

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## Thai-Chinese International School

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### Middle School Newsletters

A reminder to all parents that this school year's monthly newsletter is being published monthly and will be available on our website the first Wednesday of each month. (please note that issue is being published late in respect to the King's passing).

In an effort to save energy and our environment, hard copies will only be available upon request. Please have your child see Ms. Ongsa for a hard copy or call her at 02 751 1201 Ext: 232 for yours.

### "A Day at the TCIS Middle School"

We at the Thai Chinese International School hopes this finds your family healthy and happy! The Middle School administration and Student Services department would like to invite all parents with students in grades 4 to grade 8 to a get-together on Tuesday, November 22, from 7:30 -9:00 on the 6th floor of the Middle School building.

This event is being held for our present and future parents to become better acquainted with our outstanding middle school program. Information concerning our academic program, the Students Services department, school facilities, student transition periods, school-home communication, and our school history are just a few topics that will be discussed. We sincerely hope that you all can find time in your busy schedules to discover what our school has to offer. See you all on November 22nd!

### Second Grading Period Progress Reports and Report Cards

The school year is moving quite quickly as we approach the middle of the second grading period next week. Please note that next week on Wednesday, November 23, **Progress Reports** will be sent home with students. These reports are done to better communicate with parents about the status of your child's academic growth by indicating a concern or an improvement in their work or attitude. Parents are asked to sign and return all reports to school by Monday, November 28th with their son or daughter.

Please mark on your agendas that the end of the second grading period is Friday, December 16th and that 1st quarter report cards will be mailed to parents on Wednesday, January 11th. Parents are always encouraged to call school to make an appointment with their child's teacher to discuss their academic progress.



## **More For Your Calendars**

***Tuesday - November 22nd***

MS Parent Get-Together  
6th floor of MS building  
7:30-9:00 am

***Wednesday, November 23rd***

2nd Quarter Progress reports  
distributed to students

***Friday, November 25th***

Teacher Work Day  
No School for Students!

***Monday, December 5th***

H.M. King's Birthday  
No School

***December 19th-January 3rd***

Christmas Break

***Thursday, January 5th***

First Day of the 3rd Quarter

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## **Updates on MS Student Council**

By Jai Jai

Due to the Thai King's unfortunate passing, the Middle School Dance was moved from winter to spring. The Middle School StuCo feels that it is inappropriate for us to host a celebratory occasion during the mourning period.

Because of all the occasions being postponed, we are having officer's only meetings every Wednesday. We also are creating an official StuCo constitution and it is planned to be done as soon as possible.



## *One Day in the Forest*

By Mr. Michael and Ms. Julie  
Grade 7 Teachers

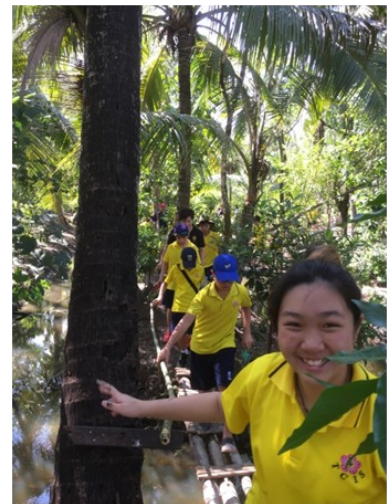
We often hear educators say that children learn best by doing and when they have fun learning. So, that is exactly what we did...have fun learning! On Friday, November 11, 2016 we took 53 Gr. 7 students and 5 teachers and spent a day in a forest. This forest was right in the heart of metropolitan Bangkok. It was a day filled with fun and laughter as we got acquainted with different kinds of trees from medicinal ones to poisonous ones; planted seeds into black plastic bags filled with dirt, planted a flower garden for butterflies and we also planted 200 trees. Our students had fun getting their hands dirty and their shoes buried in the mud. We learned how this tiny island of trees help Bangkok "breathe" by supplying the city with the much needed Oxygen.

