

# THE NATIONALHIGH CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NATIONALHIGH JAKARTA SCHOOL



## NH Soccer Team Brings Home 3 Championship Cups

By: Evelyn Kurniawan

The U-18 soccer team has once again brought victory with a score of 7 – 2 in the IPEKA Cup, bagging the tournament championship cup. The team is mostly comprised of Junior College 1 and 2 students, with a Secondary 2 student as the goalkeeper who gained recognition for his skills despite his age.

"I feel that they are confident, have good discipline and teamwork." Coach JP comments about the team's performance.

True to the coach's remark, the team members attended practice sessions tirelessly, showing great discipline and dedication. Their training bore fruit and they were able to win this championship with support from their coach and their own teamwork on the field.

This is the third championship they have won for this academic year, having also won the NationalHigh Lions Cup and Tunas Muda Cup last semester.



## Lower Primary Students Lead Conference

Once a year, P1 to P3 classes conduct student-led conferences. This year, it was successfully held on Friday, February 21. Student-led conference provides an opportunity for your child/children to showcase what they have learnt for the past terms of this school year. They showcased works that showed their progress and successes during the year and discussed what they have learnt in each of the academic areas.

Parents came and gave strong support to the student presenters. They lent much needed moral boost to the students and were able to see their children's learning journeys through the presentations.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

► APRIL 2014  
 1-15 : Semester Review 2 (Sec 4 and JC2)  
 17 : IGCSE Mandarin Speaking Test  
 18 : Good Friday  
 21 : Kartini Day  
 24 : Music Day 4  
 25 : Parent Teacher Meeting / P.T.M (Sec4-JC2)

► MAY 2014  
 1-7 : Semester Review 2 Oral Exams (P3-P6)  
 3 : Sec4 and JC2 Graduation  
 5-9 : Last Week of CCA for Term 4  
 6-7 : Semester Review 2 Oral Exams (Sec 1-3)  
 13 : Waisak Day  
 14-26: Semester Review 2 (S2-S3,JC1)  
 20-26: Semester Review 2 (P3-P6)  
 20-23: Semester Review 2 (P2)  
 25 : Ascension of the Prophet  
 29 : Ascension Day of Jesus Christ

► JUNE 2014  
 2-3 : Learning Journey (P3-P6)  
 2-5 : Inter-House Sports Competitions (except Sec4 and JC2)  
 4-5 : Learning Journey (Sec-JC)  
 4 : Use Your Hands Campaign  
 5 : Primary Service Learning Day  
 6 : Awards Day and P.T.M  
 7 : P6 Graduation Day

BOM: Ms. Daisy Yfu  
 Principal: Mr. Yeo Ah Tee  
 Editor: Ms. Mara Nanaman  
 Art: Ms. Ermien  
 Contributors:  
 - Sabrina Hartono, Raina Mak  
 - Evelyn Kurniawan, Nabil Fadjar

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## Sec 3 Students Embark On Coming Of Age Journey To China By: Sabrina Hartono

Hellen Keller once said that "Life is either a great adventure or nothing." Chilly outdoor camping, blazing late-night bonfires and overcoming adversities: such experiences can never be purchased, nor learned within classroom walls.

On November 23, 2013, we left our comfortable Jakarta lives to venture into a month filled with deep Confucius teachings, spontaneous survival tests and kilometers of walking. The camp consisted of travelling to 4 different cities in China: RongHuai, Oriental Land (ShangHai), QuFu and BeiJing.

RongHuai is a multi-cultural Chinese school with a population of international students. There, we were able to interact with many interesting students from different parts of the world, including, unexpectedly, Thailand and Vietnam! In between attending specially-scheduled, full-Chinese-language classes, we took part in Chinese cultural activities such as: TaiChi, tea art, calligraphy. We were even allowed to bring back most of our creations from the Chinese painting, Chinese flute, and the BeiJing Opera mask painting.

### ▶ Becoming Independent

Staying at the RongHuai boarding house for a week gave us a simulation of studying overseas, away from our family, away from supervision. RongHuai was our first 'gateway' to freedom. But with great freedom comes great responsibility. As we started off, it was not easy to be independent. We had to tidy our own rooms, wash our own laundry, and keep track of our own time. Opportunities that would never be made available for us back at home where it was all well taken care of. Luckily, we had this first week as a preparation to survive through the rest of the camp.

The following two weeks were spent at Oriental Land, a renowned multi-themed park for youth camps emphasizing on physical and teamwork trainings. We were hurled with multiple challenges, all of which formed as a physical and mental exercise that tested our interpersonal skills and stamina. Most of the activities we engaged in resembled high-element outbond games – rock-climbing, rappelling, Dragon Boat racing, rope climbing, etc. Aside from overcoming our 'personal adversities' individually, we had to strengthen our teamwork and coordination with everyone as a whole; it was one for all and all for one. Moreover, we rotated the responsibility of being 'In-Charge' (IC), which included the task of leading the group, communicating with our instructors and managing our time.

