

# UISZ Community Summary – Week 12



Our new school captains organized their first award assembly on Wednesday Nov. 6th and did a marvellous job. Congratulations to the merit achievers Katrina, Dan, Pei Ying and Danny! They received the highest amount of merits in their house. October's service award goes to William for AFS and Megan for CAS as their continuous contribution and effort in the service project. For the Art award, Max is the winner for visual art, Helen is the winner for film and Hans is the winner for Music. For the Art award, Max is the winner for visual art, Helen is the winner for film and Hans is the winner for Music. The IB learner trait of October was 'Thinker', the winner is Cally in MYP and Jennifer in DP. Congratulations to the winners!







Year Five spent a very educational and enjoyable week at Pak Lap in Hong Kong with Mr Martin. The focus of the week was on the importance of teamwork skills and how we succeed or fail as one group. Students were made aware of the importance of listening to each other and respecting different opinions. The children enjoyed testing out these skills in activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, orienteering and life-saving skills.







China lifting more than 800 million people out of poverty since the start of its economic reform is a "great story in human history", according to World Bank President Jim Yong Kim. It is this "great story" that the Year 7 and Year 8 Humanities students are researching this month. In their investigation, they have discovered that a side effect of China's rapid industrialization and economic growth is that many people have migrated from rural villages to its big cities to work so that their families can have a more prosperous future.

Last Friday, the students spent much of the day conducting field studies for their project by mailing out questionnaires, distributing surveys and interviewing some of their own community members who have been affected by this great migration. They spoke with Tahoe construction workers who have migrated from far away locales to our site to make a better living, ayis who also have moved to the area seeking better opportunities, and a CNH staff member who works with rural villagers in Heishan. Year 8 student, Darren Wen served as the translator for the session, and it was the final interview that he and his peers found most compelling. A UISZ canteen staff member who works along side her husband shared an emotional story about working very long hours and seldom seeing her three children who live 15 hours away. The students posed thoughtful questions and took part in the group interview, and in their reflection afterward, they discussed possible actions they could take to alleviate the couple's challenges.











Year 12 students are rapidly approaching the final submission deadline for their Extended Essays (EE). The EE is an important milestone on the journey to completing exams and students are working extremely hard on finishing their written papers. Unfortunately they have locked themselves away to avoid any distractions – so we are unable to share with you photos of their diligent work.. We wish them luck with this endeavor!

Year 12 TOK students have been busily preparing for, and beginning to write, their final essays. This is a particularly important and difficult component of the Diploma Programme, with the expectation that students are able to explore complex issues regarding the construction and acceptance of knowledge. The students benefitted from taking part in an afterschool session exploring their essay titles with the secondary teachers. Teachers listened to what the

students were thinking before collaborating with the students to put together some ideas for how the essay could be developed. Both staff and students enjoyed the process. The teachers found the process useful in helping them to better understand what the students are expected to do in TOK, while the students were grateful to have been able to access the specific expertise of a number of the teaching faculty. The students now have the hard work ahead of them to actually write the essay before submitting it to the IB after the winter break.





Head of Boarding Mr Jeremy shares his thoughts on this week's activities in Dragon House:

*'I am an unquenchable fire. The centre of all energy. The fearless heart. I am the dragon.'*

As the good ship Dragon embraces the open seas of the impending storms of uncertainty and potential summative assessment icebergs that lie in wait, we ready ourselves by trimming the sails and pointing into the wind, confident that our course is soundly set and the rigging is seaworthy for the inevitable buffeting.

Cycle two of INSPIREd kicked off this week with a few variations and innovations to the programme, including a rationalisation of DP tutoring ad an intensive English literacy course for identified year 7 boarders in need.





A highlight this past week has been our Halloween dress-up party and el-fresco celebration, and the procurement of new sports equipment for the fast growing global phenomenon of spike-ball and pickle-ball. But more of that in our next set of dispatches from the high rigging of the Dragon. Carpe diem.









It has been another hectic week as you can see - with students and teaching staff hard at work to ensure the curriculum content is covered and students complete all assignments in a timely fashion. But as always – there is time made to socialize and have fun - to ensure that the educational experience is a positive one that will lead to an active life long learning mindset that is as enjoyable as it is beneficial.

From all of us at UISZ we sincerely wish you a charming and delightful weekend!

Warmest wishes,  
UISZ School & Boarding Community