This is the reason why Phra Padaeng is dubbed the "lungs of Bangkok." Coming back from the field trip, the students worked together in groups to do a reflection on the impact of their tree planting on the environment. Their reflections recorded in pictures are on display along the hallway on the 4th floor of the MS building. The students in Grade 7 are amazing examples for others as they showed their love for their environment, their country and the earth on this amazing adventure into the forest!

**Planting flowers for butterflies.**



**Preparing the seeds for germina-**



**Walking along the nature trail.**

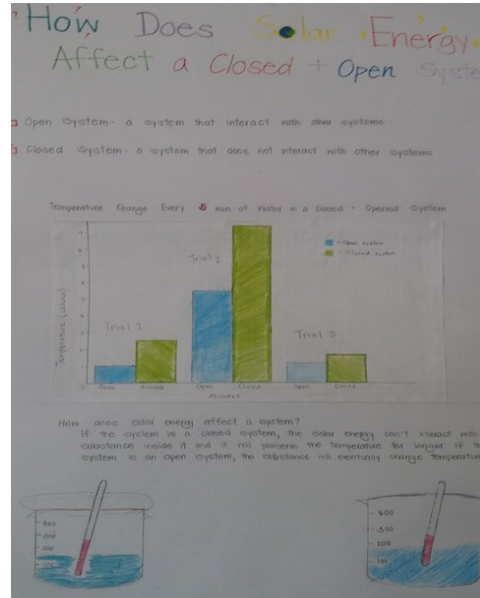
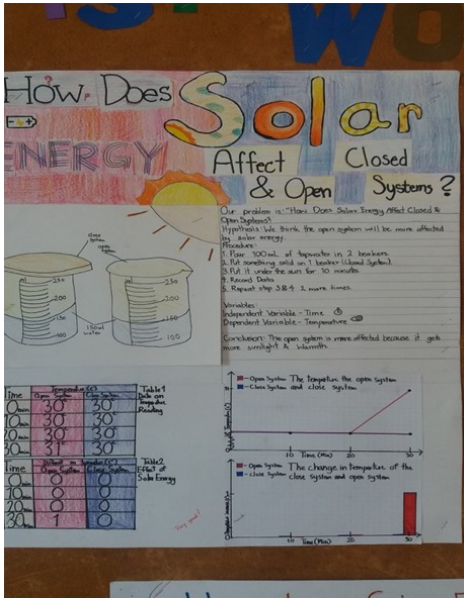


# S.T.E.M. in Middle School

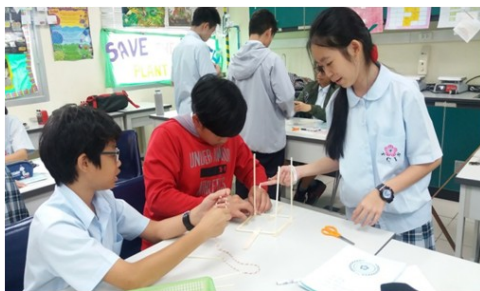
By Mrs. Julie

MS Science teacher

S.T.E.M. is the acronym for **Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics**. Science is not easy and could be challenging for some. Enter STEM, a great way to teach science. In Middle School, STEM is an integral part of our science curriculum. What it does is allow kids to explore ideas and design their own

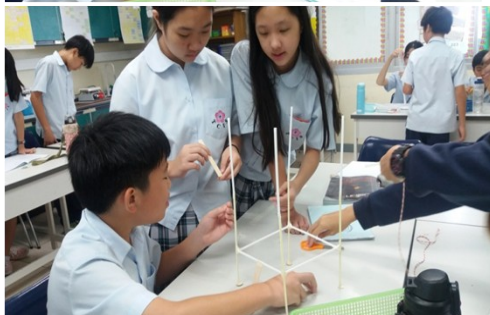


Students applied their math, organizational as well as writing skills to report their findings on the effects of solar energy on earth's systems.



Here the students designed free standing structure that can withstand an earthquake. They learn to share ideas and work collaboratively while doing their project.

Students discussed the pros and cons of their design - a great opportunity to practice being effective communicators.



