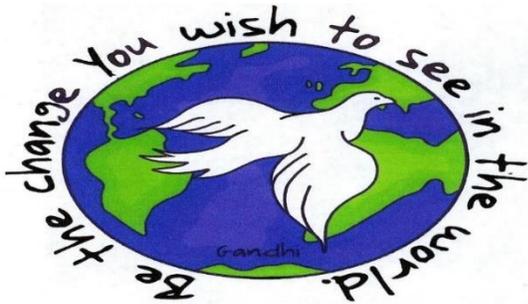




*Our mission is to help each child reach his or her full potential by providing a positive environment that fosters academic, emotional, and social growth in each student.*



### **Opinion Piece: The Significance of Community Service**

By: Anonymous (Grade 12)

Ever since I was little, I wanted to see the world change. I wanted to change it myself, or at least make some kind of positive impact. As I grew older I realized how small I was, and thought I wouldn't be able to do that. That was until I started helping out in my community. I learned that I didn't have to go far to make a positive impact. The most significant extracurricular activity I've been involved in is community service.

At first, I didn't notice it much. I helped out unknowingly when I was younger, but I grew more conscious of it when I entered high school because I had to keep track of it. That's when I realized I had done a lot. I've helped out in many different environments and countries; from playing the piano at church, to delivering water to a family that lost everything to the typhoon, to soothing an orphan in Peru. I wouldn't change my experiences for the world. It taught me that even though the world is a terrible place, it is

also an amazing place. Miracles happen every day. It tore my heart up seeing children hurt, but stitched it right back up when a sick man held my hand and told me "gracias." It taught me that the things I took for granted were all some children ever wanted in life, and it taught me to be appreciative. Finally, it taught me kindness has no boundaries. I don't have to do anything unbelievably big to change the world, because no matter how small the effort, it helps. I've learned to be the change I want to see in the world.



### **Congratulations to our Golden Pencil Award Winners!**

- K4/K5: Cody Park and Caris Swofford
- 1st Grade: Anthon Tudela
- 2nd Grade: Daniel Meng
- 3rd Grade: Mizuki Suzuki
- 4th Grade: Christian Newman
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Jaden Castro

### **Congratulations to our Virtue Award Winners!**

- These students have been voted as the most respectful students of the month.
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Eun Ho Park
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Harry Song

- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Noah Jung
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Claire Park
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Anastasiia Shamanaeva
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Allyson Garcia
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Brian Youn
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sally Lai
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Jun Bum Huh
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Hee Chan Kim
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Kaiyeesha Tambakau & Cerinn Hwang

## Happy Golden Week!



Golden week is an annual Chinese holiday typically celebrated October 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>. The official holiday is October 1, which commemorates the founding of the People's Republic of China 66 years ago. To celebrate, most of the country takes that week off work. Everyone also takes the opportunity to travel, spend time with family and shop.

## Mid- Autumn Festival

By Hui Won Jeong (Grade 6)



Another holiday celebrated during this season is the Mid-Autumn Festival. The **Mid-Autumn Festival** (traditional Chinese: 中秋節; simplified Chinese: 中秋节; Vietnamese: *tết Trung Thu*) is a harvest festival celebrated by both ethnic Chinese and Vietnamese people. The festival is held every year on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar with a full moon at night. This is usually during the period in late

September to early October of the Greco-Roman calendar with a full moon at night. On this occasion, people eat moon cake (pictured above). Moon cake is a round shaped cake that is traditionally filled with lotus beans. Today, though it can be filled with other ingredients such as fruits or even ice cream. Other foods people enjoy during this holiday are Cassia wine and Vietnamese rice figures. The Cassia is a wine that is the traditional choice for "reunion wine" drunk in the moon festival. The rice figure known as *tò he* is a figure (shape or statue) made out of rice. One myth told during the festival is called the myth of Chang'e. There are several myths, and here is the link to read one: <https://www.travelchinaguide.com/essential/holidays/mid-autumn-legends.htm>.



## SIS Community Cruise: Take A Break During Fall Break



Come on out and spend some time getting to know the SIS community!

