

UISZ Community Summary – Week 34



INTRO

This special edition of the Community Summary is dedicated to celebrating the Class of 2020 graduation day activities and Commencement Ceremony, honouring Y12 students' academic achievements. It was a wonderful graduation ceremony which took place last Friday in the UISZ theatre and we were able to share it with parents using a live Zoom webcam - though of course we wish parents had been allowed to attend in person.

The Y12 graduating class of 2020 arrived in the morning at 8:40 am and excitedly tried on their graduation gowns, as the theatre was prepared for the ceremony. Students then rehearsed the ceremony proceedings.









At 11:00 am the official photographer Mr Ascott took photos of the class of 2020 in the Secondary Foyer and outside on the football pitch. A freelance videographer also captured video footage.



The Graduation Commencement Ceremony started at 2:00 PM with a message from Mr Peebles the MYP Coordinator who provided some thoughtful context on the students' DP learning journey over the past two years and the more recent pandemic situation which affected everyone so unexpectedly.



The was followed by a video message from Mrs Dorothy Wong the Chair of the Utahloy Education Foundation with her kind words of support for graduating students and the whole UISZ community.



The Head of School Mr Evans then spoke to students and guests offering his heart felt congratulations, and this was followed by video messages from Mr Holt the Head of Boarding, Mr Forbes the Head of Secondary and Ms De Gloppa the DP Coordinator.



The Valedictorian Jessica Kang then gave a rousing speech which highlighted the student perspective and experience of studying so hard for the DP exams over the past two years.



Teaching staff then shared their memories of teaching the Y12 cohort which included some funny anecdotes, as well as pearls of wisdom about how to be both happy and successful in life through maintaining a healthy diet and engaging in pursuits that benefit the wider community. Those teachers who spoke included: Ms. Douville, Ms. Bozzetti, Mr. Power, Ms. ZhouQin, Ms. Yan and Mr. Jang, Ms. Francesca and Ms. George.

Special achievement awards for each subjects were then handed out to students beginning with English A which went to Christian Hosub. Please see the full list of award recipients below:

Visual Arts – David Ji
Mandarin A – Lucy Liu
English B – Jessica Kang
Physics – Star Lee
Chemistry – Jessica Kang
Math Studies – Christian Hosub
Biology – Jessica Kang
Mandarin Ab – Star Lee
Math Standard – Jessica Kang
Theory of Knowledge – Star Lee
Global Politics – Tim Huang
Economics – Jessica Kang
French Ab – Kathy Pang
Korean A – Jessica Kang
Spanish Ab – Lucy Liu
Film Studies – Christian Hosub

Awards were then given out for:

International Citizenship - which went to Lucy Liu

CAS or Creativity, Activity, Service Program - which went to Kathy Pang.

Cobra Sports Program - which went to Harry Lee.

Valedictorian of the Class of 2020 Award which wentt to Jessica Kang.



A celebratory evening BBQ party was later held from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm at the Lychee Restaurant where some delicious food was prepared for graduates and teaching staff to enjoy. A great time was had by all.



PYP

It was great to see the Primary school back in action this week, with the return of students from Years 4,5 and 6. The week began with some discussion about new rules to be followed as well as some changes to our learning schedules. Despite greater distance between the students, it has been a delight to see them reviving relationships with each other and enjoying being back in our learning community.







In Mr Avdoos year 4 class, we are using comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning to expand content knowledge, integrating and linking ideas and analysing and evaluating texts. We are doing this by exploring the features we may find in myths, specifically applying it to the myth of Romulus and Remus.

Features of a myth includes a setting in the distant past, mortal and immortal characters, including creatures or monsters, heroes and heroines; includes heavens or an underworld; provides an explanation for how something started and provides a long story with many different parts to the plot.



As well as working on this great topic for literacy, we have also completed a series of test in order to evaluate what level the students are currently working at. These tests have been administered in Maths, English and developed ability tests. We will use the data from these tests to target areas of development for our students over the final weeks of semester 2. This will ensure they are ready and prepared for next academic year.

BOARDING

Message from Mr Jeremy (Head of Boarding):

***‘Out there may be monsters, but in you there is a dragon.’—
Nikita Gill***

More of the Dragonites arrived back this week, specifically into primary boarding, and all reports suggest that matters have run relatively smoothly and that the Dragons are ready to roar even more loudly.

The 7-day boarders headed to Wanda this last weekend for an R and R Japanese lunch, and generally the boarders have been adapting to a post-Covid-19 Dragon House and making the best of the communal opportunities available and permissible at this stage.

Welcome back to our primary boarders and thanks to all who have made this return possible.





OUTRO

Well what a glorious week it has been - with the graduation ceremony we had last Friday - despite the government restrictions. The photos covering the ceremony really do capture the sense of pride, joy and relief of students who have so successfully completed the IB Diploma programme. We wish the graduating class of 2020 great success in the next chapter of their lives as they begin university study, or embark on other new career paths. We also hope alumni will keep in touch and share their future success stories with us. And for the primary students returning - we have such high hopes for their futures as well. UISZ truly is a place where dreams really can become reality with hard work and a positive attitude! Have a wonderful weekend.

Warmest wishes,
UISZ School & Boarding Community