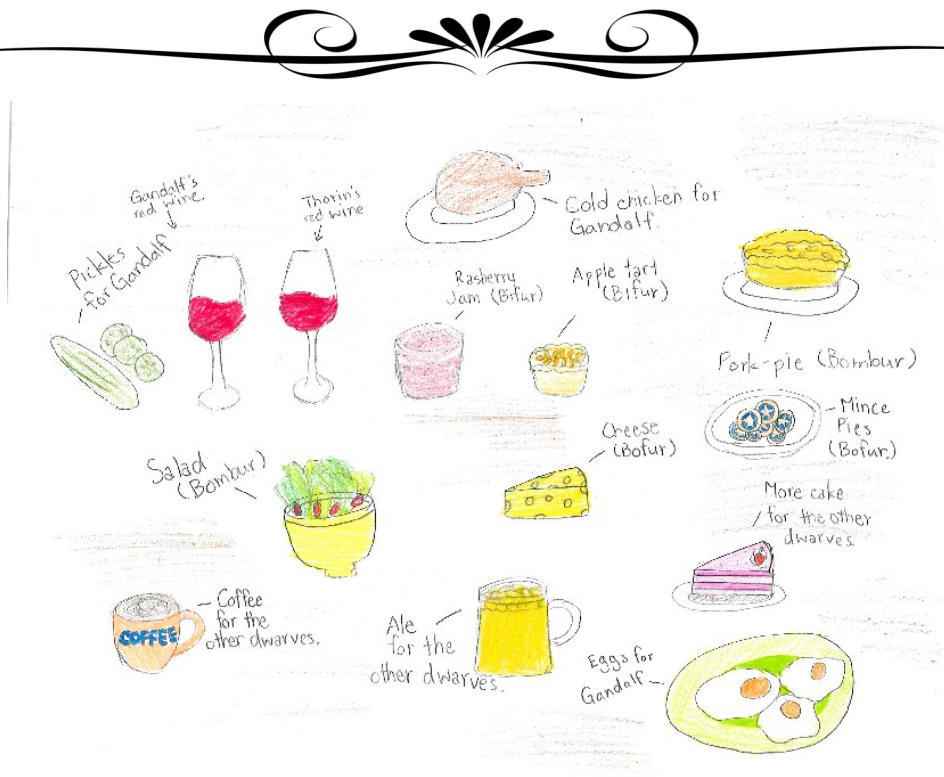
Finally, celebrating...and showing ownership of their creation.

## Middle School Superstars

### MS Music Performance

In remembrance of the Late King, on Nov 9<sup>th</sup> during the MS morning assembly, the MS Advanced String ensemble performed three pieces of music in remembrance of the Late King. The ensemble is conducted by Ms. Li Chou and formed by 20 Grade 7-8 students: Jai Jai, Kris, Michelle, Ruby, Kati, Dora, Pam, Ping, Henry, Kevin, Myra, Kurt, Chanel, Cindy, Justin, Am, Som, Wern Wern, Cho Ching and Win. They were well-prepared and did wonderful job. Here is the recording of one of the pieces from the performance "ของขวัญจากก้อนดิน" (A Gift from the Earth). Please click + Ctrl on the following link to see the performance:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8n8ZPI06Xo5QWFwN19uQlpKa3M/view?usp=sharing>



Students in Middle School English Language Arts take a multidisciplinary approach to reading literature. They will read in a variety of ways, have dialogue in multiple ways and also explain their learning in a variety of ways. The 7th Graders are reading *The Hobbit* this month. They read Chapter 1 and were asked to pick a scene from the book and draw that scene using specific details from the book. This helps to really delve deep into a particular scene they are reading. This is a drawing from **Beryl Gr. 7** who chose to draw the food from the dinner party and the name in parentheses are the names of the dwarves who asked for the particular food.

Our TCIS students are very creative and their work really shines!

**By Mr. Michael.purser**

## {The Tulsan Telegraph of Time}

### SOCS VS. GREASERS

#### What do they truly mean?

Socs (SOSH-es) and Greasers, the new slang of the 1960s, are names of the two social classes in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We may have heard these words before, but what do they mean? Socs and Greasers are as different as night and day. The Socs live in the west side of town, the rich kids, the ones that get all the good opportunities, and are spoiled rotten whilst the Greasers are the kids that live in the east side of town. The Greasers are the poorer kids, the juvenile delinquents, the hoods, and the ones that get shunned while the Socs are praised.