The fundraising committee has booked the Jambalaya for a 2pm-5pm cruise to Managaha Island for the SIS community and friends. It will take place on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Drinks and light snacks are provided courtesy of MARPAC and Joeten. Please arrive at the Outer Cove Marina by 1:45pm. Those not interested in staying on Managaha, until 5pm can return to Saipan on the 3pm boat. The price is \$10 for all adults and

children aged 7 or older. Children aged 6 and younger may attend for free. All children must be accompanied by an adult and all reservations must be made in advance. Contact the school office at 288-9660 for more information or to purchase tickets.

## Geckos Test The Water



Mrs. Doculan-Ayeras plans to bring students to “the tanks” in San Jose to learn about the environment. They will test the ocean for chemicals, and note the physical features of seawater on site. Due to the terrible downpour, last week, the trip was postponed. Mrs. A will reschedule it soon.



## The New Electives

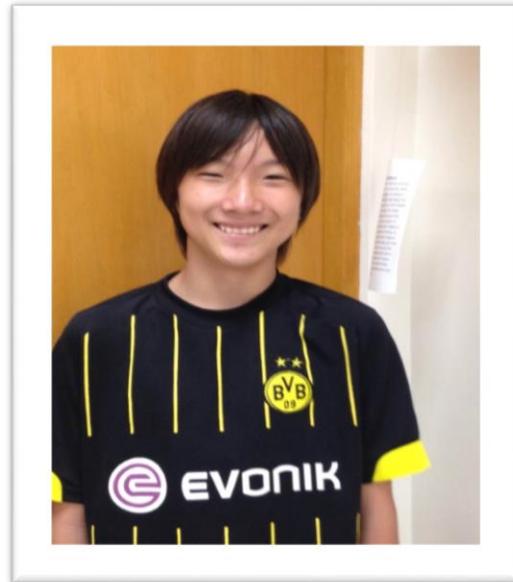
Students in the Middle and High School have joined two electives, in lieu of clubs, this year. Electives take place during the last period of every school day and are treated just like any other course at SIS. Students are graded on their performance. These courses provide a great opportunity for students to expand their knowledge in subjects that interest them. It also gives them the chance to have a say in their education, while allowing their experience at SIS to be well rounded.

Here are the electives offered:

- **Journalism**
- **Paper Cutting**
- **Math Enrichment/Math Court**
- **Fitness**
- **Basketball Skills**
- **Technical Writing**
- **Engineering**
- **Digital Photography**
- **Yearbook**

- **Forensics**
- **Calligraphy**
- **Project X/Independent Studies** (online courses such as Physics, AP Chemistry, French, etc.)

## Go Gecko! Young Gecko Masters Coding On His Own



Taking advantage of the Independent Studies elective offered at SIS, 7<sup>th</sup> grader Ryoma Tomokiyo has learned coding. A skill that will definitely take him far in today’s technology driven society. Classmate and student journalist, Julianne Hall, interviewed him.

Q: What got you interested in coding?

A: I wanted to make better websites. Not like normal ones right now.

Q: How do you learn?

A: I use a website online that teaches me how to code.

Q: What do you do?

A: I solve problems. I’m given a problem, and then it shows me how to fix it. Each time it gets harder and harder.

Q: How long have you been coding?

A: About a month. Ever since electives began.

Q: Do you hope to have a job in coding?

A: Maybe. I'm not sure yet.

## Welcome!

By: Chloe Kosack (Grade 10)



New teachers could be an exciting addition to the school community. Saipan International School had just lost four teachers over the summer. Lucky for us, we received two new teachers to our Saipan International School community this year. New teachers bring benefits to both students and other faculty members. Now, why don't we get to know some of these new teachers?!

Jessica Soll is someone we welcome back to our Saipan International School community. Yup, I said welcome back. She went to high school here at Saipan International School. Afterwards, Soll attended the University of Hawaii in Manoa. There, she studied early elementary and childhood education. Four years later she came back to the island of Saipan to teach.