During the period of Oriental Land occurred our three biggest accomplishments: the outdoor camping, the 21-km walk and the trekking up Mount Tai Shan.

### ▶ A realisation

Our stay there opened up a new window that gave us a different perspective on life. We realised how much we take for granted the effort our maids put in to finish house chores, the money our parents tirelessly worked for and the assistance and care our drivers and cooks always provide through their services, all to make our lives more comfortable.



### ▶ QuFu: Birthplace of Confucius

Our following destination at QuFu, birthplace of Confucius, seemed very timely as we were given four peaceful days at the lovely Confucius Teachings School Complex where we had a deeper understanding of the Confucius virtues and the DiZiGui morals. Our 'takeaways' from the camp could easily have overloaded a single baggage. Being independent, taking care of others, planning ahead, having positive attitude, were among the values enforced unto us throughout the daily debriefs.

As the camp progressed however, we all started feeling something we did not expect to feel: we were homesick. We missed having our parents' presence and our siblings' comfort (as well as their occasional annoyance). That was when one of the Confucius virtues – filial piety (孝), reminded us to treasure our loved ones and to not take them for granted. This camp helped us to resurface the sunken feelings of appreciation as well as having empathy towards others.

Our last two days were spent at BeiJing, where our spirits were at its climax. Not only did we stay at a beautiful hotel, we went shopping at two famous shopping districts (some of us finally had the chance to exercise our newly-improved Chinese and had a go at bargaining) went sightseeing to famous historical landmarks and, of course, took more 'selfies'. Despite our hefty shopping bags at the end of the trip, we all agreed that the most 'precious' item at the end of the day would definitely be the memories we made with one another during this camp.

Our month in China, surely, was another step for us to further along the path of self-discovery. The Coming of Age 2013, NationalHigh's pilot project has truly been a success; through this program, we are now blossoming into 'young ladies and gentlemen'. Thank you NH for the opportunity to go on these Other Learning Experiences, we hope to be able to embark on more character development camps in the future!

It is just like what Andre Gide once said, "It is only in adventure that some people succeed in knowing themselves - in finding themselves."





## NHJS Stages Annual Christmas Concert By: Raina Mak

They say it is never too early to start celebrating Christmas, and NationalHigh as a school could not agree more.

A play that centered on the theme: "Love, Peace and Happiness" was held at a fully-packed NHJS Auditorium on December 6, 2013 attended by students, teachers and parents.

Students from Grades 1 to 8 worked hard for months to prepare a variety show of poems, songs and dances. The play was showcased twice: once in the morning and once in the evening. The audience consisted of fellow students, parents and teachers, all of whom enjoyed the performances immensely. The performers definitely succeeded in bringing the Christmas spirit to everyone.

That is not to say, of course, that the performers themselves were lacking in Christmas spirit; the process of creating the play itself brought much joy to everyone who participated. The performers and directors were excited about being a part of a production that was unlike any they had done before, and were thrilled with its success. The play was directed by primary teacher, Ms. France Englis.

The central themes of the production touched their hearts and made the play mean more than a form of entertainment. The directing was rewarding on the teachers' part and the learning was fun on the students' part.

It is safe to say that last year's Christmas play was Santa's gift to us all.



## NHJS Gears Up For National Debate Tournament

Eighteen students, whose levels range from Secondary 2 to JC 1, are hard at training to compete for the first time in the Jakarta Round of the World's Scholar Cup (WSC) to be hosted by BINUS Simprug on April 12-13, 2014. Participants will be debating and tested on current events and subjects such as Science, History, Social Science, Language and Arts, as well as a predetermined Special Area.

"The training has been an intensive but rewarding process of improving yourself. It's scary to have to speak and argue in front of people but I enjoy it," explained Sabrina Hartono, Secondary 3.

WSC is a renowned academic competition of four events including debate, collaborative writing, quiz bowl and scholar's challenge. Winning the Jakarta Round will qualify participants to the Global Round in Singapore on June and the last leg of the series will be the Tournament of Champions to be held in Yale University, USA.

"Debate has taught me to think fast on my feet and to accept defeat with grace," said Kenneth Setiadi, Junior College 1, when asked about what being part of the debate team has taught him.

The group is coached by English Teacher Mara Barbra Nanaman and regularly trains twice to three times a week.

"Since it the first time for everyone, the process of learning and improving has been difficult. But I am really proud of how everyone has improved and embracing debate more and more," Ms. Mara said about the team's progress.

## Reflections on the Young Leaders Convention 2013 >> By: Sabrina Hartono

This summer 2013 marked yet another milestone for NationalHigh as we hosted our inaugural Young Leaders Convention on 1-5 July 2013 at Yasmin Hotel, Puncak. Those five days were filled with various value-based leadership-development games, as well as an interesting cultural exchange between our Indonesian and our overseas Chinese participants.

