

HILLTOPPERS NEWS

The latest news and updates from St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju



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LION KING: ARTS TRIP TO SEOUL

LUCIA ROSSI, GRADE 9

On Wednesday, March 6th, about 20 performing and visual arts students from middle and high school went on a trip to Seoul to watch “The Lion King” play and to do other fun activities.

The trip lasted a whole day, as students missed a whole day of school. Students took a plane to Seoul, where they ate lunch at the National Museum of Korea and got to browse inside the museum. Afterward, students took a bus to the Seoul Arts Center to watch “The Lion King”, a Broadway score that was currently on tour internationally. The musical was truly delightful and humorous, even to the point where the characters referenced Korean songs

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and words in their acting.

Once the musical ended, the students took a group photo and left to go to the airport, finally arriving in Jeju by 11 pm.

This trip was meant for students to observe the different forms of art available in Seoul, from the musical aspect of the play to the visual and performing arts. Hopefully, students that went on this trip found the various arts inspirational and enjoyable.



PARTY LIKE IT'S HOGWARTS

SUNMIN KIM, GRADE 11



After the second election of STUCO for 2018-19 academic year, the first party was held on 22nd of March. The party was very different from other events that were held previously; it was organized based on the special theme – Hogwarts. STUCO had put a lot of effort into making Harry Potter Party possible, which, in fact, turned out to be very successful.

Prior to the actual party day, STUCO sent out the survey to the students who were willing to participate in this event. They were required to fill out the form that asked which house from Harry Potter they wanted to be assigned to. Unfortunately, Gryffindor was not on the list as it was so popular among students. As STUCO was aware of this, they decided to randomly select participants who decided to rather be randomized than to select other houses listed in the survey. After STUCO collected all the survey results, they were able to evenly distribute the participants to the four houses: Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw, and Hufflepuff.

Just like how Harry Potter received the invitation letter from Hogwarts, the participants also received the congratulation letters for their acceptance to Hogwarts. This further alleviated the excitement the students had for the upcoming party as they realized that the event was thoroughly prepared. Since it was a theme party, the participants were also required to dress themselves according to the dress code, which alarmed some of the students to order wands, capes, neck ties, and various Harry Potter goods.

The party was finally held in the mini PAC at 7 p.m.; STUCO decorated the place like an actual dining hall of Hogwarts and played mysterious background music. Four tables were set up for each house with various delicious snack and drinks. The party also had different photo booths for students to take pictures with their friends. During the first 30 minutes, the participants could enjoy their free time by taking pictures and chatting with each other for their costumes. However, chatting and eating snack were not the only activities students could do in the party. Although students were not able to do 'quidditch' like Hogwarts students, they could instead enjoy various activities prepared by STUCO.

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The first activity they did was listening to the sound and answering which scene was played on. Before they did the game, they all gathered into their house groups and selected the captains who would be shouting out their house names and answer the questions as representative of their houses. While STUCO thought that nobody would be able to know which scene was played just based on the sound, it seemed like there were a lot of Harry Potter maniacs in the party. Surprisingly, Hufflepuff answered the first two questions right after they heard the sound of the video, being in the lead. Then, Gryffindor and Slytherin caught up with Hufflepuff by answering the two questions each. After 10 rounds of game, the winner turned out to be Gryffindor with 5 points while Hufflepuff, Slytherin, and Ravenclaw got 3 points, 3 points, and 1 point respectively.

The participants' most favorite game was the second activity: "The Shout in the Silence". This game was played by five students from each house one at a time during 2 minutes and 30 seconds. The five students all sat down in one line; after the first student saw the given keyword, he or she shouted out the word to the next person sitting right in front of him or her. Since the rest of the students were wearing headphones that were playing KPop music, they could only identify what word the first student was saying through the movement of his or her lips. This game was especially fun and attractive as it was very enjoyable for the students to see how the game participants were saying the different words. At the end, Ravenclaw was able to have 2 points, while Slytherin and Gryffindor each got 1 point and, sadly, 0 point for Hufflepuff.

The last activity students did was finding the flags that were hidden in different places of PAC building. They all enthusiastically engaged in the activity and tried to find as many flags as possible in 15 minutes. Although Hufflepuff did poorly on the second game, they were able to be the winner of this game with 3 points in total. Overall, the victory went to Gryffindor with 8 points in total from all three games just like how real Gryffindor from Hogwarts won the quidditch games.

