
The Art Club, meeting every Tuesday in our art studio, is a vibrant community that encourages creativity. Some of the club's diverse activities completed during this term included clay moulding and decorations for Easter.



During their clay sessions, they experimented with their creativity, unique styles and overall, all the students could do what they wanted using only their imagination. With the guidance of our more experienced students, they learned the necessary, artistic skills used to shape and create these unique sculptures; At the same time, they managed to

familiarize themselves with the different clay-making tools generated over thousands of centuries.

The art club also aided in embellishing some of our previously celebrated occasions, such as Easter and International Day. Students collaborated to design colourful Easter decorations, including intricate egg-shaped paintings. One notable aspect of the Art Club is its supportive environment. Students are encouraged to freely express their ideas and artistic abilities with no judgment from their peers. Each and every member offers help and support to one another, whilst the club leaders provide guidance and feedback, helping the students artistic growth. Overall, the Art Club at the International School of Altdorf provides an engaging artistic experience, while allowing students to nurture their talents and have meaningful friendships.



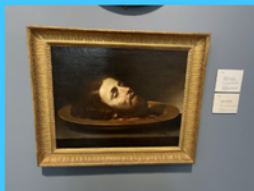
## A FRENCH MOMENT ABROAD ZHUOHAN YIN TRAVELS TO STRASBOURG FOR THE LONG WEEKEND

By Zhuohan Yin

Let's have a peak into what Zhuohan Yin was up to during the Ascension break from the 18th to the 21st of May:

"I went for a brief holiday in Strasbourg last week. It is located at the border of France and Germany along the Rhine River. It is also the territory over which France and Germany fought over for ages. Strasbourg is famous for its blend of French and German cultures. Buildings in French styles emerge on my left as I go through the streets of Strasbourg, but houses with typical German woodwork ornamentation appear on my right. I couldn't tell if I was in France or Germany at times. In terms of the architecture, I also visited Strasbourg's most famous cathedral, the "Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Strasbourg." It is likewise a gothic church in the style of the

Notre-Dame de Paris, but twice as tall. It is 142 meters tall, making it visible from all areas of the city. Another distinguishing feature of this church is that it lacks symmetry. It was initially constructed with the intention of two identical towers, but due to the change of architectural and political influence, until 1439, only one tower was ever constructed. This quiet giant, standing and watching the time go by in this city also sits close to the Rohan Palace. It was built for the French royal family. The art gallery there exhibits works from the 16th to the 20th century from Italy, Germany, France, and the Netherlands. On the other side of the palace, there are apartments that have been retained in the typical French style. It is surely an exquisite palace. There are still so many places of interests in Strasbourg, and a four-day holiday is certainly not enough at all. Strasbourg is surely worthy for me to revisit!"



# A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE YEARBOOK OF 2022-23 HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED

In the month of May, after several months of hard work, persistence, and commitment, ISA's Yearbook Committee, Kirsten Lai, Yiwei Peng, Dekang Tong, and Eindra Thiri Kyaw, officially completed the Yearbook of 2022-23.

They worked non-stop to organize this memorable collation of the past academic year, and in the end, it proved to be worth it. The proud feeling of accomplishment spread across their faces as they held their final meeting on the 12th of May to review the final outcome of all their efforts. Besides just enjoying the end product, the process itself was a journey no one could forget. The committee took on the initiative, as independent individuals, to conduct interviews, produce headshots, and construct this publication as a whole to ensure that the lovely memories shared throughout the last months would be remembered and stored somewhere safe.

They also worked alongside faculty members of our school, who guided and supported them throughout the more technical procedures. It was even more enlightening when this year's edition came to life! Fresh from the printer, the Yearbook presented itself in full glory as each DP2 student received their copy and flipped through the animated pages of their final year in high-school. The others will have to wait a little longer to receive theirs in June!



## LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE ISA HOSTS THEIR FIRST ACTIVITY DAY

By Oliwia Smolinska

On the 22nd of May 2023, as part of her CAS project, our DP1 student Oliwia Smolinska organized an activity day for our school. Students partook in capture the flag, a water balloon toss, and a trash-to-fashion activity. Continue reading to find out more about this event from Oliwia's perspective.



"I started the activity day for two reasons: First of all, one of the IB requirements is to complete the CAS project, which I wanted to this year in order to have less work next year. Secondly, I saw that many people don't interact with other students, especially the ones who just joined our school, so I came up with this 'Activity Day' idea. Since it was a big project, I asked Miss Fanny if she was willing to assign some MYP students to help me. When my group was created - Daniel, Xenia, Derek and Oriana -, we started having regular meetings. There were many changes made, since we had to think about many possible problems, and even though we had a backup plan, the day still didn't go as I expected or imagined, but I think that some people enjoyed it. It would be a lot easier if everyone participated because our plan was prepared for everyone at school, but I think we managed this problem quite well and I am happy that I could work with such an amazing team of people who were creative and taking this project seriously."