Despite having a language-barrier between the participants, we adapted well and created a strong bond with each other through the team-building games we prepared. All the games were especially designed to instill values – such as teamwork, compassion, respect, adaptability – into the participants. Not only that, we also had traditional Indonesian games – lomba bakiak, saroeng race, sponsored by Sosro. The Chinese participants, in turn, taught us famous Chinese friendship songs.

The convention ended on a high note as we had Dr. Yap Meen Sheng, an eminent speaker on character-development, to deliver a very engaging forum discussion about 'leadership'. He said that 'Everyone is a leader.

They just have to realise the potential in them.' His speech, although not very long, contained an intense message about being a leader of virtue. "Leadership is not a product, but a process. Leadership starts with yourself, then you can develop it into a team-leadership, growing into an organisational-leadership, and finally, to global-leadership" quoted from Dr. Yap.

The many months of tedious preparation did not seem to burden us, rather, gave us joy to see how smoothly the convention went. It is truly very fortunate for us to be in a school which provides a wide range of platforms for us to explore. From being part of the YLC Organising Committee, we gained life skills that cannot be taught within the walls of a classroom. The Young Leaders Convention 2013 was truly a success from the feedback from the participants; but also from the satisfaction we as the Organising Committee felt. Sacrificing two weeks of our summer break turned out to be very fruitful and worthwhile.



## Finding Myself In NH >> By: Nabil Fadjar

Every person in the world is unique in several ways. Culture is a common classification used to portray the uniqueness of a person. Thousands of cultures exist worldwide with each culture unique in different aspects. Indonesia alone, my country of birth, has approximately 300 cultures that peacefully coexist. I was born to parents of different backgrounds, Sundanese and Padangnese. Despite the differences, we were still able to integrate both cultures throughout our lives. Growing up in my family was still tough. There were some expectations that these cultures needed me to satisfy such as being a religious person. While, I was able to meet most of these expectations there were several challenges that I faced in fulfilling them. One of the toughest challenges I faced was being enrolled to a predominantly Chinese-Indonesian school: NationalHigh Jakarta School (NHJS).

NHJS has been my second home for nearly thirteen years. Being one of only four Padang-Sunda Indonesian students among the 500 NHJS students made me undergo a culture shock. Despite NHJS's friendly students, I still felt insecure. Discrimination was thankfully not an issue I had to deal with but knowing that I was different still made me feel isolated from the rest.

My insecurity had dated back since my primary school. As a new student, I tried to fit in my new homeroom class by mimicking my friends' behaviour. In one event, I tried to celebrate Christmas, due to the influence of my friends, not knowing that my culture does not even celebrate it. It was the first time I realised that there were cultural differences among people. Secondary school (middle school) was more challenging for me. A student's mind set began to shift from the "playful" child to the "trend aware" child. A student must be in trend in order to fit in the society. I began to value fitting in over my culture not knowing the consequences that followed. I would deliberately miss important cultural



family gatherings to hang out with friends at the mall. Over the course of my secondary school life, I did not realize how much my identity was being erased.

I had nearly discarded my identity during the transition from Secondary to Junior College (High School). Due to the tough transition, my mind set was solely set on performing well academically and maintaining a decent social life while unintentionally denying the fact that I was a Padang-Sunda Indonesian. However, my attitude changed after an inspiring week-long field trip across Indonesia. The agenda of the trip was to visit numerous landmarks. Even though my main intention of joining the trip was to hang out with friends, I ended up learning an unexpected lesson. Every landmark we visited had creators of different cultural backgrounds. In Padang, we visited the earliest Mosque in Indonesia that was created by an artist of my culture. In Yogyakarta, we visited the Borobudur temple created by a Buddhist. During the last day of the trip, my tour guide reminded us that without these landmarks, Indonesia would have not been as glorious as today. The field trip had made me realise that every culture played an important role in building Indonesia. I felt guilty about trying to hide my culture from other people and I began to genuinely try to understand my ethnicity.

That trip made me realise that the expectations set by my culture were to help me realise that culture is not merely a label: it is who I am. The challenges I faced for several years in NHJS was to maintain my culture and be proud of it. I have nearly failed the challenge but I am blessed to have succeeded the challenge after thirteen years in NHJS.





## P6 Immersion Programme

>> 1-13 July



## Independence Day >> 19 August



## Sec1 Discovery Camp >> 23-24 August



Forensic Science Camp >> 27-28 August



Hutchins School / St Michael's Collegiate (Tasmania) Immersion Program



NHJS Cup >> 2-7 September



## Bandung Camp

>> 20-21 September



## Jogja Camp >> 21-25 September

## Adventure Camp >> 20-22 September







Mid - Autumn Festival >> 13 September



Fairgrounds >> 5 October



English Week

>> 29 November - 3 December



O/A Camp >> 2 - 4 December