The majority of students attending school don't enjoy all the homework, classwork and extra work given to them, right? But for Soll, when asked, "What was the most rewarding part of attending the university?" she replied, "*Four years paid off. Doing all the homework and other work I didn't want to do for school had paid off and was worth it.*" Outside of school, Soll mostly babysat, volunteered at a preschool, attended martial

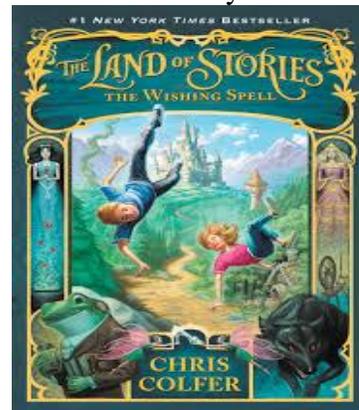
arts club for learning self-defense, and went to the gym as well.



## Book Review: Ten True Tales: Heroes of Hurricane Katrina

By: Hyun Bin Jeong (Grade 7)

Ten True Tales: Heroes of Hurricane Katrina is a nonfiction book written by Allan Zullo. In the book it shares what it was like surviving hurricane Katrina and helping others. In one story, a man helps many other people in another story one lady helps pets after the storm. **NEED MORE DETAILS!!!** My opinion is that this a great book. This story talks about overcoming pain and surviving the barriers between living and dying. I would give this book a 10/10 because of the endurance of the people and how they kept on going. I would recommend this book to everyone.



## Book Review: Land Of Stories: The Wishing Spell

By: Julianne Hall (Grade 7)

The Wishing Spell is part of a series that consists of four fictional stories and there are

more coming. The writer of this series is Chris Colfer. This book is one of my favorites because there is such a variety in genre. Drama, suspense, action, fantasy, and comedy are found in both this book and series! They hold your attention and have you always wanting to read more! There is a 5<sup>th</sup> book coming and you'll find me waiting for it! I give this book a 5/5 gold stars!



### **This Week in Sports**

By: Jon Paul Sablan (Grade 9)

The SIS team 2 Geckos game against Marianas Baptist Academy ended in a loss from all sets. The starting lineup for this game was Cevina Hwang, Isabelle , Patiphon Benchnakarn, Justin Jung Woo Yoon, Victoria Torres, and Hyung Min Cho. “The game was intense, hard, and fun at the same time,” said Cevina Hwang, Grade 7. She also says that they were fine at the start but it got rough after a while. The points were flying on the scoreboard for the opposing team. Geckos did not go all the way to three sets unfortunately, but the most intense moment of the game was in the second set. “We were winning 23-19 but it got so intense when MBA picked up their game,” said Matthew Berline, grade 7.

### **Geckos vs Eagles**

By: Chloe Kosack (Grade 10)



Our middle school volleyball A team has been defeated?! Yes, fellow Geckos, our middle school volleyball A team got defeated by The Grace Christian Academy Eagles. On Thursday September 15, 2016, at 3:30pm, our volleyball Geckos played the Eagles on their home court. The Gecko starters for this game were Go Sekiguchi , Brian Youn, Maury Zon Tybaco , Cindy Kim , Rei Sekiguchi and Seung Hyun Kim. The team started off with strong potential and even though it was a tough first set, our Geckos showed their full effort. They tried to get the ball over the net with rapid speed multiple times. Many saves were made during the game by players such as Cindy Kim, Jon Villagomez and Rei Sekiguchi. The second set was when the Geckos made a comeback and one 7-25. Overall, it was a good game by both teams. I have to say that the Eagles might be one of the toughest teams out there for volleyball this year.

### **Heard Around Campus**

By: Hui Won Jeong (Grade 6)



Q: Which school is S.I.S.'s rival?

Whispering Palms.

Q: How did it start?

It started because we have been playing volleyball against Whispering Palms in final rounds year after year.

Q: How long have we been rivals?

Since forever.

Q: What is one of the strengths of their team?

Their strength is that they have a good serve.

Go to the game to support the Geckos as they crush Whispering Palms!