With this highly elated atmosphere, the party successfully ended with the dance performance by our school dance team Moment. The members of the dance team were able to perform in a very festive mood and further contributed to the success of the party and the joy of the students. In this increasingly academic intensive semester, students were able to relieve their stress and all of their worries through this one special night.



SPECIAL INTERVIEW: SJA EXCHANGE

SEUNG HYUN CHO, GRADE 10

As Saint Johnsbury Academy Jeju continues to make history, four exchange students, who had spent their first semester in the homeschool, returned to Saint Johnsbury Jeju for their second semester. Jin Ho Yang(Junior), Min Gyu Lee(Sophomore), Andrew Cho(Sophomore), Hanna Lee(Sophomore), and Andy Jin(Sophomore and decided to stay in VT) were the first five exchange students in Saint Johnsbury Jeju history.

Every year, up to five students are given the opportunity to spend their first semester in Saint Johnsbury Academy, the homeschool of SJA Jeju, in Vermont. Being that SJA Jeju is in their second year, 2018 was the first opportunity for students to spend their first semester in the homeschool as an exchange student. In order to share and have a deeper insight into the exchange program experience, we were able to interview one of the students, Min Gyu Lee.

Hilltopper Publication: Thank you for joining us tonight. Let's start with the basics. What motivated you to apply for the exchange program?

Min Gyu Lee: I wanted to go to Vermont because I heard that the homeschool had over 300 courses with more activities. For instance, I was able to join woodshop in my semester in the homeschool. Something that you can't experience here in Jeju.



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HP: If I am correct, you were a dorm student. How was your dorm life? Were there any difficulties?

MGL: Well, my dorm life was great. I was able to hang around with students from all around the world. Of course, we became friends. And to be honest, I was a dorm student before, so there was really no difficulties for me in the dorm life.

HP: I've heard some words about the cold and harsh weather in Vermont? Are those facts true? If so,

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how did you cope with it?

MGL: Before I went to Vermont, I did some geographic research. And one thing that popped up was the coldness in Vermont. However, as I saw snow falling in October, it was way colder than I expected. The only way that I dealt with the cold was by tightening up and wearing thick clothes.

HP: Let's go to academics. Did you have trouble adjusting to the homeschool academic system? And were the classes difficult to handle? Were there any advantages of taking classes in the homeschool?

MGL: Due to SJA Jeju having a very similar academic system with Vermont, it was very easy to adjust. However, since all the teachers and students spoke English in class and out of class, it was a bit difficult to handle at first. But I think it was a great experience as I had to mainly speak English in and outside of school.



MATH IN VIETNAM

SIEUN PARK, GRADE 9



At the beginning of the second semester, three mathematicians from high school, Jung Woo Choi, Igy Chen, and Sungeun Moon, volunteered to go on a 3-day math competition trip held in Vietnam. The competition is known as The South East Asian Mathematics Competition (SEAMC), which aims to teach and assess skills of communication, creativity, critical thinking, content knowledge, character, and cultural competence.

Over two days of 3-day competition, students participate in 9 different events: 3 events competing by themselves, three events competing with other teams, and three events competing in randomly assigned groups. In the end, based on the results of different activities, the highest-scoring students would achieve awards out of each category of the following set: knowledge, strategy, creativity, challenge, and competition. It's not merely problem-solving by filling boring bubbles out; instead, students face a diverse range of problems with different methods of presenting their mathematical logic and thoughts.

Mr. Schoonard, who led the Vietnam trip, said that "Our students did really, really well with certain type of events like crucial math test, racing questions, and even the creative questions, and we could see some of our students in the top eight percentile of all the groups when we had over 165 students from different international schools." The team not only learned and experienced global culture differences but also achieved outstanding and exceptional accomplishments around important mathematical areas. Mr. Schoonard also commented that SEAMC was undoubtedly a great experience for the students because they could set their goals towards the mathematical areas they were weak at and meet other students from a diverse range of nationality, culture, and race.

The coach and the students are looking forward again for another SEAMC, a friendly and enjoyable competition that provides the students with rich knowledge and experience.