## AN ACTION PACKED ADVENTURE A WEEKEND EXCURSION FOR LASER TAG, ESCAPE ROOMS, AND ADVENTURE GOLD

By Dekang Tong

On the 7th of May 2023, an especially rainy weekend, the school took some students to an escape room in Zurich. It aroused great fascination among the students for days and became a symbol of adventure, excitement, and perhaps a temporary relaxation from academic life. But what was it that made the escape room so interesting?



The answer lay within those black chambers, where carpets and diamonds, wine bottles and skulls, shadows and lights scatter, formed one mystery after another. With strange noises and nervous whisperings, suddenly, the door swung open! The secret room was exposed! The group of treasure hunters violently flung the carpets, and peeped into the sacred darkness. One could not feel anything but excitement when seeing these brilliant young intruders incessantly solving problems, laying hands on treasures of so much value. But then they were stuck. An expression of bewilderment, and even a little despair descended upon them. They began expressing their opinions and trivial discoveries without listening to others. Had the truth been uttered, it was immersed by the immediate outbursts of doubts and impatience. However, to one's horror, the collaborative spirit came into sovereign again. They gathered together as though in conspiracy, and all at once, with confident smiles and swift movements of arms that belonged to the greatest adventurers in human history, a key was found, and a lock was dropped. The students soon went out, lively and refreshed, leaving the silence behind. After coming out of the escape rooms, students went to play adventure gold, where golf tracks were arranged in the most bizarre way. Nevertheless, a hole in one wasn't impossible, and as shared by a student, they not only gained enhanced golf skills, but also complimentary exclamations and tightened bonds of friendships, which is the essential core of this activity, and unsurprisingly, of most other school events as well.

# ASHA NEPAL

## MS JESSICA RETURNS TO SPEAK ABOUT NEW VOLUNTEER OPPURTUNITIES



On the morning of the 16th of May 2023, our school was greeted with a returning member, Ms. Jesscia Zahnd, as well as a new service opportunity for students to participate in.

Previously our school's Biology teacher, Ms. Jessica decided to pursue another path after the academic year of 2021-22 concluded. This new path took her back to a place very close to her heart, working for a cause equally as close. Returning to the country she mainly resided in as she grew up, Nepal, Ms. Jessica travelled throughout the country in search of an organization fighting against human trafficking which also aligned with her own goals. After coming across ASHA NEPAL, a small organisation in Kathmandu devoted to preventing the trafficking and abuse of girls whilst caring for survivors along with their safe reintegration into the community, she decided this was the right organization for her. 1 year later, she has come back to visit ISA to provide our own students with the opportunity to help indirectly through fundraisers and awareness spreading initiatives. She spoke more about the importance of this cause,

and opened up a new opportunity of passion for many of our young students. This collaboration is only the beginning of ISA giving back to the international community.





# THE SUN BEARS SAY THANK YOU

**CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION FROM THE BORNEAN SUN BEAR CONSERVATION CENTRE TO KIRSTEN LAI, ISA, AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALTDORF**

**O**n the 23rd of May 2023, Kirsten Lai, Mr. Francesco, and our student photographer, Yiwei Peng, attended a certificate presentation ceremony at the Gemeinde Haus of Altdorf to meet with our local municipality regarding Kirsten's recent 'Project Sun Bear Initiative'.

Dr. Wong Siew Te, founder of the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, unfortunately could not attend this event in-person due to his residence in Malaysia; so, he informed Kirsten of his wishes to present certificates of appreciation to our school, Kirsten, and the Municipality as a sign of recognition for our efforts. With signed, official certificates printed directly in Switzerland through Kirsten, they headed down to the town's centre. After arriving at the building and meeting with Mr. Ralph Bar, the Municipality's manager of markets, Kirsten presented each certificate to the corresponding recipient, and with the assistance of Yiwei Peng, photographed this proud moment for us all to remember.



# JUNE 23RD 2023

# IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

**CALLING ALL ISA STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS!**

**AS THE ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2022-23 IS COMING TO AN END, THE NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER YOU THE OPPURTUNITY TO FEATURE SOME OF YOUR OWN FINAL WORDS IN OUR UPCOMING, AND LAST EDITION OF THIS YEAR**

**IF YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE SOME FINAL QUOTES, WISHES, OR STATEMENTS WITH THE REST OF THE SCHOOL, PLEASE EMAIL US YOUR CONTENT BY THE 9TH OF JUNE**

**EMAIL: [kirsten.lai@lisa.swiss](mailto:kirsten.lai@lisa.swiss)**