## Destino Peru



By: Yuri Kim (Grade 12)

Next summer, the Destino Peru 2017 team will take off to Peru. If anyone is still deciding whether they want to go or not, I want to say that Destino Peru was one of the most memorable and meaningful trips I have ever been on. For three weeks, I had to travel with people I've never been close to, as well as some of my closest friends. I got close to some people I otherwise would have never got to know. The lessons learned from this trip is endless. From volunteering at orphanages and the children's hospital to seeing the breathtaking sights of Machu Picchu, I will never forget those moments. Not only do you learn to be independent but you also learn team work. You get the chance to live through the diverse and lively culture of Peru through all kinds of activities such as dances, markets, and cooking classes. If anyone is looking for a trip of their lifetime, I would say Destino Peru is the one you are looking for.

## Saipan/Japan Foreign Exchange Program

By: Roderick "RJ" Pierce (Grade 9)



The mayor's office is asking for residents to volunteer to house and chaperone Japanese high school boys (aged 16-17) visiting from a high school in Hiroshima, Japan. The homestay program will be from October 17,

2016 to October 21, 2016. If you have any questions, or are willing to volunteer, please contact Yuki Kishimoto at the Mayor's Office. The host family will be given \$280 as an appreciation fee, for their services. If you're not interested in volunteering, please ask your friends to help. Thank you.

## In Case of Inclement Weather:

According to our Handbook, SIS will **remain open unless Typhoon condition one or two is declared**. These conditions are determined by the governor of the CNMI and the National Weather Service. When the island is in **Tropical Storm** condition one or two, we will stay open based on whether there is running water and electricity, as well as, whether it's safe for our students.

The school answering machine (288-9660) will always have an updated announcement informing you whether the school is open or closed.



**Very Important:** Parents should park in the parking lot if they want to walk their children to the classrooms. Please **DO NOT** leave your cars parked in the driveway because it stops the flow of traffic.

If you would like to enter any of the school buildings, please park in the parking lot or in the field. For safety purposes, do not park on the road. Please try to pick up your children by 2:45 p.m., unless other arrangements have been made.

## *Please keep in mind:*

- *Classes start at 7:45 a.m. Attendance is taken at the beginning of the day. If your child will be absent, please contact the school office.*
- *School ends at 2:45 p.m. Please do not enter the classroom to retrieve your child before 2:45pm. This may disrupt the teachers' dismissal process.*

- *If you want to celebrate your Elementary school aged child's birthday during the school day, please contact your child's teacher in advance. Otherwise, you may bring food (pizza, cake, etc) to the class during lunch time at the pala pala. No celebrations are to be held inside the classrooms. No gifts, please!*
- *All students should bring a bottle of water. They can refill the bottle at school, but it is necessary for them to have the container. We are trying to*

*help our island by putting less paper in the landfill.*



September's Bake Sale was held by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade classes. Thank you for the delicious treats! We'd also like to thank all parents involved for facilitating the event.

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## Calendar

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<b>Monday</b> October 10	• NO SCHOOL- Commonwealth Cultural Day
<b>Tuesday</b> October 11	• NO SCHOOL- Parent- Teacher Conferences
<b>Wednesday</b> October 12 <b>B DAY</b>	• <b>Lunch: Cheese Burger, Potato Wedges, and Fruit.</b>
<b>Thursday</b> October 13 <b>A DAY</b>	• <b>Lunch: Lasagna, Wheat Dinner Roll, Broccoli, Carrots and Fruit.</b>
<b>Friday</b> October 14 <b>B DAY</b>	• <b>Lunch: Seasoned Fish, Steamed Rice, Local Vegetable, Green Beans and Fruit.</b>

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## Upcoming Events

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Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> – Fall Break

Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>- Cross Country Meet at Airport Field at 4:00pm

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>- SIS Community Cruise to Managaha

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>- Parent-Teacher Conferences

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>- Cross Country Meet at Bball Crt, Civics Center at 7:00am

**NHS Mentoring will not take place during the first and last week of each quarter.**

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## Thank you

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- To Mr. Steven Metayer, Ms. Julie Newman and Ms. Gemma Lucas for their endless support in all areas.