MARCH 1ST MOVEMENT

HEEJU CHO, GRADE 11

This year marked the centennial of the original March 1st Movement (pronounced Sam-il-jeol in Korean), one of the major public events in the Korean independence movement. Rightfully, the whole country basked in the heightened patriotic mood, with a plethora of celebrations and commemorations of the fallen heroes who had imbued the rest of the nation with a sense of national pride and helped salvage the country from its colonial past. Even a biopic film came out just in time-- of Ryu Gwansun, the fierce and unwavering Joan of Arc figure, whose immense and heartbreaking sacrifice for the country is forever engraved on the nation's collective mind. There were concerts, marches, and reenactments everywhere this year on March 1st. And those who were not active participants hung the Korean national flag outside their windows. The reminders of the nation's past struggle and its grit and incredible drive in overcoming that struggle were everywhere. Everywhere except here at Saint Johnsbury Academy Jeju.



One may argue that Saint Johnsbury Jeju being an international school located in Korea puts its students in a distanced, if not an awkward, position when it comes to celebrating Korea's national holidays. The students are physically in Korea, but their minds are nourished by distinctly American education. However, one needs not to look farther than at other international schools located in Jeju to see that the two conditions are not contradictory. This year, NLCS celebrated the March 1st Movement by writing notes of gratitude to the independence activists and drawing huge Korean flags and putting them up on the school windows. Such activities may not be much, they are still gestures of acknowledgments that Saint Johnsbury forewent entirely.

March 1st, which fell on a Friday this year, granted a much-welcomed long weekend for most Koreans, but not for the students at Saint Johnsbury Jeju. Most students went through the day unfazed and without complaints-- and admittedly without the explicit recognition of what the day means for Korea. Ryu Gwansun, whose integrity and love for the nation kept her persevering through excruciating and humiliating tortures, was only seventeen when she passed. Roughly around the same age of the students here at Saint Johnsbury Jeju, Republic of Korea.

FEATURE ARTICLE: JEJU'S SEASONS

JIUNG CHOI, GRADE 11

If I were to select one of Korea's distinctive characteristics, the answer would be the fact that it has four distinct seasons. It is not common for countries to have four seasons. Especially, if you are from the northern part of North America or a country near the equator, you would be surprised about the four different seasons here in Korea. Each of these four seasons last about three months. Spring (March to May) starts with a little bit of cold and rainy weather left from winter, but the weather eventually warms up around late March. Especially in our Jeju island, flowers, especially cherry blossoms is popular throughout the spring season. Summer (June to August) is usually very hot and humid here in Korea. Therefore, many people visit the beach for vacation throughout this season. Because Jeju is an island completely surrounded by the sea, the summer season usually becomes the peak period. Autumn (September to November) is known as the best time of the year because it is neither too cold nor too hot. This is the time when the leaves start to change their colors and harvesting begins. Lastly, winter (December to February) is the time when the snow falls, and especially for Jeju, it is the season when our specialty tangerines become the most enjoy-ready. Since our Jeju island has four different seasons and each season has its own characteristics, I have different activities to suggest on each season if you are planning to visit us.

During spring, I would recommend you to climb mountains or go out to do outdoor activities. The first place that I would like to recommend is Mount Halla. This mountain is one of the most famous mountains in Korea and it's located right in the middle of Jeju. Mount Halla has seven scenic trails, each shorter than 10 kilometers. If you want to go for an easy walk, you can go and walk on parts of the scenic trails. There are also nearly 6000 species of plants and animals in the area, so there are a lot of natural aspects that you can see and enjoy. Because it is spring, there would be colorful flowers blooming along each trail. So if you are a nature-lover who is seeking for some peaceful healing at a quiet place, try out our wonderful hiking tracks on Mount Halla. The second place that I would recommend is the Cheonjiyeon waterfall. This place has lots of small trails to walk on and it is a very beautiful place to visit. Under the waterfall, there are various fishes living, so it is a very good place to visit with children for nature experience. Near the waterfall, there are also small valleys and forests to visit, so if you are with a group who would prefer a rather light-weight outdoor activity the Cheonjiyeon would be a great option.