Almost everything about both classes are different—even the mentality of both classes are different. Let us have an interview with each. Both interviewees have both requested to be anonymous, thus we at The Tulsan Telegraph of Time have promised to uphold their wishes.

The first interviewee was a Greaser. According to the interviewee, the Greasers, as a whole, feel a strong sense of injustice and **indignation** to the fact that the Socs have everything that they don't have money, better clothing, better cars, etc. - yet they waste it all and always causing trouble. For example, even with all the money that the Socs have, they still drink and commit many crimes that the Greasers always get the blame ( but they get away due to their influence and money). While the Socs can **cockily** strut through the streets as if they owned the place, the Greasers have to endure being **mocked**, ridiculed, and occasionally being jumped when walking in public just because of what they wear and how they do their hair.

The Soc that we interviewed was more open minded. She, **apparently**, was more of a black sheep of the Socs. She informed us that, due to how they were raised, the Socs had everything they wanted but their parents never blamed them. This fact drove them crazy. All the Socs ever wanted is for someone to tell them no. Someone to make rules and boundaries. Someone to punish them if they did something wrong. Instead of punishing them, their parents would be sad, disappointed and wonder what did they do wrong in raising their child. Ultimately, the Socs just feel too little because they have become cold and **aloof** to cope with the pain, and the Greasers just feel too much and act mean and cruel to show their frustrations to the world.

So what are the Socs and Greasers? In the end, they are just two groups of teens that constantly butt heads with each other due to their different ideals, economical wealth, and interests. These ideals, economical wealth, and interests collide in a conflict that is magnified so much that it becomes a big problem with discrimination, violence, and killings.

**Social Class Conflict**

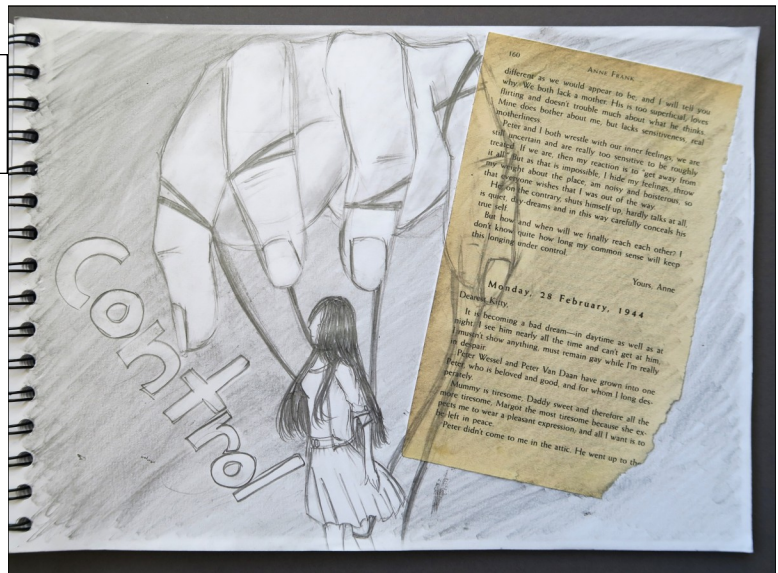
**By Zi-ki Zheng - 8th grade**



## Grade 8 Art Students Use Anne Frank for Inspiration

Ms. Elizabeth Jendek's Grade 8 Art students have been utilizing pages from Anne Frank's Diary as inspiration for their sketchbook homework. The pages, which were recycled from a very old copy of the diary the library couldn't use, have been used as background texture for the student's art. Students are required to read the page they are given from Anne's diary and pick one word to illustrate as their homework assignment. This on-going sketchbook assignment has provided a great opportunity for our students to practice recycling, talk about history in Art class, address racism, as well as let students try their hand at illustration. Great job students!

Grade 8 Art- Control  
by Ying Ying 8B



Grade 8 Art- Skeleton  
by Pan 8C



Grade 8 Art-Nature  
by Pias 8C