During the summer season, a lot of people visit the beach or places where it's very cool because the outside weather is steaming hot. For this season, the first place that I would recommend is Hyeopjae beach. This beach is located on the west part of Jeju and it has a very clear blue water so many people can enjoy the sparkling ocean view. The depth of the water is not very deep so it is a suitable place for those people who can't swim. Nearby the beach, there is also a place where you can do camping. A variety of restaurants and cafes also lines up nearby so it is a great place for friends and families to enjoy the full day. Another beach I would like to suggest is Hamduk. This beach is located on the east part of Jeju, so choose a beach depending on which side of the island you are planning to visit. It is very easy to get to the Hamduk beach because there are many public transportation options. The depth of the water here is even more shallow than Hyeopjae beach and the wave is very weak as well, so many parents enjoy taking their children to this place. Also, it has a small trail that is made around the ocean so you can enjoy the ocean view more closely. This beach is especially known for its white sand, so it would be a great match for those who would take pictures to share.

As the weather starts to get cooler in Autumn, many people like to go outdoors and enjoy the cool and clean breeze. The first place that I would recommend is Osulloc Tea Museum. It is located near Global Educational City (GEC). This place is basically a green tea field so people go here to take lots of pictures. As well as the view, there is a green tea museum right next to it. In the museum, there is also a cafe where they serve unique Jeju green tea lattes and green tea ice creams, so come visit if you would like to taste the greenness of our island. The second place that I would recommend is Seogwipo Submarine, located at the Seogwipo Harbour. If you want to enjoy the ocean with cool wind, I would definitely recommend visiting this place and experience the submarine. When you take the Seogwipo Submarine and go 40m underwater, you can see a variety of species that live in the sea around Jeju island.

Lastly, since it is very cold during winter, many people like to be indoors. Jeju island has a variety of random museums so I suggest you to lookup if there are any of your interest. The first place that I would recommend out of

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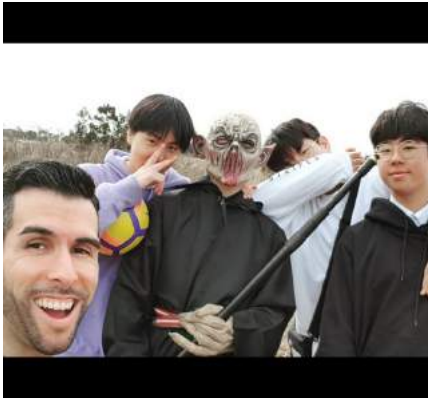
my personal taste is Jeju World Automobile Museum. This museum is located in the Seogwipo area and has over 140 historic vehicles, ranging from classic cars to sports cars, and 90 vehicles are on display at the exhibition hall. This nation's first and largest transportation education center for children is equipped with a mini car experience center where children can test-drive their own electric cars. And they even give children a driver's license for these children's cars through a traffic education experience to provide visitors with a variety of experiences and fun. Therefore, I would say this is the place to visit with a child who is usually interested in cars. Another activity that I would recommend is tangerine picking. Jeju island is very famous for its specialty tangerines, and the harvest season is winter for this fruit. Therefore, there are lots of tangerine picking experiences around the whole Jeju island where you can actually pick and enjoy the fruits. Also, since tangerines are often produced in vinyl houses, you can enjoy this activity without suffering from the deadly cold weather outside. It will be a very good experience for children as well.

In the end, because South Korea and our Jeju island have different seasons and each of them have their own characteristics, the activities that you can enjoy here is so various. There are so many more than those that I have introduced today. Whichever interest you have, Jeju has a variety of selections to offer, so enjoy!



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS IN PHOTOS

Our classrooms are always full of fun and learning. Below are photos from SJA teachers showing the active learning occurring in their classrooms. Check out more on Instagram by following the school account @SJAJeju or following the hashtag #sja_jeju



HORRIFYING WORK

Mr. G's film class worked on creating some great horror films this month. Here they are having fun on set! @film_n_photo



VOLUNTEER IN KENYA

During a special assembly, Grade 11 student, Diane, gave a presentation about her volunteer experience in Kenya at the end of last semester.



APPRECIATING ART

SJA Art students took a field trip to see the IB Art Show at Branksome Hall. There were some great pieces on display.



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Our STE@M class started off the semester with learning how to use different tools. Here, they are preparing for their project to build a model house.



LOST IN WONDERLAND

The Middle School Drama class put on a wonderful rendition of Alice in Wonderland, and several high school classes took time to support their fellow students and enjoy the performance. Great job!



TECH IN CHEM

Dr. Volker's Chemistry class paired technology with creating molecular models. What a great use of our 1:1 program!
@dr.volker_science